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**200 years of migration to England**

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of the work in connexion with the Jewish men in the Forces led to one representative Committee being established, in June 1916, under the name of the Jewish War Services Committee, which dealt with all matters of military interest to Jews, including the registration and enlistment of friendly aliens, and the nomination of Chaplains and officiating clergymen. It also kept records and supervised all religious ministrations to the troops both at home and abroad.

Mr. E. Sebag Montefiore, C.B.E., was the Chairman, Major Lionel de Rothschild, M.P., O.B.E., Vice-Chairman, and Mr. S. Stephany, Honorary Secretary. Major W. Schonfield, T.D., was appointed Officer-in-Charge of Administration, while the Chaplains' Department was in the hands of the Rev. S. Lipson, Senior Chaplain to the Forces. This Committee continued its useful labours until the end of 1919.

A branch of the Jewish War Services Committee was formed at Calcutta in order to supervise all matters concerning the welfare of Jewish soldiers in India and Burma. The Rev. E. M. D. Cohen, of the "Magen David" Synagogue, acted as President, and Lieut. Herbert Loewe was the Supervising Officer. Every assistance was rendered by Army Headquarters to enable men to have leave for the Festivals and to receive the necessary religious ministrations, in spite of the wide area in which the troops were distributed.

Similar work was carried on by a Committee in Bombay; and other centres, where Jewish soldiers were permitted to assemble for Divine Service and the observance of their sacred days, were at Karachi, Bangalore, Cochin, Rangoon, Poona and Sialkot.

A small Jewish periodical called "Dabar B'Itto" ("A Word in Season") was published for the use of the troops, and also an English version of the Passover Evening Ritual, both of which emanated from the pen of Lieut. Loewe, and were circulated among the soldiers. It is calculated that there were about 350 Jews on active service in India belonging to all branches of the Forces, exclusive of the members of the native communities who held commissions or served in the ranks of the Indian Army. Among the latter was included a considerable number of the young men of the Bombay community, some of whom

served in East Africa and Mesopotamia. A special unit of the St. John Ambulance Brigade was formed and received the name of No. 3 District Bombay Corps (Jewish Division). An almost complete list of the Bombay Jews who were on duty during the war is printed on page 595.

**OTHER JEWISH AGENCIES.** In the early days of the war it was realised that the needs of the Jewish soldier and his relatives with regard to questions of Allowances and Pensions would require special attention. Particularly was this so in cases where the English language was not thoroughly understood. Under the auspices of the United Synagogue, an office was opened in 1914 at the Jewish Institute, Mulberry Street, London, where the Revs. A. A. Green and B. N. Michelson were regularly in attendance to deal with applications from dependants. Many thousands of cases passed through their hands and they were enabled to afford valuable assistance to a very large number of soldiers and their relations. The official departments of the War Office dealing with claims, as well as the Regimental Paymasters, were in constant touch with this Committee in settlement of all financial matters that arose, and in addition, the Bureau conducted correspondence on behalf of relatives, with men serving in all parts of the world, traced missing soldiers, recovered effects, secured pensions, and looked after the welfare of widows and orphans. At the conclusion of the armistice claims for demobilisation and their presentation in proper form to the War Office also entailed a considerable amount of labour.

Similar work was carried on in other large cities—Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and Glasgow—where the local Jewish Ministers, who were usually at the same time acting as Officiating Clergymen to the troops, attended to the needs of the Jewish men and their families. In Leeds, Mr. L. Rosenberg was very active both in recruiting and the care of soldiers and their dependants, and was the recipient of a personal presentation from about 500 Leeds Jewish soldiers in recognition of their appreciation of his labours. Through his efforts about 3,000 men were recruited in the Leeds area.

Early in 1916 there was formed the Jewish Naval and Military

Association with its premises at the West Central Men's Club, 113a, Tottenham Court Road, London, the most active members of which were Mrs. Brighten, Messrs. B. Mocatta, M. Harris, J. M. Ansell and H. Franks. The Association provided a number of beds and an excellent canteen, together with other conveniences of a temporary rest house. Thousands of soldiers of all denominations benefited by this most admirable work until May 1919. It was officially attached to the Y.M.C.A. as its Jewish Branch.

In the general work of the Y.M.C.A., both at home and abroad, English Jews took an active interest, considerable sums being raised both in Australia and the United Kingdom, and the cost of several Huts being contributed. The members of the Central Synagogue, London, subscribed for one Hut, and in recognition of the liberal spirit in which the Y.M.C.A. catered for the needs of the Jewish soldier, especially in allowing the regular use of their buildings for Jewish services, the Jews of the East End of London erected a Hut in the Mile End Road which proved very welcome to local soldiers.

In 1918 a Hut was opened in connexion with the Australian Branch of the Y.M.C.A. in the Strand, next to Australia House. The inauguration ceremony was performed by Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Monash, K.C.B., and the Hut served as a very useful centre for many months. A crowded Passover Evening Service was held in March 1919. The Hut was under the charge of Mr. L. P. Jacobs and Lieut. Harold Boas, the latter acting as the official representative of the Australian Y.M.C.A. in England and France. (See book, "With the Jewish Soldier of the Australian Imperial Force," by Lieut. Boas.)

When the war was drawing to a close, the desirability of co-ordinating the various agencies for the welfare of Jewish soldiers was recognised, and the Central Council for Jewish soldiers was opened at 167, Strand, London, W.C., under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Waley Cohen, K.B.E. This body proved very helpful, especially in assisting demobilised soldiers to return to work. It continued in active operation till September 1920.

**SPECIAL CONSTABULARY.** A considerable number of Jews ineligible for the Fighting Forces were enrolled in the Special Constabulary. In London, Mr. E. N. J. Jacobson was appointed to the Headquarter Staff and Chairman of the Discipline Board, being awarded the C.B.E. for his services.