

MICHAEL KERR

As Far As I Remember

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In memory of my parents.

For Diana.

And Candy, Jo and Tim, and Lucy and Alexander.

And my sister Judy, who saw it all.

Preface

100 copies of an earlier version of the first 58 chapters were published privately under this title in 1994, but written at the beginning of the nineties. I only have three left in my possession which have found their way back. An incomplete version of part of the remainder was then also in draft. Both have now been greatly revised, extended and brought up to 2002.

My thanks for their great help with this book go to my wife Diana, my sister Judy, my old friend Geoffrey Lewis for his encouragement, to Johnny Veeder, and to Ailsa Mackillop in Chambers for solving all the word processor problems, to Mark and Marguerite Littman and to Martin Kramer for their support throughout as well as to many others and to Richard Hart and his team for publishing it.

Michael Kerr
London
April 2002

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Michael Kerr's book was to all intents and purposes completed before he became seriously ill. During his final illness, determined to see the book published, he spent much of his time re-writing passages with which he was not entirely happy, always striving to "tell the truth". Sadly he died before the book was published, although it was finished by the time of his death, so that he was able to visualise how it would finally look.

In many ways a modest and private man, Michael nevertheless cherished the belief that his and his family's story deserved to be re-told. Those who were privileged to know him, and those who will only ever know him through this book, will surely agree.

As my father used to say:

“A quelque chose malheur est bon.”

French proverb, after Voltaire.

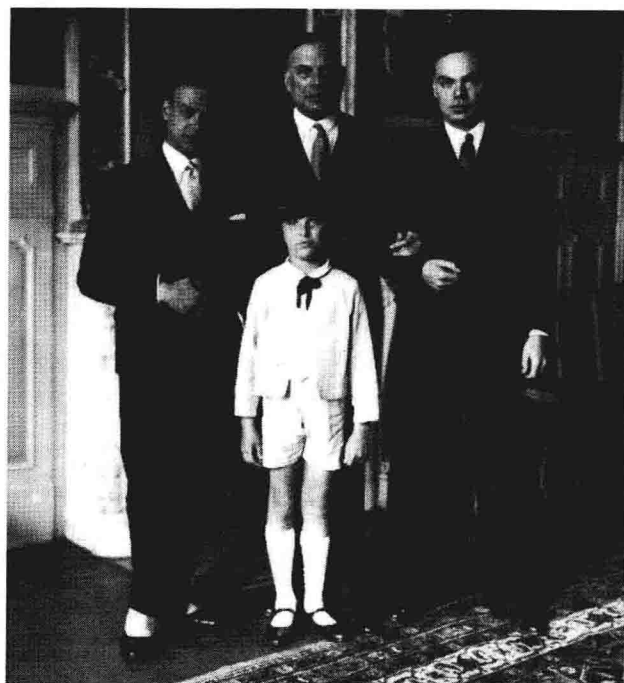


My father by Louis Cornith, 1907.

PLATE II



*The Reichenheims,
with matriarch Anna
and my mother, aged
about 16, 1914.*



*The Weismanns
(Gert – later Whitman
– Robert and Diez)
and MK in the
Wilhelmstrasse, about
1930.*



My father with Bello, Gunewald, 1927.

PLATE IV



My mother in Venice on their honeymoon, 1920.



*Michael and Judy,
about 1928.*



PLATE VI



My grandparents' Silver Wedding, about 1921.



Painting of my grandmother, Gertrude Reichenheim, by Passini, 1896.

PLATE VIII



My Grandfather, on his terrace in Nice, 1934.



Michael and Judy, Nice 1935.



My parents in England, 1936.

Not valid for Spain or the
Spanish zone of Morocco.

I.B. 113.

No. K.4311.

Date 17th December, 1937.

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Indication de l'autorité qui délivre le certificat

Place of issue of certificate:—LONDON.
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Signature of Holder.

Michael Kark

**DESCRIPTION.
SIGNEMENT.**

Age 16.
Height 5 ft. 11 ins.
Taille 5 ft. 11 ins.
Hair Blond.
Cheveux Blond.
Eyes Blue.
Yeux Blue.
Face Oval.
Visage Oval.
Nose Normal.
Nez Normal.

Special peculiarities
Signes particuliers

Remarks
Observations

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Nom de famille Kark
Forenames Michael
Prénoms Michael
Date of birth 1st March, 1921.
Date de naissance 1st March, 1921.
Place of birth Berlin.
Lieu de naissance Berlin.
Nationality of origin German.
Nationalité d'origine German.
Surname and forenames of Father Kark, Alfred
Nom de famille et prénoms du père Kark, Alfred
Surname and forenames of Mother Wieland, Julia
Nom de famille et prénoms de la mère Wieland, Julia
Name of wife (husband)
Nom de la femme (mari)
Names of children
Noms des enfants
Occupation Pupil.
Profession Pupil.
Former residence abroad Paris.
Ancien domicile à l'étranger Paris.
Present residence in the United Kingdom Alcornoque School,
Résidence actuelle dans le Royaume Uni Alcornoque School,
Alcornoque, Gts.
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Signature of the issuing authority,
Signature de l'autorité,

J. H. M. CHIEF INSPECTOR,
H.M. CHIEF INSPECTOR,
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LONDON, S.W.1.

**CERTIFICATE OF
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