



Every child on the train had an ID card. Eva had the number 639.

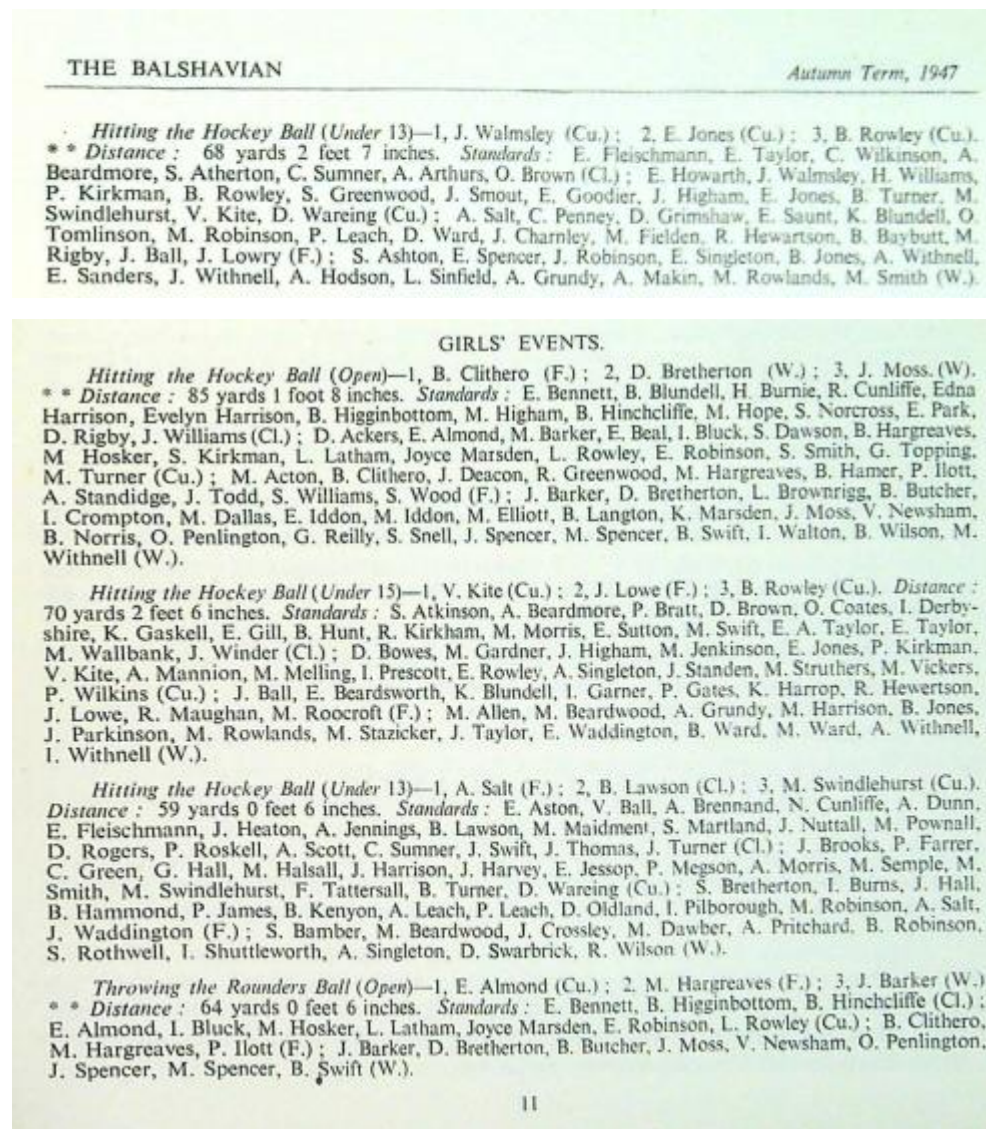
Eva Paddock (née Fleischmannová) was born on the New Year's Eve of 1935 in Proseč, Czechoslovakia, from where they moved nearly three years later to the capital city of Prague. Her father, Rudolf Fleischmann, was an active regional politician, who arranged honorary Czech citizenship for the German writer Thomas Mann, one of the most vocal German anti-Nazis. His friendship with Thomas Mann was not well received by the Nazis and Rudolf Fleischmann knew that he had to escape from Czechoslovakia before the war started, as the Nazis would search for him immediately.

