

THE JERUSALEM POST

Silver Jubilee Issue, December 1, 1957

From the President of Israel



מדינת ישראל

ירושלים, ב' כסלו 1957
28-11-57

לכבוד
המנכ"ל
המדינה

הנכבד המנכ"ל, מר גרשון אגרון, ירושלים, יום הולדתו ה-25, יום הולדתו ה-25 של העיתון.

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Handwritten signature of Izhak Ben-Zvi

MY congratulations and my best wishes go to The Jerusalem Post, as well as to its founder and my dear friend, Mr. Gershon Agron, its Editor, Mr. Ted Lurie, and to all their staff, on the occasion of the newspaper's Silver Jubilee.

I fully appreciated the value and the importance of the first English newspaper of the Yishuv in its National Home, and its responsible role in presenting our case to the Mandatory Government and the British Government in London. I fully appreciated the courage and loyalty it displayed in its fight for the Zionist idea, as well as its success in becoming the most important English tribune in the Middle East.

Written though it is in English, The Jerusalem Post is a Hebrew newspaper in spirit. Founded in Jerusalem, it remained in the city in times of trouble even as in tranquility; during the War of Liberation and when the State of Israel rose into being.

It is my heartfelt blessing that you continue in your lofty endeavour and endure to see Jerusalem flourish and the gathering of the exiles of our people when peace and truth shall reign among the widely scattered nations of mankind.

IZHAK BEN-ZVI

25 YEARS

1932-1957

FOUNDER
GERSHON AGRON
MANAGING EDITOR
TED R. LURIE
MANAGER
JOHN ADLER

The story of Quarter of a Century as told in the columns of this newspaper. Compiled by IDA B. DAVIDOWITZ, and ARTHUR SAUL SOPER. Cover design and layout by MEIR RONNEN.

Collage of newspaper clippings from various issues of The Jerusalem Post, including:

- 1935: PALESTINE POST
- 1936: PALESTINE POST
- 1937: PALESTINE POST
- 1947: THE PALESTINE POST PARTITION APPROVED BY MORE THAN 2/3: 33 TO 13
- 1955: OIL FOUND IN SOUTH! THE JERUSALEM POST EXTRA! Lapidot Makes Strike at Heletz
- 1957: THE JERUSALEM POST SINAI ARMY IN FULL FLIGHT Israel Forces Seal Off Gaza Strip

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
THE TECHNION — ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AND
THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

extend their sincere congratulations to
THE JERUSALEM POST
on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

In 1932, when The Jerusalem Post came into existence, the Hebrew University was only seven years old. It consisted of one complete Faculty (Humanities), a number of research institutes which formed the nucleus of a second Faculty (Science), and the beginnings of the Jewish National and University Library, all of which served a student body of about 300. Since then it has grown into an institution comprising six Faculties (Humanities, Science, Medicine, Law, Agriculture and Social Sciences), Schools of Education, Dentistry, Pharmacy and a Graduate Library School, and the Jewish National and University Library with its 500,000 volumes on Mount Scopus and over 400,000 in town. The number of students is today 4,000 and of graduates over 3,500.

The University is making an invaluable contribution towards the development of Israel, playing a major role in furnishing the professional manpower required and in carrying out research of vital significance for the country.

THE TECHNION—ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

trains engineers, architects, chemists and other technologists. Today its graduates form the majority of the scientists and experts directing building, industry and major development projects in the country. In pursuance of its two-fold mission in promoting Jewish settlement in the country and making its contribution in the building of the State, the Technion is continually expanding its activities in teaching and research.

The Institute, which in 1932 taught Building Construction and Architecture only, today has six Faculties and four Departments, training over 2,000 students. In addition, the Extension Division offers special courses to thousands of professional and working people.

Higher studies are being pursued through the Graduate School. A wide range of pure and applied research is organized through the Technion Research and Development Foundation.

More than half the student body is now studying at the new Technion City campus, which it is hoped to complete within a few years.

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

has grown from the parent Daniel Sieff Research Institute, established in 1934, into a complex of ten departments and four sections engaged in fundamental and applied research. Today the Weizmann Institute comprises the Departments of Applied Mathematics, Nuclear Physics, Electronics, Optics, X-Ray Crystallography, Isotopes, Polymers, Biophysics, Organic Chemistry, and Experimental Biology; and Sections for Biochemistry, Microbiology, Microanalysis, and Plant Genetics.

The Daniel Sieff Research Institute had 10 scientists at the beginning. Today over 160 scientists are working on some 90 research projects. The total staff is more than 500.

The new Institute of Nuclear Science, now being completed, is three times the size of the main Physics and Physical Chemistry building opened in 1949. The Central Library and Weizmann Archives, now under construction, will be ready in 1958.

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A NEWSPAPER IS BORN

WHEN the building in Hassolel Street which housed *The Palestine Post* was blown up in 1948, all of the files, records, correspondence and personal memoranda of the editor went up in smoke. Gershon Agron (Agronsky), the founder and first editor of the paper, laid great store by this accumulated data of 15 crowded years. He is one of those rare people with a sense of history and to such people such documents take on an importance out of proportion to their intrinsic value. They are the substantive stuff — the material which, when reconstructed at some future date, can give an evaluation to the original event, which might not have been apparent at the time a thing happened or was written. People with this sense of the importance of things which are set down on paper very often go out of their way to write a letter, keep a copy of the letter or make a note in order to have a record of things said or done at some particular time.

When the Mandatory Government in Palestine was breathing its last, in 1948, it built a giant pyre on which it sacrificed 30 years of records to the gods of appeasement and expediency. These records might have told some remarkable stories of what went on behind the scenes of 30 years of accomplishment, muddling and blundering.

If all of the material in *The Post* and the relative government files had been available, this history could have been written almost completely without any need for research into the actual files of the paper, which fortunately had been kept in the Tel Aviv office and were thus preserved.

Record Preserved by Henrietta Szold

However, some records of this type do exist. Some people had saved correspondence and turned it over to *The Post* after the fire; some files were kept in the Haifa and Tel Aviv offices; one or two files were found in the homes of the editor or the assistant editor. A precious file was discovered in the Zionist archives in Jerusalem containing information otherwise lost or inaccessible about the origins of *The Post*. It so happens that Miss Henrietta Szold, a member of the first board of Directors of *The Post*, was a very meticulous woman and kept all the correspondence relating to her public work carefully classified. Her file on *The Post* is No. 79 in her archive at the World Zionist Organization. Among other documents preserved there is a personal memo penned by Agronsky following a conversation he had with the Palestine High Commissioner, Sir Arthur Wauchop, when the paper was just one year old. The interview took place at Government House on December 7, 1933, and Agronsky's note reads as follows:

His Excellency began by congratulating A. on the completion of the first year of The Post. He noted that the paper was a success.

A. told H.E. he was conducting the policy of the paper independently of any instructions. His position on the paper was such that he could not rid of whenever his group differed with him as to policy, as he had no contract and did not intend making one. But this morally strong position with which his group was in entire agreement was a safeguard against conflict over policy.

His Excellency agreed.

A. continued that if it happened that The Post expressed the views of the Jewish authorities it was to his feeling very much the way they did about most questions and not to any influence or instruction. If the paper accurately portrayed Jewish sentiment, it could not be said that it was in a position to interpret Government views. Gershon Agronsky then tactfully probed for H.E.'s views on the question of Jewish immigration.

H.E. wanted to know if A. was complaining that not enough Jews were being allowed in. It was a question of time. That, he said, depended on conditions present and future and on the general condition of the world. A. might not agree with him, but this was his view.

A. reverted to the need for light and learning, for papers that sought fairly and honestly to interpret Government policy. He deplored that there was no Head of the Press Bureau, not just an Officer who would simply transmit communiques, but someone competent to interpret Government policy. He hoped that The Post, even when it took up a strong line against the Government, wasn't offensive.

H.E. said that neither he nor any of his officers considered the criticisms in The Post offensive.

The memorandum indicates that Agronsky then tackled the High Commissioner straightforwardly on the Colonial Secretary's refusal to give a message to a special supplement of *The Post*. He said that he had learned from his London correspondent that "the reason the Colonial Secretary refused a message was that *The Post* was not entirely impartial but has somewhat of a Jewish bias." He replied to his correspondent that "The Post's Jewish bias was as strong as the British bias of a British newspaper or the French bias of a French paper." (Agron was to use the same formula many times in similar circumstances in later years.)

H.E. said that it was most unlikely that the Colonial Secretary said anything of the sort.

By this time the gloves were off. Agronsky, however, used the method of indirection. By telling the High Commissioner what he had told his correspondent, he was really telling His Excellency himself. The High Commissioner in the same way, by referring to what the Colonial Secretary probably thought, was really giving Agronsky his own view as well.

A. said that he had told his correspondent that it was an extraordinary thing for it to be considered an offence for a paper to have a Jewish bias in a country where the Jewish National Home was being built. He recalled that Wedgwood had told him on his visit here that the feeling he had was that to mention anything Jewish in upper British circles was like referring to the unmentionable in a drawing room. He did not always agree with Wedgwood but felt that this feeling was growing.

H.E. repeated that he did not believe the Colonial Secretary said this and that he was sure that none of his officers, and certainly not he, had any such feeling. If A. had such an impression he would like him to get it out of his head. With this the interview concluded.

This early document might well have been a text for what followed. When the Mandatory was in the process of closing up shop, 15 years later, a kind and interested British friend rescued three files of Government correspondence with *The Palestine Post* and one file of censored material for the year 1947.

Thus we can learn that the pleasant exchange of notes and letters between the Mandatory Government and *The Post* gradually grew more and more acrimonious as the years went by, and as events were drawing to a crisis. We know that the Public Information Office was most helpful in putting featured articles and special services at the disposal of the paper to the very last. We find that the supply of newsprint was always available for *The Post* in view of the fact that the troops wanted their paper and the British needed *The Post*, and that on special occasions, such as a Christmas number or some cele-



Above is Henrietta Szold. At right is Sir Arthur Wauchop, General Sir John Dill, who led the British Expeditionary Force to put down the rioting in Palestine in 1936.



bration in the Royal Family, *The Post* could always count on an extra paper quota.

The same Public Information Officer was in fact often annoyed with his own Government for not keeping him, the PIO, well informed, so that he had to get his news from *The Palestine Post*, instead of the other way round. He wrote to the Secretariat:

I am attaching a cutting from *The Palestine Post* of today giving an account of the re-enforcement of the coastal patrol.

I have ascertained since reading the report that the facts which it contains are, more or less, correct and have been in the possession of the Government for some time... I venture to point out that the news is exactly the type of news which the Public Information Office should have in advance... Instead of learning of the arrival of these boats from *The Palestine Post*, we should have been in the position to give *The Palestine Post* the news in the form which suited us...

Evidently the Secretariat cooperated and as time went on the news was given out, insofar as possible, "in the form which suited us" to an interesting degree.

For the most part the early exchanges of letters between the Government and the paper were on routine matters and written in a friendly tone. There were minor complaints about inaccuracies, and considering the span of years which the correspondence covers, there were surprisingly few of these. There were very sharp notes from the Government insisting that the very minutiae of a Government Communique be given as issued, down to the last comma. As time went on and tempers became shorter, the notes became sharper and more critical on both sides, but generally speaking the amenities were always observed.

But the grave and almost tragic errors of judgment into which the authorities who exercised a strict control over the press after 1939 allowed their prejudices to lead them are perhaps best illustrated by an incident which took place towards the end of 1940. That year Christmas and Hanukka fell on the same day. At that time the Rev. Norman MacLean was living in Jerusalem. Mr. MacLean had at one time been a Moderator of the Church of Scotland, that very democratic church which has no hierarchy, and is a unique example of a "free church in a free state." After his service as Moderator, Mr. MacLean had come to Jerusalem as incumbent in the Scottish Kirk. He liked Jerusalem and moved over to the American colony where he lived for many years. He was a man of letters, having written fiction as well as contributing to many ecclesiastical journals. In 1930 he preached the opening sermon at the Cathedral in Geneva at the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations.

While living in Jerusalem the Rev. MacLean wrote editorials for *The Palestine Post* dealing with religious or historical topics concerning the Holy Land. He wrote some beautiful pieces and for this work he received the munificent sum of LPI (one pound) per article.

Censor Objected to Peace and Men of Goodwill

At this war-time Christmas-Hanukka season he wrote an editorial which he called "Sursum Corda" on the two faiths and their significance. Mr. Owen Tweedy, who was then the Public Information Officer and also Press Censor, did not think it was a suitable piece to be published in *The Palestine Post* for the consumption of the local readers. He wrote a letter by hand to Agronsky saying that he had given the piece a lot of thought and had taken advice (evidently from the Chief Secretary) and had decided that it could not be published. When asked what could possibly be wrong with the piece, he replied that it put the Jews in such a favourable light that the effect was bound to arouse Arab antagonism. This would be bad for the war effort and therefore the piece was censored.

Gershon Agronsky did not let the matter rest there. Very shortly, to the embarrassment of the Palestine PIO, there were questions in the House of Commons. Eventually a facsimile of the censored galley appeared in "Time and Tide," the liberal and outspoken British journal. But the 1940 Christmas number of *The Palestine Post* carried no leading article. Instead the column was filled with a selection of Readers' Letters, which must have led to much raising of eyebrows among readers. One of the rules imposed by censorship was that the paper was not allowed to leave a blank space in order to suggest to the reader that an item had been censored. The article, however, did see the light the following year at Christmas time, when Mr. Tweedy was no longer censor, and one wonders just what any Christian Mandatory official could have seen offensive in it. It read in part as follows:

The injunction of the Psalmist "Sursum Corda" (Lift up your hearts) is the message the world needs at this season... This year the festival of Christmas follows closely upon that of Hanukkah, and the joy of the one overflows into the other. This is a world of wonder and mystery, in which the threads of life are so closely interwoven that, were it not for the Jewish festival, there never would have been a Christian festival, for the one is the child of the other... For one day the hearts of men all over the world go forth on a pilgrimage to Bethlehem, and tender feelings spring even in hardened lives. On that one day, just because

There was no room in the inn nineteen centuries ago, men and women all over the world make room for the Child. It is that little footnote in which it is explained why the mother was shut out that gives the story wings. "Where there is heart-room there is house-room." It was not really the want of room. It was because the way-worn, dusty travelers were poor. They were of the disinherited. If they could have shown a well furnished purse there would have been room enough. It is the prophecy of all the coming centuries. Today humanity makes room for every foul instrument of mass-murder and greed, but for the plea that men love one another, for that there is no room. The orb of history is all woven of one pattern.

And yet the story of Bethlehem kindles the flame of hope once more in a grey world. The song the angels sing is the song the world needs: "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth, Peace to men of goodwill" (such is the translation). The angels did not proclaim peace to gangsters, robbers and mass-murderers. If the heresy of the pacifists were true, the gangsters and murderers would be the only safe people in the world. The world of the pacifist, without justice or judgment, would be an ethical chaos. And the angels are never the heralds of chaos.

But the heart leaps at the word peace. Only it must not be an immoral peace... It is totalitarians who today must be changed from the instruments of torture and tyranny into men of goodwill, ere peace can come. The joyful message of Judaism and Christianity alike is that God can do so... Bethlehem will conquer Berchtesgaden. In that great hope Christians, Jews and Moslems can rejoice together. For it is the Jews who have given the world a universal religion. They gave the world the priceless gift of monotheism that, through Bethlehem, has gone out to the ends of the earth. And it is no exaggeration to say that there is nobody in the world today for whom life is not different because of Jerusalem and Bethlehem...

The spirit of this leading article, the opposition it encountered in British ruling circles and the stand Agronsky took on the matter are clearly illustrative of the success of the policy laid down eight years previously when *The Palestine Post* was being formed.



"And when I have passed by thee and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood: Live... (Ezekiel XVI. vi)

To The Jerusalem Post

on completing Twenty Five Years of Publication
Greetings and Best Wishes

To its founders, editorial staff, administration, writers, workers — to all of them, the City of Jerusalem extends her greetings.

- FOR bringing the cause of Zion and Jerusalem with faith and prudence unto the nations.
- FOR having stood, fast and dauntless, against foes and despoilers even when vicious hands set fire to its walls and wrought destruction in its house.
- FOR having remained steadfast all through the battle for Jerusalem.
- FOR having chosen Zion and Jerusalem for its headquarters and the name of the Holy City for its own.
- FOR its voice that continued to ring out in days of siege and privation.



The Story Behind The Signposts

Travelling through the country you will find names of groves and forests, markers of avenues of trees and shelter belts, plaques of nahlaot, tablets of land reclamation projects, signboards of tree nurseries and fire look-out stations, and names of bridges in the Hula—behind these signposts lie the achievements of the Keren Kayemeth in turning deserts into dwelling places, wastes into woodlands, fens into farms and fields.

Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel — Jerusalem

Statement of Policy: Based on Mandate

The following is a copious extract from the document of policy preserved in the Henrietta Szold Archive.

THE PALESTINE POST Information

The unsatisfactory relations existing in Palestine between the Jews and the British, official and unofficial, which have now become more apparent since the disturbance of August, 1929 and the irritations arising from the lack of understanding on the part of the British of the justice underlying the Jews' title to develop their National Home, have led some Palestine Jews to the conclusion that an effort should be made to improve conditions by means of an English daily in Jerusalem.

It is hoped that by maintaining a standard of responsible journalism, to which the British reader is accustomed at home, the paper may come to command his respect in Jewish questions too. Lack of reliable information may have prevented a sympathetic approach to Jewish objects and the methods to facilitate them.

The policy of the paper will be based upon the Palestine Mandate, the Palestine Constitution. The construction placed by the paper on the Mandate will be the same as that of the responsible Jewish authorities and of the non-Jewish English Zionists.

In order that the publication may, from the start, enjoy the sympathy of Englishmen in Palestine, it is intended that in all general questions the British point of view should, as far as possible, prevail.

This paper will give its utmost support to the Government in its difficult task of carrying out the Mandate; and while maintaining a critical attitude towards all who do not act in the spirit of the Mandate, or who obstruct the natural development of the country, the paper will endeavour to be of assistance to the Mandatory in upholding British authority and prestige. With this end in view, an English non-Jew of high standing who believes alike in the British mission and the Jewish destiny in Palestine, has been invited to act as foreign and imperial editor and has agreed to serve.

After detailing specific plans for the content of the paper, the policy statement continued: "While steadily pursuing a pro-Mandate policy, it will be the aim of this paper to secure as fair a presentation of the Arab case as possible and those phases of it which do not directly or indirectly impinge upon the Mandate will be given support.

"The paper will seek to uphold European influence in the Middle East, will advocate the pursuit of a plain and commonsense policy by the British and French mandatories. Its correspondents from Middle East centres (Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut and Amman) will tend to reflect the utility of the proposed Arab Federation and to invite attention to the undesirable features of pan-Arabism.

"In Palestine the paper will give every encouragement to economic cooperation between all sections of the people... It will advocate fiscal reform, and will discountenance extravagance in Government finance and in the finance of other public bodies."

This preliminary statement of policy, phrased in matter-of-fact business terms was, in fact, the climactic expression of years of thought on the Zionist question and years of Zionist activity in America and in Jerusalem undertaken by Gershon Agronsky. Indeed, from the very first issue and for almost the whole of the 25 years which have since elapsed, the story of *The Palestine Post* was to be very largely the story of Gershon Agronsky.

Gershon Agronsky: The Founder's Story

Like so many others who were destined to influence the growth and development of the State of Israel, his story began in a small town in Russia — in Mena, the Province of Tchernigov — in December, 1894. There he was born to parents steeped in Jewish tradition, and by the year 1905, when the wave of Czarist pogroms forced so many Jews to flee across the seas to the Western world, young Gershon had already made considerable progress in his own Rabbinic studies, and had much the appearance of the pale children with long side-locks who can still be found today in draughty, rickety buildings in Jerusalem, Safad and Tiberias, poring over vast tomes of the Law. The Agronsky family settled in Philadelphia and, for the next ten years, followed the pattern of tens of thousands of similar immigrant families establishing themselves in the new land, except that young Gershon seemed to grow with adolescence and young manhood nearer to his roots. His Yiddish remained with him, his Hebrew continued to develop and he seized hold of the English language and very quickly made it his own, so that later, as editor of an English-language publication, he would betray an uncanny talent for the right word and the perfect nuance. He began his newspaper career, however, in Yiddish, working for \$8.00 a week on the "Yiddische Welt." He was set to re-writing in Yiddish obituaries which were printed in the Philadelphia dailies. He quickly went on to encroach upon the editorial column and comment on national affairs. It was not long before the \$8.00 salary was pyramided into the princely sum of \$25 a week.

At the same time Gershon entered Temple University and began to make a name for himself as a speaker at Zionist political and fund-raising meetings. This was to become the pattern of his future life; newspaper work, allied to general Zionist activity. Soon he was enticed to New York to join the Jewish Correspondence Bureau, the forerunner of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Shortly afterwards he obtained his first editorial post as Managing Editor of "Dos Yiddische Folk," organ of the Zionist Organization of America.

Meanwhile, however, the first world war was raging and in New York, towards the end of 1917, young Agronsky met David Ben-Gurion and Izhak Ben-Zvi who had been exiled from Palestine by the Turks, who had come to organize American support for the Yishuv and found themselves at the head of the recruiting for the Jewish Legion, then be-



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Gershon Agron and David Ben-Gurion leaf through an album—30 years after.

ing urged by Vladimir Jabotinsky and Pinhas Rutenberg. Agronsky enlisted and was soon to lead the "third bunch" to leave the United States for the Palestine Front.

Thence his career fluctuated between private and sergeant, for he was constantly in trouble over his pre-occupation with Zionist problems. While on service he managed to send articles on Palestine and the Jewish Legion to the "Macabbean" magazine, the English organ of the Zionist Organization, and of course his own "Yiddische Folk." He also made a survey of the Jewish Legion, which was part of the massive material prepared for the Peace Conference at Versailles.

After the war, Agronsky remained in Palestine with the Press Bureau of the Zionist Commission, which was then the authoritative body for dealing with Jewish affairs in Palestine. These years 1919-20 were important for Gershon. He learned about the country and began to try his hand at foreign correspondence. When I.L. Goldberg started "Ha'aretz" with Leib Yaffe as its first editor, he pitched in and helped in the inception of this, the first Hebrew daily in the country.

Later he travelled to America as secretary to Menahem M. Ussishkin, and as they passed through London he was asked to join — as Press Secretary — the Weizmann-Einstein Delegation which was going to the U.S.; Weizmann to launch the Keren Hayesod, and Einstein to introduce the idea of a Hebrew University. Here he married Ethel Lipshutz, to whom he had become engaged prior to his departure for Palestine. Ethel was a Philadelphia girl who had recently graduated from Goucher College in Baltimore, with highest academic honours. It was during their three-year sojourn in New York that their first child, Daniel, was born.

In New York, Gershon Agronsky settled down to organize Keren Hayesod publicity under Emanuel Neumann. This was an office job which did not suit the temperament of a man who had felt that active newspaper work was his field. By this time the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was functioning with Meir Grossman at the London end and Jacob Landau in New York. The idea of being connected with an agency which supplied news to all the Yiddish and Anglo-Jewish press in the United States, and served the powerful Jewish press in post-World War Europe of the early nineteen-twenties, appealed to him. The change in mores and values brought about by the Russian Revolution and the setting up of the short-lived independent republics in Eastern Europe, where Jewish populations were concentrated, made for Jewish news aplenty. But it was news from a distance, stripped of flesh and blood.

The Jewish Homeland was emerging, and it was not part of the pattern for Agronsky to sit in New York decoding cables of news from Jerusalem. Agronsky felt he had to go back, knowing that he would miss New York; but he would rather live in Jerusalem and miss New York than live in New York and miss Jerusalem.

From New York to Jerusalem

With a borrowed \$800 he pulled up stakes and moved with his family to Jerusalem. By this time he had established himself as a newspaper man of merit, and he went to Jerusalem as correspondent for the "Christian Science Monitor," the Hearst papers and the "New Palestine." The A.P., U.P., and Reuters were later to bid for his services. By 1927 he could afford to give up his paid part-time job with the Zionist Commission and act as their honorary press consultant.

In that year, he represented the World Zionist Organization as delegate to the Pacific Conference on Reclamation, convened by the American Government in Honolulu. The Palestine Zionist Executive was the only non-government body invited to the Conference, because of its work of reclamation in Palestine, and the paper Agronsky prepared and read there was later produced as an official American government publication.

For Agronsky, Jerusalem was indeed The Place to live. He had become a one-man syndicate with his various newspaper connections, and financially he was sitting on top of the world. One did not have to be religious to feel the pull of Jewish tradition of the Holy City. Every holy day was a pilgrimage which led to the Western Wall. Even the irritation of the Jewish pilgrims having to be guarded by British constables against the Arabs in the Old City on a Day of Atonement could not detract from its magnetic pull. The sentimental Jew was drawn back to his first roots: and Agronsky always had a deep-seated emotional attachment to things Jewish, which stemmed from his saintly and rabbinically wise father and his own studies.

It was at this point that Jacob Landau, of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, once more appeared on the scene. In 1923 he had established the "Palestine Bulletin" as an ancillary activity. Under various editorships it was what its heading proclaimed it to be — an English-language bulletin of the happenings in Palestine.

In 1929 Landau determined that he would induce Agronsky to join the J.T.A. He came to Palestine and invaded the idyllic and pleasant island that the Agronsky home in Jerusalem had become and went to work to persuade Gershon to accept his proposition. What right did he, Agronsky, have to sit back and report for the outside world the things happening in Palestine, when he should be part of the warp and woof of a Jewish news distributing service encircling the globe?

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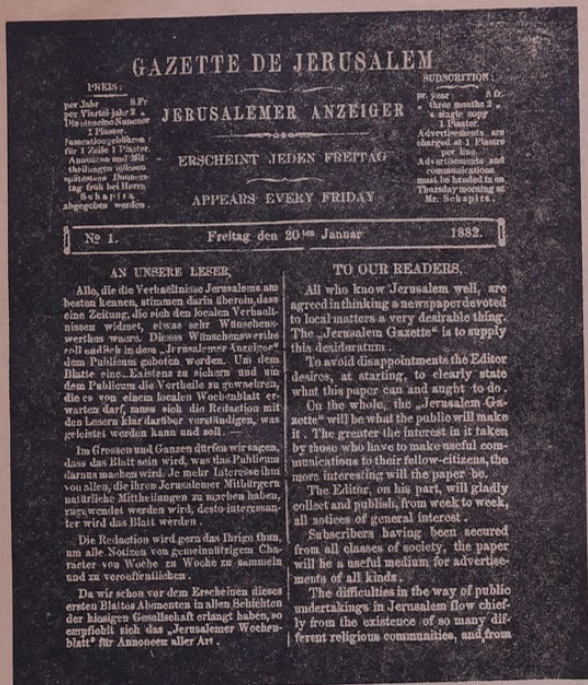
on the occasion of their

25th Anniversary

and wish them many

years of successful work.





Above is a forerunner of The Post, the first issue of "Jerusalem Anzeiger-Gazette de Jerusalem", the first non-Hebrew newspaper to appear in the Holy City, dated Friday, January 20, 1882. It was inaugurated by the 22-year old Avra- ham Moshe Lurie, its Editor, with the express purpose of keeping the small but compact non-Jewish European community in the city informed of its cultural, economic and social activities. It appeared independently for some four issues, after which it came out as a supplement to the Hebrew weekly "Havatzel", originally it appeared in German and English, but its fourth issue already carried a summary in French; in deference, it seems, to the claim made by the French-speaking residents of Jerusalem.

In its initial issue, the Editor sets forth the aims of the newspaper, among which is the desire to serve all sections of the community with up-to-date information. Everything of interest in the city would be reported objectively and informatively, and space would also be allotted to notices by different groups on condition that their contents did not offend the sensibilities of members of other religious groups.

Landau was convincing and his talk did its work. Agronsky gave up all the foreign newspaper work in which he had been engaged, with the exception of the "Christian Science Monitor." This his wife Ethel took over. His decision involved a considerable sacrifice and Agronsky said goodbye to affluence. He became head of the J.T.A. bureau in Palestine

and was asked to keep an eye on the "Bulletin." Two years later, he was made editor of the "Bulletin," on top of the J.T.A. work. He accepted the editorship on the promise of "unfettered discretion." But still there were strings attached. Previously, either as a free-lance or as a worker for Zionist interests, he had always called the tune; now he continued to call the tune, but the man who paid the bills did not always like the key in which it was pitched.

The time was some two years after the 1929 riots, marked by the Passfield White Paper, and there was real work to be done. This was reporting, gathering and presenting news which was over-strong meat for a polite English-language bulletin. The White Paper had been a turning point in the tortuous maze of British-Arab-Jewish politics which was to lead eventually to the Jewish State. But at that time no one dreamed so far ahead.

Meeting on a Bench at Tel Aviv Fair

The manner in which all these things were reported and interpreted could influence the non-Jewish reader. There could be no doubt about Agronsky's approach to the developments; but his attitude was not that of Jacob Landau, who had forgotten that the basis of Agronsky's association as editor was complete freedom. It was about this time that the idea was born in Agronsky to start an English-language newspaper in Palestine which would attract a wide reading public among those whose opinions mattered and which would front, so to speak, for the efforts of those who were seeking to establish the Jewish National Home in Palestine. The idea at first was to compete with and later to acquire the "Palestine Bulletin," and to this end Agronsky now began a series of long and complicated negotiations which involved visits to London in order to get the new periodical into being.

Even before that there was a meeting on a park bench in Tel Aviv, where a friend of Agronsky's, Judge Bernard Rosenblatt, of New York, introduced him to a young man who had come down to Tel Aviv from Haifa to meet him — Ted Lurie. They met at the Levant Fair, which in 1932 was located in the vicinity of the present central bus station and which was showing for the first time household electric refrigerators at the fantastically expensive price of LP25.

At that meeting Agronsky explained his ideas, about the newspaper to the young man who had come to Palestine a year before straight from college, and gave him an estimate of his capital requirements as well. Lurie subsequently borrowed LP250 from his father and lent it to Agronsky for preliminary expenses to cover the cost of a trip to England as well as other items of setting up in business. Agronsky gave his personal guarantee for half the sum, namely LP125, while the other half was Lurie's risk in the event of the necessary capital not being raised and the paper not being born. The money was repaid in a few months, and LP100 of it was invested in the new firm by Ted's father, Jacob Lurie, who became Shareholder Number One in the Company's Register.

There thus began an association that was to grow closer for more than two decades, until 1955, when Gershon Agron (as he had then become) was elected Mayor of Jerusalem and turned over the reins to his assistant.

Ted Lurie had graduated from Cornell University in '30 and six months later had come here to visit his parents who then lived in Haifa. His acclimatization was speeded by a special job in the Hagana, to which he was inducted in 1931 by Ya'acov Dostrovsky, later Ya'acov Dori, the Israel Army's first chief of staff and now President of the Technion. He also worked in a kibbutz for a short time and moved about the country, getting to know people and learning the Hebrew language.

The meeting with Agronsky in 1932 was fortunate for Lurie, for he soon

AMIDAR

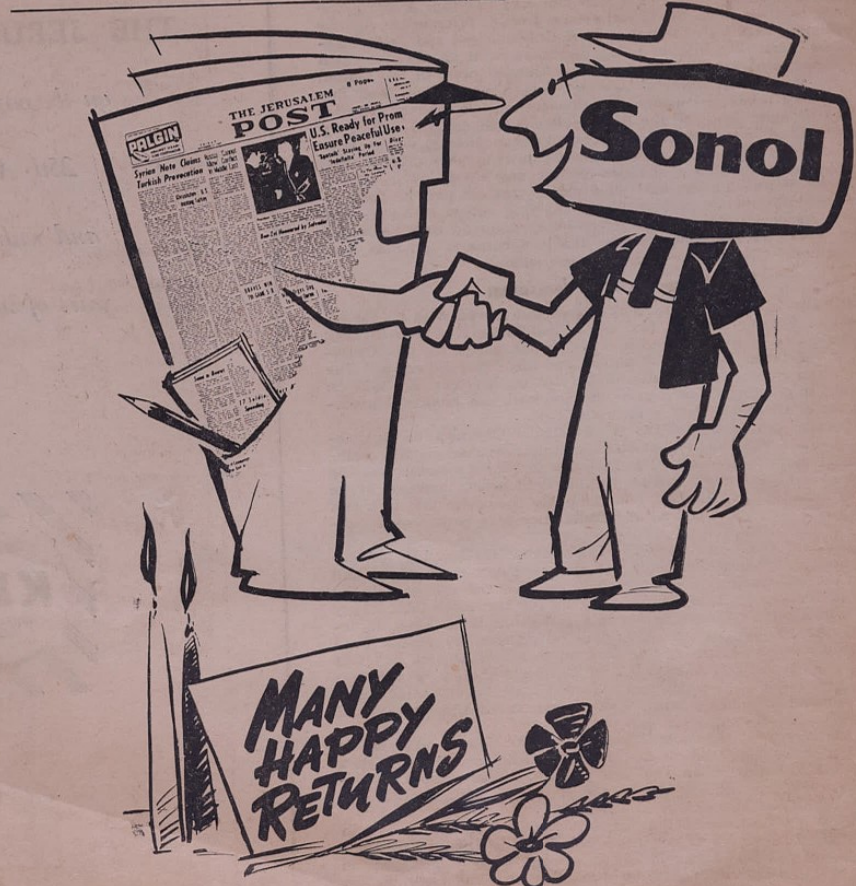
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found that newspaper work was his vocation. He was subsequently trained in a hard school and the responsibility of editorship often fell to him, since Gershon Agronsky was frequently required to go abroad on various missions either for the paper or the Jewish Agency. In such times the leadership of *The Post* devolved upon the young assistant editor. His progress in the world of journalism was rapid. He was one of the founder members of the Journalists Association and later still a member of the presidium of the Editors' Committee.

He served at various times as Jerusalem correspondent of the Central News Agency of London, the London "News Chronicle," the Columbia Broadcasting System, of New York, and the Associated Press. He was to be the first accredited Palestine war correspondent with Jewish units in the Middle East in World War II and to direct English broadcasts of the Hagana secret transmitter in 1948.

Lurie became an expert in the technique of newspaper production and, after a year and a half in Tel Aviv, where he set up the Tel Aviv Bureau, he became Assistant Editor of the paper and as such was largely responsible for getting out the newspaper. His skill grew with the growth of *The Post*. Today, Ted is acknowledged as a leading production man in newspapers in Israel and has also taken part in the proceedings of the International Press Institute, representing Israel at the conference of that body in Tokyo in 1956.

An Editor in the Making

From the very start Lurie was influenced by Agronsky, whose standards were high. He demanded from those who worked with him a performance that should approximate to his own ideas of how a newspaper should be run. The reporter who goes out on his beat has to have a nose for what is news to be included in his story and what must be left out. The same applies to the sub-editors who handle the stories that come into the Desk, to men who make up the pages when all the news is in and to the feature editors who select articles. In this field Ted soon showed that he had a genuine flair. He had a knack of finding the weaknesses in a story prepared for press, the repetitions and omissions; a fine sense of the emphasis which had to be given to present the news without distortion or bias and yet to follow the policy of the paper, which was to be a leading protagonist in the political fight for the establishment of the Jewish National Home and later the State of Israel.

Ted soon showed himself to be almost a pedant in matters of accuracy, and waged an incessant battle for precise and pointed writing, which he has continued steadfastly for the 25 years of the history of the paper.

Most of the men who came to *The Post* came as raw amateurs but many have since gone on to key jobs in the service of the Jewish Agency and later of the State of Israel, as newspaper men abroad, as correspondents of great newspapers, or as public relations officers for major undertakings. There were always new men to train and the relentless battle for standards has been fought without surcease from 1932 until the present day.

In that summer of 1932 Agronsky went to London and sought support among various circles in Anglo-Jewry. For example, he wanted the English Zionist Federation to take up £1,000 worth of shares in the new paper. They had some money available under the Israel Davis bequest which had been left for the "encouragement of speaking, writing and learning the English language in Palestine." Mr. Walter Cohen, of the Economic Board for Palestine, was very helpful in trying to enlist capital for the project at this stage and among the first subscribers to the £3,835 raised at that time were James de Rothschild, Lord Melchett, Sir Lionel Cohen, Mr. D. L. Nathan and Dr. Eder. This passed the minimum sum which Agronsky had set himself to raise before he started the paper and so the quest for a merger of the "Palestine Bulletin" and the proposed "Post" could now be pushed further. Among those who were helpful in the talks between Agronsky and Landau were Yosef Sprinzak, the present Speaker of the Knesset, and the late Professor Selig Brodetsky.

It was in October of that year that Agronsky had roughed out his idea of what *The Palestine Post* should be. "It will be my sole object," he wrote, "to produce a paper of which we shall in time be somewhat proud and which will do its share towards the improvement of relations. The High Commissioner, whom I had the honour of informing of this matter on September 30, is as genuinely interested in the latest development as he was in the initial proposal. Indeed, he was among the many who had always favoured the joining of forces in the production of an adequate English newspaper."

However, his full statement of policy was not in fact brought before the Board of the paper until April, 1933, by which time *The Post* had been

in operation for some months. At that time the Board consisted of Gershon Agronsky, Canon Danby, A. Goldwater, S. Horowitz, Dr. A. I. Kasteliansky, Dr. A. Katzenelson, Col. F. H. Kisch, Miss A. Landau, A. E. Mulford, S. Tolokowsky, and Miss Henrietta Szold. The seven subscribers to the Articles of Association of the Company included three non-Jews, Canon Danby of St. George's (correspondent of "The Times"), A. E. Mulford (correspondent of Reuters) and A. N. Young (representing Russell and Co., the well-known auditors).

Some of the lines laid down proved too much for Jacob Landau, whose representative wrote that "he wishes to place on record that he is not to be identified with the editorial policy of the paper upon the several controversial issues that may arise or to be responsible for it." As a result, Mr. Landau disposed of the J.T.A. share in the paper, and all traces of the "Bulletin" disappeared.

The late Canon Danby, who was a scholar and Hebraist of note, was the paper's first chief editorial writer. He made a translation with a considerable annotation of the whole code of early Rabbinic Jewish Law known as the Mishnah, which was published by the Oxford University Press and has now become a classic. Among other works, Canon Danby was the translator of Professor Joseph Klausner's "Jesus of Nazareth." The English edition of this book had profound repercussions in the world of scholarship and forced a revision of many previously established theories on the origins of Christianity.

Drama of First 'Run'

Thus, by November, 1932, all the major technical details had been completed, and at the top of the narrow, muddy lane then called Rehov Hassolel, which opens off Jerusalem's Jaffa Road, in the early hours of December 1, 1932, the first number of *The Palestine Post* was run off on an old flat-bed press under the unshaded gleam of a solitary electric light bulb hanging from the ceiling.

It was a tense moment for the small group gathered in the basement as the master printer mounted the iron scaffolding at the side, ready to start the machine. He put out his hand and then paused. "How many shall I print?" he asked. In the hurry and bustle of getting the paper ready, of planning and charting a course, no one had given that question any thought. Gershon Agronsky caught his breath. He did not realize how tense had been. But his voice was level and calm as he asked in his deep baritone:

"How many 'Palestine Bulletins' did you print yesterday?"

"Eight hundred."

"Make it twelve hundred."

This calm decision of Gershon Agronsky set the presses rolling and those who heard it made on that night comprised the whole staff of the paper at the time. They had worked through almost the entire night to see that there would not be the smallest blemish or error in Number One of the first edition of *The Palestine Post*. In addition to Agronsky and Lurie, who had charge of the actual lay-out of the paper, there was Anne Goldsmith, who besides handling advertising was to take care of the woman's page and of features. There was one reporter, a bookkeeper, a general messenger, despatch and delivery boy, two linotype operators and a stone-hand, whose knowledge of English was more wishful than real. These men worked entirely by eye. Indeed one of the problems of *The Post* has always been that most of the printing staff do not know English.

Still with the paper today since that first evening, apart from Lurie, are Shalom Lachs, veteran stone-hand, Moshe Pinto, the paper's first messenger, now in charge of its subscription and sales department, Zalel Ben Haim, now Cashier, the despatcher, Haim Nuriel, and a printer, Haim Ettinger.

Happy Anniversary

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DESIGN FOR A NEW DAILY

THE first issues of this paper were entirely different in appearance from the present sheet of four pages each containing nine columns. The first *Palestine Post*, comprised eight pages of slightly more than tabloid size each containing five columns. The editorial page was literally that. Comment on events and letters to the editor took a whole page of the paper. Letters in those days were lengthy and often argued a case with a latitude seldom given these days even to feature articles. The front page in general was dominated by foreign news with a preference being given to events concerning the British peoples. News of the Jewish world occupied a lesser proportion of the page and at first events concerning the Yishuv, or the Jewish population of Palestine, were rarely of top-rank front-page calibre. Thus the second issue of December 2, 1932, splashed the fact that **BRITAIN URGES SUSPENSION OF DEBT PAYMENT**, the Australia-England cricket match was a top news story and barely crowding its way into prominence in that day's issue was the fact that local Mayors were uniting in opposition to a new Bill. By the morrow, on December 3, Nahum Sokolow was featured as deprecating a new Legislative Council scheme in a two-column head on page one. By December 8, headlines proclaimed mounting opposition to the proposed *Palestine Legislative Council*.

Making the Paper Indispensable

Thus from the very start the paper was in an anomalous position which it recognized as part of its mission and purpose. It was a newspaper owned and edited by Jews, whose own language in Palestine was Hebrew, mainly for the consumption of the British who were administering, policing and soldiering the country. It had to be a good paper that would not be repugnant to the British reader. It had to give its readers more than they could possibly get from any other English language paper they might print for themselves as they did in Egypt, India and other parts of the Empire. It had to offer a balance of local and foreign news which would keep the reader in touch with what was going on in the world at large and within the fastnesses of the Empire, and also tell them what was happening locally. It had to represent a catholicity of interests; to appeal to Government officials and clerks, to British soldiers and policemen. It had to meet a diversity of interests and present its material so that it should still be a general newspaper, indispensable to the British reader. He might dislike it, hate it and despise it. Years later he might even try to blow it and its staff to smithereens by a well-planted bomb. But according to the chart it had to be a paper without which he could not get along.

This was a tall order for a new enterprise with the limited facilities at the disposal of *The Palestine Post*. Even reporters were hard to obtain, and indeed it was *The Post* which was to pioneer many new features in Israel journalism and train men who later made their mark in the front rank of international journalism. Much of the first news writing was done by the editor himself — Gershon Agronsky, now Mayor of Jerusalem — who dictated many news items to his secretary.

Among the early reporters were Avraham Yehzekiel whose language was Hebrew, and Reuven Zaslany who later, as Reuven Shiloah, became Israel's Minister to Washington. Reuven monitored the Arabic press and translated appropriate news items into Hebrew. The paper in these

early days also shared a reporter in Tel Aviv with the "Doar Hayom," Hebrew daily, and with "Ha'aretz," Haifa. But there were certain arrangements made by Agronsky through the contacts which he had developed in his long newspaper career which gave *The Post* a considerable stimulus and reputation. For example, a link-up was made with "The Times," of London, whereby *The Post* enjoyed the privilege of publishing simultaneously the "Thunderer's" main daily feature.

Indeed the paper very early began to pioneer in Palestine journalism the use of international feature services and before very long other link-ups were made, first with the North American Newspaper Alliance and with the "Observer" Foreign News Service. In this way the reader of *The Post* obtained the benefits of the most famous names in modern journalism by getting at first hand the reports and views of teams of skilled correspondents scattered all over the face of the globe.

Hassolel Press Centre of Jerusalem's Journalism

The difficulties in the printing and publishing side of the paper were not so easily overcome. The Hassolel Press, where the paper was printed, had for the past 12 years been the hub of Jerusalem journalism. It was started by a group of early Palestine pioneers with British-Jewish capital. Itamar Ben-Avi, the son of the famous Hebrew lexicographer and reviver of the Hebrew language, and Alexander Aaronson of the famous family that had defied the Turks and created a legend with their underground help to the British in World War I, were the centre of this printing activity. On this press "Doar Hayom," the earliest Hebrew daily in Jerusalem, after the British Occupation, was printed. So had the "Palestine Bulletin."

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Sales Mounted Steadily

THE new newspaper had an immediate favourable reception. Sales started mounting steadily from the first week of going to press. There have at times been fluctuations in the numbers printed, but these were always due to outside conditions, and to the paper's insistence on remaining in Jerusalem, come what would. Riots, lack of transport and principally shortage of newsprint were the limiting factors which prevented *The Post* from printing as many copies as it could have sold.

What was the reason for the immediate success of this new paper with its paradoxical programme? Besides the catholicity of its contents it had another advantage. It was a journal with a clear purpose. Sincerity if allied with variety of reader-interest, will always sell a paper. But another factor entered into the calculations. In addition to the various gradations of British who needed their daily newspaper, there was a constantly growing stream of immigrants. Most of these knew no Hebrew, but the majority, who came from Germany, had a reading knowledge of English. In this early Hitler period most of the newcomers from Germany wanted to cast off as much of the influence of their land of origin as possible and *The Post* filled the need they had of a paper which would let them know what was happening in Palestine and keep them in touch with the outside world without their having recourse to one of the German sheets which began to appear at that time.

BASICALLY a newspaper stands or falls on the quality, variety and the authenticity of the news it provides its readers. The greatest difficulty at first was posed by the problem of foreign news. In the first days of the paper this meant literally plucking the news out of the air. At the beginning of 1933 none of the large news agencies functioned in Palestine. The United Press and Associated Press were unknown in the country. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency supplied some Jewish news and about 150 cabled words of world news from Reuter, for which it then served as general agent. The rest came by mail overnight from Cairo. Reuter put out small printed bulletins of cables for its subscribers. Teleprinters were unknown and telegraphic communication was still by manual Morse keys ticking out dots and dashes. There was no competition from English language newspapers from abroad, for these could only arrive much later by overseas mail. There was competition, however, from the B.B.C. and this spurred *The Post* to pioneer for more modern cable facilities.

It should be remembered that the year 1932 was a turning point in international communications of all sorts. Air mail and international wireless services were just on the eve of their rapid development, which was in less than a decade to shrink the effective size of the planet. It was the period of the first Atlantic flights and the great air races to Australia which pioneered the Far Eastern and southern hemisphere air mail and international aviation passenger and freight services. At that time one of the sources of news was the British Official Press which was operated by the Foreign Office and consisted of a daily bulletin taken down in Jerusalem's old Post Office in long-hand from a Morse wireless signal. Newspapers could not use the B.B.C. news since it was copyright.

Balancing News Sources

The Post tried to use another source of news which would balance the official transmissions of the British Foreign Office. This was the Transocean News Agency which operated in pre-Hitler Germany and broadcast a wireless report of general news for the benefit of subscribers. The Post Office, however, claimed that it had a monopoly on reception of all news coming over the air, and this source was thus very quickly restricted. By 1935, however, Reuter was persuaded to commence operations here in earnest and was shortly followed by the United Press, which was introduced largely through Agronsky's efforts.

But it was the local news which gave most anxiety. Here one had a schizophrenic selection which might well have defeated a less astute newspaperman than the editor-publisher. This was a paper owned and edited by Jews, largely for British consumption. It was printed in predominantly Arab surroundings and so had to be made palatable to all its readers, who also included a large number of educated Arabs. But there was never the slightest doubt where it stood on the Jewish question. How then could this legerdemain be accomplished?

It was one of the first principles that as much Arab news and features as possible should be included. It was clearly understood by everyone

in the paper that there would never be a dearth of Jewish news, but that everything which made a good Arab story must be given immediate consideration. In the very early days of the paper Gershon Agronsky approached the late George Antonius and asked him to be its Arab editor. He was assured that he would have an absolutely free hand in the selection and writing of his stories, provided of course that they were neither anti-Jewish nor anti-British.

Antonius was at that time the presentable Arab front for influencing the British and other important outsiders. He had a very beautiful wife who was the hostess in their charming home on Mount Scopus. He represented the Crane Foundation, an anti-Jewish pro-Arab group which dominated the Beirut University and had as their main objective the building up of Arab prestige in the world at large.

Antonius did not see his way clear to handling the assignment, but he suggested that Yusef Hanna, an Egyptian-born Arab, editor of "Falastin" (Jaffa daily), take over the job. Hanna accepted, and remained with *The Post* for over a decade until he was forced by Mufti terrorists to give up the association.

Of Hanna it might be said that he was typical of a certain type of city Arab in the Levant at that time. He was, at one and the same time, shrewd and naive. He had a sense of news, and his policies and loyalties had a surprising amount of flexibility. While keeping his eye well-peeled for the man who was currently paying for his services, his attachment to *The Palestine Post* was at the same time very genuine. He was fully aware that the people with whom he worked on *The Post* would not let him down.

Reflecting the Middle East of Yesterday

GETTING the Arab news was not the only complication. Questions of policy entered into the selection of what stories to print, although politics were never allowed to influence the factual presentation of any story. One of the constant policy lines of the paper was to point out to the Mandatory power that Arab discontent was not a Jewish problem; there was anti-British and anti-foreign unrest even when there were no Jews involved. This was a lesson which the British Foreign and Colonial Offices refused to learn 25 years ago and still have not assimilated today.

Thus in 1933, Persia was violently objecting to the British oil contracts; Iraq stood in revolt against British domination; Egypt was constantly at loggerheads with the British over the Suez Canal and the large garrisons of troops in that country; Syria was in open rebellion against the French. *The Post* gave full coverage to the news on its doorstep. The stories of Arab unity which the British liked to foster were a myth highlighted by constant news of various Arab wars in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, on the Syrian border and other places. But at the time when *The Post* first started it was still possible for the British to pretend that it was only because they had let themselves in for a quixotic Jewish National Home that they were being harassed by a complex of Arab discontents throughout the Moslem world. To point up such unpopular truths and still have the paper one which the British would be willing and anxious to read and pay their piastres for, was a feat as difficult as any hitherto performed in newspaper history.

