

# GROSS-BREESEN-SILESIA

## EMIGRANT TRAINING FARM



INTRODUCTION TO THE THIRD EDITION

Browsing through the host of Gross-Breesen websites on the internet - many of which do not concern our Gross-Breesen at all - it is amazing to find, that firstly, with extremely few exceptions, the stories presented have been written by persons who have never been in Gross-Breesen, have not even seen it and are way off the mark.

But after all what can be more authentic than these letters, produced by Gross-Breeseners themselves over a period of over 70 years, which had not been written with the object of ever being published, but are clearly representative of their time. Nothing else can ever present a truer picture of this story of ours and it is certain that Curt Bondy would not have liked to have had it any other way.

Numerous statements made are misrepresentations and are fictitious. Here are some examples, but there are many more, which you will find when you read the letters and compare their contents with the former. It was said that **a group of 31** were able to emigrate to Australia, whereas unfortunately they were only 21 in that group. (Although in addition a number had made their way to Australia independently) - In another article it says that *there is over 60 years of unpublished correspondence between Gross-Breeseners*. The following will show that this correspondence had been published over a decade ago for the first time. It has also been claimed that **many** became leaders in their new communities. The truth is that a few became leaders in their communities (which incidentally among about 150 people is not very remarkable. *(The highlighting is mine)*.- It also claims that with some exceptions their parents paid for their tuition. Yet on page 66 it clearly states that out of 92 trainees only 25 paid the full tuition fee etc.

But here is the best - or is it the worst - of them all:

*<GROSS-BREESEN - In 1936, as the Nazi government was tightening its hold on German Jews drastically curtailing their freedoms, Curt Bondy, a high school teacher in Hamburg, was offered the opportunity to establish an agricultural work camp in Breslau for many of his teenage students. The camp was Gross-Breesen. This is the story of Bondy and the children he saved.*

*For Bondy, life as the camp director was an endless series of negotiations with the Nazis whose ultimate goal was to quickly ship the children anywhere as long as they left Europe. It was Bondy's goal to make sure he held on to the children until they were ready to lead independent, productive lives in their new home lands.*

*The story is told in a series of flashbacks as many of the elderly campers meet sixty years later in Israel to commemorate Bondy and their camp experience. It was their fortune they were able to be re-settled around the world, from Israel to Australia to the United States. Some came to the reunion with their children, some with luggage stuffed with family photos.>*

It is rather amusing that a caption under one of the photos showing a small heap of poppy seeds says, "harvested grain". Another one displaying a thresher and the threshing of corn reads: "Jewish youth from the Gross Breesen vocational center unloads hay from the cart", and so on.

Thirdly, most terrible of all are the omissions. The fact is hardly ever mentioned that Gross-Breesen was established with the intention of eventually solving the problem for all those Jews in Germany who did not want to immigrate to Palestine, by creating a colony or a state elsewhere of which the Gross-Breeseners were to form the vanguard. Yet this fact is really the principal one of importance from a historical point of view, if we consider that the achievement of it might have lessened or even prevented the holocaust.

Lastly, scarcely any mention is made at all of the **real heroes among the Breeseners**, namely those who perished and the few who had been incarcerated and survived. (You will be able to read their letters here).

To confound all those story-tellers it has been decided at last to put the **true, original and authentic story of Gross-Breesen** on the internet and it is then up to the reader to draw their own conclusions.

In contradiction to what was stated in the introduction to the second edition this opportunity has been taken to add a fourth volume of material.

