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"I Would Not Stay In Austria For Ten Minutes"

By Zachary Gransky

THE youthful lieutenant-colonel tilted back on his chair and said thoughtfully, almost to himself, "No, if I were a Jew I wouldn't stay in Austria ten minutes."

He was the American officer presently in charge of Displaced Persons camps in the U.S. zone of Austria, and he was describing to the writer the conditions the Jews face as inmates of the camps.

They must look forward to a winter without fuel for the camps and with the same official ration—1,550 calories daily—as the Austrians, although in Germany D.P.'s get preferential rations. They are entirely at the tender mercies of the Austrian Government—a Government which has openly expressed its resentment at having to provide for displaced persons and many of whose members are privately still strongly anti-Semitic. They are presently in the midst of an administrative tangle with the U.S. Army, eager to withdraw from all responsibility for the camps, and the Preparatory Commission of IRO professes not yet ready to take over that responsibility.

Officials of the Jewish Agency, the immigration underground and the American Army alike agree that the plight of the 20,000-odd Jews at present in Austria is far worse than that of their brethren in the D.P. camps of Germany and, perhaps, worse than that of Jews anywhere else in Europe, possibly excepting Rumania.

Underground officials have disclosed to this correspondent that, because of the inadequacy of the camps here, the lack of any fuel outside of black market channels, and the starvation rations, they are seeking to move as many Jews as possible from Austria to Germany before winter begins.

The Army here is perfectly cognizant of the illegal movement of Jews across the Austrian border into Bavaria. As one officer said, "I have been told that my mission is neither to help nor to hinder such illegal movement. Of course, I am aware that it is constantly going on. But, insofar as I can, I look the other way and ignore the movement."

Films On Anti-Semitism May Do More Harm Than Good

MUCH has been written on the value of films as a means of fighting anti-Semitism. The following viewpoint expressed by Andhil Fineberg may be startling and pessimistic but it is at least original.

The film "Crossfire," (he says) is a thriller and a murder mystery, and what several of the characters have to say against intolerance is a balm to all who find prejudice hurtful. But in "Crossfire," the American Jew has been portrayed by a symbolic character, as someone who is liable to be killed simply because he is a Jew. A few weeks hence we shall have American Jews pictured on the screen in "Gentlemen's Agreement" as persons to whom people do not want to rent or sell their property.

If these are box-office successes, we may soon find the Jew presented on the screen as someone whose windows are smashed; as someone to whom jobs are refused;

However, it has been learned that officials of the United States forces in Austria definitely do not look the other way when there is illegal movement in the other direction—of Jews from Germany through Austria on the way to Italy, and thence, Palestine.

Seeking to avoid an increase in the number of charges in their care, border guards have been instructed to turn any Jews back and the Austrian border police, as well, works vigorously to stop illegal movement of the Jewish D.P.'s south from Bavaria.

At the same time, the U.S. occupation authorities in Germany are exerting considerable effort to prevent the migration from Austria, likewise as a result of a determination to prevent the D.P. population in Germany from increasing.

Underground officials express considerable bitterness over the two separate Army commands—in Germany and Austria—working, in effect, against each other and as though they represented separate governments.

"As a result," they say, "the difficulties of our job are greatly increased. Not only are we faced with the hostility of the German and Austrian officials, but actually with the hostility of the rival American commands. The Americans seem to work so closely with the Austrians and Germans that they often identify themselves with them and against us. It seems to us that this is a definite misconception of their jobs."

There is also considerable bitterness evident among the Jews in the United States zone of Austria over American toleration of an Austrian Government compulsory labour act which would require the Jews, as well as other D.P.'s, to work while they are in Austria. "How can the American Army think that the Jews would work to rebuild Austria when we remember that the Austrians were even worse than the Germans in their anti-Semitism and in their persecution of our people?"

as someone unwelcome at the colleges; as someone mistreated in many other ways. In all of these pictures anti-Jewish scurrilities must be spoken. Some of the film characters will denounce anti-Semitism but the Jews will be fixed in the public mind as persons most likely to be disliked. As for the exhortations against the abuse, scientific research indicates that such preaching has negligible effect.

To employ mass propaganda emphasising a rising tide of prejudice against any minority group has a boomerang effect upon prejudiced or wavering elements. It creates the impression of group support for the individual's hostility. The hater or near-hater feels he is not alone, that he has many allies.