Meanwhile, when the war was about to begin, Eva's mother Sonia, (born Ziv) was a physician (an emigre from Soviet Latvia). She heard about the trains heading to Great Britain, which could take her two daughters to a safe place. These trains were later known as the "Winton trains", upon the name of their main organizer Nicholas Winton. Both of the Fleischmann girls were sent to Great Britain and stayed with the Radcliffe family in Ashton-under-Lyne.

A year later, finally girls' mother arrived in England, through Norway, and the family gathered again, and survived the war in Ashton-under-Lyne before moving

to Preston where Eva was enlisted at Balshaw's Grammar School, Leyland. Because of the way children were tested at 11 to decide which secondary school they would go to, Eva was pushed into the Maths and Science route which she did not really want to do. She thought she might become a doctor and go to medical school like her mum but unfortunately, she did not get in, so she had to have a re-think. Eva was grateful for one thing in this academic route and that was that she was taught by Mr Tom Speakman who was a Botanist who had a small holding and took students to see the animals and plants he cultivated there. Mr Speakman was an inspirational teacher often teaching beyond the curriculum and Eva still keeps a letter he wrote to her in 1954 when she left Balshaw's.

Extracts from the Balshavian Magazine mentioning Eva:



Autumn '48

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

This year it became necessary to re-catalogue the Library, mainly for the purpose of re-arranging certain sections. The task was considerable but, thanks to the willing help of several members of the school, it was accomplished with surprising speed. We found that we now have a collection amounting to nearly 2,300, and this means that our stock has been approximately doubled in the last fifteen years.

Demands on the varied sections of the Library have been fairly heavy and it is a matter of some regret that we cannot cater adequately for all these sections. However, it seems most reasonable that the bulk of our accessions should go into the reference, that is the more academic side of the Library. We will supply the Junior Non-fiction and Fiction sections as opportunity allows.

In the many and various duties entailed by the care of our books, we have to thank many members of the school for their zealous contributions. Senior Librarians are B. Hunt and Livesey : Junior Librarians are E. Fleischmann and E. Jessop.

Library orderlies are V. Bamber and M. Chisnall : finally, it would be a gross oversight not to thank Palmer for his unfailing "policeman" surveillance.

W.J.D.

1952

THE BALSHAVIAN

Spring Term, 1953

We congratulate the following pupils who obtained the General Certificate of Education at the Advanced and Ordinary Level (N.U.J.M.B.) :

ADVANCED :—

K. Blundell, M. Farrimond, I. P. Gardner, G. Hall, E. Holden, M. D. Jenkinson, V. Kite, J. Lowry, E. Singleton, C. G. Sumner, V. Wilson, Ackers, B. H., Dawson, J. M. G., Harrison, F., Kelsall, P., Kelsall, K., Kevill, D. N., Manchester, L., Mather, K., Moore, A. H., Palmer, K., Pilkington, A., Pritchard, D. H., Sanderson, G. O., Seed, W. T., Sharples, G., Smalley, A., Smith, K. R., Taylor, K., Topping, G., Walton, R.