Furthermore out of most of the items about Gross-Breesen on the internet the following three are worth while reading: Log on to: <http://www.jewishrichmond.com/page.aspx?id=75001>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=JtGXWzfD10C&pg=PA224&lpg=PA224&dq=gross-breesen&source=bl&ots=VCr8nczZbg&sig=htpNetJ9EaplwdBoTEhoDGOe2Ts&hl=en&ei=pns3Sv3mFsyUkAXK0YyWDO&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=9#PPA228,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=JtGXWzfD10C&pg=PA224&lpg=PA224&dq=gross-breesen&source=bl&ots=VCr8nczZbg&sig=htpNetJ9EaplwdBoTEhoDGOe2Ts&hl=en&ei=pns3Sv3mFsyUkAXK0YyWDO&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=9#PPA228,M1)

[http://www1.yadvashem.org/this\\_month/september/this\\_month\\_5.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/this_month/september/this_month_5.html)

Over the years many inquiries have been received about certain details of Gross-Breesen or Gross-Breeseners, most of which could have been answered if the inquirers had read the complete story which follows. Hence, if you wish to become acquainted with all the aspects of this you are advised to read it all.

It must also be pointed out that unfortunately the whole of the paperwork in connection with Gross-Breesen could not be discovered. Some of it might still be in some archives in Russia, Germany or elsewhere. The roll therefore had to be compiled from the names appearing in the circulars and from memory. It is certainly not quite complete and may even contain the odd person who had just been visiting. – Now that this will be on our website, all comments in this regard as well as anything else will be welcome.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the opening of Gross-Breesen I have the pleasure to issue this latest and final edition of this second revised and enlarged edition of the Gross-Breesener circular letters and related material. Following our golden jubilee meeting in Israel at the fiftieth anniversary (apart from the birthday party for Prince in the previous year) and the first annual meeting of many to follow at the sixtieth anniversary in the Eastern United States.

IF PRINTING THIS WORK, YOU WILL NOTICE THAT IT IS DIVIDED INTO THREE VOLUMES, (NOW FOUR) EACH ONE CONTAINING A COVER.

THIS HAS BEEN FORMATTED ON A4 PAPER. THEREFORE IF PRINTING IT ON "LETTER" PAPER IT WILL HAVE TO BE REFORMATTED.

WHENEVER A MALE PRONOUN IS USED, IN MOST CASES THAT IS MEANT TO INCLUDE THE FEMALE ONE.

EACH CIRCULAR LETTER BEGINS WITH ITS ORIGINAL COVER PAGE - EXCEPT THAT MOST OF THE ORIGINAL COVERS WERE OF GREEN PAPER - AND ENDS THUS:

.....END.....

FOR EASIER ACCESS TO ANY PARTICULAR ITEM, THE NAME OF EACH FILE CONTAINS THE LAST PAGE NUMBER OF THAT FILE AND THE APPROXIMATE DATE OF ITS CONTENTS. (*This does not apply anymore*)

IN VOLUME III / FILE 38. YOU WILL FIND A COMPLETE INDEX AT THE END. (*With the exception of the small fourth volume*)

IT HAS TO BE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS DISK CONTAINS FAR MORE MATERIAL THAN THE FIRST EDITION AND THAT THE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS, FOR WHAT THEY ARE WORTH, ARE PROBABLY (HOPEFULLY) MORE ACCURATE.

**ANY SUCH HIGHLIGHTING IS MINE.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME BY E-MAIL  
[herko@primus.com.au](mailto:herko@primus.com.au) !!!!!

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### FOR THOSE GROSS-BREESENERSTILL SURVIVING THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL YEAR!

Because this happens to be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gross-Breesen (now Brzezno). For most of THE GROSS-BREESENERSTILL most probably the last anniversary ending a decade.

Furthermore, despite the fact that there is still activity between and among them (us) this will in all probability be, not only the second and final edition, but of whatever value to history these last activities may be, unfortunately they will be lost to it.

But in the light of the events in Israel and in the Middle East generally, the whole concept of a Jewish State elsewhere, although hardly ever mentioned, should never be forgotten. And that is at least one of the reasons why these humble beginnings at Gross-Breesen must also take their proper place in history.

So on one hand, congratulations to Gross-Breesen and The Gross-Breeseners for having lasted at least seventy years, and on the other hand a final farewell .

May I say that there is one consolation however. Bondy, Gross-Breesen and the Gross-Breeseners will live on in the contents of this work.