

# **Archives, categories, gender and ethnicity: uncovering twentieth-century refugee histories**

Gaby Weiner  
Centre for Educational Sociology  
Edinburgh University  
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# Narrative research

- Captures individual experience, voice and identity
- Bridges gap between personal experience and social structure
- Embodiment of social factors such as gender, ethnicity, social class, disability etc.
- Renders the ordinary extra-ordinary

# Family history

- Sub-branch of narrative research
- Biography of a family over generations against backdrop of wider society (alternatives: one-name/one place study)
- History from the bottom up
- Enhanced by digitalisation of archives and development of genealogy software

# Narrative research

## Drawbacks

- Places individual at centre of events
- Can exaggerate the impact of individual action
- Can produce 'victory' or 'triumph over adversity' narratives

## Aims of the study

- Make visible the lives of ordinary immigrant women in London in 1940s and 1950s
- Explore the experiences of first generation immigrants

# Sources

- Documentation & artefacts associated with country of origin, e.g. passport, birth certificate, exit documents
- Personal records and possessions, e.g. photos, correspondence, medical records, accounts
- Official documentation in Britain, e.g. Home Office, police and registration documents.
- National archives in Britain & Belgium
- Interviews
- Other (e.g. Jewish refugee organisations, Internet databases such as that of Yad Vashem)

# The family: Uszer Frucht (b. 1900), Steffi Dinger (b. 1903) and daughter Gaby (b. 1944)

1950



1963



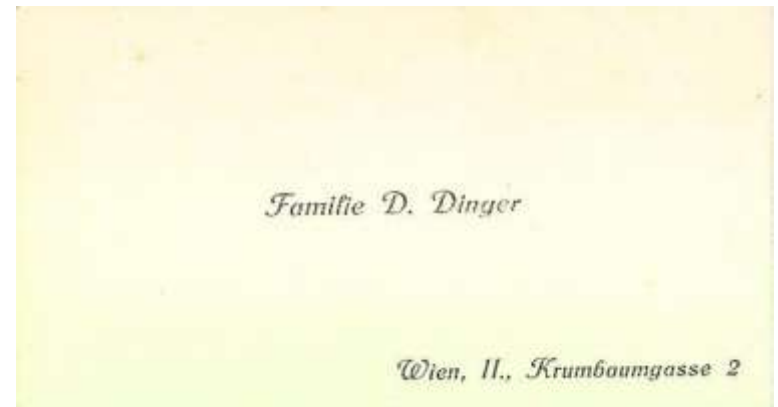
# The three sisters in Britain



25/11/2010



# The Dinger family business



# Life in Vienna in the 1920s & 1930s



# Dinger siblings (1931)



# Uszer Frucht





## Uszer family details, 1928

66153

**Ministère de la Justice**  
**ARRONDISSEMENT ADMINISTRATIF DE LIÈGE**  
**VILLE DE LIÈGE**

**1. TENDANCE GÉNÉRALE**  
**2. SECTION (Noms collectifs)**  
 No 122.118

**Démourant rue Sennier N° 41**

Noms et Prénoms	LIEN LIÉ À LA DATE DE NAISSANCE	RÉSIDENCE NÉELLE
1. <b>Personnes dont le nom est identifié</b>		
1. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 20 septembre 1900	Liège
2. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Verdovitz, Pologne de sa naissance le 22 septembre 1905	Liège
3. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Charleroi, le 11 novembre 1905	Liège
4. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
5. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
6. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
7. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
8. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
9. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
10. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
11. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
12. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
13. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
14. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
15. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
16. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
17. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
18. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
19. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
20. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
21. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
22. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
23. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
24. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
25. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
26. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
27. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
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31. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
32. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
33. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
34. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
35. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
36. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
37. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
38. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
39. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
40. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
41. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
42. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
43. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
44. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
45. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
46. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
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49. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
50. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
51. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
52. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
53. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
54. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
55. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
56. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> Lodz, Pologne de sa naissance le 12 février 1907	Liège
57. <b>Personnes</b>	<b>YANNY URSER</b> <	

