

## Daily News Bulletin

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FRENCHMEN PREPARE TO CHALLENGE RETURN OF CONFISCATED JEWISH PROPERTY TO OWNERS

PARIS, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Frenchmen who acquired confiscated Jewish property during the German occupation are expected to put up a strong legal fight to retain this property despite the abrogation of transactions completed under the Vichy anti-Jewish laws, it was indicated here today.

More than 2,000 Nazi-appointed real estate managers and at least 5,000 business administrators operated confiscated Jewish property in Paris during the occupation. Emanuel Langberg and Richard Weill, two prominent Parisians, are now working on the records of the dissolved Union Generale de Juifs de France in order to establish the extent to which Jewish property was expropriated. Part of the funds of the Union Generale came from confiscated Jewish possessions.

Mr. Langberg, who was commandant of the notorious concentration camp in Drancy, a Paris suburb, for more than thirteen months, has been entrusted with the liquidation of the Union Generale de Juifs de France which is considered a collaborationist organization. Some Jews in Paris have raised the question of whether a former commandant of the Drancy camp is fit for this position. But Langberg has documents signed by prominent internees of the camp attesting his aid to members of the resistance movement when they were held in the Drancy camp. Those documents bear the stamp of the French underground movement. Among the signatories is Capt. George Dreyfuss who was one of the last deportees from Drancy.

Jewish Federation Refuses to Use Funds Expropriated from Jews

In the early days of the occupation of Paris by the Germans, the Federation of Jewish Societies here was forced to conduct its activities as part of the Union Generale de Juifs de France which was given 11,000,000 francs monthly to cover its budget. Since the money came from confiscated Jewish possessions, the Federation refused to accept any funds from the Union Generale, and conducted its work independently, giving all possible aid to needy Jews and supplying fugitive Jews with false identity documents to prevent their deportation to Poland.

At present, the Federation is a part of the Jewish Unity Committee which has been functioning in Paris under the leadership of A. Alpert, the 70-year-old president of the World Ort Organization who spent eighteen months in the Drancy camp. The Unity Committee is composed of representatives of various political parties including Communists, Socialists, Communists and French-Jewish fighting youth groups. Representatives of the Ort, Ose and other Jewish organizations are also included in the committee.

The Unity Committee was organized in Paris as an underground relief body exactly a year ago. It successfully distributed relief funds to Jews illegally all

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over France and maintained constant contact with the Jewish underground groups in the southern part of the country where most of the needy Jews were congregated. All leaders of the committee used false names.

### Zionist and Non-Zionist Youth United in Underground Resistance

One of the leaders of the committee, Simon Leavitt, distinguished himself as head of two Jewish youth groups - Eclairer Israelite and Zionist Youth - which played an important role in the Jewish resistance movement. Another Jewish underground youth group, composed of Zionists and non-Zionists, was known under the name of "Group Six." A Jewish unit of the Patriotic Militia is now included in the First Paris Regiment, while the two Jewish youth groups headed by Leavitt have been given the honor of guarding the headquarters of the Paris commander.

Mr. Alpert today expressed hope that the Joint Distribution Committee will soon be permitted to re-open its offices in Paris. He emphasized that more Jews continue to come to Paris daily from hiding places in the provinces and that it is essential that the Ort training schools for children and for adults be reopened.

### MEMBER OF ROTHSCHILD FAMILY AMONG FRENCH HOSTAGES TAKEN FROM PARIS

PARIS, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Fifteen of 50 French hostages taken at Drancy by the SS Captain Brunner during the Nazi retreat escaped at Nancy, according to Jacques Langberg, one of the escaped prisoners, who arrived in Paris today. Among those who did not escape were Marcel Bloch, airplane manufacturer, and Armand Cohon, member of the Rothschild family.

Brunner, together with his chief assassin, drove the hostages in a loaded truck to the University of Nancy which had been transformed into a fortress by the Gestapo. Not fed for three days, the hostages were forced to carry munitions to defense positions established in the University towers.

A scrubwoman slipped Langberg the password "Madelein" and he was able to escape from the University and join a French Forces of the Interior detachment that was battling the Germans in nearby caves and forests. The FFI gave U.S. forces data on German positions in the Leahy Forest, enabling the Americans to unleash a back-breaking bombardment. After helping in the liberation of Nancy, Langberg hitch-hiked to Paris.

### RELEASE OF BLOCKED FUNDS OF REFUGEES IN THE AMERICAS URGED AT UNRRA COUNCIL

MONTREAL, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Action by western hemisphere governments to release blocked funds of refugees residing in their countries was urged today in a resolution introduced at the session of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration council by the Cuban delegate.

At the same time, the UNRRA general committee recommended that the joint committee on health, welfare and displaced persons meet with representatives of private welfare and relief agencies. It is expected that the committee will meet tomorrow with representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee, the American Jewish Committee, the World Jewish Conference and the Agudas Israel.

In preparation for this conference the Canadian Jewish congress today convened a meeting of all the Jewish observers to coordinate the proposals to be presented to UNRRA and to choose a single spokesman.

BRITISH WAR OFFICE FAVORS APPOINTMENT OF JEW AS COMMANDER OF JEWISH BRIGADE

LONDON, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- While commanders of the projected Jewish brigade group have not been selected, a list of brigadiers from whom they will be drawn has already been prepared, the Evening Standard reports today.

