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200 years of migration to England

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THE JEW IN THE FIGHTING FORCES.

As already indicated, there was no section of the war area in which Jews were not found doing their duty.

ROYAL NAVY. On sea they took part in every action of importance and served in every kind of vessel afloat and under the sea. The nominal rolls on page 189 show that the number of Jews in the Royal Navy was comparatively small. This fact is easily explained. In the first place, the sea-port towns contained small Jewish congregations, and further there was a rule of the Admiralty that "persons born in His Majesty's Dominions of foreign parentage were ineligible for entry into the Naval Services, whether their parents were naturalised British subjects or not." This regulation excluded that class of Jewish recruit which poured by its thousands into all branches of the Army, and only a small number of men of foreign birth succeeded in eluding the official rule and performed valuable service with the senior branch of H.M. Forces.

In the famous naval operations for the blocking of Zeebrugge and Ostend, which took place in the Spring of 1918, several Jewish officers and men took part, and Lieut.-Commander R. Saunders was one of the seven officers who obtained the D.S.O. in recognition of gallantry on that occasion.

In the fighting around the British Isles, in the Heligoland Bight, the Battle of Jutland, where a Jewish Warrant Officer was yeoman of Signals on board the Admiral's Flagship, in the Battle of Coronel, the Battle of Falkland Islands, and in the Adriatic Sea, representatives of Jewry are known to have had a share. When H.M.S. "Highflyer" sank the raider "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" off the coast of West Africa in August, 1914, a Jewish sailor was among the crew, whilst on board the cruiser H.M.S. "Glasgow," which alone escaped the disaster

at Coronel, there was an old Stepney Jewish School lad who had been in the Navy prior to the war. One of the gunners of the "Saucy Arethusa" which led the way to victory in the Heligoland Bight on August 28th, 1914, was an ex-Jews' Orphan Asylum pupil, and a master gunner on H.M.S. "Lion" was transferred to the Royal Naval Division as Company-Sergeant Major, where he lost his life in the trenches in front of Havrincourt Wood (Bapaume sector). A Jewish Midshipman went down with H.M.S. "Monmouth" at Coronel, and in the attack on the town of Akaba, in the Red Sea, early in 1915, a Jewish warrant officer, of H.M.S. "Minerva," was in charge of one of the landing parties that took the town. In the landing at the Dardanelles, Admiral de Robeck, in the course of his despatch describing the stirring fight in Gallipoli on April 25th and 26th, 1915, recommended for gallant service in action a young sailor from the Jewish School in Stepney, London, E., by name Lewis Jacobs, belonging to H.M.S. "Lord Nelson." The Admiral reported that "Jacobs took his boat into 'V' Beach unaided, after all the remainder of the crew and the troops were killed or wounded. When last seen Jacobs was standing and endeavouring to pole the cutter to the shore. Whilst thus employed he was killed." On board the Australian cruiser H.M.S. "Sydney," when it destroyed the German raider, the "Emden," off the Cocos Islands in November, 1914, were two Jewish sailors; and in the Homeric struggle when the torpedo boat H.M.S. "Broke," together with the "Swift," defeated the enemy flotilla in the Downs in April, 1917, Jewish sailors were in action. A number of Jews served with the famous Dover patrol and with the Royal Marines at Antwerp and elsewhere, whilst the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and the Royal Naval Air Service included many representatives. Others were engaged in submarine work, mine-laying and mine-sweeping.

ON LAND. The operations on land likewise saw Jews in every part of the war area. When General Botha conquered German South-West Africa, in his army there was a considerable number of Jews from Cape Colony, Natal, Rhodesia and the Transvaal. A still larger force

of Jews followed him to East Africa, whilst in the South African Brigade, which won such fame on the Western Front, many officers and men were included. In Cape Town, a unit was formed called the Cape Peninsular Garrison Regiment, which included sixty-eight Jewish members (see names in S. African lists marked C.P.G.R., pp. 568 to 579). Canadian Jews worthily played their part with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, and Jews from New Zealand were at the capture of Samoa and in the Palestinian and French campaigns. The splendid record of the enlistment of Australian Jews, where, like in South Africa, compulsory service was never introduced, is already mentioned on page 3. In Egypt, Palestine, Gallipoli and France, Australian Jews won renown. The following statistics and record of achievements are taken from the book compiled by Lieut. Harold Boas (see p. 18), pages 50 and 51.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

| | | | Per cent. |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|
| Number of Jews in Australia | ... | 17,287 | |
| Population of Australia | ... | 4,940,000 | 0.35 |
| No. of Jews in A.I.F. | ... | 2,000 | |
| No. of enlistments in A.I.F. | ... | 416,000 | 0.48 |
| No. of Jews in Australia | ... | 17,287 | |
| No. of Jews in A.I.F. | ... | 2,000 | 11.5 |
| Population of Australia | ... | 4,940,000 | |
| Enlistments in A.I.F. | ... | 416,000 | 9.2 |
| No. of Jews in A.I.F. | ... | 2,000 | |
| No. of Jews killed | ... | 300 | 15.0 |
| No. of enlistments in A.I.F. | ... | 416,000 | |
| No. of A.I.F. killed and missing | ... | 58,228 | 14.0 |

OFFICERS.

The present records show that 192 commissioned ranks were held by Jews in the Australian Imperial Force, although this is likely to be