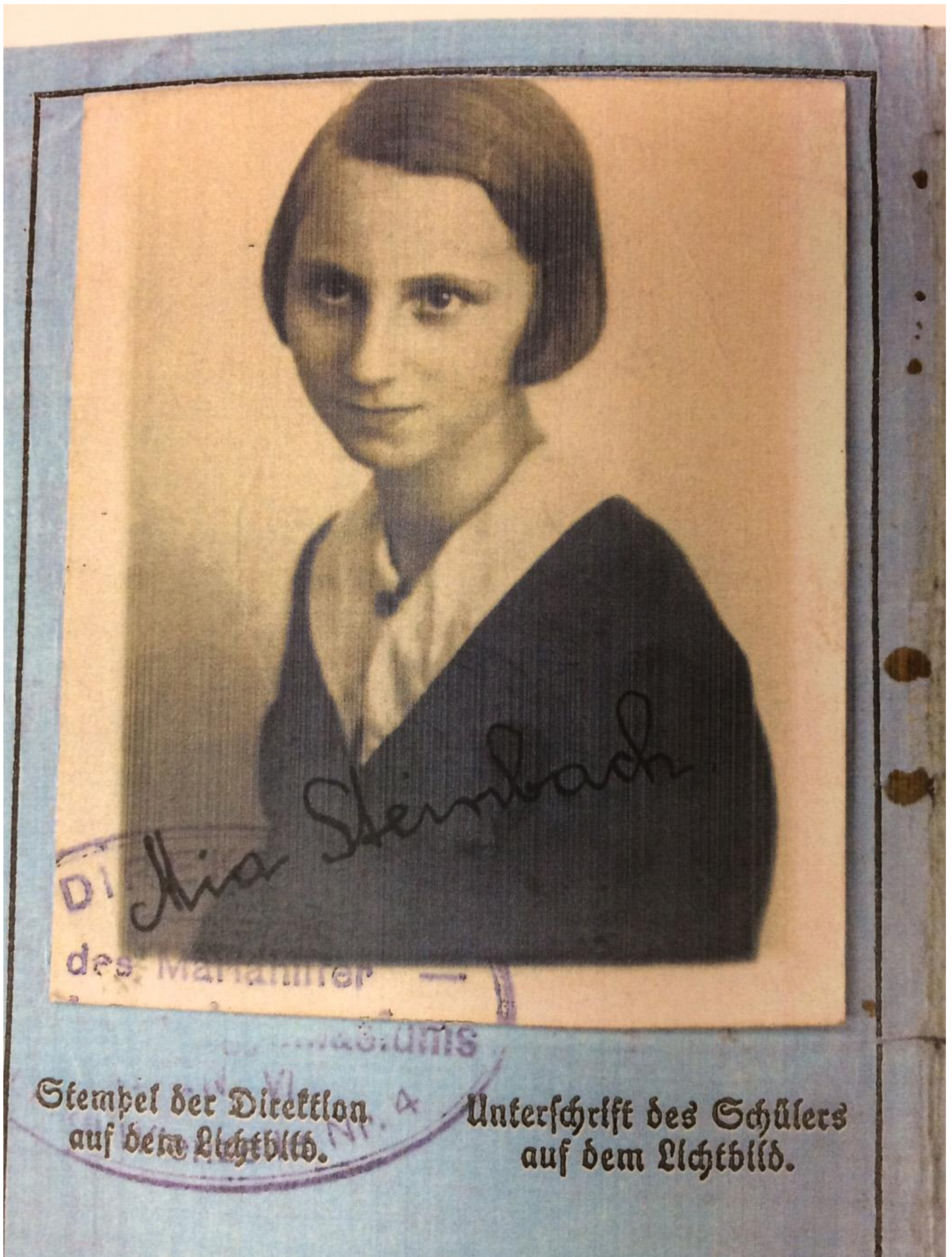


Mia Steinbach - a student of Kendrick School



Di Mia Steinbach
des Mannheimer

Stempel der Direktion
auf dem Lichtbild.

Unterschrift des Schülers
auf dem Lichtbild.

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Who was Mia Steinbach?

Mia Steinbach was born in Vienna on December 3rd 1923. Her father was a lawyer there and she attended the Madchenrealgymnasium, Linke Wienzeile, Vienna until she was forced to flee in 1939 after Hitler's annexation of Austria and the persecution of the Jewish people that ensued.

She arrived in England as a refugee from Austria on the Kindertransport.

The Kindertransport was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts which brought thousands of refugee Jewish children to Great Britain from Nazi Germany between 1938 and 1940.

After she left Vienna on the Kindertransport she never saw her parents again – all her immediate family were killed or died as a result of the war and Holocaust.

Miss Prebble (the Headteacher of Kendrick School at that time) was her guarantor on her official paperwork and documentation when she arrived in England in 1939 and she became a student here in June 1939.

Mia Steinbach was a student at Kendrick School from 1939-1940. She went on to train at the Nursery Training College in Bracknell.

In 1949 she married George Schweinburg who was also a refugee from Vienna and then living in London. (He had managed to escape with his family after Kristallnacht).

She died in 2016 and it was afterwards when her daughter was sorting through her papers that she found Mia's school reports from Kendrick. She contacted the school and told us about this former student's life story.

The Kindertransport

The Kindertransport was a British scheme to rescue nearly 10,000 predominantly Jewish children from Nazi occupied territories. As a result of Nazi persecution, there was a rise in the number of Jews wanting to emigrate as circumstances for Jews in Germany and its annexed countries changed. The Kindertransport scheme was an opportunity for some of these children to leave their homes and families and seek temporary refuge in Britain.

Realising that the British public were keen to see some action, the scheme to bring over a large number of children was given the go-ahead. Visa and passport restrictions were lifted and children of seventeen and younger were able to enter Britain with a 'white card'. The majority of children had 'guarantors' who would cover the re-emigration costs. These guarantors were mostly people who had some kind of connection with the families of the refugees or who had responded to the many advertisements in the newspaper, the Jewish Chronicle from families seeking help.



The Kindertransport Memorial at Liverpool Street Station