

A Tribute to a great Pianist.

THE LATE
MISCHA LEVITZKI.

Mrs. Morris Alexander has contributed a moving appreciation of the celebrated pianist, Mischa Levitzki, whose death was reported in the "Jewish Chronicle" last week. Mrs. Alexander was a close friend of his and handled his publicity in Sydney. After referring to the fact that he was ranked in the first ten of the world's great pianists, she adds: "His was a genius unmatched by any other pianist I have heard. Quite apart from his brilliant technique he had soul and what is even more necessary in a great musician—a most pleasing platform personality, that endeared him to his audience, even before his fingers touched the key board.

"I remember how generous he was in praising other artists. I was very interested in a young South African pianist, Isidor Goodman, who was then making a name for himself in Australia. Goodman was chosen by J. & N. Tait, the concert entrepreneurs, to be the assisting artist to Joseph Hyslop, the famous tenor, during his Australian tour. I took Levitzki to the Sydney Town Hall to hear Goodman play—he was so struck by Goodman's genius that after the concert I arranged for him to meet Goodman, whom he encouraged very much by offering to assist him, if ever he visited the United States. Isidor Goodman, who is a brother of Mrs. Katzin, wife of Cantor Katzin, of Sea Point, never availed himself of this offer, as his Australian engagements have kept him fully occupied."

Mrs. Alexander refers to Levitzki's reliability and punctuality, and emphasises his devotion to the Jewish religion and his strict observance of tradition. She concludes: "Besides being a brilliant pianoforte executant he was a great composer and his famous Levitzki waltz is included in the repertoire of every living pianist of renown. God has seen fit to take this brilliant and lovable pianist at the early age of forty-two. He has been famous since the age of sixteen. He captivated audiences by his brilliance all over the world. Those who heard him will regard it a privilege for having done so—and will never forget him. His gramophone records will always be a living reminder of his greatness as a pianist and his compositions as a composer—although his soul has departed—his spirit lives in his records and compositions."

Every Shekel Helps the Jewish State on the Way—
SHEKEL DAY, MARCH 16th.

Cape Peninsula Shekel Committee.

Enthusiastic Preparations Begun.

Zionists in the Cape Peninsula are determined to contribute their full share towards a record-breaking enrolment on Shekel Day, Sunday March 16th. This resolve was enthusiastically expressed at a representative gathering of local Zionist workers held on Monday, 17th inst. It was generally felt that in view of the present world situation, it was necessary to organise a positive demonstration of solidarity within the World Zionist Organisation and to spread the Shekel as far as possible to every Jewish home. According to present information, it is possible that a Zionist Congress will take place this year and in this event, the Shekel will also be the means of compiling a list of registered voters in the elections that will take place in due course.

Realising that the success of the Shekel Drive depends on the preliminary organisation and the number of workers available,

those present agreed to form themselves into the Cape Peninsula Shekel Committee, and to undertake responsibility for various districts. The Bnoth Zion Association branches would conduct the canvass in their respective centres, in many of which they would be assisted by workers supplied by the Zionist Socialist Party, Cape Zionist Youth Executive and Massadah Association. Mr. J. Gitlin was elected Chairman of the Shekel Committee.

Descriptive leaflets are being procured from Headquarters and other suitable material will also be circularised during the weeks preceding Shekel Day. Peninsula Societies are asked to make special reference to this topic at any meetings they may hold, and the Shekel Committee has undertaken to supply speakers on the subject where required. All those desirous of assisting in the canvass on Shekel Day are kindly asked to communicate with the Zionist Office.

Jewish Volunteers in Action.

With the R. A. F. in Greece.

London. Somewhere in Greece, writes David Woodward, "News Chronicle" special correspondent with the British Air Force in Greece, there is an R.A.F. unit whose orders, until recently, were all written in German, with English and Hebrew translations appended. Men for whom the German texts were issued have now made such progress in language study that at their own request orders in German have been discontinued.

These men, and many Palestine Jews, mostly refugees from Hitler's Reich, are now serving with the British Forces in the Middle East, Mr. Woodward continues. To-day I visited the air stores park where they work. German is still the language they mostly use between themselves, and it sounded odd indeed coming from these dark-faced Jews in R.A.F. uniform.

I spoke to some of them, the correspondent continues, and found them ardent Zionists to a man. "When the war is over and we have won, and Hitler no longer rules, will you go back to Germany?" I asked. "No, we won't," came the reply. "Some of the older people

want to return, but we won't. Palestine is our home," said one.

"Coolness and Courage" of Palestinian Soldiers.

"Recent parades of the Palestinians have shown how quickly Palestinians have adapted themselves to army life," says the Jerusalem correspondent of "Great Britain and the East." Their drill and marching is as smart as any in the British Army, they take keen interest in their duties, and shirk no task that is imposed on them; and they have earned the commendation of their superior British officers.

"Their coolness and courage in tight corners (as witness the 'mentions' for Arab and Jewish soldiers and civilians employed with the Army for exemplary conduct during a Haifa air raid) can be attributed, like that of their civilian compatriots, to complete confidence in the ultimate Allied victory," the correspondent adds. "The Palestinian soldiers are becoming seasoned campaigners, and will give a good account of themselves in the Middle East theatre of war."

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