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Jews Retreat From Castel; Forced to Give Up Control of Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Road

JERUSALEM, April 8. (JTA)--After six days of savage battle Haganah forces withdrew this afternoon from the Arab village of Castel, five miles west of Jerusalem, which dominates the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road. Possession of Castel, which was captured by the Haganah last week, enabled the Jewish forces to fan out into the surrounding area and break the Arab hold on the highway and run through two 50-truck food convoys.

Today's battle was joined by an estimated 5,000 Arabs, at least half of whom were collected from the Arab forces in the Old City of Jerusalem. When the Jews evacuated the Arab village they left the bodies of five men behind them, while eyewitnesses state that the hillside around Castel is dotted with Arab corpses. The final assault began at 1 P.M. this afternoon and at 3 P.M. the heavily outnumbered Haganah defenders withdrew to the Jewish village of Motza, one-and-a-half miles away.

Reports from the battlefields say that the Arabs are pressing forward from Castel and are attacking Motza, which is a heavily-manned Jewish stronghold. However, observers here insist they have seen hundreds of Arabs who have returned from the Castel battle to their positions in the Old City.

Earlier, in an attempt to break the Arab siege lines, Jewish planes strafed and bombed the Arab positions, but did not succeed in disrupting them. British sources report that British Army vehicles have brought out several truckloads of Jewish dead and wounded from Castel, but this was corroborated by Jewish sources only to the extent of the evacuation of four seriously wounded men by an engineer unit.

Arab Commander, Kinsman of Mufti, Killed in Battle

Meanwhile, Arab sources admitted that Abdul Kader Hussein, kinsman of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, and commander of the guerrilla forces in the Jerusalem area, was killed today while personally leading a charge against Castel. He flew back from Damascus yesterday, where he was consulting with high Arab political leaders, to resume command of the Arab forces.

In Jerusalem, where the food situation is still desperate despite the arrival of a second convoy in three days, the British municipal administration today suggested that the Jews ration water severely because one of two major water lines for the city has been interrupted by the Arabs. The second, which emanates from a nearby spring, is operating below capacity because there is a shortage of fuel oil to drive its pumps.

Jewish circles, commenting on the water shortage, pointed bitterly to the fact that the springs feeding the Jewish section of the city are placed on a reduced

operating schedule while the Arabs are supplied with as much as they normally have. Among the various institutions cut off from water most of the time is the Hadassah Hospital atop Mt. Scopus.

A government communique reported that truce talks took place between Arab leaders and Jewish representatives of the colony of Mishmar Haemek, east of Haifa, where a battle has been in progress for three days. The Jews disclaim participating in such parleys and it is believed that the official report is based on Arab sources. British military forces yesterday evacuated women and children from the Mishmar Haemek area.

Late reports from Lahavoth, in northeastern Palestine, where a furious attack on the settlement has been in progress for the past 48 hours, said that a new contingent of armed foreign Arabs crossed the Syrian border last night and have joined the besieging forces in the hills surrounding the colony.

The colonists reported to Haganah headquarters that they are holding firm and have inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Meanwhile, Jewish reinforcements from neighboring settlements have managed to cut the Arab supply lines and to force the Arabs to withdraw their artillery by launching a cavalry attack on the gun positions.

A total of 866 Jews, 986 Arabs and 122 Britons and 37 unidentified civilians were killed since November 29, 1947. There were 1,837 Jews, 2,042 Arabs, 318 Britons and 30 civilians injured, according to the official figures published by the government today. The figures include casualties up to April 6.

ARABS INFORM U.N. NO TRUCE CAN BE NEGOTIATED WITH JEWISH AGENCY; TALKS CONTINUE

LAKE SUCCESS, April 8.(JTA) -- Jamal Hussein, representative of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee, today notified the U.N. Security Council that the Arabs will not negotiate any truce with the Jewish Agency because they do not consider the Agency as representative of the Palestine Jews.

