

Tuesday, September 9, 1947

# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

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### WEE DRAGGED FROM BRITISH DEPORTATION SHIPS AT HAMBURG VOW TO RETURN TO PALESTINE

HAMBURG, Germany, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Weary and battered, but still defiant, 1,400 Jewish refugees who disembarked today at Hamburg from the Ocean Vigor, on which they were deported from Palestine, nursed their wounds tonight, at the Poppendorf Camp, 75 miles from here, and vowed that they will be ready to start for Palestine again in a few weeks.

Meanwhile, the Empire Rival, second of the three prison ships docked this afternoon, and its passengers will be disembarked at dawn tomorrow. The third vessel, the Runnymede Park, will be unloaded later tomorrow, or early Wednesday, depending on how long it takes the British to remove the Empire Rival deportees.

The disembarkation from the Ocean Vigor began at 6 a.m. this morning and lasted for five hours, which was longer than the British anticipated, owing to stiff resistance by about half of the ship's passengers. The first troops to board the ships rushed into one of the four crowded holds shouting at the sleeping refugees to "get up and get out." In the resulting confusion many Jews were pushed up to the deck and led to the gangplank.

The soldiers then grabbed children and took them out, thus forcing their mothers, and then fathers, to follow, removing a few hundred in this fashion. Others appeared reluctant, but not ready to resist, were encouraged to leave by buckets of water and prods from the soldiers' truncheons. In this manner about half the ship was emptied.

### Refugees Dance Hora, Defy Troops; Reinforcements Drag Them Out

In the two forward holds, however, virtually all of the occupants refused to leave. Dancing the Hora, they sang Palestinian songs and defied the efforts of the full boarding party to remove them. Hundreds of reinforcements were then sent aboard from the dock area where they had been held in readiness. They clambered down into the holds and, using their clubs, succeeded in forcing most of the refugees to back up against the walls.

The troops then formed a long single line the length of the hold and plucking single refugees from the sides of the hold, passed them along in bucket brigade fashion to the stairs, where they were forced on deck, and then across the deck to the gangplank. In the process, the soldiers struck and kicked the struggling Jews, using their fists, clubs and feet.

The British authorities permitted only one American and one English correspondent to witness the operations below decks. They reported that they had observed considerable violence, but not brutality. They said that truncheons were used frequently, as well as fists. This correspondent witnessed the action from the dock area, near the gangplank. Troops which lined the gangplank and the passageway to a large

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enclosure on the pier handled the refugees roughly and, in many cases, brutally, as they descended the slippery gangplank, loaded down with haversacks and other luggage.

The many incidents of mistreatment of the Jews by the soldiers provoked shouts of disgust from American and other correspondents, who saw the troops needlessly punish and beat the deportees in full view of their officers. Intelligence officers who were scattered among the newsmen in a crowded enclosure threatened on several occasions to eject any correspondent who vocally objected to what one officer termed a "jolly good show." Photographers were banned completely.

The people coming down the gangplank wept openly and many screamed that the soldiers were beating the refugees below decks. Others shouted: "The British shall not keep us from our homeland" or "Back to Auschwitz."

#### German Nurses Dance As They Watch Jews Dragged Off Ship

While this depressing operation was in progress, the British, for some inconceivable reason, had jazz records blaring away through the loudspeaker system on the pier. While the scuffling was in progress, one correspondent noticed three German nurses, part of a medical team assigned to the pier, who were literally dancing a jiggle as they watched the disembarkation. They were hurriedly ejected from the pier by a British officer.

Once they had been shoved into the enclosure on the dock, the refugees' baggage was searched and the Jews were loaded into the trains which were pulled up alongside the pier. The trains consisted of long strings of old, wooden, third-class coaches, from which all seats and fittings had been ripped by the British. The windows were barred and guards were stationed at each window.

This correspondent spoke to some of the refugees after they had been placed in the trains. They looked weary and dispirited, but responded with a smile when asked by "Shalom." When asked their plans, they replied simply: "We will return to Palestine. Nobody can stop us. We have had many other oppressors. We will be on our way again in six or eight weeks." They were given army rations on the train, but they threw them back shouting: "First you beat us; then you feed us." Many of them spoke in English.

The heavily guarded train left on the three-hour journey to Poppendorf as soon as it was filled. The ride was comparatively uneventful, the only incident occurring when the refugees tried to stop the train by throwing a door out of a window, but only succeeded in injuring several Germans who were knocked off a passing train. At the station, which was completely surrounded by barbed wire, the Jews were piled into trucks and carried a half-mile to the camp. The operation was carried out in full view of the Germans living in the area.

