

# RELIEF FOR REFUGEES IN ITALY

**C**AILED advice has been received by the S.A. Jewish War Appeal that the following help was given to the above refugees in Northern Italy:—  
**Milano.**—21,000 meals daily and 600 cases medical care daily: 150 refugees housed privately: expenditure per month, 1,833,000 lira.

**Venice.**—1,500 meals daily: 117 refugees housed privately: 35 refugees in transit through Italy for immigration centres, presently under medical care: running special club for refugees: expenditure monthly, 350,000 lira.

**Genoa.**—305 displaced persons totally assisted: expenditure monthly, 308,000 lira.

**Turin.**—900 refugees totally assisted: expenditure per month, 600,000 lira.

**Trieste.**—600 meals provided daily: 250 refugees privately assisted: 100 refugees privately housed: expenditure per month, 610,000 lira.

**Vicenza, Verona and Merano.**—Numerous refugees in transit to immigration centres presently assisted: expenditure monthly, 114,000 lira.

Total expenditure during September, October and November, and Trieste including part August, 12,245,000 lira.

**Selvino.**—50 refugees housed in convalescent home.

**Aona.**—30 refugees housed in convalescent home.

**Genoa.**—150 women refugees provided for in maternity home. Twelve Hachsharoth and vocational training centres in Northern Italy housing 1,350 adolescents receive supplementary food and medical help. These Hachsharoth received recently the following help in kind: 742 pairs shoes, 52 sewing machines for training purposes and for making clothes for the inmates; 1,338 lbs. leather for repair purposes; 3,360 woollen blankets; 653 straw mattresses; 330 knapsacks; 264 stoves for cooking and heating purposes; 3,787 towels; 1,805 pairs gloves; 7,600 spools sewing cotton; 660 yards cloth for women's wear; 1,595 yards cloth for men's wear; 585 pillows; 2,100 plates; 103 cooking pots; 150 overcoats; 300 pairs felt boots; 425 pairs rubber soles; also numerous articles of comfort and first aid outfits.

**Camp Cremona.**—Housing 1,300 displaced persons; received 100 stoves for cooking and heating; 500 pairs fur-lined gloves; 600 pairs woollen gloves; six sewing machines for making clothes in camp; woollen cloth for 301 ladies' overcoats and 50 skirts; 500 pairs shoes; 487 men's

overcoats; and underwear for 35 disabled Jewish war veterans; also numerous comfort articles and supplementary food.

Furthermore, dental supplies for 250 children, pregnant women and sick persons who needed dental attention badly has been provided.

**Camp Como.**—Housing 550 displaced persons and a subsidiary camp housing 2,500 displaced persons receiving 50 stoves for cooking and heating. Basic food and clothing relief is being provided by UNRRA.

**Camp Padua.**—Housing 800 displaced persons; each inmate received two garments of clothing, medical care and special food for those in hospital; total monthly expenditure, 400,000 lira.

## NEED FOR WINTER CLOTHING

The situation in the camps which are in the control of the Allied Central Commission is now comparatively good as far as food and bedding are concerned, whilst the position with regard to clothing and fuel is bad.

Four thousand persons need complete winter outer and under garments and footwear very urgently. The director of displaced persons in Italy requested Joint and J.W.A. help to provide the above winter clothing owing to the fact that the Allied Commission which is responsible for the supply, has failed to meet the needs.

The J.W.A. has ready for despatch to Northern Italy 10,000 garments and footwear as well as 2,800 cases jam and 1,000 cases marmalade to relieve the distress in the above camps and refugee centres in Italy in general, but it has been hampered in the despatch by lack of shipping space.

Shipping space for Genoa has been promised by the British Ministry of War Transport about the middle of January.

The total expenditure by the J.D.C. and the J.W.A. in Italy now amounts to £30,000 a month in monetary assistance alone, supplemented by relief goods.

The refugee conference held in Rome recently passed a vote of praise and thanks to the joint J.W.A. work in Northern Italy and commended the helpful attitude of these organizations towards refugees.

There is an excellent working relationship between the J.D.C.-J.W.A. and the refugees.

This statement is an adequate answer to the criticisms recently levelled against the J.D.C. and the J.W.A. in regard to relief work in Italy.

marmalade, and 2,880 boxes raisins and sultanas. The consignment is being divided equally between Hungary and Czechoslovakia and will be distributed by the JDC offices at Prague and Budapest respectively.

## Heidelberg and Piet Retief Rally To JWA

**D**ESPITE the holiday season the work of the S.A. Jewish War Appeal has continued in the country districts of the Transvaal, more especially at Heidelberg, which town was visited on December 20 by Messrs. L. Feldman and A. Lipka. A highly successful meeting took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ostro, at which Dr. M. B. Schwartz was in the chair. The visitors explained the continuing plight of the Jewish war victims overseas to the deeply impressed audience, and there was a good response.

Mr. Lipka has also completed a private canvass of the small Jewish community at Piet Retief, which has shown in an unmistakable manner its interest in and sympathy with the work of the JWA.