<p>5. Residence antérieure au Belgique (1)</p>	<p>Le n°1 Compagnie, Yverdon, Chateaillon, Olly, Charleroi, Olly et Serning s/w au dernier lieu sous l'industrie 116 le n°4 de 1911 Anvers jusqu'en septembre 1914 et de décembre 1915 Anvers Charleroi Olly et Serning s/w</p>
<p>6. Date de l'entrée dans le pays.</p>	<p>le 7 juillet 1928</p>
<p>10. Nature des papiers soumis qui les ont délivrés leur et date de leur deli- vrance (3).</p>	<p><u>Visé de mariage</u> Changement de résidence n°1000 délivré à Serning s/w le 10 juillet 1928 par l'officier de l'Etat Civil. Certificat visé au Commissariat d'arrondissement de Charleroi sous le n°2400 le 30 octobre 1928 pour séjour dans le Royaume sans limitation de durée.</p>
	<p>Signature? <u>non</u></p>
	<p>Signature de la part du mari <u>postérieurement</u></p> <p>le n°1 impaire du pouce gauche.</p>
<p>Signé, le <u>26 juillet 1928</u> Signature du étranger : </p> <p>Et a transmis à Monsieur le Ministre de la Justice</p>	<p>Signé, le <u>29 juillet 1928</u> le fonctionnaire de l'Etat de l'Etat.  Signé, le <u>30 juillet 1928</u> le fonctionnaire, </p>

family in 1935

[illegible]

14

1.555.100/1.2. 1408

1115  
FRANCK, Tassier, né à Lode le 30 septembre 1900, docteur en Charleroi, est le président de la section de Charleroi, du groupement "FRANCK".  
A ce titre, il assiste aux réunions secrètes organisées par son groupement, et récemment, il est parti à Paris, où il représente la fédération belge en congrès des associations "FRANCK".  
FRANCK est connu depuis 1907, comme étant révolutionnaire; il a toujours été un militant actif des "COMUNISTIQUES" et du "FRANCK", associations communistes belges, actuellement dissoutes.

Identified as a Jewish  
Communist revolutionary

MINISTRE  
de  
LA JUSTICE

et  
P. Directeur général

SURETÉ PUBLIQUE

N° 1.555.100/1.2. 1408

Reçu

Bruxelles, le 12 Janvier 1938

Rapport au Roi

Sire,

FRANCK, Tassier

né à Lode (Belgique)

le 30 septembre 1900

compromet la tranquillité publique.

Conformément à l'article 2<sup>e</sup> de la loi du 12 février 1902,  
J'ai l'honneur, Sire, d'avoir avec mes collègues, de soumettre à l'approbation de Votre Majesté un projet d'arrêté d'expulsion à l'égard d'un nommé

Le Ministre de la Justice.

T. S. V. 10

Expulsion order, 1938,  
found living with sister in law &  
imprisoned in Antwerp

93  
THE HUSBAND

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have under consideration the case of a stateless person of Polish origin named HENRY FRECHT who was convicted on July 21 of landing in the United Kingdom without the leave of an immigration officer and whom the authorities now wish to deport.

2. According to a statement made by Frecht to the British police, he is a miner by profession but was compelled to give up mining in 1935 as the result of an accident. From 1935 until he was smuggled into the United Kingdom in July of this year Frecht lived in Belgium first working as a mines near Charleroi and after 1936 running a small business for selling lace in Charleroi. It appears that in March or April 1938 he was informed by the Belgian police that he was to leave the country within 14 days. According to his statement it was this which prompted him to endeavour to enter the United Kingdom having first made an unsuccessful attempt to migrate to Canada.

3. The competent authorities of His Majesty's Government do not feel able to allow this man to remain in the United Kingdom but before deporting him they wish to ascertain whether the Belgian Government would be prepared to readmit him into Belgium in view of his long residence in this country and of the fact that on arrival in London he came, on his own statement, direct from Antwerp.

British Embassy,  
Brussels.  
10th August, 1938.

Letter from British Embassy  
seeking to deport Uszer back  
to Belgium, 1939



# Steffi, entry visa, 1938

A.

## FORM OF GUARANTEE

TO BE GIVEN TO  
THE COUNCIL FOR GERMAN JEWRY  
(GERMAN JEWISH AID COMMITTEE).


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In consideration of the British Government granting permission to the following person/s

*Steffi Dinger  
Wien II  
Krummbaumgasse 2/12.*

to come to this country for the purpose of taking up residence either temporary or permanent.