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STUTTGART, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- A mass meeting of 12,000 Jews here today protested the disembarkation of the Exodus refugees. Representatives of Jewish communities in Regensburg, Bavaria and Baden, all in the U.S. zone, attended, as did Judge Louis Wechsungen, advisor on Jewish affairs to Gen. Clay, and Philip Auertach, Bavarian Commissioner for Persecutees. Other demonstrations were held in the camps in the U.S. zone.

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NEW YORK, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the World Jewish Congress, tonight accused Britain of "substituting truncheons for certificates of admission to Palestine" in forcing Jews to return to Germany. He charged the British Government with flouting the UNSCOP recommendations.

"HAMBURG DAY" OBSERVED IN PALESTINE BY GENERAL STRIKE AND PROTEST MEETINGS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Trade, commerce and industry throughout Palestine came to a standstill at 3 p.m. today, the deadline for the general strike called by the Jewish National Council to protest the landings of the Exodus refugees at Haifa.

Jewish houses marked "Hamburg Day" by hanging Zionist flags at half-mast from their windows. Crowds of Jews of all ages thronged the streets, especially in Tel Aviv, forming demonstrations. Protest mass meetings were held in every city and in every settlement.

In Tel Aviv, thousands of Jews marched to Habimah Square, where they were addressed by Goldie Meirson, acting head of the political department of the Jewish Agency, and by Acting Mayor Eliezer Perlson. Chief Rabbi Herzog was the principal speaker at the mass meeting in Jerusalem.

Hopes that the mayors of Tel Aviv, Nathanya, Ramat Gan and smaller Jewish municipalities, who were arrested last month, would be released today were dashed tonight when a government spokesman told a news conference that an official mission sent to the Latrun Detention Camp today to intercede with the mayors failed when the imprisoned Jewish leaders refused to answer questions put to them by officers of the Criminal Investigation Department. The government earlier issued a communique stating that 21 "Jewish terrorists" were arrested between August 29 and September 3, of whom seven were released, five detained for indefinite periods and the remainder were still under investigation.

Government Drops Charges Against U.S. Seamen of Exodus Crew

The Palestine Government today decided to drop charges of "aiding and abetting illegal immigration" which had been placed against three American seamen of the Exodus crew. The three - Bernard Marks, Stanley Ritzer and Cyril Weinstein - will be deported to the United States. They were released from custody on July 20 on \$4,000 bail each.

The ultimatum sent by the Stern Group to about 50 Jewish income tax officials in Tel Aviv, warning them to give up their jobs with the government as part of a passive resistance movement, expired this morning. None of the Jewish officials resigned. All appeared today at their desks as usual.

A spokesman for the Haganah today told a press conference that the extremist groups are facing a severe financial crisis as a result of the steps taken by the Haganah to prevent them from blackmailing individuals in order to secure funds for their activities. The spokesman said that the Haganah would continue its efforts to cut off funds from the extremists.

The Haganah representative also charged that the so-called "Arab Defense Organization," which has claimed responsibility for the sinking of two ships which were being used in transporting visaless Jews to Palestine, is a front for British secret agents who direct its activities. The most recent act of this group was the blasting of the 4,500-ton Pan Crescent in Italian waters last week.

Corporal Yochanan Sandersman, 27, who was attacked Saturday night by three crew-speaking men wearing uniforms of the British air force, died today. He was killed during the military installations near Tel Litwinsky, when the assault took place, and frustrated an attack on the camp.

EASING OF SOME SECURITY REGULATIONS ORDERED IN PALESTINE; OFFICIALS LOSE ARMED ESCORTS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Easing of the rigid security regulations which have been in effect for many months was announced tonight. As of tomorrow morning British officials will be permitted to travel around the country without escorts, except for certain zones - chiefly Jewish - where terrorist acts were committed. The still unsafe zones will be proclaimed as such by the local district commissioners.

Seventeen wives and children of Eilat officials of the Iraq-Petroleum Company, who were evacuated to Lebanon when the security regulations were introduced, arrived at the Palestine border today and demanded permission to rejoin their husbands and others. The authorities, who are extremely embarrassed by the move, are still refusing to grant them permission, but the women are adamant. The IPC sent food to the town of Rasel Nakura, where they are congregated.

FRANCE GOVERNMENT CHARGES RABBI KORFF WITH "ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION"

PARIS, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Rabbi Baruch Korff, who was arrested Saturday just before leaving on a flight to London to drop Sternist leaflets over the British capital, will be charged with the "possession of pamphlets of foreign origin likely to endanger the security of the country" and "illegal possession of arms and ammunition." This was made known today by the examining magistrate in charge of the case.

