

# JTA

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### PALESTINE ANNOUNCES 3,000 VISAS FOR JEWS; 37,000 DUE WITHIN NEXT TWO YEARS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- The Palestine Government today belatedly announced the immigration quota for Jews for the six-month period which began October 1, 1941 and which concludes March 31 of this year. The quota, according to the announcement, provides for the admission of a total of 3,000 new Jewish immigrants, including 1,250 heads of families and 1,750 dependents.

After deductions made for Jews who illegally entered Palestine, approximately 37,000 Jews are still to be permitted into Palestine during the next two years under the provisions of the Command Paper issued by the British Government in May, 1939. These provisions stipulated that within five years, beginning April 1, 1939, a total of 75,000 Jews were to be admitted to Palestine. Of them 50,000 were to be immigrants under the labor quota and 25,000 refugees.

The Palestine authorities claim that since April, 1939, some 16,500 Jews entered the country as legal immigrants in addition to some 18,500 who entered Palestine as "illegals." The position of the latter was legalized by deducting 18,459 visas from the general five-year quota. The number of immigration certificates issued so far on account of the 75,000 visas to be granted under the five-year plan totals 35,000. With the 3,000 immigration certificates assigned for the present six-month period ending on March 31, there will be a balance of 37,000 certificates left to be distributed over the next two years.

### CRACOW JEWS BARRED FROM ANY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION; DISEASE RISING IN PROTECTORATE

LONDON, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- Jews in Cracow have now been forbidden to use any type of transportation facilities, under a Nazi order issued this week, it was learned today by official Polish circles here. Recently Cracow Jews were barred from travelling on street cars or buses. The new order also prohibits them from riding even in horse-drawn cabs.

Jews throughout Poland have been forbidden to mail packages or letters under the pretext that these carry typhus bacilli and will help to spread the epidemic now raging in Nazi-occupied Eastern European territories, according to other information reaching the Polish government today.

A report reaching the Czech government here today discloses how German administrative measures designed to lower the standard of living of Czechs and Jews in the Protectorate have resulted in an alarming increase in infectious diseases. Official statistics for last October which just reached London, show that there were 3,272 cases of diphtheria as compared to 1,835 in the same period the previous year; 3,869 cases of scarlet fever as compared with 1,603 and 155 cases of typhus and 1,318 cases of tuberculosis as compared to none in October, 1940.

BOAKE CARTER DEMANDS RECOGNITION FOR JEWISH HERO WHO DESTROYED JAPANESE BATTLESHIP

NEW YORK, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- Corporal Meyer Levin, the New York Jewish boy who was the bombardier in the crew of Captain Colin Kelly's plane that sank the Japanese battleship Haruna, is lauded today in a nation-wide syndicated article by Boake Carter, prominent political columnist and radio commentator, who demands more recognition for the Jewish hero.

"Much has been said about the deeds of Captain Colin Kelly," Mr. Carter writes. "His name will live forever in history. But very little has been said of the seven who managed to bail out safely because of his heroic sacrifice. I desire to draw attention to another name in the crew of Kelly's bomber - Corporal Meyer Levin, U. S. Army Air Corps, son of Sam and Leah Levin, of Brooklyn.

"Levin was the bombardier. He did the intricate calculating and accurately sped the bombs to destruction of the Jap battleship Haruna. The War Department has recommended that President Roosevelt award him the Distinguished Flying Cross. To me the combination of Colin Kelly, the Irish boy, and Meyer Levin, the Jewish boy - a captain and a corporal - facing life and death together against a common enemy, is a moving symbol of America.

"Kelly's background is clean, clear, typical of the American boy. His heritage has been covered in the press. But what about Corporal Levin? What kind of a background has he? He is 25, graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School. He studied at the Brooklyn Engineering School. He enlisted in the Air Force in June, 1939. At Fort Slocum he serviced for a time and then had further service in Hawaii. Last September he was one of that magnificent group of Army fliers who crossed the Pacific (with Kelly) from Hawaii to Manila. And Levin is still in the Philippines - fighting with General Douglas MacArthur. Those are highlights of Levin's career. There's a lot more to him. Like Kelly, this Jewish boy is of the stuff that makes America great - character, unselfishness, determination at all costs.

"Despite his modesty, this youngster showed strong anger and rage at those who attacked his country. Corp. Levin lay prone in the bomb bay, made rapid calculations as his eyes glued themselves to the bombsights, then pulled the releases that sent those bombs hurtling into the hull of the Haruna. This takes guts. Colin Kelly would be the first to demand recognition for his bombardier, were he alive.

"We shall hear of many similar heroic feats among the Kellys and Levins, the O'Briens and the Cohens - and almost every origin. This is the United States. Among all groups there will be heroes. We must realize that interpretation of democracy must permit each man to be judged for what he is and what he personally represents, not on some basis of generalization which bias and prejudice set up against a group."

JEWISH SISTERHOODS CONVERT SYNAGOGUE ROOMS INTO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY HOSPITALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- A number of Jewish sisterhoods throughout the country have converted the social rooms of their synagogues into temporary emergency hospitals equipped with cots, linens and blankets, it was reported here today to the National Headquarters of Civilian Defense by Mrs. Samuel Spiegel, national president of the Women's League of the United Synagogues of America.

Giving an account of the work in which the 400 sisterhoods of this organization are actively engaged, the report points out that many of these sisterhoods are located in towns where there is extensive war industry. From West coast to East coast sisterhoods have reported the establishment of authorized units of the Red Cross in their own buildings.