Then again there was genuine Jewish news which just had to be included. There was the ordinary everyday living which included its share of murder, theft, rape and arson, which were common to all of the populations and were dishd up with a fine impartiality. There was the economics of the country, which hinged largely upon the growing Jewish population. There were such seemingly safe subjects as education, which eventually became the starting point for violent arguments because of the different standards of the Jews and Arabs. There was the anomaly of the Jews paying the bulk of taxes and getting back pitances in return in the form of grants to their own self-organized health and education services. All of these problems were constantly recurrent in the entire history of the Mandate and all were grist for *The Post*.

But, on the other hand, the Social and Personal column gave every important social event, especially if it were connected with Government House. The paper printed restrained but satisfactory accounts of what was doing in local British "society." The sports columns were full and thorough down to the latest batting average in the latest cricket match. They gave all the important sporting news from England and the Empire, and running accounts of sporting events in the country. In the beginning the women's page was devoted almost entirely to what women in England wore, ate, how they beautified themselves and decorated their homes. The Bridge games were of the best and cross-

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word puzzles were popular. Every important move of Royalty and their printable doings were dutifully and completely reported. The period was replete in Royal weddings, funerals, coronations and journeys. All of these were given wide space and complete coverage. There were long articles on the cinema, from England and Hollywood. Letters from Cairo and Baghdad gave excellent reports of the doings in the Anglo-Egyptian and Anglo-Iraqi social and political life.

To balance these purely British items there were complete Law Reports, covering in detail the daily legal entanglements and involvements. Just as the British news was covered by British writers, the legal news was covered by trained local legal personnel. Then there were very comprehensive and comparative lists of prices of foodstuffs and commodities in the country. Economics, trade balances, etc., were given ample space. The feature articles were of a very high standard. Archaeology was both news and exciting reading, and the various finds and their significance were covered by some of the best archaeologists of the day, including the present President of the Hebrew University, then called Dr. B. Maisler.

All of these features and special articles varied from time to time, as they do in any alert and well-edited newspaper. Sometimes the emphasis was on trivial, sometimes on important happenings, depending upon the climate of any given period. It is, of course, the editorial policy and the slanting of the news which gives any newspaper its particular colour and character.

Gershon Agronsky took as the ultimate and the desirable in newspaperdom "The Times" of London and the "Manchester Guardian." He felt that the dictum of Scott of the "Guardian" that the purpose of his paper was "to make righteousness readable" was as good a starting point as any. He rebelled against a method of reporting life where only the cruelties and abnormalities were apparently made the norm. "If in 32 columns," Agronsky once remarked, "I can have just one-quarter of a column where I can correct a wrong or point up a right, then I am fulfilling some purpose. A paper must have the courage of its own dullness. You say to your reader, 'I know what you want. Death and catastrophe come to everyone and everyone is interested when he can read about it having happened to someone else. But, nevertheless, knowing what you want and what you like, you will take what I give you and learn to like it.'"

The Post's Function Queried

EARLY in the history of *The Palestine Post* Hector Bolitho wrote a long letter to the Editor which was printed in its entirety and answered fully. It is in the answer to the appeal of this English gentleman, scholar and journalist that the editor set down his convictions as to what the function of his paper was to be, and the direction it would chart for its future.

I have just read through your issue of May 16 (read Mr. Bolitho's letter). Almost half of the news columns and magazine letter press are devoted to anger. Please do not think me an old dullard. But I do beg you to remember that *The Palestine Post* is the newspaper of the same majority in Palestine who wish for the fulfilment of Hillel's teaching. 'What is hateful to thee do not unto thy fellow men.' Palestine gave this law to the Jews just as it gave the same law, 'Do unto thy fellow man as you would have him do unto you,' to my people beside Galilee. We are much nearer to fundamentals than we admit.

It is in the day to day life of the country that we can make Hillel's teaching blossom. Let me indulge my feelings a little more and talk about England... England is supposed to be mothering the Zionist movement, and I do not think that, if we consider the whole history of Jewry in the past two hundred years, England has reason for being ashamed. She has behaved well over the monstrous and cruel campaign in Germany. There is no effort to present

English life to your readers so that they may understand us and know us. A country like Palestine must be full of interesting news. I want to know what is happening in Nablus, I want to know about the settlements in the plain of Sharon and the progress of the Tiberias Baths...

Please forgive this letter which is really an intrusion. But do hold the mirror up to the people and show themselves as sane, industrious, kindly people. Which most are. I suppose it is one of the tragedies of journalism that the man who murders his mother-in-law gets columns in the press while the tens of thousands of men who restrain themselves from murdering their mothers-in-law, never get a line.

In the space of history, Hitler will be a small man. He has much brain and little character. His hands are always clenched in indignation and it is interesting to remember that truly great men never clench their hands when they speak. We see Hitler as a colossal figure now. We see the cruelty of his government as something more terrible than anything in history. For myself, it has removed the last shred of my inherited anti-semitic feelings. I would always be ashamed, after this, if I responded to the feeling, which is unfortunately born in many Christians.

I said that in the space of time Hitler would be a small man. I believe this to be true. But the great man will be the sturdy Jew in the settlement beside Gideon's Well. The fullness of his growth and character is a glorious thing to contemplate. Let us know more about him... The paper has made such progress since its new form that I dare to hope that you are not angry at my impudent suggestions and that still more can be done. Hitler is destroying a nation; you are creating one.

'In Defence of a Newspaper'

In an editorial entitled "In Defence of a Newspaper," the Editor answered Hector Bolitho's letter and set down in sober and thoughtful terms his belief of a newspaper's place in the scheme of things.

History is generally only the register of the crimes, the follies and the mistakes of mankind. With this quotation from Gibbon *The Palestine Post* might reply to the letter from Mr. Hector Bolitho we were privileged to publish yesterday; for if this definition is true of history, it must certainly be true of newspaperdom which in many of its aspects is the raw material out of which history is made. We might go on to plead that whereas history weighs and selects, the newspaper merely collects and records... It is the duty of a newspaper to register events as they occur, having regard only to the standard of decencies which every newspaper accepts as its own guide and rule.

What constitutes an event worth reporting, is a question which every newspaper seeks to answer in its own lights. Certainly the normal doings of a normal people is not an event. Thousands of trains start on time and arrive on time, but their departure and arrival is of interest only to travellers, prospective travellers and their friends. Hundreds of ships cross the oceans and their crossing is only of interest to the passengers and those concerned with their cargo. But let one of these trains be derailed or one of the ships become stranded and the matter becomes a source of solicitude and anxiety, depending on the gravity of the accident and the nearness, geographically or nationally, of those involved in the disaster. Millions of people going about their employment is not news, and in these days millions of people not going about their employment is, unhappily, not news.

Men handling news for many hours of the day might be forgiven if they became calloused, too calloused to appraise the drama involved in the multiplication of disaster, or if they became ghoulish to the extent that they welcomed news of misfortunes. To the credit of the newspaper fraternity throughout the world, it should be noted that, taken by and large, journalists are neither calloused nor ghoulish. They can sense tragedy, and perhaps more quickly than the reader, but it would be a mistake and an injustice to imagine that the makers of newspapers revel in misfortunes.

There are, to be sure, newspaper proprietors who exploit reader interest in the misfortunes of other people and traffic in the uncanny and even in the ghoulish instincts of men. This newspaper, at any rate, is outside that category. We should be happy to record less anger and hatred, if anger and hatred did not fill the world. We should, however, even as the makers of this very small newspaper, sin before the historian who alone should be left to judge which of the events of today are of passing importance, if we suppressed the truth about hatred and anger filling the world. There is the value of a warning in the very rattling of the hammer and the sabre-rattling which drowns the pleasant noise of the sickle and the hammer is the blight of our times, as it has been for the last quarter of a century.

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and for generations and centuries before then. We should be happy to be a sundial recording only the sunny hours, but when issues of war and peace are involved and, as in Naziland, an issue of life and death of a pitiful minority, a paper would be doing less than its duty if it slurred over these pitiful portents. No Englishman, with his highly developed sense of fair play, would thank us for giving less than the truth. It is no violation of Hillel's precept, 'What is hateful to thee, do not unto thy fellow men, nor of that other teaching, which is Hillel's teaching paraphrased 'Do unto thy fellowman as you would have him do unto you,' if a newspaper calls attention early and late to the trampling underfoot of these principles by a power which in the eyes of the world's statesmen seems not on that account to have forfeited its title to consideration and equality.

Nothing would please this journal more than an unfolding of the progress in this country which Mr. Bolitho would have us serve up to our readers. He wants to know what is happening in Nablius, in the Plain of Sharon and in the settlement near Gideon's Well. To tell of that progress is the purpose for which this newspaper was created, and the story, we believe, is told, inconspicuously from day to day. It is very often hidden in facts and in figures which we allow to speak for themselves. This is not enough, to be sure, for it takes more than an ordinary reporter to appreciate the news-value of these epoch-making villages and to describe them in a manner acceptable to the reader. Almost anybody can see a fire or a fight; almost nobody, unhappily, in this country can see the romance and the drama in a people's struggle to remake itself and the country destined as the scene of its remaking.

There remains one point on which we think that Mr. Bolitho has been slightly inaccurate. 'There is no effort,' he says, 'to present English life...' A perusal of the pages of *The Palestine Post* will show that perhaps a daily effort is being made. London is the centre of all our news sources. English news and English gossip fill our Letter from London, which deliberately avoids accounts of factionalism and friction and describes the out of the way occurrences and personalities of London and elsewhere. And kindness and gratitude for England is expressed throughout Jewish Palestine far better than Mr. Bolitho would have the Jews express it. It is expressed not in words, but in their unflinching wish for Britain to administer the Mandate, in their unshakable faith (in the teeth of cruel disappointments) that when England strays from a just administration, it is due not to ill will or bad faith, but to extraneous influences, not inherent in the British character, before which even the mighty and just must often bend a knee.

THE POST AND THE ARABS

SINCE one of the dicta of *The Palestine Post* was that anything that made a good story about the Arabs was news, the early days abounded with such "good stories." While all was not sweetness and light in the field of Jewish-Arab relationship, it was nevertheless true that there was a great deal of friendly intercourse between the two peoples. The older Jewish settlers and the native-born Palestinian Jews often felt that they had much more in common with their Arab neighbours than they had with the newly-arrived immigrants from Central Europe. They understood their language, they liked their manners and their customs, they enjoyed their foods and generally felt comfortable and at home with them. But this was not news for a newspaper. This was an accepted fact and therefore found little or no space in the columns of *The Post*. What did make news was the rising tide of the power of the Mufti, Haj Amin el Husseini, and his determination to see to it that any good feeling or good relationship between the two peoples was to be discouraged. It was the business of the Arabs to badger the Mandatory Government into putting a stop to the immigration of the unhappy Jews from Germany; to make the best use of Nazi propaganda for arousing the city Arab and the fellah against the Jewish newcomers; generally to interfere with the development of the Jewish National Home. Since these manifestations were necessarily accompanied by loud and violent demonstrations and were given a religious cloak as being in accordance with the will of Allah, they made front page news.

For a time land settlement disputes and the court trials which followed in their wake occupied much space in *The Post*. These disputes followed a regular pattern which only varied with the location of the land and the Beduin tribes involved. The Jews, either individuals or public bodies, would purchase a tract of land, usually desert or swamp, with the idea of development. If this development could not take place immediately, in the course of a few days upon this land would spring up a settlement of the black tents of Kedar. These Beduin soon learned that it was very remunerative to become non-nomadic citizens. Instead of moving on with the change of the season, they would only move on when they were paid handsome sums of money for doing the thing which they had always done in any case.

The court always found that the Jews were legally in the right, but strongly recommended that they pay the bribes necessary to dis-

lodge their uninvited guests. The payment of these fees was by no means a guarantee that the tents would be folded up and silently moved away. If this particular tribe of squatters moved on, another tribe was almost sure to appear in the course of a night. This process kept the lawyers' pockets well lined, it made the Beduin prosperous, and since no police order for eviction was ever given, it made good material both for news and editorial comment in the paper.

In the beginning of the 'thirties there was a definite move on the part of the Jews to come to terms with Emir Abdullah for the settlement and development of some of the vast stretches of barren lands on his side of the Jordan. In the original Versailles Treaty Cis-Jordan and Trans-Jordan were one country. It was after one of the early futile attempts at Arab appeasement that the two countries had been separated and the Trans-Jordan Hashemite Emirate came into being. For their kindness and generosity in giving the Arabs another state, the British were firmly convinced that they had one place where their foothold in the Middle East was on firm ground.

Weizmann Rode to Meet Feisal

The first intimation that anything in the nature of a rapprochement was afoot appeared in a social item in *The Post* on April 10, 1933. "Dr. Arlosoroff," the report read, "entertained a number of paramount sheikhs from Trans-Jordan, in honour of Dr. Weizmann." The article continues:

Dr. Weizmann whose knowledge of Trans-Jordan dates back to 1918, when in the company of Major Ormsby-Gore he travelled for six days and five nights on horseback from Jerusalem to reach the camp of Emir Feisal (now King of Iraq), expressed his delight in meeting the people who were interested in the development of both sides of the Jordan.

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Abdullah Speaks Out

SHORTLY after this purely social item the paper reported "Trans-Jordan Tribal Chiefs meet in conclave to ask the Mandatory Government to remove the ban on land sales."

For those who were at that time constant readers of the paper, such news items were straws in the wind to show what was going on behind the news rather than what was printed. It was a not very subtle way of saying, "We want to remind you British that the Emir Feisal had made definitive agreements with the Jews, and as the head of the principal Arab rulers had definitely agreed to Jewish settlement in Palestine. Dr. Weizmann visited him back in 1918 with no less a personage than Ormsby-Gore, and they did not visit him just to be given a sheep's eye at a lavish banquet. And now you see that the paramount Sheikhs of Trans-Jordan are not only unreluctant, but actually eager to have us buy up some of their land and make their desert productive. Trans-Jordan would not lose by such a deal. We strongly suspect that it is you, the British, who are throwing a spanner into the machinery."

That the Emir Abdullah himself was by no means cold to the idea of having the Jews develop tracts of Trans-Jordan land, was also printed in the paper by inference, rather than direct statement. Such items as "Emir Speaks Out" appeared in a front page headline of May 2, 1934: "Blunt reminder to Arab leaders that the Emir Abdullah knows how to uphold the rights of the Arabs." This reminder, on the part of the Emir, was in answer to the Arab newspaper attacks after he had received and lunched with Mr. Moshe Shertok (now Sharett), then Political Secretary of the Jewish Agency. "The people of Trans-Jordan are viewing with deep concern the skillful manoeuvring of the people in Palestine, who, from behind cover, claim a monopoly on Arab rights," the Emir's statement concluded.

Accounts of Colourful Ceremonies

On the lower level of non-political life, exotic customs always made a good story. In April 1933, the paper devoted a lot of space to the colourful ceremony of the settling of an Arab-Jewish feud in the Pardess Hanna area. A Jewish watchman had shot a Turkoman tribesman during a quarrel over an act of trespass. According to the Turkoman Beduin custom, blood money was demanded in order to settle the dispute amicably. "First a delegation of mixed notables visited the bereaved family (according to pre-arrangement) and asked if they



The then Emir Abdullah



Weizmann and Feisal at their historic meeting.

were willing to compound the feud. The family of course agreed. The Beduin then realistically acted out a scene of anger and attack with sticks — and many of the Jewish participants who did not know that this was an act, prepared to sell their lives dearly. The next act took place in the highly colourful tent of the paramount chief. A spokesman said:

"Here is the man who killed your relative. He asks that you condone the deed. Do you agree?"
"We have forgiven."

"A handkerchief was then tied to a long pole and given to the watchman as a symbol of the peace covenant."

"The sheikh spoke thus: 'We are all sons of our father Abraham and community between us has never been severed. Tragic incidents will happen, but then good people, seekers of peace between brother and brother, intervene and bring us together. Now go forth and live in peace and friendship!'"

New Acts of Terror Reported

But the sons of father Abraham did not "go forth and live in peace and friendship," and not all disputes were resolved in colourful ceremonies. "The death of a child and his father's loss of a hand is the toll in life and limb from the explosion of a bomb of unknown origin in Nahalal on Thursday night," and a few days later, "Father follows Young Son to Grave" were the headlines reporting a new series of acts of terror.

As a result of these murders, on July 28, 1933, *The Post* reports "Terrorist Gang Discovered." There was a secret society connected with the Young Men's Moslem Association; its purpose was to liquidate influential Jews, and the Nahalal killing was to be one of a series. Finally there were two death sentences in the case, and in his plea for mercy the defending lawyer said: "This murder has been



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The tale of the first 25 years of *The Jerusalem Post* is, in its own words, one of unremitting efforts to achieve the daily miracle of presenting the news of the world and of Israel within the compass of a few pages.

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committed as a result of a bad policy enforced by the Government of this country."

But these political murders were no more important in the annals of the paper than "King Feisal Dies of Heart Attack" on September 10. In the leader mourning the death of this important ruler *The Post* writes: "In his sudden demise Iraq has been robbed not only of a monarch but of a man to whom, after Great Britain, it owes its present position." The new popular King Ghazi came to the throne and delighted his subjects by becoming betrothed to the daughter of ex-King Ali of Hedjaz. *The Post* very pointedly on this occasion took space to print the full text of Dr. Weizmann's famous agreement with King Feisal, in 1919, when Feisal recognized the Mandate and the Jewish Zionist claims.

Tall Tales of Abu Jilda

AT the end of August 1933, a gang of bandits began to haunt the countryside around the Nablus-Tulkarem section. They were headed by a spectacular bandit whose name was Abu Jilda. He and his gang roved the countryside and relieved travellers and countryfolk of whatever money they happened to have in their possession. On one occasion, after herding some thirteen people into a cave and giving them a thorough going over, he was disturbed by two Palestine constables. Abu Jilda did not brook interference by the forces of law and order, and promptly proceeded to liquidate the police. The hunt was on. Large police forces turned out to look for the elusive gang, but with little success. Abu Jilda continued to function as before with practically no interference. The paper did some tongue-in-the-cheek reporting of the hunt. "While the police are racing about the countryside in pursuit of their evasive enemy, tongues are racing at a swift pace in the streets and coffee houses of Jerusalem." It seems that the whereabouts of Abu Jilda were well-known to everyone but the police. The reports say that "He has guards at the gate, speaks to his followers only if they have their hands above their heads, has his food pre-tasted and loves publicity. He peers avidly at the newspaper each day, over his clinking revolvers, daggers and what-nots, and emits savage grunts of satisfaction when news of his own activities are published."

The Arab daily "Falastin" scooped the newspapers of the world with a full page spread of Abu Jilda. The banner headlines read "ABU JILDA BARES ALL TO FALASTIN." There was no fraternal jealousy in the reports of *The Palestine Post* which gleefully reprinted the "Falastin" bonanza. The reports further went on to say: "Abu Jildians are in seclusion in communion with the infinite, during the month of Ramadan." These stories were accompanied by a variety of photographs of the bandit in full regalia, many of them autographed. He was a legend in the making. People adored him and Arab mothers used his name to frighten little children, while he continued to prey upon the countryside at will.

More than any other single factor which shamed the police into really going about the task of capturing this twentieth century Robin Hood, was an "interview" contrived by Dorothy Kahn, one of *The Post's* most valuable contributors. In her fictitious vignette which covered about four columns she wrote under the heading: "Glorifying The Bandit!":

"You must find your work extremely interesting, especially now that the weather is becoming more pleasant, Mr. Abu Jilda. We were seated on a low rock somewhere in the Beer Sheba district, or was it in the Nablus district? At all events we were seated on a low rock somewhere, Mr. Jilda, with one hand on his trigger and the other stroking the neck of his pet white lamb.

"I don't like to appear rude," commented Abu, "but you will have to be quick! You know I spend too much time as it is receiving reporters."

"I hate to intrude," I apologized, "but since your pictures were published in the 'Falastin' this week, and now that the public has seen you, we feel that it is your duty to them to tell them your philosophy... and about your phenomenally successful career."

"I could see that I had played trump card, Abu Jilda was glowing to the edges of his moustache with a warm pinkish blush.

"Yes, those pictures have caused confusion. I haven't done a stroke of work since Sunday... They used to bring my letters by donkey. Now they use a caravan of seven camels... I receive letters from Syria and Cyprus... There are the usual letters from women... and the usual appeals for money for one charity or another. One young man wants to know whether he should eat his cactus salad with a spoon or a knife. Personally I always use a dagger, but it is more a matter of taste than etiquette."

"The title under my picture embarrassed me a little." Again Abu tweaked the lamb's neck, which was now almost bald. "Did you notice that it said King Abu Jilda? But don't let that frighten you. I'm just plain old Abu to the newspaper boys."

Finally, upon information received from one of the bandit's former followers, Abu Jilda was captured in a cave on April 15, after a feeble resistance. He was extolled as a modern Robin Hood, a national hero, by the Arabs who deplored his capture as evidence of persecution by the British overlords. The villagers, however, breathed more easily after his imprisonment. The trial, which was reported at length, was as colourful as his life. "With all of the dash and bravado of heroic buccaneers, Abu Jilda and his prime minister El Armeet received their death sentences." Dorothy Kahn concludes her story of the trial on a note of regret "Abu Jilda and El Armeet, who had been a household word, whose names had been shouted at the Ramadan feast, should be

on their swift steeds with their guns and cartridge belts about them, their abayas floating in the wind."

This was the sort of exciting interlude in the more grim business of Jewish-Arab relations which *The Post* played for all it was worth. But it was of no avail. Things were beginning to take form in Europe at this time and the Hitler poison had begun to circulate outside the borders of Germany. The Mufti was moving about industriously to consolidate opinion for his anti-Jewish campaign. He got both encouragement and support from such sources as Mussolini and influential elements in Britain itself. While the Jews and Arabs still maintained a semblance of friendly relationships and mingled freely, there were constant reports of the rumblings in the Arab world, both those which directly affected the Jews and those which were purely anti-foreign and especially anti-British in their intention. The stories of Syria's revolt against the French and the secret and prolonged strikes against foreign rule were covered in full, not only because this was news from a neighbouring country, but because such incidents pointed up the parallel between the two countries.

The pressure for immigration certificates for Jews who were trying to leave Germany and get into Palestine was very great. The number of certificates had been limited by a device called "absorptive capacity" which was determined both by British statistics and by Arab capacity for protest. In these early Hitler years the Jews who wanted to leave Germany were the Zionists and those who could not breathe the polluted air of Germany. These Jews felt that they could not settle amongst strangers after their experience in Germany. To them the Jewish Homeland was the only possible solution. They would get there through regular channels if possible, but Palestine was to them their country and any means of entering it was legitimate. This was the beginning of what the British called "illegal immigration".

The News and the Clashes

The Palestine Post did not ever, in those years, feature this aspect of the picture. This was one case where news was ruthlessly suppressed, and no hint of it entered the columns of the paper unless something went completely wrong and it became public property. The Arabs, of course, had no such inhibitions. They printed everything, and as a result, everything happened. Demonstrations and clashes with the police took place at ever-increasing intervals. These often ended in bloodshed. The Arab Mayors of all of the principal cities organized in protest. These facts made news and lots of news and *The Post* always took occasion to point out to the Government that it was heading for trouble. It upbraided, warned and deplored at regular and unremitting intervals with such leaders as "His Excellency's speech on Wednesday gave rise to the hope that the Government was prepared to deal firmly with defiance... If this hope is not to be dashed by any considerations but those that spell ultimate happiness to the entire population of the country, then perhaps there will be some atonement for the loss of dead and the suffering of the wounded." A few days later, *The Post* was glad to print that the High Commissioner had rebuked the Arab press for distortion and reprinted an editorial from the British "Near East and India" which criticized "The Government's imperturbable complacency for failing to make clear the need for Jewish immigration."

And shortly thereafter, on January 12, 1934, "Echoes of previous methods used to incite the Arab masses, when they declared that the Jews had schemes to attack the Harram (Mosque of Omar and Aksa Mosque), are to be found in yesterday's 'Al Jamia Al Arabia', which contained stories that the Jews are trying to expel the Arabs from their land by occupying Arab cemeteries."

On August 17, 1934, the paper reports for the first time a self-appointed body of Arab scouts who paraded the sea front to watch out for immigrants who were finding their way into the country by sea. It was inevitable that there would be trouble and in Natanya, on the above date, the paper reports "Arab Patrols Clash With Jews." After indignant representations by the Jews the High Commissioner issued a statement saying that private persons have no right to arrest illegal immigrants. He optimistically goes on to say "Special measures will shortly be introduced which it is anticipated will effectually check illegal immigrants, whether by land or by sea".

Covering Exotic Wedding

IN Amman there was a wedding being planned which was of interest to the readers of *The Post*. The Emir Tallal, son of Abdullah, was marrying an Egyptian princess, and a royal wedding practically next door was a spectacle which deserved attention. The wedding of the heir to the Hashemite Kingdom of Trans-Jordan was everything that it should have been. "The Procession began at nine o'clock in the morning. There were flashing sword dances and a number of Sheikhs wore ancient armour, comprising shields on their back and horned helmets of iron." There was a very colourful equipage brought from Damascus, which had formerly been used in pilgrimage processions to Mecca. In the evening thousands of people took part in the torch light parades. There were the traditional feasts and banquets with Arabs and their visitors.

All of these activities were for the male part of the ceremony. The women had not been seen and were not to be seen, but they were having their own little party on a more modest scale. Dorothy Kahn went to Amman to report this angle of the royal doings:

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SUPPLY OF FERTILIZERS, INSECTICIDES, EQUIPMENT FOR ORCHARDS AND PACKING HOUSES, PACKING MATERIALS ★ TECHNICAL RESEARCH ★ LONG TERM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GROWERS.

Though the men of Trans-Jordan, according to Arab tradition were the most prominent figures in the festive nuptial ceremonies, it was to their wives, sisters and daughters that they were compelled to look for the burning question. "What does the bride look like?" As privileged ladies were to discover, the young Emira brought only a few days ago from Egypt, proved to be everything that the daughter of Emir Jamil and the relative of the King Ghazi was expected to be. The dinner for the women began at five o'clock and did not conclude until after ten o'clock. It was everything that an Eastern Royal wedding feast should be from the numerous black slave girls down to the quartered sheep and Damascus sweets.

Dorothy Kahn goes on to describe the magnificent Paris and Cairo gowns of the bride and her guests. The women then sat around in a circle after they had touched the hand of the bride, Umm Tallal, to their foreheads. Things slowed down a bit after that and no one in the large circle seemed to know exactly what to say or do. Then a number of slave girls, dressed in brilliant colours, appeared with Arab musical instruments and the home entertaining began. Girls danced and the guests performed. Some girls dressed up and poked fun at their men folk. The Emira sat and smiled. It was said that she had been a rather good dancer herself, but her new dignity did not permit her to perform. Then it was suggested that they should certainly have an American dance. From somewhere a slave girl produced an old battered gramophone and after being wound up a few scratchy records of the vintage nineteen twenty-something were found. Our reporter does not mention that it was she, herself, who stood up before the royal ladies and performed a solo Charleston, which she had acquired on the dance floor of Atlantic City. Her dance was a success but she considered her reportage of the wedding not completely successful because she "never found out what the groom thought of marriage."

In September 1935 the Mufti of Jerusalem was travelling to Syria and was turned back before he reached Damascus. "Well informed Arab circles regard the move as dictated by the Intelligence Department of the Syrian Government. They believe that the real purpose of His Eminence's present tour of Syria was to enter into negotiations with the Syrian Nationalists to organize a scheme of action among the Arab population of the East still under International Mandates, in the event of another war."

On October 16, Moshe Brilliant (today a representative in Israel of the mighty "New York Times"), a young and very zealous reporter, was poking around the Jaffa Port to see if anything might turn up. Something did. A consignment of cement which was consigned to one "J. Katin" was being unloaded. One of the drums burst open in handling, and inside was found a number of revolvers and cartridges. To Brilliant this was in the nature of very good fortune. He was on the spot where something, even something small, had happened, and no other reporter was there to tell the story. He had just graduated from court messenger to full fledged reporter, and this was his chance to prove his worth. Even his graduation had come about by a lucky stroke. A short time before, in his capacity as messenger, he had been waiting in the Jaffa courts to be handed a law report, and while doing so he had tried writing a report of his own. One of the senior judges happened to see what he was doing and became interested. The judge helped him do a rewrite job on his report, not only coaching him on the details, but giving him a good lesson on the use of terminology and on the way a story should be written. It was on the basis of this story that Brilliant had been given a chance to show his mettle as a cub reporter, and who was he to scorn the fates when they were bringing him gifts in abundance.

Arabs Protest Smuggling of Arms

In the ordinary course of events, such an item would never have got into the columns of *The Post*. It was not the type of news that *The Palestine Post* would on its own initiative play up. Such small incidents were often hushed up. They were too explosive. By some fluke the modest item was overlooked by the night editor, and Brilliant's "scoop" got into the paper. The lid was off.

The Arab papers had no interest in keeping such an item on a modest scale. Led by the Mufti, they immediately began a large scale campaign of protest against the illegal smuggling of arms into the country by the Jews. They had meetings, demonstrations, parades and speeches in the Mosques, whence a cry went forth that the Jews were going to attack their Holy Places.

The police of course began a thorough investigation, and it was found that the shipment of cement contained more than just a few revolvers and cartridges in one drum. It almost became an international affair with the questioning of a porter from the Ethiopian Monastery (the Italo-Ethiopian war was then in full swing) and a statement from the Belgian captain of the ship that the shipment involved the French mandated territory of Syria. No "J. Katin" was ever located and nothing was ever proved.

On October 25 there was a two-column spread on page one called "If We Were the Government," pointing out to the Government what the paper considered the proper way to deal with the powder barrel on which we were sitting.

Your Eminence, the President of the Moslem Supreme Council, and



Members of the Higher Arab Committee, against which the Palestine Government eventually took drastic action following the murder of Leicis Andrews and his body-guard in September, 1937. (Front row left to right) Raghed Bey Nashashibi; the Mufti (deprived of office); Ahmad Hilmi Pasha; Abd el Latif Bey es Salah; and Mr. Alfred Rokke; (back row) Jamal Effendi el Hussein; Dr. Hussein Fakhr Effendi el Khalidi; Major of Jerusalem; Yacub Effendi Ghusseini; and Fuad Effendi Saba. The Palestine Government declared the Higher Arab Committee and all national committees to be unlawful associations. The Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin Effendi el Hussein, was deprived of his office as President of the Moslem Supreme Council and of his membership of the General Wafk Committee, of which he was chairman. Orders were given for the arrest and deportation of the following members of the Higher Arab Committee — Jamal Effendi el Hussein, President of the Mufti's Arab Party; Ahmad Hilmi Pasha, director of the Arab Bank; Dr. Hussein Fakhr Effendi el Khalidi, Mayor of Jerusalem; Yacub Effendi Ghusseini; and the secretary, Fuad Effendi Saba. The manager of the Haifa branch of the Arab Bank was also arrested. By October 3 it was stated that only Jamal Effendi el Hussein had not been found; the others had been sent in a destroyer to the Seychelles.

you the President of the National Defence Party, and you the Chairman of the Arab Party, are you or are you not aware that there is a Government in this country, quite alive to the dangers of contraband arms and that we take a very grave view of this offence? If you are suggesting that it jeopardizes the safety of any Arab man, woman or child, you are being hypocritical as well as ridiculous.

To the Arabs — and we persist that they are the majority — who do not sow suspicion and create fears, to the Arabs who are not suspicious and who are not afraid, who make no capital out of fear and who will not have capital made of them — to these Arabs we would say if we were the Government, "Do not be misled by your self-appointed leaders; don't allow yourselves to be misguided by those who thrive on misleading you. Go about your business secure that if any danger threatened you we should know of it and avert it."

The article goes on to admonish the youthful Arab agitators to improve the lot of their people "To show your keenness for your people at other times than when you are challenging authority and spoiling for a fight." And finally it advises the Jews to go about their business because the Government should be able to claim that it was controlling gun-running from across the Jordan and other Arab borders and would now be on the alert for such traffic from across the seas.

Understanding Between Arabs and Jews

The Government evidently did not take the strictures of *The Palestine Post* too much to heart and the Arab excitement and incitement grew. A strike was ordered by the Arab leaders, which, much to the surprise of everyone, went off without incident.

But even while these harrowing headlines bedevilled all three populations of the country, the "Reflector," a regular columnist, writes on November 8, "It is not quite uncommon to come across Arabs who can converse in Hebrew and now Jews are increasingly found who are learning Arabic... The Institute of Semitic studies in Tel-Aviv has three Arabic teachers, including a Sheikh. When the two races understand each other's tongue, co-operation will be easier."

It was not only Palestine which was reaching the boiling point. Damascus was going through a strike which was to last more than seven weeks and Cairo was embroiled in street fighting and riots. Neither of these had anything to do with the Jewish population. They were a reflection of the wide-spread rising tide of violence in the rest of the world — Italy, Spain, Austria, the Balkans; and of course the deliberately fostered destruction in Russia and Germany.

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RELAPSE INTO REVOLT

IN 1934, on the anniversary of the death of Chaim Arlosoroff, *The Palestine Post* printed a full page article called "The Wall of Glass". This was a reprint of an essay which Arlosoroff wrote in 1926 on the eve of his departure for Geneva, where he went as a member of a committee representing the Jewish Community Council of Palestine, the Vaad Leumi, to protest against the policy of the Mandatory Government which opposed the Jewish aims and ambitions. The article is a brilliant analysis of the situation, and in the light of future developments, can almost be called prophetic. It opens:

It is told of a high official in the Government of Palestine, who on declining a request submitted to him by a representative of the Jewish Community said, "I regret very much, gentlemen, but I am in duty bound to draw your attention to the fact that we are unfortunately not living in a country with a parliamentary system." In this chance remark one may discover the clue to our entire political position in this country... In the course of the six years since the civil administration has been established an administrative system has been set up which has struck deep and lasting roots.

Arlosoroff Points Out Ruthlessness of Colonial System

The article goes on to point out that the absolute power of a colonial system, whether directed for good or evil, always carries with it a certain measure of ruthlessness. It follows the set plan of a civil service, whose opinions and decisions must always be respected and supported by the British Government, no matter which particular party is in power at a given time. Arlosoroff continues:

The typical case can always be handled in a conventional way according to established standards. The unusual occurrence requires a sympathetic understanding, political courage and political foresight. These qualities are not only very rare; where they are found, it is only between equals, between gentleman and gentleman... We continue to be regarded as a peculiar element of white skinned natives, intellectual, cultured and possessed of irritating political claims — in short, a disturbing element and a burden to the administration.

The English have long known and stated as a proverb, that the civil administration is no less important than the constitution... to fight against an illegal action or a miscarriage of justice is relatively a simple matter when compared to the fight against an administrative routine...

What we fight against in this country is to be found between the lines. This thing which is called "goodwill"...

"We have the right to demand our share of Government lands for colonization. The Administration replies, "We need ten more years until the land survey is complete." We say "We demand a fair share in the Public Works." The Administration answers with complete logic "No one is entitled to expend monies collected from tax-payers for the benefit of highly paid workers when there is plenty of cheap labour."

All of this may be compared with a glass wall, very high and very smooth; beyond it lies, like a locked paradise the realization of the Mandate. But it is impossible to destroy the wall. And to climb over it is difficult.

In those civilized days of 1926 it seemed to Dr. Arlosoroff as if demonstrations were completely futile — "emotional outbursts which can have no effect on administrative and governmental set-up. It is equally futile to turn to the League of Nations in Geneva where we are being used by powerful interests who are trying to strike through us at England. For a long time we shall be bound to England and our political attack must be in London and not in Geneva... Only there can the magic ladder be found to scale the glass wall..."

We must carry on the fight day by day, hour by hour, in this country itself. We must concentrate our efforts stubbornly and persistently towards gaining an understanding of the Mandatory power... Great efforts, great knowledge and political calm are necessary. Every time our political prestige rises in world opinion, every display of new ability for constructive works will add new weight to our rights. And only in measure as this weight is increased, can we succeed in scaling the Glass Wall."

The *Palestine Post* was firmly convinced that the magic ladder could be built, rung by rung, by fighting through to the good-will necessary to make the Administration mindful of its duties, and obligations. In those early days of the Mandate, the paper often sounded like a pedantic schoolmaster, pointing out the ethics and morals of the lesson which the Mandatory Power should learn in order to its duty properly. It gave its lesson in editorial comment and in the selection of its articles which painstakingly showed how some things were workable and good, and some things were unworkable and bad.

By the time *The Palestine Post* came into being the administrative machinery had been set in motion and was functioning smoothly. Sir Arthur Wauchope was the new High Commissioner and *The Palestine Post* was amongst those bodies which felt Sir Arthur might be the answer to the prayer for the type of administrator who would sympathetically interpret the Mandate as conceived in the Balfour Declaration. He might be one rung in the ladder which was being fashioned for scaling the Glass Wall.

High Commissioner's Friendship for Agronsky

Sir Arthur was a man with a flair for friendship. He liked many people of widely differing interests, and he went out of his way to cultivate them. He early showed a deep affection for the Holy Land, for its history and for its challenge as a new experiment. Many Jews felt that this was the outstretched hand of encouragement, since they were constantly pointing out their unmistakable historical connection with The Land, and incessantly dwelling upon their plans and rights for its development.

Gershon Agronsky was pleased to be numbered amongst the people whom Sir Arthur singled out for friendship. They had frequent meetings and discussions. He was often invited to Government House where in those days Arabs, Britons and Jews often dined together.

In this atmosphere of good-will Sir Arthur launched the scheme for what he considered the beginning of a fair and democratic administration in Palestine. On December 14, 1933 *The Post* reported

that at a tea given in Government House for the Chambers of Commerce of Palestine and the Standing Committee for Commerce and Industry, His Excellency made the "longest and undoubtedly most important pronouncement since he came here one year ago."

The salient points in his speech were:

"The promotion of a Legislative Council is a fact.

"Changes in the present draft of the local Government Bill may be made but the effect of giving consideration to such changes would be to delay the bill.

"The Government, after taking expert advice and canvassing the opinion of the population, will decide whether the advantages of imposing an income tax outweighs the disadvantages.

"Government is bound to keep something substantial (of its surplus) in reserve against the economic depression which may visit Palestine.

"A 'friend of the Fellah', the High Commissioner is not careless of the interests of the commercial community.

"Steps were taken to improve conditions at the Jaffa Port."

Several days later the paper reports a two hour speech by Dr. Nahum Sokolov, President of the Jewish Agency, who stated before a large audience the reasons for Jewish opposition to the Legislative Council.

Jews Reject Wauchope's Legislative Council

During his tenure of office, Sir Arthur became more and more convinced that the cure for the Palestinian malaise lay in the wonder drug "Legislative Council". While he seriously went about the business of improving the country by planting trees, improving the harbours, framing laws for the development of the municipalities, encouraging industry and generally working for the welfare of the country, all of which activities were faithfully recorded and given a generous measure of praise in the columns of the paper, he was still working on his panacea. He hopefully presented his plan to the Arabs on December 21, 1933, and to the Jews the next day. There was an immediate and unequivocal "NO" on the part of the Jews. Editorially the paper said:

The object of the Legislative Council was not to endanger the effective execution of the essential tasks of the Mandate, notably the establishment of the Jewish National Home. It is by that supreme test that the introduction of the proposal at the present juncture must be judged.

Can it be seriously maintained that at a time when the eaders of all Arab parties openly defy the Mandate to the extent even of glorifying the terrorists aiming by acts of violence at the subversion of the Mandatory regime, the time has come for investing these very leaders with an important and perhaps decisive share in the administration of the Mandate?... Years ago it was held by prominent members of the Permanent Mandates Commission that as long as there was no acceptance of the mandate there could be no question of the setting up of a central legislature. Whatever formal grounds may be advanced in its defence, there can be little doubt that the effect of the proposed reform will be to hamper, if not indeed to paralyse the great effort of reconstruction proceeding in this country.

Thereafter, for months to come, there was page upon page of reactions from everyone who possibly could or should have had a reaction to the proposal. At the end of January there was a full dress debate in the House of Lords on the Legislative Council plan. The consensus was against adopting the scheme. At the end of March, 1936, there was a similar debate in the House of Commons. *The Post* devoted ten pages to the full report of this very remarkable debate. In its leader on March 26 the paper says:

Speaker after speaker pointed out that the establishment of a Legislative Council at a time when the Arab majority rejected the Mandate, would inevitably impede the development of the Jewish National Home which had proved a blessing for all sections of the population; that the proposal was premature as long as municipal self-government was still in its infancy; that it was placing the Jews in an inferior position, contrary to the pledge implied in the promise of a Jewish National Home; that the Council meant not the inauguration of democracy, but the beginning of dictatorship by one section of the population over another...

The spokesman for the Government had little to say for the defence of the measure; he contented himself with repeating the formal argument that a pledge had been given to set up a Legislative Council and that the promise had to be carried out.

Mr. Churchill did not suggest the breaking of the pledge but said that the present was emphatically not the time for its establishment. Further on Mr. Churchill "voiced the opinion of the entire House and of the whole country when he insisted that at a critical time like the present when tyrannous governments all over Europe were subjecting the Jewish people to unprecedented persecution and inhuman suffering, it was disgraceful to do anything which might stop the Jewish development in Palestine, the only hope of the race."

Hell Breaks Loose in Palestine

If the British were determined to use the device of the Legislative Council to curb the rapid growth of the National Home, the Arabs had now resolved on their own method of dealing both with the Jews and the British administration at the same time. In the spring of that year, 1936, the three religious holidays had all fallen at the same time. *The Post* saw in these holidays the "ideals emphasized by Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the ideal that each individual matters... The enemies are the deification of the State and the deification of the social group; they would reduce humankind to the level of the higher insects, the bees and the ants. The Jewish Passover is essentially the story of a group which is guided out of the bog of state slavery to the goal of spiritual freedom; the Christian Easter likewise recounts the human need for resurrection from deadening association and earth-bound ideals; while the Moslem feast of Nebi Musa is, consciously or not, a demonstration of Islam's veneration for the law-giver whose code has, through the channels of Judaism and Christianity, laid the foundations of our civilization."

In the lovely spring of that year, as though in sardonic comment on *The Post's* idealism, the Italians had completed the destruction of Harar in Ethiopia and were well on their way to Addis Ababa; Hitler had become the popular choice of the German people; an Arab delegation was discussing politics in England and all hell broke loose in Palestine.

On April 18 the paper reported the hold-up of a number of Jewish cars by so-called bandits on the Nablus road. The occupants of the cars were murdered. The next day two Arabs were killed in the neighbourhood of Tel Aviv. Rumour ran wild. On April 20 Jews in Jaffa "going about their normal business" were attacked. "Nine Dead and Scores Hurt in Arab Attacks" was the headline of that day. Official Communiqué number one — the first in a very long series of official communiques — made its appearance. These were to serve in lieu of news on many occasions, since the news of that period was highly inflammable stuff.



Arlosoroff

HEADLINES OF TERROR

From then on the story can be told in headlines:

- "PALESTINE DISORDERS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS"
- "LAW AND ORDER WILL BE MAINTAINED"—CHIEF SECRETARY"
- "LP20,000 SENT TO PALESTINE — GESTURE OF ZIONIST LEADERS"
- "INCITEMENT IN JERUSALEM"
- "STRIKE FORCED UPON ARAB TRADESMEN AND MOTORISTS"
- "AGITATION SPREADS IN NORTH"
- "POLICE FORCED TO FIRE ON UNRULY CROWD IN NAZARETH"
- "ARAB LEADERS ORDER STRIKE TO PERSIST"
- "POLICE FORCED TO FIRE ON UNRULY CROWD LEAVING MOSQUE"
- "TERRORISTS LEAVE TRAIL OF FIRE AND DESTRUCTION"
- "TREES UPROOTED, BUSES STONED"
- "HIGH COMMISSIONER WARNS ARAB LEADERS: 'SET YOUR FACE AGAINST MURDER, ASSASSINATION OR ANY FORM OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE'"

On May 8 the Arabs "Decide on Civil Disobedience" unless the Government agrees to their terms for the keeping of the peace. The terms were clear and unequivocal: "1. Stop Jewish Immigration; 2. Prohibit Sale of Land to the Jews; 3. Form a National (Arab) Government."

The Jewish response to these attacks was crystallizing into the policy of "havlagah" (self-restraint), a policy which was never accepted by the whole community as politic or wise. At the opening of the Colonization Exhibition at the Levant Fair Grounds in Tel Aviv, David Ben-Gurion, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem, took the occasion to explain the Jewish position. Reporting such a talk was as good a way as any other for stating the position of the authorized Jewish bodies.

There is a danger that the Mandatory Power might be impressed by sedition and terror. Not because we underestimate the strength of our neighbors nor because we ignore the realities do we proclaim that we shall not retreat because of this attack. With heads high and with a clear conscience we declare before history that there never has been a colonization effort as unskillful as ours, carrying not a particle of prejudice or injury to the inhabitants of the country. Both our opponents and their instigators well know that we have enriched and healed it of its blight.

Zionism has always based its work on cooperation with the Mandatory. This is the basis of the movement now as well. But the purpose of this cooperation is the fulfillment of the object of the Mandate, the establishment of the Jewish National Home for the Jews in Palestine. We declare to the representatives of the English people that we shall take no part in any experiment with the object of re-examining that which has been decided by the nations of the world and that which has been entrusted to England to carry out.

Not all of the headlines of this time concerned riots and destruction at home. The fact that the High Commissioner opened the Levant Fair together with the descriptions of the Fair, the exhibits, the attendance and other pertinent news pointed up the fact that the Jews were going about their business as usual. From Egypt came the news "King Fuad Dead: King Farouk Sails for Egypt." The headline "Royal Exiles in Jerusalem" was followed by a sad little story which began:

The most forlorn man in the world today is Haile Selassie, born Tafari Mahonnen, the Lord King of Kings, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Elect of God, the Light of the World, the Defender of the Faith. Haile Selassie stood alone against an encroaching world to protect his ancient nation.

Night Curfews As Incidents Worsen

As the Arabs continued with their "civil disobedience", night curfews on interurban roads and in some towns were introduced. The news became monotonously repetitive so that very soon burnt fields, cattle with tongues cut out, buses stoned, trees uprooted, roads strewn with nails, road blocks and attacks on traffic ceased to have news value and became small items on the inside pages of the paper. But when the Jews opened an offloading jetty in Tel Aviv, this was big news. It had become impossible for the Jews to continue to go to Jaffa for the various Government services which were located in that city. They had protested against risking their lives in order to go to the courts, land registry offices and the like. Auxiliary offices were finally opened in Tel Aviv, but the Jaffa Port continued to be the shipping centre for the area. It was only after many murders and subsequent protests that the Government finally consented to allow the Jews to build, at their own expense, the offloading jetty in Tel Aviv. The comic note in this affair was stressed by *The Post* when it headlined the Government's profuse apologies to the Arabs for this permission and printed the violent objections of the Arab boatmen of Jaffa against the Jews diverting their business from the Jaffa Port.

The Palestine Post still firmly believed in the possibility of implementing the Mandate and it never hesitated to point out to the Government in Britain and in Palestine where its duty lay. Circumstances compelled the paper to devote many more words to the Jewish point of view than before. This left less space for the things which made *The Post* palatable to the British. It required editorial skill of a high order to decide the saturation point at which the reader would refuse to absorb the things which the paper found necessary to print. The dexterity it acquired at this time was to stand it in good stead as the country moved from crisis to crisis.

The temper and mood of the times was reflected more through the minor stories on the inside pages than through the spectacular headlines, of which there was never a dearth. Thus a funeral oration by Izhak Ben-Zvi, then chairman of the Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi), was given in full.

... Even in the presence of another victim, we can speak without any feeling of hatred and say that we wish for and believe in the possibility of a peaceful way of living with the Arab people. But if there are among the Arab leaders men of responsibility, let them cry 'Halt — enough blood has been spilt, enough of this civil warfare, before it becomes a conflagration which we are anxious to avert.'

Or, quoting Dr. Weizmann, President of the Jewish Agency, at a meeting of the Royal Asian Society in London:

"Ample scope has been given to Arab National aspirations. . . The troubles are political and a result of foreign intervention. . . Harmony between the two races would eventually come. . . A Nation experienced in blood-shed and terror was unafraid. Outside Jewry must not think that there were only shooting and crop fires in Palestine; Jewish work was continuing uninterruptedly and with intensification."

Or just a news story:

A touching memorial service for burnt corn and trees was held in Samaria. A young boy read the memorial scroll as follows: "Let us remember the outrage against the golden wheat in the fields of Israel which went up in flames. Let us remember the souls of the flaming forests and the agony of the uprooted trees. We shall create myriads replacing each sheaf, and replant with thousands each uprooted tree, giving fruit and shade."

At this time the paper once again took the occasion to point out the fact that the Arabs had actually agreed to the Jewish Homeland in Palestine. It reprints a letter by Dr. Weizmann which had been published in "The Times" (London) a few days before on the Arab contention that the policy

Respectably by the Emir Feisal

If the Arabs are established as I have asked in my manifesto addressed to the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I will carry out what is written in this agreement. ~~If you demands are changed~~

If changes are made, I can not be commensurate for failing to carry out this agreement.

Feisal ibn Hussein

Feisal's footnote to the London agreement signed with Chaim Weizmann. It was written by Col. T. E. Lawrence.

of a National Home for the Jewish people is not consistent with the promise for full civil rights. "When the Emir (Feisal) came to Europe in 1919, the Zionist plans were submitted to him and both he and Colonel Lawrence approved them. Early in 1919 the conversation culminated in a treaty of friendship, the full text of which, consisting of seven articles, was signed on January 3, 1919."

