

Last year the Holocaust was remembered - that appalling history which we dare not forget... The presence of survivors among us, after 40 years, should keep us all on the quivive. Something can be done even at the last minute. Ake..Ake..

Mother and Mary were on the New Zealand Committee to receive the few from Austria and Germany who were allowed to enter this country. Mary didn't do things by halves and I have a newspaper article before me describing her (truly) as a "flaming partisan of suffering Jewry". Not for a moment would I decry New Zealand's part in defeating Hitler but we must realise the ubiquitous nature of prejudices - racial, cultural, ideological. Before the war there existed a pressure group in New Zealand called the "Five Million Club" which urged the Government to increase the population but advocated the immigration of Nordic types from Europe. Discussing this in Berlin with Martin Gauger (German, gentile, Lutheran Christian, and heroic martyr in the Anti Hitler cause he said - "you know, if New Zealand would allow their population to be so increased from our persecuted minorities, Hitlerism would collapse". Surely, surely we could have admitted very many more than were allowed to come. In those days professionals were not welcome and only skilled artisans were favoured. Nevertheless there were enormous gains for our country from that infusion of skill, intelect, experience. It really broadened our horizons and helped change the colour of our nationhood.