The surest way for a group to become a scapegoat is to have itself regarded as the natural victim of adverse emotions. That, in fact, is the kernel of the scapegoating process.



For The Fi

FOR the first time the famous B... Orchestra, directed by... sewitsky, played in... for the first time... the Waldorf Astor... orchestra played in... (states a message... to the "Zionist Re...

Two thousand... paid 250 dollars... this event. The... invigorating, the... dinner was in hon... birthday of Dr. Cha... It was here that Sh... nados danced the... ceeds of the dinner... the Weizmann Scie...

Incidentally, I... Weizmann's auto... be published soon... a well-known Am... A Jewish daily... negotiating the... tion rights for 250...

Ro... a M...

by M...

THIS celebrat... name is of... gin. It is derived... of the city of Hall... berg, Germany... great economic imp... Middle Ages. Hall... The city boasted... source from which... tilled great quant... cial salt.

Salt is an impo... ty even to-day, b... parably more in... Middle Ages. I... played to preserve... perishable viands... other preservative... when refrigeration... been thought of.

Hall had a sizea... pulation. They pro... merce and in barki... fate soon caught... They aroused the... envy of their non... bours. When the... broke out in 1349... began to circulate... that the Jews had... city's wells, the sa... which the Jews th... their drinking wa... the Gentiles fell... murdering and plu...

Only a few su... themselves by figh...

There were two... from Hall who took...



from NEAR and FAR BY BEN DOR

The First Time

...time in its history ... Boston Symphony ... directed by Serge Kusevic ... in a hotel, and ... in the history of ... Astoria a symphony ... in its ball-room ... from New York ... Record").

... prominent people ... each to attend ... The atmosphere was ... food superb. The ... honour of the 73rd ... Dr. Chaim Weizmann. ... at Shertok and Gra- ... the hora. The pro- ... dinnor were in aid of ... Scientific Institute.

... I learn that Dr. ... autobiography is to ... sops in English by ... American publisher. ... ily in New York is ... he Yiddish transla- ... or 25,000 dollars.

Fewer Jews are Alcoholic

A CALIFORNIA psychologist reported to the American Psychological Association that his investigations had shown that American Jews, though apparently using alcohol as frequently as other Americans, produced far less alcoholics because Jews drink for social and business reasons rather than for escape.

Donald D. Glad, of San Jose College, reported to the 55th annual convention of the association on a study undertaken to learn why Chinese and Jews are almost free from inebriety, while Scandinavians, Mexicans and Irish produce excessive numbers of inebriates.

The basis of the study, reported in a paper read before the Association, was an examination of 147 male high school seniors, including Jews, Irish and a control group of third generation American Protestants.

Glad said the results, presumably in the form of reports by the students on their observations in their own social and family circles, indicated tentatively that while Jews prefer wines to high-proof liquors, this factor did not account for the sharp differences in alcoholism.

Noted Art Collector Returns

MR. HENRI LIDCHI, the well-known art collector, has returned to Johannesburg after a six-months tour of Europe.

He spent a considerable time in his native country, France, where he was happily reunited with members of his family, whom he had not seen since the outbreak of the war. He also visited Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Persia and Italy and acquired some valuable art collections.

Mr. Lidchi told the "Zionist Record" that while in Paris he saw the exhibition by the South African artist, Irma Stern, which attracted a great deal of attention. He had found many changes in France since he last visited the country. Living conditions were very difficult, and people suffered greatly from the shortage of food.

According to Mr. Lidchi, France's new premier, M. Robert Schuman, is of Jewish descent, although he is not as closely associated with Jewish life as M. Leon Blum, who, as a great democrat, is still a beloved and respected figure among the French masses.

From One Task to Another

RIGHT in the midst of the fighting on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border, a Haganah schooner managed to reach the mouth of the Yarkon river carrying 300 "illegal" immigrants. It has become a usual thing for Haganah boats to bring Jews to Palestine, but the story of how men of a Haganah squad rushed from the fighting line to the shore of the river in order to land the immigrants, is one of those heroic episodes worth repeating.

Said the commander of a Haganah unit in charge of the operation:

"On the day before the landing my men were all engaged till 9 p.m. in most difficult and dangerous tasks along the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border.

"I allowed them only three hours rest and told them of the new task awaiting them only 10 minutes before action started. I ordered them to dig in at a certain point of the Tel Aviv shore. Firearms were given out to them.

