

late Catherine Gluck, then aged 103, a Hungarian Jew who lived for more than 50 years in the same apartment overlooking the Fitzroy Gardens, and whose artist brother, Frederick Lamberger, imported the first espresso machine into Australia for his Rialto Espresso Coffee Lounge opposite Darlinghurst Fire Station.³

Helen Bersten

SHADOWLINE: THE DUNERA DIARIES OF UWE RADOK

Edited by Jacquie Houlden and Seumas Spark

*Clayton, Vic., Monash University Publishing, 2022, xx + 181 pp.,
index; illus.*

ISBN: 9781922633620 (paperback); 9781922633644 (epub)

The injustice of the treatment of the *Dunera* internees is well-known in Australia and has been the subject of many studies. The HMT [Hired Military Transport] *Dunera* was a passenger ship which, in 1940, transported over 2500 ‘enemy aliens’ from Liverpool in Britain to Australia. About 500 were German Nazis and Italian Fascists who were prisoners of war, but the majority were Jews, as well as some ‘Aryan’ German and Italian anti-Nazis who had fled to the United Kingdom (UK) as refugees from Hitler. A month after the Fall of France in June 1940 to Nazi Germany, and fearing an imminent German invasion of Britain, in an act of Kafkaesque stupidity, the British government decided that these Jews and anti-Nazis were security risks, likely to support Hitler if he invaded the UK, and deported them to Australia. Some had already been sent to Canada on board the SS *Arandora Star*, which had been torpedoed with great loss of life; its survivors were placed on board the *Dunera*. The poorly trained and hostile crew made conditions on the overcrowded vessel even worse for those deported. Once in Australia, 349 disembarked in Melbourne. They were sent to the Tatura camp near Shepparton, north of Melbourne. The rest sailed on to Sydney, where they disembarked on 6 September 1940 and were sent to Hay in south western New South Wales. Many were highly educated intellectuals; the number of outstanding minds on board the *Dunera* might well have equalled, or exceeded, those in the rest of Australia combined. After the War many became eminent academics and cultural leaders here and elsewhere.

Shadowland consists of much of the handwritten diary (written in English) kept from 1940 until 1943 by Uwe Radok (1916–2009), one of the *Dunera* refugees who was interned in Tatura, Victoria, unlike the majority of the *Dunera* internees sent to Hay in New South Wales, and who had fled from Germany in 1939. Although of only partly Jewish ancestry, he fell afoul of Hitler's antisemitic laws and fled from Germany, albeit at the last possible moment. The most important fact which sets this diary apart is Radok's sexuality. Although he later married and fathered daughters, one of whom is the co-editor of this work, he was also bisexual and much of the diary consists of his longings for another internee, referred to as Fred. Homosexuality was, of course, considered as a criminal act at the time and was much less unofficially tolerated here in Australia than in England, with its long tradition of upper-class gayness at public schools and Oxbridge. This sexual aspect makes the diary different from other accounts and possibly unique. The diary also includes musings about Radok's wide range of readings of the *Dunera* experience and about life in general. After the War, he became a distinguished meteorologist at Melbourne University and elsewhere.

There are some unanswered questions and curious features about his diary. It is unclear if Radok was normally bisexual, or if he was attracted to males while kept at Tatura ... The diary entries are also somewhat curious in that they do not contain one word concerning the fate of the Jews in Germany or in Nazi-occupied Europe; this might well have been unknown to him, of course, but it is still curious. As well, very little is said about the course of the War. However, *Shadowline* is a valuable and authentic record of the Australian echo of one of the darkest pages in history but, after the War was won, proved to be fortunate for our country's intellectual and cultural standing.

William D. Rubinstein

SECRETS BEYOND THE SCREEN

by Anita Jacoby

Sydney, Ventura Press, 2022

Secrets Beyond the Screen is both an autobiographical account of Australian television producer and journalist, Anita Jacoby, and her father, Phillip Heinrich Walter Jacoby, known as 'Jack' in Australia, a non-Aryan Christian who escaped from Nazi Germany in 1934 and