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## Serious and Otherwise

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### Conversion in England

IT appears that conversion among certain sections of the Jewish youth in England has become rampant. No less an authority than Prof. Cecil Roth of the Oxford University draws attention to this in a recent letter to the London "Jewish Chronicle."

"During the past four years," says Professor Roth, "at least seven junior members of the University of Oxford have embraced Christianity, three of them belonging to English and four to refugee families, the background in half the cases at least being solidly Jewish."

But these, continues the writer, do not by any means exhaust the total. The University lists have recently begun to display the presence of a depressingly high proportion of persons bearing unmistakable Jewish names who not only show no sort of Jewish interest but deny their Judaism and even actively profess some other faith. Such instances are no longer to be numbered by the individual, as in the past, but in the score; and it is now not unusual to find members of well-known Jewish families who take an active part in the Christian Student Movement and similar bodies. This applies above all to the refugee element.

"I am inclined to think," says Prof. Roth, "that more members of the University who are of Jewish birth attend Christian than Jewish worship."

The danger of conversion has been given a further fillip by the increasing progress of inter-marriage, which in war circumstances has reached a new pitch of intensity. Prof. Roth states in his article that he made a mathematical analysis of the problem and found that marriages in which both parties are Jewish are now in the minority.

The tendency to conversion is not confined to England. In Italy, for example, 10 per cent. of the entire Jewish community embraced Roman Catholicism at the beginning of the anti-Semitic movement in the vain hope of avoiding its worse consequences. All over the Continent, moreover, thousands of Jewish children have been saved by kindly Christians and Christian religious institutions. A majority of these children have been brought up during the past years as Christians and a large number have been baptised. As the areas in question are freed, it is being found that in very many cases they have gone too far for spiritual redemption.

"It should be borne in mind," concludes Prof. Roth, "that the catastrophe that has overtaken the great reservoir of Jewish population in Eastern Europe means that we can no longer count upon external influences as in the past, to restore the balance of our own Jewish life."

### Singer's Success

REGINA RESNIK, 22-year-old soprano, made a surprise debut at the New York Metropolitan Opera when she appeared on twenty-four hours' notice in one of grand opera's biggest roles, Leonora in Verdi's "Il Trovatore." According to music critics, she "gave a brilliant accounting."

Miss Resnik was called to appear in the role when Zinka Milanov, billed for the part, suddenly took ill. She had time for only one rehearsal and a short session over the opera with conductor Cesare Soderro, before going on.

Miss Resnik made her initial debut in 1942 with the New Opera

Company, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In 1944 she won the Auditions of the Air award. Her debut at the Metropolitan was originally scheduled for three days later in "Cavalleria Rusticana."

Regina Resnik's overnight rise to stardom recalls that of Leonard Bernstein, youthful conductor, who on short notice last autumn, substituted for veteran Serge Koussevitzky and conducted a concert of the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, winning the acclaim of music critics in America.

### Canadian M.M.

SGT. SAMUEL MOSES HURWITZ, M.M., of the Canadian Army was recently given much praise in both the American and the Canadian press for having saved his troop commander in full view of the enemy and within easy range of their bullets. "I had to do it," Sgt. Hurwitz told inquisitive news-reporters. "You see the Commander was an old school-mate of mine in Montreal."

Sgt. Hurwitz is the crew-commander of a Sherman tank with an Eastern Canadian Armoured Unit whose crew has fought all the way from Caen to Holland and has taken part in at least five major engagements.

Hurwitz led the attack in an area of Holland which was the first to fall to the Canadian troops. As they rumbled along a narrow cobbled road the tank following the Sherman was knocked out by enemy fire. Sgt. Hurwitz was completely cut off. He could not lead his tank back because the road was blocked by the burning tank. To stand still was to become a sitting target and to move ahead was to plunge deeper into enemy territory without any hope of support.

"Well, I realised that I just had to do something about it. I decided to get out and asked the men to follow suit. Sometimes these sudden instincts are the best guide. My tank was blown to bits half-a-minute afterwards."

Sgt. Hurwitz ordered his men to return to their formation, while he himself went with a medical jeep to fetch the wounded from the other tank. The Troop Commander had been hit in the leg and could not walk. Sgt. Hurwitz lifted him bodily and carried him to safety while an unceasing hail of bullets, perilously near, whizzed passed him.

Sgt. Hurwitz, who is 25, was born in Lachine, Canada. He is an outstanding athlete, and while at school made a name for himself as paddling and hockey champion. He has five brothers. All are in the armed forces.

### Surprise Attack

THE news reached the wife of a Jew in modest circumstances that her husband had won 30,000 dollars in a lottery. There was the problem of breaking the news to the happy man who suffered from a weak heart. So the family doctor was invited to dinner that night to "deliver" the news in an appropriate manner. "What would you do," asked the doctor jocularly, "if you suddenly heard that you had won 30,000 dollars?"

"Please don't ask silly questions," was the reply, as the host proceeded to speak of the war.

Later in the evening the doctor repeated his question, again in jocular vein. Rather irritably and shortly his host replied: "If I ever won 30,000 dollars I would give you half."

And then to the surprise of everyone, the doctor passed out.

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