

BRITISH TROOPS INVADE TEL AVIV IN HUNT FOR FLOGGERS; JEW DOOMED FOR ATTACK ON POLICE HQ.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A full brigade of the British Sixth Airborne Division, assisted by police and accompanied by armored cars, tanks and light artillery moved into the Kertan quarter of Tel Aviv, in the south-west portion of the city, at dawn today and launched house-to-house raids in search of the persons who flogged a British officer and three sergeants on Sunday.

A curfew was clamped down on the area until late afternoon and thousands of persons were questioned. All boys and men between the ages of 15 and 50 were screened in barbed-wire cages and 47 were held for further interrogation. Among the raiders were two of the sergeants who were whipped. High municipal authorities were invited to witness the operation, which ended around 5 p.m.

While the raid was in progress, a British military court sitting in Jerusalem sentenced to death Dov Gruner, 33, a veteran of four years' service with the British armed forces, at the conclusion of a one-day trial at which he was convicted of participating in an attack by the Irgun Zvai Leumi on a police station at Ramat Gan last April 23.

Doomed Man Defies Court; Spurns Aid of Counsel

After the sentence had been read, Gruner, who was just released from a military hospital where he spent six months as a result of wounds suffered during the raid, rose and cried out in Hebrew: "In blood and in fire Judah fell; in blood and in fire Judah will rise." At the opening of the trial, he had spurned the aid of counsel and declared that he did not recognize the jurisdiction of the court.

In reply to questions from the president of the tribunal, he read a statement charging the British with converting the Mandate into a scrap of paper and added: "You share the Germans' desire to annihilate the Jewish people." He accused the British of "converting Palestine into one of your strongholds, while you rob our little country."

Gruner's sentence, coming as it does on the heels of the flogging incidents and the military authorities' confirmation on Monday of a flogging sentence imposed on a second Jewish youth, can be expected to increase the tension in the country, responsible Jewish circles pointed out. They charged that Lieut. Gen. Sir Evelyn Barker's refusal to reverse the sentence of 12 lashes imposed on 17-year-old Aaron Cohen is "open provocation by an officer who will not bear the responsibility, since he is leaving Palestine shortly." Barker is to be relieved within the next month or two.

Soldiers Charged with Brutality, Looting During Raids on Jewish Towns

During searches in Nathanya, Petach Tikvah and Rishon Le Zion for the terrorists who whipped the officers and three soldiers, troops brutally beat many Jews, desecrated a synagogue, looted homes and stole many valuables, according to reports received today.

The searches ended yesterday afternoon, when the curfew which had been imposed on the three towns was lifted and the troops withdrawn. Of 2,500 persons screened,

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49 were detained for further interrogation. One, Eliahu Weinberger, was allegedly recognized by Major Paddy Brett, the flogged officer, as one of the men who kidnapped him. The men who are being held were sent to Latrun detention camp.

Troops Damage Synagogues, Scrawl Swastika in Schoolroom

In Rishon Le Zion, many residents were beaten when they were unable to continue to stand facing a wall with their hands above their heads as directed by the interrogating officers. In Petach Tikvah, pews were damaged in several synagogues and two sets of tephilin were stolen. A huge swastika was scrawled on a blackboard in a schoolroom with the words "Red Jews" under it.

Mayor Joseph Saphir of Petach Tikvah filed a formal protest with the officer in charge, while the head of the local council in Rishon Le Zion refused to sign a document presented to him after the searches by the commanding officer, stating that the hunt had passed without incident.

Jerusalem resembled a dead city on New Year's Eve, with shops, cafes and places of entertainment closed down to prevent incidents by celebrating soldiers. Most Jews stayed off the streets. Earlier yesterday all roads leading out of Jerusalem were combed.

The Irgun secret radio, "Voice of Fighting Zion," warned tonight that night attacks on British army transport in Palestine, which had been called off for the duration of the Zionist Congress, will be resumed.

In a second cable to several Palestine papers, Rep. Joseph Clark Baldwin, chairman of the Political Actions Committee for Palestine said that his recent appeal to Irgun leader Meanchen Begin to suspend operations had been conditioned on the British not offering any provocations. However, in view of the flogging of Benjamin Kimchin last week, he was withdrawing his appeal, Baldwin added.

