

Ez Chayim Congregation Entertains Returned Soldiers

"You Have Done Your Share"—Dr. Abt

THE informal and happy atmosphere which usually distinguishes a soldier's party was evident at the Carlton Hotel on Wednesday night when the Ez Chayim Congregation held a social for returned soldiers. The congregation consists mainly of Jews who have come to this country from Germany in recent years.

There were about 400 people present, many of whom were refugees from German persecution.

Messages of welcome and encouragement were read from Chief Rabbi Rabinowitz and the Principal Jewish Chaplain, Dr. I. H. Levine, who were unable to attend.

During the evening Miss Melanie Vaile played a number of piano solos and Mr. Gerald Cassen, who has a beautiful bass-baritone voice, sang Russian and Jewish folklore songs.

All ex-servicemen were given a copy of Rabbi Rabinowitz's book "Soldiers of Judea," "because of the vital link which binds soldiers of Judea to South Africans."

Mr. Leo Gut, chairman of the congregation, presided, and others present were Dr. H. Abt, Minister of the congregation, Mr. Melamed, and Mr. Miller, of the Jewish Board of Deputies, and Dr. Willie Cohn.

Mr. Gut in welcoming the men back to civilian life, said that he hoped they would epitomise the symbol for which the Sabbath candles stood, namely, the keeping alive of the shining light of the Jewish spirit and the warm light of Jewish feeling.

"You, the men who were driven out of Germany, you have done your share along with your fellow South Africans. You fought for a better world and you fought for the peace, but remember that you cannot gain the peace without working for it," said Dr. Abt in paying tribute to the members of his congregation and to other German-Jewish soldiers who

had joined the ranks of the U.D.F. "As South Africans you must help to build up a better South Africa, to bring a better understanding amongst the people and do away with racial discrimination.

In America German Jews were often referred to as hyphen-Americans. This cannot be said of German Jews in this country. "We are loyal to South Africa and not to Germany. Hitler knew well enough that we were his bitterest enemies."

Dr. Abt expressed the hope that the men who had returned would keep alive a sense of Judaism and remain conscious of the concept of Judaism. "Do not forget your duty to the Jewish people both here and in Eretz Israel. You are still in the invisible army of Jews. There is no discharge from the duty to your people. If you do your duty now, generations to follow will know that you have truly answered the call," he concluded.

Major Weinstein, who spoke on behalf of all Jewish chaplains, said that he had hoped that the wonderful spirit of goodwill and friendship which had been fostered in the army between non-Jew and Jew would remain indivisible, but his hopes had been rudely shaken.

In these difficult times we had to be constantly on the alert. Jews needed spiritual nourishment, education and enlightenment and it was the duty of every soldier to interest himself in the life of the community, otherwise very little would be left of Jewish life.

Mr. Miller, representing the Board of Deputies, said he wished to appeal to all ex-soldiers to become members of the Ex-Servicemen's League, a most excellent organisation. What Jewry needed was strength from within, and he thought that soldiers who had proved their sterling qualities in difficult times were most suited to take the lead against the reactionary forces which were gathering about us.

Mr. Sichel and Mr. Meyer replied on behalf of the ex-servicemen.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM'S DRIVE FOR MOBILE SURGICAL UNIT

IN response to an appeal from its headquarters in Palestine, the Magen David Adom in South Africa is raising funds for a fully equipped heavy mobile surgical unit, which is urgently needed by the parent organisation. The local M.D.A. has intensified its activities in furtherance of its membership drive and appeals to the community for support.

Support from Zionists

Mrs. J. Kaplan, chairman of the women's section of the M.D.A., addressed a meeting of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League on June 18 at which she explained the great humanitarian work done by the organisation. Mrs. Davidoff, who presided, called upon all members of the League to support this worthy cause.

The support of the Zionist youth for the organisation was pledged at a meeting attended by representatives of the Councils of the M.D.A. and the Youth movement.

The work of the M.D.A. will be explained to the youth at branch meetings. A special series of talks entitled "An Evening with the Magen David Adom" was opened at a meeting of the Zionist Youth Society at Orange Grove.

All-Mozart Programme Sponsored by Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra

THE "Haffner" Symphony was the major work at the Mozart concert on Thursday night, under the baton of Joseph Traunek and led by Eugene Magid. This fine work was most artistically performed, with all the spirit, the vigour, as well as the tenderness of the composer, clearly interpreted.

In the rest of the programme we had an opportunity of listening to Mozart through various moods, the vivacity of the "Marriage of Figaro" Overture, the elegance of the "Kleine Nachtmusik" and the tenderness of the "Elopement from the Serail."

Throughout the concert the orchestra did full justice to Mozart's subtlety and charm by their fine unity.

Jayne Susman was the soloist and sang two Mozart Arias with sweet expressiveness.

Mr. Joseph Traunek is to be congratulated on a concert which was a delight for all music lovers.

R.M.

Benoni Welcomes Returned Soldiers

A welcome for returned Jewish soldiers was given by the Benoni community under the combined auspices of the United Hebrew Institutions and the Union of Jewish Women on June 18.

A Thanksgiving Service was also held at the Synagogue at which Cantor S. Mandel officiated, and Rabbi Israel Freedman delivered a sermon.

A Sefer Torah, presented by Mr. and Mrs. M. Kahanowitz, was handed over during the service.

After the service a reception was held at the Benoni Town Hall, which was attended by a large number of ex-soldiers, members of the community with their families and representatives of the Jewish Ex-Service League.

The president, Mr. Isidore Bader, welcomed the guests on behalf of the Benoni Jewish community. Tribute was paid to the Benoni Jewish men who made the supreme sacrifice. Rabbi I. Freedman (ex-Chaplain), Mr. Max Potash (ex-prisoner of war), and Mr. L. Lovell (National vice-president Jewish ex-Service League) responded.

Mrs. I. Freedman, chairman of the Union of Jewish Women, Mrs. Ch. Feinstein, on behalf of the Women's Zionist League, Mrs. R. Bortz, chairman Ladies' Benevolent Society, welcomed the visitors and announced that their societies had presented gifts in honour of the returned soldiers to the Jewish War Appeal, Palestine Tree Fund, and the Jerusalem Institute for the Blind.

Mrs. J. Lazarow, Miss Lipson, Miss Beinar, Mrs. S. Fine, Mrs. E. Kushlick, and Cantor Mandel rendered musical items.

MR. ALEXANDER CHERNIAVSKY, globe-trotting impresario for 20 years, who has been active in South Africa for the past few years, has arrived in Jerusalem on a visit. Mr. Cherniavsky managed Miss Pnina Salzman's tour in Australia last year.

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