ORDINARY :—

B. M. Mitchell, I. Ogden, M. R. Ward, Walsh, J.

Our congratulations go also to the following 97 pupils who gained the Oxford General Certificate of Education at the Ordinary Level :

S. M. Ashley, D. B. Bailey, V. J. Ball, S. Bamber, V. Bamber, P. M. Barker, M. Beardwood, A. Bieasdale, M. L. Blews, D. A. Bownass, S. Bretherton, J. M. Brooks, J. P. Cairns, M. E. R. Chisnall, D. Clarke, A. M. Collinson, S. A. Cook, M. Dawber, E. I. Eastham, F. T. Entwistle, D. P. H. Farrer, E. J. Fleischmann, B. M. Fletcher, C. Green, L. M. Halsall, J. Harrison, J. E. Heaton, G. M. Hendry, V. A. Higgins, S. Highfield, D. Ion, P. M. James, D. Jeffery, A. S. Jennings, E. Jessop, B. Kenyon, S. Kershaw, N. L. Kirkham, S. B. Lees, M. M. Lyon, M. M. Maidment, M. L. Marland, S. L. Martland, P. Megson, D. N. Mitchell, A. E. Morris, A. P. Parker, M. Parkinson, I. Pilbrough, M. Pownall, S. Rainford, M. L. Riding, M. Rigby, J. Ritchie, I. Robinson, D. Rogers, L. P. Roskell, A. J. Salt, A. Scott, A. Singleton, J. Singleton, M. Smith, A. M. Strachan, J. Swift, M. Swindlehurst, F. Tattersall, J. M. Thomas, P. Titterington, H. Towers, J. Waddington, J. J. Wild, D. C. Wilford, D. F. Woodburn, M. Worrell, E. Wright, Ainsworth, R. R., Bamford, M. H., Barnes, B., Brewer, D. A., Burlington, R., Cuerden, D., Forrest, B. W., Gill, A., Gold, I. D., Hunt, J. E., Hurst, D. W., Lambert, J., McIlwaine, C., Palmer, B., Parkinson, G. M., Riding, C. P., Roberts, A., Robinson, P. K., Swarbrick, J., Williams, A. T., Withnell, D. A., Wright, P. R.

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

We have little to record in our annals for this year, either for praise or blame. All has proceeded in an unruffled routine. Rather more than a hundred books have been added to the shelves—but this too is a regular feature each year.

We are very grateful to the County Library for increasing their normal annual loan by a further box of fifty books. This new supply is almost entirely fiction and has proved very popular.

A new system for recording books borrowed is being initiated experimentally in the History Section. It is possible that the method will be extended to other sections.

Senior Librarian : E. J. Fleischmann.

Junior Librarians : S. Rainford, I. Shuttleworth, D. Mitchell, V. Bamber.

Orderlies : M. Noblett, J. Berry.

W.J.D.

We offer our congratulations to the following pupils who obtained the General Certificate of Education at the Advanced and Ordinary levels (N.U.J.M.B.) :

ADVANCED :—

Ackers, B. H., Ainsworth, R. R., Bamford, M. H., Hurst, D. W., Kevill, D. N., Mather, K., Smalley, A., Smith, K. R., Topping, G., Walsh, J., Walton, R., A. Arthurs, D. B. Bailey, A. F. Brennand, J. P. Cairns, E. J. Fleischmann, P. M. James, P. M. Leach, A. H. Rigby, J. Ritchie, A. J. Salt, L. Sinfield, A. Singleton, M. Swindlehurst, H. Towers, J. Turner, E. Walmsley J., Walmsley, B. Ward, M. Wrathall.

1954

However, despite their plans, they never returned to live in Czechoslovakia, where in 1948, a communist coup took place and so they stayed in England and naturalized here. After Balshaw's, Eva went to Wigan Technical College to re-sit her Physics A-level and had various jobs including a spell at Boots the Chemist with a view to possibly going into pharmacy. During this time, Eva met, fell in love, and married British architect, Jim Paddock in 1955 and had three children before moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1965. Determined to follow her own academic passions, Eva studied English and Psychology for her undergraduate degree when she returned to education after her children were old enough. Eva became a teacher for 15 years and then School Principal for a decade. Eva has had multiple careers in education, teaching at all levels from early childhood to graduate school and later becoming a group therapist. She speaks of herself as a "serial retiree". Eva retired from her position as K-8 school principal in Cambridge, MA. In 1996. She worked to innovate education making a name for herself in her field. She was named the State Department of Education Principal of the Year for Massachusetts. For the next 5 years Eva was adjunct professor in the U. Mass Urban Leadership program. She retired again and returned to graduate school. With an MA in mental health counselling Eva moved on to her next career as a group therapist and for another nine years worked with adults of all ages suffering from long-term and persistent mental illness.