I, the undersigned, being a householder and declaring myself to be possessed of sufficient means to carry out the necessary financial obligations  
**DO HEREBY UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEE TO HOLD MYSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP DURING SUCH TIME AS THEY MAY BE ALLOWED TO RESIDE IN THIS COUNTRY.**

  
*J. P. Collins*

WITNESS to the Signature  
of the above named

*J. P. Collins  
131<sup>st</sup> Mule End Rd  
E.C.1*

# Application for visa, 1938

RETURN TO GEN. REGISTRY  
ALIENS DEPARTMENT HOME OFFICE.

243

B.

5811

DINGER, *Luigi*

1938 - 1965

40 F 11475

tion expires: 6.30 N.E.

9059536

MINUTES.

APPLICATION FOR VISA.

She has been a factory forewoman & house-  
keeper, has domestic qualifications & a  
knowledge of an language.  
It is not open to her to come to G. J. A. C.  
1. Refer case of open to G. J. A. C. for review.  
2. has been.

21 JUL 1938

CALL NOTE

7 as above

24/7/38

1.4.38.

Wrote G. J. A. C.  
17/7/38 28.38.

# Steffi Dinger's police record, from 1938

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Printed 02 January 2007 09:27

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**REGISTRATION CARD.**

114  
FEMALE  
O.P.R. No. 51518  
**FROCHT**  
~~DINGER~~ Stefanie.  
-ALIAS- AUSTRIAN (seen)  
(1) NATIONALITY ~~German~~ Born on 19th Jan'y. 1903 in Vienna, Austria.  
(2) PREVIOUS NATIONALITY (if any) Austrian.  
(3) PROFESSION or OCCUPATION Visitor (No Occupation) (4) Arrived in U.K. on 8 / 12 / 1938  
(5) Address of last residence outside U.K. Vienna, Austria.  
SINGLE or MARRIED Single Husband's Name and Surname  
(6) GOVERNMENT SERVICE  
(7) PHOTOGRAPH  
(8) SIGNATURE OR LEFT THUMB PRINT.  
Stefanie Dinger  
Stefanie Frocht  
P.C. 720 "G".  
10/12/38.  
(9) PASSPORT or other papers as to nationality and identity.  
German Passport No. 39557  
Issued Vienna on 10/10/39.

# Steffi Dinger's police record cont.

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 Printed 02 January 2007 09:27

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**CONTINUATION CARD**

—continued.  
 (1) NAME (Surname first in Roman capitals).  
~~DINGER~~ *Stefanie*  
 ALIAS *FROCHT*

(2) IDENTITY BOOK OR REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.  
 No. *701413*  
 Date *10.12.1939*  
 Issued at *Commercial St*

This Continuation Card was added by the *AR02 Lelao* Police

(13) Date	Registration District Serial Number	ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE OR REMARKS
<i>23.10.50</i>	<i>HZ 643.21 Lelao</i>	<i>APPLICANT FOR NATURALISATION. (18.10.50) Jf.</i>
<i>16.5.51</i>	<i>— — —</i>	<i>certificate of naturalisation refused by Sec of State. Note 36 is on Nec Excl File. Jf.</i>
<i>26.5.51</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>Name changed to FROCHT on production of NRIC BTAT. 192.1. G. B. Info. 25 MAY 1951</i>

(Form 100) W. 12/5/51 Rev. 5/51 G. B. Cl. 114(10)

# Refugee social club, 1944

AUSTRIAN CENTRE  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIANS IN GREAT BRITAIN.  
CLUB FINSBURY PARK

CHAIRMAN: MR. G. WERTHEIM.  
SECRETARY: MISS STEFFI DINGER

143, SEVEN SISTERS ROAD, N.7.  
PHONE: ARCHWAY 4916

L.,  
10th of May 1944.

Liebe Steffi und lieber Edi,

Gestern haben wir endlich die gute Nachricht bekommen, dass Du l. Steffi ein Maederl bekommen hast. Wie wir hoeren, hast Du l. Steffi ziemlich viel mitgemacht, aber hoffentlich erholst Du Dich bald. Bin schon neugierig zu hoeren, wie viel das Baby gewogen hat, wie es heisst, u.s.w.-

Nun will ich auch in meiner Mutters Namen Euch beiden gratulieren, Euch alles Gute und viel Glueck mit Euerer kleinen Tochter wuenschen, hoffentlich waechst sie in eine schoenere, gluecklichere, und friedliche Zeit hinein.-

Hoffe Dich l. Steffi bald wieder gesund in London zu sehen und das Baby bewundern zu koennen.

Viele herzliche Gruesse and Dich und Edi,

*Elsa & Fritz Hermann*

P.S. Verklatsch mich nicht  
dass ich auf Austrian Centre  
Papier geschrieben habe, aber  
habe momentan kein anderes Papier bei mir.



# AIDE AUX ISRAËLITES VICTIMES DE LA GUERRE

Association sans but lucratif

VOL 107.

100 000  
100 000

juridiques  
OU/20

BRUXELLES, le 7 janvier 1946.

Rue Caschuel, 7  
Téléphone 71-41-18

M. G. S. B.

FRUCHT, Moshe,  
né à Lodz (Poi.), le 20.9.1900,  
de nationalité apatride,  
entrée en Belgique en 1933.

Il a habité à Charleroi, et y a travaillé comme mineur  
dans les charbonnages de Charbourg.

En 1938, il a eu un accident de travail, et a été ren-  
voyé comme invalide de 25 %.

Il s'est marié en 1938 en Belgique avec DOROTHEA FRUCHT,  
ép. FRUCHT, née le 26.3.1905 à Litvovitz.

De ce mariage sont issus trois enfants, tous nés à  
Charleroi.

En 1938, Moshe Frucht a été expulsé de la Belgique,  
et il est parti en Angleterre. - Il a travaillé à Londres,  
dans une usine de munitions.

Pendant ce temps, sa femme et ses enfants sont restés  
en Belgique. Ils ont souffert de la déportation, mais Mme.  
Frucht est devenue très malade (maladie de cœur), après  
avoir passé six mois dans un camp en France.

Moshe Frucht est venu maintenant de Londres en Bel-  
gique, avec d'un visa de 3 semaines, qui est encore va-  
lable jusqu'au 15 janvier 1946.

Il demande que son expulsion soit retirée et qu'un  
séjour lui soit accordé. - Il est disposé de se réengager  
comme travailleur de mines.

Déclaration de  
M. le Ministre de l'Intérieur  
le 10.1.46

Reçu de l'Administration  
demande de l'entrée  
le 10.1.46

Request on behalf of Uszer to  
be allowed to return to Belgium,  
1946

# Death notification, 1947

**UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH BUREAU FOR GERMAN AUSTRIAN  
AND STATELESS PERSONS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE.**

Telephone: MUSeum 6811

AWW/EW

BLOOMSBURY HOUSE  
BLOOMSBURY STREET  
LONDON, W.C.1

13th Febr., 1947

Dear Madam,

With reference to your enquiry concerning the fate of your mother, Mrs Amalie Dinger, we deeply regret to inform you that according to a report now received from the British Red Cross Society she was transferred from Theresienstadt to an unknown destination in Poland on 26th Sept., 1942. It appears that there is every reason to assume that Mrs Dinger is not among the survivors.

We are very sorry indeed to be obliged to convey this sad news to you today and wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our sincere sympathy with you in your great loss.

Miss Elsa Dinger,  
34, Queen's Drive,  
London, N.4

Yours faithfully,

*W. Chittenden*  
Secretary



# Death notification, 1947

**UNITED KINGDOM SEARCH BUREAU FOR GERMAN AUSTRIAN  
AND STATELESS PERSONS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE.**

Telephone: MUSeum 6811

AWW/MK

BLOOMSBURY HOUSE  
BLOOMSBURY STREET  
LONDON, W.C.1

2nd October, 1947.

Dear Miss Dinger,

It is with great regret that we have to inform you that we have now received a report with the sad news of your brothers death in Karaganda in 1945. Only the fact is given in this message but no exact date or other details are mentioned.

We are very sorry indeed to be the conveyors of this very sad news and we should like you to be assured of our deepest sympathy with you in your bereavement.

Yours sincerely

Miss E. Dinger,  
34, Queens Drive,  
N.4.

*M. L. Wolff-Moys*  
Secretary





# Uszer Frucht: Lewes prison record, 1948 (source AJR)

DATE OF REG. C.F. 12202 No. OF CHILDREN Sharr  
No. XXXXXX SURNAME FROCHT  
CHRISTIAN NAME Uszer  
ENGLISH ADDRESS (Lewes Prison, Sussex) 15/1/48 - 37, Chancery Lane, London  
HOME ADDRESS London NATIONALITY British  
BIRTHPLACE Leeds EXP. OF PASSPORT  
DATE OF BIRTH: 20.9.1900 PROFESSION  
GUARANTOR - NAME and ADDRESS re: release  
ARRIVAL DATE 1938 H.O. No.  
LEFT U.K. FOR Belgium MARRIED  
DATE Sept. 1946  
CROSS REFERENCE  
Friend: Stoff  
DINGER - A. 4420

# Steffi's 1st application for naturalisation, 1950

HOME OFFICE  
BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT, 1948  
FORM A.1.  
**APPLICATION BY AN ALIEN FOR A CERTIFICATE OF NATURALISATION**

The instructions accompanying this form must be read carefully before the form is completed. Portions of the form which are not applicable should be struck out and initialled in every case.

1. Original name in full in country of birth (in **BLOCK LETTERS**)

If name at birth has been altered, give particulars and date of alteration

Particulars of any other name(s) used for private purposes

Particulars of any other name(s) used for trading or business purposes

Private address

Occupation

Business address and/or name and address of employers (if a director, names and addresses of companies concerned)

STEFANIE DINGER

Mrs. FROCHT (deceased) living with Mr. V. FROCHT

34, Queens Drive, London N.4

Clerk

LIMIT ENGINEERING CO LTD  
15-29 Windsor Street N.1

2. Country, place and date of birth

Nationality at birth

Present nationality if different

State how change in nationality was made

If stateless, say how nationality was lost

Country AUSTRIA

Place VIENNA

Date of birth 19 JANUARY 1903

AUSTRIAN

"

PLD

PKD

3. Father's full name in country of his birth (in **BLOCK LETTERS**)

Nationality (if dead, at time of death)

Mother's full name before marriage in country of her birth (in **BLOCK LETTERS**)

Nationality (if dead, at time of death)

DAVID DINGER

AUSTRIAN (DIED 1928)

AMALIE MOSCONICZ

AUSTRIAN (DIED 1942)

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
York House, Kingsway, LONDON, W.C.2  
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# Application for naturalisation cont.

4. State if single, married, widower, widow or divorced

If married, state:—  
Date and place of marriage

Wife's full name before marriage  
(in **BLOCK LETTERS**)  
nationality and, if living,  
present address

OR

Husband's full name  
(in **BLOCK LETTERS**)  
and nationality

If husband or wife is dead, give  
date and place of death

If marriage dissolved, give date and  
place of decree

SINGLE	
Date <i>1.1.1949</i>	Place <i>Ed</i>
Name <i>John</i>	
Nationality <i>Ind</i>	
Address <i>100</i>	
Name <i>John</i>	
Nationality <i>Ind</i>	
Date <i>1.1.1949</i>	Place <i>Ed</i>
Date <i>1.1.1949</i>	Place <i>Ed</i>

## 5. STATEMENT REGARDING RESIDENCE AND CROWN SERVICE

- (a) I have lived in the United Kingdom or have been in British Crown Service or partly the one and partly the other, throughout the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of this application; and  
(b) during the seven years immediately preceding this period of twelve months have either resided in the United Kingdom or in a colony, protectorate or United Kingdom mandated or trust territory or have been in British Crown Service, or partly the one and partly the other, for periods amounting to not less than four years.

Full postal address in the United Kingdom or in a colony, protectorate or United Kingdom mandated or trust territory	From (Date)	To (Date)	Years	Months
<i>44, Roseberry Gardens Hammingay N.4</i>	<i>8.12.1928</i>	<i>Nov. 1942</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>22, Wilberforce Road N.4</i>	<i>Nov. 1942</i>	<i>July 1943</i>		<i>8</i>
<i>34, Queens Drive N.4</i>	<i>July 1943</i>	<i>still there</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>

Details of residence

Total residence in the United Kingdom

*11 3/4* years

Total residence in colonies, protectorates or United Kingdom mandated or trust territory

years

Government department by which employed, or the service of His Majesty's Forces (if in the Army, the regiment or branch should be stated)	Capacity in which employed or rank or rating	Service number	From (Date)	To (Date)	Years	Months
<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>

Details of British Crown Service

Total length of British Crown Service

years

If this application is granted, I intend to live in *England*

or to enter into or continue in British Crown Service at a *100*

During the period of residence shown above, I have visited the following foreign countries

Name of country	From (Date)	To (Date)
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>13.4.1949</i>	<i>18.4.1949 (5 days)</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>25.7.1950</i>	<i>3.8.1950 (10 days)</i>



# Application for naturalisation cont.

## 6. STATEMENT REGARDING CHARACTER, ETC.

I am of good character and have sufficient knowledge of the English language. I am financially solvent.

## 7. Details of ALL PROCEEDINGS OF ANY KIND taken against you in any Civil or Criminal Court

Nature of proceedings	Date	Place	Result
		ND	

8. Date of any composition made with creditors  ND Date of bankruptcy  ND Date of discharge from bankruptcy  ND

9. Approximate date of any previous application for naturalisation  ND

## 10. Particulars of children

(a) Full name of children under 21 years of age to be registered (see para. 6 of instructions)	Date of birth	Place of birth	Where now resident
GISELA GABRIELA FROCHT (Daughter)	9.5.1944	Weymouth City (Hants)	34, Queens Drive London N.Y.
(b) Full names of other children	Date of birth	Place of birth	Where now resident

## 11. DECLARATION AND APPLICATION

Delete and initial the words in brackets if inapplicable

I, the undersigned to whom the foregoing particulars relate, hereby apply to the Secretary of State for the grant of a Certificate of Naturalisation (and for the registration of my minor children as indicated in section 10 (a) above).

I do solemnly and sincerely declare that the particulars stated in this application are true; and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act, 1835.

If, at any time before a certificate is issued to me, the accuracy of any of the foregoing particulars is affected by an alteration in circumstances, I undertake to inform the Secretary of State in writing forthwith.

(Signature of Applicant) Stefanie Dinger  
 Made and subscribed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 1950.  
 before me Paul H. M. J. A Commissioner for Oaths  
 or other official title (see paragraph 7 of instructions)

This Declaration must not be made before a person who is the Solicitor or Agent of the applicant.

## CAUTION.

Subsection (1) of Section 28 of the British Nationality Act, 1948, provides that:—

"Any person who for the purpose of procuring anything to be done or not to be done under this Act makes any statement which he knows to be false in a material particular, or recklessly makes any statement which is false in a material particular, shall be liable on summary conviction in the United Kingdom to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months."

[OVER]

# Official investigation, 1951

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
Visa Section,  
Brussels.

18833

30th January, 1951.

Usser FROGHT ; Stateless (Russian origin)  
Born Lodz 20.9.1900.

With reference to your S.47204 (H.O.ref. F.11975/5) of 11.1.51, the following information has been received with regard to the above mentioned person:

" FROGHT has not divorced his wife, who lives in Belgium, and he is responsible for the maintenance of his wife and three children. He is in business and appears to be fairly prosperous. It is reported that he is either a communist or a "fellow traveller". It is hoped to get more information on the latter point."

For your information, please.

*H. T. White*

Head of Visa Section

# Casual discrimination, 1953

Child - Gisela Gabriella - born 9th May, 1944. Illegitimately.  
(Father is in Belgium now) Alien changed her name to FROCHT (that of the  
father of her child) so that she and the child would have same name.  
Nothing of interest resulted from interview.

Alien does not impress one as to reliability, but nothing of  
apparent security interest resulted from interview.



T.F. Corbett.

H.M.I.O.

24.10.53.

# Involvement of MI5, 1951

apart from her Communist associations as yet is acceptable.

There is no evidence that she is or has ever been a member of the Communist Party, but she has considerable Communist associations and sympathies.

The M.I.5. conclude their minute of 3/4/51 by saying "—her record is such as to raise security objections to her naturalisation", and we should abide by this.

? Refuse as proposed.

A. J. T. Robinson

Her association with Communist <sup>19/4/51</sup> ~~recommends~~ is too strong to disregard, & it would be safer to refuse.

? as proposed.

P. H. H. H.

11/4/51  
21/4



# Case for naturalisation

She states that she is anxious to acquire British nationality (a) because it is her intention to remain here permanently, (b) 'for her daughter's sake', (c) because after her recent short trips to the Continent, she returned here "with a new realisation of how much Britain meant to her". She gave the impression that she was expressing genuine sentiments. She said she understood the significance of the Oath of Allegiance and was ready and willing to take this Oath.

Metropolitan Police records contain nothing to applicant's detriment; and nothing is known in Special Branch to the detriment of the referees.



# Case against naturalisation, 1951

## MINUTE SHEET

Reference D 5811/2

Mr. de Freitas

I should not have recommended refusal solely on the ground of the applicant's wartime Communist associations. But the report that as recently as January she was expressing strongly pro-Communist sentiments and the fact that she is connected with Frocht, who is said to be a Communist or a fellow traveller, seem to tip the balance in favour of refusal.