The French police today revealed the name of another of the 17 persons rounded up over the week-end. He is Jacques Martinsky, who was arrested last June when anti-Semitic leaflets were found in his hotel room, but was subsequently released. It was Martinsky who received the fire extinguishers which were used in making the six bombs allegedly found in a raid on a house near the Paris abattoirs.

From information available here, it appears that the "bombs" were not designed to cause injury to persons in the area where they were dropped, but were so-called leaflet bombs, which contain a mild charge of explosives and which scatter leaflets over a wide area when they explode. (The Herald-Tribune Paris correspondent, who was the only reporter present when Korff was arrested, said today that yesterday's report that six bombs had been found was inaccurate. Police in a neighboring house, using field glasses, had seen the bombs being constructed, but when they raided the building under surveillance the bombs had disappeared.

The "Diaspora Headquarters" of the Irgun, which is situated in Paris, issued a statement today denying that there has been a split in the Irgun command or that prominent members have resigned. The announcement added that "the Irgun will continue its struggle for the liberation of all of Palestine and against attempts to confine the Jewish people in a near ghetto to be glorified by the name of state."

The American Embassy said today that it had not yet received any information concerning the arrest of Korff, his secretary, and the plane's pilot, Reginald Gilbert. The embassy stated that the two men were apparently American citizens. (The Herald Tribune said that Gilbert had informed the police of the plan, and had been acting for them from the time he was first approached by Korff.)

(A Reuter dispatch from Paris tonight quoted "well informed quarters" there as saying that they believed that the Korff "plot" was a "propaganda stunt" to coincide with the landing of the Exodus deportees in Hamburg. These quarters also believe that the affair was a personal venture of Korff, rather than an operation of the Stern group. A source close to police headquarters also expressed surprise that only one American newspaperman should have been at the remote field from which Korff took off, the Reuter dispatch added.)

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BALFOUR DECLARATION AND MANDATE DID NOT PRECLUDE JEWISH STATE, U.N. BODY STATES

LAKE SUCCESS, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- "Neither the Balfour Declaration nor the Mandate precluded the eventual creation of a Jewish State," the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine says, in a 165-page report to the General Assembly, made public today by the U.N. Secretariat.

"The mandate in its preamble recognized, with regard to the Jewish people, the grounds for reconstituting their National Home;" the report says. "By providing, as one of the main obligations of the Mandatory, the facilitation of Jewish immigration, it conferred upon the Jews an opportunity, through large scale immigration, to create eventually a Jewish state with a Jewish majority.

"Both the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate involved international commitments to the Jewish people as a whole," the report continues. "It was obvious that they were not limited only to the Jewish population of Palestine, since at the time there were only some 80,000 Jews there.

All Jews Who Wish To Go To Palestine Have Right To Do So, UNSCOP Says

"This would imply," the report points out, "that all Jews in the world who wish to go to Palestine would have the right to do so. This view, however, would seem to be unrealistic in the sense that a country as small and poor as Palestine could never accommodate all the Jews in the world.

"When the mandate was approved, all concerned were aware of the existence of an overwhelming Arab majority in Palestine," the report continues. "Moreover, the King-Crane report, among others, had warned that the Zionist program could not be carried out except by force of arms. It would seem clear, therefore, that the provisions of the Mandate relating to the Jewish National Home could be based only on the assumption that sooner or later the Arab fears would gradually be overcome and that Arab hostility to the terms of the Mandate would in time weaken and disappear.

"This seems to have been the basic assumption, but it proved to be a false one, since the history of the last twenty-five years has established the fact that not only the creation of a Jewish state but even the continuation of the building of the Jewish National Home by restricted immigration could be implemented only by the use of some considerable force. It cannot be properly contended that the use of force as a means of establishing the National Home was either intended by the Mandate or implied by its provisions. On the contrary, the provisions of the Mandate should preclude any systematic use of force for the purpose of its application."

Lauds Jewish Development in Palestine, But Doubts Soundness.

Declaring that the Jews have performed "remarkable feats of development in Palestine," the report says: "The fact remains, however, that there may be serious question as to the economic soundness of much of this achievement, owing to the reliance on gift capital and the political motivation behind many of the development schemes with little regard to economic considerations.

"That Jews would displace Arabs from the land were restrictions not imposed would seem inevitable, since, as land pressures develop, the attraction of Jewish capital would be an inducement to many Arabs to dispose of their lands. Some displacement of this nature has already occurred."