It wasn't until 1988, thanks to a BBC television programme that Eva got to know who the organizer of her salvation was, and her sister Milena met personally with Nicholas Winton. Eva was then living in Massachusetts with her husband; however, she met Sir Winton a couple of years later.

Eva was widowed in 2016. She has three children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She currently serves on the boards of the Cambridge Council on Aging, the Boston Group of the World Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants. (WFJHS) and the JF&CS Schechter Holocaust Services. Eva co-facilitates a weekly support group for local Child Holocaust survivors and supports holocaust education as a speaker in schools locally, throughout the country and internationally by ZOOM - (She considers ZOOM the one positive, unintended consequence of the pandemic!)



Eva Paddock and Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines share their story of being rescued by Nicholas Winton and his team on the final 'kindertransport' train from Prague. This heroic effort saved 669 children, mostly Jewish, from Nazi persecution and led to the birth of an estimated 6,000 descendants. Learn about the lasting legacy of the 'kindertransport' and the power of empathy and courage in times of conflict.

Eva Paddock and Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, half-sisters who found themselves aboard the final 'kindertransport' train from Prague in 1939, have shared their poignant story. This daring operation, orchestrated by Nicholas Winton and his fellow humanitarians, managed to save 669 children – predominantly Jewish – from the looming threat of Nazi persecution.

A Daring Escape

As the clock ticked towards the outbreak of World War II, Nicholas Winton, a British stockbroker, embarked on a mission that would ultimately alter the course of hundreds of lives. Having witnessed the escalating horrors unfolding across Europe, Winton was compelled to act. He organized a series of trains, later known as the 'kindertransport,' which ferried children from the clutches of German-occupied Czechoslovakia to the relative safety of England.

Among those rescued were Eva Paddock and Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, who recently revealed their harrowing journey on the Prague Talk podcast. Recalling the chaos and fear that shrouded their homeland, they expressed their heartfelt gratitude towards Winton for providing them with a chance at a future.

The Fruits of Heroism

Winton's heroic efforts resulted in the birth of an estimated 6,000 descendants, who owe their lives to his unwavering determination and compassion. Remarkably, Winton kept his actions a secret for nearly five decades, until his wife Grete stumbled upon a scrapbook filled with the names and photographs of the children he had saved.

In 1988, Winton was reunited with some of the children – now adults – on the BBC television program, 'That's Life!' The emotional encounter led to widespread recognition of his heroism and solidified his place in history as a beacon of hope amidst the darkness of war.

A Lasting Legacy

Winton's story has been immortalized in the film 'One Life,' which chronicles his efforts to save the children of Czechoslovakia from the impending Nazi terror. For Eva Paddock and Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, Winton's legacy serves as a constant reminder of the resilience and compassion that exists within humanity, even in the face of unspeakable adversity.

As the world continues to grapple with the ongoing challenges of conflict and displacement, the story of the 'kindertransport' offers a poignant reminder of the transformative power of empathy and courage. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who dared to defy the odds and forge a brighter future for generations to come.

In the words of Eva Paddock, reflecting on the life-altering journey she and her half-sister embarked upon over eight decades ago, “We were given the chance to live, to love, and to contribute to the world in our own unique way. For that, we will forever be grateful to Nicholas Winton and the countless others who made our escape possible.”

Portraits of Eva and Lady Milena from the National Portrait Gallery collection:



