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MYSTERY BLAST CAPSIZES PACKED REFUGEE SHIP IN HAIFA; NEARLY ALL RESCUED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The S.S. Patria, carrying 1,771 Jewish refugee illegal immigrants scheduled to be exiled to a British colony for duration of the war, capsized in Haifa harbor this morning as result of a mysterious explosion. Most of the passengers were saved through the work of British troops and police, but a Government communique tonight said some fatalities were feared.

Immediately after receiving news of the explosion, the Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi) and the Hadassah Medical Organization, supported by funds from the American women's Zionist organization, dispatched money and clothing to Haifa to aid the survivors. Jewish leaders voiced praise for the efficient rescue work of the British.

The communique stated: "The Government regrets to announce that this morning, as the result of an explosion the cause of which is not yet known, the S.S. Patria, lying in Haifa harbor heeled over and is now setting on the bottom of the harbor. Some 1,800 illegal immigrants were aboard who were awaiting transfer to a British colony. Rescue work was undertaken immediately, but some fatalities are feared."

Effective seamanship and speedy work of Palestine s maritime patrol, aided by reconnoitering planes which directed the rescuers, resulted in the saving of most of the refugees, who first were brought to the Haifa breakwater and then transferred to shore.

The ship went down with amazing suddenness. Tonight only a small part of the superstructure was visible above the water.

The 1,771 refugees arrived in Palestine waters on two unseaworthy ships, the Pacific and the Milos, on Nov. 10 and were taken to Haifa by police boats. They were held in the port and then transferred to the Patria to be sent to a British colony, in accordance with the Palestine Government's new policy, announced in a communique last Thursday, of sending Palestine illegal immigrants to a colony for duration of the war.

Refusal of the Government to admit the refugees, who had been wandering on the Danube and the Mediterranean for several months before reaching Palestine, aroused great indignation among Palestine Jews, culminating in a general strike last Wednesday. At the same time the refugees went on a hunger strike.

What treatment the Government would accord to the survivors of the explosion remained problematical tonight. In its communique last Thursday the Government said that it regarded "the revival of illegal Jewish immigration at the present juncture as likely to affect the local situation most adversely and to prove a serious menace to British interests in the Near East."

(Continued on reverse side)

Zionists Here Send Message

NEW YORK, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the Emergency Committee on Zionist Affairs, today sent the following cable to Moshe Shertok, head of the political department of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem: "American Zionists and all friends of Palestine shocked to learn lamentable fate passengers two refugee ships. We are heart and soul with you and united Yishub in this difficult time and in your determined struggle to safeguard future of Jewish people."

Mizrachi Asks Britain to Reconsider

CHICAGO, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- A resolution appealing to the British Government to reconsider the deportation of 1,771 refugees from Palestine was adopted yesterday at the closing session of a national emergency conference of the Mizrachi Organization. Copies of the resolution were sent to President Roosevelt and the State Department. "Struggling for world freedom and democracy, England must hear the agonized outcry of Jews victimized the world over," the resolution said.

Other resolutions called for unification of American Jews, intensified aid for the Jewish homeland in Palestine and the calling of a national conference of rabbis and teachers on education.

Jacob Greenberg, a leader of the Poal Hamizrachi in Palestine, declared in an address that "Jewish religion is fast becoming the greatest influence in Palestine, respected even by the radicals." The convention heard cables from Menachem M. Ussishkin, president of the Jewish National Fund, urging greater aid for land-buying and from Rabbi Jacob Rosenberg, chairman of the Ezrath Torah fund. The convention closed with a banquet.

JEWS PLAY ROLE AS INDUCTION OF RECRUITS BEGINS

NEW YORK, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Young American Jews shouldered their full share of the task of preparing for the defense of their country as induction of recruits into the Army under the Selective Service Law began today all over the United States.

Official recognition of the Jews' place in national defense and of the religious needs of Jews in the armed forces was indicated in an announcement by John M. Schiff, chairman of the Army and Navy Committee of the Jewish Welfare Board, that Rabbi David de Sola Pool had been appointed to the General Committee of Army and Navy Chaplains, and Rabbi Arieh Lev, First Lieutenant in the Chaplains' Reserve, had been assigned to active service in the office of the Chief of Chaplains, Colonel William R. Arnold, as liaison officer for men of Jewish faith.

