

Echoes

Montgomery Writes to Ottawa Jews

"My men will smoke their way to Berlin"

That is the promise made by Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery to a group of Jewish ladies of Ottawa in a letter thanking them for a donation of cigarettes sent to the 8th Army.

beer, is the best business in the world.' And sure enough, I made him stay. I made him stay four days with me, and only on the fifth day did I let him pack his valise. And just as he was about to leave, I handed him a bill.

"He looked at me, sort of dazed. 'What's this?' 'The bill,' I said; 'thirty-seven roubles and fifteen kopecks. It's itemised.' 'The bill,' he repeated in a whisper, then let out a yell. 'The bill? Isn't it enough that you killed four days for me, held me by the throat, after I'd done you the service of attending the circumcision ceremony of your new-born son. What is this? A joke? Or a hold-up?' 'It isn't a joke, mister,' I tell him, 'and it isn't a hold-up. It's just a simple reckoning. I'm not charging you for the first afternoon—that was your good deed for the day. But there was no good deed involved in your staying here, eating your head off, drinking my best cognac and wine and beer, for four days.' 'Then why did you plead with me to stay?' 'Salesmanship,' I answered.

"Well, Rabbi, the poor man was a sight! He couldn't get it into his head that bed and board cost money. At last I said to him: 'Listen. Do we have to quarrel? There's a *Rabbiner* in the next townlet, an honorable gentleman, a scholar and a sage. Suppose we put it up to him? I pledge myself in advance to accept his decision.'

The Rabbiner Decides

"Done! We get into the train, proceed to the next townlet, and go to the Rabbi—the *Rabbiner*, that is. My 'guest' lets loose, dishes up the story from beginning to end, omitting not a detail. The *Rabbiner* listens, patiently, just as you did, to the very end, then turns to me and asks: 'Well, what have you to say?' 'Me?' I answer, 'I've nothing at all to say. This gentleman has told you nothing but the truth.' With that the *Rabbiner* turns back to my guest, asks him again how long he had stayed with me, what he had eaten, what he drank, whether he was satisfied with the cooking, did he enjoy the cognac—and when the second recital is over, the *Rabbiner* shrugs his shoulders, looks at me knowingly, and says to my guest: 'Sorry! You'll have to pay!'

"The man turned green, yellow, and purple. But he pulled out a fifty-rouble note and flung it in my face. 'Here,' he said, 'Give me the change.' 'Change?' I said. 'What are you talking about? Who wants your money? Take back your fifty-rouble note, man. What do you take me for? Isn't it enough that you saved a Jewish soul, helped me to induct my son into the congregation of Israel, gave me the pleasure of your company for four days? Do you expect me to charge you for it? Is this Sodom and Gomorrah?'

"Well, the man was absolutely flabbergasted. 'For God's sake!' he gasped. 'What is this? What did you want the whole comedy for? Why did you drag me here?'

"Just like that,' I answered. I wanted to show you what a clever Rabbi we've got."

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Hitler Punishes Anti-Semite . . .

COUNT WOLF HEINRICH VON HELLDORF, former Police President of Berlin, who was sentenced to death by the People's Court in Germany for being involved in the plot to kill Hitler, is the man who organised the first pogrom against Jews in Berlin thirteen years ago on the eve of the Jewish New Year, recalls a correspondent of the J.T.A.

When the worshippers left the synagogue in Fasanen Strasse after the service they were attacked by groups of Nazi hoodlums and beaten up. Count Helldorf, accompanied by S. A. Gruppenfuhrer Ernst and other prominent Nazis, was seen driving along the fashionable Kurfuerstendamm giving instructions to the rioters. This was confirmed in court by numerous witnesses.

Helldorf was appointed Police President of Berlin in June, 1935, when an intensified campaign to "curb Jewish-Bolshevist arrogance" was announced under the pretext that the Jews had organised hostile demonstrations in one of Berlin's largest cinemas when a Swedish anti-Jewish film was shown. This campaign led up to the promulgation of the Nuremberg laws in September of the same year.



The Assefat Hanivcharim elections have attracted wide attention. The photograph shows the entrance to the building at the opening session.

Greek Partisans Honour Brave Jewish Girl

A SOLEMN memorial was held recently by Partisans of the E.A.M. movement somewhere in the hills of one of the Greek Islands of the Aegean Sea in tribute to a brave Jewish girl of 18, Madi Moscovitz, of Salonika, who was brutally murdered by the Gestapo. Two E.A.M. captains placed wreaths on her grave and swore to take vengeance of the Gestapo criminals and the Greek collaborators.

Madi was murdered by the notorious Gestapo chief, Beyer, whose name is foremost among those of Nazi war criminals. She was stripped naked and whipped savagely from 10 o'clock on the night of March 7 until the next morning, and afterwards made to lie down upon the cement floor. She was then tortured by Beyer until she died. But she gave away no secrets.

Her parents, as well as her 14-year old brother, were among a group of Greek refugees who arrived in Palestine through Turkey. The marks of their suffering are visible upon the worn, emaciated faces.

Young Conductor

IT does not often happen that an understudy gets the proverbial "break," and wins fame and fortune by stepping into the star's shoes at the last minute. But this actually did happen to Leonard Bernstein, 26-year-old American prodigy conductor who leapt to fame overnight, and is to-day recognised as one of the finest conductors in the United States.

Young Bernstein created the musical sensation of the season. Some months ago, when the great Bruno Walter was to be guest-conductor for a Sunday concert of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra he was suddenly taken ill, and Bernstein to his greatest amazement was asked to conduct the orchestra in his place. The next day the music columns in all the leading newspapers were exuberant in their praise . . . and Bernstein woke up to find himself famous. Soon after he accepted a post offered him by the great Rodzynski as assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, which he now holds.

Bernstein, who was born in America, was quite definitely not a child prodigy. At the age of ten an old aunt left a piano at the home of the Bernstein's, asking them to take care of it for a while. This evoked Leonard's interest, and he started taking lessons. He has composed a number of pieces, including a symphony "Jeremiah," which is based on the life of the Jewish people, "a whole people in a world of no security." Bernstein, by the way, is a devoted Zionist. Unlike most other Jewish musical celebrities, he takes a keen interest in Jewish music.

Although music was always Bernstein's main interest and occupation, he enjoyed a thorough education at the Harvard University, where he also excelled at athletics.

Something rather unique is the fact that although Bernstein conducts intricate pieces such as Strauss's "Don Quixote" and Miklos Rosza's "Variations," he is "crazy" about "Boogie-woogie," and has even composed a number of "swing" pieces.

Leonard Bernstein is the typical American youth. He is popular and good-looking, and his only grievance in life, according to "Current Biographies," is that some angle-seeking American reporters have made a point of emphasising that "Dick Tracey" is the only literature he reads.

Plastics

THE plastic industry is making rapid strides in Palestine. It is expected that as soon as machinery and raw materials become available Palestine will supply many countries in the Middle East with articles made of this new material.

Nearly four million articles, including over two million household goods, are now being manufactured in six Palestinian factories. A hundred workers are employed in these plants and 120 tons of raw materials were imported from the United Kingdom during the last two years.

Apart from household goods, such as cups, saucers, egg-cups, plates and a variety of other things ranging from buttons to flutes, many technical and electro-technical articles are manufactured, particularly for the Forces.

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