

LINE OF COMMUNICATION

CONDUCTED BY "THE ADJUTANT"

All Communications to be Addressed to P.O. Box 2000.

We would remind readers of the Record of Jewish War Services which is being compiled by the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies. Information is required as to regimental number, rank, full name, and unit of Jews serving in the Forces as well as home address.

M. for Upington Boy.

Sgt. C. S. (Hymie) Hummel, S.A.M.C., 24-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Hummel, of Upington, has been awarded the Military Medal for outstanding services in Italy. He is said to be the first volunteer in the Gordonia district to be thus decorated. He has two brothers on active service, one of whom is a prisoner of war. Hummel, who is with the Sixth Division, was born and educated in Upington, where he has many friends among all sections of the community, all of whom are proud of the distinction conferred on their townsman. He is an active Zionist, Sgt. Hummel, during the war, excelled on the sports field, and he has, since he has been in the army, won his prowess as an athlete.

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"Purple Heart."

The "Purple Heart," one of the highest distinctions in the American Army, has been awarded to H. Jacobson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson, of Johannesburg, originally from Germany. This young German Jew distinguished himself during the fighting in Italy, and the award was made in recognition of his great gallantry. He was wounded in Italy. He has a brother and brother-in-law in the South African Forces up North.

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Efficiency Medal.

Sgt. H. Kapelus, to whom has been awarded the Efficiency Medal, enlisted in 1940, in the Coastal Artillery. He was transferred to the Ack-Ack and is now acting as a signaller at A.A.T.C., Ottery. He was to go to the Sixth Division, when it left the country, but it was recalled at the last minute on his present duties. His parents, who reside in Calvinia, have another son in the army—Sgt. N. Kapelus. He is attached to the Engineers.

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Notes.

Mr. Leon Segal, S.A.A.F., son of Mr. and Mrs. Segal, Sea Point, who is serving in Italy, has received his third pip. Captain Segal has been in the Service since the early days of the war. My congratulations also go to his younger brother, Maurice, who, I am glad to hear, has just won his "wings." Maurice is present on embarkation leave.

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Travellers.

"In the Army and See the World," is an appropriate slogan, and many boys who, during the war, had never gone beyond the confines of their hometown, let alone outside their own country, have had the opportunity of seeing different parts of the world. Sgt. Hymie Hummel, of an anti-tank regiment of the Royal Artillery (he hails from Manchester), in a letter to his uncle, Mr. S. Hummel, of the African Theatres, who is also a resident of Lancashire's capital, says that the army has made him into a bit of a traveller. "It suits him, as he 'is interested in seeing about different countries.'" Young Hymie has seen much service and is currently in Italy. Although he is enjoying the life of a soldier, it is only natural that he yearns for his home and his people. "The war has been on five years, and I think five years is long enough for anyone," he writes. "We all agree with him. He does not know what part of Italy he is operating in, but he says, 'all these villages have had a bash about us and the Jerries. They are mostly little, narrow-streeted affairs, but you would be surprised to see how well-dressed and modern the young Italian girls are.'"

A Victory Fair.

Captain M. Natas, Cape Command's Jewish chaplain, leaves on Monday for Pretoria in connection with the "Speed the Victory Fair" which is being held from 25th November to 2nd December, and at which the Jewish Chaplaincy is to be represented. Photographs illustrating the work of the chaplains, as well as religious articles used in the field by the soldiers and their spiritual heads will be on display in the "Churches Section" of the U.D.F.

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Chaplains' Movements.

Captain L. R. Dison, recently stationed at the Jewish Chaplaincy, Voortrekkerhoogte, has been transferred to Durban Fortress Command.

Captain J. Green has been posted to the Middle East.

Rev. C. L. Matz is now stationed at Premier Mine.

Padre S. Ernst has been appointed Senior Jewish Chaplain to the Sixth Division, vice Captain I. Hickman, who has arrived back in the Union.

Captain R. Rechtman has been posted to the Sixth Division.

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"Jews in Uniform."