In New York City, about one-third of the 200-odd men inducted during the day and a like proportion of the 1,917 scheduled to leave for training camps during the week, are Jews who, like the rest of the New York contingent, had almost to a man volunteered under the law. The first men to report in the morning at the induction centers in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx were all Jews.

Many of the New York Jewish inductees revealed that older members of their families had seen action in the Army during the World War. One, Jerry Isaacson, 28, had an uncle who fought at Chateau-Thierry and in the Argonne, in the Rainbow Division.

The Kurtz brothers, Alfred, 23, and Sidney, 24, had a cousin who was a member of the famous "Lost Battalion." The cousin of Morris Pflantzer, 26, served in the regular Army under General Pershing in his expedition into Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa, and later in the A.E.F.

Pflantzer's mother voiced the sentiment expressed in one way or another by all parents of recruits who were interviewed: "I'm proud to have him aid our country, where we live free, and I only hope he comes back at the end of a year in peace."

One of the few recruits with military experience was Nathan Zuckerman, 29, who had served in the Czechoslovakian Army. Zuckerman came to the United States two-and-a-half years ago. His parents remained behind, the district where they live having now been annexed by Hungary. Zuckerman declared fervently: "I volunteered because I'll be happy to be a good American."

After final medical check-up, swearing-in ceremonies and a send-off by Mayor La Guardia, New York recruits departed immediately for Fort Dix, N.J., and Camp Upton on Long Island. Rabbi Bernard Siegel was already on duty at Fort Dix as regular Army chaplain, and early appointment of a Jewish chaplain at Camp Upton was expected.

The appointment of Dr. Pool to the general committee of chaplains came after many years' service by him in the religious interests of Jewish soldiers and sailors. He was field organizer for the Jewish Welfare Board during World War I and was recently named chairman of the Committee on Religious Activities of the Welfare Board's Army and Navy Committee. He will serve on the general committee with the Rev. Mr. Paul Dwight Moody, representing the Protestants, and Bishop John Francis O'Hara, representing the Catholics.

Rabbi Lev was born in 1912 in Jerusalem, the son of American parents, and was educated at Columbia University, the Teachers' Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Jewish Institute of Religion. He resigned as executive secretary of Young Judaea to enter active service.

The two appointments were hailed by Jewish Welfare Board leaders as indicating desire of the War and Navy Departments to cooperate fully in safeguarding and promoting the spiritual welfare of men in military service. The Board is extending its Army and Navy activities to meet the additional needs created by the expansion of the forces and is organizing local Jewish communities to provide hospitality and assist in meeting the religious and social needs of Jewish recruits.

HISTADRUTH LEADER VOICES OPPOSITION TO RUTENBERG PROGRAM

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The opposition of the Histadruth, Jewish labor federation, to Pinchas Rutenberg's Jewish unity program was voiced by Berl Katznelson, member of the Histadruth executive and editor of the labor daily Davar, in a public address here.

"How can we speak of national discipline without elections and a clear expression of the people's will?" Katznelson asked. "Everyone preaches the need for new leaders, but where are they? We had one--Rutenberg--but we left him in midair.

"We built Zionism for class cooperation, as its tasks are unfulfillable without cooperation of every citizen, but when it becomes a permanent issue we must reconsider. Our orientation is based not on the number of leaders but on issues."

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Katznelson warmly urged the abandonment of "past errors" and asked a maximum of mutual understanding, elimination of discrimination and the building of a labor organization based on equal rights.

"Rutenberg demanded an end of demoralization, establishment of a general labor federation and cessation of party interference in recruiting for the military forces and in distribution of relief," the labor leader said. "His demand to prohibit strikes for duration of the war may frighten our comrades, but I am ready for this."

Katznelson maintained that Rutenberg failed in his mission as president of the Vaad Leumi to unite the Yishub because he was "betrayed by right-wingers." The solution of the enigma, he said, is to be sought in the attitude of leaders who saluted him when he took up his task and subsequently deserted him.

The Histadruth, Katznelson said, sought in Rutenberg additional power to rescue the Yishub, despite the fears of executive members of the Jewish Agency and Vaad Leumi. Rutenberg showed goodwill, and therefore the right-wing immediately deceived him, the speaker said. Rutenberg did not ruin the Histadruth, and therefore the right-wing was disappointed.