A Jewish Agency spokesman yesterday read several cables from prominent Jewish Agency leaders in Basle, including Moshe Shertok, Moshe Sneh and Goldie Meirson, condemning the whipping of the British soldiers and calling on the Jewish community to take all necessary steps to end such "rowdism."

Moshe Saadia, a Jewish youth who was kidnapped from his home in Jerusalem a few days ago, yesterday appeared at the Red Mogen David station in Tel Aviv asking for medical aid. He stated that he had escaped from Sternists who placed him "on trial" near an Arab cemetery in the vicinity of Tel Aviv and tortured him. He showed signs of injuries and was admitted to the hospital where he is under police guard.

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER EN ROUTE TO LONDON FOR TALKS WITH COLONIAL MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham is en route to London by air for discussions with Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech Jones, it was announced here tonight.

Before leaving, Sir Alan conferred with Rabbi Judah L. Fishman, acting head of the Jewish Agency executive. Sir Henry Gurney, the Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, will serve as Acting High Commissioner.

Ben Gurion Will See Creech-Jones Today; May Confer With Bevin

LONDON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- David Ben Gurion, chairman of the world Zionist executive, arrived here today from Paris. He will confer tomorrow with Colonial Minister Arthur Creech-Jones. The London press says that he is also slated to meet with Foreign Minister Bevin, but the Foreign Office in reply to a question said that no appointment had been arranged.

MOST JEWS IN RUMANIA PLAN TO REMAIN; DOUBT ANTI-SEMITES WILL REGAIN POWER IN GOVT.

BUCHAREST, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The policy of the present Rumanian government with regard to the Jewish population is encouraging many Jews to remain in the country, according to a survey by a special correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

It is estimated that more than one-half of the approximately 350,000 Jews in Rumania intend to remain here. Many of them feel sufficiently secure to make long-range plans, believing that there is no chance of an anti-Semitic regime coming to power in the foreseeable future.

However, traditional anti-Semitic propaganda has not ceased. But the agitation is not fostered by the government, as was the case for many years before the war, but by the pre-war political parties which are no longer in power, particularly the National Peasant Party and the Liberal Party.

Nearly all the leaders of these parties to whom this correspondent spoke voiced anti-Jewish sentiments. Even a statement by Julius Maniu, head of the Peasant Party, which appeared in the party's official organ two days ago and which caused suspension of the paper for three days, is already being used by his cohorts as an anti-Semitic rallying point.

Jews Resign from Peasant Party to Protest Anti-Semitic Activities

These activities have caused the resignation of a number of Jews from the Peasant Party, and in the past year some twenty Jewish newspapermen have quit their jobs on the Peasant Party newspaper, not only because of the party's overt anti-Semitism, but also because of the atmosphere around the paper was openly anti-Jewish. Maniu's secretary is Prince Serban Ghika, a notorious member of the pro-Nazi anti-Semitic Iron Guard. He is known to have taken part in the violent anti-Jewish outbreaks in January 1941.

The present government's attitude toward anti-Semitism and its constant struggle against it is to its credit. If the enforcement of new laws providing for the restitution of Jewish property has not been as effective as it might be, it is chiefly due to the fact that the historical parties are utilizing these laws to encourage anti-Semitism. The only effective weapon in their opposition to the government is anti-Jewish incitement.

The older Jewish community leaders are of the conservative type. They whine as they reject any idea of fighting the anti-Semitic actions of the old parties. But the Committee of Democratic Jews, led by M.A. Saraceanu, former secretary-general of the Federation of Rumanian Jews, has openly charged the Liberal and the National Peasant parties with fostering anti-Semitism, and has addressed a letter to this effect to President Truman, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Joseph Stalin.

The Committee of Democratic Jews reported that it had some 80,000 signatures to the letter which it sent to the Big Three heads. That about represents its strength, but the overwhelming majority of Jews unquestionably voted for the Government Bloc in the recent elections. They had no other alternative, since the older leaders of the Jewish community, who shun the Committee of Democratic Jews, take the attitude that the opposition parties would not call the present regime "a Jewish Government" if Jews refused to take official positions.

The statement sent by the Committee of Democratic Jews is considered in some circles to be an obvious political maneuver engineered by the government to discredit the Liberal and National Peasant parties abroad. However, the fact remains that all charges made by the Committee against the two old parties are true, notwithstanding that the statement originates from a pro-Government body.