According to "Jews in Uniform," published by the War Efforts Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, 35 Canadian Jews, who are serving in the army, navy and air force, have been decorated or mentioned in dispatches since the outbreak of war. Other features in the publication, which, by the way, is the only one of its kind in the world, are news about Jewish men on various fronts with the Canadian forces and a lengthy casualty list. The total number of Jewish casualties in this war has reached 313.

Another interesting item is that for the first time in history four rabbis are serving with a Canadian expeditionary force, while four others are in the Canadian Chaplain Services in the Dominion.

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Servicewomen Entertained.

I was present at a happy little party in the City Hall Library on Thursday of last week. The occasion was an "At Home" given by the Cape Town Branch of the Union of Jewish Women to Jewish women members of the forces and their Gentile friends. The idea originated with Captain M. Natas, the Jewish padre of the Cape Command, who always wanted to get our girls on service to meet members of an organisation who are



Sgt. C. S. HUMMEL, S.A.M.C.

also doing much useful work for the general war effort. Further, there are so many girls in uniform who never meet one another, and it was the Padre's idea to get them together at a social function. The Union of Jewish Women immediately took up the idea, with the result that there was a fine turnout. Each girl invited brought along a Gentile comrade and, or nearly two hours they enjoyed social intercourse, larded with vocal and instrumental music and tasty eats (and, of course, suitable drinks).

All Units Represented.

Every branch of the women's services was represented, full and part-time. There were 15 full-time officers present (11 of whom were non-Jewish). I noticed Major (Miss) Wolfe, the O.C., W.A.A.S., Cape Command, who was accompanied by officers of that unit. I also saw the O.C., W.A.A.F. Detachment (Young's Field). There was but a small squad of mere males; Professor Rabbi Israel Abrahams (who paid a tribute to the work of the women generally for the war effort and of the Union in particular), Mr. Leon Segal, Chairman of the Cape Committee of the Deputies, Captain I. Hickman (who has just arrived from Italy), Captain A. L. Kowarsky, Staff Officer and Adjutant to Brigadier Borain, Captain M. Natas and Captain I. Whitesman. It was a most enjoyable affair and Mrs. B. A. Levitas (who welcomed the guests and referred to the fine spirit of co-operation that existed between the Jewish and Gentile members of the forces), and her ladies of the Committee are to be congratulated on the success achieved.

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Request from University of the Witwatersrand.

The Executive Committee of Convocation of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, is making every endeavour to record the names of all members of staff and past and present students of the University, who are, or have been, on active service during this war. From press references, letters and similar sources of information, a list of nearly 1,500 names has been compiled. There are, however, many more—especially past students of this University or its predecessors—and friends or relatives are kindly asked to send names and full relevant information as soon as possible to W. Grant Mackenzie, President of Convocation, University of the Witwatersrand, P.O. Box 7770, Johannesburg.

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Social for Relatives.

Under the auspices of the Cape Committee of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, a "Social" will be held in the Zionist Hall next Thursday at 4.30 p.m., to which are invited parents and relatives of men serving with the Sixth Division in Italy. This will give them the opportunity of meeting Capt. I. Hickman, Jewish Chaplain to the Division, who has just come down, and who has many personal messages to deliver. Capt. Hickman will also give an address which will be of great interest to those who have relatives with the Union forces in Italy. Prisoners of war who recently arrived home are also being invited.

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Arrived in Cape Town.

Bombardier Ralph Cohen and Pte. Herbert German, who escaped to Switzerland from Italian P.O.W. camps, have arrived in Cape Town.

IN MEMORIAM.

BUCH.—In loving remembrance of my dearly beloved second eldest son, Isidore Lionel, who was killed on service (S.A.A.F.) in a crash in North Africa on the 27th November, 1942. He died that others may live, and may they be influenced by the example set to them to lead a less selfish life and prove themselves worthy of the supreme sacrifice made for them.—Inserted by his father, who will mourn for him as long as he lives—M. Buch, 7 London Road, Sea Point (formerly of Laingsburg).