Referring to the Jewish assurance that no political injustice would be done to the Arabs by the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine, since the Arabs have never established a government there, the report says that this assurance "gains some support

from the fact that not since 63 B.C., when Pompey stormed Jerusalem, has Palestine been an independent state. At the same time, the report also draws the attention of the U.N. General Assembly to the fact that "today in Palestine there are over 1,200,000 Arabs, two-thirds of the population, who oppose a Jewish State."

#### U.N. Assembly Is Asked to Act Immediately on DP Immigration

Both the majority and minority groups of UNSCOP favor the continuance of Jewish immigration to Palestine. The UNSCOP report, therefore, recommends to the General Assembly that it "undertake immediately the initiation and execution of an international arrangement whereby the problem of the distressed European Jews, of whom approximately 250,000 are in assembly centers, will be dealt with as a matter of extreme urgency for the alleviation of their plight and of the Palestine problem." The majority of the committee recommends that 150,000 of the total be admitted to Palestine within two years, beginning this month.

The UNSCOP report points out that "it cannot be doubted that any action which would ease the plight of the distressed Jews in Europe would thereby lessen the pressure of the Palestinian immigration problem and consequently create a better climate in which to carry out a final solution of the question of Palestine."

#### Arab Higher Committee Charges UNSCOP Members With "Pro-Zionist Bias"

LAKE SUCCESS, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Describing the recommendations of both the majority and minority members of UNSCOP as "absurd, impractical and unjust," a statement issued here today by the Palestine Arab Higher Committee charged the UNSCOP members with "a pro-Zionist bias."

The statement said that the Committee delegates had received definite instructions from their governments to support Zionist positions and views, adding that the relations between the delegates and Zionist representatives clearly indicated their bias. The Arabs stated that the UNSCOP reports showed a "shallow knowledge of the Palestine problem" and "no sense of justice."

(Jamal Husseini, deputy chairman of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee, has been named to head the delegation the body is sending to Lake Success to attend the forthcoming session of the General Assembly. In a statement issued in Jerusalem today on the eve of his departure for New York, Husseini said that the Arabs "will not tolerate any form of partition." He attacked the Indian delegate to UNSCOP, Sir Abdur Rahman, for voting for a federal state, which would involve a form of partition.)

#### Experts on Palestine Included in British Delegation to U.N. Assembly

LONDON, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Two British experts on Palestine, who attended the special session of the U.N. General Assembly on Palestine last Spring, will be among the British delegation to the Assembly session, which opens at Flushing Meadow on September 16, it was announced today by a Foreign Office spokesman. They are Harold Bealey of the Foreign Office and John Martin of the Colonial Office.

Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin is not expected to go to New York for any part of the Assembly, even though he officially heads the list of the British delegation. It is already known that the chief British representative will be Minister of State Hector McNeill.

Officials of the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office were reported today to be "actively studying" the full report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. Following their consultation with other departments on certain aspects of the report, they will submit their views to the British Cabinet with recommendations regarding the attitude which Britain should take on the UNSCOP proposals.

U.S. MILITARY COURT STARTS TRIAL OF EIGHT AUSTRIANS CHARGED WITH ATTACKING DP CAMP'S

VIENNA, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Eight persons went on trial here today before an American military court, charged with leading a riot against a camp of displaced Jews in the town of Bad Ischl.

The riots took place on Aug. 20, when a crowd of 300 persons, after demonstrating before the Mayor's office in protest against the reduced milk rations, proceeded to the Hotel Kreuz, where the displaced Jews have been housed by the camp authorities, and attacked the building with stones, shouting "Hang the Jews, Kill the Jews." Austrian policemen witnessed the anti-Jewish demonstration, but did not interfere until the American police dispersed the crowd and arrested its leaders.

The Wiener Kurier, a Vienna daily newspaper, today charges that Engelbert Tosetto, a former member of the Nazi party since 1938, but now a member of the Communist Party in Austria, was chiefly responsible for the attack. A spokesman for the Jewish Central Committee in the American zone in Austria is quoted in the paper as allegedly stating that among the demonstrators was a woman who shouted: "Jewish pigs - Sell Stalin."

On the other hand, the official organ of the Red Army in Vienna claims that the people arrested by the American military police were "proven anti-Fascists, who protested primarily the delay of food deliveries."

HERBERT BAYARD SWOPE GETS MEDAL OF MERIT FOR SERVICE TO NATION DURING WORLD WAR II

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Herbert Bayard Swope, chairman of the board of Overseas News Agency, today received from General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower the Medal of Merit for his "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services" in World War II, as public relations consultant to the Secretary of War from 1942 to 1945. The citation, signed by President Truman, read:

"Herbert Bayard Swope, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States during the period of the recent war. Mr. Swope served as a consultant to the War Department from 1942 through 1945. He displayed unique and effective talents in many fields of public interest, and was an important participant in the various War Council committees which prepared reports in connection with the council of national defense, on industrial mobilization, and war and post-war reconversion. In these efforts, his work was characterized by high integrity, wide understanding, a deep sense of public duty, and the ability to relate government to the public interest. He gave the major part of his time to the war effort, responding to any call for action or advice. He was of great value in the prosecution of the war because of his broad experience, quick and clear analytical capability, and never failing good judgment. Mr. Swope's work was irreplaceable and effective, and he gave his utmost in the way of time and thought, without compensation."

