

# NEWS

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## JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VIII. No. 114

Friday, April 25, 1941

### NAZIS SEEK TO FORCE JEWS IN OCCUPIED FRANCE INTO CENTRAL BODY DESPITE LEADERS' RESISTANCE

VICHY, April 24. (JTA) -- The Nazi authorities in Paris are taking action to force unification of all Jewish activities in occupied France in a central organization, despite the resistance of Jewish leaders, it was learned here today.

After the failure of the first attempt to create a non-religious Jewish community, the occupation authorities appointed Marcel Sachs, former secretary of the Central Jewish Consistory, as head of Jewish activities in occupied France.

All leaders of Jewish relief bodies were ordered to sign a statement declaring they recognized the need for unification of Jewish relief and other activities and demanding establishment of a compulsory Jewish community. Despite strong pressure exercised by Herr Danacker, recently-appointed "Gauleiter" for Jewish affairs in the occupied territories, a number of Jewish leaders refused to sign and others who did sign were disavowed by their communities.

Thus, Danacker was compelled to create instead a Provisional Direction of Jewish Affairs under Sachs's leadership, with four departments--religious, relief, education and labor. A number of Viennese Jewish communal workers were brought to Paris by Danacker to assist Sachs.

Despite Danacker's efforts, the Provisional Direction has remained in an embryonic state until now because of the opposition of Jewish leaders.

Meanwhile, the first Jewish periodical in France since the Armistice, titled Informations Juives, has made its appearance in Paris with Sachs listed as responsible editor. The new paper is to be published weekly, sold for 50 centimes a copy and devoted exclusively to Jewish communal affairs.

The first issue, dated April 19, carries a Passover message by Chief Rabbi Julien Weill of Paris and also an appeal for registration of Jews with the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations. The editorial offices of the paper are in the former consistory building.

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ANTI-JEWISH TERROR LAUNCHED IN MACEDONIA

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- A reign of terror against Jews in Macedonia has been organized by the terrorist leader, Ivan Mihailoff, long in the pay of the Nazis, who has returned from Sofia following the German occupation of the Greek province, it was reported here today.

Mihailoff formed an organization called the "Black Cross" which is looting Jewish businesses and firms and levying "collective fines" on small Jewish communities, it was said.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Serbian Jewish refugees who had arrived in towns in Banat, Hungary, had been ordered by the Hungarian authorities to register in preparation for deportation.

300 INTERNEES IN ENGLAND LAUNCH HUNGER STRIKE

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- Three hundred Jewish refugees in an internment camp have announced that they are launching a hunger strike in protest against what they call the policy of freeing avowed Nazis while refusing to release pro-British Jews.

In a letter to be published in tomorrow's Jewish Chronicle, the internees declare that in their camp "people who displayed Hitler's picture in their rooms as an object of veneration, greet each other with a passionate 'Heil Hitler' and threatened the guards with tortures on the day of the invasion" were released.

The letter asked: "Is it a crime to be fanatically pro-British and hate Hitler and Mussolini? Then we are indeed dangerous criminals."

SYNAGOGUES HIT IN LONDON RAID

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- A number of synagogues, including constituents of the United Synagogue, were heavily damaged in recent air-raids, it was disclosed today.

Several Jewish communal workers were killed. One of them was Myer Cash, president of the Order Achei Brith and Shield of Abraham, a fraternal society.

ANTI-ALIEN BILLS IN ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 24. (JTA) -- Bills barring aliens from 14 professions, the State civil service and political jobs have advanced to the final stage in the Legislature. The professions affected are medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, law, insurance agencies, brokers, barbers, architects, beauty culture, chiropodists and nursing.

PRAYERS FOR BRITISH VICTORY IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, April 24. (JTA) -- Special prayers for a British victory and for the Royal family's welfare were held yesterday in the most ancient synagogue in Safed, built by Ari Hakodosh, founder of the "New Cabala."

BRITISH LAUD HEROISM OF PALESTINE TROOPS IN ERITREAN CAMPAIGN

JERUSALEM, April 24. (JTA) -- Palestine units under a British colonel played a vitally important part in the British campaign in Eritrea, according to Cairo dispatches today quoting British officers.

The Palestinians operated in the most difficult terrain and in constant danger of being outflanked in their posts and machine-gun nests and taken prisoner. (Authoritative military circles in Cairo said earlier this week that so far as was known no Palestinians had been captured during recent fighting.)

