

INTERNEES

Jochanan Frank's journey

Jochanan Frank was not an internee, because he was under the age of sixteen, but he came to the Island with his mother when she was interned.

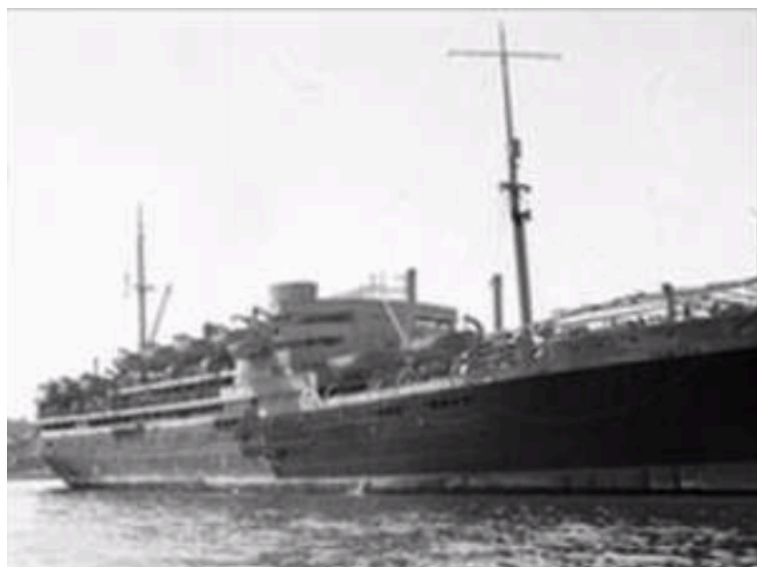
He was six years old when he first arrived in Port Erin. His parents, Emil and Eva Frank, were both eventually internees in Rushen. Many years later, when he was an adult living in Israel, a friend brought him a visitor's guide to the Isle of Man. Amazingly, Jochanan still had his childhood drawing of Milner Tower with Loaghtan sheep, and the comparison triggered an urge to visit the Isle of Man again to see if what lay buried in his memory was really true.



The Journey

Aged six, he had travelled from London by train to Fleetwood, via Crewe and Liverpool. Then there was a rough four-hour sea crossing to Douglas, followed by another train journey from Douglas to Port Erin. In 2000, by contrast, he hopped on a plane at City Airport in London and was at Ronaldsway around an hour later.

His Worst Memory



He recalled that Collinson's Café was where the internee families were able to meet together before the Rushen Married Camp opened. It held a traumatic memory for Jochanan. It was there he discovered that his father wouldn't be coming: it was three years before Jochanan's family was reunited. His father had been sent to Australia

on the HMT *Dunera* (pictured above). The refugee internees were badly

treated during the voyage and had their belongings stolen. The Captain was court-martialled.

The Schoolboy

In 2000, Jochanan looked for the school on Dandy Hill that he had attended, but it had been demolished. He was in Form 11B at the Port Erin Camp School in 1941. His school report said:

English: *Excellent pupil. Keen and intelligent. Inquisitive.*

Handicrafts: *Quite good.*

Gymnastics: *Good.*

Signed by: **Form Master:** J Wolff

Head Master: Chas. A Kidd

Presents from Family Afar

Jochanan's little sister longed for a doll's pram from their father, 'a red one', like other girls whose fathers were interned in the Island, but three years was a long time to wait.

Jochanan's uncle, a tailor in Israel, sent him a red suit with leggings and a cap, which when outgrown was passed to his little sister. An auntie sent plasticine and a cut-out aeroplane.

Jochanan collected all the stamps from the family letters, from Germany, Australia and the Middle East. Stamp collecting was a popular hobby at that time.