

Military Notes



C.Q.M.S. JOSEPH WOOLF

—of the Native Corps now in Woltemade, Cape. This soldier is a well-known personality in the advertising world in South Africa. For the last nine years he has been on the staff of the "Zionist Record" in the capacity of Advertising Manager and Representative.

Mr. Woolf, who joined up in July, 1940, saw service in the last war, overseas and in Africa.

78,114 MEALS TO SOLDIERS

The Soldiers' Rest Room and recreational centre at the Jewish Guild, which is conducted by the S.A. Jewish Ex-Service League, served 46,566 teas and 78,114 meals during the period June, 1940, until February, 1941. Sleeping accommodation for 11,554 soldiers was arranged.

(Concluded from third column)

"After Padre Levinson had conducted his service in the Depot Chapel, the congregation and guests adjourned to the Shaul Hall, where the tables were most tastefully arranged and looked very attractive. The assembly did full justice to the meal which consisted of soup, fish, poultry, various meats, knedlach, vegetables, sweets, fruit and wine. After the toast of the King, the Governor-General and the guests had been enthusiastically received, the meal concluded with the Festival Grace, the soldiers joining heartily in the choral portion. Three cheers having been given for Padre Levinson, the men dispersed to their quarters before 'lights out,' and thus ended the last day of what had really been a 'good Yomtov.'"

JEWISH SOLDIERS CELEBRATE PASSOVER

Arrangements in Camp and "Up North"

Details of the way in which Jewish soldiers in camp were able to celebrate the recent Festival of Passover are beginning to filter through. From all accounts received, it appears that the Defence and camp authorities collaborated willingly and readily with the Jewish chaplains and Jewish communities in the various centres where military forces are stationed in order to enable Jewish soldiers to observe the Festival in traditional manner.

IN Nairobi, according to information received prior to Passover, from the Rev. N. Menachemson, Jewish Chaplain with the Expeditionary Force, arrangements were made for the holding of a Passover service to be followed by a Seder banquet, on Friday, 11th April.

Padre Menachemson expected about 500 officers and men to attend this Seder and about 70 members of the Nairobi congregation. The ladies of the local community had the catering arrangements well in hand and Padre Menachemson expected the Seder to be a memorable one.

The Defence authorities sanctioned a special issue of matzoth and wine for the Jewish soldiers "up North," and matzoth and kosher meat for the Jewish troops in the Union.

THROUGH the efforts of the Rev. A. M. Kaplan, Chaplain to the Jewish soldiers at Potchefstroom camp, leave for the first two days of Passover was granted to almost all the Jewish officers and men. The few who remained were invited to Jewish homes for the Sedorim. On

Erev Yomtov the Rev. Kaplan, accompanied by Mr. Bortz, the chairman of the local Chevra Kadisha, visited the military hospital and distributed matzoth, wine and jam to over 150 non-Jewish soldiers and nurses. The Matron of the hospital expressed thanks to the Jewish community for their kindness to the soldiers in the camp.

From the Pretoria Jewish Women's Troop Entertainment Committee it is learnt that hospitality was provided in private homes for Jewish soldiers who obtained leave for the first two days of Passover and the arrangements were much appreciated.

At Piet Retief camp, all leave for the troops was unexpectedly cancelled and at short notice local residents prepared hospitality for Jewish soldiers there. The Board of Deputies sent down a supply of kosher wine, charoseth and Haggadoth. Warm thanks are due to Mr. B. Werner, of Piet Retief who placed himself at the disposal of the Board to assist in this matter.

Local residents at Vereeniging and Louis Trichardt also looked after the Jewish soldiers in their localities.



REV. A. M. KAPLAN

—who is now part-time Chaplain to the Forces with the rank of Captain. He is Minister of the Potchefstroom Hebrew Congregation and has in his care the Jewish men in the military camp in that town.

CONCERTS AND DANCES FOR SOLDIERS

Entertainments at Jewish Guild

ARTISTS WANTED

Concerts for soldiers are held on Sunday afternoons at the Soldiers' Rest Room and Recreational Centre, conducted by the S.A. Jewish Ex-Service League at the Jewish Guild, Bree and Von Brandis Streets, Johannesburg. For the next Sunday afternoon concert, which takes place on the 27th April, a fine show is booked to appear. Amongst the artists who are giving their services are The Revelers Dance Band, Miss Hall, vocalist; the Furman Sisters, instrumentalists; Lorna Silverman, dancer; Bertha Berman, crooner; Rhona Fuhr, pianist; and many others. This promises to be a very fine performance.

Once again an appeal is made for artists to contribute items at these concerts. There are no doubt many able and willing to perform, who do not appreciate just how great the demand for entertainers is, and how much the soldiers enjoy these concerts. An appeal is made, therefore, to all artists, anxious to give of their time and services in order to entertain the lads who are "doing their bit," to come forward. Those willing to do so are kindly asked to communicate with Mr. Harold Miller at the Jewish Guild, Von Brandis Street, Johannesburg. Telephone: 22-2771.

The Saturday night dances organised by the Ex-Service League at the Jewish Guild are proving a great success and are eagerly looked forward to by the soldiers on week-end leave.

PASSOVER AT SONDERWATER

A Kosher Kitchen at Camp

AT Sonderwater, Padre I. Levinson, the Senior Jewish Chaplain, was instrumental in setting up a Kosher kitchen for the duration of the Festival. Some idea of the appreciation felt by the soldiers at the arrangements made for them at Sonderwater during the period is given in the following letter, written by one of the lads in camp there.

"THE question as to whether it is possible for the Jewish men on active service to observe the dietary laws of their religion while in the Union's training camps, has been answered once and for all. It has been done! Not only have Jewish soldiers been supplied with a strictly kosher meal, but they have had nothing but kosher food over the most difficult period of the whole year—the eight days of Passover.

"At the S.A.M.C Depot at Sonderwater, the Senior Chaplain to the Forces, Padre I. Levenson, in collaboration with the camp authorities, who readily gave us every facility, and with the encouragement and support of Rabbi W. Hirsch, of Pretoria, not forgetting the Pretoria Jewish community, arranged a separate mess for all the Jewish men stationed there.

"Most Jewish soldiers were given leave for the first two days of Yomtov, but for the rest of the holiday period they had their meals in the

Shaul Hall, which had been turned into a dining room and kitchen, where all food was cooked and served under strictly kosher conditions. The kitchen was under the supervision of the Rev. J. Potashnik, who with his staff of Jewish cooks, kept unceasing watch over the Kashruth.

No milk or butter was served, but the rest of the food, which included poultry, smoked meats, fish, eggs, cucumbers, fruits, wine and even chrain, made a welcome change from the usual "balanced army diet." An average of 100 men in uniform were served at each sitting.

"The last night of Yomtov was guest night. Owing to the exigencies of the service, the O.C. and many of his staff, who had accepted the invitation to be present, were unable to attend and so the Adjutant (Capt. Reynolds), was the guest of honour. He was accompanied by the Q.M. (Capt. Mair) and other officers.

(Concluded at foot of first column)