

were written in passable English, and has included them in the book. The ones he has chosen are those of people whose subsequent fate he was able to ascertain. Some people survived by emigrating to England or elsewhere. One even survived in Germany. Most of the writers of the appeal letters perished. One of the few lucky ones was the family Elsasser, later Ellis, whose daughter, Gretel, married the young Don Dunstan. The letters show graphically the despair which German and Austrian Jews felt at that juncture and make the book a must for Shoah libraries. It is also interesting to see how compassionate the Australian Lutheran Church was towards German Jews.

Among the individuals the author acknowledges as having helped to inform him are our editor, Associate Professor Suzanne Rutland, our genealogical colleague Lionel Sharpe in Melbourne, and several people active in Jewish history and genealogy in Australia.

Sophie Caplan

## BAD FAITH, A FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF FAMILY AND FATHERLAND

*By Carmen Callil, London: Jonathan Cape, 2006, pp.614.*

**C**armen Callil was born in Melbourne and came to the United Kingdom in 1960. In the early 1960s she tried to commit suicide and was then placed under the care of Dr Anne Darquier, a psychiatrist in London whose mother was Australian, born in Tasmania, and whose father was French. After seven years of psychiatric care and friendship with her patient, Dr Darquier died suddenly, aged forty.

At the psychiatrist's funeral, Carmen Callil heard her name had been Anne Darquier de Pellepoix. By chance about a year later, Carmen Callil saw the French documentary by Max Ophuls *'Le Chagrin et La Pitie'* (*The Sorrow and the Pity*, the Story of a French town, Clermont-Ferrand, during the Nazi Occupation) and discovered who Dr Anne Darquier's father had really been. He had been the French equivalent of Adolf Eichmann, the Commissar for Jewish Affairs, who had collaborated with the Nazis and organised the deportation of the bulk of the 78,000 Jews who were deported from France between February 1942 and late August 1944. Puzzled

and surprised, this led the author to years of research in French archives and historical writings into the family of Dr Anne Darquier: both the family of her mother, Myrtle Marian Ambrosine Jones from Carrick, south of Launceston in northern Tasmania, and that of Louis Darquier from Cahors in the Lot in south-western France, who added the fictitious *particule* 'de Pellepoix' and the equally fictitious title of baron to his name. She found that he was one of the most appalling French right-wing antisemitic propagandists of the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s who rose to political prominence during the Occupation through his bad faith.

The resulting book is a broad study of the development of the numerous interlocking French extreme right-wing individuals and groups present in France from the end of the First World War to the end of the Second, whose growth was nurtured by the conditions of the depression in France. It is probably the only description in English of the various political groups, writers and activists of this ilk.

Louis Darquier was an opportunistic, lazy, exploitative, hypocritical, lying individual who hardly ever worked and who drew money for a life of alcoholism and personal luxury from various Nazi entities, as well as French extremist groups, to support his antisemitic propaganda in France, after previously exploiting his younger brother. Both Louis Darquier and his wife Myrtle totally neglected their only child who was brought up in extreme poverty by an English nanny whose meagre wages were reluctantly paid by Louis's younger brother and during the war by the French Red Cross.

In May 1942 Louis Darquier reached the peak of his career as the second and most lethal Commissioner for Jewish Affairs in the Vichy government, a quasi ministerial appointment, which allowed him to organise the deportation to death camps firstly of foreign Jews living in France, then of naturalized Jews deprived of their French nationality by decree, and finally of French-born Jews themselves. He also organised the despoliation of Jews in France, benefiting from their property and particularly from their confiscated art works. Unlike many other collaborators with the Nazis he escaped to Spain and lived out his life in comfort under the protection of Franco.

This is a shocking but fascinating book for anyone interested in French politics and history. It is of interest for the AJHS, because Louis Darquier had married an Australian. It is of interest to note that Carmen Callil, the Australian born author of this book is a publisher and founded Virago, the feminist publishing house.

Sophie Caplan