"Fortunately, the sky was overcast and only here and there was the intense darkness pierced by British searchlights," he continued. "At 3 a.m., I noticed a flicker of light out at sea. The

light was immediately put out but I knew that the vessel had succeeded in breaking through the blockade. Fifteen minutes later, the boat stopped at a distance of 100 metres from the shore. I sent out several launches to disembark the arrivals. Fortunately, the sea was calm.

"When my people boarded the 'Haportzim' (Blockade Runner) the captain and crew, all Palestinians whom we had known for a long time, embraced and kissed them.

"The first to be disembarked were four pregnant women and a sick man. They were brought ashore on stretchers. The operation was carried out in dead silence. British armoured cars passing the spot failed to notice anything. We knew that there would be only few British patrols about since most of them were engaged on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border, and we were ready to deal with a small force that might have opposed us. Disembarkation lasted 45 minutes and over 300 people were brought ashore. In addition to disembarking the arrivals, my men were also charged with providing temporary shelter for them.

"When all had left, the 'Haportzim' weighed anchor and we took leave of the crew with the greeting 'Teschuv Beshalom'. Most of the refugees have come from France, Algiers and Rumania. In the early hours of the morning, we took a rest in a cafe in the heart of Tel Aviv," he concluded.

Played Piano for Duke of Windsor

The death has taken place in Cape Town of Miss Raye Levin, the well-known dance pianist, after an illness lasting three years.

Miss Levin formed the first all-women's orchestra in Cape Town, and played the piano at Government House and at Admiralty House, Simonstown, for private dances for the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales. During the war, Miss Levin organised many entertainments for troops.

Palestine Musician to Play With Cape Town Orchestra

A RECENT arrival from Palestine is Wolfgang Simon, a 24-year-old musician who has come to South Africa to take up the position of clarinet player with the Cape Town Municipal Orchestra.

Originally from Germany, where he took an active role in the Habonim movement, Wolfgang came to Palestine in 1939. On his arrival he studied music with a member of the Palestine Orchestra and on a few occasions played with the Orchestra. He later joined the army and was transferred to ENSA, with whom he toured the Middle East.

He has played with many well-known orchestras, such as the Middle East Symphony Orchestra, the Garrison Theatre Orchestra, the Royal Yugoslav Orchestra, and for a season he played with the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of the famous conductor, Bernardino Molinari.

While in the Middle East with ENSA he applied for the position with the Cape Town Orchestra.

When asked if he had relatives or friends in South Africa, Wolfgang answered in the negative, but added with a smile: "I met many South Africans during the war and I am sure that I will not have much difficulty in finding friends."

Romance of Name N. Pearlroth

By HELLER

This request name was sent in by Mr. H. J. Heller, Bothaville, O.F.S.

...related Jewish family ... of geographical ori- ... derived from the name ... of Hall, in Wurttem- ... any. The city had ... nic importance in the ... Hall means "Salt". ... tasted a rich saline ... which inhabitants dis- ... quantities of commer-

...important commodi- ... ay, but it was incom- ... e important in the It was then em- ... serve meats and other ... and. There was no ... vative in those days ... ration had not yet ... t of

...a sizeable Jewish po- ... ey prospered in com- ... n banking. But their ... ight up with them. ... d the cupidity and ... ir non-Jewish neigh- ... n the Great Plague ... 1349 their enemies ... culate a silly rumour ... ws had poisoned the ... the same wells from ... ws themselves drew ... g water. As a result ... fell upon the Jews ... nd plundering.

...ew survivors saved ... y flight.

...e two Jewish families ... ho took refuge in the

...independent duchy of Ansbach. They settled in a little market place, called Wallerstein, which is still in existence. They remained in Wallerstein for 200 years, and although Hall had treated their ancestors with shocking cruelty, they continued to call themselves after the name of the city of their ancestors. Heller is the old adjectival form of Hall.

The family has produced a large number of great Jewish personalities in the many centuries of its history. Outstanding among them was the great Yom Tob Heller, who was born in Wallerstein in 1579 and died as Chief Rabbi of Cracow, Poland, in 1654. He was a scholar of extraordinary distinction, who held rabbinical positions in some of the most important Jewish communities of his age.

He was arrested on a trumped-up charge of blasphemy by the German Emperor, Ferdinand II. He escaped with his life by paying a fine of 10,000 florins, an enormous sum for the period. In his will this great Jewish Rabbi directed all his descendants to commemorate his escape by observing a special annual fast day on the 5th day of Tammus, "as long as the name Heller shall endure".

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