In making the presentation General Eisenhower said: "In two wars you have served your country well. I deem it a great personal honor to bestow on you this slight token of the War Department's and your country's appreciation."

Witnessing the ceremony in General Eisenhower's office in the Pentagon were Bernard M. Baruch, Secretary of the Interior Krug, Secretary of Commerce Harriman, Former Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and Mrs. Byrnes, Herbert Bayard Swope, Jr., George Backer, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency; Lt. Gen. H.S. Vandenberg, Deputy Chief of Air Staff; Lt. Gen. J. Lawton Collins, Deputy Chief of Staff; Lt. Gen. Leroy Lutes, Director, Service, Supply and Procurement Division. Also Major Gen. D.G. Barr, Army Ground Forces; Maj. Gen. Floyd L. Parks, Chief of the Public Information Division; and Brig. Gen. B.F. Caffey, Jr., Deputy Director, Organization and Training Division..

BRITISH HOME SECRETARY UNDER PRESSURE TO CURB ACTIVITIES OF ANTI-SEMITIC GROUPS

LONDON, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Pressure on Home Secretary James Chuter Ede to take action against British fascists, whose pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic activities have become more flagrant in recent weeks, is expected to increase sharply in the near future, with at least one Cabinet minister reported ready to demand action.

Weekly meetings of the League of Ex-Servicemen, a front for Sir Oswald Mosley's pre-war British Union of Fascists, in East London, which has a large Jewish population, have provoked protests at the government's inaction from the Labor and liberal press. Criticism of the Home Office has increased since the resolution adopted last week by the Trades Union Conference, which attacked the unmolested resurgence of racism and anti-Semitism in Britain. Even the Daily Herald, the official Labor Party paper, has demanded that a way be found to prohibit anti-Semitic provocations.

Dennis Pritt, an independent member of Parliament and a noted liberal lawyer, has drafted a new measure to outlaw utterances provoking racial and religious hatred. This is supported by many rank-and-file Labor MP's and, reportedly, by Sir Stafford Cripps. A draft of the measure has already been seen by Attorney-General Sir Hartley Frowd, who must examine all bills before they are introduced in Commons, and has been passed on to Ede, who is understood to be delaying action on it. It has been stated, without official confirmation, that Cripps, supported by Health Minister Laurin Berin, is attempting to persuade the Home Secretary to act.

ANTI-SEMITISM HAS PENETRATED "RESPECTABLE" CIRCLES. JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL PARLEY HEARS

CHICAGO, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Although organized anti-Semitism has declined somewhat in the United States, anti-Jewish prejudice has won a following among "respectable" sections of the community which previously were relatively free of bias, the national executive committee of the Joint Defense Appeal was warned this week-end by John Slawson, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, and Benjamin Epstein, acting national director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League.

Both civic defense leaders stressed the many hidden forms of prejudice, which currently find expression in job bias, educational quotas and housing restrictions. They declared that American Jews cannot relax the fight against discrimination, pointing out that among other factors, the relief efforts for Jews abroad depend on the existence of a strong and secure American Jewish community. Other speakers included Arnold Oberdorfer, national chairman of the JDA, Charles W. Morris, chairman of the JDA's national council, and Edmund Waterman, treasurer.

The committee announced that the second national conference of the JDA, which is the fund-raising agency for the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, will be held in Philadelphia on Jan. 10-12.

CONFERENCE DECIDES TO START DRIVE FOR 6,000,000 POUNDS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR JEWS

NEW YORK, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- A one-day national conference of JDC's SOS (Supplies for Overseas Survivors) Collection at the Hotel Commodore today decided to start a special fall campaign to raise 6,000,000 pounds of relief supplies to supplement the funds received by the JDC from the United Jewish Appeal.

The conference, attended by more than 100 leaders of the SOS Collection and by representatives of various Jewish groups, heard a report from Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the J.D.C., warning that "tens of thousands of Europe's Jews are in danger of losing their long battle for survival because of inadequate relief assistance." Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the J.D.C., praised the leaders of the SOS Collection for having collected 4,000,000 pounds of relief supplies in the first eight months of 1947.