Katznelson asserted that Rutenberg answered treachery with appeasement and incessant negotiations, but each time he concluded a reorganization, he heard new complaints and tried again. The result was that Rutenberg took personal offense, and his resignation and publication of the much-discussed program followed.

Labor circles received this document with bitterness and disappointment, feeling their friendship for Rutenberg had not been requited, Katznelson said. "Rutenberg's tragedy was that he had come to Zionism from the outer world...He desired a strong Vaad Leumi executive without offering concrete proposals. Nevertheless, many passages of the document are worth while."

RABBIS TO STRESS NEED OF ZIONIST STRENGTH IN SERMONS NEXT MONTH

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Responding to an appeal issued by Edmund I. Kaufmann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, urging the cooperation of the American rabbinate in carrying out his program to "make Palestine the concern of all Jews in America," many rabbis in various parts of the country have announced their intention to devote whole or part of their sermons in December to the strengthening of the Zionist Organization, the Z.O.A. announced today. The theme of these sermons will be dedicated to the purposes of Zionist Membership Month, which has been proclaimed for the period ending with Chanukah.

In his call, Kaufmann reiterated the need of uniting all constructive forces of American Jewry, "in view of the tremendous responsibilities which the present hour has imposed upon us."

'CURRENT HISTORY' PAYS TRIBUTE TO WORK OF UNITED JEWISH APPEAL AGENCIES

NEW YORK, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Comparing the Joint Distribution Committee with a seismograph "on which there is registered every eruption in the ever-restive" world and the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service to "long arms of fellowship," Current History and Forum Magazine, in an article published in its Dec. 10 issue, pays tribute to the "brilliant rescue work" now being carried on by these three agencies with funds derived from the United Jewish Appeal.

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PALESTINE JEWS AWAIT GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON REFUGEES FOLLOWING SHIP BLAST

HAIFA, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- With the shattered hulk of the S.S. Patria lying on the bottom of the harbor, almost entirely submerged, the Palestine Maritime Patrol, aided by airplanes, today scoured the waters of the bay in a search for bodies of passengers drowned in yesterday's explosion and sinking of the refugee ship.

The number of refugees missing had not yet been made public this afternoon, but it was ascertained that most of the refugees aboard had been rescued. Jewish leaders credited the relatively small loss of life to prompt action on the part of the Maritime Patrol and the harbor authorities.

With the Palestine Government's plan to send the 1,771 refugees to an island colony for the duration of the war temporarily blocked by the explosion, Jewish leaders were wondering what attitude the Government would adopt now that the refugees had finally landed on Palestine soil after several months of wandering on the Danube and the Mediterranean in an effort to reach the Holy Land. The Government's decision was expected to be made public soon.

No theory had yet been officially expressed to account for the explosion, which occurred yesterday morning as the ship was preparing to sail, in accordance with the Government's policy, announced last Thursday, of removing illegal immigrants to an island colony for the duration of the war.

GESTAPO HOLDS KEYS TO JEWISH RELIEF OFFICES IN HOLLAND

GENEVA, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- Defying the Nazis, students of the University of Delft, Holland, declared a strike yesterday in protest against the elimination of a Jewish professor from the University, it was reported here today.

As result of this strike the Nazi authorities ordered the closing of the university. An investigation has been started to find the instigators of the protest, it was reported.

Reliable information from Holland said the Nazi authorities in Amsterdam had ordered all Jewish relief organizations there to deliver their keys to the Gestapo headquarters every evening and to have representatives of these organizations report to the Gestapo every morning for the keys.

FIRST GHETTO IN MODERN HISTORY CLOSES AROUND 300,000 WARSAW JEWS

GENEVA, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- The first ghetto walls in modern history closed today around 300,000 Jews of Warsaw as an order issued by the Nazi authorities for segregation of the Jews went into effect.

The eight-feet-high concrete wall surrounds a district of about 100 square blocks in the poor northwestern section of the devastated former Polish capital. An increase in disease, already widespread, was foreseen in reports reaching here as a result of overcrowding in the ghetto--in some buildings there are seven persons to a room--and scarcity of food.

The wall, which has been under construction for several months, has 18 entrances, all of which are heavily guarded. Under the German decree special permits are necessary to enter or leave the segregated area.

