

# LINE OF COMMUNICATION

CONDUCTED BY "THE ADJUTANT"

All Communications to be Addressed to P.O. Box 2000.

We would remind readers of the Record of Jewish War Services which is being compiled by the S.A. Jewish Board Deputies. Information is required as to regimental number, rank, full name, and unit of Jews serving in the Forces as well as home address.

## Compliments for Chronicle.

The 'Chronicle' affords excellent reading for soldiers like myself who are thousands of miles from home; and I don't think publication can be found in which one is in constant touch with home affairs. I am a Capetonian you can quite understand why a paper like this is appreciated." writes L/Bdr. B. Gordon, of the A/A Regiment, S.A.A., who recently left the front for service "up North." In his letter the L/ Bombardier expresses his thanks for the receipt of the "Chronicle" which he has been receiving regularly during the past few months.

Such generous compliments are appreciated by the Editorial Offices and he may rest assured the paper will be sent to him in the future as in the past.

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## Thanks.

Another letter of thanks is to hand from a young man who is with a photographic unit writing from Kilindini, East Africa. He says, "Perhaps you would like to know that each issue, after I have digested its contents, is forwarded on to my family in England, where much pleasure (and sorrow) is derived from its pages. For myself it is the link I have with Jewish world affairs." He then asks permission to "offer some words of appreciation." Apparently, he says, there are many folk who are unaware of the sacrifices made by South African and world Jewry in various services and spheres of the war. "There is no way in which such information can be brought to the direct notice of those who criticise the Jewish war effort?" he asks. "The daily press seems to be the medium for propaganda. Why not in our case? At least it is genuine."

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## Jews' Share.

Naturally the Jewish press frequently publishes facts and figures of the part Jews are playing in the war and the non-Jewish press occasionally find a little space to record Jewish activities. This paper makes a point of bringing to the notice of the reading public the share Jews are taking in the fight against Hitler, and not a few of our readers are Gentiles. Statements have often been made from the public platform dispelling the malicious propaganda to which my correspondent refers, and no less a person than General Smuts has spoken on the subject. We should realise that, propaganda or not, it is impossible to convince some people, and figures notwithstanding; that Jews are not shirkers.

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## Posthumous Award for Brigadier Kisch.

Brigadier Kisch and nine other Jewish soldiers and men were mentioned in dispatches for recognition of gallantry and distinguished services in the Middle East."

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## A. Honours Jewish Sailor.

The United States Navy is building a destroyer to be named the "U.S.S. Jeffrey." This is a posthumous honour bestowed on the late Ira Weill Jeffrey, who was killed in action at Pearl Harbour on 7th December, 1941. He was the first Minneapolis man to die in his life in the present war. The Sigma Chi Mu Fraternity has also recognised the late member's outstanding achievements by pre-

senting its Award to his father, Mr. David C. Jeffrey, and one of the B'nai B'rith Lodges in Minneapolis has been named the Ira Weill Lodge.

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## Courage, Coolness and Skill.

Sergt. Eugene H. Stein, of U.S.A. Army Air Force, has just been awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster for "second recognition" in addition to the Army Air Medal, by Major-General Ira B. Eaker, Commander of the U.S.A. Army Eighth Air Force in England. In the citation accompanying the award the General praised Sergt. Stein for his "courage, coolness and skill" in shooting down, in the course of a combat mission, a German F.W. 190. Sergt. Stein is a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia. On his arrival in the U.S.A. he joined the Jabotinsky Aviation School in Edgemore, Long Island.

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## Palestine Like the Cape.

A Lieutenant friend of mine, before he went to the Middle East with his Ack-Ack regiment a few months ago, said he hoped to pay a visit to Eretz Israel for he had heard so much about that country and had read so many descriptions in letters I had quoted in my "Lines of Communication" that he had to see things for himself. He has had his wish granted. In a letter just to hand he tells me that, at long last, he was on his way there to undertake a certain course, and he was thrilled to be on his way to the Holy Land. They crossed the Suez Canal. "Marvellous as a feat of engineering, but not a thing of beauty," he says. "An uneasy night slowly merged into a welcome dawn. And then: was it a mirage? Surely I was back in the Cape. A mirage it was not, nor was it the Cape. We were passing through that glorious country, Palestine."

