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200 years of migration to England

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Among the best-known families of Anglo-Jewry to send sons into the war were the Rothschilds, of whom all three sons of Mr. Leopold de Rothschild were on duty. Major Evelyn de Rothschild fell at the head of his men of the Royal Bucks Yeomanry in the campaign in Palestine, and Captain Anthony G. de Rothschild, of the same regiment, was wounded in action at Gallipoli. The Sassoon family contributed ten officers, of whom three won the M.C. The family of Sir Isidore Spielmann, C.M.G., and his relatives who were engaged in the war number forty-one, who were all commissioned officers, and of whom Captain H. L. I. Spielmann, of the Manchester Regiment, was killed in action at Gallipoli; two others fell in France and twelve were wounded. The Beddington family contributed thirty-seven members, and of the sons of Mrs. Arthur Sebag Montefiore all five held commissions. Captain Robert, the eldest, of the Royal East Kent Yeomanry, died of wounds received in action at Gallipoli, and Major Thomas, of the Royal Horse Artillery, won the D.S.O. and M.C. The second son of Sir Marcus Samuel, Bart., Lieut. Gerald Samuel, fell at the battle of Messines in June, 1917, and the elder son, Capt. Walter H. Samuel, gained the M.C. and served as a Staff Officer.

Jewish officers occupied important posts in the administration of the army both at home and abroad, serving as town majors, railway transport officers and interpreters, and were especially helpful in connection with Intelligence work. Officers and men alike won distinction by their gallant conduct in such hard-fought fields as the battles of Flanders and the Somme, in the Dardanelles and in Mesopotamia, and some were among the prisoners at the fall of Kut. Large numbers were met by the chaplains in the Expeditionary Forces in Italy and on the Salonica Front. Others were present at the capture of Baghdad, whilst in Palestine, in addition to the men in the Jewish Royal Fusilier units, there was a considerable body of Jewish soldiers in the 60th London Division who were at the taking of Jerusalem. A Jewish Palestinian, Captain A. Aaronson, won the D.S.O. for organising a spy system which proved of the utmost value to the British Intelligence Department in the campaign against the Turks. In the lesser

operations of the British Army Jews were also to be found. As an illustration of this, one may mention the daring march of General Dunsterville's small force from Baghdad to Baku in 1917. This force held Baku for a short time, when it was almost overwhelmed by the enemy and obliged to evacuate the city. Among the survivors of this exploit were Jewish Sergeants in the Worcester and R. West Kent Regiments and two men of the Gloucester Regiment. Jewish regulars belonging to the South Wales Borderers co-operated with the Japanese Army at the taking of Tsing-tau, and in the Armoured Car Battery lent to the Emir Feisul in the Hedjaz, were two Jewish drivers who accompanied the Arab army in its northward advance to Palestine. A Jewish Sergeant was in charge of one of the Locker-Lampson armoured cars in their adventures in Russia and subsequently in Mesopotamia, and in the fighting against the Senoussi in Egypt South African Jews participated.

It is a striking fact, as already mentioned, that the large majority of Jews engaged on active service belonged to the fighting units of the Army, such as the Infantry, Artillery, Tanks, Machine Gun Units, and the special Brigades of the Royal Engineers who were in charge of the gas operations. In the Administrative Departments they appear to have been comparatively few in number. In the Royal Army Medical Corps there was a considerable number of Jewish doctors, several of whom were killed, and most of the rank and file are known to have acted as stretcher-bearers on the battlefields and performed extremely good work under the most dangerous conditions. Attached to the Medical Staff of the Second Army in France, and afterwards in Italy, was Major M. Coplans, D.S.O., Royal Army Medical Corps, whilst Lieut.-Col. H. Lightstone, D.S.O., Royal Army Medical Corps, was in charge of the important work of evacuating the wounded from the front areas during the whole Somme battles, July to October, 1916.

Aviation. The air fighting which led to the wonderful development of the Royal Flying Corps, afterwards called the Royal Air Force, attracted a large number of Jewish young men, many of whom gained distinction as aviators. In the first list published of the awards of the

Distinguished Flying Cross the names of Captain D. C. Bauer and Lieut. G. F. Hyams were included, and Major J. Kemper, M.B.E., who had risen from the ranks, was given charge of a large aircraft depot near one of the bases. Captain Desmond Tuck was attached to the French Flying Corps in the Salonica area, where he won the Croix de Guerre. In the first raid made upon a German aerodrome, Major R. L. Marix took part and won the D.S.O., and Captain J. I. Barnato flew one of the aeroplanes that dropped bombs on the city of Constantinople—feats which, in the early days of flying, created a great sensation. Among the rank and file was included a large number of Jewish tailors and other workmen who were engaged in preparing the different parts of the aeroplanes and in other departments of the R.A.F. (See also details of the awards of the D.F.C., p. 151.)

The extracts from the official documents and the lists of honours set forth in this book—no less than the sad Roll of the Glorious Dead—will fill out this brief story of the achievement of British Jewry in the Great War, constituting a record of which we have reason to be truly proud. By this record of patriotism and sacrifice, British Jewry will be judged in the years to come, and there need be no fear as to the verdict that will be pronounced. For the Jew of the British Empire has risen to the height of his opportunity during the greatest crisis in the history of England, and side by side with his compatriots of all other creeds and nationalities has materially contributed to the victory of the cause of the Allies.