## Internment-The Human Side

I was extremely lucky that already in Bury St Edmunds I met old refugee friends, Walter and Rupert Blum, who had for some time been with me in Maidenhead at the home of Mr Oldershaw. They were studying at Magdalene College, Cambridge, when internment began, and thus they and their refugee friends from Cambridge University, also became my friends, all of us sharing the concrete floor during the first few nights at Bury. Soon we became a close group, throughout the various camps, sticking together, sharing what goodies we received from outside, mostly food parcels.

The most outstanding member of this 'Cambridge Group' was Fritz Lingen. Tall, blond, blue-eyed, and sportive-looking, always immaculately dressed and always clean shaved (by no means a universal characteristic of all). Fritz represented, even under the most adverse and trying conditions, a picture of a gentleman of the good old days. He had of course every right to his appearance and aristocratic behaviour, as he was the youngest son of the German Crown Prince, a Hohenzollern.

He provided the physical leadership when it became necessary to present a complaint to one of the Camp Commandants, who were noticeably impressed by royalty and a Godson of Queen Mary. When it became imperative on the *Ettrick* to clean out the ship's latrines, deep in vomit from seasickness and overflowing with human excretae, Fritz somehow organised a number of gum boots, buckets and brooms and within a couple of hours, all was again clean and proper. I shall never forget this task, my worst of internment.

Lingen was by no means the intellectual leader of our group. There were a number of others, like Max Perutz, Hermann Bondi, Tommy Gold, Peter Trier, Walter Wallich, Paul Feiler and Victor Ross, all of whom achieved great distinction in their later careers through their natural gifts, their intellect and intelligence. Hermann, later Sir Hermann, and Tommy Gold worked out the 'Steady State Theory of the Universe' which for a long time rivalled the 'Big Bang' origin of the Universe. Both were elected Fellows of the Royal Society and became professors, Hermann in Cambridge, England, Tommy at Princeton.

Peter Trier became Director of Research of the Philips Company, Walter Wallich achieved great distinction in the field of broadcasting, first by acting as the founder of the West-Deutscher Rundfunk, and later at the BBC as the originator of "Phone-In" programmes. Paul Feiler, prominent in the Cornish Group of painters, has his work represented in London's Tate Gallery and Victor, who later changed his surname to Ross, became managing director of the British branch of *The Readers Digest.* All remained good friends.