SELECTIVE SERVICE REGULATIONS FOR ALIENS ISSUED; DOCTORS FACE INDUCTION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- Regulations governing the classification of aliens in the registration for selective service which is to take place on Sunday and Monday were made public here today. They clarify the status of aliens in the draft and also indicate that alien physicians, dentists and veterinarians under 45 years of age may be drafted unless local boards decide that it is best for the national interests that they continue to practice their professions.

The regulations, copies of which have been sent to local Selective Service boards throughout the country, divide the aliens into "non-declarant" and "declarant" categories. All able-bodied declarant aliens from neutral countries are to be placed in class 1-A by the local boards if they do not have any other grounds for deferment, the regulations provide. The text of the regulations read:

"All non-declarant aliens (those who have not applied for United States citizenship) shall be placed in Class 4-C (lowest classification). Aliens who are citizens or subjects of Germany, Italy and Japan, declarant or non-declarant, shall be placed in Class 4-C. Austria is not a part of Germany, but is considered a neutral.

List of Enemy, Neutral, and Co-Belligerent Nations Published

"Declarant aliens from countries at war with the Axis (co-belligerents) shall be placed in Class 1-A, if they do not have other grounds for deferment. Such aliens do not have the right to file Form 301 (waiver of right to serve in the Army of the United States, thereby forfeiting the right to apply for citizenship.)

"Declarant aliens from neutral countries shall be placed in class 1-A, unless they have other grounds for deferment. However, declarant aliens who are subjects of neutral countries have the right to file form 301. If they do, they shall be placed in class 4-C.

"Herewith is a list of nations with which local boards are most commonly concerned, stating whether they are enemy, neutral or co-belligerents: Albania, neutral; Austria, neutral; Belgium, co-belligerent; Bulgaria, neutral; Czechoslovakia, neutral; Denmark, neutral; England and the British Dominions, co-belligerents; Estonia, neutral; Finland, neutral; France, neutral; Germany, enemy; Greece, co-belligerent; Holland, co-belligerent; Ireland (Eire), neutral; Italy, enemy; Japan, enemy; Latvia, neutral; Lithuania, neutral; Norway, co-belligerent; Poland, co-belligerent; Portugal, neutral; Rumania, neutral; Russia, co-belligerent; Spain, neutral; Sweden, neutral; Switzerland, neutral; Yugoslavia, co-belligerent."

MENDES-FRANCE, FRENCH JEWISH DEPUTY, REACHES LONDON AFTER ESCAPE FROM VICHY PRISON

LONDON, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- Isaac Mendes-France, member of a prominent Bayonne Jewish family, Under-Secretary of Finance in the Popular Front Cabinet of Leon Blum and the first French politician to be court-martialed by a Vichy tribunal, reached London today after a miraculous escape from France.

Shortly after the surrender of the French army Mendes-France fled to Morocco with other prominent members of the Reynaud cabinet aboard the steamer Massilla, which sailed from Le Verdon. Apprehended in Casablanca by the Vichy authorities, he was returned to France and sentenced to six years imprisonment on the charge of desertion. Last June he succeeded in escaping from the Clermont-Ferrand military hospital where he was being held. His appearance in London is the first that has been heard of him since his escape.

AMERICAN ZIONIST GROUPS ISSUE JOINT CALL FOR JEWISH MILITARY FORCE IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- A call "to every Zionist, every friend of Palestine and every lover of democracy" asking them to help "in the determined fight to secure recognition of the right of the Jews of Palestine to organize a military force under British or such joint command as may be set up by the United Nations," was issued here today jointly by the American Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs, the Zionist Organization of America, the Hadassah, the Mizrahi and the Zionist laborites.

Signed by the presidents of each of these organizations, the proclamation points out that "the responsibility for leading and directing this major Zionist task must rest primarily upon organized Zionists and the constituted Zionist authorities. It cannot be left to individuals or groups who are not prepared to accept either the authority or the policies of the Zionist movement."

Declaring that for two and a half years the Jews of Palestine, supported by the whole Zionist movement, have repeatedly voiced the demand for the creation of a Jewish military force based on Palestine under British command, the proclamation says that "the denial to Palestine Jewry of the right to take up arms in their own name, under their own flag, and under British command, represents a distressing refusal to make full use of all the manpower and resources available for the United Nations on one of the war's most vital fronts. Moreover, both directly and by implication, the right of the Jewish people to national status in the Jewish National Homeland is being challenged."

ORT OPENS TECHNICAL SCHOOLS FOR JEWISH INTERNEES IN CANADA

MONTREAL, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- Technical Schools for the training of young Jewish internees are being opened in Isle Aux Noie and the other refugee camps in Canada under the supervision of the World Ort Organization which has allocated the sum of \$25,000 for this purpose, it was announced here today.

The first named camp has recently been visited by S. Marshall, director of New York State Vocational Schools and two other experts, who arranged for the installation of the necessary machinery and the conversion of huts into workshops where the young internees will be taught various metalcrafts and electrical engineering. The instructors will be recruited from among the senior internees in the camp who are qualified craftsmen. The graduates will later be absorbed in Canada's war industry.

CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT URGES ITS NATIONALS IN AMERICA, PALESTINE TO ENLIST

LONDON, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- Czechoslovak nationals in America, Palestine and other countries where no special Czechoslovakian units are being raised, will be asked by the Czechoslovakian Government-in-exile "to fulfill their military duties," according to a decision adopted today by the Cabinet.

Acting on the suggestion of the Minister of Justice, the Czechoslovak Cabinet decided to issue a proclamation to all Czech nationals in the democratic countries to enlist either in Czechoslovak units wherever such are being formed, or in the armies of the United Nations.

ONLY 132 JEWS ENTERED CANADA IN 1941. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

OTTAWA, Feb. 12. (JTA)-- Jewish immigration into Canada hit a new low in 1941 when only 132 Jews entered the country, according to figures released today by the immigration department.