Institute of Education Archives
Catalogue of the
Papers of Arabella Kurdi

Listed by
Sarah Aitchison
November 2002
Institute of Education Archives: Papers of Arabella Kurdi

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Institute of Education Archives: Papers of Arabella Kurdi

AK

Fonds
Institute of Education, University of London

Deposited collection
Papers of Arabella Kurdi

Scope and Content
Papers relating to work with the BFES in Germany, 1947-1951, and to the social and living conditions in post-War Germany. These include an album of photographs of conditions in Germany, of friends and colleagues and of BFES schools; correspondence, including letters from Arabella to her parents describing her work and experiences in Germany; material relating to the school meals service, including a recipe book; notes for a lecture on 'Working and living in Germany'; printed material, including a map of BFES schools and copies of the BFES Gazette.

Extent
1 box

Biographical History
The British Families Education Service (BFES) was established by the Foreign Office in 1946 to provide schooling for the children of British families stationed in the British Zone of Germany after the Second World War, and amidst the post-War devastation. In the winter of 1951-1952 it was taken over by the Army and became Service Children's Education. Arabella Kurdi, then Pallister, went to Germany in February 1947 and worked as School Meals and Domestic Science Organiser for the Service. As such she travelled widely within the British Zone and visited many schools and different areas of the country.

Access
Open, subject to signature of Reader Application Form.

Copyright
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Custodial History
Given by Arabella Kurdi to the Archives in 2002.

Finding Aids
Electronic and paper lists.

Related Collections
The Institute of Education also holds the records of the BFES/SCE Association (DC/BFE), and the papers of Mimi Hatton (DC/MH).
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AK/1</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>1947- [1971]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Printed material</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AK/1/1</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1947</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BFES Gazette</td>
<td>No. 1, Wednesday, 6th August</td>
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<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BFES Gazette</td>
<td>No. 2, Wednesday, 3rd September</td>
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<tr>
<th>AK/1/3</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1953</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BFES Gazette</td>
<td>No. 20, August</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AK/1/4</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1950</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report of the Control Commission for Germany</td>
<td>Report for the month of February, 1950, Vol. 5, No. 2 of the Control Commission for Germany (British Element) / prepared by the Monthly Section of the Chancery on behalf of the UK High Commissioner</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AK/1/5</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>[1971]</th>
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<tr>
<th>AK/1/6</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1948</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guide to school meals</td>
<td>Prepared by Miss P. A. Pollard and Miss A. Pallister, including suggestions and recipes in English and German. 32pp.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AK/1/7</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1947</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report on school meals</td>
<td>Report on the school meals service arrangements for the BFES in the British Zone of Germany, made by Her Majesty's Inspection of Schools. 8pp.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<th>AK/1/8</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School accommodation schedules</td>
<td>Published by the BFES. 24pp + appendix</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AK/1/9</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1950</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map of BFES schools</td>
<td>1 sheet</td>
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</table>
AK/2  
**Series**  
Memorabilia  
1947-1951

AK/2/1  
**Item**  
Lecture notes  

AK/2/10  
**Item**  
Postcard  
Postcard of chimney sweep.

AK/2/2  
**Item**  
Application  
Application for sleeper or seat on special train. 1p.

AK/2/3  
**Item**  
Pass  

AK/2/4  
**Item**  
Pass  
Pass giving authority to take vehicles out of the British zone of Germany. 2 copies

AK/2/5  
**Item**  
Invitation  
Invitation to zum Richtfest (roof festival), with note explaining origins of festival.

AK/2/6  
**Item**  
Sketch and note on the Russian garden of remembrance in Berlin  
3pp.

AK/2/7  
**Item**  
Souvenir booklet  
A souvenir booklet of 'The passion play, Oberammergau', compiled by The Rev. A. S. Hullah. 16pp.

AK/2/8  
**Item**  
Postcards  
2 postcards of The Passion Play Theatre, Oberammergau (attached to sheet).

AK/2/9  
**Item**  
Postcards  
Postcards of places and buildings in Germany Miss Pallister sent to parents, with comments on the impact of the war, including the Elbe Bridge in Hamburg; Unter der Linden, Tiergarten, and cathedral in Berlin. 7 items

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK/3</td>
<td><strong>Photographs</strong></td>
<td>1947-1950</td>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Photograph album of Miss Pallister's stay in Germany, February 5th 1947 - August 28th 1951. Includes pictures of friends and colleagues; post-war conditions in Germany; towns and BFES schools visited. (20 leaves + various loose photographs and postcards)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AK/3/1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1947-1951</td>
<td>File</td>
<td>Photograph of the Kromme family whom Miss Pallister stayed with in Germany; 2 photographs of Land Wiedersachsen, farm house, near Hannover (attached to sheet). 3 photos. Access category D: only available at the Archivist's discretion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AK/3/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Access category D: only available at the Archivist's discretion.</td>
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</table>
Institute of Education Archives: Papers of Arabella Kurdi

AK/4

Series
Correspondence
1947-1948

Access category D: only available at the Archivist's discretion.

AK/4/1

File
Correspondence with her parents
1947-1948

Collection of Miss Pallister's letters to her parents, covering the period from her arrival in Herford, Germany in February 1947 to June 1948. Includes details of her extensive travels around Germany and trips made to various German towns to visit schools, with notes on the living conditions and impact of the war.
25 items

AK/4/2

Item
Letter from Mr Calmund
1947

Letter to Miss Pallister from Mr Calmund (German resident) describing the conditions in Germany during and after the war. 4pp.

AK/4/3

Item
Letter
1947

Letter to Miss Pallister's parents from the father of a German POW in a camp in Yorkshire. 2pp.