

# From Near And Far

By Ben Dor

## Berlin Philharmonic Violinist in Tel Aviv

MR. SIMON GOLDBERG, the noted violinist, who is now playing with the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra, was met on his arrival in Palestine by his brother, the only surviving member of the family. The two brothers have not seen each other for eight years, during which time both had been in concentration camps, the violinist in Japan and his brother in Germany.

Goldberg, who was at one time leader of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, fled from Germany in 1938 just after a warrant for his arrest had been issued. Goebbels had instructed Furtwaengler, conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, to remove "this Jew at least from the post of leader of the Orchestra."

He joined Hindemith and Feuermann in a trio which toured Europe.

When war broke out the violinist was caught in Java and sent to a Japanese concentration camp, where he spent three years until liberated by the U.S. Army. By then only 2,000 prisoners were left alive of the original 14,000, the rest having been starved to death.

Mr. Goldberg told the "Palestine Post" how he saved his precious Stradivarius from the Japanese. The violin was smuggled from one tent to another until one of the prisoners managed to get it out of the camp and gave it for safe keeping to a Swiss family living in Java. An ordinary instrument was found, and Goldberg gave concerts on this for his fellow-prisoners.

After his liberation the violinist joined the British Army, in which he served as a captain until the end of the war. He has since returned to the concert platform, and his present tour includes Holland,

(Continued from previous column)

to become familiar symptoms during the next ten days. All we could do, then and later, was to put wet rags below their hearts and bite our lips.

At sundown I was going to my room when I heard a young voice from the starboard lifeboat moaning, "Mama, mama." I ran over to see the dentist standing helplessly by a girl of 17, who was flushed with fever. It was appendicitis. We rushed her to my cabin, afraid to say what we were thinking.

A crew member found a new spot for my bunk. It was to be a canvas sheet, four feet square, stretching above the bridge from the mast to the portside light. I climbed up and held fast to its sides to avoid sliding into the sea. The captain shouted up another cheering good-night message; we were to pass the straights of Messina in the morning. Everyone would have to stay below at least three hours to avoid detection.

I closed my eyes to block out the vision of that hold with a thousand people in it for three hours. But the vision would go away.

France, Switzerland, England and the United States.

"During my years of imprisonment," Mr. Goldberg told the "Palestine Post," "I often thought of Palestine, where I played in 1940. I hope to give at least one concert at Mishmar Haemek, the communal settlement which made a great impression on me."

## Stinging Retort

DOROTHY PARKER, nee Rothschild, famous author, playwright and critic, has become an almost legendary figure in American life. Many wisecracks of the higher orders have been attributed to her bitingly witty tongue.

She has been the constant target of jests and gibes, but not one sally aimed at her has ever found her without an equally sarcastic retort. At a society dinner she entered the dining room together with a beautiful lady playwright, who was annoyed at the ebullient Parker. As they were about to enter the banquet hall, the playwright stepped aside with the comment: "Age before beauty."

"Pearls before the swine," retorted Mrs. Parker neatly, and sailed in on the outraged breath of the playwright.

## Saved 50,000 Jews

THE work of Mr. Charles Lutz, Swiss Vice-Consul in Palestine in 1939-40, in helping to save 50,000 Jews during the German occupation of Hungary, is the subject of a White Paper recently published by the Hungarian Government.

The White Paper states that Mr. Lutz was at the time Chief of the Department of Foreign Interests (including British) at the Swiss Legation in Budapest.

In April, 1944, Mr. Lutz was approached by Mr. M. Krausz, the Jewish Agency representative in Budapest for Jewish emigration from Hungary to Palestine. Mr. Krausz pointed out that Palestine came within the sphere of British interests and asked Mr. Lutz to help prevent the deportation of Jews and to obtain permission for 8,000 to make their way to Palestine.

Though they agreed to the emigration of the 8,000, the Germans put into force their plans for the deportation of the remainder of Hungarian Jews.

Mr. Lutz and his colleagues continued their work, and issued a collective passport and letters of protection for the 8,000 emigrants. But thousands more stormed the Swiss offices to secure the life-saving papers that the Nazis said they would respect.

The deportations began, and thousands of Jews started their journey on foot to the west. Mr. Krausz implored the Swiss to extend the number of letters of protection. Again Mr. Lutz did not hesitate, and though there are no exact details of how many letters of protection were issued, the White Paper states, "because of the Swiss action, approximately 50,000 Jews were saved."

Eventually forgeries of the letters led to the Hungarian and

German authorities carrying out searches and deporting a number of people, some of whom held genuine papers. Mr. Lutz and his assistants did all in their power to obstruct the searches and attempted to gain time by saying that they themselves would check all documents. The ruse succeeded for the Russian Army was then already throwing the German forces back.

Tribute to Mr. Lutz and his officials, "whose lives were endangered on a number of occasions," is paid by the White Paper, which adds that the rescue of the Hungarian Jews was started by the Swiss, and it was only later that the Swedish, Portuguese and Spanish legations and the Papal Nunciature assisted.

## Ex-Servicemen Must Fight Bigotry

THE fact that 60,000 Jews from the United Kingdom served in H.M. Forces during the war was stressed by Major Joseph Weber, chairman of the executive of the Monash branch of the British Legion, addressing the first post-war annual dinner, held in London recently. Among those present were Major-General A. J. Boase, C.B.E., G.O.C. Australian Army Staff in Britain; Alderman C. S. Steel, F.C.A., J.P., Mayor of St. Marylebone; Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P., vice-president of the Monash branch; Rabbi Israel Brodie, Senior Jewish Chaplain to the Forces; Major C. E. Williams, president of the Central London District of the British Legion, and Mr. A. E. Hocking, chairman of the Metropolitan area of the British Legion.

Major Weber further revealed that the number of Jews who served in H.M. Forces was in proportion far in advance of other denominations, and a great number of Jewish serving men and women had been decorated for gallantry.

Mr. Barnett Janner, proposing the toast to the guest of honour, Major-General Boase, declared that the Jewish community welcomed this opportunity of paying tribute to Australia and honouring the name of General Sir John Monash.

During the course of his reply, Major-General Boase said that he "wished the Jewish race every opportunity to live in peace and happiness in the future. I hope it will not be long," he declared, "before some solution is worked out to satisfy the destitute and down-trodden people in Europe."

Squadron-Leader Bernard B. Gillis, D.F.C., member of the executive, said that Jewish servicemen and ex-servicemen were distressed by the vile campaign of libel and slander against the Jewish name which was beginning again in England. "We are not merely distressed," he said, "but disillusioned, and find it necessary to speak in public against the defamations expressed." He asked the British Legion to help remove this "cancer," and to urge a spirit of tolerance among their members. "There can be no peace in a world where intolerance and bigotry are allowed," he went on. "It can only bring misery to our community and distress to the country."

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