After spending two hours with Dr. Alfonso Lopez, president of the Council, and discussing the truce question with him, Hussein told newsmen that if truce talks are held, the Arabs will conduct them only with the Security Council. Late in the afternoon, following his conference with Hussein, Dr. Lopez met with Moshe Shertok on the problem of an armistice.

At a press conference this morning U.N. Secretary General Trygve Lie said that truce between Jews and Arabs is essential to the success of the U.S. trusteeship plan for Palestine.

The Palestine Commission today decided to recall from Palestine only two members of its six-man advance party -- the legal expert and the economic advisor. They will be available in the event that the special U.N. session on Palestine requires their services. Pablo Ascarate, head of the advance party, and its security expert will remain in Jerusalem with the secretaries.

(President Truman declared at his weekly press conference today that the question of inducing the British to stay in Palestine is pending before the United Nations and he had, therefore, no comment to make in answer to a query addressed to him on this subject. The President also declined to comment on whether any modification of the arms embargo on Palestine is under consideration.)

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PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS WITH JEWISH AND ARAB REPRESENTATIVES ON TRUCE

JERUSALEM, April 8. (JTA)--High Commissioner Sir Alan G. Cunningham today met with representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Palestine Arab Higher Committee to clarify various aspects of his call for a truce in Palestine.

He explained that his call was intended to save lives in the country while the political question was being discussed at the truce negotiations at Lake Success. The local armistice, he asserted, would be on a humanitarian basis and would leave the political issues alone pending a truce decision at the U.N. His views were later presented to the emergency session of the Zionist Actions Committee taking place in Tel Aviv.

At the Actions Committee parley, Eliezer Kaplan, Jewish Agency treasurer, proposed that a \$20,000,000 loan for financing the Jewish national institutions be floated in Palestine. Reviewing the effects of recent political and military developments, he revealed that many branches of the Jewish economy had suffered severely during the four-months-old war, but said that among the more encouraging developments was the integration within the Jewish economy of some 13,000 refugee immigrants in the last six months.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining control of supply lines to the Jewish cities, towns and settlements. He estimated that the Jewish community of Palestine raises 50 percent of its food, imports 43 percent and buys seven percent from local Arab sources. There is every expectancy of successfully coping with the present shortage of food, fuel and manpower, he added.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann endorsed David Ben Gurion's call for the immediate establishment of a central Jewish authority in Palestine. Ben Gurion also declared that the Jews reject all varieties of trusteeship and while they are prepared to agree to a truce they suspect a "political trap" hidden in the appeal for an armistice.

The president of the Z.O.A. also reported to the parley that American Jewry is in full support of the Palestine community. "We Americans have lived under illusions concerning the Palestine situation," he said, "now we have to face grim reality." Dr. Neumann said the American trusteeship proposal was "in some respects worse than the White Paper of 1939."

CREECH-JONES TELLS COMMONS IRGUN RAID ON BRITISH CAMP WAS "BARBARITY"; AWAIT'S REPORT

LONDON, April 8. (JTA)--The Irgun attack on the British army camp on Pardes Hanna, near Haifa, this week, in which the commanding officer and seven soldiers were killed, was termed a "senseless crime" today by Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech-Jones in the House of Commons. "Such acts, committed by members of a community, which aspires to recognition by the world as being ready for acceptance into the community of nations, continue to blot the record of the Jews in Palestine," he said. "This barbarity makes the withdrawal of British troops from Palestine even more urgent," he added.

Winston Churchill asked that an investigation be made into the camp's apparent unpreparedness. Replying to a question, Creech-Jones disclosed that military forces in Palestine are free to take whatever precautionary measures they deem necessary, and have all the powers they have requested from the High Commissioner.

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AMERICAN MILITARY TRIBUNAL FINDS 21 TOP NAZI OFFICERS GUILTY OF MURDERING JEWS

NUREMBERG, April 8. (JTA)--A three-man American military tribunal trying 21 top Gestapo leaders of a special force charged with murdering more than a million Jews and other "racially undesirable" persons during the war today ruled that any soldier who murders innocent civilians is as guilty as those who order him to do so.