The paper carried a facsimile of Lawrence's note signed by Feisal. The New Year 5696, September 1936, which saw no abatement of ferocity in Germany, ushered in no change of Arab or Governmental policy in Palestine. Even while the riots grew in intensity and involved the British troops in pitched battles with the organized Arab bands, the Government continued subtly to defend the position of the Mufti, who was the guiding spirit behind the riots. A new phase in the developments was introduced with the coming of General Dill and the threat of Martial Law in the country. The leader of September 20 admonished:

We are not alone in insisting that patience is, in this part of the world, mistaken for weakness. We never believed the Government weak and never doubted its ability to bring to account those responsible for the country's tragedy. We have always held it to be a massive absurdity to think that a handful of self-appointed ring-leaders could be suffered to dictate terms.

...A PILLAR OF ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

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REPORTING THE RIOTS

THE progress of the riots gave ample room to the newspapers for exciting reporting, but there was actually little scope for scoops. Palestine in the days of telephones and fast cars is not a very large country. Even with road blocks and cut telephone wires an ingenious reporter could always manage to get a message through in a reasonable number of hours. Besides the Government did not look favourably upon news which was released before it had gone through official channels. Nevertheless, by careful planning and some foresight *The Post* was able to print news of some incidents before the Government Press Office had had word that an "incident" had taken place. When the clash at what is now Givat Zeid, in the Carmel hills took place, *The Palestine Post* had a man on the spot who telephoned the action while the battle was in progress. Thus the paper carried the story of the death of the well known shomer (watchman) Alexander Zeid, before anyone else knew of the tragedy.

The Post maintained contacts with all of the principal centres of activity. At two or three o'clock every morning all of the contact men would telephone to the paper to sum up the news of the night. Not only were these men located in the Jewish centres, but there were reporters in Jenin and Nazareth. In Nablus the son of the Samaritan High Priest did the reporting and Yussef Hanna continued to be on *The Post* staff for the Jaffa area.

Censorship of the press had not yet got into its stride in those days. When, however, a paper seemed to the Government to be particularly indiscreet, it was closed down for what officialdom considered an appropriate period of punishment to fit the measure of indiscretion. The Arab press had been closed down in its entirety for incitement of the Arab population. One or another of the Hebrew papers had been closed down for varying periods of time.

Wednesday October 7 without warning and without apparent reason, *The Palestine Post* was ordered to close down for one day. Next day was Succot so the paper reappeared on Friday. The leader of that day stated its case at being suspended for the first time in its history. Stressing the paper's endeavours to report the news and reflect opinion as fairly as possible "under the extraordinary difficult conditions under which news may be gathered and opinion gauged in this country," and appealing to be permitted the justice of airing an offence in public, the leader continues:

The Palestine Post has not been in the habit of publishing matter likely to be dangerous to the public peace as, to judge by their frequent suspension, has presumably been the case with certain other papers. This was the first occasion in which the Government found it necessary to take action. Yet no warning was extended... We deeply regret that apparently, to quote the Attorney General, because 'It was not always easy to satisfy a court that the author was guilty of a criminal offence' we have been precluded from stating our case in the matter of our own suspension.

At a cocktail party on the day following the paper's reappearance Mrs. Agronsky was chatting over a drink with the Chief Secretary and complained ironically that it was a pity that the paper had been closed for only one day. "If you had kept the ban in force on Friday, the very hard working staff could have had a much needed four-day holiday," she remarked. "What!" exclaimed the Chief Secretary, "And have us do without our paper for four days?"

Abdication and Coronation Make Supplement Headlines.

The news which the Chief Secretary did not want to miss was not very cheerful reading. The stories of Mosley's shenanigans in White-chapel vied with the news from Hitler's Germany. Ernest Hemingway and Walter Duranty were writing their syndicated reports of the Spanish ordeal. The Royal Commission headed by Lord Peel set sail for Palestine, while the Mufti, Haj Amin, declared that they had no more faith in the Government and from now on they would adopt the late King Feisal's motto "Independence is not given, it is taken."

Riots and Royal Commissions were temporarily pushed off the front page when the poorly kept secret of King Edward's romance, marriage, and abdication startled everybody's world. It would be a sad day indeed when a country, no matter what its troubles, could not react to the excitement of a great throne given up for the love of a woman. The Coronation of George VI was marked by the grandest supplement that the paper ever issued. It was printed on special heavy paper with clearly discernible pictures of the King and Queen, together with the rest of the Royal Family. It carried a wealth of detail about the coronation and the customs surrounding it. It also reported the fact that Mr. Izhak Ben-Zvi, M.B.E. was present to represent the Palestine Jewish Community.

On May 28 the paper proudly reprinted an unexpected blurb from "The Times": "The *Palestine Post* issued a 32 page supplement, in which, among many erudite articles about the ceremonials and regalia, were pages devoted to the connection between the Royal Family and Pa-

lestine, Palestine and the English Church in Jerusalem. There is also an account of the various British High Commissioners for Palestine, written in a pleasantly light vein, and a description of the jewelled dagger, made in Arab style in Jerusalem, which the Emir of Trans-Jordan brought as a coronation present to the King."

"The Times" also noted the newly enlarged format of *The Palestine Post*. This "new look" of the paper was part of the general determination of the Jewish community to continue building and expanding as though nothing untoward were happening in the country. On May 18 the paper appeared with seven columns instead of six on each page. The leader pointed out in reference to these changes:

Today's issue also sees the disappearance of our heading and its particular device. With dozens of aeroplanes arriving and departing weekly from Lydda, the historical parable of an aircraft over the map of Palestine, seemed to us out-moded. With a feeling of regret we are dropping the mascot.

Challenge As Seen by Ben-Gurion

It was probably not accidental that stories of the possibility of developing the vast wastelands of the Negev began to be featured. The stories were usually coupled with the name of David Ben-Gurion, who saw in the fructifying of the completely unsettled land an answer and a challenge. *The Post* reprinted an article from the London "Daily Herald" which says of Ben-Gurion: "The biggest name next to Weizmann in world Zionism. Powerful speaker and fierce fighter... He believes that all Zionist aims are dependent on a Jewish partnership with the British Government and people."

All of the testimony before the Royal Commission was covered in full, ending with that of David Ben-Gurion.

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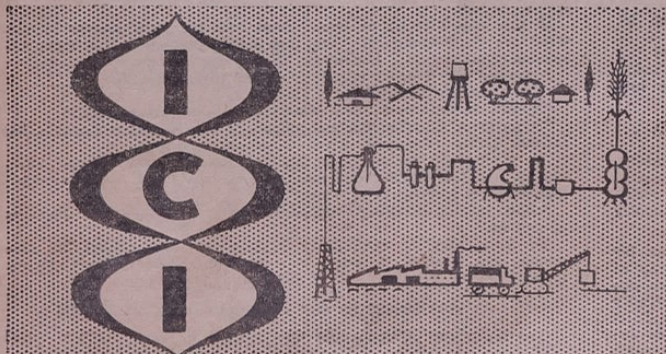
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THE Jews are resolved to live in peace with the Arabs," "The Bible is our Mandate." As it turned out, Mr. Ben-Gurion's testimony was not the last to be heard of the Commission in Palestine. The Arabs had boycotted it but at the last minute they had a change of heart. On January 13, 1937, *The Post* not only printed the Mufti's statements before the Commission in full, but commented editorially upon his "strange and fanciful statements which were directed to his constituents in the hills and villages rather than to the Royal Commission."

Jabotinsky Testifies Before Palestine Commission

In London, Vladimir Jabotinsky testified before the Commission. Despite the fact that Jabotinsky was one of the most colourful Jewish personalities of his time, he was rarely featured in *The Post* which opposed the Revisionist Party and its tactics. The British did not permit him to live in Palestine because of his violently expressed objections to the line that the British Government had taken in the non-implementation of the Mandate. Nevertheless, in the case of his presentation before the Royal Commission, *The Palestine Post* gave full play to the dramatic uninhibited exposition of the point of view of the Revisionist Party.

The Royal Commission's Partition Report met with the usual mixed reception. From London, Jabotinsky issued a warning that any acceptance of the partition plan, even under protest, would be disavowed by a universal Jewish plebiscite. His statement as reported ended: "The highest sacrifice may have to be made in one decisive manifestation of the history of our people."

The Jews of Palestine were giving the plan their approval, though very half-heartedly, as reflected in *The Post's* leader:

The Royal Commission, while recognizing the Jews' rights to a place in the sun, artificially stunts, like the Japanese horticulturist, the tree which is destined to flourish in the sun...

The Arabs will not cooperate in making the Mandate a glorious reality and if salvation lies by way of division, then the Royal Commission could have been more generous and adopted as its guiding light its own statement. There was a time when Arab statesmen were willing to concede little Palestine to the Jews provided that the rest of Arab Asia was free.

The August 2 supplement of *The Palestine Post* which carried the full text of the debates in both Houses of Parliament made newspaper history in Palestine. It represented a triumph for local printing. Even in England the production of so complete and lengthy a report so soon after the debates would have attracted attention. It served as an object lesson to other papers to show that it was possible to have first rate news coverage even with the limited facilities at their disposal.

It was natural that at a time when the whole Zionist concept was up for review that the Zionist Congress in Zurich in 1937 attracted more than usual attention, and *The Post* gave it complete coverage. It was not only because it was, as a matter of policy, giving more space to Jewish news than before, but because the whole world was watching the proceedings with more than usual interest. Gershon Agronsky went to this Congress as he had gone to all of the others since settling in Palestine. At this stormy assembly, with a background of Hitler horror, Italian aggressiveness, Spanish fascism, British pro-Arabism and the general low ebb of the fortunes of the Jews, the Partition Plan of the Peel Royal Commission was approved by a vote of 304 against 158.

The acceptance of Partition, though accompanied by much heart searching and many doubts, was a futile compromise. Dr. Arlosoroff was to be proven right. He had said that "every time our political prestige rises in world opinion, our chances for scaling the glass wall would rise." But our political prestige in world opinion had been falling with alarming speed since the advent of Hitler, and the political importance of the Arabs together with their oil had been rising rapidly.

Appeal for Restraint

The riots in that mid-summer of 1937 had by no means abated. There had been "time out" while the Royal Commission went through its paces, but it was only a brief interval. The renewed operations took on new overtones. In addition to raids on settlements, attacks on transport and engagements with British troops and police, the Arabs had been systematically processing their own ranks and liquidating those who did not see eye to eye with them. A new element to violence was added when the Arabs cried out that they had been attacked by Jews. *The Post* did not report these attacks at first hand, but quoted liberally from the Arab press. It also printed the appeal of the Vaad Leumi to the Jews to continue the "havлага" (self-restraint) which had carried them through thus far. There is no editorial comment on the incidents, nor is there mention of the fact that with the acceptance of Partition the dissident groups among the Jews were no longer willing to accept the discipline imposed upon them by the Yishuv. These groups refused any longer to sit on the side lines and watch the Arabs get concession after concession by their intransigence.

The Jewish Elective Assembly continued to feel that, by building and creating, the Jews of Palestine could accomplish more than by destruction. For the first time *The Post* began to print accounts of the new settlements which were being built in various parts of the country on Jewish National Fund lands. These "tower-and-stockade" settlements were often the Arab target for the night, once they had been set up.

Andrews Killed Outside Nazareth Church

The murder of L.Y. Andrews, the District Commissioner for Galilee, was the culminating point in the Arab campaign of individual terror. It marked yet another turning point in the confused muddling which characterized the Government's policy of appeasement, and evidently had a similar effect on *The Post's* leader writer of the day.

"If a wealthy land-owner," says the leader, "can be slain on his way to or from his devotions and the slayer bank on the certainty of being harboured and sheltered by a complacent or terror-stricken population — and it is impossible to say which attitude is more deadly — why should not the gangster attempt to take the life of the Chief of Police while leaving the precincts of religious endowment of Jerusalem, and why should a diabolical plot fail within a few yards of the altar of Christ Church at Nazareth? If the murder of a loyal Moslem officer is untraced and unpunished, why should the assassin hesitate in aiming ever higher, always confident of his immunity?"

After the murder of Mr. Andrews the British took action. The Mufti was deprived of his office; Dr. Khaidi, Mayor of Jerusalem, and five other Arab leaders were ordered deported; the Arab High Com-

mittee was declared illegal. Emergency regulations were enacted for the local press: "No general censorship has been imposed, but censors have been appointed and paragraph three of Article 11 of the regulations has been invoked, ordering editors to refrain from mentioning or commenting on Friday's events."

New restrictions on Jewish immigration were imposed. On the restrictions the paper writes:

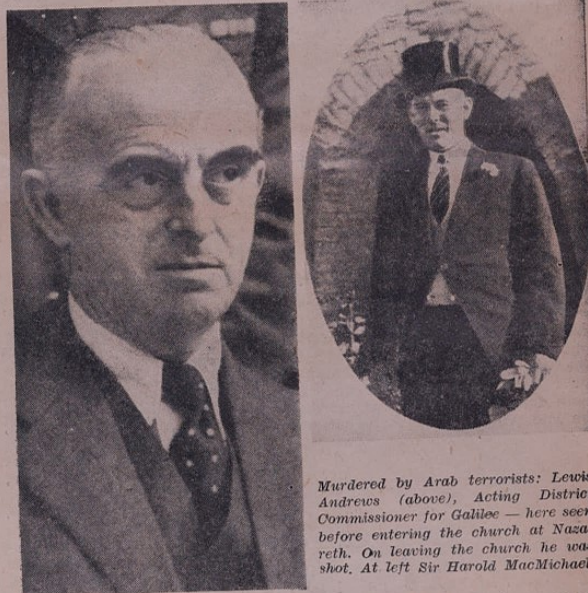
The Arab agitator can now glory in a victory over the might of Britain. For the Jew nothing remains but to reflect in his desolation, not upon a dialectic defeat but upon the cruel frustration of the all but last hope of a secure haven. Oppressed by this almost unbearable anxiety, the Jew must go on, vigilantly and patiently, persuaded as he is and always has been, that right has not perished from the earth.

The opening of the very handsome Rockefeller Museum near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem created a stir in the country. It gave a lift to the people who liked to stress their ancient connections with the land. "The main purpose of the exhibitions is to present a chronological commentary on the career of Man in Palestine from the beginnings of human activity to comparatively recent times."

Starkey Murdered by Arabs

If archaeology was boosted by the Rockefeller millions it got a very severe and painful blow when Dr. J.L. Starkey, a great archaeologist and a very good friend of all peoples in Palestine, was senselessly murdered by the Arabs on his way to work. Dr. Starkey had recently uncovered some great finds at Lachish, in the southern Judean Hills. These finds dated back to the period of Zekeiah and definitely authenticated the Biblical history of this period.

The juxtaposition of events in a newspaper is often more revealing than the news which it reports and the comments which it makes on the news. It shows not only what was happening in the world at large, but also the things with which the people were preoccupied and the importance that they placed on both major and minor incidents. In the winter of 1938 the things which interested the Palestine reader were a very mixed bag. Austria capitulated to the German ultimatum for the appointment of pro-Nazi ministers; the British Parliament was told that Nazi propaganda was rife in Palestine; a new winter resort hotel was opened at Kallia, on the Dead Sea by a German Jewish refugee; Low cartoons began to be a regular feature in the paper; the paper continued to warn the Mandatory Government that "law and order can ultimately be restored only if



Murdered by Arab terrorists: Lewis Andrews (above), Acting District Commissioner for Galilee — here seen before entering the church at Nazareth. On leaving the church he was shot. At left Sir Harold MacMichael.

the preventive and punitive action of the police is supplemented by a definite and clearly intelligible line of policy on the part of the central Government;" illegal immigration, never reported directly in the paper, is said to have been mentioned in Parliament.

At the height of the riots it had been announced that owing to ill health Sir Arthur Wauchope, the High Commissioner for Palestine, would retire. The appointment of the new High Commissioner, Sir Harold MacMichael, was received with tepid reserve: "He has acquired a very full knowledge of the Arabs, on which subject he has written several books."

If the appointment of MacMichael and his well known sympathy with the Arab point of view had been intended as a measure of appeasement, it failed hopelessly. The terror continued unabated.

A typical day's news might be culled from June 14: "Gov't Supers Repulse Arab Marauders." "Bandit Killed, Two Jews Wounded in the Engagement." "A party of Ghaffirs (special police) of the Northern Frontier Fence Labour Camp (Teggart's Wall) were ambushed..." "A grain field belonging to Ayelet Hashahar was set on fire at 9 o'clock and the ghaffirs and settlers who went out to extinguish the flames were heavily fired upon."

"Two lorries carrying vegetables from Damascus to Jaffa were sniped at."

To these slightly spectacular happenings were added the column which had become a page two feature, "Twenty-Four Hours of Crime," giving the daily toll of death and destruction.

Beethoven to the Accompaniment of Bullets

The Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra had been sharing headlines with the more noisy and less melodious news. In this spectacular season Sir Malcolm Sargent had conducted at one series of concerts and had been given a very warm welcome. His impressions of his visit were given in an interview with *The Palestine Post* reporter: "In Palestine," he said, "the people are willing to risk their lives to play music or to listen to it, Beethoven is often played to the accompaniment of bullets."

FIRST JEW EXECUTED

A COMPLETELY new element was added to the situation when the death sentence was passed on a young Jew named Shlomo Ben Yosef for having fired on an Arab bus. The shock of the first Jew executed in the Holy Land since time immemorial was shattering. On June 26, Dorothy Kahn writes of a conversation she had with a highly ethical Jew who approved of the sentence because Ben Yosef had broken the law.

How could one find adequate words to tell him what was really going on in the country — things that cannot be read in the newspapers — things that can only be felt when you tramp from settlement to settlement — things that will never be expressed completely in words — fragmentary impressions engraved on your heart which cannot form themselves coherently on your lips. Watch towers — search lights — barbed wire fences — freshly dug graves on lonely hillsides — widows in their teens behind cultivators — bullet holes in children's houses — black draped photographs in dining halls — sand bags — trenches.

You see them everywhere — in Emek Jezreel — Emek Hefer — Beit Sha'an and Gallilee.

And surrounding the watch tower and the graves are fresh new green fields. Dunams of fruit trees—vineyards—grain—vegetables.

And on top of the watch tower the man with the spy glass. And in the centre of the field stands the man with the hoe. And next to the man with the hoe stands the man with the gun who cannot shoot until he is shot at. And in the kitchen or tree nursery stands the wife of the man with the hoe, waiting to know if he will return home tonight.

Throughout the dog days of 1938 the paper continues to report the murky mid-summer madness. The news of death and destruction at home and abroad was given with ever growing bitterness tempered by a touching faith in the ultimate triumph of justice. Commissions investigated; Parliament discussed; Jews held meetings; and Arabs continued their programme of attrition.

The word "Hagana" began to appear from time to time in guarded sentences. In daily conversation it was a name as familiar as the names of one's family. The British and the Arabs used it as freely as the Jews, but it seldom found its way into print.

The Genius and Honesty of Wingate

Behind the scenes a young British lieutenant had been working with fanatical zeal to organize the Hagana into a coordinated body which could be an effective self-defence army. Orde Wingate was not an orthodox soldier although time revealed that he was a genius at soldiering. He was an extremely religious man who believed profoundly in the Bible and had no doubts at all as to the title of the Jews to the Holy Land. The stupidities of conservative army procedure could not prevent him from combining his regular duties with extra-curricular work with the Hagana. Wingate and Agronsky were good friends. He came very often to the house on Melisande Lane and fought, argued, insulted and reviled his fellow Britishers for their blindness and lack of honesty. There were evenings when the polite mellow drawingroom atmosphere of the Agronsky home took on the aspect of a fighting arena as Wingate lashed out in pithy modern English and Bible quotations. But most of his time was spent away from HQ in the Kibbutzim, ruthlessly putting young Jewish settlers through gruelling military training. His particular job was organizing the special Night Squads to protect the Haifa-Iraq oil pipeline which was the nightly target of the Arab bands.

But neither the Night Squads nor any of the other measures taken to suppress the Arabs seemed to have their desired effect, so, as in other parts of the world, the Government tried appeasement. On November 10 the announcement was made that the ill-starred Partition Plan would be abandoned. No one particularly mourned the death of the scheme. The leader in *The Post* of that day said:

Feelings of relief and disappointment will be nicely balanced on reading H.M. Government's statement and the summing up of the Partition Committee's report. Relief that nothing drastic has been proposed will be mingled with distress that there is nothing decided and therefore nothing gained.

Jewish Determination to Carry On

One of the most surprising features of the period of the riots was the Jewish determination to go about their daily business as if nothing out of the ordinary were happening. In detailing the history of the paper at this period, it is natural that the sensational and the explosive news should be that which attracted most attention. It never could be news that the Jews were determined to keep the highways open and went about their daily business which took them from one section of the country to another with never a break. The number of agricultural settlements set up at this time was surprising, and the increase in produce equally so. New factories were being built and old ones holding their own. This was not a period of prosperity, but it

ORT IN ISRAEL

ORT IN ISRAEL, founded in 1948 by the late Dr. Aaron Syngolowski, Chairman of the World ORT Union Executive, has become, in the nine years of its existence, the largest network for vocational training in Israel. 29 vocational training centres of various types in 21 cities and settlements are spread all over the country, from Kiryat Shmonah in the North to Ashkelon in the South. The system includes 4-year Technical High Schools, 3-year Vocational High Schools, Schools for Technicians, Pre-Vocational Schools connected with primary schools, Evening Schools for adults and Proficiency Courses for adults. The range of trades taught in the ORT schools is a wide one, and includes 24 different professions. Some of these are taught only in the ORT schools, for example: Refrigeration, Metal-Plating, Textile, Building, Dental Technology and Laboratory Assistants. Students of the ORT schools benefit from Social Services which are subsidized by the Women's American ORT, and which include a Luncheon Programme, regular medical supervision, sports and cultural activities, etc.

Figures for October 1957 are:

2311	Boys and girls in the 21 Technical and Vocational High Schools
1296	Boys and girls in 8 Pre-Vocational Schools.
243	Adults in 3 Evening Schools for Vocational Training
742	Adults in 33 Vocational Training and Proficiency Courses
4592	Total

A large project of ORT in Israel, at present under construction in Tel Aviv, is the new vocational training centre, which is being erected with the assistance of the Women's American ORT on a plot of 40 dunams. The building will be available for occupancy at the beginning of the 1958/59 school year. When completed, the new Centre will accommodate 700 students.

In Ramat Gan, a new vocational training centre for girls is now being planned.



Lieutenant Wingate (left) and as he appeared as a Brigadier with Haile Selassie in the beginning of his campaign to free Ethiopia. Haile Selassie spent part of the war years in Jerusalem.

was a period of cooperation amongst the Jewish community which made remarkable sacrifices to help settle the newcomers from Germany.

Another conference on the Jewish-Arab problem was foreshadowed for the new year of 5699 (1938-1939). In order to have it truly representative, the British had announced that they would release the Arab notables who had been banished to the Seychelles Islands, so that they could participate. Commenting on this phenomena the paper writes: "The present British Cabinet is committed to a policy of appeasement in Europe and elsewhere... In providing facilities for the exiles to participate in the London conference the Cabinet is acting consistently." Of the conference itself the leader writes with foresight: "... It is generally accepted that Pan-Arabism owed more to a certain school of British thought than to Arab thinkers and statesmen.

To use Palestine as the platform on which to erect this rickety structure seems neither fair to Palestine nor to the Arab Federation which is contemplated. How unfair it is to Palestine may be seen in Mr. Malcolm MacDonald's statement that he cannot allow Jewish refugee children into Palestine where the Jews would look after them, because the Arab States have asked that immigration be stopped altogether pending the outcome of the London conference.

World Jewish Congress ISRAEL EXECUTIVE



Its Fight for a Better Diaspora Understanding in Israel

At the Inaugurating Convention, which took place in Geneva in 1936, a decision was taken to set up the World Jewish Congress as a National Institution with a global character whose main task would be to fight for the political, economic and cultural rights of the Jews in the Diaspora.

The activities of the World Jewish Congress are based today on three main principles: —

- 1) To safeguard by wide action the interest of World Jewry.
- 2) To fight for the rights of the State of Israel on the international scene.
- 3) To organize World Jewry on the basis of national awareness and democratic structure.

The World Jewish Congress is interested in political problems and acts accordingly by making representations to various Governments as well as to the United Nations, where it enjoys consultative status with UNESCO, and by publishing material and documentation on political questions of genuine significance by the "Institute of Jewish Affairs" in New York. It maintains a close relationship with the various Jewish communities all over the world, having affiliated some 70 of these communities to its ranks. It fights for reparations, and indemnification due to suffering through race extermination. It strives for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of disrupted, backward or nationally lethargic Jewish communities through social, cultural and educational activities.

The body which executes the decisions of the World Jewish Congress is the World Executive, this being divided into three parts: The Israel Executive, the American Executive and the European Executive.

The greater part of the organized Israel population is represented on the World Jewish Congress through the political parties and representation of the masses in Israel is probably the broadest and most democratic among all the branches of the World Jewish Congress in the World.

The main task of the Israel Executive is to arouse a broad understanding and a deeper interest among the Israel population of the Diaspora problems and to serve as a bridge between the national institutions in Israel and the World Jewish Congress abroad, for the purpose of coordinating Jewish policy in the international arena.

The Israel Executive publishes "Geshet," a Hebrew quarterly, dedicated to the problems of World Jewry. This is the third year of its appearance, and to mark this event, a summary of the eleven pamphlets published so far will be issued in the English language.

The Israel Executive has published a Black Book called "Evidence of the Arab War in Peace-time Against Israel" which has appeared in English, Spanish and Russian and has been read and favourably accepted by outstanding politicians, journalists and writers all over the civilized world. It has further published a Hebrew version of the great Danish humanist and writer, Prof. Aage Bertelsen's book, "October 1943," which describes the rescue of Danish Jewry from Nazi annihilation, also the book by Joseph Carmel, Military Adjutant of the President of Israel, on his mission to the Jewish Communities of the Far East.

The Israel Executive organ is the "Yalkut Ha'Congress," a monthly which contains news from the Jewish communities in the Diaspora and information about the activities of the World Jewish Congress in the international spheres. Various pamphlets on specific questions have also been published in Hebrew and English.

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The Parting of the Ways

THE scene shifts to London where Gershon Agronsky reports for his paper on the "conferences" noting: "The small 'c' at the beginning and the 's' at the end of the present talks which will take place in London in separate watertight compartments, in an atmosphere in which MacDonald still refuses to permit children to be rescued from Germany and brought to Palestine because the Arabs object, while the Jews insist upon the carrying out of the Mandate."

The Arabs were evidently dictated by humour of the grimmest sort when they "appeal to the Jews and ask them to agree to a stoppage of immigration." The Mufti refused to consider any plan which would include even drastically limited immigration. On the day that the foredoomed conference came to an end, the paper printed a Low cartoon with MacDonald doing a Chamberlain, landing in Jerusalem with an umbrella serving as a parachute.

"The Writing on the Wall" is the title of the leader on March 17. "What the worst cynics had held to be inconceivable, what every British Government had indignantly refused to do, became a reality. The pledge of the Balfour Declaration is to be reduced to a scrap of paper."

Refugees Sent Back to Europe

The new policy of prosecution of illegal immigrants was ushered in with the announcement: "200 refugees had been prevented from entering Palestine between February and April. The report from the Colonial Secretary states that these Jews were prevented from entering and sent back to their point of departure."

The London Conference broke down and the failure was followed almost immediately by the final grand act of appeasement which preceded World War II. On May 17, 1939, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald issued his infamous White Paper. That day *The Palestine Post* carried on its front page a full-length double column article by the Editor entitled: "The Parting of the Ways."

Tonight the people of this country will hear an announcement which will mark the end of one era and the beginning of another. Tonight the British Government will make public its intention to sacrifice Jewish rights to Arab intransigence; to take away all but their all from a people having next to nothing in order to add to the possessions of a people to whom much has been given; to dethrone justice and enthrone privilege; to substitute for the spiritual heritage of Balfour the material list of the Mufti. Inevitably this day of the parting of the ways must affect relations between peoples. The servants of the Empire, in duty bound to help carry a new policy into effect, must understand that it is not for hatred of their government or people, least of all for hostility to themselves, that the Jews are from today committed to a policy of disobedience, but out of hatred to this Policy.

On May 19 the leader says "The Jews of Palestine yesterday swore a great oath and vowed a great vow, comparable to that on the day of their exile to Babylon and on the destruction of Jerusalem. They swore that the betrayal of the people would not be put into force."

In subsequent papers there is a full four-page analysis of the great betrayal by David Ben-Gurion.

The inevitable reaction of those Jews who had only been kept in check because of the need to make a show of Jewish solidarity, was to reply with violence. *The Post* was still committed to a policy of disobedience without violence as seen in the editorial of May 30:

"...But if there have been clear cases of Arab terrorism there has



Refugees row onto the beaches of Palestine

not been lacking, to our immeasurable disgust and distress, circumstantial evidence pointing to Jewish terrorism. Such a development was greatly to be feared and to this fear voice was given in the House of Commons last week."

Headlines Tell of Growing Violence

From then on the headlines in the paper seemed dedicated to reporting violence and opposing it. June 11: "Bomb Explosion in General Post Office in Jerusalem;" June 20: "Forty-nine Arab Casualties in Haifa Explosion."

The latter item followed the announcement that the Government had prohibited all land transfers between Arabs and Jews.

The leader on June 30 was called: "Thou Shalt Not Kill!"

What would induce Jews — however irresponsible — to make death their weapon? One answer is the obvious one that, judged by the Arab victory over the Jews, murder is an effective argument... but this is not the complete answer. The complete answer is to be found in the determination of a group of Jews to add anarchy to defeat. There is no gaining that Jewish leadership has suffered a severe reverse at St. James and since... the faith of a people and a people's leadership was a burnt offering.

For years Jewish malcontents had hoped for a chance to wrest leadership from the men who... did not make as much perhaps as they might have made of their British ally's acts of faithlessness. When every responsible organ of Jewish life and opinion denounces the shedding of innocent blood, they must emblazon vile murder on their shield. The Jewish Agency, outmanoeuvred, but unbeaten in London, must meet its Waterloo in Jewish Palestine: and the malcontents parading under high sounding martial names go out to undermine the position of the Agency and the responsible heads of the Palestine Jewish community by defying them by saying 'Thou shalt kill' when all others proclaim 'Thou shalt not kill.'

With the issuance of the White Paper and its editorial announcement on "The Parting of the Ways," there was a discernible change in the tone of the paper. Formerly, Jewish new settlement and Jewish achievement had been served up in judicious quantities. Now new settlement of the land, which had taken a spurt with the announcement of the restriction of land sales, began to be featured by the paper. The possibility of the reclaiming of the unpopulated wilderness of the Negev was both news and exciting speculation. Bars were down on the open criticism of immigration policy and the handling of Jewish refugees. The Chamberlain Government was attacked freely.

On July 17 an angry British reader wrote a letter of some thousand words which was printed in full. It began:

Together with many of your other readers whose views I have heard, I wish to express my dissatisfaction with the persistent anti-British Government attitude taken up by your paper. Criticism does serve a useful purpose, but there is a limit.

The Government of the United Kingdom may make mistakes, but it cannot always be wrong, and it may be that the long term view taken by the British ministers concerning world politics is the right one...

I would suggest that it would not lower but would even improve the tone and value of your paper if a more reasonable attitude were taken in reporting and discussing the actions of the Government which represents a large number of your readers. A newspaper has every day, for lack of space, to reject a vast amount of news, but all the facts to the credit of the British Government need not be in the rejected news.

Such a letter was grist for the editorial mill. In a leader on the same day the editor answers the accusations point by point. In referring to the assumption that the larger aims of Great Britain are for civilized progress the leader states:

Were it otherwise, not only would there be no common basis of discussion between ourselves and our correspondent, but the partnership in this country between Britain and the Jewish people, to which this newspaper is dedicated, despite grievous setbacks and heartbreaking disillusionment, would never have come into existence.

We cleave to the highest British journalistic principles that 'facts are sacred'; but assuredly as we cleave to this tenet, we follow the corollary that 'opinions are free.'

Immigration Quotas Curtailed

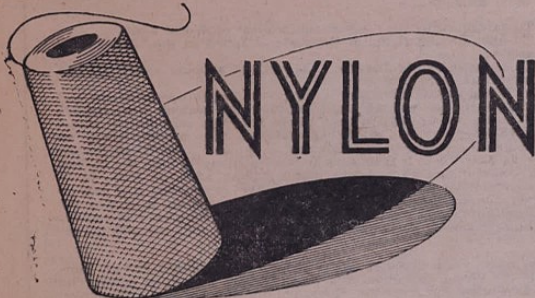
And free the paper felt itself to express with constantly growing vehemence its heartbreaking disillusionment as it saw immigration quotas curtailed and stopped completely at a time when the headlines reported day after day such news as "Six Ships Adrift on the Mediterranean," "700 Refugees at Journey's End," "1,400 Refugees Land at Tel Aviv Beach," with sub-head: "Three Killed by Marine Patrol Fire."

But if the paper expressed its own horror and sorrow at these events it went to great pains to show that it was not alone in its objections. In a special 16-page supplement the full Hansard report of the full dress debate against the government policy was reported. Editorially, after commenting on the decrease of the Government's majority to 69 votes, the leader continues:

What is evident from all the speeches is the growing realization in all parts of the House that a shocking breach of faith is being committed by the Colonial Secretary in the name of the British People.

Equally marked was the acute pain felt by speaker after speaker at the inhumanity of the course pursued by the Government in the execution of a policy which they know in their hearts to be an arbitrary perversion of the Mandate. The House of Commons has at all times shown a deep sense of humanity and an active sympathy for the oppressed and Mr. Lansbury evidently spoke the mind of the House when he said that there was something higher than man-made law, the law of humanity, which was God's Law.

The outbreak of the world war in September, 1939, found the Jews torn between the need to fight the Germans and be on the side of the British and the need to fight the White Paper, which put an end to Zionist hopes and plans in Palestine. The war against Germany gave no one much choice. Britain became once more the champion of freedom and the symbol of courage. The Jews of Palestine were with her in her battle against tyranny.



NYLON is stronger

than any other fabric used in tire production. NYLON is science's answer to the Light Weight demanded of a Heavy Duty tire. NYLON cord is 3 times stronger than cotton cord.

NYLON is lighter

NYLON has conquered its place as a tire fabric, just as modern light metals have replaced heavy metals. A lighter tire means better driving.

NYLON is cooler

A Heavy Duty tire keeps cool when "dressed in Nylon" — and a cool tire cannot blow out.

NYLON is, what we put into our NYGEN ★TIRES, which are built for endurance.

★NYGEN stands for Nylon + GENeral

GENERAL

Producers of SAMSON Tires

P.O.B. 2581, Tel Aviv, Israel



WAR YEARS AND WAR EFFORT

DAVID Ben-Gurion struck the key-note for the attitude of the Jewish Community in Palestine at the beginning of World War II: "We shall fight the War as if there were no White Paper; we shall fight the White Paper as if there were no war."

Since these two objectives were often diametrically opposed, a newspaper operating under such a slogan might well have gone over the fine edge which divides the same from the unbalanced. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that the Jews were at least as much interested in a victory over Germany as anyone else in the world. At the same time the White Paper which stopped immigration and restricted land sales, seemed to the Jews as if it were a page from Hitler's note book.

It was not a happy situation for *The Post* which was still publishing an English language paper in which it was more necessary than ever before to present the Jewish point of view. The British were often infuriated by the attacks made upon their Government in Palestine, while the Jews were hurt and angered that a Jewish-owned paper should bend over backwards to give the British point of view. The feelings of the Jewish Community were nevertheless, reflected in the Leader of February 9, 1940, in its reaction to the Land Transfer Law:

No worse blow could be administered to the spiritual urge behind this unique effort of national reconstruction than to send the Jews back to the town, by closing to them the larger part of the countryside. It is more fateful to them as it comes at a moment when they are going through a period of unprecedented agony at the hands of the sadistic barbarians against whom Great Britain and France have now taken up arms. To the Jew in the German Concentration Camp, to the deserted refugee on the seas, there is today but one gleam of hope left and that is concentrated in his people's effort at a spiritual and physical reconstruction in the ancient home of his race. The closing of this land, too, to Jewish settlement is a tragedy for which the annals of human martyrdom have few parallels.

But unless the local news was exceptionally tragic, it was relegated to the inside pages of the paper, and the war news superseded all else. At this time there was much behind-the-scenes coming and going between London and Palestine. Moshe Shertok (now Sharett), the Political Secretary of the Jewish Agency, had conceived the idea that the Jews in Palestine should raise a fighting unit for service in the Allied Armies. The negotiations had been kept very secret. The British were not at all anxious to have an all-Jewish unit. They wanted no further commitments to the Jews. A Jewish unit would mean *per se* that there had to be an Arab unit, and the British were not at all interested in testing the loyalty of their Arab proteges.

Shertok Presses for Jewish Recruiting

The Post reported a press conference in which Mr. Shertok revealed the fact that negotiations had been going on:

Mr. Shertok, after tracing the history of the offer, said that after prolonged consideration it had been intimated to the Jewish Agency that the offer could not be accepted.

As regards recruiting in Palestine, the Jewish Agency had cooperated in such recruitment of a large number of Jews for technical services with the British units, but was unable to urge Jews to enlist in mixed Labour Corps for France, as this was incompatible with the status and feeling of the Palestine Jews as a people.

Despite the Jewish Agency's scepticism about enlistment in Labour Corps, *The Post* had early and late been urging enlistment both in the armed and in the auxiliary services. It was not only because of the "incompatibility" that the Jews did not like to enlist in these corps. Once having got into the army they were treated as "native troops" with the status of third rate citizens.

The paper played its part in the recruiting drive, and it was the first to succeed in overcoming brass-hat resistance to granting accreditation to a correspondent of a "native" newspaper. Ted Lurie paid several visits to the Palestinian units — later the Jewish Brigade — in the Canal Zone, the Western Desert, in the Lebanon as well as in Italy and Southern France, between 1942 and 1945. In one of his later despatches he wrote:

The story of the Palestine Jewish troops in this war can be summed up as the advance from labour battalions to front-line soldiers. How the first Palestine Pioneer Company went to France with picks and shovels and fought its way out via St. Malo with rifles and machine-guns is truly typical of the progress made by the thousands of Jews who enlisted in the British Army in Palestine and came to be known on several fronts as 'the forgotten ally'.

In 1941, an earlier front-line despatch said:



Mr. Sharett (then Shertok) with some of the officers of the Jewish Brigade. Standing (left to right): Capt. Blumenfeld, Sgt. (unidentified), Major Edelman, Major Stein, Mr. Sharett, Lt. Wortman, Capt. Caspi. Kneeling: Lt. Lowenthal, Capt. Shapiro.

"There are at present over 9,000 Jewish volunteers serving with the British Forces. Jews of Palestine are playing their part in the Middle East theatre, and their spirit is typified in the words of a British war correspondent, who was an eye-witness of the battle for Crete, as follows: 'The Palestinian battalions have already been in battle like the others, at Keren and in Greece. You can imagine the joy which fill the Jews when the time comes for them to take part in digging Hitler's grave.'"

A special commando which was sent to the East African theatre, was made up mainly of men of the Pioneer Company that served in France. It was the soldiers of this commando, more popularly known as the 'Palestinian Suicide Squads' owing to the dangerous character of their duties, who distinguished themselves particularly in the capture of Keren in Eritrea. Many of the few hundred Jewish soldiers in these Suicide Squads were refugees who reached Palestine after many months of wandering. The Abyssinian campaign was reminiscent of the work of the special Night Squads commanded by Capt. Wingate in Palestine in 1939. In addition, the British officers who organized the patriot rebellion in Abyssinia had as their assistants picked Jewish soldiers.

Ferdinand is Casualty of German Occupation

In those early war months newsprint rationing had not yet caught up with Palestine, so that *The Post* could really spread itself on war news and features. Eight daily pages and ten on Friday seemed luxurious. The paper identified itself completely with the Empire, and as new troops began arriving, only the really perspicacious amongst them could note that this was not an entirely British paper. Women's interests gave way to those of soldiers, especially in the field of sports. Local recruiting continued to be given a lot of space and constantly encouraged, despite the inimical attitude of the Mandatory Government. Such routine war items as campaigns against rumour mongering, waste, rationing, were part of the daily reading matter. War coverage was thorough and comprehensive and was reported by the best of the news agencies and foreign correspondents. An amazing amount of war news squeezed into the limited space of *The Palestine Post*. Financially the paper was in a better position than ever before. The paper's split personality and ax-to-grind aggressiveness were often entirely in abeyance. Shortly after France collapsed, Ferdinand, like a good many less diverting characters, was left high and dry on a suspended girder when the whistle blew and his fellow workers went off for lunch. There he was to remain in mid-air until well after the end of the war. The comic strip came from Copenhagen which was occupied enemy territory.

KUPAT HOLIM

Health Organization of the Labour Movement—provides medical aid to 66% of the population

In the beginning of the year 1957 the community of Kupat Holim—members and their families—stood at 1,100,000. Among those insured in Kupat Holim, besides members of the Histadrut and other labour groups (Hapoel Hamizrachi and Poale Agudat Israel) are also families of soldiers, those serving in Nahal, families of those wounded in the War of Independence and social cases. Kupat Holim also provides services for a number of settlements whose members are not in the Histadrut (Nahariya, Kfar-Shmaryahu, Ra'anana, Shavei Zion and others).

DISPENSARIES

The dispensaries form the basis of the work of Kupat Holim. In the beginning of 1957 there were 910 dispensaries scattered throughout the country, compared with 373 in 1948. The dispensaries benefit from a network of X-Ray apparatus, physiotherapy equipment, laboratories etc. In more than 40 places, particularly in agricultural areas, Kupat Holim operates stations for dental care.

HOSPITALS

Kupat Holim and the affiliated Keren Nahut maintain 15 general and special hospitals with 2,178 beds.

REST HOMES

Kupat Holim operates 15 rest and convalescent homes with 1,842 places (5 homes in cooperation with Margoa Laoved, one in cooperation with the insurance fund of the Construction Workers Union, one with the Government Workers' Union and one with the Organization of Employees of Kupat Holim). Some of these homes serve as vacation places and others as institutions for convalescence after serious illnesses and operations.

PERSONNEL

Kupat Holim employs 7,814 workers, among them 1,396 doctors, 2,278 nurses. The others are pharmacists, laboratory technicians, engineers, various other technicians, administration workers, etc.

INSTITUTES FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Among the studies offered by the organization are refresher courses for doctors (attached to the Bellinson Hospital), 4 schools for nurses, courses for X-Ray technicians, for physiotherapists, pharmacists and their assistants, a school for dieticians, courses for dispensary clerks, etc.

BUDGET

In 1957 the budget of Kupat Holim exceeded the sum of 70 million pounds. In 1951 the budget amounted to 11 million.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Kupat Holim maintains 275 mother-and-child welfare stations throughout the country. The organization keeps continuous watch over the health conditions of industrial workers and provides free first-aid kits in places of work. Kupat Holim also carries out a programme of medical educational work through lectures and publications. For the tenth year a monthly magazine on popular medicine, "Eytanin," has appeared and lectures on hygiene are delivered regularly in factories, rural settlements, new immigrant settlements and cities.

Fighter Fund Launched

One of the early war projects of the paper was the Fighter Aircraft Fund which was announced on July 3, 1940, "with the approval of His Excellency the High Commissioner as a fund with the purpose of presenting Fighter Aircraft to the British Government, in the name of the people of Palestine and Trans-Jordan." The leader of that date remarks:

It (the Fund) is intended to help the peoples of Palestine to associate themselves with the cause for which the Empire is fighting and is meant as a spontaneous expression of the will to victory which is as much a part of the being of Palestinians of all of the communities, as of all others living on British soil or sheltered by the British flag. It would seem that this unselfish expression of the will to be part of the British war effort should have been welcomed with complete and unqualified acceptance, but even in so non-controversial a project as collecting funds for fighter planes, there were hemmings and hawings. The Arabs did not like the idea of having their contributions compared with Jewish contributions and the British were not entirely pleased that they were to be put into the position of furthering a Jewish effort on behalf of the Empire. But no one could with good grace say no to such an attempt, so the Fund got under way on July 23 accompanied by an editorial sermon blessing:

However large this country's contribution to the glorious air arm of the British Empire, it can but be infinitely small compared with the unprecedented, the almost astronomic amounts which are required daily and hourly, to pay for this war. But the proportions of the prodigious expenditure are yet another reason for making our contribution for the Fighter Fund as substantial as it is within our power to make it. More perhaps than any other the Jewish community has assumed responsibilities in its own sphere designed to fight want and create minimum living conditions for all who have found shelter here. Yet we know that they will not fail to take their rightful place in this special and positive effort. We have reason to hope that the Arabs will not lag behind others in identifying themselves with this essential purpose. Britons have already given evidence of their determination to make this appeal an unqualified success.

The daily reports of progress of the F.A.F. played up such contributions as those of the Police Force, the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force, while it simply listed names of the Jewish contributors who accounted for most of the money raised. Point was given to the collection by the enemy raids on Haifa, which had as their target the oil refineries. The handing over of the first check for £28,500 by the Editor to the High Commissioner was accompanied by pictures, and made quite a splash.

Supplement Marks Twenty Years of Mandate

Twenty years of British rule in Palestine was noted with a special supplement featuring the Mandate's contributions to the development of the country. Side by side with this bow to British Administration,

**Congratulations
and Best Wishes**

FROM

**The Israel Office of The
British Zionist Federation**

53a, Rehov Hayarkon,
Tel Aviv.

Greetings

from the

**South African
Zionist Federation**

Israel Office

109 Rehov Hayarkon,
Tel Aviv.

MALBEN

**40,000
Handicapped Immigrants
Aided**



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1950-1957

- 5 Hospitals
- 2 Schools for Nurses
- 18 Homes, Infirmarys, Villages for aged
- 6,000 Families helped with Constructive Loans
- A Youth Rehabilitation Centre
- 23 Sheltered workshops

was a graphic report of constructive Jewish endeavour, which marked the 10th anniversary of the Keren Hayesod, the Palestine Foundation Fund.

By September, 1941, newsprint rationing finally caught up with Palestine. That the newspapers in Palestine had continued to enjoy the luxury of their 44 pages a week through almost two years of war, with shipping space a vital problem, was surprising. When rationing was finally imposed it limited the papers to 24 pages a week and curtailed the number of copies sold daily.

The new economy in the use of paper made necessary an economy in the use of words. The paper looked very cramped with its restricted *lebensraum*. The number of columns on each page were increased to seven, and the headlines on the inside page were decreased in size. The selection and exclusion of items became a matter of great importance. This enforced discipline led to a very careful consideration of what should be included and to a ruthless pruning of extraneous matter.

Since much of the war at this period was near at hand and since the troops fighting in North Africa, Greece and Syria were often stationed in Palestine, the war reporting was often on-the-spot reporting, with the war correspondents using the office of *The Palestine Post* as a sort of headquarters and a place to go when there was nothing special on the agenda. Drinks were on the house, and things which were not fit for censored printing were discussed freely.

Everyone knew of how General Clark came into the Baghdad Airport twirling his swagger stick at the time that Rashid Ali was staging his revolt, and how a fleet of Egged buses carrying a handful of troops drove down to give him support. There was no secret about how Farouq felt about the British, and how he reacted when they surrounded his palace and made him toe the line, and there was no secret about how the Arabs rejoiced as the beaten British troops fell back before Rommel's advance, nor about the fortification of the Biblical Armageddon as a last line of defence, nor about the arrival of the King of Greece accompanied by his New Zealand rescuers. These open secrets were never printed, but they lent spice to the war stories.

There were changes in the paper designed to make the reader feel as if he were a part of the Empire. The introduction of such features from the "Daily Express" of London as "Beachcomber" and Nat Gubbins' "Sitting on the Fence" was announced as follows: "Military authorities at G.H.Q. were responsible for the initiative and the arrangements making it possible for the airborne importing of these and other features."

The introduction of these special features are an indication of the lengths to which *The Palestine Post* went to give the British reader the type of newspaper fare to which he was accustomed. They carried very little appeal for the Palestinian reader. They were as British as the fish and chips which began to appear on the menus of local restaurants, and were printed for the same reason.

Negotiations for the Syrian Edition

The introduction of *The Palestine Post* across the Syrian border after the British had driven out the Vichyites seemed like a natural expansion to the editor, but did not meet with an unqualified welcome on the part of all of the British authorities involved. Some of them did not like the Jewish ownership nor the slant of the news in *The Post*. But many of the men who had formerly been stationed in Palestine had become accustomed to the paper. They felt that the "Eastern Times," a feeble attempt on the part of the Army to print a paper in Beirut with the "right slant" on the news, did not fit their needs, when there was a first rate paper close at hand.

The negotiations which led to the Syrian edition were complicated and reached far and wide before being finally successful. In themselves, these negotiations were important because they point to the thinking of the type of men who were ultimately to be responsible for Middle East policy. The negotiations took on a tone of cloak and dagger intrigue involving personalities from second lieutenants all the way up to generals. The diary notes of Gershon Agronsky on his visits to the neighbouring countries at this time are illuminating. They open with a note on a visit to Cairo.

While in Cairo I was shown by R.S.C. (Randolph Churchill) a report from Captain Jolliffe, the Information and Propaganda representative in Beirut. The tendency was to convey an atmosphere of cold shoulder, if not active hostility towards us. One of the more concrete instances was in connection with their visit to General Laverack, the Australian Commander-in-Chief, who seemed surprised that the army showed any interest in *The Palestine Post*; he thought it was official policy to back up the "Eastern Times." Another instance was his, Jolliffe's visit to Brigadier Mavrogardato, I/C of British Security Police, who in the presence of another officer said he was only waiting for *The Palestine Post* to make one mistake to ban it from Syria.

A day or two later I was called by R.S.C. to meet Second Lieutenant Auten, Amenities Officer of the IXth Army, whose main complaint was that the paper was not properly distributed among the troops, who were now spread over a very large area, as far as Iraq. R.S.C. then and there dictated a long letter to Auten for the information of Wilson repeating our standing demands for telephonic facilities, N.A.A.F.I. distribution and for an accredited correspondent, etc. etc. The scene then shifts to Beirut and the diary notes cover a period between November 15, 1941 to December 18, 1941. The notes tell of various meetings and conferences in bars, hotel rooms, dining rooms and offices.

