

VOL. VIII, NO. 155

Sunday, June 15, 1941.

PALESTINE JEWS SPUR RECRUITING AS REPLY TO RAIDS; 15 BURIED IN TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, June 13. (JTA)-- The Palestine Jewish community today took action to spur recruiting as its answer to the bombing of Tel Aviv, in which 15 Jews were killed and 24 injured, and repeated air-raids on Haifa.

The Chief Rabbinate proclaimed tomorrow as "Saturday for Enlistment," during which rabbis will deliver sermons in all synagogues aimed at speeding up recruiting for the armed forces. Chief Rabbi Moshe Avigdor Amiel of Tel Aviv issued a proclamation calling on all able-bodied citizens of the city to volunteer for Air Raid Precautions work.

The funeral service in Tel Aviv was disturbed by a brief alarm. Nevertheless, Mayor Israel Rokach, continued his eulogy in front of Hadassah Hospital and Rabbi Amiel recited Kaddish before the Great Synagogue.

Tel Aviv's population of 200,000 met the raid calmly, rising from their beds to spend three hours in shelters. The warning sounded at two a.m. yesterday. Five minutes later a wave of enemy planes flew over the city, dropping bombs in the northern section, hitting an invalids' home on Bilu Street and similar "military objectives."

The major casualties were in the invalids' home, where four persons between the ages of 70 and 80 were killed. Four others were killed nearby, one of them being Mendel Probst, 55, well-known bibliographer, and a 90-year-old man. Four others were killed elsewhere. The thirteenth was an 82-year-old woman who died of heart failure during the raid.

The second wave came over ten minutes later, mainly affecting the seashore.

Mayor Rokach immediately arrived at Hadassah Hospital to comfort the wounded and supervise ARP work. Pajama-clad inhabitants left the shelters at sunrise, filling the streets as they went about trying to ascertain casualties and damages, which were surprisingly small, considering the duration and intensity of the bombardment. The inhabitants highly praised the newly increased and strengthened ARP services.

Mayor Rokach, interviewed by the JTA, paid tribute to the ARP's "excellent discipline and behavior." He stated that despite the mourning over the dead he had ordered all cafes and entertainment places to remain open because of King George's birthday.

Meanwhile, it was officially announced that in the latest raid on Haifa, bombs were dropped over a wide area, one person was killed and one wounded, and material damage was slight. The raiders were engaged by the ground defenses.

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6/15/41

U.S. BARS VISAS FOR REFUGEES WITH RELATIVES IN REICH

LISEN, June 13. (JTA)—Escape of refugees from Europe, already seriously hampered by lack of shipping, has been further restricted as a result of a new United States order, received at the consulate here, barring issuance of visas to refugees having close relatives in Germany and occupied territories, it was learned today.

The order, obviously aimed at preventing admission of those who might subsequently be subjected to German pressure and threat of reprisals against relatives, came as a severe shock to hundreds who were anticipating emigration soon. A large number of refugees have been served with expulsion orders and are facing imprisonment.

Among the cases already affected by the order are several who received emergency visas from the President's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees. Some of these have been served with expulsion notices and will be imprisoned unless able to show American visas. Even emergency cases are required to submit proof that they have no relatives in German or occupied territory.

If the order is not modified, emigration will in the future be restricted to individuals without families or entire families leaving simultaneously. A delegation of representatives of refugee-assistance agencies, headed by Morris C. Troper of the Joint Distribution Committee and also including the Quakers and Unitarians, will confer with Consul-General S. H. Wylie on Monday regarding operation of the instructions.

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State Dept. Checks on Visa Applications

WASHINGTON, June 13. (JTA)—All visa applications of refugees from totalitarian and totalitarian-controlled states are now being referred to the State Department before issuance, it was learned today. This means a more stringent control of immigration than at any time since the last war.

The practice of referring applications to the State Department was begun in March and now has been expanded so that it covers practically every European seeking a visa to enter the United States.

The State Department thought it unwise in the present emergency to place upon consuls the responsibility of permitting or denying entry of aliens, it was unofficially explained, and Washington would henceforth check on credentials of prospective immigrants.

BRITH ABRAHAM MEETS SUNDAY

ATLANTIC CITY, June 13 (JTA)—The three-day 54th annual convention of the Independent Order Brith Abraham, largest Jewish fraternal organization in America, opens here Sunday to discuss a number of problems, including combating of anti-Semitism, support for the Roosevelt defense program, aid to Britain, post-war reconstruction of Jews in Europe, support of Palestine and refugee relief work.

The gathering will be attended by 800 delegates, representing 450 lodges in 27 states. A message from President Roosevelt will be read at the opening session. Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and Dr. Nahum Goldman will be the principal speakers.

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VICHY CABINET APPROVES SWEEPING CURBS ON JEWS' ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

VICHY, June 13. (JTA)-- The Cabinet today approved a series of weeping decrees placing economic restrictions on the Jews along the lines of the curbs in effect in Nazi-occupied France.

The measures, which limit Jews' private economic activity in unoccupied France for the first time, were drawn up by Xavier Vallat, Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, in consultation with the Nazi authorities in Paris.

