

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Saved Many Lives

DAVID GUZIK, J.D.C., Director in Warsaw, whose tragic death in a plane accident near Prague was reported in the news columns of the "Zionist Record," was a revered figure among Polish Jewry.

His name will always be linked with the Warsaw Ghetto, where he saved the lives of nearly 5,000 Jews by providing them with forged Aryan documents. Last year he rescued no fewer than 380 Jewish children from various Catholic institutions and homes in Poland. Among them was 12-year-old Mirjam Hornstein, grandchild of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Shneerson, who is now living in America. Mirjam is at present in London.

Recently Guzik flew from Warsaw to Paris for a conference with Dr. Joseph Schwartz, European Director of the J.D.C., now visiting Johannesburg, with the object of arranging for the transfer, from Poland to France, of 150 Jewish children.

When he met his death he was also on a mission of mercy. He was flying from Paris to Prague to organize relief for 1,500 destitute Polish Jews who had fled from Poland to Czechoslovakia.

David Goldblatt

MR. S. J. JUDELOWITZ, well-known scholar and bibliographer, has published some interesting details of the life of David Goldblatt, a well-known Yiddish journalist, who died in New York recently.

David Goldblatt came to South Africa towards the close of the 19th century, at the age of 21. He settled in Cape Town, and when war broke out began to publish "Der Krig Shtafet," the first and only Yiddish daily ever to be published in South Africa. In 1904 he launched the "Yiddisher Advokat," a Cape Town Yiddish weekly, which valiantly stood its ground for ten years.

He was a great friend of N. D. Hofman, a journalist colleague, and together they were responsible for various publications. One of Goldblatt's major achievements was the issue of 12 chapters of an illustrated

lexicon in Yiddish. In 1915 Goldblatt left for America, where he successfully continued with Yiddish journalism.

One of his sons is a Supreme Court judge in South-West Africa. His daughter is the well-known Sarah Goldblatt, erstwhile secretary to Langenhoven, the celebrated Afrikaans poet and writer. When he died he made her executrix of his literary works. At that time his poem "Die Stem van Suid Africa" had not yet become South Africa's national anthem, and when this was later decided upon after his death, the permission of Sarah Goldblatt had first to be asked.

David Goldblatt will be remembered by many a pioneer who came to this country at the beginning of this century. He did a great deal for the establishment of Yiddish journalism in this country, and was also a fighter against assimilation in the Jewish life.

Symbolic

DURING their tour of the holy places in the old city of Jerusalem, the members of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry visited the ancient Churva Synagogue, founded by Rabbi Yehuda Hachossid, and, according to my Jerusalem correspondent, were deeply impressed by the warm welcome extended to them.

They were met by Chief Rabbi Benzion Uziel and representatives of the Jewish Community Board, while a cantor chanted psalms.

The Chief Rabbi greeted the members of the Committee with the Hebrew words "Boachem le-Shalom," adding, "may the Almighty guide you with good counsel so that you shall give the just and righteous sentence that the ancient Jewish people shall return to its homeland."

Rabbi Tukoczinsky pronounced the priestly blessing and said: "From this synagogue named 'Churva' to symbolise the return of the Jewish people to rebuild their ruined homeland we wish the members of the Committee the best of luck. May through them the persecuted Jewish people find shelter in their homeland."

Pioneer Cameraman

I WONDER how many in this country remember Joe Rosenthal, who died in London a few days ago at the age of 83. He was the pioneer cameraman, who took newsreel pictures of the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902. I believe he was the first man in the world to do so.

He had many "scoops" while he was here. I recall that one of them was a newsreel interview with President Kruger.

Many of his pictures dealt with the main scenes of the fighting, especially in the vicinity of Ladysmith and Pretoria. Another is devoted to the surrender of Kroonstad. He "shot" them all from a cumbersome apparatus on a bullock cart.

Years later he made some other African films, including one on big game hunting.

After he left South Africa he made pictures of the Russo-Japanese War, and his newsreel of the siege of Port Arthur calls for particular mention. In order to do so he had to be attached to the Japanese Army.

Rosenthal also made films on other subjects. To him belongs the credit of producing one of Britain's first documentaries, "A Trip to the White Sea."

Incidentally, all this reminds me that the activities of Jews who fought in the Anglo-Boer War, both on the British and Boer fronts, have not as yet been fully recorded. Should such an account ever be compiled it would certainly reveal the interesting part the Jew played in that particular war.

S.A.

A NEW racket which has caused quite a sensation is reported from Berlin. Documents purporting to show that their grandmothers were Jewish, are being bought and sold by German Aryans at a price ranging from 7,000 marks upwards.

These forged documents entitle the holders to preferential treatment as victims of Nazi persecution.



I shall certainly

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Mayoress Visits "Our Parents Home"



The Mayoress (second from left) accompanied by representatives of the Union of Jewish Women, paid a visit to "Our Parents Home" recently. In the foreground is the model of the new home to be erected shortly.