Tuesday 16.12.41 Auten called. His account was as dismal as J's His personal investigation disclosed an indubitable, if not unanimous, preference by the troops of all ranks for the P.P. and that he had been advised to show no favourable interest in it, and had even been given a hint not to report favourably on it.

On the practical side he felt that there was open sabotage in the IXth Army and named Colonel Eume as one who collected a "dossier" of objectionable matter in the P.P., namely "Jewish propaganda" as against the clear cut British propaganda of the "Eastern Times."

I decided to see as many of those concerned as possible and to find out if there were any honest objections which it would be our job to meet. I therefore called at once on Mavrogardato. He met me stiffly; never asked a personal question and invited none; and proceeded to business by asking what he could do for me. (I suppose the fact that he received me without an appointment was his way of showing that he did recognize my existence.)

I asked him point blank if there was anything in the P.P. to which he took exception from the security point of view. The answer was a categorical negative. I then asked him to make a note to the effect that I wished to be informed either directly or through our representative here if any such thing did occur. After a few words about the two papers, the B.T. being available earlier and being cheaper — some he said favoured one and some the other — he read both (he perhaps pointedly did not indicate that there was any difference), I left, but not before he got a dig in about some thirty Rumanian Jewish capitalist refugees whom he was trying to push across into Palestine, as they were not wanted here by the authorities, but who refused to go. "Imagine me," said he, "trying to get Jews into Palestine, and they being reluctant to go." I said that if all the 16,000,000 Jews had shown a proper sense of the value of Palestine...

From M. I went to Roselli. I dropped all pretences of superficial friendliness and said I wanted to have a very clear indication as to where we stood as regards himself as the Public Information Officer. He

tried to wriggle out by saying that as P.I.O. his duty was to send communications to Jerusalem P.I.O. and Home. I said that if we had to compete with the E.T. I wanted to compete on fair terms with no favouritism. He said that we were being favoured in that we were allowed "our sheets" (as he put it) to the E.T.'s two. The trouble with the "P." was "Too much Zionism."

Next to Lambert. Garrulously started by criticizing the day's issue by showing me a marked copy with three (admittedly an unfortunate number) of Jewish stories. Agreeing that it was somewhat disproportionate, I insisted upon his telling me whether he thought this was general. He said 'no' and began criticizing Feller (*The Palestine Post* correspondent in Beirut) for not accepting his suggestions to brighten up the paper with interviews and pictures, etc.

Doyle and Holmes at lunch were as meek as lambs and we only discussed improved distribution, as if neither they nor we were aware of any other difficulty.

Ingers, the U.S. Consul General, whom I had seen on each of my previous visits, was as friendly and cordial as ever. I let myself go a bit on the general policy *vis à vis* the Arabs and the general fear of alienating them without impressing on them that they had as much to lose by not supporting the British as the British had to lose by not being supported by them. As to the P.P. I asked him if he had seen anything to which he could object. He paid a very high compliment to Feller, who, he said, ferreted out news and presented it in a way which had never been done before: he often gleaned Syrian news in the P.P. which he did not see in the local press or from local sources; and he never saw a single line in the P.P. which he could have wished had not appeared, in spite of its known origin, etc., etc.

There are some additional notes by Peter Joliffe which throw further light on the interview between Agronsky and Major Roselli. J., being British, evidently did not feel the need to practise British restraint and understatement in his notes on the interview, even though they were intended for a private diary.

...In asking R. if we'd slipped up anywhere, G.A. mentioned that he had put the same question to Mavrogardato, Eddington, Hume and Ingers, and they'd all given us a clean slate. R. immediately jumped up with "how about yesterday's paper?" G.A. agreed that it was unfortunate that such a lack of proportion and balance had been shown, but he stressed most emphatically that because news was of a specific Jewish character this did not mean to say that it was to be debarred, and insisted more emphatically that he did not and would not accept the view that because an item was Jewish it was taboo.

R. after recovering from the tirade agreed that what G.A. said was true except that we were at war and daily the Nazis and Italians were putting over the air that the Jews were creeping up on the Lebanese and Syrians. He added that he thought we were putting across too much Zionist propaganda, and when G.A. asked him to define what he meant by this his example was the report of Weizmann's being in America and his statement — this could have gone on page three in the home edition and taken out for Syria. R. thought it might improve matters if the paper were not called *Palestine Post* and G.A. refused to fly under other colours (presumably other than the blue and white).

Devotion to Policy Revealed

These diary notes are of interest, mainly because they not only expose the attitude of the British army officials in the Middle East, but also because they clearly state a policy of the paper, which never at any time diverged from the path which it had set for itself. It was truly, as Peter Joliffe suggested in his notes, flying openly under the blue and white colours, and even at this point, which we might call its most British period, it went out of its way to point up the fact of its ownership and intentions. While the editor's notes of his Syrian conversations contain strong and vigorous objections to statements of army officers, they never revealed any real objection to the repeated statement that the news smacked of Zionist propaganda. Actually, it was only Zionist propaganda in that it reported Zionist doings. To have omitted Jewish news would have been the height of self-abnegation and a complete reversal of the very basis upon which the paper was founded.

Thus the story of Dr. Weizmann's statement on the attempts at the organization of a Jewish Battalion was prominently headlined on page one, since the struggle to get the unit was as much the policy of *The Palestine Post* as it was of the Jewish Agency.

The Syrian edition continued till the end of the war, with Ben Feller doing an excellent job of teaching the Syrians how news is gathered without resorting to bribery and blackmail. The front and back page of this edition were the same as the Home edition of the paper. The inside pages were devoted to news, sports and happenings nearer to the Syrian scene. Some of page two was used in Syria as well.

The Women's League for Israel of New York Congratulates you on your Silver Jubilee

We are grateful that our achievements — five Homes for Woman Immigrants & Students' Residence Centre — have been recorded in the annals of this publication. May we continue to provide copy and *The Jerusalem Post* to record Jewry's contribution to Israel.

Mizrachi Women's Organization Of America

ISRAEL EXECUTIVE: 16 Rehov Dov Hos, Tel Aviv

We congratulate *THE JERUSALEM POST*
on its 25th Anniversary

and point to our own Anniversaries that fall
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25 YEARS — Beit Zeirot Mizrahi Jerusalem, housing the nationally renowned Vocational High School for Girls, a Children's Home, and Kindergartens.

20 YEARS — Beit Zeirot Mizrahi Tel Aviv, containing Vocational High School, Handicraft Teachers' Seminary, Adult Education Centre.

13 YEARS — Mosad Aliyah, the Children's Village and Training Farm in Petah Tikva, celebrates its Bar Mitzva.

10 YEARS — Kfar Batya, the Bessie Gottsfeld Children's Village in Raanana.

At the beginning of 1958 we open our **YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE** in Haifa (jointly with Mizrahi Women's Organization of Canada).

Moetzet Hapoalot (Women Workers' Council of Histadrut) and Pioneer Women

Educates women for economic independence and active participation in public life;

Trains thousands of women and youths in professions, agriculture and trades;

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The Sick Fund for National Workers — the health institution of any citizen in Israel — was founded in 1933 by the National Labour Federation and cares for a population of 140,000 in 75 branches all over the State.

The working system of the S.F.N.W. is based on the principle of free choice of the doctor by the member.

The S.F.N.W. is recognized by the Government as "reliable medical institution."

WIZO

The Women's International Zionist Organization

GREETES THE EDITORS AND STAFF OF

THE JERUSALEM POST

ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

in appreciation of the important role which it has played throughout the years of its existence, serving as a faithful mirror of the strife and struggle of the Yishuv, the problems and achievements of the State and the many forces at work in Israel. The Jerusalem Post has proved a much acclaimed source of information for many of our members the world over, keeping them abreast of life and developments in this country.

The Executive of World WIZO and the Israel Federation, H.N.Z.

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on behalf of their members in Israel and
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Agricultural Schools

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Mothercraft Training Centre and Nurses School, Tel Aviv
28 Day creches
78 Kindergartens
50 Youth clubs
12 Clubs for immigrant girls

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91 Women's Clubs and Centres
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Wizo Gift Shop and Home Industries

* Run in cooperation with the Working Women's Council.

Tragedy Strikes Refugees

THERE had for some months been little or no news of ships carrying Jewish refugees from the Nazi war zones. This lack of news might have been due to the fact that no ships had managed to get through to the Palestine shores. It might have been that some ships had managed to slip through undetected by the authorities, and *The Palestine Post* certainly did not consider it part of its function to scoop such news for its readers. However, on November 21, 1941, an insignificant item, "Refugees to be sent to British Colony," appeared. The story read:

"The following official announcement was made yesterday and was broadcast by the P.B.S. in the afternoon: Early this month, two steamers carrying between them 1,771 Jewish passengers were intercepted off the coast of Palestine by police patrol vessels and brought into Haifa Harbour... His Majesty's Government is not lacking in sympathy for refugees from countries under German control, but... Moreover, they can only regard a revival of illegal immigration at the present juncture as likely to affect the local situation adversely and to prove a serious menace to British interests in the Middle East. They accordingly decided that the passengers of the s.s. Pacific and the s.s. Milos shall not be permitted to land in Palestine, but shall be deported to a British Colony..."

Six days later the headlines read:

"PATRIA SINKS IN HAIFA HARBOUR."

The passengers from the s.s. Pacific and s.s. Milos had been transferred to the Patria which sank as a result of an explosion. Thereafter every day the paper carried headlines about the Patria victims and their plight. Feeling ran high. The total death toll finally reached sixty-six. The Government announced on December 5th:

"Survivors of Patria to remain... They will be allowed to stay in Palestine subject to existing regulations and their numbers deducted from the next immigration quota that may be granted..."

Little was mentioned in any paper about the cause of the explosion. On January 24, the Government announced the "Suspension of the Current Immigration Quota," and further stated that illegal immigrants would, in the future, be deported to the island of Mauritius.

Pattern for War Years Set

By the beginning of 1942 the war years' pattern had been set for the paper. It was as British as the London "Times" in reporting war news, news of the Empire, such extraneous matter as sports and local happenings amongst the troops. It was completely Jewish when it reported on the Mandate, illegal immigration, etc. Its motives were mixed when it took up the question of a Jewish Brigade to fight side by side with the allied forces.

"Determination to play a bigger part in Britain's war effort, complete readiness of the Jewish community to do its utmost for the defence of the Homeland, the need to extend the passive defence services and the urgent necessity to strengthen the community's internal security — these matters found expression in a full meeting of the General Council (Va'ad Leumi) of the Palestine Jews." This was printed on May 13, and once more expressed the Jews' determination not to be pushed to one side at a time when Greece had been completely defeated, and the Nazis had bolstered their position in North Africa. Editorially *The Post* wrote:

There is a very natural desire on the part of patriotic citizens to be engaged in some duty of direct benefit to the present emergency. The very fact that life in Palestine is so undisturbed in spite of the war almost at our doors creates a certain uneasiness, which would disappear with the posting of every able bodied volunteer to some war-time job. But for reasons which need not be discussed here it is not possible to engage everyone willing and even anxious to serve on emergency tasks. The calls so far made on the manpower of the country are extremely modest, though the High Commissioner has been furnished with wide and ample powers to mobilize, if necessary, the full resources of Palestine.

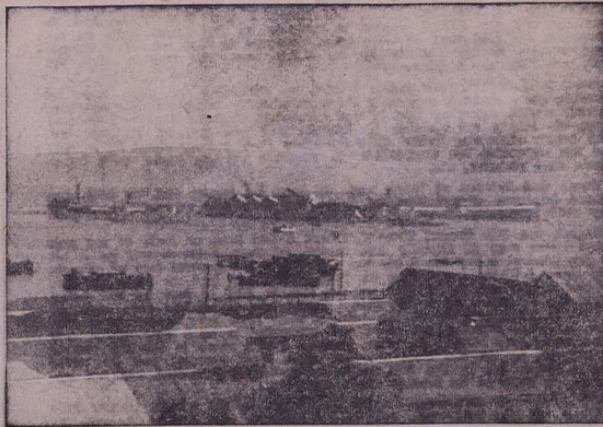
The "reasons which need not be discussed" were, of course, the Government's determination to make no commitments to the Jews, even by implication; its unwillingness to test the loyalty of the Arab community; its fear of offending the Arabs to the slightest degree by recognizing the Jews as a partner; the inimical attitude of the local Mandatory administration.

Demand for Right to Fight

Despite the cold war thrown on any proposition for active Jewish participation, Mr. Shertok, who had made a Jewish Battalion his special project, insisted, "Jews Must Fight for Existence." *The Palestine Post* hammered away at this proposition. There were other Jewish papers in the country which by no means approved of forming a fighting unit. These were the forces which were beginning to harden into an unequivocal anti-British stand, due to the war-time implementation of the restricted immigration policy, which to many in Nazi Germany was equivalent to the seal on their death sentence. They did not want manpower sent out of the country when it might be needed for self-defence. The Jews were fighting in the war. They had defended the northern borders of Palestine when the British were prepared temporarily to evacuate the Jewish settlements as the Vichy French put up an unexpectedly fierce resistance in Syria. They manned small ships and did intelligence work in the Arab countries. But these were not printable items, and they did not make up a fighting unit which could march side by side with the forces fighting the Nazis.

From London came such items as "Important Review of Jews' right to die fighting and not just be slaughtered," "Jewish Division Offer Turned Down," "Lack of Equipment given as Reason." Meanwhile the paper intensified its insistence upon Jewish recruiting in the existing Labour Corps, the Palestine Buffs and the Women's ATS units. By August the figures given of volunteers were 22,500, of whom 6,500 were Arabs. Finally in August the headline read: "House Debates Jewish Army." The leader on the subject was called "Jewish Effort Recognized" and said...

In an imperfect world, it is right to strive after a council of perfection, but wrong and futile to despair because perfection seems illusive. This opportunity will be grasped. The 10,000 men asked for will be provided. They will be provided by the same process of self conscription which the Jews of this country have imposed upon themselves from the beginning of this total war and for a not inconsiderable time before its outbreak. The separate battalions in the Palestine Regiment will be welcomed as a fulfilment, however partial, of the Jews' insistence on their right as Jews, to fight their arch persecutor. They will be welcomed as a vindication of the firm policy of asking for that which is right and essential. For it is this policy which has enabled the Jews of this country, in the absence of conscription, to play a worthy part in the war. It is owing to this policy that we can now be officially informed that the Jews had, by the end of June, given 14,000 men and women to the various arms (18,000 if July enlistments are included) and some 24,000 to the police and quasi Home Guard formations...



The "Patria" lying on her side in Haifa harbour.

'Guidance' from the Censor

CENSORSHIP had been in full force for some time. It was not always clear why certain items were selected for exclusion, and as time went on, these deletions seemed to become more and more erratic. At one time the editor received a hand written note attached to a secret list of some forty "stops" which the military authorities considered censorable. The note read:

"Dear Agronsky, I thought you might like to have this list of Military Censorship Stops for your guidance. Naturally, it cannot give a complete picture, as it is purely negative, and in any case subject to modification. I am sure you will look after it carefully and keep it in your safe, lest it get into unauthorized hands. Yours sincerely, etc., etc."

In addition to the purely military stops there were included such items as "Criticisms of a personal nature," "Material likely to cause despondency or alarm to troops or civilians," "Details of terrorist or seditious movements."

The last noted restriction was involved when "Mr. Solomon Schiff, M.B.E., forty-year-old Deputy Superintendent of Police in charge of Tel Aviv, and three police inspectors were gravely injured when they walked into a land mine set by gangsters on the roof of 6 Rehov Yael."

After the death of D.S.P. Schiff and two other police officers, the name of Abraham Stern and his picture appear in the paper for the first time.

"A reward of LP1,000 for information leading to the arrest of Abraham Stern, alleged leader of a gang of extortionists and bank robbers, is to be announced by the police. It is learned that another reward of LP2,000 is to be offered for the perpetrators of the land mine outrage which resulted in the death of D.S.P. Schiff and Inspectors Goldman and Turton."

Apparently unconnected with this outrage, but with significant timing, there appears on the back page of the paper a moving letter from a refugee on the island of Mauritius, who had weathered the long and tortuous 4,500 miles journey from Palestine. The letter was written on paper which the man had managed to make by himself, since the amenities on Mauritius did not include such luxuries as paper.

Death of Abraham Stern

On February 13, "The notorious gang leader, Abraham Stern, was captured during a raid in the Florentine quarter near the Tel Aviv-Jaffa border and shot dead shortly afterward when he made his bid for freedom." There is no indication in the notice of Stern's capture and death, that here was not merely a bank robber and gangster, who lived violently and died a violent death. There was no indication that he represented an opposing political point of view, which firmly believed that the powers of the world had deliberately launched a campaign to eliminate the Jews once and for all, so that they would thenceforth cease to be a thorn in the side of powerful peoples. The paper does not hint at Stern's belief that the British had reneged on all of their promises to the Jews and that by closing the gates of Palestine to those that might escape the fiery furnace, they were as culpable as the Nazis themselves. None of these things were printed because *The Palestine Post* believed that the fate of the Jews was tied up with the British, and that this nation which gave the Jews the Balfour Declaration and was the first to admit the Jewish claim to a share in the Holy Land, was the friend of the Jews and ultimately would see justice done them. It took a great many blows to shake this faith, and a great many disillusionments, before it was completely shattered.



In the brief obituary to Stern that appeared in *The Palestine Post* there is an indication of the type of man who was the "gangster and murderer." "Stern was born in 1907 at Szuluki (Poland), and spoke Hebrew, Russian and Polish. A graduate of the Herzlia College of Tel Aviv and of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he had also attended a university in Italy. He was described as a brilliant student. He leaves a widow who is a music teacher in Ramat Hasharon."

*Bateau Struma, Galata, Istanbul
le 14 février 1942.*

A mes chers
 Depuis plus de 2 mois je me trouve au
 bord du bateau "Struma" ainsi que nombre
 considérable d'autres émigrants dans le port
 de Constantinople sans aucune liaison avec le monde
 extérieur et dans les conditions les plus
 misérables avec les plus sombres perspectives.
 Je vous implore faire le tout possible pour
 me sauver. Ut. viset dans les moyens, toutes
 vos relations ainsi que celles de

*Prière de communiquer tout de
 suite*

*que son frère Mordhai est au bord du même
 bateau et tout seul. Les passifs étant déposés
 à l'intérieur de la Turquie. Ce je agisse pour lui*

Two Letters from the Struma

To my beloved family,

For over two months I have been on board the ship Struma, along with a considerable number of other emigrants, in the harbour of Istanbul without any connection with the outside world and in the most miserable conditions with the darkest prospects. I implore you to do everything in your power to save me! Make use of all your means, all your connections as well as those of...

Please let . . . know immediately that his brother Mordhai is on board the same ship, all alone, his parents have been deported to the interior of Russia. Let him act on his behalf . . .

Agronsky Goes to Turkey— Reports Struma Disaster

The Palestine Post was nearing its tenth birthday, but Gershon Agronsky did not consider it his editorial duty to remain behind a desk with a blue pencil. Things were happening on many fronts, and the urge to see what was going on became too pressing to resist. Turkey was the neutral bridge between the enemies, and it was through Turkey that most of the "news behind the news" in this part of the world filtered. On his way to Ankara, the train stopped at the junction of Adana where passengers changed for other points. On one of those mysterious hunches which any newspaperman will tell you it is wise to follow, Agronsky suddenly switched his ticket from Ankara to Istanbul. He arrived hot and tired, went to bed, and when he awoke the next morning he contacted the Jewish Agency representative. "What news of the refugees on the s.s. Struma?" he asked. "The Struma sank this morning with practically all of its passengers on board."

Two weeks before this event The Post had carried a leader which referred to reports of yet another boatload of unwanted humanity drifting about on the high seas.

The harrowing accounts published in the press here, this week, of the suffering of the refugees on the s.s. Struma, which lies outside Istanbul, recalls in almost every detail the tragic experiences of earlier refugees. An unseaworthy craft, never used for passenger traffic and lacking the most elementary sanitary provisions, capable of carrying some 100 passengers, is loaded with human cargo of 800. Fantastic sums are demanded and paid by passengers.

From Istanbul Agronsky was able to send first hand coverage of this major tragedy which had been reported officially on February 27.

"It was learned officially in Jerusalem yesterday, from the British Embassy in Ankara, that, according to the semi-official Anatoli News Agency, the motor vessel Struma was sent back into the Black Sea from Istanbul on February 23. According to the same agency an explosion occurred on board on February 24 and the ship sank."

The subsequent news items gave horrible details of the Struma's sinking. In Palestine there was a complete stoppage of work for twelve hours by the Jews as a demonstration of mourning and protest. Editorially the paper wrote:

...Since the Nazis established their domain over Rumania, a systematic campaign of extermination accompanied by the most fearful forms of sadistic excesses, has been waged by the murder gangs against the Jewish population.

Desperate efforts are made to find them a haven of refuge. The Government of this country is urged to grant them admission, not as "illegal immigrants" but as lawful entrants on the strength of immigration certificates which are actually available for distribution. But the request is refused and after prolonged representations, admission is authorized to those under sixteen years. But ere they can be taken off, the boat is sent back to sea and the end follows.

The inevitable debates in Parliament are duly reported, with the headlines on March 12th reading: "Government Blamed for Struma Disaster." "Palestine Administration Defended in the House of Lords."

Pilgrimages Bring Colour and Relief

IN this Easter-tide season of the resurrection, when all of the countryside was beautiful with the rebirth of blossoms, the three festivals of Passover, Easter and Nebi Musa intrude to give relief to the earth-bound realities.

Five thousand people made their pilgrimage through the Via Dolorosa and the Stations of the Cross to see the fire at the Holy Sepulchre. "Gathering colour and emotional triumph by annual repetition for more than eleven centuries, the ceremony of the Holy Fire was observed with a brilliance which lit up the gloomy interior of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem."

"Fifteen thousand Jews at Wall on First Day of Passover" told of the pilgrimage of the Jews through the Jaffa Gate down David Road to the stark, weather worn pile of stones known as the Wailing Wall, the remains of the glory of the ancient Temple, where Jews came to mourn and pray for the redemption of the souls of their new dead.

The Moslem feast at the end of the fast of Ramadan was gay and colourful with the gathering of Arabs from the countryside, with songs and dances.

For a time there seemed to be a set pattern in the proportion of space allotted to the various news items and in their treatment. First came the war news. With the Germans firmly established in North Africa and making definite progress, no matter how the stop on "material likely to cause despondency and alarm to troops or civilians" was interpreted, it still did not make encouraging reading. The more the Germans progressed, the more firmly the paper echoed the Jews' insistence upon their right to fight as a Jewish unit. The more the Jews were tortured and destroyed the more persistently the Jews demanded that the gates of Palestine be opened to them. Despite the stop on "details of terrorist or seditious movements," isolated acts of terror as a protest could not be kept out of the paper, as their nature became more sensational. This, in spite of the fact that the paper sincerely deplored these acts.

Beachcomber and Gubbins had become firmly entrenched and slightly crowded the local contributors, but Dorothy Kahn Bar-Adon was still a favourite, with her ramblings through the country, her visits to Beduin camps, and sheep-shearing festivals and her fresh general impressions of the non-military side of the country. The Hebrew theatre and opera were given good coverage, and the Philharmonic Orchestra was one of the most popular institutions with all of the communities. War industries, labour problems and sports were thoroughly dealt with. Arab news became more and more scarce. It consisted mainly in reprints from British papers.


Destruction of European Jewry

The paper of November 23 was unusual in that for the first time war news was pushed to one side to make way for a double column headline devoted to Jewish news. The story read: "The simple fact of the matter is that Hitler is making good his promise to destroy European Jewry." It continued: "Black bordered columns in the first page of the Hebrew press this morning report harrowing accounts received by the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem from reliable sources, on the mass murders and slaughter among the Jews of those countries of Central and Western Europe reported to Poland."

From then on these stories became routine. The leader on November 25 reads:

However reluctant even the most credulous must have been to accept the ghastly tales coming in month after month, the authoritative reports leave, unhappily, little room for doubt: It is true! and with the realization of this awful fact what is there for civilization to do? Let there be no mistake about it. This is not a matter exclusively affecting the immediate victims, their families and their people. It is an inescapable international concern, just as any great upheaval of nature, except that it is the work of friends. It is not enough to blame, to protest, to warn, to threaten. What is needed above all is help, speedy, effective and comprehensive... Let the very horror of the catastrophe evoke a revival of the sense of community of man and turn even this blackest page into a new beginning in the annals of mankind.

By its tenth birthday, The Palestine Post had attained a maturity far beyond its years. It had been forged in fire, and as was later to be proven, fire could not destroy it. The congratulatory messages which the paper received came from every corner of the globe and represented a wide range.



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Russia's Entry Into War Hailed

PALESTINE, like the rest of the world, felt deeply grateful to Russia for Germany's diversion on the Eastern front. It joined the parade of sending help and gifts to the hard fighting Communists. The Histadrut organized a campaign to send a hospital unit to Russia, to help her in her fight for democracy. The public subscriptions to this fund amounted to enough to purchase two ambulances and a mobile operating theatre. Gershon Agronsky was chosen as one of the delegation to take the hard and almost tortuous overland trek to Persia to present this gift to the Russians in Teheran. The Persian capital in those days was a scene of hectic activity, with American and British experts trying to explain the use of American equipment to the Russians, while the Russian command was vigorously resisting any contact of their troops with the corroding influences of the capitalistic soldiery and technicians. Mr. Agronsky still retained a slight knowledge of Russian from his childhood days, which made it possible for him to get a great deal from his venture into the vacuum-sealed container in which the Russians had tried to preserve the pristine innocence of their people.

M. Maisky received the gift with the lavish courtesy which has become the standard for Russian entertainment. A full account of the presentation to the Red Army by the Palestinian "V League for Soviet Russia" was published by the Tass Agency in "Pravda," "Izvestia" and other Soviet papers.

The Reuter report from Teheran stated briefly: "At a ceremony attended by the diplomatic corps, the Editor of *The Palestine Post*, Mr. Gershon Agronsky, handed over two ambulances and one operating theatre to the Soviet Red Cross on behalf of the 'V League for Aid to Russia' in Palestine."

Horror of Nazi-Organized Slaughter

The Jewish news from the German occupied countries was making front page headlines not only in such papers as *The Palestine Post*, but in newspapers of all of the free countries. The organized slaughter of a whole people, because of their heredity, was entirely new to history. Jews had had periods in history when they had been tortured and burned at the stake because of their beliefs, but they had always had the choice of conversion and repentance for the sin of believing as they had believed. The Nazi theory of race purity demanded the complete extermination of those whose blood-stream contained impurities, which could only be cleansed by the fire of extermination furnaces. Most people, everywhere, even in Palestine, read these stories as some unbelievable horror fiction which could not possibly ever be true. But there were people who had escaped, and there were people whose relatives had not escaped, who could give first hand accounts of what was really happening. What was really happening, most minds and most hearts tried to reject, no matter what they heard or read.

In Palestine, this retreat into unbelief was not possible for long. There were ever present reminders that they were so. The branded humans who bore the scars of the madness of men crazed by their sadistic inventiveness, mad with their lust for inflicting torture, were being washed up on the shores of the country. The Jews felt that these who had escaped were pathetically few. The British felt that they were staggering numbers who might well hamper the all-out war effort. Many Jews struck out in blind fury against the British who did not allow those who might be rescued to come to Palestine. They felt that the Mandatory Government must be fought with any means which could be devised to make them live up to their commitments to the Jews.

The Palestine Post fully believed, with the members of the Jewish Agency, that the only course lay in cooperation with the British. It was not an easy belief to maintain, since it was well understood that a good underground organization could save many tens of thousands and possibly hundreds of thousands of condemned Jews. The British knew this, but they also knew that once saved, this human mass of outcasts would become a problem. They had committed themselves to keeping them out of Palestine and they were this time bent on carrying out their commitment, since it had been made to the Arabs who represented some sixty million souls, while it had been proved that the Jews represented only an idea without the force to back it up.

This was the background for the reporting of the news on the Jewish front. The story was told in an atmosphere of violent dissension amongst the Jews, censorship by the government and self-censorship by the paper which hoped in some measure to influence its British readers by telling them what was happening and by such editorial outpourings of the heart as appeared on the day that *The Post* was celebrating its tenth birthday.

Today the Jews of Palestine, in common with their brethren throughout the British Empire and the United States, will observe a day of mourning and fasting for the Jewish communities of Europe threatened with extinction...

The reports are at last beginning to trouble the conscience of civilized mankind and messages of profound sympathy have been sent by men in high places. Yet there is evidence that the full horror of this unparalleled slaughter is not yet grasped by everyone. There are several very obvious reactions against which even men of conscience must guard.

Government House,
Jerusalem.

M. DAYAN
CENSORED

Press censorship which was imposed by the Palestine Government as a war-time measure on September 3, 1939, was soon converted into a political instrument to assist the general policy of the Government for the Jewish war effort. From the point of view of the Palestine Government, it was important to play down the Jewish struggle against Hitler in order not to, as they saw it, add fuel to the Nazis' propaganda line that won favour with the Arabs to the effect that Hitler was fighting the Arabs' war against the Jews.

In pursuance of this line, most of what has been excellent newspaper copy about the Jewish war effort was suppressed. The following is a typical example of an item banned on June 11, 1941 during the anti-Vichy Syrian campaign.

One of the first casualties in the advance into Syria has been Moshe Dayan, son of a leader in the Labour movement and a founder of the well-known village of Nahalal. Young Dayan suffered the loss of an eye and a finger from a shot which caught him as he was serving a Bren gun. He was using binoculars at the time and this probably saved his life. He had volunteered for a ticklish job, together with a number of settlers' sons.

I should like to send "The Palestine Post" my congratulations on the occasion of its tenth birthday. Young in years as compared with most of the best-known papers of other countries, it has, none the less, achieved maturity at a phenomenal rate and now stands firmly established as one of the permanent institutions of the Near East.

Its success is due, if I may say so, to a number of factors all highly creditable to itself: it has been fortunate in securing a very able Editor, who has a broad background of experience and the courage of his convictions; it has had at its disposal and makes the best use of a first-class service of news; the literary quality of its leading articles might well be envied by many papers that enjoy a world-wide circulation, and, lastly, it follows the best journalistic tradition of stating facts fairly, respecting confidences, and avoiding equally sensationalism, snobbery and cheap insinuation. To a sadly large number of papers this quality would constitute a handicap, and that such has not been the case in Palestine may be claimed equally as a credit by the readers of "The Palestine Post". They recognize it as an honest purveyor and interpreter of events, playing its part in the general war-effort with distinction, and you would all, I am sure, wish to join me in wishing it continued success.

Hammond
HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Letter of congratulation from Sir Harold MacMichael on the occasion of *The Post's* 10th anniversary.

The first is incredulity. It is almost impossible for men with a moral sense to conceive of a world in which such things are possible; so scepticism offers a ready avenue of escape.

There is furthermore the tendency to regard the horrors as part of the ghastly business of war generally. That escape, too, is closed to anyone who realized that this murder campaign is merely an act of gigantic sadism for which war conditions have provided a convenient opportunity. Equally untenable is the view that nothing effective can be done until the enemy is defeated. Unless something is done immediately it may well be that when victory is at last achieved there will no longer be anyone left to save...

As for those who still close their ears to the anguished cry of a tortured people, let them remember that complacency is not far removed from complicity.

That the cry for help and understanding bore some fruit was reported a few days later when Anthony Eden announced in the House of Commons: "The British Government has offered accommodation for refugees in British overseas territories to the fullest extent possible." This did not promise much, but it strengthened the hands of those who had pinned their fate on the ultimate understanding and right-mindedness of the British Empire.

There was further encouragement to this point of view when, after much negotiation and frantic comings and goings, it was announced that the "Save the Children" campaign was under way and that there was the possibility of rescuing a few of these young victims and bringing them to Palestine.

Hysterical Joy at Arrival of Refugees

The hysterical joy with which these arrivals were greeted was communicated through the reports in the paper. Throughout February, 1943, the saga of the children who had managed to reach Palestine through Persia shared headlines with the important fighting in North Africa where the Jewish Battalion was now part of the picture.

"...The happiest day in the lives of 859 children and 369 grown-ups ended last night when they went to sleep safe at the Athlit Detention Camp after years of troubled journeys covering thousands of miles of land and sea. They are a party of Jewish refugees aged six days to sixty-two years, who have come to be known as the "Teheran Children." They had escaped from Poland into Russia, were later shunted to Teheran for about six months and arrived in Palestine via India and Suez... Miss Szold, 'mother' of the thousands of children who came here in recent years and the hundreds who arrived today, was there to meet the train. She had prepared in advance for their reception and with her staff supervised arrangements for their care."

The jovous pictures of relatives and friends finding long lost children continued to fill the paper. The editorial commented:

The first groups of Jewish children refugees have been with us for a week and their reception as well as the solicitude shown for their future reflect the intense anxiety felt by the Jews of this country for the fate of their brethren in Europe. There is so tragically little they can do to help those trapped by Hitler that their anguish seeks an outlet in welcoming and caring for what is after all a pathetically small band plucked from the fire. It is gratifying that the hearty welcome has not been confined to Jews, and that others in this country who witnessed or who have been on duty during their arrival, have shown that tragedy is not to be regarded as a purely Jewish concern. No man of feeling and imagination can, indeed, fail to be moved by this pathetic spectacle of little children, for the greater part orphans, moving about for almost three years from country to country, undergoing privations that few adults could stand, yet sustained by an unbreakable urge to live, even in such a world as this...

Such happy interludes were brief. The story of the Warsaw Ghetto began to filter through to the outside world. This gallant and hopeless last stand has become one of the epics of the Second World War. In commenting on the battle the leader writes:

The Ghetto, for centuries the epitome of misery and degradation, has in its hour of destruction become a symbol of the Jewish people, has gone down fighting in a struggle that will live in the memory of man so long as liberty and dignity are cherished. We are still too near the event to realize its full impact. But a few inferences are obvious. The Jews of Warsaw and Cracow have taken their place among those who have actively fought the enemy. Their voice, now stilled, must be heard when the great decision comes to be made. It will not ask for revenge. That is beyond human capacity. But it will demand that those of their people who remain shall be placed in a position that will for all time prevent horrors so unspeakable and inspire for them a life of security and dignity among the peoples of the world.

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Fighting Germans Abroad, British at Home

THE news of the next few months carried undercurrents which never quite appeared on the surface. The things which could never be printed in full were the things which were talked about freely on the street corners, in cafes and in living rooms. Conversation eddied about the White Paper, illegal immigration, Arab plans and the British connivance at their plans, and terrorist activities to counter these plans. It seemed to do little good that David Ben-Gurion was reported on July 7 to have said:

"But we believe that there is an historic necessity in the renewal of true cooperation between ourselves and the British Empire."

In the autumn of 1943 the British renewed their arms searches in the Jewish settlements. These searches had been carried out at the outbreak of the war. It had been an open secret that the Jewish settlements in order to protect themselves during the Arab riots had hidden arms, of which the British were quite aware. When the White Paper was issued, it seemed necessary to reassure the Arabs as to the good faith of the British, and searches for these "illegal arms" had been instituted. They had ceased when the war started in earnest. Now they were renewed, as the British-inspired Arab League began to take shape.

Clash Between Settlers and Police

News items of clashes began to appear. Trials of leaders of settlements where arms were found were reported. "Davar" and "Haboker" (two Hebrew dailies of diametrically opposed political colouring) were closed for printing an "unauthorized account" concerning the searches in Kibbutz Ramat Hakovesh. This tension culminated in the report that "twenty-one Jewish residents and 11 British police were injured in desultory clashes during a four hour demonstration of protest against the searches in Ramat Hakovesh and the suspension of the Hebrew press."

After one of the Ramat Hakovesh settlers had died of his injuries the paper reported the four demands of the Jewish community:

"Mr. Ben-Gurion insisted on an end to the searches and other measures designed to deprive the Jews of their limited weapons for self-defence; a British inquiry into the disturbances with a view to punishing those responsible; the release of those arrested at Ramat Hakovesh, who were no more guilty than the rest of the Jewish Community; the lifting of the ban on the Hebrew press."

The story of the search at Ramat Hakovesh was never fully printed in *The Palestine Post*. It gradually unfolded through implication and suggestion. In place of editorial comment there were reports of speeches made at the funeral of the settler who was killed. Moshe Shertok's speech was printed. It ended with a reference to the suffering of the settlement during the Arab riots:

"...Later you went out to build up again what had been destroyed, to plant new trees in place of those torn up, to sow once again fields where crops had been burned, to fill the craters left by the mines to which your friends had fallen victim. And now you have fallen, not in defending life and property, but in defending the right to self-defence. On this front, we stand firm and united."

Reprints from "The Times" on the tension in Palestine at the very height of the war indicated that London was not indifferent to things which were happening in the Middle East. News of police officers killed and wounded became almost daily items. The Mufti once more made his appearance as a full fledged collaborator of Hitler, while still technically holding his position as the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, and the Arabs were reported as travelling at a great rate between one country and another. The point of view of the official Jewish community in Palestine as represented in *The Post* began to denounce what they called the "cruel and senseless acts of the terrorists" and curfews began to be routine events following in the wake of acts of terror.

Yishuv Mourns General Wingate

The death of General Orde Wingate, had it not occurred at the time when there was so much activity on all of the war fronts, would have filled many more columns in the paper. Nevertheless, the unusual amount of space devoted to his obituary showed the measure of importance which *The Palestine Post* attached to this extraordinary man of genius.

The first time that *The Post* had mentioned the name of Orde Wingate was in a reprint from "Life" magazine entitled "Personalities Behind the Abyssinian Campaign" on March 16, 1942. But Wingate had been one of the heroes of Palestinian Jewry since the 1936/39 riots. Everyone who did not know him personally knew about him and talked about him with what amounted to veneration. He had been an intimate friend of Gershon Agronsky. At Friday evening at-homes in the Agronsky house, his fanatical championship of the Zionist cause often led to highly charged arguments. These at-homes were attended by Britons and Jews of every shade of political conviction, and Wingate was not a man to pull his punches. His Justice and Righteousness were as uncompromising as those of the Hebrew Prophets. He believed in Zionism as a political necessity and as a Biblical fulfilment. Fate, in the guise of the British Army, placed him

in Palestine as a lieutenant at a time when the Jews were taking a bad beating at the hands of the British and at the hands of the Arabs, and Wingate made the most of his chance assignment. Since he was an officer in the British Army he could not be mentioned in the paper, but his name was a household word in Jewish homes. He was an unorthodox soldier, as his organization of the Ethiopian and Burmese fronts proved, and he often worked as if by inspiration. During the Arab riots he had been assigned to the defence of the Iraq oil pipelines which had been one of the nightly targets of the Arab rioters. He had taken Haganah units and moulded them into fighting and defence units. His training and tactics were to stand the Haganah in good stead in later years.

Wingate's death released a flood of previously inhibited words, which had been begging to be uttered. From the Histadrut tribute *The Post* printed:

"General Wingate's close attachment to all fields of Jewish enterprise in Palestine and his work with the Jewish Special Police and Volunteers in the Night Squads which guarded Britain's vital pipe line and the Jewish life line in the Jezreel Valley and the Galilee during the riots, were recalled by Eliezer Galili of Afikim.

"His interest in the Jewish return to Palestine had not been inspired by the tactical considerations of the British Army officer, his devotion to Zionism was as altruistic as his devotion to Great Britain."

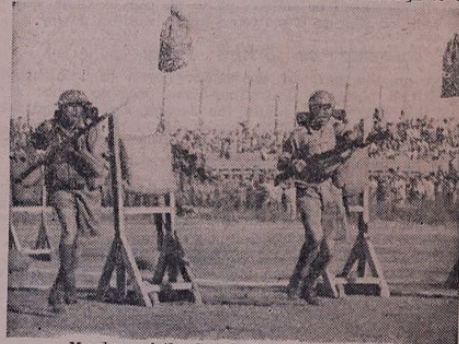
On April 7, the Jerusalem Memorial Meeting to Wingate was reported. A few days later there was a tribute by Dr. Weizmann and on the 13th:

"3,000 Settlers at Wingate Memorial."

Orde Wingate's last letter to his beautiful wife, Lorna, ended with the quotation from the Psalms, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning."

'England Loses a Battle'

WHILE the Jewish troops were actively participating in the fighting in Italy, the behind-the-news story on the home front was the growing tension between the recognized Jewish Community and the dissident groups which were beginning to gain followers and popularity. There was a firm belief that the British did not want to discourage the dissidents to too great an extent, since complete unity on the Jewish front was not at this time completely desirable, from the British point of view. All Jews wanted to encourage what the British called "illegal immigration" and what the Jews called "Aliyah Bet," but they differed in the essential fact that the Jewish Agency felt it could work with the British and the dissidents did not feel that it was worth the effort. None of this filtered through to the paper.



Members of the Jewish Brigade in training.

Only printable items passed by the censor reached the readers of *The Post*, and even these had been highly self-censored before they came to the censor's desk.

However, the point of view of the Stern group was given, when, on June 14, *The Post* printed the judgment passed on one of the members of the organization, a young man of 25, who was sentenced to 12 years in prison:

The accused then went on to discuss the position of the Jewish troops, stating that they could not raise their flag nor sing their anthem. He said that he belonged to those Jewish soldiers who would not parade in Rome with a British flag so long as they were unable to parade in Jerusalem with a Zionist flag. He concluded saying:

"We the Fighters for Freedom of Israel, members of the Jewish underground movement, stand face to face against you as enemies, with the status of belligerent. We should not be considered as criminals, but as prisoners of war."

With the annihilation of 100,000 Jews in Hungary, *The Palestine Post* printed its first leader on a Jewish topic in two months, called "England Loses a Battle."

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Gershon Agron with Lord Gort in Jerusalem. At right is the Hon. Edwin Samuel, who became Director of the Palestine Broadcasting Commission and who is still a contributor to THE POST.

Jewish Brigade Reported From Front-Line in Italy

IT was a long time in coming, but on September 20, 1944 the announcement was made that the Jewish fighting forces were to be organized in a unit of their own called the Jewish Brigade. For days thereafter there were copious details of the brigade, plans to enlist Jewish refugees. There was full recognition of Moshe Shertok's role in getting the Foreign Office to sanction the Brigade despite the objection of the Colonial Office which did not want to officially recognize the Jewish contribution to the war lest it imply some sort of a commitment to the Jews.

A month before, Ted Lurie reported the return of Palestinian soldiers to France in a despatch datelined "Somewhere in Provence": "The first Palestinians to land in France since the evacuation of the Pioneers at St. Malo in 1940 are a few ground-crew and airmen who have come with the fighter squadrons, and the first pilot is Flying Officer Dan Tolkowsky (now Aluf Tolkowsky, commander of the Israel Air Force) of a Spitfire wing based on a French airfield."

The following Spring saw the Brigade in front-line positions in Northern Italy, and Lurie cabled the following account of a Pessah Seder of the Brigade's Transport Company who were by now veterans of six years' service:

The large barn-like grain store was converted into a festive hall, seating 600 men, including the entire Company and a few hundred guests from other units of the Brigade. Major Wellesley Aron recalled the drivers' five previous Seder celebrations in battledress — in 1940 at Sarafand; in 1941, during the siege of Tobruk, where one packet of matzot and one single bottle of wine was shared to the last crumb and the last drop; in



Members of the Jewish Brigade at a Seder service at Pessah on the Sentio River line in Italy. Leading the service is Captain Bernard Caspar, Chaplain, now Dean of Students, at the Hebrew University.

1942, at Kena in Upper Egypt; in 1943, at Tripoli, where they made their first contact with their liberated Jewish brethren; in 1944, at Foggia with the refugees; and now, in 1945, as a Jewish fighting force really at grips with the enemy on the eve of victory. The special Haggada, prepared by Corporal Mossinsohn, replied to the question "Why is this night different from all other nights?":

"Tonight differs from five earlier Seders. We are now gathered for the first time under our own flag for the redemption of our brethren and ourselves."

Clark Commends Jewish Brigade

The Jewish Brigade fought well in Lombardy, and General Clark's recognition of their services was duly featured.

As in every victory won on the political front by the Jews, there had to be an Arab counter-victory. The Pan-Arab talks which were taking place were dominated by the Palestine question. The leader on September 26 remarks:

In the light of this (difficulty in getting the Arabs to send their representatives) it is not surprising if the time honoured device of concentrating attention on Palestine, is again being resorted to. The most harassed Arab Government can hope to bolster up a weak domestic position by taking up the cudgels on behalf of Palestine. Similarly, it seems to be good tactics in negotiating with the Western Powers on any issue, to keep the Palestine kettle boiling until the Arab State has obtained satisfaction of its claims, political and economic.

At the close of the year 1944 the front page of *The Palestine Post* carried the reports of the Zionist Conference which was being held in Tel Aviv, in lieu of the Bi-annual Zionist Congresses, which had previously always been held in some European capital. Dr. Chaim Weizmann was the dominating figure at this conference. But it fell upon Mr. David Ben-Gurion, as Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, to report on a post-war programme:

"Plans for the transfer of one million Jews to Palestine as soon as possible, were described by Mr. Ben-Gurion, in a dynamic address at the close of the War-time Zionist Conference..."

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There is a tragic irony of a rare kind in the caption of the 'Schwarze Korps', the Gestapo organ, which describes the annihilation of Hungarian Jewry as a battle lost for England... There is a bitter truth in this cynical remark. A battle has, indeed, been lost by the slaughter of another hundred thousand Jews, not only for England, but for all the United Nations... The fact that after all the fine speeches and indignant denunciations, the enemy can go on undisturbed with the mass slaughter of one Jewish Community after another reveals a grave chink in the allied armour... Gershon Agronsky began to harbour the idea at this time that while Germany was losing one battle after another, she was winning her war against the Jews, not only by physically destroying millions of people, but by destroying the belief among the Allies that it was necessary to do anything about this destruction. He felt that the age-old myth that the Jews had an international cohesion of some sort which gave them international influence of an exceptional nature had been definitely destroyed. Those people who had felt this Jewish power was financial, found that all of the wealth of the Jews could not save one small Jewish community. Those who had felt that the power was moral, saw all of the ethical principles of the Bible washed down the drain with blood. Those who had believed in the forgeries of "The Elders of Zion" were not the people to change their convictions because of logical facts. It began to be more and more apparent that the subtle anti-Semitism, which is often deeply hidden in liberal and kindly people, had not been destroyed by Hitler's barbarities, but rather given a booster shot which caused it to erupt on the surface. Hitler had definitely destroyed for a time the legend of Jewish power, and no one felt it was vital or important to go out of their way to do anything to help or placate a scattered and disunited Jewry.

Influence on British Policy

This conviction on the part of the editor began to influence his thinking as to British policy in Palestine. There was no doubt as to the direction of this policy and, while the Jewish Agency and those who went along with it were still firmly devoted to the idea of the Balfour Declaration, new overtones began to be felt. Commenting on the wrecking of the Jerusalem C.I.D. by terrorists, the leader of July 16 says:

The organization which has now claimed responsibility for the burning of the C.I.D. Offices in Jerusalem is well enough known to the authorities, yet five days have passed and no effective action seems to have been taken — at least, no results are visible. The outrage succeeded in destroying some of the land registry records which were housed in the same building, thereby causing considerable inconvenience to the public which has a right to be protected from criminal acts, by whomsoever perpetrated...

The peaceful construction of the National Home will continue in spite of enmity, whether from within or without. And it is here that the Palestine authorities can do much to prevent future outrages or to minimize their moral effect. By strengthening the properly constituted representatives of the Jewish Community, they will create conditions in which it will become difficult for terrorism of the kind now operating to flourish. It was not to the interests of the Palestine authorities to "create conditions" which would be inimical to the terrorist groups, and the next major act which disturbed the country was an attempt on the life of Sir Harold MacMichael. This abortive crime was publicly and privately deeply regretted.

Sir Harold's departure shortly thereafter had nothing to do with the acts of terrorists. It had been previously announced. He left with little regret on his part or on the part of the Jewish Community of the country he was leaving, but there was no indication whatsoever of this sentiment or lack of sentiment in the paper. The farewell messages and parties were traditional and many.

Arrival of Lord Gort Welcomed

The appointment of Lord Gort and his subsequent arrival were greeted with warmth. There were high hopes that he would in some measure relieve the bitter tension which held the country in its grip, not only by creating a better atmosphere of government, but by interpreting the law with the Christian measure of mercy which had been so lacking in its previous handling. The leader of November 1 remarks with cautious restraint:

Lord Gort, the sixth High Commissioner since the administration of this country was entrusted to Great Britain, will find Palestine in a mood to welcome him with a degree of warmth, equal, if not exceeding, the reception accorded to his predecessors in nearly a quarter of a century...

As a result of purely local eruption the new High Commissioner will find the country in a state of unrest brought on by a small isolated group or gang; deluded patriots feeding on the discontent of the many by whom they are despised and disowned...

Subsequently Lord Gort made himself personally popular in Palestine. He discarded the heavy military and police guards which had accompanied the previous High Commissioner, and went about freely, talking to people and taking an interest in their activities and plans. Whether he would have had it in his power to influence the course of events cannot be known, since he became ill soon after his arrival.



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BETWEEN TWO WARS

WHEN the war ended, Gershon Agronsky, who was as always an unofficial permanent delegate to any Zionist conference, in a consultative as well as public relations capacity, was part of the Jewish delegation in San Francisco. It was a foregone conclusion that whatever hope the Zionists had would be centred in the United Nations organization. Palestine was at that time enjoying a very brief breathing space. Terrorists, like everyone else, were holding their hand waiting to see what the next step would be. *The Post* was delighted to headline renewed pre-election pledges by the British Labour Party that there would be "No Restriction on Jewish Immigration to Palestine." Attlee became Prime Minister, and despite Anthony Eden's warning that Palestine was "no bed of roses," hopes ran high.

The Palestine Post, faithful to its faith in the justice of a socialist government, greeted the advent of a Labour government in England with more enthusiasm than the Labourites in England. It might not be the millenium, but it certainly seemed to *The Post* as if the oft repeated assurances and promises of these brothers-in-arms would bring justice and fulfilment to the Jews.

"The stage is now set for momentous decisions," it wrote editorially on August 2. "Never has the need for a final settlement of the timeless Jewish question been so urgent, never the circumstances for its effective solution so propitious as at this hour."

The paper could therefore denounce with vigour in a leader entitled "Irresponsible Correspondents," the report in "The Times" that senior British officials said that Palestine was living on the edge of a volcano. Never was the paper more optimistic and more wrong:

In the opinion of the writer riots have been prevented only by Arab internal division, Jewish opposition to terrorism and the efficiency of the police — a curious medley of diverse and unrelated factors. In actual fact, however, he expects trouble to arise if the emergence of the Labour Government awakens hopes among the Jews, which might not immediately be fulfilled. This is strange reasoning indeed. If, in spite of the Conservative Government, Jewish public opinion, as the writer asserts has been thrown on the side of the administrative authorities, what reason is there to assume that the long-tried patience will suddenly give way if hopes are not immediately fulfilled by the Labour Government?

These warnings and prophecies, enunciated with grave concern and a great air of 'inside knowledge' are as dubious in origin as they are vicious in their effects. For they are not designed for the benefit of the readers in London alone.

(And here the leader writer goes in for his own brand of warning and prophecy.)

Palestine is not in danger of volcanic outbreaks if its problems are handled with insight and determination. Nor, as "Davar" rightly points out, must the Palestine problem be allowed to be made an inter-party issue in British political life. There is every reason to expect that it will be approached with firmness and decisiveness by the new men at the helm in Britain. Their difficult and responsible task is not likely to be eased by tendentious warnings and gloomy prophecies, which far from forestalling, can only produce danger.

Refugees in the Atomic Age

THE Atomic age got into swing with appropriate newspaper coverage. The doubts, fears and questionings which ushered in this cosmic revolution should have been great enough to overshadow everything else, but actually the imagination balked at taking in too fully the possibilities opened up by the explosion at Hiroshima. *The Post* later printed in full John Hersey's exceptional report of what happened when the bomb exploded, but it all seemed very far away. Nearer to home were the rapidly developing new spheres of influence in the world, which would immediately have a greater effect on what would happen in Palestine. Still nearer and louder were the explosions which began to rock the country with more frequent detonations.

The reports of the return of the refugees from Mauritius reflected the mood and the temper of the Jews of Palestine. There was exultation in the reception of these unfortunates, who arrived at the end of a hot and sticky August. They were greeted with large spreads of pictures, news stories, and 'human-interest' tales. The leader was to foreshadow many leaders in a similar vein:

"...What was their crime? They had fled the German conquerors of Europe whose coldly avowed purpose it was to exterminate them. They had wandered from one country to another crying out for help which none were willing to give, until they came to the land which had been set aside by the assembled nations for such anchorless ones as they. Here they were told that they were acting against what is well known to be the law of the country... They had before them the choice of two laws, one made by a few men already discredited on other counts, bidding them in effect, to drown themselves; the other, dictated by nature, urging them to save themselves... They chose the law of nature.

Such was their crime and for that they were deported. They were shipped to a torrid island in the Indian Ocean. There they might have been placed in the cool and healthy hills, but were set down in the hot pestilential plains and in conditions that would not have been tolerated for criminal offenders...

The message of yesterday's demonstrations to the British Cabinet and to the world is, that the Jews are face to face with the alternative in which they have but one choice.

This leader was an unveiled hint and warning that the Jews would try to save themselves en masse, no matter what the individual risk might be, just as the British act of exiling refugees to an island was a warning that any refugee whom they considered illegal, would not be allowed to land in Palestine.

It was only a few months later that *The Palestine Post*, together with Labourites in Palestine, had to admit that their hopes from the new government in Britain were growing dimmer. Ernest Bevin had been appointed Foreign Secretary, and the paper found his first statement on Palestine: "...astringent and ungenerous to the point of callousness in its lip service to Jewish suffering... The Jews are bound to reject the new policy which proposes an unacceptable immigration quota subject to Arab consent..."

The Jewish Agency's policy of passive resistance and determination to try and find some chink in the British armour whereby they could still work within the framework of the Mandate incensed the desperate terrorist organizations, who were convinced that they were fighting an open war with the British with no holds barred. They were ruthless in their methods. To get money for their activities, they robbed banks. They burned and bombed and destroyed the targets which they thought would most hurt the British physically and

morally. The looked-down-upon Jewish Agency had organizations in Europe which arranged for an orderly immigration. The terrorist groups also had such organizations in Europe and were much less scrupulous about their methods of shipping loads of human cargo. The British consciously or unconsciously played into their hands and stoked the fires which the terrorists started. Searches for arms in the settlements continued, the Hebrew press was intermittently closed down, curfews in towns were imposed, cruelty and destruction were countered with yet more cruelty and more destruction.

At this time the paper was carrying the story of the Nuremberg war crime trials. The Jews were becoming more and more convinced that the Nazis had fought a losing war on all fronts except the Jewish front. The New Year editorial expresses the fear that:

The totalitarian credo, the contempt for the weak, the cynical mockery of moral principles have eaten deep into the souls of men. Ethical restraints have ceased to govern the policies of the mighty, the weak live in fear and trembling and the strong search anxiously for any chink in the armour of their adversaries. The postulates of moral law have been reduced to serve the requirements of political exigency and diplomatic dialectics.

NEW YORK
Herald Tribune

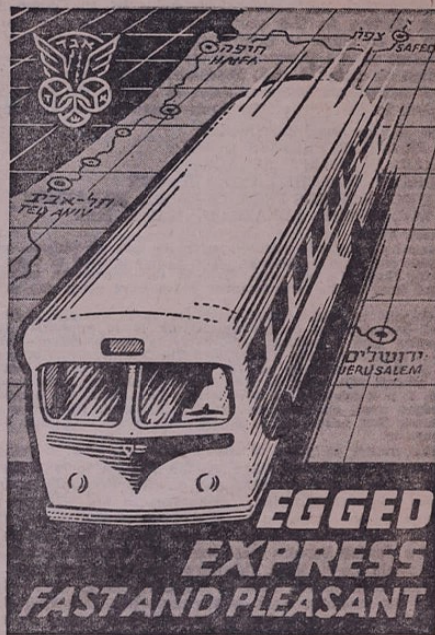
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WITH EGGED (E'S-D) FROM DAN TO EILAT

Resistance of the Spezia

THE paper at this time seemed full of a sense of history. Bible references and quotations were frequent and parallels were often cited. This always seemed to the people with a wry turn of humour as a bad sign, a sort of last-resort type of argument.

When a refugee ship, the Spezia, began to make news around the Passover season, and its unfortunate passengers given the usual cavalier treatment, there was a paralyzing strike of the Jewish community. The heads of the Jewish Community indulged in a Gandhi type of passive resistance. The leader of April 17 was entitled "The Fifteen Who Did Not Eat."

"Jewish history, rich in the lore of the Passover Eve Service under fearful and tragic circumstances, will have no stranger tale to tell than the Seder on Monday night at the Vaad Leumi when fifteen hunger strikers sat down to a table complete in all except food." The leader goes on to describe a traditional Seder service with the formalities of the table setting and then continues:



Cartoon by Low published in 1946

"The end of the fast, twenty hours after the unique Seder, is evidence that the world is not always deaf to a plea from the heart. Those waiting on the Spezia are not to be penalized for attempting to reach these shores... The High Commissioner's action in making this possible may well be an augury of understanding and response in matters not less weighty than this."

Voice for a Desperate People

THE Anglo-American Commission investigated and piled up voluminous archives of documents, which many members of the commission were to use in personal memoirs of the experience, which were to be bought in later years by Jews.

Blanche Dugdale, long a favourite of the editor and the readers of *The Post*, continued to state the case of the Jews to the British. Mrs. Dugdale was the niece and heiress to the spiritual tradition of Lord Balfour. She firmly believed that the best interests of Britain were being served when Britain remained true to her obligations to bring about a national home for the Jews in Palestine. Personally she served this end not only in words, but by having turned over her estate in Scotland as a training centre for Youth Aliyah wards — parentless children to be prepared for life in Palestine. Before the report of the Inquiry Commission was printed, Mrs. Dugdale wrote on May 15: "Although it is rash to predict the possible depths of human folly, I would venture to prophesy the sinking of the White Paper as a consequence of the Anglo-American Inquiry. And it should be one of tremendous importance."

The Post was trying to point out directly and by implication to its English readers that it was speaking for a desperate people. The hurt cry against the treatment of the refugees was not political manoeuvring. The appeal to the British to strengthen the hands of the Jewish Agency and the moderate elements in the community was honest and sincere. At this point many a compromise would have been made in an effort to help these unfortunate homeless wanderers. The action of the Government were strengthening the terrorists' determination to fight it out. Especially bitter were the continued searches of settlements in an attempt to disarm the Jews and leave them helpless in the face of the Arab determination to destroy them.

On June 18, the headlines shouted:
EIGHT FRONTIER BRIDGES DOWN
SIX DEAD IN NIGHT ATTACKS
WIDESPREAD SEARCHES AND ATTACKS
SIXTY TWO SETTLERS FROM DEAD SEA TO LATRUN
RASS WORKSHOPS ABLAZE IN HAIFA BAY

The leader read:
The country's peace is wrecked again by acts of violence which serve no purpose and right no wrongs... The Yishuv, tired of these acts, tired of bearing their grievous onus, tired of the desperation which prompted them and tired of the circumstances which have given rise to the desperation...

The despair to which these attackers have wrongly yielded is born of cruel circumstances outside themselves. Is it impossible to surround this country with a political atmosphere in which violence will lack all appeal — even the appeal of despair? The Yishuv, with its healing tasks before it, thinks wistfully of the possibility and prays that wise and speedy counsel will bring it near. Peace is not the mere suppression of violence; it is a condition of mind closely linked with the belief in honour, the pledged word, obedience to the call of mercy. We grieve to see the Jews losing that belief and it is the task of all concerned to work for its recapture.

What this meant in other words — this sad note of resignation, is that an attempt was being made by the Hagana to take the initiative out of the hands of the terrorists and direct action only against targets which were considered military objectives in the struggle for immigration such as the strategic bridges, radar installations, etc. It was a brief and short-lived attempt. It was against the profound convictions of the Jewish leaders who were still hoping against hope that the British might see the light. This paper did not print, nor did it print the fact that subsequently some of Hagana's energy had to be devoted to undoing the sabotage work of the terrorists, following them about, dismantling bombs and trying to control their bitter desire for destruction. These were things which many people knew well, but which never reached the columns of the paper.

The indignation at the arrest of the leaders of the Jewish Agency and some thousand people in addition, was very real. This move to bring chaos into the community by leaving it leaderless made more for a unity of feeling than many of the moves which the Jews had attempted on their own initiative.

Censorship was very active during this period, but reached its height at the time of the operation against the Jewish Agency on the black Saturday of June 29, 1946. Here are some examples of Censor's deletions from the paper from the issues of the following week:

Report: Troops came to the Workers' Bank in Montefiore Street, Tel Aviv, to begin a search. The watchman who was asked to open the door said the building was a bank.



In detention at Latrun (left to right): David Remez, Moshe Sharett, Yitzhak Gruenbaum, Dov Joseph, David Adiri, David Hacohen, Haim Halperin.

Censor's deletion: A soldier then fired through the glass door and two bombs were thrown. The watchman miraculously escaped injury. (The censor suggested that the following sentence be used instead; "Explosives were used to force open the door.")

Report: Eliezer Malihi, 27, was shot and killed in Tel Aviv at nine o'clock tonight (June 29).

Censor's deletion: "... while sitting with two members of his family on the balcony of his home at 16, Hayarkon Street, during the curfew hours."

Report: A public meeting of protest in Jerusalem on July 1.

Censor's deletions included: the speech of the Mayor of Petah Tikva that not one Jew would respond to the High Commissioner's request for co-operation while their leaders were in jail; Mrs. Golda Myerson's reference to British soldiers' leaving notes marked with the Swastika and the message "we shall return"; the statement by Mr. Idelson, of Yagur, (now Minister of Interior Bar Yehuda) that at Na'an some British soldiers stood aside distressed at the deeds of their own comrades; the speech of the President of the Vaad Leumi, Mr. Izhak Ben-Zvi, in which he said the British action was not against a group of terrorists nor against individuals who had been arrested but against Palestine Jewry, which would not be separated from its leaders. He stressed with bitterness the extreme insult dealt to Rabbi Fishman by forcing him to desecrate the Sabbath. The Rabbi was also physically insulted, one of the soldiers having struck him, Mrs. Golda Myerson, saying that the Palestine government's action was in fact a declaration of hostilities, strongly criticized the reports over the B.B.C. that the situation was quiet and there had been almost no resistance.

Complete repressions during these few days included a case of rape; the desecration of Scrolls of the Law; the stopping of a funeral and the search of a coffin; the suspension of all mail deliveries to the Jewish Agency by the Post Office; the holding of detainees in the hot sun from early morning till nightfall without food or water; all references to third degree methods by officers and police; the killing of four settlers; manhandlings and decisions of the Jewish Agency executive on non-co-operation. The following was also deleted: "Dr. Weizmann, President of the Jewish Agency, at a Press Conference in Jerusalem, contrasted the record of the Mufti of Jerusalem, now a guest at the royal palace in Egypt, with that of Mr. Moshe Shertok, of the Jewish Agency, who had raised an army for Britain and was now behind bars at Latrun."

Each day as the paper went to press it seemed that events had reached the height of folly. But then the next day brought new and more fantastic news than the day before. While villages continued to be denuded of arms, terrorists were blowing up everything in their path. More and more people were being arrested and whole cities were kept under curfews for days on end, with only short breathing space to buy whatever food could be made available. It seemed strange to many of the most moderate people, that in the face of this provocation by the government, *The Palestine Post* could go on with its hurt appeals for moderation, consideration and only as much criticism as could be got by the censors.

At the time that President Truman was making his appeal for the admission of one hundred thousand Jews into Palestine and Mr. Bevin was recklessly staking his reputation on the solution of the Palestine problem, the report of the Inquiry Commission appeared to lead exactly nowhere.

'Don't Lets Be Beastly to the British...'

While the British soldier was going about his unsavoury business there appeared a leader in the dog days of that summer of 1946 called "Nobody Told Him." This was a parody on a speech which Churchill had made during the war when sentimental Britons and some pro-Nazis were objecting to the attitude towards the Germans — "Let's not be nasty to the Nazis."

Mr. Attlee is right. Don't let's be beastly to the British soldier. This is the job he has been ordered to do; he does it more gently than the Babylonian soldiers did, or the Romans, and he does not begin to know what it is all about. Nobody told him.

Let us report the decency and restraint of many soldiers, but let us be spared the official hush about the others. There has been rough handling of persons and property, stealing and a whiff of anti-Semitism...

The Jews neither run away nor fight. The inhabitants of the settlements do not look like terrorists; they look like hard working farmers. In the towns the people go about their business and do not act as if they have been beaten — in fact they act like people who will still be going about their business long after the last British soldier has gone. Sometimes they look at him in a way which makes him feel uncomfortable. No, there does not seem to be much glory in this sort of operation.

Things have been done these last few days of which the army need not feel proud. But do not blame the British soldier. Let us hope that someone will tell him what it is all about.

It must be emphasized that all of this time there were accounts in the paper of the normal happenings in the country. Especially important were the establishment of dozens of new points of settlement. Meyer Levin, the American journalist and novelist, wrote a series of articles about the settlers of Kibbutz Buchenwald who were the survivors of that horror hole in Germany. The new settlements were as much a defiance as a necessity. The leader of July 19 read:

The Jews of the Second Return to Palestine under Nehemia rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. "Everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work and with the other held a weapon." The same dour persistence characterizes the present Third Return. Less than a month after the virtual siege of the Yishuv and the arrest of its leaders, fresh settlements on the land have been resumed.

KING DAVID HOTEL BOMBED

THE blowing up of the British Military Headquarters at the King David Hotel by the I.Z.L. marked the end of the brief attempt on the part of the Hagana to work with the dissident groups, which had not been a happy union from the start.

Henry Montor, of the United States, and Harry Sacher, of Great Britain, were appearing at a press conference arranged by Gershon Agronsky to explain the bad impression that the activities of the terrorists were making both upon the Jews and non-Jews in their respective countries. This seemed necessary because more and more the local press, with the bitterness born of anger and impotence, was tending towards an admiration for the extremely spectacular activities of the terrorists. The press conference had hardly got into its stride when the news of the King David came through. Agronsky, Sacher and Montor returned to Jerusalem, a dead city where General Barker was reported to have remarked on seeing the ruins of the King David: "Here lies buried the Jewish State."

Of course not even a hint of these things crept into the paper. The illusion that all the editor knew was what the official hand-outs told him, was preserved. The editorial on the King David was called "Violence Breeds Violence", and said in part:

As the world has learned through the generations, violence breeds violence and, as Palestine is learning, White Paper begets White Paper. It will be interesting, and it is to be hoped, the merely academic task of the historian one day, to trace the course of events from the original sabotaging of the Balfour Declaration to the dreadful incident of last Monday. The way may be found to have been tortuous, touching perhaps on Republican Spain, on Ethiopia; the Czechoslovakia of Masaryk and Eenes and the Greece of EAM; and the risk of oil may pervade it.

The shock of the King David affair was very great, but ultimately it seemed to have little effect upon the behaviour of any of the parties connected with the struggle. The Jewish leaders were detained in Latrun for over four months, and during this period not a day passed without some reference to them in the paper. Their leader, Moshe Shertok, was in constant contact with Agronsky through the medium of memos written in tiny script and smuggled out of the prison cage. Tel Aviv was humiliated by having all of its citizens herded into wire cages in the blazing summer sun, while they waited to be questioned by the police and military authorities. Houses were entered and searched without warrants. All of the Hebrew press was closed down. *The Palestine Post* went on printing its daily paper for the British to read, while it cried out impotently against all of the indignities and still tried to show the British how wrong they were behaving and still went on trying to believe in the ultimate triumph of right and justice.

Reporting History in the Making

All of the things which *The Post* reported are now history. But they are not history buried in a few libraries and the archives of newspaper files. They were and still are history with so many unusual facets, that almost every story had an appeal far beyond its significance as a mere violent event in the day to day reporting of rebellion and destruction. The romance of a people fighting a war of attrition on the very battlefield on which they had been defeated two thousand years before, gave unusual colour to the mere reports of blood and bombs. The picture of Jews gathering from the scenes of their recent degradation in Germany and trying to claw their way into a promised land was something that had never been seen before. The political complications in a world fighting for Arab favour and prestige as against a handful of unsettled and disorganized Jews made impartiality and aloofness in reporting practically impossible. Even among the British themselves, there were many who openly and wholeheartedly espoused the Jewish cause as just and to the best interests of the Empire.

Writers and newspapermen came in droves and sent screaming dispatches to their papers. The news of Palestine was played up far out of proportion to the actual importance of the things which were happening on the world scene. It was good copy; it was spectacular; it had human interest; it always had a new angle.

Into this atmosphere of desolation and confusion burst the new bombshell of the Cyprus camps. In August a new chapter in the story of the illegal immigrants opened. There had been indications before that unusual things were afoot and strange ships were to be seen in Haifa harbour, but their true significance was not completely known. On August 13 the editorial tells the tale:

The path of the Jews is drenched in their own and their well-wishers' blood. During the war the British House of Commons took the unprecedented step of rising in silence at the news of the massacre of millions of Jews by the Nazis. The House then sat down, but it continued its silence as far as active ameliorative measures were concerned.

The Government has now broken the silence... The navy of Drake and Rodney and Nelson, of Trafalgar and the Dunkirk Beaches, which kept the sea open for freedom, is put to watch again... Britain, called Great, is determined. But not long ago the men now speaking spoke with a different voice. For the sake of their honour let it be recalled "There is neither sense nor meaning in a Jewish National Home unless we are prepared to let Jews, if they wish, enter this their land." That was the official party policy expressed in the Party Conference in Blackpool in 1945.

And so began the miserable saga of the deportation of the incoming refugees to yet another concentration camp in Cyprus. Needless to say, terrorist activity did not die down. The paper took up the appeals of the various moderate elements in the Jewish community for the abandonment of this form of fighting. There were appeals from the Chief Rabbi of Palestine, Israel Rokach, the recently liberated Mayor of Tel Aviv, and most of the respected and respectable members of the various parties and factions. There were numerous leaders, the burden of which was:

"If anyone, apart from themselves — and they are fanatics imperious to argument — needed convincing that the terrorists are an evil in Palestine, proof enough has been given them in the indiscriminate killings, sparing neither Briton nor Jew."

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DAN'S TWELVE YEARS

By A. M. HEMED

The twelfth anniversary of the Dan Cooperative occurs in December 1957. Twelve years ago two groups—Ha'maavir and Ihud-Regev— which had separately served urban and interurban transport needs, united under the name "Dan Cooperative." At the time of the unification the cooperative had 233 buses (some of which were in very poor condition), with 459 member drivers (against the 1,000 of today).

Dan began operations in the closing stages of the British Mandate which hampered every effort towards progress and development. After this came the company's most difficult period—the War of independence—when many vehicles were destroyed or heavily damaged. It was under these circumstances that Dan met the needs of a new population which grew together with the Yishuv, while the State was unable to renovate old buses or buy new ones because of the lack of foreign currency.

1952 may be considered the turning point in the history of Dan. It was in this year that it became possible to begin importing new buses and, from that date, these expensive vehicles have been steadily flowing in to help serve over half-a-million residents. Dan has made every effort and has utilized every opportunity to acquire new buses, regardless of the cost. By the end of 1953, approximately 100 new buses will have been added to Dan's fleet and 125 buses will have been completely renovated by the replacing of old motors with new Diesels.

But we are not yet satisfied. Today, Dan's chief worry is how to acquire even more buses. Yet the cooperative does not ignore development in other fields. The projects Dan is now either undertaking or preparing to undertake within the coming year or two, include the following:

- Construction of a new central garage on a 25 dunam plot.
- Preparation of two modern parking lots on a total area of 30 dunams.
- Installation of a radio-telephone network between traffic supervisors, in order to increase possibilities of repairing breakdowns with the maximum speed.
- Finally — and possibly most important from the public's point of view — radical revision of routes. This revision, which can only be considered in conjunction with an increase in the fleet, aims at fixing routes to suit the practical requirements of the region.

Twelve years are only a chapter in the history of transport which has been in existence here since 1920. It is a chapter full of activity and progress, maintaining the attitude of the services which preceded Dan. However, this period in Dan's existence has included the creation of the State, its birthpains and its commencement on the road to independence. Dan, as all other transport services, has suffered from the same difficulties which hindered the State during this period. Nevertheless, much has been accomplished and the coming years assure great development, leading directly to benefits for the travelling public, which Dan aims to serve.

British Deportation Policy

ONCE the policy of the deportations was decided upon and put into effect, nothing that could be said or written would budge the British from their new solution to the refugee problem. If words could have done such a feat they would have been overwhelmed by the reams of paper covered with appeals, protests, pleas and prayers. But the word had gone out from the Foreign Office and the deportations continued.

Judith Avrunin was at this time in charge of the Haifa office of *The Palestine Post*. Avrunin was a petite young American from Detroit who had come to settle in Palestine in 1938. It was her job to report the stories of the incoming and outgoing refugees. Her personal charm and straightforward approach to the problems which confronted her inspired confidence. Even the British, whose possession of such an organ was often questioned by the people they were dealing with, opened their hearts to Judy.

An interesting sidelight on these incidents was the fact that the British always notified the press when an illegal ship had arrived and its passengers were to be trans-shipped to Cyprus. This was part of their so-called correctness. What they were doing was strictly legal. They were taking illegal people and sending them away from a place which had been forbidden them. If they had to be brutal in herding people from a filthy death trap which had brought them into a wire cage which was to ship them away from Palestine, then these soldiers and sailors were only carrying out legitimate orders to the best of their ability. Refugees often violently resisted being sent to another concentration camp and unpleasant things happened. Some of the British going about their jobs understood the insane terror which gripped a deportee when he was being torn away from what he considered his last hope. Some did not. The reactions and deeds of both of these Judith Avrunin reported with a remarkable degree of restraint.

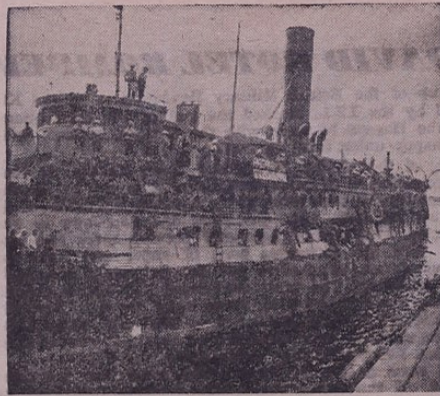
In addition to inviting the press to witness their correctness in the deportations, the British also permitted the Jewish Agency, after some months and at its own expense, to send help to the Cyprus camps. A few social workers, teachers, Youth Aliya counsellors, doctors and nurses were allowed to go to them and try to bolster up the health and morale of the detainees. In reference to this grain of mercy, David Courtney wrote:

"The Jews have become an irritation to the World's conscience; and conscience, if it does not make cowards of us all, does worse and makes us politicians; principles become a matter of exigency and other men's misery a matter of law."

I.F. Stone Reports Aliya Bet

I.F. Stone was at this time in Palestine and contributed to *The Post*. Mr. Stone sailed to Cyprus with 700 illegal immigrants. (*The Palestine Post* never called them "illegal immigrants", except when it reprinted a required official government communique. They were always "Aliyah Beth" or "Immigration B" (as opposed to "Immigration A", or those people who had government-recognized entry visas). Mr. Stone wrote:

I have just returned to Palestine after a four day round trip to Cyprus on the SS Empire Rival. This is the 'flagship' of the scrawniest fleet operating in the world today, the fleet which departs illegal Jewish immigrants from Palestine to Cyprus and later brings the same people back to Palestine after six months in not too unpleasant a purgatory, as legal immigrants, under the 1500 a month quota. Only Max Beerbohm could do this Colonel Blimpish spectacle justice. It is a



The Hagana ship Exodus tied up at Haifa, after the battle fought against British boarding parties, in which one of the crew and two of the refugees were killed.



The long lines of huts behind barbed wire on Cyprus, to where all "illegal" immigrants who were captured were shipped.

masterpiece of waste motion and nerves, firstly, to embitter the bewildered Jewish refugees who must travel back and forth, locked like 700 exhibits in the cages of these ships, and, secondly, to make squalid chambermaids of his Majesty's Army and Navy.

This was a long and very good story of the Cyprus craziness. It brought forth amongst other responses a letter from a British soldier from the 6th Airborne Division, who wrote: "Here I wish — along with many others who sailed with Mr. Stone — to say thank you for giving it to us — as our American friends put it — straight from the shoulder." This was one of a flood of letters from the British forces. Some of them were printable and some decidedly unprintable. Some reviled the Jews with all or the invective they could bring to their schooled and unschooled pens, and some turned their anonymous resentment against the government which was forcing them to be "squalid chambermaids" to the beaten human cattle whom they were herding on and off the ships.

But Cyprus was not the end of the deportation folly. Mr. Bevin was very determined at this time on three counts: he would settle the Palestine problem; he would appease the Arabs; he would stop at nothing to vindicate his policy. Amongst the Arabs there was a hectic coming and going and furious behind the scenes activity. In addition to their political activity they were busy brushing off their old slogans of the Jihad — a religious war.

The paper was prohibited from publishing the fact that on July 12 the s.s. President Warfield had managed to slip out of Marseilles harbour, flying a Honduras flag, officially destined for Colombia. The French did not seem too eager to help the British in their efforts to prevent the ship from leaving Marseilles. There were four thousand Jews on board the ship and the British warships cruising the French shore seemed to have little doubt that its destination was Palestine.

The ship's arrival was duly reported, and for weeks after the stories of the Exodus 1947 were important news. The British were determined that an example must be made of one ship to discourage the unbroken stream of refugees which continued to flow into Palestine and thence to Cyprus. They were no happier about Cyprus than the Jews and felt that something must be done once and for all to stop the whole degrading business.

The Exodus 1947 was to be returned to its port of embarkation, or failing that to Germany, where the shipload had gathered. After a very uneven battle with the landing party in Haifa, the passengers were trans-shipped onto the cage ships and finally came to Port du Bouc. In the process, three of the Jews were killed, and the distress on the ship was amply reported and publicized. Despite the busy blue pencil of the censor, enough of the awful story was printed to give some idea of the conditions aboard.

Jews Refuse to Leave Ships

Moshe Pearlman, later head of the Israel Government's Information Services, cabled from Port du Bouc, where the Jews refused to leave the ships in which they were herded.

"None but the dead" would be landed, they declared. Pearlman writes in his censored account that the British claimed that the passengers were being intimidated into not landing. "The British officer in charge suggested that people were afraid to volunteer to get off the ship in front of others. So the Prefect asked the interpreter to translate once more very carefully the French offer of asylum. When he had finished, the deputation of refugees turned saying 'Let's go back to the Ghetto holds. We thought you wanted to ask about our needs. We want water and food for the children.'"

The Prefect turned to the British officer, saying, "Are you satisfied now?" "O.K." was the answer.

Meanwhile the Hagana representatives in France were on hand to help them if they decided to take advantage of the French hospitality. The tone of the paper and the temper of the people is reflected in the leader of August 22:

If the British Government decisions on Palestine have been almost uniformly wrong, its habit of sermonizing about them is more infuriating still. The prisoners on the deportation ships, in the official view, were apparently no more than a party to a plot designed to upset the balance of population in Palestine. It remains to be seen who will be taken in by this hypocrisy and cant.

The British Government has accepted responsibility for an action which has been characterized, without exaggeration as a crime against humanity. Heaven help the British Government! The Exodus refugees, who are stronger, will help themselves.

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BRITAIN ANNOUNCES WITHDRAWAL

MIXED feelings greeted the report of the UNSCOP's recommendation of partition and Britain's simultaneous announcement that she would withdraw from Palestine. The paper did not print what everyone firmly believed; that this was Mr. Bevin's way of bringing the Jews to their knees. He felt that the Jews would plead with Britain to remain on any terms. Failing this, he would leave these stiff-necked people to their fate at the hands of the united Arab countries. The Arabs equally made no bones about the fact that if the U.N. recognized partition they would "fight to the finish." The news now was mostly concerned with the reactions to these decisions:

"Slav Bloc Supports UNSCOP Majority."

"Ex-Mufti and Kaukaji in Beirut."

"Britain Determined to Leave."

"Yishuv Will Carry On."

And David Ben-Gurion took the reins in his hands and demanded an "immediate Jewish State."

The threats and the warnings of the Arab League were printed whenever the censor let them get by, and Britain kept on insisting that "any suggestion of armed Arab resistance is malicious and untrue," while she continued to supply the Arab countries with arms under "existing treaty arrangements and promises." The terrorists continued to run wild and get their full share of publicity, and strangely enough, the Jewish community carried on in a surprisingly normal way. New settlements, especially in the Negev, were a constant reminder that Palestine was not only a land of terror, but was a land of determined building. Most of the horrors of that time were confined to the cities, while the country went about its work of construction and reconstruction.

But the cities too were, for the greater part, concerned with the daily business of living. The Orchestra and the theatre always got a goodly amount of publicity. At the height of the anti-British feeling Tyrone Guthrie was directing the Habimah in Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex." By the time the play was produced most of the British civilians had left the country. Mr. Guthrie stayed on to finish the job, and the night the play opened it was he, together with Mrs. Guthrie, who were the stars of that very remarkable production. They received a long and sincere ovation from the cast and the audience, who deeply appreciated not only Mr. Guthrie's art, but this cooperation of an Englishman at a time when the Jews were getting and giving very little cooperation. There were no bombs and no boohs, and the armoured cars with their loads of well armed British tommyes which waited outside the theatre were a completely gratuitous escort.

Romance of Royal Marriage

In England the young Princess Elizabeth was being married in a fairy story atmosphere of love and glamour. Rebecca West's beautiful report of the wedding was printed on Page one.

On Mount Scopus there had been reports of moonlight dances and concerts in the beautiful amphitheatre which had the hills of Moab and the Dead Sea as a background. Also on Mount Scopus, the Hebrew University opened its term with an address against violence by Dr. Judah Magnes, the President of the University. Dr. Magnes had always been a pacifist. He did not agree with the Arab policy of *The Palestine Post*, and *The Post* was vehemently opposed to his thesis that it was up to the Jews to find a way of working with the Arabs, mostly on Arab terms. Dr. Magnes had for some years been preaching his credo. Many of the most respected members of the Jewish community joined his Ichud organization. The British naturally had a great deal of respect for his views, and a few Arabs claimed that they saw eye to eye with him. But there had never been a single Arab who had the courage to come out in the open and admit to the things on which they had agreed with Dr. Magnes privately. On this occasion, when violence was the order of the day, Dr. Magnes' speech was printed in full, as had been many of his previous speeches. The leader commenting on the long address was called "Freedom of Speech on Mount Scopus."

The debate on Partition at the U.N. was reaching its climax. The paper was full of comment, conjecture, argument and polemics. It also carried stories of the constant prayers and reading of the Psalms in the synagogues of Palestine which were the pious accompaniment to the cut-throat negotiations at Lake Success.

The fifteenth anniversary of *The Palestine Post* fell at the time of the Partition vote. The leader of December 1 is entitled "1932-1947." It quoted from its leader of five years back:

"Bias," the late Justice Holmes said, "was the inarticulate premise." We are partisan. We have a bias. Our bias is in favour of holding aloft the standard of Jewish hope at a time when it is being dragged in the mud, a people drowned in a sea of blood. We persist in this bias in the conviction that the Jewish spirit will arise among the ruins made by Hitler... But bias is not blindness. A newspaper worthy of its name must know the other side, must be fair to the other side, for it is only thus that it can hold fast to what it believes."

The News Fighting the British

An exchange of letters between Gershon Agronsky and Christopher Chancellor, managing director of Reuter's News Agency, is probably the fullest and most lucid exposition of sentiments of the warring factions. The respect and affection which Mr. Chancellor and Mr. Agronsky show for each other were by no means isolated cases of the anomaly of the News fighting the British. This exchange of letters between the head of Reuters and the head of *The Post* is reproduced here in full for the first time.

From Mr. Christopher Chancellor, Reuters Ltd., London, to Mr. G. Agronsky. Dated September 18, 1947.

My dear Agronsky,

"This, as you see, is a personal letter. I have hesitated whether to write or not. But I came to the conclusion that it would be foolish not to write and that you would expect it of me. It all arises from recent letters to the office from Jolliffe (*) and the general feeling they give of a new *Palestine Post* attitude towards Reuters. You and I know each other so well that I can be entirely frank. But I do hope you will tell Jolliffe that I have written.

I must explain. Jolliffe is unhappy. He feels that you dislike him and Reuters because both are British. I have a feeling that he has got everything out of perspective. But that, as you know, can very easily happen in Palestine. He says *The Palestine Post* has lost confidence in Reuters

(*) Peter Jolliffe who during the war was an army information officer and military censor and was a good friend of *The Post's* especially during the period of the Syrian edition; after the war he remained in Jerusalem as Reuter's bureau manager.

and that everything in the Reuter service with a bearing on Palestine is distrusted and regarded as having a British bias.

He cites the treatment of Boyd France's despatches from the "Runnymede Park." He says that your people thought Reuters got the only correspondent on this assignment through some arrangement with the British Government. This impression may have been strengthened by the fact that his messages were brutally treated by the Palestine censorship and this may have had the effect of making some of Boyd France's messages look biased. But the ironical thing is that the Boyd France assignment, which was an incredibly expensive one, was only undertaken because of what we felt about our obligations to *The Palestine Post*. I do not know why we got the offer of a place on the ship. A quick decision had to be made and Cole brought it to me. We decided to accept the assignment for the reason that I have given you and we gave it to Boyd France, an American staff man from our Paris Office, because we could count upon him to do a really good job of objective reporting.

I have always felt that you had confidence in Cole and myself. I do understand and sympathise with your point of view about British policy and with things that have happened inside and out of Palestine. I realise what your feelings must be. But I do want you to keep your faith in Reuters. We both of us have the same ideals and standards about truth in news. I have always felt very proud and happy about what I thought was your attitude towards Reuters and the job that I am trying to do.

Please do not consider this letter in terms of the business relationship between Reuters and *The Palestine Post*. This will have to be ironed out between Jolliffe and yourself. Even if you decided that, in the interest of your paper, it would be better to dispense with the Reuter service and depend upon other sources, I would quite understand the position. It is the fear that you have lost faith in the things that I stand for that prompts me to write this letter. I hope you will forgive me and understand that it is only because I value your friendship that I wrote as I do. This is very much more important than any news contract between Reuters and *The Palestine Post*.

Please let me know what you really feel.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Agronsky and every good wish to yourself.

Yours sincerely, (sgd).



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Agronsky's Reply to Reuters

From Mr. G. Agronsky to Mr. C. Chancellor, dated September 25, 1947.

My dear Chancellor,
I am glad (and this is not a figure of speech) that you wrote as you did on the 18th. As you say, this sort of candour would be expected of you, in line with your uniform considerateness of the paper and personal kindness to me.

Let me begin by saying what we are not. We are not anti-British. We are not anti-Reuters; not anti-Jolliffe; and, speaking for myself, I am very much pro-Chancellor. I am pro-Chancellor because I feel that no more than *The Palestine Post* is just a job to me, is Reuters just a job to you. I live the thing around the clock as I know you live Reuters.

What is more, it is an article of faith with me that a reduction of British power, diminution in its influence, lowering of its prestige, are bad for the world, bad for civilization, bad for the Jews. This is why the school of Zionism to which I belong wants a strong, just, influential and purposeful Britain. I know we can't have the British glories of yesterday, but the pain at its passing, at the sight of a wasted heritage, is not assuaged by this knowledge.

Something has happened in the relations between your people and mine that, with all my heart, for some thirty years I had hoped would not come to pass. The two peoples have become antagonists. You could date it, if you wished, to the St. James' Conference in 1939, when further Jewish progress in Palestine was made to depend on Arab consent; you could date it to the Land Laws of 1940, introduced despite the war, when the war might have served as reason for holding them in abeyance; but the fatal date is the day on which Bevin stated his belief in a unitary (i.e. Arab-dominated) State (with the Jews as a statutory minority), and the White Paper as the only practicable policy in the meanwhile. This was when the British-Jewish alliance, fostered in the '14-'18 War, was abruptly (and unilaterally) dissolved.

What has happened since uses tragic but not unnatural. The British, in their relations with my people, have become more British and more angry at being worried and chivvied and "vilified"; the Jews, in their relations with yours — more Jewish, more resentful, more suspicious and more impatient of double-talk and stalling and downright Bevinist anti-Semitism. We are now on two sides. Every now and then we plunge into conflict. There is one continuous conflict over immigration: the British holding by a law of their own making; the Jews execrating the very law as illegal. In a fight of this kind, words are used. Jews, giving their all to organizing this immigration, have been called disgusting names in British quarters, British sailors and soldiers, in carrying out orders to stop this immigration, have been called equally disgusting names by my side. I had hoped that this hope was the very foundation of *The Palestine Post*, that, minor differences apart, we might go on seeing the Middle East through British eyes, and that the British, to an extent, might see things through ours. I remember saying as much to your father in London back in 1932. This hope in the last several years has been strangled. As I said, we have been driven to become more Jewish, and in the light of the fading British position in the world, you have been driven to become more emphatically British where we are concerned. This is neither a fault nor a reproach. When ill-informed people complain that *The Palestine Post* is Jewish, my answer, invariably, is, "Yes, as Jewish as a London paper is British." So I can't possibly grudge Reuters being British. It would be disloyal if it weren't, just as *The Palestine Post* would be disloyal if it weren't Jewish.

This need not, and in any case does not, impair my confidence in Reuters, its General Manager or any of its Staff. It certainly does not affect the friendliness we in this office all feel towards Peter Jolliffe. But barriers have been built, and I mean very real barriers — British zones and Jewish curfew areas, and what have you. Then things are happening, one by one, to a point of obsession, with the heart-breaking local developments. So, we don't see as much of P.J. as we should like. He has his hands full, we ours. But I have always had a personal liking for him, his modesty, his accommodatingness, his helpfulness; and none of this has diminished in the slightest.

For all this, *The Palestine Post*, in my view, should not depend exclusively on Reuters. This opinion did not spring up yesterday, nor did it begin with Bevin's outlawing of Zionism. As you know, I was somewhat instrumental in bringing the UP here, and I am satisfied that it has done neither Reuters nor any of the Palestine press any harm...

How then, you will ask, does the Jewish angle come into this? Here, in a short elementary picture, is how I think it works. Nathanya is besieged by a division of troops. In such a situation, we see things with the eyes of a man and women crowded in their houses looking out. It is equally natural for a British correspondent to see things with the eyes of the soldier looking in — that is, when nothing graver happens than the two sides just regarding each other across the wire. Reuters, in serving the Empire press, is bound to have its eye on the soldier — his long and wasteful and dangerous duties, his sleeping on a ground in the open, on a pavement, the uncooperativeness of his men in his side. We try to see the soldier's side, but we also see, as we did when a quarter of a million people were locked up in Tel Aviv last year, the resentment brought on by the paralysis of a near-metropolis.

Now, take the incoming service. There is a Cabinet meeting, and your excellent F. W. goes to the Foreign Office and gets what there is to be had for public consumption. He is thoroughly honest and thoroughly loyal in not "spilling" what he is told not to spill. An American correspondent is not less honest or loyal but he is subject to neither the same disciplines nor inhibitions. So, we use the admiral F. W. and garnish it with American spice, or the other way about. In neither case do we consciously omit anything material because of a slant unfavourable to our prospects or our position. But we find a mop-up of such bits and pieces more useful than a straight Reuters story, however good Reuters's correspondents may try not to angle.

Apply this to the "Runnymede Park" and you have the answer. Boyd France's despatches were all they could be in fairness and in colour, to say nothing of journalistic competence. But there was one difference between us. He was more sorry for the soldier than for the fugitive pushed about like herd-driven cattle; we were sorer for the refugees than for the soldiers. So we naturally turned ourselves to the stuff provided by agencies or correspondents who reflected more accurately the feelings of the man or woman who was dragged or carried off the ship, rather than of the soldier who had the hateful job of carrying and dragging. Not that we didn't use as much as we could of this side of the picture in Boyd France's own words.

On this sorry business, let me add one more private word, which I know you will treat in confidence. Weizmann, back from Switzerland, tried to see Bevin while the ships were on the way to Hamburg. Bevin refused to see him (he also refused to receive Cunningham.) Weizmann was desperately anxious to prevent the Hamburg disaster, and swallowed his pride in deciding to make a personal plea. But more relevant than the abortive attempt is the reason that inspired it. Weizmann feels that our fate in this part of the world hangs by Britain, and he did not want a squalid thing like the "Exodus" blunder to poison relations and stand between us perhaps for a long time. Weizmann is being accused of being pro-British, but I think he's being pro-Jewish; because I'm also convinced that, Arabs, Americans and Russians aside, what we want ultimately is a return to the British way, standards and dealings. It's not Platonic love; it's enlightened self-interest. No more than you, do I want isolationist Americans to use us as a club with which to beat Britain; and no more than you do I want Moscow wedging into a vacuum your withdrawal will create. I think we can make that old alliance whole again (How well I know it's a case of sandwich consisting of one horse and one chicken, but I do not think an alliance between us is a tasteless sandwich for all its disproportion). I think we can still help swing decent American opinion and force our Ben Hechts to dry up. What's more, I'm convinced (if I weren't I should have given up long ago) that the Arabs can be made to see the point: they're emotional but sensible people, and once persuaded that Middle East politics is more than gratification of politicians' ambitions, but may lead to the making or unmaking of a whole part of the world, with happiness or misery for its millions, they'll see the point. But whoever talks to them must believe what he's saying.

I apologize for the length of this nasty letter. I am off to Lake Success, where I shall be a month or so. But I could not leave Jerusalem without an attempt, which I fear has run to inexcusable and clumsy length, if only to match frankness with frankness and friendliness with friendliness.

Yours very sincerely, (Sgd.)

From Mr. C. Chancellor to Mr. G. Agronsky, dated October 30, 1947.

My dear Agronsky,

I am not sure where you are at this moment. But I am sending this to Jerusalem (and to you) in the hope that it will reach you. I am very grateful for your letter of September 25. It was a wonderful letter and I am grateful to you for taking me so fully into your mind. I do hope it will not be long before we meet.



Gershon Agronsky (left) at the Congress of the International Organization of Journalists held at Prague in 1947. Next to him are M. Assaf, M. Ron, J. Rubins and A. Schwarz who were members of the Palestinian delegation.

We told our people at Lake Success to contact you and help you if any help was required. I hope you saw something of them.
With all good wishes,
Yours very sincerely, (Sgd.)

It was not only some enlightened intellectuals amongst the British who professed to understand the point of view of the Jews. At the time when the Dov Gruener affair was on the boil and this terrorist was hanged to satisfy the official demands for vengeance, the resultant counter-move on the part of the terrorists who hanged two blameless British sergeants evoked a number of anonymous letters from British civilian and army people, who wanted to be heard on the subject. In this welter of vengeance and counter-vengeance, there was the nefarious Farran affair in which a British officer, Roy Farran, was accused of kidnapping and murdering a young Jewish boy in Jerusalem. Farran was spirited out of the country, but subsequently he was brought back, stood trial, was found innocent and went back to England where he received a hero's welcome. The Censor wrote to the Secretariat in Palestine on December 12, 1947:

"The Palestine Post wish to appeal against my prohibition of the enclosed letter to the Editor. If you think it may be passed this will be alright by me."

British Officer's Comment on Farran

The enclosed letter to the editor was called "The Lesser Lawrences" and read: "I was amused to read the views of Roy Farran (Acting Major, Temporary Captain, War Substantive Lieutenant) on Zionism, Jews, Arabs, Palestine, etc. in your issue of Friday, December 5.

The article referred to by the writer was a reprint from some of the London papers quoting Farran on the importance of an Arab victory in the Middle East. The letter continues:

As an ex-member of the "Chairborne" Division at GHQ, MEF I had ample opportunity to meet some of the most "decorated soldiers" and to get acquainted with their mentality and outlook on life. Their average age was 22-23 and they had already at the time I first met them four or five years of service. This means that they left school to join the army and just managed to know that Bucharest is "somewhere" on the continent and that Leon Blum is a "red," a Jew and even both.

It was from them that I learned that "maybe Jerry was a Hun but he was also a gentleman" and that "we fought this b—war because of those Jewish b—." Palestine was always a favourite topic and yielded such pearls of wisdom as "I'll tell you what Jews and Zionism are after. They want world domination. That's it! World domination and in the first place oppression of the poor Arabs!"

They considered Cairo a filthy and evil-smelling hole and would give "anything for a break in Tel Aviv" but afterwards had only abuse to describe its riches and the good life the Jews were having at the expense of the Arabs and of the whole world.

They resented more than anything else the presence of the Jewish soldier in their midst who was in their opinion an insignificant and unworthy ally, and begrudged him the equality treatment he enjoyed according to the army's Rules and Regulations.

The unbounded sympathy these boys showed surprised me only because I knew that in their hearts they had undisguised contempt for the Arab people. It dawned on me later that this sympathy was in direct relation to the hate they felt for the Jews. This hate was smouldering but kindled into flame when the terrorist outbreaks began in Palestine. Whilst the whole Jewish Community was tied to the stake, the Arab came forth in all glory.

Forgotten was the past with the stabs in the back; forgotten were even the troubles (bombs not excluded) which preceded the evacuation of Egypt. The "wog" became overnight an ideal, worthy to fight and die for! Everyone imagined himself another Lawrence of Arabia, inclined to despise the original for not having spent the rest of his life in a Beduin tent eating dates. I am not in the least surprised therefore, that Roy Farran and a few more like him are "for the Arabs" and are so convinced that "the Arabs deserve to win." For themselves they hope to win additional laurels and the everlasting gratitude of the Arab masses. *Beati pauperes spiritu...*

Yours,
EX-STAFF OFFICER."

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THE POST UNDER FIRE

On Sunday evening, the offices and press of The Palestine Post were blown up and almost completely burnt out when a truck laden with explosives was detonated in Hassolel St. At right, parents carry their children from wrecked houses next to The Palestine Post. Below right, they are assisted by police and British soldiers. Below is the scene outside The Post (right) the following day. In the foreground is a burnt-out ambulance which was standing in front of the Hadassah clinic.



The offices of *The Palestine Post* were never luxurious or commodious. They are a functional series of rooms with all the accoutrements necessary to turn out a daily newspaper in an efficient manner. The only luxuries they ever displayed were drawings and paintings by local artists and a few fairly comfortable chairs in the editor's office. But today *The Post* can boast of one of the most beautiful tiled floors to be seen anywhere in the country. Tiled floors are a standard part of every building in the country. They are usually neutral, utilitarian, eight-inch squares of matt ceramics whose principal virtues are their washability, coolness and cheapness. The tiles in the floor of *The Post* are unique. They have a high gloss and a continuous, modern, free-drawn design which shades from a pale beige to a rich deep red-brown. The method of acquiring such a floor is extremely uneconomic and impractical. The entire floor must be fired in intense heat over a period of many hours to achieve this exceptional effect.

Little praise goes to the designer of *The Post* building for this achievement. Credit for the artistry has never been properly given. The only possible testimonial might be a framed letter, not passed by the Censor, which hangs in the editor's office. It reads:

The Editor, *The Palestine Post*.

Sir, — If your friends and comrades retaliate against the just execution of Dov Bela Groner by the harming of the abducted men, we will retaliate indiscriminately against the Jewish population of Jerusalem in the proportion of three to one. You who are the first to decry terrorism as hindering the Zionist cause are also the first to clamour for clemency whereas you should be the first to demand the execution of Dov Groner as a deterrent to future terrorist activity.