STALIN DISCUSSES PALESTINE QUESTION AT MOSCOW MEETING WITH LEBANESE MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Premier Joseph Stalin last Saturday received the Lebanese minister to Moscow and discussed with him various Arab problems, it was reported today from Beirut.

The report says that the Lebanese Government was informed by the minister that Stalin showed keen interest in the attitude of the Arab states toward the Palestine issue. He also asked many questions regarding the suggested establishment of a Greater Syria which would include Palestine and also discussed the problem of Arab-Turkish relations.

FIFTH ARAB SLAIN BY TERRORISTS FOR SELLING LAND TO JEWS; MANY FLEEING TO TRANSJORDAN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A prominent Arab was killed last night in Tiberias by Arab nationalists, allegedly for selling land to Jews. He is the fifth victim of Arab fanatics in recent weeks.

Fearing for their lives, many Arab notables, especially those who during the last few months sold land to Jews and subsequently received threatening letters from extremist groups, have left Palestine for Transjordan where they plan to resettle.

ALL-NIGHT GUARD PLACED AROUND LONDON SYNAGOGUES; CARDIFF CONGREGATION THREATENED

LONDON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The Council of the United Synagogues of Great Britain took action here today to guard against further arson attacks on synagogues, following a fire set by British fascists at the Dollis Hill synagogue here which caused \$10,000 damage.

Members of London synagogues will maintain an all-night guard in front of their respective houses of worship. It was also revealed that the ashes of the 12 Scrolls destroyed in the Dollis Hill blaze will be buried with full traditional rites.

Meanwhile, police in Birmingham are investigating the smashing of several windows of the local Zionist center Monday night. An anonymous caller informed the police that he had seen three men hurl bricks then run to a waiting car and drive off.

An anonymous telephone call tipped off the police at Cardiff today that a local synagogue might be set on fire. Following the call, the synagogue was placed under guard.

The Daily Worker today demands action against Fascist speakers who, the paper asserts, have repeatedly advocated the burning of synagogues in addresses to East End audiences. The paper declares it is in possession of names of the speakers, and the places and dates that they spoke. Communist Member of Parliament Philip Piratin announced that he intends to question the Home Secretary on the question of anti-Semitic attacks as soon as Parliament reconvenes.

RUMANIAN POLICE ARREST SIX HUNGARIANS WHO ATTACKED SYNAGOGUE IN TRANSYLVANIAN CITY

BUCHAREST, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Rumanian police have arrested six persons who broke into a synagogue in Pancota, Transylvania, last week, and desecrated it. All six are Hungarians.

The Hungarian Popular Union, which is a left-wing political group of the Hungarian minority in Rumania, issued a statement strongly condemning the synagogue attack.

AMERICAN ZIONIST LEADERS RETURN HOME FROM BASLE; SILVER HAILS CONGRESS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Judge Morris Rothenberg, president of the Jewish National Fund, and Daniel Frisch, chairman of the Administrative Council of the Zionist Organization of America, were among the delegates to the Zionist Congress at Basle who arrived home today aboard the Queen Elizabeth. (Statements by Dr. Wise and other delegates will appear in the Bulletin tomorrow.)

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, president of the Z.O.A. and newly-elected chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in Washington, arrived at LaGuardia Field yesterday from Amsterdam. He condemned the recent flogging of a British officer and soldiers by Jewish extremists, but said that the basic cause of the unrest in Palestine was the British refusal to allow Jewish immigration.

Commenting on the accomplishments of the Zionist Congress, Dr. Silver said that "the old leadership was repudiated. Its record was one of retreat and political failure. The Congress reaffirmed the classic Zionist position and expressed the firm resolve of the Jewish people to resist all illegal actions of the mandatory government either to liquidate or constrict the Jewish national home. The Congress refused to lend itself to British dilatory maneuvers." Regarding the London conference, he said that Zionist participation depends on whether the British will signify their readiness to lift restrictions on Jewish immigration and colonization.

EIGHTH NATION SIGNS IRO CONSTITUTION, MAKING POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF PREPARATORY BODY

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- With the signing of the International Refugee Organization's constitution yesterday by Liberia, United Nations Secretary General Trygve Lie is now authorized to summon a meeting of the IRO Preparatory Commission which will draft plans to set the organization functioning.

