



Jews used to live in this place.

Do you want that to be the answer when, in years to come, you go back to Europe?

It is already the case in Germany and in many other countries.

"They died in the Big Epidemic and the Famine after the Nazis left—all those Jews who escaped the Gestapo." So your guide will tell you.

UNLESS help is rushed across in time—help in the form of food, clothes, medical supplies.

UNLESS shelter is provided and transport, where necessary.

Among the ruins of the ghettos and of burnt-out Synagogues lurk men and women who look like skeletons clad in rags—children, their stomachs bloated by hunger.

The Jewish War Appeal can help them if you give the money.

When you sit down to a meal
Think of the Jewish War Appeal

Registered: W.F. No. 74.

The Cultural Life of the Palestine Troops

By TED R. LURIE ["Zionist Record" Special Correspondent]

SOMEWHERE IN ITALY.

PALESTINIAN soldiers in Italy have had to rely on their own resources for their educational and entertainment activities, since they are too far away for easy contact with home. Each one of the Companies has its own library of Hebrew and other books—mobile as is everything else that belongs to these soldiers. They all have their own pianos and radios, and some have fine collections of gramophone records as well. Communal singing forms an important part of Friday night "mesiboth" (soirees), and one of the better voices in each group has the job of teaching his fellow soldiers new songs.

One Company has its own choir of some 30 voices led by Sergeant Dov Yarmonowitz, and they have attained quite a high standard of proficiency. When one Company was stationed in the Naples area the choir was invited to broadcast on the wireless there, and a brief introductory announcement was made in Hebrew, Italian and English (as reported in an earlier article) in which it was described as belonging to "a Jewish Palestine Company, one of many volunteer Companies from that country." The announcement went on:

"These Companies belong to the unknown divisions in the British Army. They are unknown because they are included in formations and branches of the British services as individuals and separate isolated units. Many of these Companies served in the Western Desert and afterwards with the Eighth Army. Some of them were in Greece, in Crete, in Malta and also in Tobruk in the time of the siege. France, Tripoli, and Abyssinia also saw them—and now Italy.

Programme

The announcer then went on to describe the programme of folk songs, shepherds' tunes, village chanties, and workers' songs—all in the "language of the Prophets which was the tongue that bound these men together." He described how the choir was started in Tobruk a year before, and how despite the handicap of the Company's being split up in platoons in various locations, it had succeeded due largely to the initiative and enthusiasm of Sgt. Yarmonowitz.

In three Italian cities, Bari, Naples and Rome, the centres of the soldiers' extra-curricular activities are the Jewish Soldiers' Clubs, which are also the headquarters of the Jewish Chaplains. The "rebbe," as he is affectionately called by his "flock," is a popular figure and takes an important place in the lives and activities of the men. The clubs are centrally located in the cities and attract Jewish soldiers from all the Allied armies, Americans, British, South Africans, Canadians, Poles and Yugoslavs. (I saw two youngsters who live in the same street in Jersey City, N.J.,

meet for the first time in one of the lounges.) They are permitted officially to fly the Jewish flag—and the blue and white banner hanging outside the Rome Club situated in the Via Tritone can be seen for blocks around. In fact, when you ask a soldier how to find the club in any of the three cities, he answers proudly: "Walk down the main street and you'll see our flag. You can't miss it."

A Modest Party

The other day I attended a modest party in Rome to say farewell to Rabbi Urbach, who was posted back to the Middle East and who will probably have returned home by the time this appears in print. In addition to the soldiers, a few civilians were present; two representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee of America, the head of the Rome Jewish Community; and a few of the refugees who expressed their heart-felt and moving gratitude to the Rabbi and helped them onto their feet again. A few nights later, Rabbi Eshkoli came up from Naples to take part in a more solemn meeting—a memorial for Berl Katzenelson, news of whose death had just reached Italy.

One of the soldiers' most important morale-builders is their daily newspaper, "Lahayal." Started on March 5 at Palezza in southern Italy, it has now published 140 successive numbers, daily except Saturdays, and has not missed an issue despite having had to move twice, first to Bari at the beginning of April, and then to Rome three months later. Up to now the paper has been stenciled, but the move to Rome was in search of a press with Hebrew type, and this was found in the Pius X Monastery which has recently been engaged in publishing a Hebrew lexicon. Large sized type for head-lines was lacking however, and so the appearance of the first printed number has had to await the arrival of type from Palestine.

The four-page daily contains news received through the P.W.A. (Psychological Warfare Branch), which have co-operated with and assisted "Lahayal" from the beginning, and news from Palestine and the Jewish world culled from Tel Aviv papers which arrive normally within a week, as well as editorials and other contributions of soldiers here. Enlarged Friday editions contain feature articles and texts of important speeches taken from the Palestine papers.

In addition, several of the Companies have their own weekly or fortnightly publications, the best known of which are "Hahayal Haivri" belonging to one Company, and "Yael" (Yehida Ivrit Lehovala) put out by another Company. These consist entirely of original material and their contributors include the humblest drivers and the O.C.'s themselves.

Refugee Mother's "Memorial Gift" to JWA

Direct help to the Women's Section of the JWA is the impressive memorial to his late mother which a German refugee has provided. Mr. G. E. Hodenberg of De Aar, Cape Province, has given 76 pairs of unused ladies' shoes to the JWA with the request that they be put to the

best possible use for the benefit of suffering Europe. They will be among the items sold at an all-day fete, organised by the Women's Section of the JWA, on Wednesday, October 25, at the home of Mrs. Schwartzman, 4 Nottingham Road, Kensington. (Train Stop No. 35.)

On October 11, the Women's Section held a physical culture display at the S.O.E. Hall, Orange Grove.



SOMETHING REALLY GOOD FOR BREAKFAST FROM THE HOME OF THE 3 BEARS

3 BEARS Porridge is available in two distinct types—the original creamy porridge and the Blended Breakfast Meal with the Chocolate Flavour.



Trade Enquiries: Stanley Van Flymen & Co., P.O. Box 1334, Johannesburg.