If you fail to print this you will perhaps be the first to suffer for the sins of your race and learn too late that the Lion can bite as well as growl. We will in the next few days demonstrate by some act of violence the fact that we mean what is printed above.

Yours etc.,
NOT SIGNED

Jerusalem, January 28.

This turned out to be no empty threat. *The Post* was blown up on Sunday, February 1, 1948, at 10.45 p.m. Ted Lurie, the Managing Editor of the paper, was perhaps the only member of the staff to see the vehicle which carried the bomb that did the damage. He should have been in his office at the time of the explosion, and if he had been he would not have survived to tell the tale; for, whether by accident or intent will never be known, the bomb was planted right beneath the editor's room. However, Ted's wife, Tzila, had phoned him a few minutes earlier saying she was in the vicinity and that she would call for him to take him out for a few minutes' break and a cup of coffee. On his way out, he dropped in to the press to give some instructions to one of the stone hands, Rabinovitz, who was subsequently gravely injured in the bombing. Tzila, who was waiting in the doorway downstairs, was very impatient and pressed Ted to hurry up. It was this insistence which probably saved her husband's life.

Death Vehicle Narrowly Missed

As they reached the bottom of Hassolel Street where it turns into Jaffa Road, they saw a three-ton British army truck turn into the lane from the main road.

"I wonder what he is doing here at this time of the night," Ted remembers telling Tzila, but he did not then give it another conscious thought. Yet, being a newsman, even the slightly unusual continued to gnaw at his unconscious.

They had hardly reached the Atara Cafe, in Ben Yehuda Street, only a couple of hundred metres from Jaffa Road, when they were almost knocked off their feet by a tremendous explosion. Bombs were going off frequently in Jerusalem in those days, and people were used to them. But the three-tonner still worried Ted, so he immediately picked up the cafe phone and dialled the number of the paper. The number was dead. Suddenly flames appeared mounting skyward from the direction of *The Post*. With a few local and foreign journalists who were with him, Ted jumped into a car and tried to get to *The Post*. Hassolel Street was blocked with rubble so they reached the offices by way of the parallel Kook Street which connects with *The Post* by a narrow alley.

Whoever had been trying to get *The Post* had done a thorough job. Windows were shattered over a radius of a mile from the paper. The explosive used was an incendiary bomb in a large oil drum, and in a moment *The Palestine Post* building had become a smoking ruin. But the paper appeared the next morning as usual.

It was printed on both sides of a single small sheet but managed to look something like the usual edition. It had been produced on a press in the near vicinity and carried a lot of the news which would have appeared if the paper had gone through the usual routine which brought it to birth each morning. One of the reasons was that Mike Eskolsky, the chief sub-editor, had scooped off the news desk all the copy he could lay hands on before escaping through a window.

"The Truth Is Louder Than TNT..."

In this edition which appeared the next morning, Column One of David Courtney appeared as usual and said:

The truth is louder than TNT and burns brighter than the flames of arson. It will win in the end. Last night's bomb smashed machinery, burnt precious records, made people homeless, injured some; but the target was plain truth. It is surprising what some men will do to destroy truth. The tyrant, the fascist, the fool and the ignorant victims of any one or all of these have tried to suppress the truth since history began; and tried vainly. They are still at their monstrous folly.

WHAT was done last night is an incident among many in the brutal history of this land. It was nothing new to see the flames and hear the groans of hurt men. It was nothing new to see little children and old women and stumbling men silhouetted against fire as they hurried silently away from their homes.

That is the modern history of Palestine. It is the recent history of the Mandate. It will be said in London that it is the consequence of the judgment of the earth's United Nations. To say that accusingly is to be in part responsible for the evil that is done.

THE bomb in Hassolel Street for a moment closed the mouths of the messengers of the world; and shut off, as a telephone is shut off, the news from a score of capitals. It did but throw into sharper relief, and sound with farther-reaching voice, the truth of this land and the sureness of its triumph. And that truth will be told.

The men who did last night's deed probably overlooked that. There is nothing they can do about it now or at any time. It has escaped them. It makes their triumph short lived and hollow.



Crowds outside the offices of *The Post* in Tel Aviv read the issue that appeared after the bombing posted on the window.

BOMB TOLL: 40 CASUALTIES AMONG STAFF AND NEIGHBOURS

THERE were some 40 casualties including 20 stretcher cases. Doctors from the Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus rushed down the hill to treat the injured. The Hadassah clinic nearby was severely damaged and much of the sorely needed medical supplies and equipment which Jerusalem badly required to salve its wounds was destroyed. But the clinic quickly mobilized, and the stretcher cases were carried in and dealt with by the medical men and nurses who swiftly reached the scene. Innocent civilians across the street were additional casualties. Haim Farber, one of the most seriously injured, died shortly afterwards and two more dangerously injured subsequently succumbed. Two men lost an eye but are still working at *The Post*, one as a stone hand and one as a linotype.

The police, civil guard and fire department were quickly on the spot to get things under control. Fortunately a change of wind saved the newsroom and the morgue (library). Two foreign correspondents helped to get the desk staff out of the windows and other foreign newsmen, who were wont to use *The Post* as a nightly hang-out, helped to carry the wounded.

The paper was discreet and reticent in its statements as to who actually set the fuse of the fire bomb, but there was little doubt in the minds of the public as to who was responsible. It was not one of the dissident groups which always took great pride in boasting of their successful destructive coups. They made no claim to this damage, even though they had reason to hate *The Post* for its constant attacks on terrorism. The Arabs equally would have wanted to take credit for such a splendid deed — to silence the Jewish paper which was read by the British. In the minds of the public, the culprits had been named, tried and convicted while the smoke billowed from the windows and the homeless were looking for their remaining scraps of possessions in the neighbouring ruins.

Four Pages As Usual

The paper which appeared on February 3, the second issue after the bombing, had four pages: smaller in size than the regular four pages, but still a complete paper including pictures of the still reeking buildings.

Bombed out on Sunday night, The Palestine Post went back to work in what was left of its own offices in Hassolel Street. With the smoke of smouldering paper and debris drifting in through the empty window frames, the editorial staff returned to duty. Working all day, firemen of the Jewish Voluntary Brigade, members of the paper's staff, the Jewish civil guard salvaged what they could from the fire-swept building. Engineers installed an emergency telephone, electricians restored power on a temporary line, and arrangements were made to print in the nearby Ahva Press.

The blast from the explosives had weakened the building, and the ground floor was shored up with wood. Members of the civil guard had kept back the crowd of onlookers, salvaged belongings from the neighbouring burnt-out houses and shops, and regulated the flow of trucks, barrows and porters who filled the street from early morning. The leader read in part:

Out of the ruins of an office and plant, we must look forward, not back. Whose blitz it was on Sunday night in Hassolel Street is secondary in importance to the question, what, short of brutal murder for murder's sake, the agents and their senders had in mind. If the intention was to bring about a greater awareness on the part of Jews that they are now on a war footing, the plot's authors may be said to have gained their end. The Jewish civil guard will not now be expected to respect a military or police vehicle, a police or military uniform, without making sure of the *bona fides* both of man and vehicle. Those on legitimate business will not object to legitimate checking.

These protective measures are common sense, but they do not touch the core of the problem: how to bring home to all concerned with the peace of Palestine that decisions with the imprint of human conscience on them—such as the U.N.'s to establish a Jewish State—that such decisions cannot be unmade by murder or plots of murder.

When these notes were about to be set up, the printing press went out of action, owing to a bombing outrage. The B.B.C. attributed this outrage to either Arab or Jewish terrorists. There being no evidence, so far, in either direction, other alternatives are anybody's guess.

The cautious, restrained attitude of the paper is further shown by the non-libellous "postscript" in the "At Random" column which appeared on the same day.

The leader of this day, written by the editor, was called *The Plot that Failed*:

Quentin Reynolds' "The Wounded Don't Cry" could be applied to the victims of many an outrage in this country during the last decade. As for the severe losses inflicted on this newspaper and its printers, this American war correspondent's tribute to the British sufferers of Hitler's Blitz can fairly be claimed by us. But it would be callous to pretend not to weep for the dead and the maimed. An innocent printer has paid with his life, and a number of valued workers are on the danger list. That they, and not those it was intended to assassinate—the editor and staff—should have borne the brunt of the explosion, is no extenuation for the plotters of the wholesale murder. Their intention was clear; it was to wipe out this paper altogether with those making it. The plot miscarried, and no thanks to the conspirators.

The plot misfired, but even if it had succeeded, the assassins' object would have been defeated. Men and women, in their scores, are killed and massacred, in attacks and ambushes, while vindicating the Jews' right to live as free men in this Promised Land. They fall, in their ones and twos and tens and scores, while keeping open the life-lines of communication, while guarding isolated outposts, while defending Jewish life and property wherever there is danger of attack from an unscrupulous aggressor. But roads are not abandoned, posts are not deserted, and vigilance is not relaxed. Where ten fall, in the Negev or Galilee, hundreds rush in to take their place. And the voice crying out against justification and distortion and double-dealing will not be silenced. It would not have been silenced had the last man on this paper's staff been a casualty. Israel is not as bereft as all that, for all of Hitler's exterminating of more than a third of the Jewish people.

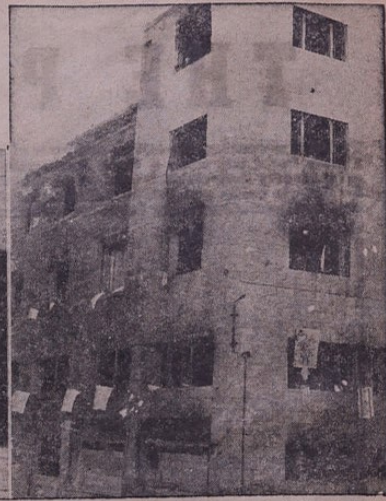
Being committed to a policy of understatement, the news of the bombing got scant space after the first two days. On February 5 there was an inconspicuous item at the bottom of page one under the George Lichtheim by-line which reported from London.

"A Colonial Office spokesman today strongly denied a report that his department had received a cable from the High Commissioner, stating that the blowing up of *The Palestine Post* building was the work of certain British elements in cooperation with Arab terrorists."

Ted Lurie's Finest Hour

In charge of the paper on the night of the bombing was Ted Lurie because Gershon Agronsky was in Tel Aviv. He had been to London attending a conference and had only returned to Tel Aviv on the fateful night. He was to have gone on to Jerusalem immediately, but a sudden call to attend an important meeting kept him in Tel Aviv. Communication with Jerusalem was precarious at that time, and one could only reach the capital by a slow moving convoy over a tortuous back route.

After the fire—The Post decorated with Ferdinand cartoons (by Gabriella Rosenthal), and flags.



Lurie had visited the infirmary to see the injured and half an hour in all had elapsed. Tzila turned to Ted and said:

"What about the paper?"

Ted turned to the press manager and said:

"See if you can find a printer who will let us take over his shop." By this time most of Jerusalem was awake, and it was not long before the Lipshitz Press, off Ben Yehuda Street, was mobilized and its two linotype operators reported for duty.

In the tiny printing press office a handful of men crowded shoulder to shoulder to prepare the copy. There were several volunteers to help as messengers, telephonists or typists. They included Reggie Rosenberg (now Mordecai Kidron, of the Israel Delegation to the U.N.); Amos Gordon, of Reuters; Francis Ofner, of the "Christian Science Monitor"; and Gabriel Cifrony, of "Haboker." Earlier two foreign correspondents, John Donovan, of M.B.C., and Fitzhugh Turner, of the New York "Herald Tribune," had risked their lives in climbing through the burning building to carry out the wounded.

Roy Elston, better known as David Courtney, had come to the press by this time and sat down on the spot to write his column quoted above. Mike Eskolsky had, as has been told, saved as much copy as he could lay his hands on from the newsroom and so the supreme effort to get the paper out began. It was Ted Lurie's finest hour. There was no logic and no reasons why *The Palestine Post* must appear on the newsstands while men were writhing in agony, machinery lay in a tangled mass of fused metal, and streams of water played on the obscene mass of molten lead and smoking printers' ink. There was no actual reasoning in the impulse which made Lurie take immediate steps to produce the paper when he found himself unexpectedly alive and not amongst the charred ruins. The practical details of assembling the news available, of contacting the people who would write the things immediately and of seeing that the paper would print the things immediately in their hazardous business of sending it out to the country — all of these actions were almost automatic.

There was no question as to the need for producing *The Post* as usual. The only question was the method. Anger and defiance were the spurs which urged Lurie and his associates on. *The Palestine Post* had always appeared since its beginning and no act of lawless terror would stop the printing of the only Jewish newspaper in Jerusalem.

For Jerusalem at this time was beginning to steel herself for her great ordeal and the effect of the appearance of her "paper as usual" was electric. It was a standard of faith and steadfastness, held aloft at a time of flagging hope. Death, hunger, water, famine and thunderous noise were to be Jerusalem's daily companions. The conglomerate mass of peoples which made up her population were beginning to be fused into a hard resistance by constant fire from the enemy. The pious Jews still within the walls of the Old City, reinforced by Hagana units, were clinging desperately to a small corner within the very fortress of the walled city. The British had enclosed themselves within hideous miles of tangled and rusting barbed wire which tore at the clothes and the hearts of the people who had to pass through the narrow ways leading from one sector of their zone to another. Chaos was in the making. The Jewish population of new Jerusalem, young and old, men and women, were dedicating themselves as the protectors of the City.



Ted Lurie (left), Acting Editor of *The Post*, who brought out the paper following the bombing of the premises. With him above are Dr. Haim Sheba, Director of the Tel Hashomer Hospital, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and the Foreign Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir.

Organized Chaos in Jerusalem

PEOPLE who live in Jerusalem do not become attached to it as people do to their home town any place else. For most dwellers in the City called Holy, it becomes almost a cult. They feel some special quality which seems to have little to do with such mundane manifestations as civic pride and local patriotism. To the pious it is the core of faith, where the distilled memories of the ages form a link directly with the distant past. To the less dedicated it has a mystic feel which is heightened by the quality of air and the very stones of which the city is built.

The *Post* had always identified itself with Jerusalem. Despite the fact that it was published for a country where there were two larger cities and a hinterland which contained the bulk of the population, it was essentially a Jerusalem paper. It was as much attached to the City as were the pious Jews who were at this time stubbornly holding to the stones of the Old City. There was never a time since its inception when the paper did not consciously and actively make Jerusalem's problems its own.

The government of Jerusalem had always been one of the anomalies of the country. When the Jewish population had reached more than sixty per cent, the city continued to be administered by an Arab Mayor, because there had previously been Arab Mayors in Jerusalem. After the 1936-1939 riots the Mayor of Jerusalem, Dr. Khalidi, had been banished together with some of the other Arab terrorist leaders. The government refused to appoint a Jewish Mayor in his place and the Jews had refused to function under an Arab Mayor, just as the Arab councillors refused to function under a Jewish Mayor. For a long time, the Jewish deputy Mayor, Daniel Auster, had carried out the administration of the City in a very capable manner, but when the time for the appointment of a new Mayor came, he was not officially recognized as the head of the City and a complete stalemate had been reached.

Graves on Ben Yehuda Outrage

Needless to say *The Post* was not very enthusiastic at the appointment of Richard Graves who had been brought back from England to take on the thankless job of running a city without the cooperation of the population. *The Post* had a great deal of admiration and respect for Mr. Graves as a gentleman, scholar, devotee of the City, and even as an administrator, but it could not recognize his right to act as Mayor of Jerusalem. Mr. Graves describes his unhappy experiences in a book called, "An Experiment in Anarchy" — a book which is more fortunate in its title than in its content. It was Mr. Graves who was the Mayor at the time of the bombings of *The Palestine Post*, the Jewish Agency and Ben Yehuda Street. He does not in his book agree that there was any proof that British Police had participated in any of these outrages but he does feel that the government might have done much more to disprove these accusations on the part of the Jews. In his log book of the incidents he refers with regret to the loss of Agronsky's books in his fine library. In referring to the Ben Yehuda bombing which followed in the wake of *The Post* destruction he writes:

Government have issued a statement to the effect that it is 'unbelievable' that such a crime had been committed by British servicemen. I wonder if the authorities responsible for the Government statement know what bitter feeling there is against the Jews among many British policemen and a few British soldiers. I have read poems and letters written by



British soldiers search passengers of a bus in Rehavia, Jerusalem.

policemen which would have made me chary of using the word 'unbelievable' in this context.

Some members of the police force openly approve of the policy of Hitler, who, after all, tried to destroy the whole Jewish race and thought nothing of having several thousand slaughtered in a single day. If you spread five million over five years you get about three thousand a day as an average. Sympathizers with this policy might have lowered themselves to commit the Ben Yehuda Street outrage, but we may never know the truth.

I feel that a representative of the Jewish Agency should have been invited to attend the police enquiry from the start. The gesture would have been appreciated and, more than that, if no evidence is forthcoming against the police or the army, beyond the identity of the vehicles, which were probably stolen, the Jews might believe, however reluctantly, that the crime was not the work of British hands and brains. As it is they have immediately reacted in their usual manner, and have killed several of our soldiers and airmen in revenge for a crime of which Britons probably were innocent.

This anarchy in Jerusalem was not just an experiment for a well intentioned man of letters, who tried conscientiously to carry on the business of government as usual. It was a painful experiment in living for the dwellers in that city who were fast learning that the barest necessities and the barest minimum of comfort were unobtainable luxuries. While the British still remained nominally in charge, the many angled complications seemed to make confusion more confused. Fighting was going on all over the country.

At the time *The Post* was blown up, things had not yet come to their worst pass. It was possible somehow, to get through to Jerusalem and it was possible with much difficulty and risk of life to bring food. When *The Palestine Post* appeared as usual on the day after the bombing, it was not just so many words of newsprint got together by ordinary men and women in the spirit of the "show must go on" despite death and destruction. It was a scroll of hope, a covenant with the City. From home and abroad came letters offering help, financial and physical. Contributors (among them local British writers), technicians, banks and individuals offered their services without pay.



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On their 25th Anniversary, it is with special pride that we congratulate *The Jerusalem Post* — printed for the last four years on paper made in Israel.

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Agronsky's Report on Fire

GERSHON Agronsky was back at his desk the day after the explosion. In a report to the Board of Directors of *The Palestine Post* on February 15, he sets down his own estimate of the position of the paper since the blitz:

One compositor has died, and five workers are in Hospital. It is gravely feared that one of them, the most skilled of the "Stone Hands" has been totally blinded. Two others will have lost the use of one eye. The watchman engaged by the Jerusalem Press, died of his injuries.

The Editorial (Night) Staff were in the News Room and in that part of the building which was not wrecked. They, the telephonist and the messengers escaped injury, except for minor cuts and bruises suffered by a telephonist and a messenger, both now back at work. The Proof-readers, on the same floor as the linotype machines, were also unscathed; though being so very close to the Press workers who took the brunt of the explosion, they suffered from shock.

The driver of the station wagon, at great risk to his life, drove the car out of the flames, and to safety. He was hurt by glass splinters, but will be back to work before long.

It was too early at night for the despatchers to be on duty, but the Head Despatcher, asleep in the room adjoining mine, was untouched.

The Assistant Editor, Mr. Lurie, left the office a few minutes before the explosion, for a short break, and actually saw the vehicle come up Hassolei Road.

It will be our pleasant duty to make some minor grants to those of the Staff who acted with great gallantry and in excess of duty. This applies to the driver, Yaacov Rable, and to at least one of the messengers, Moshe Hai, who carried out valuable salvage operations on his own.

A number of people, including foreign correspondents, who rushed to the scene, helped in carrying out the wounded, and in essential salvaging. In this way, both the Reuter teleprinter and the A.P. Hellschreiber were saved. The replacement cost of the furniture and equipment may not prove prohibitive. However, irreplaceable and therefore priceless, records and files have gone, including all the paper's correspondence over more than 15 years. There is now no record of the thousands of subscribers in Jerusalem and abroad. More than 5,000 blocks of pictures were burnt. There is nothing but the charred walls left of my own room, under whose window the vehicle with its explosives was parked.

Valuable reference books, irreplaceable collections of cuttings, prized pictures and cherished photographs, as well as files containing personal papers going back 25 years — not a trace remains of these...

The public reaction has been most encouraging. The greatest impression was made locally by the pathetic little sheet produced by Mr. Lurie and the Staff on a borrowed press, in the early hours following the explosion. Dozens of telegrams have been received from London and New York.

The heaviest loss, of course, was suffered by the Jerusalem Press. Mr. Schocken is buying two linotypes in the country, and has rented a third machine. When the three linotypes are installed, and working, within the next two or three weeks, we shall produce the paper on its own premises and not, as at present, on a borrowed plant, with the disturbing variety of types, etc. What may be said to have saved the very existence of the paper is the fact that the Duplex printing machine was spared, and in working order, on the fifth night after the bombing.

On the editorial side, work is proceeding without interruption. We were back to four small-size pages the second day, and back to normal when the Duplex was repaired.

As you may have noticed, our reporting of the local scene, is now on a "war footing." We try, in all our stories, to strengthen the morale of our own people and to give as little satisfaction as possible to the enemy. The general line is to play up successful operations, and without playing down losses in life and property, to make the casualties and the losses secondary.

The Board must be informed that the institutions are making more and more demands on our personnel, and that it may not be possible to resist at least some of these demands, notably one for the seconding of Mr. Lurie as Public Relations Officer of the Hagana.

This is a bloodless and dispassionate picture. But I wish members of the Board could see us at work — in charred rooms, in cave-like pre-



The newsroom, 1947. From left, standing: Gershon Agronsky, Dr. Eugen Mayer (back to camera), Lea Ben Dor. Seated: Mottel Chertof, Moshe Levin, Mike Bskolsky, Hugh Orgel.

mises, with no telephones, very little heating (none in some rooms), poor lighting. The PBX having been blown up, four instruments were cabled for the Newsroom, and the Telephonist has to distinguish between four different rings, while those called to the phone, or calling, huddle round a small table.

Little by little, we are getting organized though we were never so disorganized as not to produce a paper. We have wangled an exchange which will give us seven instruments in four or five rooms (the inside telephone system is wrecked). When the streets are dry after the rains, the electric mains may be repaired, and we shall have more heating.

Everyone is having a very hard time, but I have not heard a grumble. The Staff are playing up magnificently, from messengers to Editorial Staff.

A great worry is security for the building, and there is a good deal of running backwards and forwards between the various authorities. In the early days, when there was danger of looting, the guards were more or less adequate. Now we are open to all winds with two unarmed watchmen as our only visible protection.

There exists a whole volume of letters of congratulation and commiseration to *The Post* from such widespread places as England, America and Australia. The most interesting undoubtedly are those from London and from Jerusalem Englishmen who express their general disillusionment with a world where such atrocities are possible. All these letters, together with the co-operation of certain local Mandatory departments such as the electric company and the telephone company which were still functioning, were immensely encouraging. A few of the letters in the file point to the anomaly of warring factions fighting without feuding.

Kirby, the British general manager of the Government-run railroads concludes a letter with:

Let me express my admiration for the way in which you have continued to publish *The Palestine Post* despite the catastrophic outrage which destroyed the whole of your offices and printing press. Although I have by no means always accepted the opinions expressed in your paper, I have always admired it as a most excellently produced paper where reporting is of the most excellent quality.

Staff Carry on Through Siege, Shelling

THE heroic gesture of getting the paper on the stands the day it was bombed was the kind of heroism for which soldiers have shining medals pinned upon their breasts. Continuing to publish the paper all through the harsh months that followed was the heroism with which foot slogging infantry wins wars. For two months before the paper became the target for the night, the war for independence was being fought. It had not jellied into a proper war. As time went on the fighting crystallized into a real war following the accepted pattern for modern warfare of civilian bombings, refugee distress, starvation of civilian populations by siege and isolation.

Jerusalem began to realize that in addition to daily bombings and a nightly hell of shellfire it was being isolated completely from the rest of the country and the rest of the world. This sense of isolation was almost as hard a cross to bear as the lack of food, water and tobacco. Improvisation became the order of the day and a spartan sharing of the meagre goods at hand was an accepted regime. To make one quart of water, collected under fire, stretch to meet all the ordinary needs of a civilized person, was carrying austerity far indeed. Hunger was a thing to ignore, as long as the daily ration of bread came through. Collecting edible green weeds from the rocky hills while dodging bullets was part of the daily routine.

Jerusalem was very wonderful in those days of its greatest trial. The rest of the country going through its daily bombings and ordinary

short supplies often found it in its heart to envy the trial by famine and fire with which the Holy City was being tested. This was the perfect oneness with the past, the umbilical cord which bound the Jewish people to its origins.

For a long time the question of getting the paper through to the rest of the country was as great a problem as printing the paper. The tortuous back routes which the convoys to Tel Aviv were forced to negotiate, did not permit a regular and dependable newspaper distribution. While the Mandatory Government was still nominally in charge, some deliveries did go through the regular routes.

After December 7, 1947, when *The Post* was forced to stop its own transport, the improvisation for getting the paper through was very complicated. An Armenian driver picked the papers up from a Jewish driver at the Jerusalem barrier and carried them through Arab Ramle to the line held by the Jews. There they were picked up and carried to Tel Aviv where they were distributed to the rest of the country. When the unfortunate Armenian had been threatened repeatedly by the Jews as being an Arab spy, and by the Arabs for being a Jewish spy, he decided that he would have no more share in "the paper must get through" heroics, and left the field to the battling forces.

Arab Customers Flee

In Jerusalem itself, delivery boys (very often men well up in years), would deliver the papers to the Arab clients who were anxious to know the real facts of the progress of the war. These delivery boys were of Oriental origin and spoke Arabic fluently. They got by for a time by having secret caches where the paper was delivered and then picked up by the various readers. When the war in Jerusalem began to take form, these deliveries were stopped, not only because the "boys" could not get through the barrage of fire, but because the patrons had fled.

The Palestine Post tried vainly to have an air delivery of some token papers through the tiny Piper Cubs which flew from the improvised airfield in Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. This was not feasible and the paper was finally forced to print a small edition in Tel Aviv for the whole country, while the Jerusalem paper continued to appear in the beleaguered city.

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Since the founding of the State, one milliard, one hundred million dollars have been voluntarily contributed by Jews for Israel's needs; of this sum more than half a milliard has gone to Keren Hayesod — the central financial instrument of the Zionist movement. Financial cooperation of this sort on the part of World Jewry, being completely voluntary, proves the existence of the strong bond which lies between the Homeland and the Diaspora. In less than six months Israel and all Jewry will celebrate the country's Tenth Anniversary. This celebration will serve as a summary of all the great achievements of this period in the fields of Aliya, settlement, absorption and housing. Every Jew, wherever he may be, will be proud and honoured that he is a faithful participant in these attainments.

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 on its 25th Anniversary



Above, one of the last clashes between Arabs and Jews in Jaffa Rd., Jerusalem, before the beginning of the siege. A British armoured car is seen in the foreground. At right, a scene during the siege, as Jerusalemites queue for vital fuel.



It was a question of pride with Jerusalemites to look clean, act well-fed and never notice the absence of a smoke.

News for the paper and for Jerusalem was obtained through a two-way radio service which was operated in partnership with the "Ha'aretz" in Tel Aviv. Incidentally, the "Ha'aretz" also became the victim of a bombing from the air. The main part of the building was missed, but the damage to the auxiliary buildings was great. In order to get to the top of the building, where the Tel Aviv end of the Jerusalem radio was housed, considerable rubble had to be negotiated, and rickety improvised stairs climbed in a total blackout. But these were minor hazards, which lent an air of cloak and dagger to the procedure.

In a modern world where radio, in a few short years, has reached the perfection of a well oiled wheel, the crude device for getting news to and from Jerusalem seemed strangely ancient and archaic. One part had been home made independently in Tel Aviv, and one part in Jerusalem. These two message distributors and collectors at one time acted as a general source of information, with all sorts of people in Jerusalem trying to get news out to their relatives, friends and business associates, and trying to receive messages from the great outside world centred in Tel Aviv. When the traffic in words became too urgent, *The Post* finally confined the use of the primitive radio device to news gathering, with a minimum of important messages transmitted when necessary.

One of the most unusual methods of communication ever used in a newspaper was that by which *The Post* got news of the war a few miles away, by way of London. It had some months earlier acquired a wireless-printer called Hellschreiber, from the A.P. On this machine it received direct from London this American news agency's world news report. This included very full cables from the A.P. correspondents covering the Palestine war. They were actually despatched from Tel Aviv to London and beamed back from London to Jerusalem.

Life During the Siege

Newsgathering and dispensing were not the only complications in the producing of the paper. While living in Jerusalem was reduced to the simplest essentials, life itself had become complex. The ordinary routine motions ceased to be automatic. They became a matter of careful thought and careful planning. Everyone made himself a special set of rules for living, in order to go on living. He planned the spot on which he would stand to collect his water ration. (The water queue seemed to be a mobile target which the enemy used for shooting practice). He planned where to sit, so that splinters of shrapnel or flying glass could not reach him. He counted the incidence of the shells so that he could scurry from doorway to doorway in the intervals, in order to get to work. He took his turn at his military duties and then hurried on to his job. Food and sleep were the luxuries of life, which he enjoyed in sparse and severely rationed doses.



Part of the front page of one of the Tel Aviv editions of *The Post*, produced when Jerusalem was cut off during the siege. Headline tells of the attempt to control the road to Jerusalem.

News Services Maintained

The Jerusalem Electric Company had devised an emergency generator, so that a small amount of electric current could be available for indispensable services. The three main beneficiaries of this service were the Berman Bakeries, the Hadassah Hospital and *The Palestine Post*. The ration of bread had to be baked. It was probably in a besieged city such as Jerusalem that the phrase "staff of life" was coined, for bread had become the only substantial article of diet available in the city. It was not always the best of bread, since the electric service was temperamental and unstable. The surgeons in the Hadassah Hospital had to have flares, kerosene and acetylene lamps on hand, since the electricity was apt to fail in the middle of the emergency operations, which became the principal job in the 24 hours of never ceasing hospital routine. *The Post* had its current at stipulated hours to get the paper printed. On three or four days, however, this too failed and the paper had to be stencilled, but it never missed a day.

Improvised Communications

As an extra-curricular service, which the Jerusalem Electric Corporation never suspected, some of the staff smuggled their wash into the building, so that a shirt or a frock would be made wearable.

Staff in Battle

THE staff of *The Palestine Post* was very much involved in the Battle of Jerusalem. From the editor to the office boy everyone had some job in the defence of the city.

The paper worked with a skeleton staff with every able-bodied man and woman manning the posts. A proof-reader would be out on guard duty and during his relief period would rush in to do a spot of reading. A reporter would collect the news and then rush out to take his turn at some military job. One of the copy boys, David Mizrahi, was killed with ten other Hagana soldiers in a battle near Atarot on the Ramallah road.

Ruth Cale, a member of the staff, sent a confidential note on a Hagana meeting to the editor on April 6, 1948. The complications of the Hagana defence at this time, while the "army," meaning the British Army, are still on the scene, can be judged by the note on this meeting:

Meyer—*in defence of Jerusalem*—spoke on situation in Jerusalem, especially as regards defence of trouble spots and security.

He explained that Jerusalem is divided into five districts. The least trouble so far has been caused in the west. Lifta, especially the upper part adjoining Romema, has been evacuated by the Arabs and "plitim" (refugees) brought in from other Jerusalem districts, and defence positions have been established. The north is one of the biggest problems. There is no possibility of fortifying the frontline block as the Army are dug in nearby and are disturbing. There are hardly any inhabitants left, but a great deal of Hagana.

The same problem at Yemin Moshe. The main road is too near the place and Yemin Moshe causes a lot of bother. Told that the road was made just as unsafe for the Arabs by the nearness of a Jewish district, Meyer explained that here too the Army was disturbing. As soon as an Arab with sinister motives was discovered coming towards the road and dealt with by Jewish snipers, the Army started pounding the place.

Asked why the bridge at Birket as Sultan (near the Animal Hospital) could not be blown up, thus at least temporarily disrupting Arab traffic from the south to Jaffa Gate, Meyer said this was under consideration.

North: there is temporary quiet around M'kor Chaim, although sniping continues, but situation will be under control.

Centre: regarding security, there is rapid progress. The 12 main roadblocks are manned by people who can deal with emergencies, but what is still wanted is English speaking and reading guards who can cope with Consular staff, Army, etc. Hagana is convinced that there is no more possibility of bringing in explosives. Army transport entering Jewish area is followed by Hagana taxi or armoured car to see that the Army vehicles pass through the Jewish area without stopping. Strange looking people are checked in the road inside Jewish area by Mishmar Ha'am. There are armoured car patrols at night.

What is still wanted are soldiers. Afternoon and night soldiers are fairly adequate in numbers, but during the morning more men are needed.

The R.A.F. has left the Italian Hospital and artillery has moved in (from tented camp right hand side King George Ave. between Terra Sancta and David's Building). Hagana is keeping an eye on the building to try and get in as soon as artillery leaves.

The same applies to Zone 'B', King George Ave. up to Terra Sancta which is going to be emptied. A number of Hagana are already in the zone and though it requires skill, Meyer feels confident that buildings there can be occupied as soon as the Army is out.

Drama of Passover 1948

THE battle of Castel hill, on the Jerusalem road, which controlled the entrance to that city lasted for a week. At the end of the battle it was found that one of the most valuable commanders in the Arab forces had become a casualty. This was important news and much head-lined. The report read:

"Abdul Kader (Husseini), (nephew of the Mufti), headed the riots in the Hebron area (1929), left Palestine with a price on his head, participated in the Rashid Ali revolt in 1941. With the death of Abdul Kader



Passover 1948

The food convoy arriving in Jerusalem. At left, one of the convoy guards takes a much needed drink. The tail-end of the convoy succumbed to Arab fire in the Bab el-Wad pass and was burnt out. The skeletons of some of these vehicles still line the sides of the road to Jerusalem.

and the departure of Hassen Salameh from Palestine after quarrelling with his H.Q. staff, there is not a single Palestinian Arab now commanding Arab forces in Palestine."

The headlines for the next few weeks tell the story of the fighting throughout the country:

"The Invading armies outfought along entire Front."

"Mishmar HaEmek Under Heavy Attack."

"Six Hour Mortar Attack on Tel Aviv."

"I.Z.L.-Stern Units take Village Deir Yassin."

This was a bad blow to the Hagana forces, who had been fighting their war in the best gentlemanly traditions, as laid down by Sandhurst, and not by the experiences of modern warfare as demonstrated at Hiroshima. The tone of the leader of April 12, in condemning this wicked perversion of the rules of the war game, was angry:

"Nothing can condone the action of the Jewish dissident organizations in entering the Arab village of Deir Yassin and killing many of its inhabitants—men, women and children. No explanation, no excuse, can wipe out the stain."

The Arab answer to Deir Yassin was an attack on the convoy which went daily to Mount Scopus to bring patients, doctors and nurses, professors and students to the Hadassah Hospital and the Hebrew University. The announcement of this slaughter, in which unarmed medical personnel were permitted to be sacrificed in an all day orgy of revenge, brought forth more bitterness against the British than any of their previous acts of negation. There was a bitter exchange of letters between Dr. Magnes and General MacMillan, in which Dr. Magnes accused the troops of standing by and watching Dr. Yassky and seventy members of the convoy murdered.

The *Post* called it "The Scandal of Sheikh Jarrah" where "One hundred yards away from one of the three army posts, under the eyes of the army . . . this awful tragedy took place."

Food Convoy Gets Through

There was a brief, joyous interval when "SEVEN MILE FOOD CONVOY SNAKES ITS WAY TO HOLY CITY" was announced. These supplies arrived in time to make the Passover of 1948 a feast to be remembered in Jerusalem. It was also the last food convoy to get through before the real siege began. But temporarily hungry Jerusalem was fed and the convoy was greeted with song and dance. Each truck bore on its side the inscription from the Psalms: "If I forget thee, oh Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its cunning." The food filled the empty larders of the city. The fact that Jerusalem had not been forgotten warmed the hearts and brightened the spirits of the hard pressed Jerusalemites.

The dramatic timing of the whole Passover feast of the spring of 1948 was extraordinary. It was as if some master hand were pulling the wires to build up still one more episode in the exciting history of the indestructible Hebrews and had chosen this Passover season to highlight his theme. "This year we are slaves, but next year we shall be free."

The *Post* confined itself to a brief account of the convoy which got through. The Jerusalem edition does not mention the battle which cut off the last 30 trucks from the main body of the large stream of food loaded cars. The skeletons of these burnt-out vehicles were to remain as a scarred memorial to those drivers and guards who never reached Jerusalem.

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... of Siege Piles Up

MEANWHILE the paper was in trouble. Continuing to run a paper and not selling papers meant not only no income but a daily deficit of no mean proportions. There are several notes on talks which Gershon Agronsky had with Eliezer Kaplan, the then treasurer of the Jewish Agency, about guarantees for bank loans in order to meet the £200 daily loss which the paper was sustaining because of the closed road to Jerusalem. On April 22 the Editor had a talk with David Ben-Gurion. The note on this conversation tersely sums up the situation at that time:

B.G. said the Arab war is now about to enter the third phase, with the properly trained Arab Legion intervening. So far, Arabs had shown their complete unworthiness in war.

The Neve Shaanan air-strip was not likely to be used soon. The British would probably treat any aircraft landing there as hostile. The sanctity of Jerusalem would be the pretext. There might be another one (somewhere in the Western suburbs?). In any case, it should not be many more days before the paper could travel by, as I had said, the main highway. He was not now prepared to give more of an undertaking than this.

The priority now was Jerusalem itself, which meant also, of course, the road (we discussed the Jerusalem jobs to be done).

B.G. agreed the paper had to go on. I told him we were fast devouring our sparse reserves. He said this was true of all Jewish Palestine. I said I did not want a financial commitment, but that I wanted him to know what the position was, since he felt the paper must go on.

As to communications, he expects the transmitter to be working quite soon and function fully well before Exit Day.

It is surprising how *The Palestine Post* at this time continued to live its double life, although by this time its function had clearly crystallized. It was giving the news of the war at home, of Lake Success, of the fabulous changes of the climate and opinion of the world at large, from hour to hour.

There were even such little stories as "soldiers of the red-bereted Sixth Airborne Division have bought up almost all the gramophone records of the Hebrew song Kalaniyot." This was in reference to the red anemones which grow wild and profusely in the country in the spring. The children of the country upon first seeing the parachutists in red berets had spontaneously called them "Kalaniyot."

The contact with the British Government offices were necessarily limited, if for no other reason than the purely physical inability to cross from one zone to another. The British were busy packing for their journey and were not in an amiable frame of mind about the move. Tempers were frayed and words were not always carefully weighed.

Jerusalem had a brief breathing spell when on May 9 the British arranged a "cease fire" agreement from both sides. The paper reports:

With the Palestine Arab fighters and their imported helpers defeated in every encounter with the Jews, with the principal towns dominated by the Jewish defence forces, and their peaceful Arab population in panic flight—on being deserted both by their local defenders and foreign mercenaries—the British High Commissioner and his Chief Secretary were successful on Friday in exacting from the Arab League an agreement to a 'cease-fire' order addressed to the Arabs of Jerusalem.

Editorially it comments:

But it is clear that the peace of Jerusalem has yet to be restored. A cease-fire is 'meaningless,' a Jewish Agency spokesman yesterday said, unless it leads to a truce, and a truce has to be negotiated with both sides, and it is bound up with conditions. There will be the greatest good will on the Jewish side to arrive at a truce not only for Jerusalem, but for the whole of Palestine.

It has been emphasized repeatedly that the fighting in this country, is distasteful to every Jew, and that the Jewish authorities will make every effort to bring it to an end at the earliest opportunity. But it cannot be brought to an end unilaterally with the Jews made to renounce the right to move freely in and out of Jerusalem which the Arab minority has for too long regarded as open only to them. The Jews will not tolerate the continued presence in Palestine of foreign Arab fighting men.

It was perfectly clear that there was no let-up in the fighting for Jerusalem even though panic had become the order of the day amongst the Arab population. "A picture of paralysis and panic in Arab quarters in Jerusalem was given over the Near East Broadcasting Station last night. Chaos is governing the Arab sectors with the evacuation from the City of the British Government officials. No Arab papers have arrived for four days and in the absence of news wild rumours are current.

"Streets are empty as streams of refugees flow to Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan. Arab shops, businesses and offices have been shut and long queues have besieged the banks. The rumour that the banks would be closed on May 1st has increased the panic," the broadcast stated.

While the rest of the country was to remain drunk with excitement for many days after the announcement of the existence of the Jewish State, Jerusalem was suffering some of its worst defeats. Kfar Etzion, an important defence spot in the Jerusalem area, was lost and many valuable soldiers were taken prisoner.

Old City Falls After Desperate Battle

On May 30 the bitter blow fell, when the Old City defenders had to surrender. The paper writes:

"The surrender of the Jews in the Old City after fourteen days of house to house fighting was offered before noon on Friday when two men of the religious community came out with a white flag."

Considering the amount of emotion engendered throughout the country, and especially in Jerusalem, when the Old City finally surrendered, the leader on this historic defeat is very unemotional:

The Jews will not attempt to minimize their distress at the loss they have suffered in the surrender of what remained of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem; and the Arabs may be trusted to make the most of this incident in the war. For months the handful of Jewish defenders there have been fighting a battle which on a purely military reckoning should have been lost many weeks ago. Long before the fighting proper began, but when it was known that it was bound to break out, the Jews in the Old City were already handicapped by their cramped position, separated from the main Jewish districts of Jerusalem, in the middle of a mass of Arabs later made even greater by the influx from the evacuated Arab areas of the new town, and prevented by the British from laying in stores of defensive weapons.

In such circumstances, for a few hundred fighters, reduced towards the end to less than 50, harassed by 1,500 women, children and old men, to have held out for so long against the thousands of armed Arabs re-inforced by the Arab Legion, is to have added an epic chapter to the history of an ancient people's history...

The Jews are concerned about the fate of their shrines in the Old City, their synagogues and above all the Western Wall. The terms arranged for the surrender of the Jews of combatant age and the evacuation of the others are in themselves a credit both to the International Red Cross, the representatives of which so devotedly bent themselves to the difficult task, and to the Arab Legion which in this instance showed itself aware of the obligations governing the conduct of war. But fears are justifiably felt about the fate of the Jewish sacred sites if the Arab Legion leaves them to the violence of the mob. The wanton destruction of the Hurvah Synagogue makes the fears even greater. The Red Cross will put Palestine under even greater obligation if it can ensure that the Holy Places are protected against vandalism.

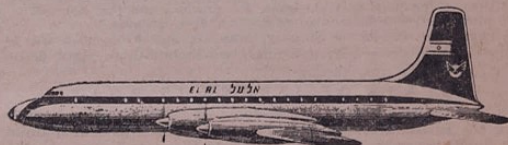
Jerusalem continued its ordeal through more hunger and more thirst, living mostly on dreams of its past glories and visions of its future hope. Food and water were diminished to starvation level and the heady air of the early summer made everything seen illusory and unreal. The announcement of the final cease fire and the revelation that the trickle of military and civilian supplies had been coming through the fabulous "Burma Road," cut through the hills under the very guns of the Arabs, freed the city from its greatest trial. The siege of Jerusalem was lifted and the dwellers of the Holy City became as all the citizens of Israel.



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ISRAEL AIRLINES

BIRTH OF THE STATE

ON May 14, 1948 *The Palestine Post* appeared in a quiet vein. The largest headline was a three column spread which announced: **BRITAIN PLEADS FOR ARAB JEWISH COMPROMISE AS MANDATE GIVEN UP.** On the left hand of the page was a two column bulletin in rather modestly heavy type "Tel Aviv, 1 a.m." which announced: **JEWISH STATE BEGINS TODAY.** Column One by David Courtney noted: "The High Commissioner boards ship at midnight; and so will end, at a furtive hour, the trust that was begun in the broad daylight of England's pledge and an ancient people's hopes."

The title of the editorial on page 4, signed by Gershon Agronsky, was printed in the form of an obituary with the words 1918-1948 set in a small black mourning frame. It was a vitriolic farewell to the Mandatory:

A time will come when Palestine's people will be able to drag their feet out of the trenches and raise their eyes to the peaks. When that time comes, the closing today of the Government House door on Britain's last High Commissioner will be seen as the sealing of a chapter in History which, for all the sordidness at the end, has held grace and greatness, vision and dignity...

The tragedy which ends today began over ten years ago when the British Administration first substituted security for policy, policing for justice, force for courage. When the Arabs appeared intractable, the Government built a series of fortresses to make the country safe for the policemen. When the Jews after the war, began to show signs of resistance to betrayal, the Army was confined to tightly sealed encampments, in an attempt to make the country safe for the soldier. In the end, and in order to make the country safe for the Civil Servant, the zones were built. The twilight of the British rule appeared with the fortresses, deepened with the encampments for a hundred thousand troops, and ended in the black-out of the alphabetical zones. With nobody safe except the policeman, soldier and official, it became clear that the British must go, and Mr. Evin's journeying to Lake Success was only a stage in the withdrawal...

Dark causes are behind Britain's decline and Britain's failure, but they are best left unexposed, or even burnt in Sir Henry Gurney's scorched earth campaign begun as early as last September. What Palestinians, indeed, what the whole world wish to hear in the creak of the closing door at Government House is an echo of the goodness, and the sound of the vigorous voices that once spoke for England... We were with Britain body and soul when in adversity and advance, when Britain fought the civilized man's fight. We shall live in the hope that the good, the gracious and the just will triumph once more wherever Britons go or destiny takes Britain.

The paper the following Sunday, May 16, appeared with the largest headline in its history with a banner two inches thick right across the front page proudly proclaiming:

STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

"The first independent Jewish state in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subject to the test of fire. As *Medinat Yisrael* was proclaimed the battle for Jerusalem raged with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the same time President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 1947.

"Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee."

The second and back page of *The Post* that day contained the eighth long instalment of Herzl's "Jewish State" and the full text of Ben-Gurion's Proclamation of Independence. There was also the leader which proclaimed:

There are days in the human record on which the night never falls. They shine forever; and in their rays the human race is able to pick its way forward. The constancy of the Jewish people has brought the second day into being, until the bridge of their suffering between which spans two thousand years, has become a luminous rainbow...

Men and women have done well and can turn to each other with a blessing. They have set their bodies as a shield harder than steel and their faith has been a striking force sharper than a wedge of tanks. They have been few and wonderfully brave. They are still few and they must still be brave; and the mother's son must go off at dark and the mother wait at the dawn... They, and leadership who, in this crisis, has been wholly of them and in their tenacious temper, have brought into being the State of Israel which has been won on the soil of Israel and nowhere else. There is cause to thank these men and women and their leadership and to bear their deeds in honour for the rest of eternity. This is the day upon which no night falls.

The news of the next weeks was the grim news of war and the murk of international political machination. "Jews at Grips with Arabs in Old City"; "Mention of Provisional Gov't Embarrasses U.K."; "Jewish State Recognized by Russia and 4 Other Countries"; "Hadassah Hit in Terror Raid"; "Britain Tries to Water down U.S. Cease Fire Call"; "Legion Armour Hurdled Back"; "France Wants Strong Action Against Arabs"; "Ding Dong Fight for Ramat Rahel"; "Cease Fire Hour Passed as Arabs Press Attacks."

The Last Days of Kfar Etzion

In those days, too, the paper gave feature length treatment to the description of the last days at Etzion. The international sports news appeared as usual. A year of Progress was reported for the Palestine Land Development Company, and it was noted that Jerusalem's two radio stations were broadcasting in four languages. The serialization of Herzl's Jewish State ran on unperturbed by the convulsions taking place as that State stood firm in its infant strength against assault. At this time David Courtney wrote:

The greatness of a nation is in little things. It is not in the thunder of a battery of twenty-fives or in the big-mouthed pretensions of a Secretary of State at Westminster... The dawn had shortly come upon Jerusalem when the two sweepers were out in the street with their barrows and brooms...

From the Old City came the news that the ancient Hurva synagogue had been razed by the Arabs and from Cairo of 250,000 refugees flooding the Arab states. And finally on May 30 *The Post* reported the: **OLD CITY DEFENDERS YIELD AFTER EPIC RESISTANCE.** At the same time the Security Council adopted Britain's proposal for a four-week truce. From Cyprus a few days later came the news that Britain was arbitrarily banning the exit of the 18-35 age group of Jews interned there. At the beginning of June, Israel forces were on the attack in Arab areas, had pierced the Triangle and taken Jenin and Kakun. This apparently stimulated the Arabs to cease their procrastination and accept the first cease-fire which they did on June 11. Optimistically this was given a five column headline in letters one inch high by *The Post*. Courtney sagely remarked: "Militarily the cease fire has grave disadvantages for the Jews. In a sense they revert to the position as it was before May 15 and become subject to many of the restrictions and supervisions of that unfortunate period..."



Night attack on the Old City being mounted from Mt. Zion (right)

But at that moment of writing there was a tendency to note that "the fact that the cease fire terms have been accepted by both Jews and Arabs is a tribute to the skill of Count Bernadotte..."

But if a cease fire was in force Britain apparently was carrying on the war on her own for *The Post* on June 15 led with the news: **OIL FLOW TO HAIFA CUT ON ORDERS FROM WHITEHALL.** And, reminiscent of the more recent tactics when Shell announced her withdrawal from Israel, came the subhead: "Not a good business risk" says London. A day or so later the British were prevented by the Truce Mediator's staff from handing over two army camps to the Arabs. Britain also continued to withhold postal communications with Palestine "pending a Foreign Office decision." The Jewish Agency spokesman that week reported the arrival of 27 British officers in the Old City to reinforce the leadership of the Arab Legion.

Battle of the Altalena

As the month of June neared its close things were easier in Jerusalem with the arrival of a convoy and the announcement of a distribution of eggs, kerosene and poultry. But the country was grieved and shocked by the news of the fring by the Israel Army on the I.Z.L. ship, Altalena, off the coast of Tel Aviv. "Heavy explosions took place tonight aboard the burning 5,500-ton tank landing craft, Altalena, the I.Z.L. arms ship which arrived here from Kfar Vitkin yesterday and was prevented by the Israel Army from violating the cease fire through unloading her cargo."

The leader that day was headed *Treason* and said:

No words can be too strong in condemnation of the dangerously foolish attempt of the *Irgun Zvai Leumi* to bring in a ship-load of arms during the period of the truce accepted by the Government of Israel, and no action by the Government can be too drastic in dealing with those who engage in a deliberate act of provocation and rebellion... There can be no argument. Any attempt except by peaceful persuasion to secure influence in the State is treason and must be dealt with as such sharply and promptly. Israel has too many enemies without to tolerate enemies within.

The Cabinet's action against the IZL was approved, and the uneasy truce continued. On June 27 a special order of the day by the Chief of Staff proclaimed the conversion of the Hagana into the Israel Army. "May the unsullied arms, loyalty and dedication to our national interest and consecration to Israel's teachings, which marked the Hagana, be the pillar of fire, leading the hosts of the Israel Army. Heyeh Hazak!"

On July 1, a four column headline read "ISRAEL FLAG OVER HAIFA HARBOUR AS LAST BRITISH SOLDIER LEAVES" and Judith Avrunin wrote "Haifa Port is now the main port of the State of Israel, the military occupation of Palestine by Britain having ceased today with the release of the harbour city. As the Union Jack was slowly lowered from the Port Authority's building early this afternoon (June 30), the Last Post was sounded and Jews and Englishmen on the pier, for whom it was the time for rejoicing or hope, or for regret and bitterness, stood gravely rigid. The last British soldier had just sailed... and General Macmillan handed the Union Jack to the British Consul..."

In his Column One that day David Courtney wrote: "The British Army has gone. When the war ended in 1945, no one, then, could have foreseen that the British Army would one day leave like that. It is not the way the British Army usually leaves. The British Army has a tradition and is proud of it. It broke the tradition in Palestine and by the manner of its flight seemed half-ashamed..."

At the same time the leader stated: "The Prime Minister offered Israel's friendship to Britain... With all other Jews, he could not, and would not forget that Britain had and still has its Balfours, that it was the first country in modern times to recognize the real political needs of the Jewish people and to give effective assistance towards their fulfilment..."

The State was getting slowly on its way and it is almost idyllic to read in our present year of peak taxation and budgets that "a budget of LP700,000 for the month of July was adopted by the Provisional Council of Government." The Arabs were refusing to accept Count Bernadotte's mediation plan to go to Rhodes. In that same month Bernadotte at last produced a blueprint for peace in Palestine.

The Post stated on July 5: "As forecast, Bernadotte's plan included: the entire area of Palestine and Trans-Jordan to be split into two states, with Jerusalem given to the Arabs and Municipal autonomy for its Jewish area; part or whole of the Negev going to King Abdullah in exchange for part or whole of Western Galilee which would be given to Israel; economic union between Israel and Trans-Jordan, the union also to coordinate foreign and defence policy; free immigration for two years; and the Port of Haifa, including the oil installations and air terminal to be free, and Lydda Airport to be a free airport."

The Post commented editorially: "Since the proposed adjustments will in the main tend to operate against the interests of the side which has been attacked, they constitute in effect a prize for Arab intransigence. This in itself is a bad omen for the future... If Count Bernadotte is seeking peace for Palestine, he must try again."

Army Drives Out Arab Legion

ATTEMPTS to extend the first truce failed and on Sunday, July 11, the war was resumed. Headlines in *The Post* mirrored the swift victories of the Israel Forces. On July 12 the paper led with: "LYDDA CAPTURED; RAMLE CUT OFF BY ARMY'S GIANT COMBINED OPERATION." The next day five of the eight columns declared that "VICTORIOUS ISRAEL ARMY TAKES THOUSANDS OF ARAB PRISONERS AS RAMLE SURRENDERS. In smaller type the same issue reported the heroic stand at Negba against a powerful Egyptian army and tells of Israel artillery in Jerusalem hammering Old City positions. On July 18 the headline read "NAZARETH OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL ARMY COLUMNS" with a subhead "Refugees Choke Galilee Roads." News is given of Israel air raids on the Arab capitals and a "Terror Plane Shot Down" in Tel Aviv. That was almost the last big flare-up. That night the second cease-fire came into force. This was breached by the Arabs, and Israel ordered its forces to fight back. Three days later the news came "SYRIANS DRIVEN ACROSS JORDAN".

That month Israel completed negotiations with two countries for the supply of oil to Haifa refineries while British diplomats in the Arab countries were urging the home government to give stronger support to the Arabs. It was not surprising therefore to hear Israel a week or so later objecting to British-manned U.N. planes flying over Israel on the ground of Britain's non-neutrality. "We learn authoritatively," Mr. Shertok (Sharett) said in his protest to the U.N. representative... "that the Egyptian forces received electrical, mechanical and radio equipment from British stores..."

Meantime Dr. Dov Joseph had been appointed military governor of Jerusalem, and on August 11 *The Post* leads with his plain speaking to Count Bernadotte that the "simplest way of avoiding the destruction of Jerusalem would be for the Arab Legion to withdraw."

The uneasy truce was being exploited by the Arabs to increase pressure on Israel, particularly on Jerusalem. On August 13 the headline was "ARABS BLOW UP LATRUN PUMPING STATION WHILE UNDER U.N. CONTROL." Mr. James Macdonald arrived as his country's special representative and took rooms at the Gat Rimmon hotel where the U.S.S.R. delegate was also quartered.

Another Great Secret Published

The month of August that year saw the Israel Pound become legal tender in the State of Israel. The editorial commented: "Another great secret is out. First the Burma Road for defence of Jerusalem, then the Davidka mortar and its successors, and now suddenly the Israel Pound. The road served the 100,000 Jews of the capital of Palestine during the various phases of Jerusalem's siege, the shooting war and the cold war waged by the Arab nations in defiance of the U.N. . . . The Israel Pound, in its own way, is as remarkable a feat of daring and ingenuity... The Israel Pound is as powerful an instrument for the building of the State as any weapon of steel . . ." Brave words about a subject which would hardly rouse the same echo today.

That month the Zionist General Council met in Jerusalem for the first time since the establishment of the Jewish State. *The Post* reported Mr. Eliezer Kaplan warning the Council "against economic escapism touching the problem of the high cost of living, a matter directly connected with the question of import and Israel's ability to produce and to compete on the world market." The Military Governor, Dr. Dov Joseph, told delegates that "no final political solution would be accepted which did not provide for a territorial connection between Jerusalem and the State of Israel." "Mr. Dobkin, declared that at least 100,000 of the 150,000 Jews still in D.P. camps in the 'dangerous triangle' (Germany, Austria, Italy) would have to be brought to Palestine in the course of this year."

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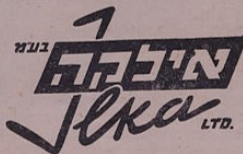
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Despite violations of the truce, the shooting down by Arab forces of various kinds of U.N. observers and the intermittent shelling of Jerusalem, the organization of the social, political and economic life of the country steadily continued to take form. The paper was getting back to normal. On September 15 it led with two main stories: "INDIAN TROOPS OPEN TEN FRONTS IN HYDERABAD WAR" being given a three-column spread, while two columns on the left of the paper said: "SUPREME COURT SWORN IN." "With a small Israel flag tacked into place on the oak panel where until May 14 the British Royal Arms were displayed, the five Justices of the Israel Supreme Court were sworn in by the Minister of Justice, Dr. F. Rosenblueth" (Pinhas Rosen). *The Post* leader that day noted:

At the simple and dignified ceremony of the swearing in of the Supreme Court in Jerusalem yesterday, which, even in the midst of a war and to the actual sound of machine-gun fire, set the crown on Israel's system of law, the Minister of Justice stressed that the judicial organs of government would be completely separated from and independent of the legislative and executive organs. Here indeed was a declaration of freedom, of freedom not only of the nation from the political domination of strangers but also of the persons and souls of all the people of Israel from the all too human tendencies of possessors of authority to exercise their powers arbitrarily...



Tel Aviv-Yaffo

Economic and Cultural Centre of Israel

TEL AVIV-YAFFO, for the last twenty years the largest city in Israel, grew out of a garden suburb named "Ahuzat Bayit", founded in 1909 by sixty Jewish families living in Jaffa. The development of the town during the subsequent 47 years has been unparalleled.

In 1914, on the eve of the First World War, the suburb had 1800 inhabitants; by the time of the armistice in 1918, after the conquest of Palestine by the British army and the Jewish battalions, their number had risen to 2192. From that moment the town grew rapidly, the increase of its population keeping pace with its development: 12,000 in 1921, when Tel Aviv was proclaimed a Township; 34,200 in 1925; 80,000 in 1934, the year of the German immigration and of the grant of municipal status to the town; in 1938, shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War — 156,000; in 1948, the year of the establishment of the State of Israel — 190,000, and at the time of the preparation of this survey (1957) the figure stands at 385,000. In 1948, the city of Jaffa, abandoned by most of its inhabitants who were replaced mainly by new immigrants, was joined with Tel Aviv. The two cities have now become one single unit, which by a Knesset decree of August 10, 1950, was named Tel Aviv-Yaffo.

Tel Aviv-Yaffo is the focus of the country's economic life. Geographically speaking, it lies approximately in the middle of the country and serves as the centre of its transport system.

Tel Aviv-Yaffo is the centre of Israel's light industry. About half of all the industrial enterprises and more than half of all industrial workers in the country are to be found in the city or in its immediate neighbourhood. At the same time, wholesale and retail trade also centres around Tel Aviv-Yaffo.

Tel Aviv is the country's chief tourist resort. Most tourists choose Tel Aviv as their headquarters and use it as the basis for their trips to the remainder of the country.

The country's three principal theatre companies and a musical theatre company, as well as the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, have their seat in Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv and its surroundings has the largest concentration of Government, Municipal and other public health institutions and hospitals (e.g. those belonging to various sick funds, to WIZO, and so forth; among them are two municipal hospitals, two municipal institutions for invalids and two government and six private hospitals.

But Tel Aviv's chief pride lies in being the country's cultural centre. Since their foundation it has housed the headquarters of the Writers' Association, the Painters' and Sculptors' Association (70% of the country's writers and artists live in Tel Aviv), the Bar Association and the Medical Association (Tel Aviv is the home of 60% of Israel's lawyers and 42% of the members of the other liberal professions).

All the country's eight (Hebrew) dailies, two evening newspapers and 17 newspapers published in the languages of those immigrants who have not yet mastered Hebrew, appear in Tel Aviv.

The Tel Aviv-Yaffo Municipality itself maintains a number of educational institutions, a university, a vocational training school (Shevah), a school for social workers and eight secondary schools; nor is it lacking in cultural institutions, amongst which two museums (art and archeology), scientific and popular libraries and the Zoological Garden deserve special mention.

Tel Aviv is a happy combination of the bustling city of industry and trade in its centre and suburbs and of the quiet holiday resort on the seashore and in its verdant parks, which now have reached the number of twenty-five. For the businessman, Tel Aviv is the place of contacts for export and import, for productions and commerce. For the holiday guest it provides physical recovery and mental refreshment. To the tourist it offers a variety of attractions: opportunities for seeing and for enjoying, for witnessing and sharing the building and life of the first all-Hebrew city.

Yet it is only 49 years since the mule or horse was the sole means of transport. For Tel Aviv celebrates its fiftieth birthday next year and preparations are in progress for the Golden Jubilee to be held from April to June 1959. A variety of festive displays will mark the occasion starting with the traditional Furim carnival, while Tel Aviv's achievements will be presented at a special exhibition. The exhibition ground will be the site of the renewed "Levant Fair".

Highlight of The Tenth Anniversary Celebrations

ISRAEL EXHIBITION

JUNE 5 — AUGUST 21, 1958

BINYANEY HAQOMA (Jerusalem Convention Centre)



- Ten Years' Achievements
- Ideological Section
- Commercial Section
- Agricultural Section
- Conventions and Festivals

BERNADOTTE MURDERED

THERE was naturally no paper on the Sabbath, September 18, and the air was full of ugly rumours and tension. On the Sunday morning *The Post* blazed forth with a five-column headline and lead:

ISRAEL ARMY TAKES SWIFT ACTION TO WIPE OUT DISSIDENT MURDERERS OF BERNADOTTE

"The Israel Government took swift action yesterday to trace the murderers of Count Bernadotte, who was killed in Jerusalem on Friday afternoon by men disguised in the uniform of the Israel Army. Count Bernadotte and a French Observer, Colonel Andre Serot, were murdered as they drove from Government House to an appointment with the Military Governor of Jerusalem. Widespread searches were carried out, L.H.Y. bases were raided and over 200 suspects were arrested. All ports and airfields in the country were closed, as were roads leading out of Jerusalem, where a 15-hour curfew was imposed ending at 5 o'clock this morning. While the I.Z.L. disclaimed all connection with the crime, responsibility for it was claimed by a group calling itself the 'Fatherland Front' which an official spokesman described as a sham splinter group of the L.H.Y. . . . Both the Israel Cabinet in Tel Aviv and the Security Council in Paris met in special session . . ."

Irgun Zvai Leumi Disbanded

Ralph Bunche was asked by Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the U.N., to take over in place of the murdered mediator. David Courtney wrote of the murder in Column One:

On this sad day there is a lump in the throat of Israel. Men and women have been made heavy of heart. But in the balance of good and evil, courage and cowardice, strength and weakness, the people are not shamed. Their way as a people has been the good way, and though with heavier steps, they must go no other. At the end is quiet and friendliness and healing. The leader of that day said:

The State of Israel has inherited a heavy burden of sorrows and new sorrows are being added to it. But now — it is its very raison d'être — it can do what the Jews as a scattered people could never do. It can act, and it will. It is already moving. The group within Israel and in the territory occupied by the Israel forces, not only the immediate tools of that group, will be proscribed, will be rounded up and will be uprooted. Israel will have no peace with itself until this is done.

One of the first steps that the Israel government took was reported less than five days later when the headline was "I.Z.L. DISBANDED IN JERUSALEM." "The Irgun Zvai Leumi ceased to exist yesterday when the only remnant, the Jerusalem group, submitted to a 24-hour ultimatum by the Government and disbanded."

33 years ago

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Chaim Weizmann, First President of Israel, with Mrs. E. Margolin, wife of the late Col. E. S. Margolin, and Gershon Agron at Rehovot in 1951.



Weizmann First President

AS the New Year of 5708 dawned, Dr. Chaim Weizmann arrived in Israel to take up his post as President. He was received with a military guard of honour not, as the leader in *The Post* stated "because Israel and its administrators want this accustomed trapping of authority but because his country is in a state of war, of war abhorred by him and to which his whole traditional Jewish upbringing and scientific training are equally opposed."

It is a home-coming such as few men earn: to come not only as the State's First Citizen today, and its leading statesman for a generation past, but also as a man rich in the knowledge that he has served his people well and that the labour of half a lifetime has borne full fruit.

"The Year 5708", the article concluded, "will descend upon Jerusalem At the U.N. Assembly an attempt was to be made to put back the clock of history and substitute the Bernadotte proposals for the resolution of November 29 of the previous year.

That Rosh Hashana, an Israel Army Observer wrote a full page article on the siege and battle for Jerusalem under the heading: "I Have Set Watchmen upon thy Walls, O Jerusalem." Looking at the yellowing pages of the inferior newsprint of those days one regains the sense of history and attachment to the land of the Bible which a Biblical text spread over the top of a whole page of *The Post* evokes. "In Jerusalem, more so than on most of his many other fronts, the enemy waits with unfeigned anxiety for the slightest chance to improve his position... small Jerusalem is not only the heart of the struggle; it is also the chief bone of contention."

"The Year 5708", the article concludes, "will descend upon Jerusalem this evening with a few rifle and shell bursts to make a ripple on the new moon darkness. Thousands of eyes will be peering across to enemy positions, and thousands of others will be saying in full confidence that the city of Jerusalem will never again be allowed to be less Jewish than it is today, and confirming it with *Shanah Tova*, a good year".

Carrying on Without Subsidy

For *The Palestine Post* as an enterprise, the year held foreboding and financial anxiety. The owners of the Jerusalem Press had refused to undertake the reconstruction of the plant after the bombing, and so the newspaper was compelled at last to do what many had long advocated, acquire its own printing plant. This was an uphill financial toil but in the long run it paid off because in the course of a few short years the new press was to prove one of the most able in the country. The modest profits made from job printing were to help carry the paper through difficult times, and so enable it to continue its proud record of carrying on without subsidy.

In the last days of the siege the circulation had dropped to 2,000 copies. As soon as the siege was over John Adler, the Manager of the paper, had conducted a private poll among a selected and representative group of people in the capital and throughout the country to test opinion as to whether an English language newspaper was any longer necessary. Gershon Agron's put the same question to Ben-Gurion only to receive the terse and emphatic reply, "Just now more than ever before."

Among certain sections of the public just after the British finally pulled out, there was an intangible animosity to a paper in the English language, but the feeling that *The Palestine Post* was the authentic voice of Jerusalem prevailed. Calculations of possible circulation were made by the management and it was felt that 10,000 copies could still be sold, sufficient to make the paper viable as a business proposition. Under-capitalization and a chronic shortage of working capital were to dog the company's affairs through the various stages of inflation and devaluation. The ingenious and devoted services of the Chief Accountant, Moshe Raami, have been invaluable in keeping heads above water.

But it was not financial trouble that caused *The Post* most concern. A fundamental change in the whole policy and outlook of the paper was now to be made. During the Mandate the paper had seen its main function as interpreting the Jewish point of view to the Mandatory authorities and all those of its officials, policemen, soldiers and others who might be thereby enlightened and influenced. In order to do so *The Post* had given them, as their pabulum, news which was mainly based on their home events; sport, and other items to delight the heart of the Englishman abroad. Jewish news was given second place. Moreover the technique of producing the paper was different. Up till the end of the Mandate most of the official communications from all administration departments and sources appeared in English.

Post Becomes Foreign Language Paper

NOW literally overnight *The Post* had ceased to be the leading newspaper in the country, published in one of the official languages. It had become a foreign language paper. The releases from all quarters would be in Hebrew. Now the emphasis was on the news in relation to Israel and even foreign news would have to be selected from the vast flood of items which poured in around the clock with quite a different readership in view. The cosmopolitan origin of the readership would enforce a much more catholic selection of news stories and features on the editors

than had normally appeared before in any English language daily. But the main accent was the news of Israel in Israel. To this end the Tel Aviv and Haifa Bureaux were now enlarged. Staff was hired capable of working in both Hebrew and English. Contacts were made with the main centres throughout the country in order to enlarge the paper's team of "stringers" who would report from Beersheba, Safad, Tiberias, Hadera, Rehovot, Eilat, Natanya, Nazareth, Nahariya and other centres.

While this reorganization was taking place, the editor of *The Post*, Gershon Agron (he had changed his name from Agronsky) had been asked by Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, to take leave of absence from his desk, to become Head of the Israel Government Information Services. Agron took up office in May 1949, and served the Government in this capacity until the middle of February 1951. During this period of reorganization, Ted Lurie was again acting editor. Unobtrusively, on the Sunday following Independence Day of 1950, on April 23, the name of *The Palestine Post* was quietly changed to *The Jerusalem Post*. The masthead was lettered in the same type and readers were slow in noticing the change.

A few months after his return to the chair of *The Post* he was called upon to go on a mission to the U.S. But before doing so, on October 11, 1951 he addressed an interesting circular to the staff which reflects the grim austerity which by that time had Israel in its grip:

Let's look at things from this angle: We are fated to have *nekudot* (rationing points). Shall it be just *nekudot*, or *atzmaut* (Independence) with *nekudot*? *Nekudot* are more easily borne if they are for *atzmaut*. (This goes also for the lethal price of cigarettes). *Atzmaut* without *nekudot* is out, for some time to come.

We are fated to have *tzarot* (zores). They will be more easily supported if we glimpse at the Messianic stirrings behind, and in front, of the *tzarot*.

All this means keeping the paper's eye on the main objective; asking ourselves what side we are on. And no *Mismacherei* for *Mismacherei*'s sake.

It does not mean discouraging fair criticism, reluctance to expose proved faults, or not laughing at unmistakable *smafu* (in the departments reserved for laughter). In fact, if we could discover a clever cartoonist, even with a bit of Galgenhumor (but no satanic Uzi in drawing) it might be all to the good. (Uzi was the pen-name of the Canaanite "Ha'aretz" contributor, Amos Kinan).

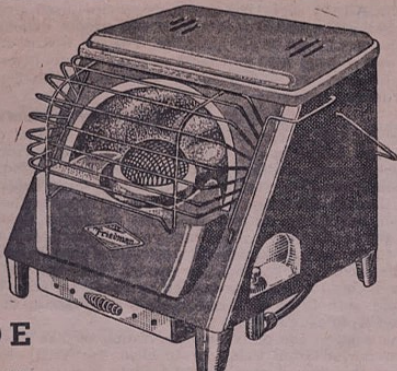
I have never gone abroad with less inclination or a heavier heart. It does not seem fair that I should not share the ruggedness the country will be facing the next couple of months. But I know that things are going to come right, and I know decency will be vindicated in the end.

This is a plea to everybody to observe the decencies, as we always have, and not be sucked up by bitterness defeatism and sterile *Mismacherei*. Remember it is ourselves we make *mes*. It is one of the tragic phenomena in this period that decency is called on to show cause (before the tribunals of some of our Hebrew and Yiddish contemporaries) why it should not be regarded as Pollyanism or plain imbecility.

This paper has always had the courage of its dullness. In the end we have lived to see ourselves envied and imitated. Let us now have the courage of our decency, and risk the titterings of the frustrated teacup balancers, who have got themselves into the mood of thinking that decency is adolescent or inspired by some self-seeking interest.

Freedom is the sublimest thing in life, and this goes for the freedom to be a slave — to an idea.

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congratulates
THE JERUSALEM POST
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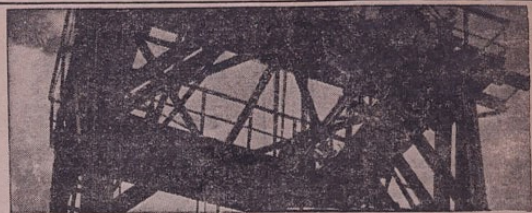
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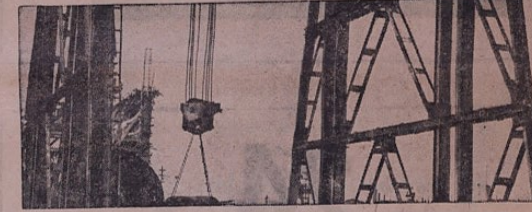
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Rebuilding Circulation

THE uneasy second truce was broken that autumn by a flare-up in the Negev as Egyptian armies moved to cut off communications between the Negev and Southern armies. Despite misrepresentations of the case at the U.N. and attempts to obfuscate the situation, the Israel armies smashed through to link up and regain the Negev for Israel. "From time to time," *The Post* commented editorially, "the Security Council wakes up from its lethargy. It is curious that these awakenings happen when Israel makes a move in its own defence—when it drives out Arab invading armies, and when it opens a way for its legitimate convoys. When the Egyptians cut the Negev road, when the Arab Legion cut the Jerusalem water supply, the Security Council held its hand. Until this discrimination ceases Israel must defend the truce. And it must keep before the Security Council the overriding question—what are the Egyptians, anyway, doing in the Negev? It is a question which the Council is trying hard not to ask itself."

The cease fire did not come into force in time to prevent Beersheba from being taken by the Israel army on October 22.

The next three months were to prove decisively that the Arab attempt to destroy the State of Israel by force had failed and the fighting power of the Israel armies proved to be the important political factor which now led Dr. Bunche, the U.N. Head in Israel, to begin seriously pressing the conversion of the uneasy truces into Armistices. The year ended with the final battle of the Negev and the complete rout of the Egyptian armies.

Inside Israel the life of the State was getting into its stride. The first State loans were announced, and political parties were preparing for the elections to the Constituent Assembly. A fully illustrated survey of the election prospects of the various parties, with photographs of their leaders, occupied two pages of *The Post* of December 10. Moshe Brilliant, who contributed this feature after conducting his private Gallup poll on the forthcoming election, wrote: "I continued this private Gallup poll and found that a good number of people will vote emotionally, without exactly knowing the difference between one party and another. It is difficult to see how it could be otherwise, with about a dozen parties in the ring. In fact, I talked to leaders of the parties and found it was not clear even to them precisely what their rivals stood for."

During this period *The Post*, had regained its old form and circulation had begun to mount to and pass the 10,000 estimated at the inauguration of the State.

Rebuilding this circulation was no mean feat, but it was on a par with the consistent and unrelenting effort which had gone into that department of the paper from the earliest days. The early records all went up in the fire in February 1948, but Moshe Pinto, the office and circulation manager who was with the paper from the beginning, and John Adler, the business manager, recall most of the highlights of the story, often dramatic, of how *The Post* was distributed.

In the early days the car taking the papers to Tel Aviv dropped off a quoa en route at Lydda railway junction to be taken on by an early milk train to Haifa and to towns en route including Tulkarm and Hadera. In the latter town a horse and cart then took the paper on to the newsagents. Lydda station itself was one of the best selling points, for in those days it was a busy junction and transit centre. The bookstall at Lydda, kept by three Greek sisters, continued to sell the paper until 1948.

From the very beginning *The Post* cultivated home deliveries and was the first daily paper in Israel to develop the idea of pre-paid subscriptions which still to this day form a considerable proportion of *The Post* circulation. The growth of the paper is shown by some figures which were preserved from the bombing in the Henrietta Szold archives, and it is interesting to see what the balance sheet was for the year 1936. In those idyllic days salaries for the month, including regular correspondents, totalled LP 605 (printing was LP 315, paper cost LP 78 and contributions LP 25). All the cable and exchange services used amounted to LP 35 and postages, rents, cleaning, telephone and sundry expenses brought the total for the month up to LP 1,287.650. Yet the Board of Directors felt that this was a large sum and used at their meetings, as the minutes show, to deliberate long and seriously over the addition of LP 5 per week to the running expenses.

British Troops Regular Readers

The big rise in circulation came with the arrival of tens of thousands of British troops in the country. A special organization for delivery to the army camps had to be set up for the troops who very quickly began to look forward to the daily delivery of their *Palestine Post*. This was done through the sub-contractors. During the war the paper got to Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Indeed deliveries in Jordan had been taking place from the earliest days of the paper and copies had found their way regularly to Damascus and were also smuggled into Baghdad, where it was at one time officially banned. The special "bull-dog" edition which went to Syria during the war was carried by Arab drivers who took a little contraband with them on the side, thus endangering the arrival of the paper if they were caught.

The peak of the delivery organization of *The Post* was reached when forces moved from Palestine to clear the Vichy French out of Syria. During this period men received their *Post* in the front line and read the account of the battle they were actually fighting. This made newspaper delivery history when it was on sale in Damascus the day after the British forces took over.

New!
The good housewife serves
**FROUMINE'S
ENGLISH CAKE**
(PEYROTIN)
IT'S AS FRESH AND
TASTY AS THE CAKE
YOU BAKE.

FROUMINE'S

Hazards of Delivery

When the paper's circulation reached 25,000, it took over six hours to print on the Duplex whose capacity was 4,000 copies per hour. The first edition normally left Jerusalem at 11 p.m. straight for Beirut being cleared by special arrangement at Ras el Nakura, where the officer in charge was S. Gafni, now Director of Israel Customs. But despite printing difficulties there were occasions when the paper printed and sold 30,000. These were on D-Day and V.E. day. After the war, the paper dropped to 18,000—still one of the highest circulations in Palestine.



An unusually heavy fall of snow in 1950 provided this unusual picture in Jerusalem. Delivery was as usual.

Delivery was not without its hazards. In the winter of 1942 a driver taking the paper down to the Australians at Gaza was trapped by a flash flood on a bridge over a wadi and was swept away and drowned. The Arab riots made little or no difference to the demand for *The Post* even among the bandits. Sales in the Arab areas from 1936-39 were usually effected with the application of a little bak-sheesh. One of *The Post* distributors narrowly escaped with his life. He was brought up for "trial" before one of the Arab rebel tribunals and was spared on condition that he guaranteed free delivery of five copies of *The Post* every day to the leaders of the band.

In the southern part of Jerusalem a *Post* distributor was met one morning by a man armed with a wicked looking pistol. He was told that he was a marked man but his life would be spared and he would be allowed to continue delivery to Bakaa, the Greek Colony and Katamon if he regularly left one *Post* for his assailant in a predetermined hole in a garden wall. Indeed delivery in Arab areas was maintained right up to March 1948. Then it stopped when one of *The Post* boys was murdered in Jerusalem's Mamilla Road.

It has been calculated that maintaining *The Post* in Jerusalem involves something like a fifteen per cent tax on the overall cost of the paper. However the paper has remained in the capital, faithful to Agron's principle that it was essential for those who believed in Jerusalem to make sacrifices to see that the essential functions of a capital be maintained there; one of which was the production of a national newspaper.

In 1949 the old Duplex press was taking three and a half hours to print the paper. The presses started to roll at 2.30 a.m. Papers left for

Haifa at 4 p.m. and for Tel Aviv between 5 and 5.30. This put *The Post* one and a half hours behind the Tel Aviv papers in the cities and meant that in more remote places it did not arrive till the afternoon or even the following day. Eventually the problem was overcome when in July 1952, a rotary press was purchased and installed. This was capable of printing 25,000 per hour which meant a saving of nearly three hours in printing time. But it indicated that the whole system of distribution would have to be re-gearred to take full advantage of the gain. Arrangements were made for *The Post* to contact with the various mobile postal services in remote parts of the country. Today the paper is delivered in the morning as far south as Eilat and right up to the northern border.

Getting Paper Through Despite Blizzards, Marauders

Some deliveries are made at a great loss to the paper. Thus for example at 4 a.m. every day a special car has to be chartered to meet *The Post* car at Raanana merely to take the paper to points in the Sharon and to the north of Tel Aviv. For two hours this agent cruises in the most remote lanes and isolated points sometimes only to hand over a single copy.

But no matter what the weather or the circumstances *The Post* has got through. During the *fedayeen* activity in 1956 it travelled in convoy, and drivers in any case go armed on their routes. During the Jerusalem blizzard of the 1956-57 winter, the police provided a power wagon to tow *The Post* car up Kastel Hill, while the municipality lent a hand to get the staff home.

But these efforts have paid off. Despite the fact that the British in their tens of thousands have gone and that English is no longer an official language, the paper's circulation remains constant around 15,000 on weekdays and 20,000 on Fridays and is constantly developing its sales abroad.

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WAR ENDS, FIGHT FOR PEACE BEGINS

THE year 1949 opened with events in the war situation moving swiftly towards a solution. Britain made her last stand in support of the Arabs: she sent troops to Akaba and also sent up planes to reconnoitre Israel positions. On the morning of January 9, readers opened their newspapers to a five-column headline:

**FIVE BRITISH PLANES SHOT DOWN OVER ISRAEL
AS CEASE FIRE GOES INTO EFFECT IN THE NEGEV**

Britain's Action Makes Her a Belligerent

All Israel forces were alerted to stand to at 2 a.m. that morning. But there was heartening news to relieve the tension. The bottom of the page contained the report:

**EGYPTIAN BRIGADE WIPED OUT
IN 15 DAYS OF OPERATION 'AYIN'**

"Britain," commented *The Post* leader writer, "is playing a dangerous game. It knows well enough that the Arab defeats are the direct consequences of the Arab aggression . . . Britain's game is so dangerous, so menacing to the general peace, that the Security Council should urgently consider the new situation being deliberately created. An instrument like the RAF cannot hawk itself round for unsolicited hire without the world taking serious notice."

In the meantime the U.N. was formally inviting the Arab states to peace talks at Rhodes, while in Britain Bevin was trying to cover up his fatal blunder by bluster and threats. The paper editorialized: "Britain



First public parade of Hagana fighters and auxiliaries in Jerusalem.

is not climbing down, for the moment..." But it was only for the moment. That same day the Israel-Egypt armistice talks opened at Rhodes, and with the most powerful of the aggressors sitting down to talk about ending the war it was clear that the rest of the Arab states would follow suit speedily enough.

Rhodes was eventually used as a face-saving device by Bevin to retreat before a hail of criticism in the British Press, in Parliament and throughout the country. The rugged British Foreign Secretary evaded a debate in the House of Commons on the pretext that he did not wish to "endanger the success of the Rhodes talks" and announced the release of the immigrants on Cyprus. "The Times," in an editorial, stated that Britain had arrived at a "dead end" in the Middle East.

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**Twenty Fifth
Anniversary**

Best Wishes

**Ihud Hakvutzot
Ve'Hakibbutzim**

MIFLEGET AHDUT HA'AVODA - POALEI ZION (AHP)

(ZIONIST SOCIALIST LABOUR PARTY)

HEAD OFFICE: 19 Rehov Lilienblum, Tel Aviv, P.O.B. 1237, Telephone 67771/2

SECRETARIAT: Aluf Yigal Alon, M.K., Secretary General; A. Abass, M.K.; N. Almosino; Y. Ben Aharon, M.K.; M. Erem, M.K.; Y. Galili, M.K.; Y. Vosheczna.

The spiritual leader of the party, Y. TABENKIN of Kibbutz Ein-Harod, is a founder of the Zionist Socialist pioneer movement in Israel.

In the last general election, the A.H.P. obtained 8.33% of the total votes cast. In the present Knesset it is represented by 10 members (out of 120) and participates in the Government Coalition. Its members in the Government are: Mr. Bar-Yehuda (Minister of the Interior), Aluf M. Carmel (Minister of Transport), and Mr. Z. Taur (Deputy Minister of Agriculture).

The Party's representative on the Jewish Agency's executive committee is Mr. Y. Braginsky; and in the Histadrut Central Committee, in which it has taken the second place, Messrs. B. Repetur and Y. Vosheczna. The Party is represented at the Histadrut Foreign Relations Department by E. Halevi and A. Tarshish.

The party issues a daily, "Lamerchav" (Chief Editors: S. Derech and A. Tarshish), as well as Bulletins in Yiddish, English and French for abroad.

The A.H.P. is organized as a world-wide party maintaining branches in the Jewish communities in North and South America, Western Europe, North and South Africa, and is an integral part of the World Zionist Movement.

The A.H.P. maintains close political and ideological relations with socialist parties all over the world. Special efforts are directed towards the promotion of the cause of peace with the neighbouring Arab countries, through the initiation of contacts with the progressive and open-minded circles of those countries.

The A.H.P.'s programme centres mainly around the following points:

General Policy:—

- a) Jews all over the world, despite their dispersal and irrespective of their country of residence, are a one and inseparable nation.
- b) The solution for the Jewish dispersion lies in the realization of the Zionist concept of the ingathering of the majority of the Jews from their country of origin.
- c) The anomalous mode of life which was imposed upon the Jews in the Diaspora throughout the ages, necessitates the redirection of the larger proportion of the ingathered Jews towards productive work and vocations and particularly to the land.
- d) At all times the A.H.P. has regarded the land of Israel as an integral territorial entity.

Home Policy:—

- a) The State of Israel is a Jewish State, permanently open to Jewish immigration. The State guarantees equal status to all its minorities without discrimination.

Foreign Policy:—

Maintenance of friendly relations with all countries except those under fascist yoke. Special effort for integration within the Asian Community of Nations. Guarding against the alignment of Israel with any military block against any other. Military preparedness in the face of the dangers confronting Israel's security from the reactionary Arab regimes, while striving at the same time to terminate the belligerency of the neighbouring states, and replace same by an atmosphere of mutual trust and friendship. Enforcement of Israel's right to self-defence in accordance with the natural rights of every people as recognized by, and embodied in paragraph 61 of the U.N. Charter.

The establishment of a Commonwealth of the Middle East in which all nations of the area will cooperate in technical, economic and cultural achievement aimed at the joint development of the region's natural resources and the raising of the standard of living of the local populations, in recognition and acceptance of the aid of the United Nations and its various international agencies.

First Elections Bring New Cabinet

THE U.S. Import and Export Bank, an official government agency, announced that \$35m. would be loaned to Israel and that \$65m. would follow soon. This was the first herald of the massive U.S. aid programme to Israel which was to bring the U.S. Operations Mission to Tel Aviv to administer \$364.8m. of aid to Israel up to June 30, 1957.

Foreign news, however, was pushed in the background as January ended with the election of the First Knesset as follows: Mapai 46 seats, Mapam 19, United Religious 16, Herut 14, General Zionists 7, Progressives 5, Sephardim 4, Communists 4, Nazareth Democrats 2, L.H.Y. 1, W.I.Z.O 1, Yemenites 1. The headline and lead over four columns had an element of excitement and exultation befitting the historic moment:

ISRAEL CITIZENS CROWD POLLS TO VOTE FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

"The free people of Israel went to the polls yesterday, with the pride that comes from having fought for and won their rights, to cast their ballots for the forthcoming Constituent Assembly. With them went the Arabs, no less enthusiastic to take part in the Government of the country in which they live."

The election news shared the headlines with the news of the departure of the internees from Cyprus. "ABOARD THE S.S. GALILA: TUESDAY—This Israel passenger ship looked solid and real enough yesterday flying the flags of the State and the Israel Merchant Marine as she proudly entered the port of Famagusta to take her people home."

The day before the elections had also seen the signing of the non-aggression clause of the Rhodes armistice between Israel and Egypt, while the Jordanians, Lebanese and Syrians were now lining up for their turn at the same conference table. The success of the Rhodes talks led to a mass recognition of Israel by the nations, and 33 names were on the roll of those who had done so by the time the first Armistice was signed some weeks later. Among them was Great Britain.

First Parliament Opened

On February 13, an historic event took place when the Asefat Hanivharim, the Jewish Elected Assembly, held its last meeting in Jerusalem and dissolved. The next day was even a greater moment, for the first Constituent Assembly also took place in the Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem. *The Post* honoured this climactic moment in the nation's life with the best part of page One. The five column head and lead read:

WEIZMANN EXTENDS HAND OF PEACE TO ARABS

IN OPENING ISRAEL'S FIRST PARLIAMENT

President Weizmann yesterday held the central position in Jerusalem's most memorable day in many years when the Constituent Assembly was opened. Israel's representatives heard the President make an historic address reviewing from his unequalled vantage point the creation of the State, urging the Assembly to be mindful of its good fortune and responsibility in belonging to the generation that has achieved freedom after 2,000 years, and offering the nation's friendship to the world and peace to its Arab neighbours. The Tu-B'Shvat (Arbor Day) festival heightened Jerusalem's already happy mood and the air wore an air of exhilaration.

The new Cabinet was constituted: David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence; Dov Joseph, Supply and Rationing; Rabbi I. M. Levin, Social Welfare; Mrs. Golda Myerson, Labour and Social Insurance; Rabbi J. I. Fishman, Religions; Eliezer Kaplan, Finance; David Remez, Communications; P. Rosenblueth (Rosen) Justice; B. Shitreet, Police; Z. Shazar, Education and Culture; M. Shapiro, Interior and Immigration; and M. Sharett, Foreign Affairs. Its formation came after long days of coalition negotiations and it comprised four parties: Mapai, Mizrahi, Agudat Israel and the Progressives. The Prime Minister offered a four year plan upon which *The Post* commented:

If the population of Israel is to be doubled in four years, lodgings will have to be found for an influx of people coming in at the rate of 200,000 per year. It is a tall order. Mr. Ben-Gurion and the State of Israel are used to tall orders and the job doubtless will be done...

Independence Day that first year of statehood fell on May 4. By that time Israel's membership of the U.N. was already very close, and Armistice Agreements had been signed with Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, with negotiations with Syria still dragging.

In a sober mood the first Independence Day leader on May 4 proclaimed... "If Israel is to keep faith with itself, with the waiting Jews of the Dispersion poised for the journey home, and with the world, it must work hard and work without rest..."

And that was the mood which now set in in Israel. The heroic days of war were over; beginning was the humdrum life of a State besieged by hundreds of thousands of immigrants, with all its problems — economic, social, educational and security yet to be solved.

It started well. On May 12 *The Post* held its presses for a 3 a.m. Bulletin. "FLUSHING MEADOWS, Wednesday (Reuter). — Israel tonight was admitted to the U.N. as the 59th member of the world organization. The voting was 37 for and 12 against with 9 abstentions. The Assembly decided to admit Israel immediately."

The joy at Israel's inclusion in the roll of the U.N. was momentarily dampened for *The Post* a week or so later when the government suspended it for a day, on May 25, for a breach of censorship regulations.

At the end of the year 5709 *The Post* reported the address of Prime Minister Ben-Gurion in which he summed up what had been achieved.

In the past year a number of Government offices had been transferred to Jerusalem, and the Hebrew University had opened its medical faculty (in conjunction with Hadassah). On the 22nd Av the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency Executive transferred the remains of Theodor Herzl to Jerusalem and yet another glorious link was added to the chain of ancient splendour of the sepulchres of kings and prophets in the immortal city—the tomb of the modern prophet of the Jewish State... During the past year some 20,000 new immigrants found employment and housing in Jerusalem and dozens of new industrial establishments were set up... In the first 11 months of 5709 more than 225,000 Jews entered the country...

Palestine Conciliation Commission Fails

The Palestine Conciliation Commission, which took over from Ralph Bunche's (he was later to get the Nobel Prize) Rhodes conference, failed during the later part of 1949 to bring Israelis and Arabs together, and the separate meetings with both sides proved completely futile. But at the U.N. the question of Jerusalem began to assume more and more importance with pressure, mainly at the instance of the Vatican, being increasingly applied for the internationalization of the Holy City. *The Post* wrote editorially on November 24:

The Church leaders can scarcely help being aware that last year, if ever, a bid for Jerusalem might have been successful, either by means of pressure to restrain the Arabs and Britain or by effective intervention. That brief chance of a second and broader Vatican City was forfeited, and Jerusalem, rescued, rebuilt and repopulated by Israel has become a bitter reminder of an opportunity lost...

The situation was resolved by Ben-Gurion and the Cabinet and Knesset in a dramatic way when on December 14 the Prime Minister and his office moved to Jerusalem, and it was officially announced that the Knesset would assemble there after the Hanukkah recess. Which they did; and on December 26 the Israel Parliament quietly met, without any fanfare in Jerusalem for its winter session.

That November was significant for one development destined to have an increasing impact on Israel's history and scientific standing. On November 2, to mark the 75th birthday of Israel's President, the Weizmann Institute was inaugurated at Rehovot. *The Post* devoted a special supplement to the occasion.

From Iraq came rumblings to indicate that the 100,000 Jews of that country were in grave danger and Israel took what action she could to bring their plight to the attention of the world. From Yemen the whole of the remaining Jewish community came to Israel in a skilfully devised airlift operation which became known as Operation Magic Carpet.

Inside the country the life of the community was proceeding as usual with *The Post* reporting labour disputes, the attitude of the housewife towards rationing and the usual police court news. But in the front page headlines a new and ominous note was beginning to be discerned. In two column headings, at first, one read on December 30, PATROL KILLS 3 MARAUDERS. Various speakers addressing meetings in Tel Aviv warned that the danger of a second round with the Arabs was always imminent, and with the ink scarcely dry on the Armistice Agreements, the capitals of the Arab states were already agog with talk of vengeance while the first steps for the organization of the economic boycott of Israel were being busily prepared. There was evidence that the great powers, particularly Britain and the U.S., were beginning to be concerned at a new threat to the peace which seemed to be developing, and an attempt to ward this off was made with the Tripartite Declaration of France, Britain and the U.S. on May 25, 1950. On this *The Post* commented editorially:

... unilateral... is the three-power announcement of a formal military guarantee of Middle Eastern frontiers, including those of Israel. In the case of Israel's borders, neither side invited such a guarantee: the Arab states because they have not accepted them and Israel because these frontiers had not been previously explicitly recognized by the U.N. nations, and it would have been unwilling to be placed in the position of bargaining over frontiers hammered out in the course of defence against Arab aggression two years ago. Uninvited, the guarantee is yet an invaluable aid to stability. Not so much in the event of any attack, which foreign forces stationed at a distance could scarcely be in time to ward off, but in removing every shred of reason from the Arab fear propaganda of Israel expansionist plans that had been used to bolster past refusals to come to terms with Israel.

That year the education bill providing "SCHOOL FOR ALL AGED 5 to 13" was brought before the Knesset and discussions on Point Four aid from the U.S. began to occupy the columns. The director of Housing stated that 100,000 were housed in 1949 and 150,000 would be provided with homes in 1950-51. Meanwhile the immigration figure reached 400,000 and it was announced that 140,000 would be admitted immediately from Iraq and Rumania.

The rest of that summer the front page of *The Post*, like papers the world over, was dominated by the war in Korea. The comment was:

However far away Korea is geographically, Israel has a moral to draw from the news. It must press on with the task of consolidating its newly won independence and make sure that it will be able to withstand new difficulties and obstacles to development if these should emerge... The keynote to the struggle for economic viability was sounded at this time in *The Post* and was a pointer to the paper's future policy on the subject. An editorial on July 17, 1950, stated:

The Government and the economic leaders of the country have for long been concerned about the low level of industrial output and the high cost of production, which operate as dangerous inflationary factors and prevent the development of exports...

Introduction of Ma'barot and Rationing

The Post in mid-July, in a special article, also brought the attention of readers to the new phenomenon which was manifest all over the face of Israel — the ma'bara.

The introduction of clothes and shoes rationing that summer proved very unpopular in certain circles. Shopkeepers went on strike but *The Post* was vigorous in its support of the Government. One editorial followed another...

... Perhaps the critical position of the country as regards raw materials is not fully realized. One example that may bring the situation home clearly is the fact that the paper on which this editorial is printed was offloaded from a ship at Jaffa Port yesterday afternoon and arrived in Jerusalem only two hours before presstime...

Political difficulties within the Cabinet began to multiply and in February, 1951, the Government resigned following a three-day debate on general education problems and on education in immigrant camps and the ma'barot. President Weizmann held a number of meetings with party leaders in an endeavour to solve the crisis. It was finally decided that the Cabinet remain in office until arrangements could be made to hold general elections.

The seeds of the religious problem which was to perplex Israel in waves of varying intensity for the next six years were sown at this time. The attitude of *The Post* to these manifestations is summed up in leaders which appeared at various times. One of the more recent, which appeared in May, 1956, after the riots in Haifa over the opening of an exhibition on the Sabbath, stated:

... The danger of an attempt to force a particular way of life upon those who hold different views leading to a *ku'urkamp* has been apparent from the early days of the State, and any reasonable person must admit it is the last thing the people of Israel can afford. To ignore this simple truth is to ignore the ancient saying that the Sabbath is given to us and not we to the Sabbath... It never pays to use force in matters of spirit, and the fanatics among us may find out one day that they have been throwing stones in their own garden...

It is a sad but undeniable fact that much of the trouble must be attributed to a lack of religious leadership. One cannot expect every generation to produce a religious genius like the late Rabbi Kook whose deep learning was combined with an equally deep understanding for the needs of his country... No greater disservice can be done to the deep-rooted respect for tradition than to lose all sense of proportion in a narrow-minded approach to questions of practice and expediency...

There is a vast and unploughed field in this country for a religious leadership that understands the signs of the times and the demands of a rising generation. Those who are called upon to answer these demands should... take to heart the saying of the wise and pious Rabbi Salanter that this would be a much better world if we cared more for our own souls and for the body of our neighbour than the the other way round.

With the murder on July 20 of King Abdulla, *The Post* wrote: "... this is a threat to the stability that Israel is seeking and that the West has guaranteed, and it has set off a wave of disturbances that will have its repercussions for a good time to come, even if the murder epidemic spreads no further."

THE TURNING POINT FOR ISRAEL

FOR the first time in history the World Zionist Congress, the 23rd., was held in Jerusalem that summer. It was notable not only for the planning it made for the development of immigration, absorption and settlement of the hundreds of thousands of homecomers flocking into the country but also for ideological controversies which re-echo to the present day. *The Post* summed it up as follows:

... Is a Zionist working for Israel in the Diaspora, where he considers himself at home and which he regards also as the home of his children and grandchildren, in another class to the Jew whose ardour for Israel is constant but who does not call himself a Zionist? Does chronology alone determine the difference—that the Zionist was part of a movement aiming at the establishment of the State, while the Johnny-come-lately Jew waited till it was established before he accepted it as a fact?

Those asking themselves these agonising questions must be told that it is too early for this self-probing; and that no harm would have been done to the Movement if sleeping definitions had been let lie...

THE year 1952 marked a turning point for Israel and so it is not surprising that this should have been reflected in the history of *The Jerusalem Post*, for the paper was integrated by this time as thoroughly into the life of Israel as it has been into that of the Mandatory Palestine. That year saw the deflationary new economic policy. It also saw a sudden rise in unemployment as a result. For the first time since the beginnings of the State the number of those leaving the country had exceeded those coming in. The great wave of immigration had spent itself. Jews from North Africa had ceased to arrive. By this time all the Eastern European countries had cut off the flow of their Jewish citizens to Israel. This was one of the by-products of the cold war which had become more virulent as events followed their bloody and inevitable course in Korea.

At the same time the revolution took place in Egypt and the Army junta, which promised social amelioration there, and was welcomed to some extent in Israel as a hopeful development, began to court a cheap and quick popularity inside Egypt and in Arab League circles by an intensification of the hatred for Israel. This was expressed in the stiffening of the economic blockade, particularly in relation to the passage of Israel, or Israel-bound, shipping through the Suez Canal. The demands on the world's raw materials as a result of the war in Korea pushed up the prices of everything Israel had to buy, while the rising strain of armaments began to make deep inroads into the nation's economy.

U.N. Difficulties Following Riley's Departure

THE attitude of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization to the increasingly frequent breaches of the armistice agreements worsened considerably with the departure of its first chief, General Riley, and the arrival of General Bennike. The policy of the U.N., aided and abetted by the Western powers, particularly Britain, was that the infiltrators were only hungry refugees from the camps near Israel's borders coming across to seek a little food. This excuse could no longer hold when incident after incident indicated that the purpose of the infiltrators was planned murder and sabotage directed from above. Then the U.N.T.S.O. policy was to develop a sort of theory of equilibrium, balancing every illegal act perpetrated by the infiltrators, even if it included the murder of innocent civilian women and children, against some technical breach of the agreements by Israel.



