

NEWS

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OVER 7,000 GREEK JEWS REPORTED FIGHTING ON ALBANIAN FRONT

ATHENS, March 25. (JTA) -- More than 7,000 Jews are fighting on the Albanian front in the Salonika divisions, which have seen some of the heaviest fighting of the war--a fact of which the Greek Jews are very proud.

They are also proud of the fact that the first superior officer killed in action was a Jew--Col Mordehai Frizis. Earlier this month the Archbishop of Athens called the Chief Rabbi of Salonika, Dr. Zvi Hirsch Koretz, to the capital to assist him in a memorial service for Col. Frizis and other Jewish dead.

(Col. Frizis, according to an official announcement on March 2, fell near the village of Bessantchi, "heroically leading his troops to victory." The village was later captured and renamed "Frizis" by the Greek Government.)

On the occasion of the memorial service, Rabbi Koretz was made an honorary member of Parnassos, leading Greek literary society--the first time in Greek history that a Jew was so honored.

After observing the ever-increasing anti-Semitic repressions all over the Balkans, this correspondent found it refreshing to arrive in Salonika, where there is no anti-Semitism and where 50,000 Jews live on equal terms with 200,000 Greeks and Turks. They are descendants of refugees from anti-Jewish persecutions over four centuries ago.

The Jews of Salonika are acutely conscious of what is in store for them if the Germans conquer Greece. For this reason they have thrown themselves into the war effort even more wholeheartedly than the Greeks themselves, if such a thing is possible.

NEGOTIATIONS ON JEWISH ARMY STILL IN PROGRESS, WEIZMANN SAYS ON ARRIVAL

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- Worn and nervous from the effects of an arduous four-day air voyage from Lisbon, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the World Zionist Organization, accompanied by his wife, stepped off the Dixie Clipper at LaGuardia Field at six o'clock yesterday morning on a projected two-month visit to the United States.

Pleading lack of rest, Dr. Weizmann refused to be interviewed, but did indicate to a JTA representative that negotiations regarding formation of a Jewish army were still in

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progress in London. Informed that the London Jewish Standard, Zionist-Revisionist organ, had reported the negotiations deadlocked, he said "That is not correct." Asked if it could then be assumed that the talks were still in progress, he said "yes."

Dr. Weizmann would not discuss the results of the interview he had with Prime Minister Winston Churchill before leaving London. Nor would he talk of any aspect of Zionist policy or the scientific work in which he is engaged.

Dr. Weizmann will confer with leading American scientists regarding his chemical research for the British war effort, which he has been conducting in a special chemical laboratory of the British Admiralty, and will discuss with American Jewish leaders plans for enabling Palestine to give maximum aid to the British cause in the Near East. His first public address will be delivered Wednesday evening at a rally in the Hotel Astor.

Despite the early hour, a delegation of about 20 Zionist leaders was on hand to greet Dr. Weizmann. Among them were Louis Lipsky, Mendel N. Fisher, Morris Margulies, Jacob Fishman, Meyer Weisgal, Henry Montor, Miss Juliet N. Benjamin, David Wertheim and Arthur Lourie.

As Dr. Weizmann entered the customs room at LaGuardia Field, after having been brought ashore from the Clipper on a launch and being passed by the immigration inspectors, reporters clustered around him for an interview. "I cannot speak," he told them. "I come from a country at war."

Later, however, he discussed briefly the participation of Palestinians in the British war effort in the Near East. "There are 8,000 of them in the British forces," he said. "A thousand of them are in fighting units and the rest in auxiliary services."

The trip from Lisbon had been a hard one and he had gotten little sleep, he said. He complained of the alternating hot and cold weather and the delays. "We landed at the African port of Bolama (Portuguese Guinea)," he said, "and had to wait there for eight hours with nothing to do or see." Stops were also made in Para, Brazil; Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"I have had a very difficult trip," he said. "Maybe I'll talk to you later. For the next two days I'm going to sleep."

Later, the United Palestine Appeal issued the following statement on Dr. Weizmann's behalf:

"Now, more than ever before, Palestine is the only center for the salvation of great masses of Jews and for the resurrection of the Jewish nation. American Jewry, the only great free Jewish community in the world, must now, more than ever, bear the burden of the major responsibility. Though we are fully confident of the ultimate victory of Great Britain and her allies, supported by the growing help of your great democracy, we must realize that the post-war Jewish problem will not solve itself. In the future, as in the past, the fate of our people will lie first of all in our own hands, and the tragic necessities of the moment must not distract our attention from our ultimate goal, which is the full liberation of our people through the establishment of a Jewish National Home on a sound and enduring basis."

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR ISAAC M. WISE HELD HERE

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Special services in memory of Dr. Isaac M. Wise, founder of Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, were held Friday night in the Central Synagogue auditorium on the auspices of the New York City alumni of the college. Rabbis Samuel H. Goldenson and Jonah B. Wise delivered eulogies.

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GREAT DECISIVE BATTLE OVER PALESTINE LOOMS, STRABOLGI PREDICTS

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- One of the decisive battles of the world may be fought over Palestine, Lord Strabolgi, Chief Labor Whip in the House of Lords and author of a book on the Graf Spee battle, declared today in an address at Harrowgate.

