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200 years of migration to England

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It was subsequently decided by the War Office to send these soldiers to help in the fighting in Palestine. This greatly stimulated recruiting, and the battalion was soon over strength, which led to the formation of the 39th battalion, under the command of Lieut.-Col. E. Margolin, D.S.O., who had previously served with the Australian forces. Under the presidency of the Rt. Hon. Lord Rothschild, a Regimental Care and Comforts' Fund was formed in London, with Mr. M. J. Landa as Hon. Sec., and various Committees administered the Fund in the interest of the Jewish soldiers.

Recruiting was also carried out in the United States for the Jewish battalions. About 2,000 men inspired by Zionist ideals came to England for this purpose, and they formed the greater part of the 40th battalion, which was organised early in 1918 under the command of Lieut.-Col. F. D. Samuel, D.S.O., recently transferred from the 3rd London Regiment, which had taken part in the battles on the Western front. In all, there were 6,500 men belonging to the three battalions of the Royal Fusiliers, and the 38th and 39th reached Palestine in time to take part in the final campaign of Field Marshal Viscount Allenby in September 1918. These battalions were placed on the right of the advance in the Jordan Valley, and were included in the praise awarded by the victorious Commander-in-Chief, in his dispatch upon the battle: "I would bring to notice the good fighting qualities shown by the newer units. These include . . . 38th and 39th (Jewish) Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers." Several officers obtained the M.C., a number of N.C.O.s and men received the Military Medal, and the battalions received many mentions in Despatches. A special cap badge in the form of a *Menorah* (The Temple Candelabra) with the Hebrew word *Kadima* (eastward) underneath was adopted by the War Office for these units, but, owing to the early cessation of hostilities, it was not distributed in time among the units then in Egypt and Palestine. (See Plate 102.)

At the time of the Armistice, there were some 2,000 men in England belonging to these battalions who were popularly known as the "Judeans." They were in training at the Depot at Saltash, Cornwall, under the command of Lieut.-Col. J. S. Miller, D.S.O., who had risen

from the ranks of the Guards to be a Staff Officer of an Irish Division, the second in command being Major W. Schonfield, T.D., 19th London Regiment. In Palestine itself, a battalion was raised from among the local Jewish inhabitants in which practically only Hebrew was spoken, and this unit of the Royal Fusiliers remained on duty after the war had concluded. (For nominal rolls of the "Judeans" see pp. 254 to 285; photographs will be found in different parts of the book. See Index.)

The only other specifically Jewish unit to be instituted took its rise in Egypt,* where some 700 men were recruited early in 1915 among Egyptian Jews and refugees from Palestine to serve as a unit of the Royal Army Service Corps. These men were known as the Zion Mule Corps and were commanded by Lieut.-Col. J. H. Patterson, D.S.O. They rendered valuable service in taking up supplies and ammunition to the forces engaged in the Dardanelles expedition, and wore on their caps the badge of the "Shield of David," the first unit in the British Army, apart from the Jewish Chaplains, to wear this emblem. Their history is recorded in detail in the book written by their Commanding Officer called "With the Zionists in Gallipoli." They lost several men in action, won a number of distinctions, and were highly commended for their services by Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton. At the close of the Dardanelles expedition early in 1916 the Corps was disbanded. (For nominal roll, see p. 512.)

JEWISH CHAPLAINS. As already mentioned, there were, prior to the outbreak of hostilities, about one thousand Jews in the Forces, and the Rev. Michael Adler, of the Central Synagogue, London, held a commission as Territorial Chaplain. From August, 1914, until January, 1915, Mr. Adler was in charge of religious work both in the United Kingdom and by correspondence with the men at the front. He organised the areas in the United Kingdom under the local Jewish Ministers, so that regular services could be held with Jewish soldiers under training. An abridged form of the Prayer Book was prepared and was accepted by the War Office. This book was later enlarged, under the editorship of the Chief Rabbi, and about 110,000 copies were printed and distributed. With the consent of the War Office, Mr.

* The unit owes its origin to the energy of the Chief Rabbi of Alexandria, Professor R. della Pergola, Dr. Lattis Bey, Messrs. E. Suarez and J. de Picciotto Bey.

Adler paid a visit to the troops at the front in January, 1915, while the Rev. S. Lipson took charge of the work at home. He was thus the first Jewish Chaplain to be attached to a British Army on active service and discharged the duties of a Senior Chaplain on the Western Front until July, 1918.* As the area occupied by the British Army grew larger, the establishment of Jewish Chaplains abroad increased, until, during the last months of the war, there was a Chaplain for each of the five Army areas and three at the Bases—Boulogne, Etaples and Rouen—in addition to the Australian Chaplain who was attached to the Australian Corps.

The first Chaplain to follow Mr. Adler to France was the Rev. V. G. Simmons, and at brief intervals the work was continued in different parts of the front by the Revs. A. Barnett (later Senior Chaplain in succession to Mr. Adler), L. Morris, B. B. Lieberman, E. M. Levy, J. L. Geffen, D. Hirsch, I. Brodie, H. L. Price, N. Levine, and H. P. Silverman. Rev. D. I. Freedman, Minister of the Perth Congregation, Western Australia, served with the Army in Gallipoli and Egypt prior to coming to France in July, 1916. In 1918 he was succeeded by Rev. J. Danglow from St. Kilda, Victoria, who remained on duty with the Australians until the end of the war. In other parts of the war area the Rev. M. Gollop served in Salonica, and the Revs. L. Morris (transferred from France) and Walter Levin were with the troops in Italy. Mr. Levin afterwards proceeded to Egypt and Palestine, keeping in close touch with the Jewish units of the Royal Fusiliers in those countries. Attached to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force were the Revs. S. Grajewsky and I. Frankenthal, while the Rev. L. A. Falk, C.F., accompanied the 38th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers to Palestine.

There were two Chaplains with the South African Jewish soldiers. In the fighting in German West Africa, the Rev. E. Lyons was attached to General Botha's troops and the Rev. I. Levinson served as Chaplain in the prolonged struggle against General Von Lettow-Vorbeck in East

* See story of Mr. Adler's "Experiences on the Western Front," with map, page 33.