Living conditions were extremely hard and more difficult than those of the main troops. Water was most scarce and each movement was dictated by the situation of water holes. Sometimes units would advance from one hole to a second five miles away. Casualties had to be taken on camels' backs to clearing stations ten miles back. However, most of the casualties were light.

Reaching the Mogarrah valley, the Palestinians covered the left flank of the advance to Keren, cutting off the Italians on a ridge to the left of the main attacking force and thus helping to take some 2,000 prisoners by successfully concluding this most difficult and courageous action.

The commanding officer of the troops advancing in Eritrea highly praised the units and expressed admiration at their bravery and fighting spirit.

The Palestine press reports the death of Joseph Breitman, 24-year-old, member of the Pioneer Corps, who was wounded on the Libyan front. The Pioneer Corps is the unit which precedes the army and removes mines, cuts enemy barbed-wire and digs trenches. While dying, Breitman was informed he had been promoted to the rank of sergeant. He asked, as his last wish, that he be buried with a blue-white banner, a Bible and a copy of Dr. Herzl's "Judenstaat," and he died singing the "Hatikvah." His last wish was carried out.

Locker-Lampson Urges Committees to Push Army Plan

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson today called for establishment of coordinating committees in London, America and the Dominions to press the plan for establishment of a Jewish army.

In cables to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency, who is now in the United States, and to Jose Mirelman, president of the New Zionist Organization in Argentina, the British parliamentarian asserted it was necessary to establish committees representing both Zionist organizations and also other bodies.

In his message to Mirelman, Locker-Lampson said: "From bombed but unbeaten London I send you greetings of goodwill and appreciation of the efforts to raise Jewish air squadrons as the first step towards a Jewish army."

Palestine Urged to Admit Greek Jews

JERUSALEM, April 24. (JTA) -- A delegation of Greek Jews, headed by Chief Rabbi Ben-Zion Usiel, yesterday appealed to the Government for admission into Palestine of Jews escaping from Greece.

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Simultaneously the Association of Jewish Students disclosed that many Jewish students left Palestine some time ago for the Greek front "to fight shoulder to shoulder with their Greek comrades against the common enemy." They were a part of the British expeditionary forces in Greece.

#### MASARYK URGES CZECH JEWS TO SUPPORT PALESTINE

LONDON, April 24. (JTA) -- Addressing a meeting of Czech Jews, Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk of the exiled Czech Government today appealed to Czech Jews, regardless of political and ideological differences, to unite in support of Palestine.

Mrs. Israel Sieff charged a conspiracy to exclude Palestine Jewry's contribution to the war effort. She said "Palestine units are always referred to as 'Arabs and Jews,' but the truth is that they comprise 10,000 Jews and 2,500 Arabs."

#### C.E. RUSSELL, PALESTINE SUPPORTER, DEAD

WASHINGTON, April 24. (JTA) -- Charles Edward Russell, founder and president of the American Pro-Palestine Committee, newspaperman and author, died yesterday at the age of 80. Russell took a leading part in organizing non-Jewish groups in support of the Jewish homeland, frequently appearing in delegations to protest against restrictive action on the part of the Palestine authorities. He also crusaded for fuller recognition of the contributions of Haym Salamon, who helped to finance the American Revolution.

#### M.L. ROTHSCHILD DEAD IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, April 24. (JTA) -- Maurice L. Rothschild, department store owner and philanthropist, died yesterday. He would have been 77 on April 30. He came to the U. S. from North Stettin, Germany, 64 years ago. He started his business with a covered wagon, selling clothing in railway construction camps.

#### BOMB OUTRAGE IN SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH NEWSPAPER

JOHANNESBURG, April 2. (JTA-By Mail)-- The windows of the printing plant of the Union Publications, Ltd., which owns and prints the South African Jewish Times, were shattered by the force of an explosion which considerably damaged the composing room and plant. The total damage is estimated at £500.

Pieces of a home-made bomb, apparently constructed in a piece of 6-inch tubing, were discovered both inside and outside the building. They are now in the hands of the police, and investigations are proceeding. This outrage appears to be linked with similar bomb attacks on property which took place last year, and which were found to have been actuated by political and anti-Semitic motives.

In spite of the damage caused, the Jewish Times is appearing as usual.