Liberia was the eighth nation to sign, the number required under the IRO charter to make possible establishment of the Preparatory Commission. IRO operations will not get under way, however, until 15 nations including those who are scheduled to contribute 75 percent of its budget sign.

CZECH PEOPLES COURT ACQUITS JEW WHO WAS "ELDER" OF THERESIENSTADT GHETTO

PRAGUE, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Benjamin Murelstein, one of the Jewish "elders" of the Theresienstadt ghetto, who were appointed by the Nazis to act as administrative officers and carry out their instructions, was acquitted yesterday by a Czech Peoples Tribunal which was trying him as a war criminal.

Jewish circles are displeased with the verdict, charging that Murelstein conducted himself in "an unworthy manner" while in the Nazi-appointed post. It is understood that as a result of the strong feelings in the Jewish community, Murelstein plans to emigrate to Switzerland.

HUNGARIAN JEWS TO HEAR REPORTS ON ZIONIST CONGRESS; LOCAL PRESS FEATURED MEETING

BUDAPEST, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A large mass meeting has been called here to hear reports from the Hungarian delegates to the World Zionist Congress. Both Jewish and non-Jewish circles exhibited considerable interest in the proceedings at Basle. The large daily, Magyar Nemzet, sent a correspondent to cover the Congress and published front page dispatches from Basle.

J.D.C. AIDED NEARLY 1,000,000 JEWS DURING 1946; SPENT OVER \$58,000,000 DURING YEAR

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- In a year-end review, Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, announced today that J.D.C. relief, reconstruction and resettlement programs during 1946 had brought aid to nearly one million Jewish survivors overseas in the most extensive assistance activities ever undertaken by a wholly voluntary relief and rehabilitative agency.

Appropriations of the J.D.C. amounted to \$58,516,200 during the year, he disclosed. This figure, which more than doubled 1945 grants, is the greatest ever allocated in the thirty-two year history of the Committee.

Chief responsibility of the J.D.C. during 1946 was in Europe, Mr. Warburg noted, where 1,500,000 Jewish survivors of Nazi terror and oppression still live. There, a major undertaking of the organization was the providing of all or part of their food to more than half a million destitute Jewish men, women and children through relief allotments, supplies distributions and in 403 J.D.C.-supported canteens and feeding stations.

J.D.C. activities in behalf of Jewish children--including thousands orphaned during the Nazi rule of Europe--brought direct aid to 85,000 boys and girls including 20,000 orphans living in 243 J.D.C.-supported homes, scattered from Brussels to Bucharest, it was revealed.

Among the most important forms of J.D.C. aid this year, Mr. Warburg said, were those in the field of public health. The relief agency opened and maintained 138 tuberculosis sanatoria, hospitals, dispensaries, clinics and convalescent homes with a total of over 5,000 beds. J.D.C. shipments of medicines and hospital equipment, including \$500,000 for medical aid in the Soviet Union, were supplemented by free care in J.D.C.-aided medical institutions and systematic health checks and examinations by physicians and nurses who are members of the J.D.C. public health staff.

In the Committee's resettlement programs, passage was for approximately 10,500 Jewish men, women and children to Palestine. Four thousand Jewish survivors were helped to leave Germany for new lands while 2,500 Jews were assisted to find new homes in South and Central America and the British Dominions. J.D.C. immigration workers processed for resettlement over 25,000 refugees in the U.S. zone of Germany and in Shanghai.

Pointing out that the need for outright relief dominated the J.D.C.'s activities in 1946, Mr. Warburg said that "now the necessity for full-scale reconstructive help has grown to be an equally urgent need." Special J.D.C. measures to facilitate economic reconstruction, which will be increased during the coming year, include credit and producers' cooperatives, the provision of tools and equipment to individual artisans, small loan banks and other assistance, he stated.

PALESTINE AND BRITISH JEWS ON KING GEORGE'S NEW YEAR'S DAY HONOR LIST

LONDON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- At least two Jews are included in King George's New Year's Day honor list made public today. They are Sir Victor Sassoon, a member of the prominent banking family, who received the Grand Cross of the British Empire, and Moshe Lovin, president of the Jewish Community in Haifa, who was awarded the Order of the British Empire. Two Palestine Arab sheiks were also given the Order of the British Empire.