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## Beautiful Mountains and Valleys.

My friend found it hard to give me a pen picture. "Just imagine the Western Province at its best and there you have Palestine. The trees, the jacarandas are the same. The maize fields are the same. The mountains and the valleys are the same. Even the climate is the same! At last our destination. Our camp is beautifully situated beneath the trees of the Holy Land. Trees—the country is full of them. How different to the treeless Egypt. This land has made me very happy." Then a round of visits. To Haifa by bus; by taxi to Mount Carmel—the residential area. "It was like driving from Adderley Street to Kloof Nek. The same beautiful drive. We reached the top and I looked down awe-inspired. Visualise the panorama of Cape Town from the Nek and you have Haifa. The similarity is remarkable. It is truly a lovely city.

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## Enjoyable Amenities.

A "Round House" with cabaret and dance band on the summit of Mount Carmel is a great attraction to visitors. Then there is the Panorama Hotel, where my friend spent an enjoyable afternoon, "dancing to an excellent band in the garden and watching the splendid cabaret turns." The following morning he "hitch-hiked from camp to Haifa and there caught a bus to Nazareth, an hour's journey. En route he saw the lovely Settlement Farms and was impressed by the hilly and fertile country. And so he goes on. I have only

touched the fringe of his letter, for he tells me about his visit to Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, to the Wailing Wall, Mount Sinai, Rachel's Tomb, etc. But I cannot go on this week. I hope later to again quote the gunner officer's letter.

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## Special Synagogue Parade.

Among the troops in a recent convoy which called at Cape Town were a number of Jewish men, and arrangements were made for a special synagogue parade to take place on the Sabbath morning. Under a Jewish officer 425 men marched from the docks through the city's main thoroughfares, up Government Avenue to the Great Synagogue. There they were welcomed by the Chaplain and the Congregation's secretary. To mark the occasion Rabbi Israel Abrahams addressed the men in Yiddish, in which language they were more at home than in English. One of the soldiers, who had been the Chief Cantor of a great European city, officiated with the choir and conducted the service in an exceedingly impressive manner. The previous evening about 100 of these men attended the service, at the conclusion of which they were all taken to the homes of the worshippers where they had the opportunity of enjoying a truly "heimishe" meal.

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## Recorded Synagogal Music.

Recordings of traditional synagogal music, made by Cantor Boris Rome and his choir, have been sent, at his request, to Captain Hickman. These will enable the Padre to teach his boys the tunes so that their services up North may be made more impressive.

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## About Chaplains.

Rabbi W. Hirsch of Pretoria has been appointed part-time Principal Jewish Chaplain to the U.D.F. with the rank of Lt./Colonel. The Rev. Capt. S. Ernst has been appointed Assistant Principal Jewish Chaplain. The Rev. Capt. S. Weinstein has been transferred from Premier Mine and will be stationed at the Principal Jewish Chaplains' Administrative Headquarters, Voortrekkerhoogte. The Rev. Capt. I. S. Romm is stationed at Premier Mine. Arrangements have been made by the Principal Jewish Chaplain for all Jewish soldiers to obtain leave for the High Festivals subject to the exigencies of the service. The official order will be published at a later date.

## Roll of Honour.

**Mentioned in Dispatches.**—T/Sgt. Sam Lazarus, Sgt. Jacob Herman Reichman, A/L/Cpl. Edward Robert Steinberg, Pte. Harold Goldberg, Pte. Dave Fred Woolf, Spr. Markham Leopold Greenberg.

**Wounded or Injured.**—Lt. Abraham Elijah Abramowitz, Cpl. Louis Cohen.

**Missing.**—Lt. Feodore Sachs.

**Distinguished Flying Cross.**—T/Lt. Louis A. Feinberg.

## VAN RIEBEEK PRODUCTS.

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ANCHOVIES IN SALT  
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