

# Italy's "Battle of the Grail"      JEWS IN FRANCO SPAIN

## Justifying Her Claim to Palestine

Rome, June 23rd.

ITALY is now seeking to "liberate" the Holy Land and a campaign has begun here to justify the country's claim to Palestine.

The campaign was opened by the publication of a telegram to Mussolini signed by thirty Italian bishops in which they dedicated themselves to active participation in Italy's "battle of the Grail," and supplicated him to plant the glorious banner of Italy over the Holy Sepulchre as a sign of "the harmony of the civilised people of Christian and Imperial Rome."

This was followed by an article in the newspaper "Il Piccolo," explaining how King Victor Emmanuel has the right to succeed to the titles of King of Jerusalem and Cyprus.

In 1277, the article explains, Marie of Antioch ceded the Kingdom of Jerusalem to Angio, King of Naples.

There is little doubt here that the inspiration for this campaign to make Palestine Italian emanates from official quarters.

## 42 NEW FACTORIES IN A MONTH

Jerusalem, June 24th.

THE Hebrew press reports that during the month of May, no less than 42 new Jewish factories were established in Palestine.

## BLOCH ORATORIO PERFORMED IN JERUSALEM

### Jewish, British and Moslem Singers Participate

Jerusalem, June 24th.

JEWISH, British and Moslem singers participated in the performance here of Ernest Bloch's oratorio, "Avodath Kodesh," under the auspices of the World Centre for Jewish Music.

Forty Jewish, twenty British and ten Moslem singers took part in the performance. Among them was Mr. MacNair, Director of the Palestine Broadcasting Service.

The oratorio was commissioned by the late Mr. Felix M. Warburg, and is dedicated to Gerald Warburg.

## HAIFA ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS IN ACTION

Jerusalem, June 22nd.

EARLY this afternoon anti-aircraft guns were in action in Haifa against an unidentified 'plane which flew above the port. It was at first believed that the firing was only practice, but it appears that an enemy reconnaissance 'plane was sighted.

## YISHUV'S NEW EMERGENCY TAX

Jerusalem, June 19th.

THE Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council) has decided to proclaim a campaign to raise a sum of £300,000 to meet the needs of the Yishuv in war time. The money will be raised through a new emergency tax to be imposed upon Palestine Jewry.

## EXPORTS FROM PALESTINE PROHIBITED

Jerusalem, June 24th.

A SPECIAL Palestine Gazette published here prohibits all kinds of exports from Palestine.

## RED CROSS COMMISSIONER FOR MIDDLE EAST

Melbourne, June 22nd.

COLONEL Harold E. Cohen, a prominent member of the Australian Jewish community, has been appointed Australian Red Cross Commissioner for the Middle East.

Colonel Cohen commanded a brigade of the Australian forces in the World War and won the D.S.O. in 1917. He held Cabinet posts from 1932 to 1935. He offered his services to the Government at the outbreak of war and has been serving as Chairman of the committee administering canteens in military camps.

## GERMAN JEWS EMIGRATING TO U.S. THROUGH RUSSIA

Geneva, June 25th.

REPORTS from Berlin state that many German Jews with immigration visas for the United States are proceeding via Russia. Travel bureaux in Berlin are selling all-inclusive tickets to Manchukuo for 534 marks (£44 10s. at the official pre-war rate of exchange). The trains leave Berlin every Tuesday and Friday, and there is a three-hour stop at Moscow.

## Apostasy—or Discrimination?

London, June 23rd.

THE present situation in the Mediterranean once again focuses attention on the position of the Jews remaining in Spain under the Franco regime, says a correspondent in the "Jewish Chronicle."

Most of them are concentrated in Barcelona, where they number 500, as against 1,000 at the end of 1938. Before the civil war they numbered 5,000. The 1,000 Jews who remained when Franco took Barcelona were mainly traders and artisans, with little interest in political affairs, and mainly stateless or of Polish nationality. The German Jews among them were arrested by order of the Gestapo, but were soon released. The little synagogue was closed

down, and has not been reopened. (Recently it was broken into and desecrated, according to one account).

The 500 Jews who remain today live in an atmosphere of hostility, for they have been discriminated against and the press and wireless have conducted a violent anti-Jewish campaign. It is even reported that a law was to be issued for the expulsion of all Jews who entered the country after 1931.

Their only means of avoiding discrimination at present is—during the Inquisition—by conversion. Thus, in spite of Nazi influence, full-blooded racialism has not been adopted. Jews who become Catholics are safe—for the moment. Much will depend on war developments.

## VILNA UNIVERSITY AND HEBREW UNIVERSITY

Vilna, June 23rd.

THE fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem was celebrated here jointly with the eightieth anniversary of the birth of Theodor Herzl at a special ceremony at the University of Vilna.

This was the second Jewish function at the University, the first being the recent anniversary of the death of the Jewish writer, J. L. Peretz.

## "BRITISH JEWRY WILL FIGHT TO THE UTMOST" — Professor Brodetsky

London, June 24th.

AT a meeting of the British Board of Deputies Professor S. Brodetsky, the Chairman, uttered a pledge that British Jewry would fight to the utmost in order to attain the success of Britain in the present struggle.

## WIZO LOAN FUND ESTABLISHED

Tel-Aviv, June 23rd.

A CONSTRUCTIVE loan fund for WIZO members in all parts of Palestine is being established here, and a one-week drive for capital was launched.

WIZO members working in their own homes will be able to obtain loans for weaving materials or sewing machines, and their output will be sold for them at WIZO shops in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Last year loans totalling £25 were distributed, while this year the available capital is £1,000 three-quarters of which was granted by the World WIZO Organisation.

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