

# American Jewish Activities

(Special to the Zionist Record)

DESPATCHED ON JUNE 5th

## JEWISH HEROES IN AMERICAN ARMY

New York.

**T**RIBUTE to soldiers on active battle fronts and to those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country is contained in a new listing of "the honour roll" issued by the Jewish Welfare Board as part of its compilation of the record of American Jews in the war effort.

Those listed include Lieutenant Harry Schreiber, Galveston, Tex., given the Order of the Purple Heart. He is a bomber navigator who was wounded during a Pacific bombing mission but who has since returned to action. The Order of the Purple Heart was also awarded to Private Morris Rabinowitz, of Baltimore. Private Alexander Katchuk, Sacramento, Calif., received the Silver Star decoration from General MacArthur for gallantry in action while driving a truck under Japanese bombing in the Philippines.

## SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY.

Henry Morgenthau, Junr., U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, and Dr. T. V. Soong, Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, shown as they signed the agreement which will grant another five hundred million dollars of financial aid to embattled China.



## NEW YORK STATE BANS ANONYMOUS ADVERTISING

Albany.

**T**he New York State Assembly has passed a Bill, known as the Dollinger Bill, which is signed to prevent racial discrimination in advertisements in newspapers.

The Bill makes it compulsory for employment agencies who are to advertise for employees of specific race, colour or religion to insert in the advertisement the name and address of the firm making the advertisement. Thus in future an advertiser will be allowed to advertise "Gentiles only"—and submit a bill of office number only.

The Dollinger Bill is to be supplemented by a further measure known as the Gutman Bill—which makes it compulsory for any agency, calling for persons of a definite race or religion to have a written statement from the prospective employer and this statement must be open for inspection by the Licence Commissioner.

## ERNEST BLOCH WINS AMERICAN ACADEMY AWARD

New York.

**O**NE of the greatest living composers, Ernest Bloch, who has written many compositions with Hebrew themes, has been chosen as the first composer to receive the gold medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Walter Damrosch, President, announced here.

In awarding to Bloch the Academy's highest award, which has been presented only five times in history, the last one in 1930, Damrosch said: "Bloch is certainly one of the most distinguished composers in the United States to-day. His music is highly idealistic and individual in character and brilliant in development. He is not influenced by any other composer or controlled by any school. Always it is Ernest Bloch who speaks from the

pages of his scores. The Academy is proud to single him out for the highest honour it has to offer."

Bloch was born in Geneva, Switzerland, sixty-one years ago. He is an American citizen and is considered one of the greatest Jewish composers in history.

## CHILEAN JEWS HAIL NEW PRESIDENT

Santiago.

**A** REPRESENTATIVE committee of Chilean Jews has called on Juan Antonio Rios, newly elected President of the Republic, to convey to him the expression of loyalty to the Jewish community and to inform him that in all synagogues in Chile a special prayer was recited invoking a blessing upon him and his government.

## U. S. ARMY SERVICE AND NATURALISATION

### Important Concession to Non-Citizens

Washington.

**T**HE Army will facilitate naturalisation of non-citizens in the Army of the United States who desire to become citizens, under the Second War Powers Act of 1942, the War Department has announced. To qualify for naturalisation, a non-citizen must have been lawfully admitted to United States territory, have served in the Army at least three months since 1st September,

1939, and have his application proved by his immediate commanding officer.

The three-months' service requirement may be waived when the applicant is scheduled to depart for overseas service or if he is now serving overseas. The United States Immigration and Naturalisation Service will send representatives overseas to accomplish the naturalisation of citizens now in overseas service.

## More Necessary Than Ever—

### President Roosevelt's Tribute to United Jewish Appeal

Washington.

**T**O those who wondered whether it was proper to aid Jews in distress abroad, President Roosevelt gave a resounding reply in the form of a letter in which he declared that the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees, Overseas Needs and Palestine was carrying on work "more than ever necessary." The President's message reads:

"In these days when inhumanity and cruelty are taking toll of so many innocent victims throughout the world, it is more than ever necessary for us to uphold the ideal of helpfulness to others. Organisations such as the United Jewish Appeal are giving concrete evidence of the determination of free men that persecution, homelessness and racial discrimination shall be vanished.

"Through the support which is extended to this organisation and to other similar organisations, we can reinforce the humanitarian front as a vital sector in our war effort. It is my sincere hope that the campaign of the United Jewish Appeal will meet with an enthusiastic response from all generous-hearted people."

## GROWING STUDENT INTEREST IN HEBREW

New York.

**I**N 12 New York City high schools 2,408 students are studying Hebrew as one of the modern living languages, it is reported by Judah Lapson, of the Jewish Education Committee.

"Although most of the pupils of Hebrew are Jewish, a number of non-Jews have taken advantage of the opportunity to get acquainted with Hebraic culture," Mr. Lapson states. "The Hebrew courses and Hebrew assembly programmes which are given periodically—often in joint performance with other language departments—have created an interest in Jewish culture in the whole student body."

It is also disclosed that 258 colleges and universities in America have either listed Hebrew for admission or are prepared to do so. Hebrew teachers are now licensed by the New York Board of Education and are appointed from regular Board examination lists.

## JOINT AND OSE COLLABORATION To Aid Polish Jews in Russia

New York.

**S**HIPMENT of medical supplies which the Joint Distribution Committee is sending to Russia for relief of 2,000,000 Polish refugees there, of whom 600,000 are Jews, will in future be arranged by J.D.C. in collaboration with the American Committee of OSE (Joint Health Organisation), it was announced here in a joint statement by Mr. Joseph C. Hyman, Executive Chairman of the J.D.C., and L. Wulman, Secretary of the American Committee of OSE.

An Advisory Committee of physicians will examine the needs and requests for drugs, hospital and medical supplies for the Polish refugees in Russia. The members of the Advisory Committee are Drs. Alfred Cohn, J. J. Golub, A. J. Rongulman and J. Brutzkus. Medical supplies to the value of 50,000 dollars have already been purchased by J.D.C. for shipment to the refugees in Russia.