In dividing the city, the Germans reserved the finest and largest section--the southeastern area--for themselves, and the 800,000 Poles were given all the rest of the city, except for the ghetto. Jews and Poles obliged to change their residence as result of the redistribution were permitted to take along only bedding, household linen and personal belongings, leaving their furniture behind.

At the same time, it was reported that following an announcement that Germans would be settled in the Radom district, the Nazi authorities ordered 2,000 Jews to leave. The Radom Jews will be resettled elsewhere, according to German dispatches.

SCHOOL IN PRAGUE TRAINS NAZIS TO POSE AS JEWISH REFUGEES

NEW YORK, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities operate a special "Jewish institute" in Prague where Nazis are trained to masquerade as Jews--even to being circumcized--in order to obtain entry into democratic countries as refugees and be able to carry on espionage and sabotage activities, the New York Daily News reported today, quoting British Government sources.

Existence of the school was said to have been first revealed last September when one of its young students fled into Yugoslavia rather than undergo circumcision.

The News pointed out that discovery of the scheme by the British and the communication of their findings to the United States and other friendly governments had made more difficult the plight of the Jews. "It automatically makes suspect the thousands of real victims of the Nazi terror who have taken refuge in this and other lands. Department of Justice agents now find themselves compelled to intensify their check-up, already rigorous, of all refugees applying for admission to the United States."

The Prague institute, it was said, has a faculty of rabbis and other Jewish teachers who give courses, under duress, to selected men of the Gestapo. The instruction supplies a working knowledge of Jewish customs, Hebrew ritual and Yiddish dialect--sufficient to enable the student to pass unnoticed among the average middle-class European Jews.

In all instances, the report declared, outgoing agents were assigned documents of Jews to whom they bore a facial resemblance. Sometimes even plastic surgery was used to obtain facial similarity to the men, living or dead, whose names they bore. Equipped with ample funds, the agents were then "allowed to leave" Germany.

SEEK TO ARRANGE TRANSPORT FOR 500 U.S. JEWS IN PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- Consul-General Paul Knabenshue in Baghdad is seeking to arrange with an unnamed foreign shipping line for repatriation of 500 American Jews caught in Palestine by the spread of the war to the Near East, the State Department said today.

Negotiations with the line are still in the discussion stage, officials said. They strongly indicated an arrangement for an increase in shipping facilities by foreign flag lines was the only hope of effecting immediate repatriation of the 500 United States citizens in Palestine and the estimated 3,500 others elsewhere in the Near East.

It was pointed out that airline travel to India, the only alternative, was impossible because of the large number desiring passage.

VICHY JEWS RAISE 70,000 FRANCS TO AID REFUGEES

VICHY, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- The fewer than 10,000 Jews of Vichy raised 70,000 francs in three days in response to an appeal of Chief Rabbi Issaye Schwartz for funds to aid interned refugees. The money will be used mainly to send medicines to the internment camps.

HERZOG TELLS CONSUL OF JEWS' HOPE FOR GREEK VICTORY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog yesterday visited the Greek Consul-General and expressed the Jewish community's hope for a Greek victory.

PICA COLONIES MARK ROTHSCHILD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- Zichron Jacob and other colonies of the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association held memorial services yesterday on the sixth anniversary of the death of Baron Edmond de Rothschild, founder of the PICA.

PALESTINE BOY NAMED FOR ROOSEVELT

TEL AVIV, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- The newly-born son of the popular impresario Walin today was named Franklin Dan (for Delano), in honor of President Roosevelt. United States Consul-General George H. Wadsworth was invited to be the godfather.

MEMORIAL MEETING HELD ON JABOTINSKY'S BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- The Brith Trumpeldor held a memorial meeting for Vladimar Jabotinsky, leader of the New Zionist Organization, tonight at the Manhattan Center. A film of Jabotinsky speaking on the future of Palestine was shown. Jabotinsky would have been 60 years old today.

MUSIC LEADERS LAUD PALESTINE CONSERVATOIRE

NEW YORK, Nov. 26. (JTA) -- The work of the Palestine Conservatoire of Music was praised today by Dr. Walter Damrosch, Olin Downes, music critic of the New York Times, Miss Dorothy Gordon of the National Broadcasting Company and Peter S. George, member of the executive committee of the Arab National League, speaking at a tea in the home of Mrs. H.A. Guinzburg in connection with a benefit concert for the Conservatoire to be held at Carnegie Hall on Dec. 2.