Lord Strabolgi said that one of the main German war aims was undoubtedly to obtain by trickery or force access to the Mosul oil fields. Such an attempt, he pointed out, could be outflanked by a strong British force in Palestine.

Palestine, Lord Strabolgi said, would also be of the greatest importance in the long-distance aerial warfare which would feature such an attempt. He voiced the conviction that the Nazis would attempt a great drive through Turkey to the east as an ultimate threat to India.

ROMANIA CALLS UP JEWS IN PRAHOVA AREA: FORCED LABOR SEEN OBJECT

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Government has published a decree ordering all Jews in some military classes in the Prahova district to report for duty before April 4, it was reported from Bucharest today.

Purpose of the order is not clear here, but it is doubtful whether the Government intends to enlist Jews for active military service. It is believed that able-bodied Jews will be used for forced labor.

Meanwhile, a Jewish physician in Galati was barred from practice for a month in punishment for having treated a Christian patient.

Deputy Kostov has urged the Government to bar Jews from using the telephone, declaring that they engage in "anti-German espionage activities."

MORE HUMILIATING CURBS PUT ON REICH JEWS, REFUGEES IN LISBON REPORT

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- More and more humiliating restrictions are being imposed on the Jews in Germany, The Sunday Times reported today.

The newspaper quoted refugees recently arrived in Lisbon as saying that many German Jews would die of hunger if they were not given clandestine help by some of their non-Jewish neighbors.

If and when Jews find work in the Reich it is of the most humiliating character, the newspaper continued. Weekly wages of the Jews were approximately \$3 compared with \$12 given German workers as a nominal minimum.

Berlin Jews, it was said, were not allowed to buy new shoes or have old ones repaired. If they have business in Government offices they are required to carry special identity cards prominently in front of them.

STEPHEN STROOCK NAMED HEAD OF METROPOLITAN WELFARE BOARD

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- Stephen J. Stroock was elected president of the New York Metropolitan Section of the Jewish Welfare Board at the annual meeting of the body at Temple Emanu-El here today. He succeeds Frank L. Weil, who resigned to devote all of his time to the National Jewish Welfare Board, of which he is president.

The gathering, attended by 500 Jewish community and other leaders, was addressed by Prof. Max Lerner, of Williams College and Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, Regional Defense Coordinator
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HERTZ HAILS AMERICA'S WAR AID AS VITAL FOR FUTURE OF MANKIND

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- The vast possibilities for the future of mankind which have been opened up by America's cooperation in the war effort were stressed by Chief Rabbi J. H. Hertz in addressing a large congregation at the Great Synagogue in today's special intercession service.

Pointing out that the peaceful peoples had been slow to realize that they were "face to face with a new breed of men, totally devoid of pity, honor and conscience," Dr. Hertz extolled the successes in Greece and Africa by which, he said, "the end of Italy's unholy Roman empire has now been rendered certain, while the wonderful cooperation of America opens up vast possibilities for the future of the whole of mankind." He stressed the necessity after the war of a statesmanship able to make the "deluded enemy peoples" ashamed of what they had done, thus ensuring lasting peace.

AIDED BY J.D.C., DUTCH JEWS SETTLE IN EAST INDIES

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- The first group of the 200 Dutch refugee families, about half of them Jewish, who will find a haven in the Dutch East Indies under an agreement between the Joint Distribution Committee and the Dutch Government-in-Exile, has already reached Batavia, JDC Executive Vice-Chairman Joseph C. Hyman, disclosed today. This forerunner group consists of 92 persons. The refugee group had found asylum in Lisbon following the German invasion of the Lowlands.

The agreement provides that the Dutch Government shall pay for the transportation of the refugees to the East Indies, with the JDC providing \$10,000 for their settlement. The JDC has already guaranteed this sum, Hyman said, with the permission of the United States Treasury Department.

"Our original commitment for this project was \$7,500," Hyman said, "but following our talks with the High Commissioner for Dutch Refugees in Lisbon, the number of settlers was increased, necessitating a corresponding increase in our appropriation."

RESTORATION OF U.J.A. SEEN PUTTING SUCCESS OF DRIVES UP TO WELFARE FUNDS

SAN JOSE, Calif., March 23. (JTA) -- Reconstitution of the United Jewish Appeal places on Jewish welfare funds the responsibility of raising maximum funds for "the millions of our people who are in need," declared James L. White, president of the Western States Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds at the organization's sixth annual meeting last weekend--first regional Council session since the UJA reunion--at which leaders of the three constituent agencies spoke.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal, asserted that one could no longer consider contributions to the UJA agencies as philanthropic donations, but must rather regard them as "a war chest to protect the life, liberty and freedom of Jews all over the world."

Morris C. Troper, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee's European Council, reported that "because of lack of funds last year it was necessary for the JDC to cut in half the number of meals served to refugees huddled in Poland behind ghetto walls and because of lack of funds food had to be refused to the men, as there was only enough money available to feed the women and children."

William Rosenwald, president of National Refugee Service, stressed the integration of refugees into the United States and said the NRS, together with its cooperating committees and organizations had played a large part in making this possible. White was reelected regional chairman with Dr. Harold G. Trimble, Oakland, and Walter S. Hilborn, Los Angeles, as vice-presidents and Oscar Mathews, Sacramento, as treasurer.