Some difficulty may be encountered in transferring to the brigade those officers who are eventually selected since they are occupying important positions either in Italy or in the west, the paper says. It adds that the War Office would like to see a Jew as commander of the force.

The shoulder patch to be worn by troops serving in the brigade will be printed in English and Hebrew, according to the Standard. It states that one of the insignia under consideration would superimpose a Star of David on a blue-and-white background "so that the symbol of persecution would become one of liberation."

Three Jewish Battalions from Palestine Will Form Core of the Brigade

JERUSALEM, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency today issued a statement hailing the British decision to establish a Jewish brigade group and emphasizing that three Jewish battalions from Palestine will form the core of this brigade. The entire Jewish community here is enthusiastic about the British decision.

"In the course of the past five years millions of our people have been powerless to defend their lives and have been the enemy's prey," the statement of the Agency declares. "Hundreds of thousands of Jewish troops have fought anonymously among the Allied armies. Thousands of volunteers from the Yishuv took part in battles on many fronts in the Middle East and Europe without the name of the Jewish people being associated with their service. Yet it is only now that we are privileged to witness the formation of a Jewish fighting group under its own name, flag and Jewish command."

"Three Jewish battalions from Palestine," the statement continues, "will form the core of the Jewish brigade and henceforth will fight the common enemy on behalf of their people and homeland. Another unit has been added to the military growth of our structure. Our fighting sons will rally around them the suffering Jews of the Diaspora for whom they will bring the message of a warring, working Zion. The Jewish youth of Palestine will fill the ranks of the Jewish brigade."

Palestine Units Overjoyed at Creation of Brigade; Anxious for Combat

CAIRO, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Enthusiasm would be a mild word to describe the reaction of Jewish units stationed in Egypt when they heard that the War Office had agreed to formation of a Jewish brigade group. Up until yesterday many of these men did not hide their earnest desire to return home to Palestine, but the knowledge that what they have been asking for so long - active fighting as Jews - has at last been granted has infused them with renewed ardor.

The men who will fill the ranks of the brigade have been thoroughly trained for combat duties and are itching for a chance to show their mettle. It is understood that those units which, under present plans, are not to be included in the brigade intend to ask that they be included. A typical reaction was that of a veteran of the campaigns in Libya, Greece and Crete. He said: "It's all very well to do camouflage work, carry water and drive transport - we understand that these were necessary jobs which had to be done - but they do not compare with coming to grip with the Hun. It will be a pleasure."

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## AMERICAN ZIONIST GROUPS HAIL FORMATION OF JEWISH BRIGADE; CONGRATULATE JEWISH AGENCY

NEW YORK, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Stephen S. Wise, co-chairmen of the American Zionist Emergency Council, today hailed the British Government's announcement of the formation of a Jewish Brigade Group as recognition of "the justice of the Jewish claim to fight under their own flag against the oppressors of their people."

In a formal statement issued here, Dr. Silver and Dr. Wise expressed an "earnest hope that the recognition thus accorded the Jews as a people in the armies of the United Nations will be a preliminary to Jewish representation at the Peace Conference and in the councils of the nations in all matters affecting the future of European Jewry and of Palestine."

In a cable to the Executive of the Jewish Agency the American Zionist Emergency Council extended congratulations on the success of the Agency's "untiring efforts for the establishment of a Jewish military force," and added that "this belated recognition of Palestine Jewry's splendid contribution to the war effort gives renewed hope and encouragement in the struggle for the realization of our aspirations for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth."

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation cabled congratulations to Lord Strabolgi, chairman of the Committee for a Jewish Army. It also invited Lord Strabolgi to come to the United States.

The New Zionist Organization of America issued a statement recalling that the Jewish army idea was first advocated by Vladimir Jabotinsky. "The announcement by the British War Department that a Jewish brigade to fight on Allied battlefronts is now in formation, is a strong vindication of the relentless demands for the creation of a Jewish army raised by the New Zionist Organization since the beginning of the war," the statement said.

## HITLER-MADE ANTI-SEMITISM MAY DESTROY FABRIC OF AMERICA, JUDGE PROSKAUER WARNS

NEW YORK, Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Declaring that "the removal of inter-group tensions in America today is a task of vital necessity," Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, warned today that "Hitler-made" political anti-Semitism is a threat to the American way of life. Speaking on the subject of "Inter-group Tensions" at the forum sponsored by Christ Church, Judge Proskauer said:

"If by the careless word, the phrase of double meaning, the unfounded ridicule and charge, Americans in their everyday conduct turn the Constitutional guarantees of freedom for the Jew and all other men into a meaningless legalism, they will at once destroy the fabric of America and blaze the trail for many another persecution of sect by sect."

As his solution for inter-group tensions, Judge Proskauer suggested that all the forces of civilization, -- religion, government and mankind itself must "preserve and enhance the dignity and the glory of the individual whom God has made but little lesser than the angels. The solution for group tension in America," he said, "is nothing more than complete loyalty to the ideal of the sanctity of the individual man, which is the ideal of Christianity."

## ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER AND MRS. SULZBERGER HONORED BY CHATTANOOGA UNIVERSITY

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Sept. 21. (JTA) -- Arthur Hays Sulzberger, publisher of the New York Times, and Mrs. Sulzberger yesterday received honorary degrees at the summer commencement exercises of the University of Chattanooga. The degree of Doctor of Literature was conferred upon Mr. Sulzberger for his journalistic activities, while Mrs. Sulzberger received the degree of Doctor of Laws for her many public-minded services.