

# Moving Scenes In Jerusalem Court Room When Death Sentences Are Pronounced

JERUSALEM, Tuesday.—There were moving scenes in the Military court of Jerusalem when the death sentence was pronounced on Meir Ben Kadoori Nakar (21), of Jerusalem, Yaacov Ben Yosef Weiss (23), of Nathanya, and Avshalom Eliezer Habib, of Jerusalem. The trial arose as a result of the Acre gaol-break at the beginning of May.

Amnon ben Nuriel Mikhaloff, of Tel Aviv, and Nahman ben Reuben Zitterbaum, of Petah Tikva, who were proved to be under the age of 18, were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

## Prisoners Sing Hatikvah

Nakar, Weiss, Mikhaloff and Zitterbaum were found guilty of discharging firearms, being in the uniform of His Majesty's Forces, and depositing mines. Habib was found guilty of carrying and firing arms and depositing mines, but not of being a "member of a group of persons who fired and carried arms and deposited mines."

All the sentences are subject to confirmation.

When the sentences were pronounced the five men stood to attention in the dock, singing "Hatikvah." The members of their families joined in, some of the women with tears in their eyes. The anthem seemed to grow in strength as the three members of the court walked out.

### Opening Scenes

When the trial re-opened on Monday the accused, who were in shorts and open-necked shirts, smiled cheerfully at their relatives. The inspector of police, who was in charge of the court, went to the Press table and said: "There must be no conversation with the prisoners. Start talking with them and out you go. Do you understand?"

Just as the court asked Nakar, Weiss and Habib if they wished to enter pleas for clemency, their advocates entered, whereupon the president said: "You are a quarter of an

hour late." Mr. Levitsky replied that both had arrived before the court opened, and were delayed inside the court by the rigorous search they had undergone for 20 minutes.

### Pleas for Mitigation

In a plea for mitigation on behalf of Mikhaloff, Mr. Levitsky asked the court to take into consideration the age of the accused.

The court rose for the first time just after 11.30 a.m. All the members of the public and the Press were ushered out of the open balcony, and the iron gate and the glass door were closed. No one was allowed downstairs to the public conveniences or waiting-rooms. For three-quarters of an hour men, women and children were forced to stand in the sun till the court ended its deliberations on the sentences.

Mikhaloff and Zitterbaum rose to their feet as the court returned, but the other three remained seated. Quietly the president, Col. Fell, read out the sentences and left the courtroom with his fellow members.

### No Exit

Again the "no exit" order came to prevent the public and the Press who were leaving the courtroom from going downstairs. They were ushered towards the balcony, but when resentment was shown by some journalists, extra British policemen were

brought in, and they formed a solid barrier with the troops to prevent anyone's leaving. The officer who was ordering the policemen into position said: "The first man who tries to cross the line will be shot."

The prisoners were heard singing in court as chains were fastened round their wrists and ankles, but even when they were taken downstairs to their transport, the imprisoned public was not freed. Only ten minutes later, when presumably the five men were again behind prison walls, were the Press and the public permitted to leave.

Pleas for clemency are being lodged by Mr. Levitsky on behalf of the families of Nakar, Weiss and Habib.

### Youngest Ph.D. in U.S.A.

A 20-YEAR-OLD Haifa-born Jew, Eli Karlin, who has just graduated from Yale University, is the youngest Doctor of Philosophy in the United States. Dr. Karlin is the editor of the "Review of Metaphysics."

## TRUMAN'S MESSAGE TO JEWISH CONVENTION

ATLANTIC CITY, Tuesday.—Reiterating that the United States must do its part to solve the D.P. problem by admitting some of them to America, President Truman stated in a message to the Annual Convention of Brith Abraham that he wished to express his "unwavering determination to do everything in my power to reach a just solution to the problem of Palestine."

The Convention asked for the opening of the gates to Palestine and called upon the U.S.A. not to betray its tradition of favouring the establishment of a Jewish commonwealth.

### A Wise Prophecy

Speaking at the Convention of Brith Abraham, Rabbi Stephen Wise said that the end of 1947 will see a Jewish State in Palestine, unless Britain sabotages the U.N.O. report.

## CLUB SHATTERED AT BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, Tuesday.—A tremendous explosion shattered the building of the Bar Kochba at Buenos Aires. There were no casualties but there was much material damage. The bomb was thrown from a car which sped away.

## Arrests and Searches Follow Release of Kidnapped Policemen

JERUSALEM, Monday.—Following the release of the two kidnapped British policemen in Kiryat Shaul last week, intensive searches of the area were carried out and nine Jews detained. They include the owner of the house in which the kidnapped men were allegedly held and three occupants of rooms on the ground floor of the house.

Despite the statement by Inspector J. M. Flanagan, officer in charge of the search operations, that he decided to surround Kiryat Shaul "purely as a hunch," and that he "received no information from anybody," it is believed that the Haganah forced the kidnappers to release their hostages prior to the search. The Irgun allege that the policemen were released because they had received an "unofficial promise" that the five men on trial for participating in the Acre prison attack would not be sentenced to death.

Inspector Flanagan told the Press that when the truck in which the kidnapped men were driven away was discovered, he traced the trucks to Kiryat Shaul, which he subsequently cordoned off. At 11.30 a.m. he started house-to-house searches until the two abducted men, still wearing bathing trunks, were seen approaching the cordon.

### Guarded by Masked Men

They were guarded by four men in masks, who informed them that they were held as hostages for the men charged with participating in the Acre prison attack, and that if any of these men were hanged, they would also hang. The hostages were treated well.

At noon, Inspector Flanagan continued, the guards entered the room, saying they were going out to use a telephone. The kidnapped sergeant then released himself and assisted the constable to get free. They then left the house and met the troops surrounding the area.

When police entered the room where the prisoners had been held, they found a tommy-gun, two automatic pistols, two rifles, hand grenades, and a quantity of ammunition.

The eight occupants of the house denied all knowledge of the incident, although one of the kidnapped men allegedly identified one of his captors. This has not been confirmed in the official communique.

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