In effect, the ruling stripped the defendants of their chief argument. Another portion of the 260-page judgment found that the slayings had been proved by Gestapo documents. Today's ruling foreshadows individual convictions on the general charge. Sentence will be passed either tomorrow or Saturday.

The court, headed by Judge Michael A. Musmanno, declared that this was the greatest murder case in history and that it was "beyond the experience of normal man." The court based its findings in part on the 100-year-old Prussian military ruling which recognized that a subordinate must not obey an order "obviously aimed at a crime." It also pointed out that if the defendants' premise were accepted, there would be no war criminals responsible for their acts in Germany except Hitler.

JEWISH DELEGATIONS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARRIVE IN WARSAW TO HONOR GHETTO MARTYRS

WARSAW, April 8. (JTA)--Delegations of Jewish organizations abroad began to arrive here today to attend the unveiling of a monument in memory of the Warsaw Ghetto martyrs on April 19. The delegations include a six-man group from Palestine bringing soil from every settlement in the country, which will be deposited at the base of the monument.

Work on the memorial is proceeding at a rapid pace in an attempt to complete it by April 15. The unveiling will occur simultaneously with similar ceremonies at Oswiecim and Treblinka, whose gas chambers and crematoria accounted for most of the millions of Jews murdered by the Nazis in Poland. A commemorative tablet will also be unveiled on a building alongside a railroad siding in Warsaw from which hundreds of thousands of the city's Jews were deported to their death.

The government has contributed 10,000,000 zlotys toward the cost of the memorial and the Jews of Poland have raised an additional 18,000,000 zlotys. The Polish railway system has placed on sale 5,000 special reduced-rate tickets for Jews outside of the capital to travel there to attend the ceremonies, while the Post Office has designed a special cancellation commemorating the occasion for use on all mail handled in Warsaw on April 19. All participants in the ceremonies will receive a special silver medal struck by the Jewish Central Committee of Poland.

IMMEDIATE ADMISSION OF 200,000 DP'S TO U.S. PROPOSED IN BILL INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

WASHINGTON, April 8. (JTA)--A bill to admit immediately 200,000 displaced persons to the United States whose entry would be charged against the immigration quotas of the immigrants' respective countries for the next two years has been introduced in the House.

Sponsored by Rep. Frank Fellows, of Maine, the measure has won approval in the Immigration Subcommittee and has been turned over to the Judiciary Committee for clearance. It was pointed out that under the proposed legislation, immigration quotas to this country would not be increased; instead, 200,000 of the overall quota number would be set aside for DP's.

The measure gives top priority to farm workers, physicians, dentists, nurses, construction workers, garment workers and persons with "educational or technical qualifications." Refugees who are blood relatives of American citizens would receive second priority under the terms of the bill.

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THOUSANDS OF SYNAGOGUES THROUGHOUT U.S. HOLD SPECIAL SERVICES FOR PALESTINE JEWS

NEW YORK, April 8. (JTA)--Hundreds of thousands of Jews in every part of the United States jammed thousands of synagogues and Temples today to participate in special services asking divine intercession on behalf of the Jews of Palestine.

The unprecedented services, which also voiced the indignation of American Jewry against the American Government's abandonment of the Palestine partition decision, were arranged by the Synagogue Council of America, representing Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbinical and congregational bodies throughout the United States.

The services began in most instances in the late afternoon or early evening. Thousands of business establishments in the metropolitan area, as well as in the larger Jewish communities in the country, closed at 4:P.M. in order to enable their employees to attend the services. In this city, the preponderantly Jewish garment and wholesale dry goods areas were completely shut down.

Rev. Karl Baehr, representing the American Christian Palestine Committee, said that the day of prayer indicated a "mighty demonstration that the demand for a free Jewish Palestine takes top priority and transcends all considerations of race or creed. This special prayer for fulfillment of pledges which predate the war deserves the most sympathetic and the deepest support of all persons and nations."

Meanwhile, reports reaching here from Palestine, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia, Canada and Latin America said that Jewish religious organizations in those countries also held special services today. In many synagogues, both in this country and abroad, the traditional prayer for the dead, El Molei Rachamin, was pronounced in honor of the Jews who have been killed in Palestine since the outbreak of violence more than four months ago.

