

NEWS FROM THE YISHUV

Despatched from Jerusalem on May 12th

A PALESTINE VOLUNTEER CORPS

Draft Ordinance Enacted

As reported briefly in the "Zionist Record" of 16th May, a Gazette Extraordinary has been published enacting the draft Ordinance, published as a Bill some months ago, empowering the High Commissioner, at any time which he deems fit in the light of conditions prevailing, to establish the Palestine Volunteer Corps, the purpose of which will be to assist the regular armed forces of His Majesty in all matters connected with the prosecution of the war and the maintenance of law and order in the country.

The High Commissioner may accept for this Corps any British subject or Palestine citizen wishing to enrol and offering his services to His Majesty. Nothing will oblige the High Commissioner to accept the services of any person. The High Commissioner will have the power from time to time to determine the number of officers and men and the internal organisation.

The Corps will consist of a combatant unit, a reserve unit, and a unit for vital services. An oath of loyalty must be taken.

EMERGENCY SURGERY IN W.I.Z.O. SCHOOL

TWO rooms in the building of the W.I.Z.O. Domestic Science School at Nachlat Itzhak have been placed at the disposal of the Tel-Aviv Municipality for an emergency surgery. The school is continuing with its regular classes.

PALESTINE EXHIBITION IN CAIRO

THE Palestine Government is organising a Palestine Government Industrial Exhibition at Cairo. Its primary object will be to make accessible in Cairo a representative selection of goods made in Palestine, so that the military authorities as well as the civilian merchants will be able to see how far their needs can be met in Palestine.

Opening early in July, the exhibition will display Palestine goods until the end of the year.

Jewish Sea-Faring Helps The War Effort

Palestine's Ships and Sailors on Imperial Service

THE Jewish maritime effort, which was only initiated a few short years ago, has already played a most useful role in the country's war effort. Palestine ships and sailors are on Imperial service on the Eastern Mediterranean shores, in addition to other dangerous tasks undertaken. It will be remembered that seventeen Jewish sailors were drowned when the ss. Har Zion was sunk by enemy action in the Atlantic.

The availability of 2,000 trained longshoremen and boatmen made it possible for the British military authorities to raise a useful unit of Jewish stevedores for service in the Middle East. The Nautical School at the Haifa Hebrew Technion, established jointly by the Marine Department of the

Jewish Agency (with Keren Hayesod Funds) and the Jewish Maritime League, continues its vocational training of prospective Jewish mariners. In addition, 400 youths are being trained for seafaring in Tel-Aviv, Haifa and elsewhere, where 70 sailing craft and boats are available for the purpose.

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA VISITS EGYPT

THE Palestine Symphony Orchestra has returned from its third Egyptian concert tour of the season. Twelve concerts were given in eight days, four of which were for the public, six for the Army and Navy, and two special educational concerts.

Italian prisoners were the audience at a special concert for war wounded given by the Orchestra. Some of the musicians also gave recitals on the Egyptian radio.

The Orchestra has been invited for another Egyptian tour in October.

238 GRADUATES FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY

AT the annual gathering of the Association of Hebrew University Graduates, it was stated that 238 men and women had graduated, of whom 80 are teachers, 33 scientists, and 25 are employed at the University itself; one is a rabbi and one a policeman.

"KOFER HAYISHUV" AND EMERGENCY FUND AMALGAMATE

A MEETING of the Executive of the Vaad Leumi with the Central Committees of "Kofer Hayishuv" (Jewish Redemption Fund) and "Mas Herum" (Emergency Voluntary Tax Fund) has considered a proposal to undertake a joint financial effort by both funds, the general view advanced by those present being that the speedy fulfilment of this aim is essential under the circumstances. A comprehensive plan in this connection is to be worked out.

SOLDIERS CONTRIBUTE TO JEWISH AVIATION EFFORT

JEWISH soldiers serving on the Middle East front have sent to the Histadruth project to create a civil aviation undertaking in the name of the late Dov Hos and Isaac Ben-Yaakov donations on behalf of special groups. One of these groups, Jewish drivers in a military unit in the Western Desert, collected £18 out of their wages for this purpose.

A NEW JEWISH UNIT

A NEW Jewish unit for the defence of Palestine, consisting of 150 men, is to be formed this week.

ARMY BUYING ORANGE CROP

THE bulk of this year's Valencia orange crop will be purchased by the Army, following the conclusion of negotiations between the authorities and Jewish and Arab contractors through the medium of the Citrus Marketing Board. The total crop is estimated at 220,000 cases. Contracts have been signed for the purchase of 140,000 cases, and agreements for the sale of another 40,000 are pending. The price is 13s. per case.

INFANT MORTALITY DECREASE

THE University - Hadassah - Rothschild Hospital on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem reached a record last year in securing a decrease of infant mortality in its premises. Of the 1,279 live births in the Hospital during 1940, only 16 died, or 1.25 per cent.

This was the lowest infant mortality rate at this Hospital for the past ten years, and is also the lowest for all other hospitals in the country, except the Kupat Cholim Hospital at Affuleh, where the rate was even lower.

The world infant mortality rate of 2 per cent. is considered a very low figure.

1,000 JEWISH WORKMEN IN MACHINE PRODUCTION

THE steel-forging and casting, tool-producing, and machine manufacturing trades in Palestine now employ 1,000 Jewish hands, it is stated, and there is every sign that these branches are to expand still further. The casting of bronze (containing a nickel alloy), aluminium, etc., has been initiated in recent months. The completed ingots and other goods are of high quality and by no means inferior to the imported European article.

CUTHBERT'S for MEN'S and BOYS' CRICKET BOOTS