

A Jew helps a German Gentile come to Australia

An email chain tells a tale ...

1 Feb 2017

Dear Professor Marks

I had reason lately to pull out some old documents in relation to my father, Walter Schauble, who came to Australia as a German national shortly before WWII. Having met Ernest Marks in London in 1938 or 39, where my father was working for P.R. Poland after leaving Germany under the shadow of political persecution in mid-1938, upon arriving in Melbourne in June 1939, he was immediately employed at Marks & Saulwick as a fur and leather classer. This in turn led to him avoiding internment as an enemy alien when war was declared, as this was a restricted occupation. He then met my mother (a New Zealander by birth), they married and went on to have a large family of sons. My father went on to become a radio journalist and later one of the founders of SBS Radio.

I pass this on simply because your grandfather was a referee on my father's application to be naturalised as a British subject under Australian law, which led me to a Google search to find out who Ernest Marks was, which then led to your web page and to the audio files of your grandfather describing a little of the history of Marks & Saulwick! This was both a fascinating and unexpected find for me ... and I just wanted to share my appreciation. Interestingly, in a previous life as a journalist at the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, I had quite a bit to do with Irving Saulwick son of the other half of the partnership!

Anyway, I just wanted to pass on my appreciation.

Kind regards

John Schauble

1 Feb 2017

Dear John,

Thank you for your note, which I appreciate. We are aware of others whom my grandfather sponsored to Australia in the 1930s, but your father was not one of them.

I am cc'ing Tony Marks, my uncle and Ernest's son, and other members of the family.

Kind regards,

Robert Marks

25 Feb 2017

Dear John

Marks and Saulwick used to buy a lot of their skins through PR Poland London.

I personally do not remember the name, but was very young at the time. If my father,

Ernest, acted as a sponsor for your father, it is quite possible that your father was a member of Temple Beth Israel, in Alma Road St Kilda, as my father was very involved. It is possible that the Temple will have your father's name on record as a member.

I suggest you ring the Temple Beth Israel, as they may be able to assist you with more information about your family.

Did you ever know Harry Summers, whom my father adopted about 1937, or Harry Raynor? [Two German Jews Ernest sponsored to Australia before the war.]

Regards

Tony Marks

27 Feb 2017

Dear Tony

Thank you for taking the time to respond. My father was, in fact, Catholic and his reasons for leaving Germany were centred on political rather than religious persecution, driven in part by his father's position and religious convictions butting up against the National Socialists. I'm not sure of the extent to which Ernest Marks was his sponsor in a formal sense or whether he supported him in other ways obviously through providing employment.

Again, my thanks for your interest.

Kind regards

John Schauble

27 Feb 2017

So here we have the unusual incident of a Jew helping a gentile to escape, at least from internment as an enemy alien in England.

Robert

27 Feb 2017

Well, in fact it was about avoiding being interned in Australia rather than England, which was effected due to Dad's being employed at Marks & Saulwick.

John Schauble

27 Feb 2017

I understood that, as you said, he was in a reserved occupation at M&S. But had he stayed in England? Was he in a reserved occupation in London?

Robert

27 Feb 2017

I don't know the answer to that .. I do recall him telling me he looked a map of the world to find the furthest place he could find from Europe!

John Schauble

4 Mar 2017

Dear John

There is no doubt that my grandfather, although a businessman living 12,000 miles from Berlin, was well aware of what Hitler and the Nazis were capable of. Just look at the books he owned in 1962 when I catalogued his library, or the commentary he had written in 1940 about a book on the history of the Jews he wrote crossing the Pacific returning from the USA — both are to be found on my web pages devoted to him. Rabbi John Levi, who as a young man used to borrow books on Judaica from my grandfather, agrees with this assessment. His books bought in New York were unavailable elsewhere in Australia.

So he was fully aware of what the fate of a dissenter might be in the Third Reich when he sponsored your father to Australia at a time when very few migrants were coming here from anywhere.

A remarkable man

Regards

Robert