BRITAIN DISCONTINUES ISSUING VISAS TO AMERICANS WISHING TO STUDY IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, April 8. (JTA)--Palestine visas for Americans wishing to study in that country will no longer be granted by the British Government, it was reported here today.

The new British ruling was made known by the American Friends of the Hebrew University which said it had been informed by the University in Jerusalem that student visas for U.S. citizens would no longer be extended "for security reasons." More than 100 prospective students in this country are affected by the ban, it was pointed out here.

Sir Leon Simon, chairman of the University's Executive Council, who left the U.S. today, declared that "we will continue to process students' applications from the United States in the hope and expectation that the order may be rescinded."

WEEK OF APRIL 18 PROCLAIMED AS "PALESTINE WEEK" BY JOINT PALESTINE APPEAL IN BRITAIN

LONDON, April 8. (JTA)--The week beginning April 18 was proclaimed today as "Palestine Week" by the Joint Palestine Appeal as a demonstration of British Jewry's solidarity with the Jews of Palestine. The Appeal is planning to conduct an all-out campaign for funds for Palestine during that week, which ends on Passover eve, a spokesman said.

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D.C. HELPED 5,500 JEWS EMIGRATE FROM EUROPE IN THREE MONTHS; 80,000 ON LISTS

PARIS, April 8. (JTA) -- Some 5,500 Jews have been assisted by the Joint Distribution Committee's immigration department in leaving Europe during the first three months of 1948, Herbert Katzky, acting director of the department, reported today, at the conference of the J.D.C. directors now being held here.

He added that there are 80,000 persons on the J.D.C.'s emigration lists in Europe. The emigration program is still being hampered by a lack of transportation facilities and the J.D.C. is using rail, ocean and air transportation in an attempt to help emigrants moving, he said.

At a press conference here Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, reviewed the activities of the J.D.C. and the United Palestine Appeal in recent years. He also issued a special appeal to the Jews of America to redouble their efforts in behalf of the U.J.A. because every penny they send is needed.

U.S. URGED TO ADMIT DP'S AND ABANDON TRUSTEESHIP BY B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN'S PARLEY

WASHINGTON, April 8 (JTA) -- A resolution urging the passage of legislation to admit displaced persons to the United States was adopted here last night at the closing session of the B'nai B'rith Women's Supreme Council conference, attended by more than 50 delegates from all parts of the country.

Mrs. Abram Orlow, of Philadelphia, was re-elected national president of the group, which now has a national membership of more than 100,000. The parley also adopted resolutions calling upon the United States Government to abandon its Palestine trusteeship plan and help implement the original partition decision. The American delegation at the U.N. was also asked to propose the immediate expulsion of foreign armed Arabs who have invaded Palestine.

BRITISH WILLING TO PROCURE WHEAT FOR PALESTINE IF THEY ARE PAID IN DOLLARS

WASHINGTON, April 8. (JTA) -- The British Government has agreed to continue the procurement of wheat for Palestine until the end of June, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned here today. British authorities, however, insist they must be paid in dollars, and also raised the question as to who would pay for the wheat.

The wheat would probably be purchased in the United States or Canada, where most of Palestine's wheat imports have originated in the past. A British spokesman suggested that either the U.N. Palestine Commission or the Jewish Agency might be willing to pay for the grain, of which there is a growing shortage in Palestine.

Earlier, the Food and Agriculture Organization announced that food supplies in Palestine and other Middle East countries are below last year's levels. Civil disturbances in Palestine, the FAO said, "are interfering to some extent with the orderly distribution of supplies."

LOUIS GOLDEN ELECTED GENERAL CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN OF BOSTON COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL

BOSTON, April 8. (JTA) -- Louis R. Golden, local Jewish leader, was elected today general campaign chairman of the 1948 Combined Jewish Appeal of Greater Boston, succeeding Herman Gilman, who held the post for two years and who is now serving as associate chairman of Initial Gifts for the national United Jewish Appeal.

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