## SIX SCHOLARSHIPS FOR JERUSALEM CONSERVATOIRE

**JERUSALEM (By Mail).**—The Palestine Conservatoire of Music has received £600 collected by Mrs. Ethel Hayman of Johannesburg, for six scholarships.

The scholarships, valued at £50 a year, are tenable for two years and are available to advanced students of music—resident in Palestine, only—for completing their studies at the Conservatoire.

Students of composition, singers, and instrumentalists, with the additional knowledge of wind-instruments, will be given preference.

The recent appeal which was launched for the help of European Jewry was most successful and a magnificent sum was raised by the handful of Jews in East Africa. Included in the amount were very substantial donations from the Nakuru area and from Mombasa.

# SURVIVING RABBIS REPORT ON POSITION IN EUROPE

(From Our Own Correspondent)

**LONDON (By Mail).**—Important reports about the present position of the Jews in Europe and their needs were submitted by delegates from the liberated countries at a special meeting of the Executive of the United Jewish Relief Appeal recently held in London.

Rabbi Herman Meisels, of Belsen, said that the clothing position in the British zone was desperate. Of winter clothing there was hardly any at all. The clothing parcels sent from Soho Square were of good quality, but compared with the need it was only causing envy among the great majority who had to go without. There is also lack of heating in the blocks at Belsen. If some electric heating stoves could be supplied it would be a great thing for them.

## Inadequate Rations

Rabbi Meisels described the meagreness of the rations in Belsen. The food they received was not much more than they had been given in the German concentration camps. They were not actually starving, but they did not get enough to eat, and were always hungry.

He gave details of the rations, showing how totally inadequate they were. The children were not given more than the others and sufficient food was not even provided for the hospital. The patients suffered from under-nourishment. The people lived mainly on watery black coffee and soup. Pure milk was never seen.

## Report From Rabbi Oshry

Rabbi E. Oshry and Mr. L. Ashkenazy of Italy reported on the conditions prevailing among the 25,000 Jewish refugees in Italy. The food and clothing distributed in the camps, they said, were probably worse than those supplied to the displaced persons in Belsen. The clothing position was particularly bad in Milan, and Northern Italy generally, where it was bitterly cold. They needed about £4,000 a month for the maintenance of their relief work.

Mr. Samuel Frey, of Budapest, said there were over 260,000 Jews in Hungary of whom about 90,000 were concentrated in Budapest. The clothing position was appalling. People needed to be clothed from head to foot. He particularly urged that help should be given for the Jewish children's home in Budapest, which has about five hundred inmates. The

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budget for the home is about £1,000 per month. There were still many children in Hungary in Christian homes and convents who could be rescued. They needed about £1 a month per child for the rescue and monthly maintenance. £500 a month would therefore provide for another five hundred children.

## Treated as Germans

Captain Monheit, Chief Jewish Chaplain in the French zone, said that he also served in the American zone. Altogether he had to deal with about 35,000 Jews. There were some big camps. Landsberg, for example, had nearly 6,000 inmates. The German Jews in the French zone were being treated as Germans, not as displaced persons, and that would indicate how they were treated. They needed clothing and food, in fact, everything. Whatever could be sent would be of great help.

Rabbi V. Vorhand, of Prague, and Mr. Solomon Weber, of Bratislava, speaking of the conditions in Czechoslovakia, told of the constant arrival of fresh refugees in Czechoslovakia from Poland and other countries. All these people had to be clothed, fed and housed. They were coming in hundreds, and the problem was serious. Help was particularly required for the children's homes in Bratislava.

Mr. Henry Landau (Belgium) asked specially for help for vocational training of refugees in that country in order to make them self-supporting.

## In Czechoslovakia

Mr. Arthur Moses, who has just returned from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Rumania, reported on the needs of the Jewish populations in these countries. They said that clothing and shoes were required for 5,000 people. In addition, 20 tons of food were immediately needed for the Jewish refugees from Poland, who have found temporary shelter in Czechoslovakia. In addition, there was an urgent need for about 200 blankets, sheets and medicaments for the Jewish Hospital in Bratislava.

## MR. PHILIP WARTSKI

Mr. Philip Wartski, Durban's grand old man, will celebrate his 93rd birthday on January 9.

Mr. Wartski is the only living foundation member of Durban's first Hebrew congregation. He is still able to attend synagogue services on the Sabbath.

## JWA RELIEF GOODS REACH ALGIERS

### Shipments Under Way for Hungary and Czechoslovakia

**A**LMOST every day is now bringing fresh evidence of the effectiveness of the policy being followed by the JWA of distributing relief goods to Jewry wherever they are needed. The latest news comes from North Africa, where Mr. Elie Gozlan, President of the Jewish Community of Algiers, confirms the arrival of a shipment of textiles and footwear from India, purchased by the JWA. This includes 15,000 yards of piece-goods to be made up into garments, and 1,000 pairs of boots and shoes, and 10 gross of reels of cotton yarn. The goods were despatched from Bombay to Algiers from where they are being distributed to Algeria, Tripolitania, Tunis and Libya.

Arrangements have now also been completed for the sending of substantial new shipments to Jewish victims in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The s.s. "Queda" has left Durban carrying 1,400 cases jam, 450 cases