*W.F.M.*

24 April, 1951

## Case against naturalisation

Applicant states she met Usyer FROCHT in January 1943 at the premises of the Finsbury Park Branch, the friendship ripened and the couple cohabited from July 1943. Applicant makes no secret of the fact that Usyer FROCHT was a Communist but states that her interest in him was not on account of his political views; and the fact that applicant's views differed from those held by Usyer FROCHT led to occasional arguments. Applicant, however, maintains that FROCHT was not an active communist here and that his chief interest was in acting.

## Case against naturalisation

She emphatically denied ever having belonged to any political party, abroad or in Great Britain; but volunteered the information that in Austria she had always voted for the Social Democratic Party. She also insisted that, whilst holding socialist views, she had at no time supported the Communist Party or been sympathetic to its policy. She was averse to dictatorship in any form and felt that dictatorship in the world today was a factor which was making the attainment of peace more difficult. Applicant volunteered the information that during the war she had fervently supported the "Aid to Russia" campaign but pointed out that support was given by persons of all shades of political opinion.



# MI5 intervention, 1951

Mr Bellenger A Dunn phoned, & instructed  
that a note should be inserted in file  
to the effect that Mr Gainsford  
MI5 would like to see the  
file before the case is granted

John Regy 11 JAN 1951

let Campbell  
Sh. 2.

MI5 (CIA) would like  
file again as soon as  
action is complete.

R/1/10  
20 FEB 1951

W. L. WEATHERILL

# Naturalisation decision (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1955

It is not clear that the facts of this case bring the applicant within the precise terms of the Cabinet decision as to refusal of applications from Communists or persons who are, or have been, associated with Communist activities. Apart from actual members of a Communist Party the decision was that naturalisation should be refused to (1) persons who, though not avowed or known members of the Communist Party, are associated with Communist activities in such a way as to cast doubt on their loyalty; and (2) persons who in the past have been members of the Communist Party or have been closely associated with Communist activities, if there is reason to suppose that their former associations have implanted in them an enduring loyalty to Communism. We are not, of course, precluded from refusing naturalisation in a case in which we think it is justified, even though it is not within the precise terms of this ruling, and the decision on ./2 to refuse the previous application for naturalisation was taken subsequently to the Cabinet decision on general policy.

I think that the present circumstances are fairly compared with those when the previous application was turned down in Mr. Roy's minute of 6th July above. It would be fair to say that this is a borderline case, but on the principle that in such cases the State and not the applicant must have the benefit of the doubt, I agree that this case falls to be refused.

Partly U.S.G.S.

2nd September, 1955.

*Japm. before 1827 7/9*

[OVER



# Security rating, 1966

1 M.I.5

2 IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY DEPT., HOME OFFICE. (Mr. A.N. Carter)

H.O. Reference: ALG 8/1/104-

## Reclassification of files

In accordance with the agreed arrangement herewith particulars of a file graded SECRET

Will you kindly return the enclosed copy, together with your recommendation and any observations, to me as early as possible?

Signature [Signature]

Date 21.10.66

H.O. Ref: 5811/2 and 3

Name: DINGER.

FILE ATTACHED

Your Ref: 725553  
he puts dated

Date: 17/10/50 and 14/6/55

and 11/11/50 dated 7/11/51  
in file (1/2)

+ Please delete as necessary.

## Recommendation

+(a) Grading may be amended to Confidential  
(insert: Secret, Confidential,  
Restricted or Open as appropriate).

+(b) ~~Please retain existing grading.~~

Signature M15/PF25353/E1/K64

Date 7.11.66

R3: Connect the appropriate volume and pass to relative section. File one copy only and attach the other to it temporarily.

# Issues raised by the study

- Power of narrative
- Struggle over access to sources and documentation
- Management (or manipulation) of categories in the interests of the state
- Historicity of bureaucratic categories
- Xerox (and digital) democracy (since 1960s)
- Archival cultures (e.g. controllers of discourse, spaces of memory, spaces from which to speak)
- Human consequences

## Final points

- Ordinary is never ordinary.
- Individual stories personalise and make real historic events. Important contribution to history
- Existence of different archive cultures (in Britain and Belgium)
- Ownership of the public record
- Important to protect and enhance human rights by encouraging access to the public record

## Contact details

Gaby Weiner

[gaby.weiner@education.ed.ac.uk](mailto:gaby.weiner@education.ed.ac.uk)