Jewish physicians and lawyers will be limited to two per cent of the total number, with preference given to war veterans, Vallat stated. A numerus clausus of three per cent for Jews will be established in universities.

The statutes, details of which have not yet been completed, will bar Jews from acquiring buildings and business firms and will ban them from "professions based on ideas and speculation which, dishonestly carried out, would permit a rapid increase of fortunes," Vallat stated.

To implement the anti-Jewish program, the authorities are planning a census of Jews in unoccupied France. It is also intended to expel a large number of Jews from Vichy as "undesirables."

The Vichy anti-Jewish measures follow the Nazi program closely, even to providing for placarding of Jewish-owned shops and, possible, appointment of non-Jews to "manage" Jewish-owned enterprises. Heavy penalties are set for violation of the new statutes.

Vallat said exemptions would be given only to orphans and widows of Jewish war dead and possibly to Jewish families which have been in France for five generations and have rendered special services to the nation.

PLIGHT OF YUGOSLAV JEWS TOLD IN REPORT

ZURICH, June 13. (JTA)-- The first detailed report about the situation of the Jews in the various parts of Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia has reached Jewish organizations here together with an appeal to be transmitted to the Joint Distribution Committee for urgent relief.

The report, which was sent after the occupation of Yugoslavia, states that the 70,000 Jews of the country are now widely dispersed. Of them about 30,000 are in Croatia, which has been declared a semi-independent state under Nazi control and where anti-Jewish laws are being strictly enforced. Of the 12,000 Jews who lived in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, before the occupation, there are now fewer than 8,000 left, the remainder having fled from the city before the Nazi invasion.

The Jews in Belgrade, as well as in the other cities now under German occupation, are being drafted for forced labor and their economic position is growing more and more precarious daily. At least half of the 8,000 Jews are reported to be homeless and in great need. According to the report, about 20,000 of the Yugoslavian Jews have been absorbed by Hungary. 10,000 are in the territory ceded to Bulgaria, while several hundred Jews of Slovenia and Dalmatia are under Italian occupation. The position of the Jews in the territory occupied by Hungary is especially precarious since the Hungarian authorities have ordered them to move, without specifying destinations.

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BRITAIN HONORS JEWISH AIR OFFICER FOR FLIGHTS OVER REICH

LONDON, June 13. (JTA)-- Sergeant Mark Alfred Newman of Manchester has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal for "gallantry and devotion to duty in execution of air operations." Newman made 36 flights over enemy-occupied territory, including Berlin and Mannheim.

A London ambulance driver, Joseph Lipman, has received the British Empire Medal for "gallant conduct during air raids." He helped evacuate 200 persons from burning dockland areas.

Mrs. Florence Woodburn Bamberger of Clifton-Bristol has also received the Empire Medal. She drove a mobile canteen, donated by her husband, during raids in Bristol, to scenes of the worst incidents, displaying courage in assisting the wounded and fighting fires.

STRICT ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN BELGIUM DEMANDED

LONDON, June 13. (JTA)-- Introduction of anti-Jewish laws in Belgium modelled on the Nuremberg laws is demanded by the Belgian newspapers *Ami du Peuple* and *Velksverwering*, edited by Rene Labrichs.

At the same time, the newspaper *Vooruit* demands immediate introduction of measures forbidding Jews to appear in streets and public places without special armbands, to enter cafes, cinemas, theaters and other public institutions at all and prohibiting Jews, on penalty of death, from having relations with Belgian women.

CROATIA ORDERS JEWS TO DECLARE PROPERTY

ZURICH, June 13. (JTA)-- The Croat Government has issued an order requiring Jews to declare their property, according to German press reports. Legal transactions between Jews or between Jews and non-Jews exceeding 100,000 dinars are annulled unless sanctioned by the Interior Ministry. All Jews have been excluded from public places, cinemas and theaters.

BARON ROBERT DE ROTHSCHILD HONORED AT ORT DINNER

NEW YORK, June 13, (JTA)-- Leaders of the American ORT Federation, at a private dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel last night, paid tribute to Baron Robert de Rothschild for his leadership in refugee relief in France, particularly the ORT vocational training program. Baron de Rothschild emphasized the importance of ORT's program.

Other speakers were David L. Pedell, who presided; George Frankenthaler, chairman of the Greater New York ORT Campaign; Dr. David Lvevitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union, and Louis B. Poudin, chairman of the board of directors of the American ORT. Guests included Justice Edward Laskansky, Governor Lehman, Sam A. Lewisohn, George Z. Medalie, ex-Justice Joseph M. Proskauer, David Dubinsky, Mr. and Mrs. Ittelson, Arthur J. Goldsmith, Theodore Backer, Michael A. Schamp, Robert K. Straus and Stanley M. Isaacs.

DUTCH AID JEWISH ARTISTS

LONDON, June 13. (JTA)-- Netherlanders have overcome the Nazi ban on public performances by Jewish musicians, according to the newspaper *Vrij Nederland* here. House concerts are held everywhere with Jews as the artists. This evasion of Nazi regulations has angered the occupation authorities, who however cannot find a way of checking the actions, the report said.