

Boasting clear maps and charts and comprehensive bibliography and end-notes, *In sure dwellings* is an engagingly written and highly readable mix of historical fact, informed speculation and enterprising genealogical investigation.

Malcolm J. Turnbull

### SURVIVING THE CAMPS: UNITY IN ADVERSITY DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Paul R. Bartrop (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2000; xiii + 211pp)

Although this book falls outside the scope of this Journal, I feel it warrants a brief review because of (a) its interest for many of our readers, and (b) its author's prominence in the field of Australian Jewish studies. Dr Bartrop is perhaps best known to us for his in-depth research into government policy on interwar and post-war Jewish immigration to Australia, as well as the major study *Australia and the Holocaust*. In the present volume, he draws expertly on published accounts by survivors to counter myths that staying alive in the camps entailed compliance with Nazi dictates or the taking on of Nazi characteristics. Challenging long-accepted views of Bruno Bettelheim, *et al*, as to the essential passivity of the concentration camp experience, he concludes that survival was, most often, 'a collective act'. 'Concentration camp prisoners survived not only by the grace of the SS, or by Allied Victory and liberation, but also by their own means', he argues, underlining the fundamental importance of the social networks which emerged in the camps.

Volume 23 in *Studies in the Shoah*, a series of monographs by leading international authorities, *Surviving the Camps* is a distinguished piece of scholarship and an important contribution by an Australian historian to the field of Holocaust studies.

Malcolm J. Turnbull

### AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY VOL 15, 1940 - 1980. Kem-Pie

John Ritchie, ed. (Melbourne University Press, 2000; xxx + 611pp)

Volume 15 of the prestigious *ADB* is the third of four volumes devoted to prominent or notable individuals who died within the time-frame 1940–80. They range from a 21 year-old national serviceman who died in action in Vietnam to a 103 year-old librarian. There are 682 entries by 543 authors, profiles which (according to the editorial team): 'throw light on the complexity of the human situation, and on the greatness and the littleness of moral response and actual behaviour which this can evoke.' Entries likely to be of interest to readers of this Journal are:

Ballerina and choreographer Helene Kirsova (by Sally O'Neill & Martha Rutledge); Communist journalist Egon Kisch (by Carolyn Rasmussen); Sydney communal leader Louis Klein (by Suzanne D. Rutland); furniture craftsman Shulim Krimper (by Terence Lane); Karl Langer, architect and town-planner