

23. ST. JAMES'S PLACE,
SW1A 1NH

3rd February 1987.

Dear Mr Tyder-Baumel,

Cedars

I have received your letter of 21st January asking me to give you details of the Jewish Boys' School which my husband was fortunate enough to be able to transfer from Frankfurt to Waddesdon during the last war. Fortunately there was a house in this village known as "The Cedars" which was big enough to house 27 boys with their Headmaster and his wife, 2 daughters and a sister.

They arrived in Easter week 1939. At one time it was thought they might be orphans but this was far from exact at the time - they all had parents who were thankful to take the opportunity of sending their children away from the Nazis. Sad to relate, by the time the war was over they were orphans, as with few exceptions their parents were murdered by the Nazis.

The ages of the boys varied from 7 to 14 and according to their age they went to Waddesdon village school or Aylesbury Secondary. Every inmate of the Cedars proved to be exceptionally likeable. As time went by, the village was filled with refugees from bombed areas around us, the boys were invariably helpful to all in many ways, and gained much popularity in the village.

According to their age individual boys left either for further education or to learn a trade. One baker in Aylesbury was particularly kind in teaching several boys the secret of his vocation.

As the years rolled by they left to take up their extremely varied careers and are now nearly all married or grand-fathers, although to us they will always be known as "The Cedar Boys". They live in varied Continents, Europe, North and South America, Middle East, and Canada.

Their Headmaster died during the War but his widow succeeded him and remained in touch with them all until she died. At her funeral in England several "boys" came - although the occasion was sad, they enjoyed seeing each other again so enormously, that the idea of a "reunion" here was born. It took place at Waddesdon 3 years ago in the Summer, many of their local schoolfellows have remembered them well and turned out in numbers to see them. There was a little ceremony in Waddesdon Park where they planted a tree they wished to give in memory of their sojourn during the War - appropriately enough a Cedar was planted with due ceremony.

We had a luncheon party after in the restaurant at Waddesdon Manor (on a day when it was not open to the public), those with wives came too, a number of them brought their children and two even brought their grand-children.

One "boy" from each Continent was asked to tell all their guests - incidentally as well as their erstwhile co-residents of the Cedars, what had happened to them after they had left Waddesdon - one from England, 1 from the U.S., one from

23, ST. JAMES'S PLACE,
SW1A 1NH

Israel and one from Canada. It was enthralling to hear an account from boys who had now become an Estate Agent, Civil Servant, Stock-broker and a University Professor.

The remarkable fact is that their link is now so firmly established that they all either see, visit or correspond with each other. The fate of one "Boy" living in San Salvador and suffering from the recent earthquake is the object of solicitude from all, and there was great difficulty in finding out that happily he had survived.

The outstanding thing about "The Cedar Boys" is that nearly all of them have made a brilliant success of their lives in a wide variety of professions. I could give you their names and addresses, so that you might be aware of their enthralling stories, but I am not willing to do so without their consent. May I suggest that I send them all copies of your letter to me and of this reply from me to you with a covering note to say that if any of them are willing to provide information they should get in direct touch with you? I do hope you agree to this proposal.

My best wishes to you and the University.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy de Rothschild