General Riley (left) first Chief of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, with Mr. Ben-Gurion and Rav-Aluf Yigael Yadin. In picture at right, Major Mohammed Izak of the Arab Legion, one-time chief delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission, reads a copy of *The Post* at Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem.

When every attempt to use all the legal machinery of the U.N. to prevent the mounting murderous aggressions failed, Israel was on a number of occasions forced to take swift and decisive punitive action against the aggressors. Typical of the comment of *The Post* on such incidents and circumstances was the leader of January 31, 1954:

The chain of hostile and anarchic acts outlined by Mr. Abba Eban... on Friday are but the latest summary of a general situation in the Middle East which has deteriorated to such an extent that the area must now begin to move into first place as the world's number one potential trouble area...

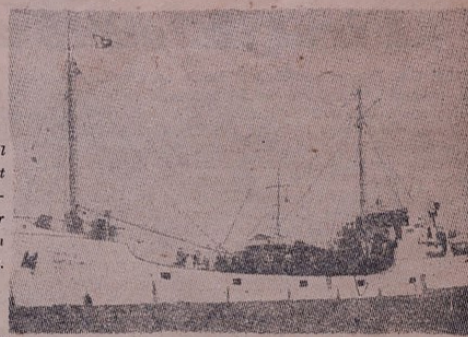
The Syrians were allowed to manoeuvre the Security Council into wasting many valuable months in a blatant attempt to seek to establish a right to veto peaceful development work inside the borders of a sovereign state. But faced with what Mr. Eban rightly described as a "piratical and illegal blockade," nothing has been done by the Powers to ensure enforcement of a clear decision of the Security Council taken nearly three years ago. Because of this the situation is that Egypt can freely set the whole civilized world by the ears; can with impunity interrupt the free transit of the shipping of several important maritime nations, not excluding Great Britain; and by strengthening her armament in the Gulf of Akaba, can proceed to prepare aggressive action against peaceful vessels passing on their lawful occasions there.

All this has taken place without any strong protest from the powers who should be directly concerned and who have a particular stake in the free passage of shipping through the Suez Canal. So clear is this neglect on the part of Great Britain, for example, that 'Economist' has felt itself bound to take the British Minister of State to task for not assuming a more effective and direct leadership in making Egypt toe the line in fulfilling its international obligations...

All this is symptomatic of the fact that the lack of realism in Middle Eastern policy on the part of the West is giving rather more than passive encouragement to a situation which is rapidly drifting to unpredictable disasters.

The presence of *The Post* was justified in the event by the happenings which took place over two years later when, belatedly and inefficiently, Britain made her abortive attack on Suez.

But much was to happen before then. First for Israel came the shock of the Czech arms deal with Egypt and the vast flow of heavy materiel



The Israel vessel "Bat Gaim" in Egyptian hands after it was seized in the Suez Canal.

which began to stream into the Arab world in the autumn and winter of 1955. Israel's search for a balancing supply of arms proved almost entirely futile for a whole year, until France, spurred on to an understanding of Israel's problem by Egyptian mischief-making in her own North African possessions, helped Israel with the supplies necessary to break the iron ring threatening her with imminent destruction. Israel secured the supplies of essential weapons and aircraft which made the Sinai Campaign possible. On the Czech arms deal and its possible consequences *The Post* warned as follows:

It is not new that Russia is seeking to penetrate the Middle East, though perhaps it is only now, since the hydrogen bomb has made war less likely between the major powers, that the Eastern bloc has judged itself able to sell off some of its spare conventional armaments... Washington has discovered that it cannot actually prevent the Czechs from selling arms to Egypt nor Egypt from taking the arms, and the Soviet technicians likely to accompany them. All they hope to do at this stage is prevent further shipments... by offering Nasser anything he may require at favourable terms... It may be that the State Department is willing to humiliate itself in order to forestall Soviet penetration into the Middle East, though it seems doubtful whether the simple appeasement of Nasser can have this effect... It is certainly difficult to see how Israel is, in the long run, to maintain unilateral peace in the face of hostility, blockade and border attacks...

Story of Sinai Victory Told

All through 1956 the menace to Israel steadily mounted until at last it became imperative for her to break the ring or perish. On the morning of Tuesday, October 30 readers of *The Post* saw an eight column headline which proclaimed that:

In the Marginal Column that day Arthur Super wrote:

ARMY ATTACKS BASES in HEART OF SINAI.

If Israel is armed to the limit of her heavily out-numbered population and if she is now compelled to move, is it not clear that she is doing so in an heroic effort? and let no enemy underestimate her striking power, to protect herself against the total massacre which is daily threatened her



Israel troops advancing on Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

by all the Arab states. It is a sad world in which the shout of the aggressor could not be heard because those who should have heeded it were busy talking the potential victim into silence.

And the editorial that day added: "...It should have been clear then to all concerned that the stage of short-term accounts, ending with the withdrawal of Israel forces from the area they had entered, had passed, and that more drastic measures would have to be taken..."

Thence the headlines tell the story of the lightning four-day campaign which ended with Israel in complete possession of the whole of the Sinai peninsula. "Army Attacks Bases in the Heart of Sinai;" "Ike Urges Allies Not To Act;" "U.K., France Bomb Egypt Army Targets;" "Egypt's Sinai Army in Full Flight;" and then in letters an inch tall: "Sinai Battle Won."

The story of the gradual withdrawal of Israel's forces to the Armistice lines in the face of the unrelenting pressure from the U.N., and particularly the U.S., formed the substance of the political papabulum of *The Post* for the next few months. Producing the paper at this time was attended with severe problems. The majority of the



Above, Israel officers inspect booty in Sinai. At right, Mr. Ben-Gurion at Sde Boker.



staff was mobilized and the editorial force was reduced to those who were not liable for call up. One of the greatest difficulties was encountered by those responsible for the editorial each day. This had to deal repeatedly with the nuances of the politics of the withdrawal and to maintain the moral pressure which *The Post* felt it had to exercise without surcease but without monotony.

For a brief period, while the Israel armies occupied Gaza, *The Jerusalem Post* was delivered to the local Arab population by the same agent who had acted for *The Post* in the days of the Mandate. In the circumstances satisfactory sales were recorded.

The Sinai campaign reduced the revenue of the paper considerably. A great proportion of readers was mobilized, and advertising revenue dropped to almost nil. But a steady economy drive, incessant effort to restore the situation and an increase in the price of the paper authorized by the Minister of Commerce and Industry narrowly pulled the paper out of the red at the beginning of 1957.

An interesting sidelight on *The Post's* treatment of the history of the Sinai Campaign is provided by the fact that the Argentine Military Review translated and reproduced a series of five articles on the campaign written by Sraya Shapiro, the paper's military correspondent.

Professionals Demand Rise in Salary

The years between 1952 and the end of 1957 were packed with all the varied events which comprise the life of a nation. There were trade disputes of all kinds, many of which extended beyond the ordinary framework of the employer-employee type which are common to all countries. Thus in Israel the academic and professional workers had their own specific causes of complaint. The egalitarianism imposed by the socialist ideology of the early pioneers of Israel had persisted into the days of modern statehood and professional men of all types felt that they were not being given the material — and hence the moral — recognition to which they were entitled by their special training and responsibility. In addition, the students of the Hebrew University struck over an increase in fees and those of the Technion came out in sympathy. But in general the period was marked by less industrial strife than in most countries. From Prof. Abba Lerner, a noted American economist who had been appointed an economic advisor to the Government, *The Post* commissioned a series of special articles attacking the simple, automatic linkage of the index and the wage system. The tendency was for the whole question of wages to be linked with that of productivity. This problem found expression in the three-month Ata strike this summer in which *The Post* took the line that productivity and efficiency must be equally the concern of workers as of employers.

In politics the Government set up after the 1951 general election was seriously shaken at various times by the tactics of the religious parties and the pressures of the General Zionists. One of the crises was manufactured by the latter over the flying of the Socialist red flag by Labour bodies.

The most startling and picturesque event in the history of Israel politics was the dramatic departure on December 8, 1953, of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, from Jerusalem to retire to Sde Boker in the Negev. *The Post*, the next day, reported the address of farewell given by the Prime Minister in a full English translation. "The gift of pioneering," said the Prime Minister, "Halutzit — the gift of human grandeur — was not offered as a unique prize to a few chosen individuals. This gift lies hidden in the soul of every one of us. The secret of halutzit lies in making demands on oneself first before demanding anything of others, and in carrying out in one's own life, through faith and inner necessity, whatever one expects others to do..."

The Post commented at that time on the situation created by the departure of the Prime Minister. "...Israel's political maturity, and especially that of its political leaders, will now be tested. They will be well advised, in discharging the tasks of decision laid upon them, to ponder well the words of Ben-Gurion when he suggested that no man is indispensable and that it is good that a State should have that fact very much in mind."

If the temporary retirement of Mr. Ben-Gurion was the most startling political event of this period, then certainly the saddest and most moving was the passing of Israel's first President, Chaim Weizmann, on November 9, 1952.

The feelings of the nation were movingly expressed in the tribute paid at that time by *The Post* which, on the day following the death of the President, gave the whole of the front page to the news. The leader that day concluded with the sentence: "For the Jewish people as a whole where he stood was Pisgah." On the day following the funeral the headline of *The Post* was simple and moving; just a narrow black bordered 8-column box with the text from the Book of Lamentations in Hebrew and English, "The Ways of Zion do Mourn."

Other notable events in this period to which *The Post* did full justice were the election of Izhak Ben-Zvi for a first, and later a second, term as President of Israel. On the occasion of the second term *The Post* commented in a Marginal Column (October 31 this year) "...Holiness is best found in the matter to hand, in humility, in the ordinary things of life. The whole nature of Izhak Ben-Zvi's first term of Presidency was to emphasize this fact. And that is why a united nation has greeted him with pride and joy on his inauguration

for a second term."

Many problems activated and at times plagued the Knesset, Israel's infant Parliament. Perhaps one that aroused most feeling was the debate on the question of the acceptance of reparations from Germany. The noisy proceedings inside the House were accompanied by riot from without, organized by members of the Herut party who objected to reparations. On this subject the stand of *The Post* was expressed in several leaders. Recently the moral attitude of *The Post* towards reparations was summed up in a Marginal Column by Arthur Saul Super which reflects the general thinking of the paper on the subject:

...Two factors seemed to justify accepting reparations from Germany. The first concerned ourselves. It would not have been good for the moral development of the State of Israel to go on cherishing thoughts of hatred and vengeance. For there is no vengeance for the crimes the Nazis committed... and to hate eternally is to destroy one's own soul. The second reason is that through reparations the Germans sought to ease their own conscience. That they should have come to the people they had most wronged to restore their self-respect was the nearest we might ever get to a retribution fitting for the crime they had committed...

Eventually Moshe Sharett succeeded in forming a coalition government which, with various vicissitudes, endured until the spring of 1955, after which a caretaker interregnum preceded the General Election of 1955.

Tribute to Moshe Sharett

Following the General Election of July, 1955, Mapai was still the majority party, but with a reduced number of seats, and Mr. Sharett once more formed a government in which Mr. Ben-Gurion continued as Minister of Defence. However, in December of that year, while Mr. Sharett was in the U.S. the Cabinet was reconstituted with Mr. Ben-Gurion as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Sharett as Foreign Minister. It was *The Jerusalem Post* which was the first to forecast the news of the final dissolution of the generation-long partnership between Ben-Gurion and Sharett when the latter was dropped from the Cabinet and replaced as Foreign Minister by Mrs. Golda Meir. At the time of his resignation, *The Post* commented:

Mr. Sharett embodies a lifetime of political judgment and experience going back even beyond his accession to the headship of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency as long ago as 1933. His record is almost without parallel in Israel and it is unthinkable that his unusual gifts of mind and heart should be permanently lost to the State; it is fortunate that there is not the least fear of this being so.

When Moshe Sharett subsequently left on a long tour of Asia his journey was recorded in detail in a series of articles written for *The Post* at first hand by a Special Correspondent.



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CONCERN FOR JERUSALEM

AS the only large-scale daily newspaper printed in Jerusalem *The Post* was naturally very seriously concerned with the fortunes of Israel's capital city. In the days of the Mandate one of the paper's first campaigns had been to secure from one of the more obstinate government departments a better water supply for the city. *The Post* continued its fight for a better Jerusalem during the years of statehood and exposed bad and illegal building, the scandal of inadequate sanitation, cesspools, defective school buildings, maladministration by city officials and similar evils. In the spring of 1955 the efforts of *The Post* were concentrated in a sustained campaign "For a Better Jerusalem." The main force in this campaign was Jerusalem Bureau Chief, Moshe Levin. It directly affected *The Post* in that later that year one of the candidates for Mayor was Gershon Agron, the editor of *The Post*, and he won office in the autumn of 1955.

Not to be classified as of minor political importance was the stand taken by *The Post* on the self-appointed vigilante organization, the Shurat Hamitnadvim. This body began as an idealistic group of young people determined to help in the integration of new immigrants and in general creative civic activity. It later began to be used by various dubious political elements as the spearhead of a subtle attack on the government. It developed all the less favourable characteristics of a vigilante organization and its career culminated when Amos Ben-Gurion, deputy chief of police, this year successfully sued several of its leaders for libel. The Shura was accused in return of getting its information about leading citizens in responsible office by spying and by improper access to official files and records.



Gershon Agron takes his place in the Municipal Council as Mayor of Jerusalem.

The Post fought the Shura relentlessly. On December 26, 1954, Lea Ben Dor wrote of them in her Parliamentary Report:

There are many places where a little spiritual renewal or even a great spiritual upheaval could do nothing but good. In reply, the government has made a systematic effort to stamp out irregularities, to improve the position of civil servants, and to educate them to a consciousness of the dignity and responsibilities of their privileged positions, which alone can keep out corruption...

There is neither dignity nor self-respect in the picture of petty pilferers reported on by their colleagues in the Mitnadvim, and exposed or protected at the sole judgment of the group of zealots that have set up shop in morality in a dirty unswept corner of the Students Club in Jerusalem... On July 28, after the verdict was given in the Amos Ben-Gurion



The first bottles of oil from the first Heletz strike, which were presented to the Minister of Development, wrapped in the day's edition of *The Post*.

case. *The Post* summed up in an editorial: "...the Shura is still guided by groups concerned more with politics than public morals — a distinction that was carefully noted by the judges — and those who seek integrity in public organizations will have to seek more single-minded aides than the Shura."

One of the liveliest days in recent *Post* history was Friday, September 23, 1955, when news came of the discovery of oil at Heletz. The paper immediately set about the production of an "Extra" printed on both sides of a quarter sheet and on sale in the streets only a few minutes after the Minister of Development, Dov Joseph, made his announcement over the radio. So zealous were various members of the editorial staff about getting this news red hot to the public that they grabbed handfuls of the paper as it came off the press and ran down the street selling copies. It is also an interesting note that the first bottle of the oil presented to the Minister of Development for preservation as a historic relic, was wrapped by the worker on the site in that day's edition of *The Jerusalem Post*.

THE JERUSALEM POST wishes to take this opportunity of thanking its readers, advertisers, suppliers, editorial contributors and innumerable well-wishers, for their unflagging loyalty over the years,



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THE PEOPLE OF THE POST

NO matter how sincerely and persistently the editor of *The Post* might insist that a newspaper must have the courage of its own dullness, a newspaper can no more exist without readers than can a play without an audience. In order to ensure that the maximum number of people to whom a paper is directed continue to pay for being told unpalatable and palatable truths, a certain amount of concessions must be made to the less earnest readers. These concessions are items usually grouped under the generic term of features. In *The Post*, however, they range over a much wider territory; from the highbrow in literature, economics and politics, through erudite and scientific dissertations, archaeology and chess problems, down to bridge, musical polemics, sports, household hints, crossword puzzles and even comics; with the egregious Ferd'nand breaking all records for a longevity almost coterminous with that of *The Post*.

One of the earliest and most enduring of the special services which *The Palestine Post* gave to its readers was a daily legal column. It was conceived when the idea of the paper was first launched. This feature was originally called "In the Courts", and later, "Law Reports." It was a carefully written report of the questionable and actionable doings in Palestine, written from a strictly legal point of view. This laconic way of reporting the items which might have made sensational reading, had certain aspects which did not appeal to every newspaper editor. It made for dry reading. Many readers claimed, and still claim, that if dullness is a virtue in reporting, then these court records have reached the acme of success.

Some of the best legal minds of the country reported and edited these columns. Henry Baker, today Relieving President of the Jerusalem District Court, was one of its early editors. Charles Sassoon, a member of the First Knesset and then fresh from Oxford, was the first to put in several hours each week in reporting for this column. Today this feature deals with selected cases which come before Israel's Supreme Court and is written by Doris Lankin, herself a lawyer and author. Other features in *The Post* have come and gone, but the Law Reports have been kept up steadily except for a short period when reporting by trained legal minds came too high for the budget. The lawyers and judges of the country have almost unanimously expressed their need for and appreciation of this exceptional service, even though the language of the courts was now entirely Hebrew and the Law Reports were translations.

Book Reviews and Columns

THE Friday Book Page is today one of the best and most substantial of its regular features. It covers a wide range of books from many countries. Today a great deal of emphasis is placed upon Hebrew publications, but in the early years books of interest to English readers predominated.

In 1943 Eugen Mayer began to edit the Book Page. Dr. Mayer is one of the ardent Jerusalem lovers, whose life, even as a youth in Frankfurt, was destined to be fulfilled in the Holy City. He liked to hobnob with the boys in the press room because a great many of them were originally the sons of dwellers in the Old City. According to Dr. Mayer these men are much more steeped in real Jewish learning and culture than the majority of the people on the editorial end, since English is not a *sine qua non* to their work. Very often a typesetter or a typist will still find basic errors or make a controversial point in a learned contribution on some obscure book.

When the Book Page was started, Aubrey Eban, today Abba Eban, Israel Ambassador to the United States, contributed his book reviews under the name of Politicus, a pseudonym which apparently cast its shadow before it. Richard Graves (later Mayor of Jerusalem) as well as his sister, Clarissa Graves, siblings to the well known Robert Graves, were both regular contributors to this page.

When Dr. Mayer retired in 1956 he was succeeded by Meir Mindlin, a young writer and poet who came to Israel as a farmer after being demobilized from the U.S. Army following World War II. Mindlin, who has written literary criticism in Hebrew as well as in English, has won a considerable reputation as an authority and critic of the literary and artistic scene in Israel and abroad. His knowledge in these spheres is reflected not only in his selection of material but in his weekly Marginal Column on the front page.

The Marginal Column, which provides an additional vehicle for comment on diverse issues at home and abroad, grew out of David Courtney's "Column One," which for many years was the most famous and beloved feature of the paper. When Column One began to appear less frequently, the Marginal Column was introduced mainly for foreign news comment by staffers who specialized in different fields. The first of these was by W. Z. Laqueur, an authority on Middle East muddles and Russian affairs, who still contributes articles from London. Others whose columns now appear on fixed days are Arthur Super, Sraya Shapiro, Eliezer Livneh, Nissim Rejwan, and George Leonof.

A decided spurt was given to the place and importance of the features section in the very early days of the paper when the late C. Z. Kloetzel became the Features Editor. Kloetzel, who would have been an asset to any newspaper in the world, came to *The Post* as a writer and as a newspaperman of wide experience.

He came to Palestine in 1933, fresh from a successful career as the roving correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt." His travels had taken him to the far reaches of the world. To *The Post* he contributed a variety of articles including a "corner" he established called "Men and Things." He was the first staffer to be sent abroad, visiting South Africa and sending back an excellent series of articles. Kloetzel loved children and trains, wrote books about both. His ability to dig out a background story to almost any event of the day was remarkable and he had the gift of imparting some of his experience to the junior members of the staff. Until his death in 1951, he was one of the staunch pillars of *The Post*.

Readers' Share in 'Keeping Posted'

The twice-weekly feature "Keeping Posted," which was originated by Lea Ben Dor early in 1949, is one in which readers of *The Post* have always actively participated. Their unsolicited observations and anecdotes (rewritten!) constitute a good part of the column. The heading, which dates back to 1949, shows a girl and a man with a beard pasting up the words "Keeping Posted" on a bill-board. The girl was Hadassah



A scene in the newsroom in 1946. From left: Fay Doron, Ted Lurie (seated), the late C. Z. Kloetzel, Gershon Agronsky, the late Chai Ataron (Kosovkrants).

Eilat, a young American volunteer who married another volunteer from Scotland in a kibbutz during the War of Liberation, before the couple both joined *The Post*. The bearded character is Meir Ronnen, a former Australian, who illustrates the column, and who is the paper's staff artist and the creator of "Eli," a weekly editorial cartoon character. Ronnen has also been Features Editor since 1951, following the death of Kloetzel. When the Eilats left the staff, Ronnen wrote and illustrated "Keeping Posted" for over a year, until Lea Ben Dor returned to the writing of the column.

Until 1949 Lea Ben Dor worked variously on translating, news, and news editing, and finally in the features department where her encyclopaedic fund of knowledge was most useful. She had studied chemistry and remains today *The Post's* authority on all science stories. Lea originally joined the paper as sub-editor in 1935 but took leave for two periods: first, when she became an officer in the ATS during the war, and for two years after the State was established when she was seconded to the Prime Minister's Office. She returned in 1954 to become night editor as well as writing "Keeping Posted." She still writes that column as well as the weekly parliamentary roundup, and is now assistant editor with the special task of editorial writing. A recent and good example of her keen editorial judgment and eminently readable writing was her interview with an eye-witness to the Knesset bombing incident, published as a "Marginal Column."

The other assistant editor is Arthur Saul Super, who had edited a number of Zionist periodicals abroad. He also served as chief editorial writer and diplomatic correspondent.

Contributing Another Point of View

A predecessor to the "Keeping Posted" feuilleton was a column called "Reflections" written by Elias Epstein, one of the early British Zionists who came to Palestine after World War I, after having spent his war years in a British gaol for conscientious objectors. All of his activities in Palestine were marked by this same singleminded devotion to the principles which he felt should govern a man's life. Diametrically opposed, in a great many of his ideological conceptions, to those of *The Post* and its editor, he still became one of the most constant and permanent contributors to the paper. His column of comment on local events ran for more than a decade. Often in the years when *The Post* was cramped for the space to give full local news coverage, "Reflections" would make good the omission by a condensation and comment on the events.

Of his connection with *The Post*, Elias Epstein writes:

An incidental benefit yielded by *The Post* has been the training it has given to a large number of employees. In Israel the Shavian quip about teachers applies equally to writers, and many an Oleh despairing of a job elsewhere has become copy writer, reporter, translator, or reviewer. The long trail of people who have passed through the staff portals of *The Post* might if organized even secure a member of Knesset to represent them under our electoral system! On the other hand, a kernel has remained from earliest times, in the editorial and publishing branches, and theirs is the real *simha* on this silver anniversary.

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City Bureaus and Desk Staff

ONE of the more stable establishments on the paper for some years now has been the Haifa bureau, where Yaacov Ardon took over from Judith Avrumin, and with his assistant, Yaacov Friedler, has been covering every kind of assignment: political, economic, and social, with special emphasis on maritime affairs. The coverage of the rural area in the north expanded at the same time to include string-correspondents in Safad, Tiberias, Nazareth, Acre, and Hadera.

The paper's other two bureaus, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, are larger and divide most of the local news coverage between them. In Tel Aviv, Sraya Shapiro, in addition to heading the bureau, doubles as military and political correspondent, while in Jerusalem, Moshe Levin, an American graduate in journalism and one of its younger veterans, combines his duties as bureau chief with the diplomatic "beat" and specializes in human interest interviews.

Opposite him, on the local desk, is David N. Gross, who came from London and is now also a United Press reporter in Jerusalem, while the foreign desk is headed by George Leonof, who got his newspaper experience in China and often devotes his column to Asian affairs.

The paper's foreign correspondence has been considerably strengthened with the addition of Maurice Carr in Paris, while part-time correspondents write from Delhi, Madrid, Bonn, and Amsterdam, in addition to London and New York (already mentioned).

'From Our London Correspondent'

George Lichtheim, London correspondent of *The Post* and now on a year's leave to serve as associate editor of "Commentary" in New York, was one of the gifted newspapermen who received their initial training on *The Palestine Post*. He had a flair for extracting the essence of a story, and an aloofness which prevents him from becoming emotionally involved in the problem under discussion, thus giving him an apparent objectivity in his writing. Of his long connection with the paper he says:

As to the autobiographical note I must confess I prefer the "Times" style (of anonymity). That is to say, I have no objection to someone writing about me and extolling my valuable services, but as for my doing a bit of self-appraisal, I fear you'll have to excuse me. The facts and dates I am glad to supply. There aren't many: Joined the advertising department, in an assistant capacity, on January 15, 1936. Began to write a column on July 29, 1936, two days after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, and continued it for a year under the signature "European." Thereafter, continued same under signature "Proteus" from October 1937 to my lamented departure eight years later. Joined editorial department as a re-writer on October 1, 1937. Promoted editorial writer a year later. Foreign Sub-Editor since 1940, and so-called Foreign Editor since 1942. Toured Europe for the paper 1945-6, and London Correspondent since that date.

Those who have gone through the *Post's* "school" include a number of well-known newsmen and writers, as well as many members of Israel's foreign service. There was Martin Agronsky, the Washington radio and television commentator, nephew of Gershon Agron, who came to Jerusalem on his graduation from college just before the War; Harry Zinder, who went on from *The Post* to be a "Time" and "Life" war correspondent and is now Director of Broadcasting in Israel; Moshe Brilliant, who started as a messenger and cub reporter in Tel Aviv and graduated through various grades to become the paper's first Knesset correspondent, and who is now Tel Aviv reporter for "The New York Times"; Jesse Zel Lurie, editor of the "Hadassah Newsletter" and *The Post's* New York correspondent, whose first job was putting out a daily Tel Aviv supplement to the paper during the First Maccabiah.

The diplomats who are *Post* alumni include, in addition to Abba Eban (already mentioned); Eliahu Elath, Ambassador to Britain, who was the *Post's* Beirut correspondent in the early days, when Reuven Shiloah, former Minister to the U.S., was the first Arabic translator and monitor; Hugh Orgel, who was Tel Aviv bureau chief, and Michael Arnon, who began his career in that bureau, and are now both at the Israel Embassy in Washington; Dr. Leo Kohn, Foreign Ministry Counsellor, and Michael Comay, Assistant Director-General, both of whom wrote editorials during the resistance period.

Tributes from Foreign Ministry

The Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, Walter Eytan, also had a tenuous connection with the paper during the same period. Of the pre-State days early in 1948 he recalls:

... As far as I can remember the paper was delivered to one's house even when the siege with its sniping and shooting was at its height — which placed

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the paper-boys on the same rung of the ladder of courage as the men who went out day after day doling out the ration of water. I shall not mention the outstanding courage and fearlessness of the paper, and of its editor, during the closing years of the Mandatory regime, because this is a matter of general knowledge as much as of personal recollection . . .

I have for years now read each day every single item of news, foreign, domestic and "local," and I have seen in this the paper's greatest achievement — to cram a really first-class comprehensive news service into space which has never at any time been adequate. If I am asked whether I admire *The Post* for any one achievement, I shall say that this is it. Another foreign service officer, Cecil Hyman, who has just completed his tour of duty as Consul General in New York, joined the ranks of contributors when he was working as an official of Barclays Bank. He writes:

My own connection with the paper began nearly 20 years ago when I contributed a weekly economic article. I found pleasure in being able to contribute to a publication that I so much admired and that I considered to be an important organ in the long struggle for the Jewish National Home. Later I advanced to book-reviewing, economic editor, the local desk, the foreign desk, all sorts of "subbing" — including occasionally the women's page, proof-reading and editorials. In the three years 1948-50 I think I wrote about 90 per cent of the editorials. When I say "advanced to proof-reading," I mean it, because Agron taught me the importance to a good paper of every comma and full-stop being in the right place.

Light Leaders Brighten Editorial Page

For some time the editorial page was brightened by a feature known as the "Second Leader," a brief light essay pointing up the humorous side of one of the topics of the day. One of the authors of these pieces has the following to say of his connection with the paper. He is W. L. Ricketts, a Mandate Government official, and his reflections also touch on some of his impressions from the other side of the fence, or rather the barbed wire:

In March 1941 I wrote a letter to the Editor which must have amused Gershon quite as much as it amused me; for he invited me to call. I found him shatteringly like one of my favourite film stars; and the general sense of excitement and unreality (it being my first visit to a newspaper office), and my first real intercourse with Jews, all make it clearly memorable even at this distance. It was at that moment I instantaneously formed the policy, which I have ever since upheld in my dealing with Jews, namely, an affable concealment of the fact that I am completely clueless about them. It is a policy which pays. It pays so well that I sometimes blush to think how much I asked (and got) for my contributions. (Since the recent devaluation of the Israeli pound I have not had to blush quite as much as I could have hoped).

Gershon proposed that I should do second leaders. The first appeared on May 22, 1941. Today it reads stiffly; but it does contain a couple of passable jokes, some light domesticity, and an attempt to describe the astonishing beauty of the Judean hills.

Another contributor to this column, Brian Stone, also writes from London:

My first contribution to *The Palestine Post* — as it then was — appeared on Christmas Day, 1945. After cutting the threads which bound me to the British commercial and political set-up in the Middle East, I had been introduced by Aubrey Eban, my former Arabic teacher, to Gershon Agron. He, after accepting four longish light articles and rejecting several ponderous ones, read one or two prose squibs I had sent him, more for fun than anything else, and invited me to try my hand at writing second leaders. Thus the editorial perception which turned me from one style of writing to another has kept me at this little task, on and off, for seven years.

Importance of Readers' Letters

Letters to the Editor are probably the most important feature of the paper. Next to news and editorial essays, letters from readers are among the most common phenomena in a newspaper. This chance for the man in the street to answer back the man at the editorial desk; to express an opinion or voice a complaint; to see his name in print, or conversely to hide behind a *nom de plume*, is a temptation to which many newspaper readers fall victim. Governmental, public and communal offices seem particularly sensitive to complaints published in "Readers' Letters," the original name given to this column and one which has now become fairly common. Before printing such letters the Editor often submits them to the department concerned, and when an answer is forthcoming the letter and answer appear together.

'Interview' with Chagall

The stream of visitors of all kinds, from every land and every walk of life has been sifted and recorded in the paper's "Visitors' Gallery." Sometimes great men had no time to be interviewed but on one occasion at least this did not save one of the world's famous painters from being "immortalized" in the columns of the paper. The literary editor, Meir Mindlin, had arranged an interview with Marc Chagall, who was visiting Israel in January, 1957, but "his bodyguard, major-domo and shames (a local painter), an Irishman named Shamrock, armed with a shillelagh with which he apparently cudgeled away any interesting persons who might want to meet the master." Undaunted by the successful efforts of the "bodyguard" in keeping him from seeing Chagall, Mindlin wrote up an imaginary interview with the master, ("Truth Flowers into Image") in which he "quoted" him as saying:

Jewish reality is hard to bear, but to transmogrify it into dream is not escape but discovery, the black veil of sorrow parts and the garish hues of the hidden self wink up at you. It's only when you stand the *stetli yid* on his head that you release the demonic forces lurking in the tick-tock of the clock, and the Moment, the instant stands still and the unaided eye is transparent through the purple hen. (However, as you know, Sabbath candles can exorcise any demon.) That was a metaphor — not only a metaphor — but one nevertheless. Not paint but orange flame ate up the past, and turned real beams into grey ash, smothering the *stetli* flat to primeval earth. Then dream transposed to nightmare, and I had felt it coming. Perhaps here or there my lovers or their love survived, perhaps it survives in my work.

In the concluding paragraph Mindlin settled his accounts with the man who had prevented him from seeing Chagall in the following words: "Just then Roland Rock (the fellow's name changed throughout the piece) returned, brandishing his *shillelagh*, but Chagall fixed him with his satyr gaze, and Prufrock, mooring mournfully, began to levitate, and when he was no more than two metres in the air, he metamorphosed into a goat playing a violin, squeakily."

Interviews with visitors were always given space in the paper, and two that Ted Lurie wrote in the very early days brought to the paper's readers two since-famous names: in 1935 Herbert Morrison came when he was chairman of the London County Council, and in 1936, Walter Clay Lowdermilk was fired with enthusiasm on his first visit to the country.

Social and Personal items have appeared in the first column of page '40 since the first issue of the paper. A comparison of the items through the years gives a fairly good picture of the changing "society" life of the country.

From the time *The Palestine Post* became *The Jerusalem Post*, the Social and Personal department has crystallized into a strictly utilitarian device crowded with names. After listing the presidential activities, there follow the receptions of and to diplomatic and cabinet members. Lists of Arrivals and Departures became so long, however, they had to be transferred to another page and now appear in the "Postbag" column of briefs, that was at one time called "From Dan to Beersheba." (This sub-title was dropped about the time the paper acquired a reporter in Eilat.)

First of Economic Supplements

IN 1935 *The Palestine Post* began a special economic weekly supplement. In introducing this important feature, the paper wrote: "Interest is being focused more and more on economic development." The supplement "hopes to provide in addition to its usual financial and commercial features, a special section weekly, giving economic news and views from Palestine and abroad, so that the reader may have a clear, unbiased view of what is happening in Palestine and its neighbouring countries."

Palestine being what it was in those days, even the dry as dust facts, figures and controversies on economics had a special quality. From the very beginning of the Mandate the country was bedevilled by commissions and advisors, Royal, technical, economic and social. In reporting the advice of one such economic expert, the paper resorts to the Talmudic injunction using the words of the Rabbis: "I have learned much from my teachers, more from my friends, but most of all from my pupils."

The editor of the economic section was Dr. Walter Gruenfeld, who had then just arrived from Hamburg. He later became advertising manager of the paper and is now in charge of the Tel Aviv branch office.

Once having been introduced, the economic section became a permanent part of the paper. Its format changed with the changing times, until at present the whole of page four, including the leader, is given over to economic news and comment once a week, edited most ably by Dr. Moshe Ater.

From time to time a special supplement is devoted to some specific development or project. Such supplements have in the course of the years added up to many pages of newspaper. In 1936 a 28-page special section announced the opening of the Levant Fair in Tel Aviv—with a review of past fairs and good wishes from the High Commissioner, from the Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, and from Sir Herbert Samuel.

Subsequently such events as the establishment of Palestine's first radio broadcasting station, the opening of Haifa Harbour, the Jaffa Port development, Solel Boneh, township and municipal developments, new factories of importance, the jubilees of the Hebrew University, P.I.C.A., the re-interment of Baron Edmund de Rothschild and Baroness Adelaide, the prospecting for oil and the progress of the various companies, U.S. economic aid, Bonds and the Histadrut, among other topics, were marked by entire supplements.

Telling the Story of Immigration

A regular contributor to the features section is Gerda Luft. While the Knesset was still in Tel Aviv, she wrote the paper's first weekly columns, critically analyzing the work of the new parliamentarians. Since then she has concentrated on writing a series of articles on practically every vital development field in Israel, and contributes a weekly article to the economic page under the by-line "Post Economic Correspondent."

The Post closely followed the story of immigration during the last few years, sending out special correspondents to cover the first ship-village operations which succeeded the 1953 lull in immigration. It also ran an important series on the new immigration from Europe, Egypt and Africa by Mrs. Luft. At the same time the paper steadfastly pointed up the agencies assisting Israel in the unprecedented task of incorporating nearly a million new immigrants in the first nine years of Statehood. The contribution made by Israel Bonds, an organization which has raised over \$300m. and has spread from the U.S. to 27 other countries in North and South America and Europe, has been of the utmost value in financing development work. In a Marginal Column Arthur Saul Super wrote:

... a fundamental change revolutionized the whole pattern of support for Israel. Perhaps it was best typified by the emergence of the Bond Drive. When it was first launched hard-headed business men in the U.S. were inclined to look upon it as just one more gimmick to get gift monies for Israel... but it was soon seen that bonds were really applied to serious investment in the development of the country...

Covering International Events

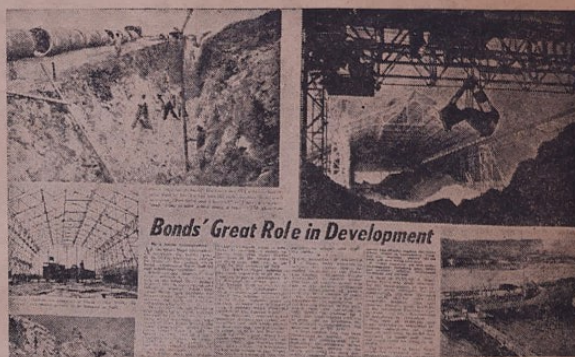
International events have also on occasion been a special target for *The Post's* activity. Thus in the U.S. Presidential elections in November, 1952, so much interest was displayed in Israel that a special election edition was issued. But one of the most significant and ambitious projects of *The Post* was the production of the Israel-France supplement on Bastille Day, 1957. It was the first time the paper departed from the English language and much of the issue appeared in French. The

Co-operative Agricultural Centre of Tnuat HaHerut and Betar Ltd.

38 King George St., Tel Aviv

Our agricultural settlements, 16 in number, are spread all over the country, from Mishmar Hayarden and Nahlat Shlomo on the armistice line with Syria and Lebanon, to Amasia and Mevo'ot Betar on the armistice line with "Jordan". The establishment of our settlements started only after the War of Independence in 1948. These settlements embrace moshavim, immigrant settlements, cooperative and private settlements and youth farms.

Free enterprise, one of the fundamental principles of the Herut Movement, allows every settlement to choose its own economic and social pattern of life. The Herut Movement demanded at the 24th Zionist Congress (1956) freedom of self-determination for the existing settlements. The proposal was backed by 89 votes. Our villagers absorb immigrants direct "from the ship to the village", mainly Mishmar Hayarden, Givat Nili, Ramat Raziel and Bar-Giora. In the "From the town to the village movement" settlers were absorbed at Migdal Dov and Nirdiya. Some of our settlements are already self-supporting, others are progressing towards self-sufficiency, thus leaving a few still supported by the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department. The youth farms at Beer Ya'acov and Maginim (near Herzliya) absorb 12-year-old girls and boys of the Ma'abarot, teach them agriculture and other crafts and prepare them for the future as productive citizens. All our settlements take part in the activities of the municipal regional councils. The regional council of Alona provides municipal services for three of our settlements, Givat Nili, Amikam and Kfar Aviel (in Shomron area) manage a regional school and a cooperative motor pool centralizing the maintenance of all the agricultural machinery.



Section from one of the special supplements showing the economic development of the country through 'Israel Bonds.'

venture was highly welcomed in France and made its modest contribution to cementing Israel-French relations by putting on permanent record an account of many of the political, economic, spiritual and cultural ties which unite the two countries.

On-the-Spot Reporting

For about ten years Julian L. Meltzer was one of the mainstays of the staff. Mr. Meltzer hails from England and for many years was a foreign correspondent for the "New York Times," the London "Daily Express" and other papers. On *The Post* he was the cable rewrite man, but like most of the paper's staff his interests ranged to other departments. Amongst other stories, he covered King George V's Silver Accession Anniversary in 1935, and the Anglo-American Committee's hearings in Cairo. Asked to give his most vivid memory of his career on *The Post*, Julian dug into his files and came up with the story which he wrote in company with Dorothy Kahn Bar-Adon, of the first Post on-the-spot coverage; the flash flood at Tiberias on May 14, 1934. The following is a brief extract:

... There was a brooding hush over Tiberias as we coasted down the incline from Kiryat Shmuel—which, as we learned, was the main course of the torrent of mud and boulders that had swept off the hills into the narrow alley-ways of the stricken lake-side quarter. The eerie stillness seemed to be a frozen wall: as if the shock of the cloudburst and its tragic aftermath had petrified the city into a startled immobility.

But there was no immobility below, where disaster had struck with all the fury of a tornado. Mud was piled up to knee-height in the arms-width winding lanes that led down to the shore. Volunteers were still tramping down in thigh-boots to extricate people trapped by the tons of mud and rock in their hovels...

As always in the case of disaster, everyone was drawn closely to his neighbour. Britons, Jews and Arabs laboured shoulder to shoulder, grimly wrestling bodies from the muck and debris, or tending the victims—those who had survived—in the hastily-improvised relief centres.

One or two names stand out in my memory now as among the yeomen of that occasion. One of them is Edwin Samuel, who as Deputy District Commissioner was among those directing the relief organization. Another was of a British police-sergeant, Archie Pitt, who had performed a singularly gallant rescue (for which he was later awarded the Albert Medal of the Royal Humane Society in England). An Arab constable had plunged into the torrent to save a child who was being swept away, and lost his own control in the swift current. Pitt kicked off his shoes and went in fully clothed, dragging both out alive.

... I believe this first "on-the-spot" report by *The Palestine Post*—then only some 18 months old—was the first one filed by special correspondents of the local and overseas press. For the next three or four days leading newspapers in London and New York telephoned and cabled *The Post* for eye-witness accounts, and Dorothy and I were kept busy...

Paula Arnold, in her Nature Notes and book reviews, has been one of the fixed elements on the paper. As a resident of Benyamina, she manages to keep up the city paper's connection with the countryside and its flora and fauna in the changing seasons.

Among more ephemeral features was astronomy which made meteoric appearances and passed into limbo. For several years now it has been represented once a month by "Stargazer."

The National Religious Party

MIZRACHI — HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI

AIMS: The basing of the State of Israel on the Torah and on Jewish ethics in deep-rooted tradition;

To be the link connecting the past and the future;

The inculcation of religious values — the unifying factor between the State and the Diaspora.

The United Workers Party (Mapam).

Mapam is the party of pioneer Zionism and radical Socialism. It expresses the national desire of the Jewish people for the ingathering of the exiles and supports the class struggle of the workers. Mapam has always been one of the leading forces in immigration, settlement, Palmach, the creation of the State and the War of Independence. The party includes Hakkibbutz HaArtzi Hashomer Hatzair, with its 74 kibbutzim, the largest group in the country, and is connected with the World Organization of Mapam parties, in Europe and America. The Party has nine Knesset members and two Ministers: Mordchai Bentov and Israel Barzilai, Ministers of Development and Health, respectively.

At home Mapam fights for the pioneering movement, the development of the country, the absorption of immigrants and the protection of the standard of living of the working masses; it opposes discrimination against the Arab minority and urges the abolition of the Military Government.

In foreign affairs, it demands military preparedness, planning for peace, neutrality; it opposes attachment to either of the world blocs. Mapam directs widespread propaganda among progressive circles for the recognition of the justifiable rights of the State of Israel, for the opening of peace negotiations between the Arab States and Israel and for Aliya from all countries of the world and from all regimes.

The Party publishes a daily newspaper, "Al Ha'Mishmar." The Secretary is Meir Ya'ari. Address: 20 Rehov Yehuda Halevi, Tel Aviv; P.O.B. 1777.

WIDE COVERAGE OF THE ARTS

THE space which the paper has given from its very first day to the various arts has often been remarked on. For a number of years the big name in Music in Palestine was Bronislaw Huberman. There had been music here since the first Jewish settler began plowing a furrow, but Huberman came with his great reputation and a plan for the creation of a new symphony orchestra.

Editorially, *The Post* wrote on December 30, 1935:

With the air heavy with our political problems, it is a relief to be reminded by the celebrated violinist, Huberman, of the part which this country might be called upon to play in the realm of art... It is not unlikely that the first blossoming of that re-awakened art which we expect from the return of the Jews to Palestine will be in the divinest of accomplishments — music.

The music critic of *The Post* was at one time Rafael Da Costa, and in later years Dr. Franz Goldstein (Frango), who had had wide experience as a newspaper man before coming here from Prague in 1939. No music critic in *The Post* can have a very easy time. Hardly a remark or a point of view is left unchallenged by the readers. The editorial mail bag is often crammed with protests by whilom musicians and would-be critics who, at the drop of an adjective, are ready to do battle for an opposing point of view. This becomes particularly acute when modern compositions, especially those by local composers, are performed, and no matter what the critic writes, the reader reaction is bound to be articulate and vociferous. Today musical criticism is covered by Menahem Avidom in Tel Aviv, Yohanan Boehm in Jerusalem, and by Greta Weiss-Bab in Haifa, and the controversies still rage. Radio has its respected and witty critic in Audio, whose anonymity conceals an important executive figure in Israel broadcasting.

Criticizing the Theatre

THE life of the theatre critic on *The Palestine Post*, in its early days, was comparatively simple. The Habimah had come to Palestine as a group of well trained and polished actors in the Stanislawsky and Moscow Art tradition. They were amongst the intellectual pioneers, and the critic was bound to like and admire them as much as the rest of the audience. He had no problems, rather she as *The Post* has always attracted women to this department. The very first issue contained a highly intellectual criticism of a Habimah offering, by Ann Tolkowsky (whose husband later became the Israel Minister to Switzerland). Other itinerant reviewers followed. There were few or no adverse criticisms of plays till Fay Doron (now wife of the Israel Consul General in Johannesburg) with her English training and background, took over. She had been connected with *The Post* in various capacities, and the Theatre was added to her other jobs. She took the work seriously, and did some criticizing.

It has fallen to the present writer (Ida Davidowitz) to take over the job for the past six or seven years, after abandoning the sporadic column of "Tel Aviv Gleanings" which she ran for some six years previously. It has been more or less her policy to be objectively critical on importations and generously critical on the rising output of locally written plays.

Pioneers in Art and Criticism

THERE were as many pioneer artists with training and background as there were pioneers in other fields. They came with French, Russian, German and Viennese traditions, full of Zionist zeal and determined to create a Palestinian Art. There was a new life to be captured, new light and new colour. From the very start of *The Post* the task of evaluating these prolific outpourings in oil and bronze, was assigned to Sadie Wilkinson.

She came fresh from London, with as much enthusiasm and zest for her newly adopted country as had the artists, whom she was to present to the readers of *The Post*. She had studied in Slade and had some training in French studios. In addition, she had a facile turn of phrase in which to tell her views of whatever was being put up for show. She early recognized that she had no Van Goghs or Picassos to deal with, but she equally recognized that there was much serious work of quality being done. Her criticisms, while kindly, were always well balanced and constructive. It says much for her fairness and personality that she has remained the friend of most of the artists over this long period of time.

Theodor F. Meysels has been *The Post's* critic in Jerusalem since he succeeded the painter, Violet Citron, in 1938. He had come to Israel the same year from Vienna, where he was in charge of reporters on the "Neue Freie Presse." His "Rambler's Notebook" became a favourite with the many readers who liked to take the many interesting walks around a countryside studded with historical and archaeological sites. Like Sadie Wilkinson and "H" (E. Harris, an official of PICA since he came from Scotland during World War I, and the art critic for Haifa), Meysels also writes cinema reviews.

Archaeology was a subject in which *The Post* took a special interest both sharing the national enthusiasm for this revivification of Israel's historic past and contributing to it by the publication of lengthy articles by the nation's leading authorities including Dr. Yigael Yadin. It also published original matter in connection with the famous Shapiro forgeries of the last century, and was one of the first papers in the world to point up the importance of Professor Sukeinik's acquisition of the first three Dead Sea scrolls. The story of the purchase by Dr. Yadin of the remaining four scrolls in the United States at the beginning of 1955 also indirectly brought credit to the paper, for it involved a *Post* "alumnus." It was Monty Jacobs who called Yadin's attention to the "Wall Street Journal" advertisement offering the scrolls for sale. And in Jerusalem, Ted Lurie's story cabied through Associated Press was by-lined throughout the world and received honourable mention in the house organ of that great world news agency. *The Post* wrote an editorial which was the occasion of a special word of commendation from Prime Minister Sharett. The article entitled "The Shrine of the Book" read, *inter alia*:

...we are indeed a strange and curious people; but sometimes our unique characteristics are proven justified in the broad perspective of historical events. These are very trying and difficult times for Israel. We are surrounded by bitter foes and worsening circumstances and even our friends in the West stretch our anxieties to breaking point. But nevertheless the acquisition of what those who put their whole faith in material things might describe as a few decaying manuscripts, fills the whole nation with a deep joy and a heightening of hope and confidence. What is the reason for this? Because under the hard facade of modernity, rationalism, agnosticism and cynicism which combine in the fabric of the national life with the simple faith by which tens of thousands still live, the mass of the people of this country known to us by the Law, in whatever modern guise it be refined, reinterpreted or restated, that this nation lives and finds the root and cause of its being. And so when precious and unique writings which throw so much light upon the interpretation of that Law and upon its authenticity are brought home to Israel, then indeed we do well to rejoice.

British Role in Sports Section

The sports section of *The Palestine Post* in the early years was channelled mainly towards the British policeman, soldier, clerk and gentleman of the Government. It usually gave the type of coverage which an Englishman would look for, no matter where he happened to be serving the Empire at the time. In the early days of the Mandate there was very little Jewish sports news. A government clerical official, Percy Speed, held the sports editorship as a supernumerary job until the end of the Mandate.

For a number of years a page or two of the paper were devoted to a variety of sports which took place principally in England. They were written by English sports writers in very good style and seemed to neglect no phase of activities in the sporting world. A typical page on October 31, 1936, contained an article on Rugby football by "Scrum," while "Linesman" wrote on Association football. "Blackheath" then appeared at least once a week with a comprehensive review of the sports in England in "A Sportsman's Scrapbook" — "A Weekly Causerie of Notes and Views." On this typical day there is a report on boxing, one on horse racing, on golf, tennis and ice skating. There is a short report on a "Keen Hockey Game" at the YMCA in Jerusalem between the "Y" team and the RAF.

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Police Chief Writes Column

If any proof were needed for the fact that *The Palestine Post* was directed at the British reader, it was not only the space devoted to such burning issues as "body line bowling" in cricket, which seemed for a time to threaten the unity of the British Dominions, but also the space given to "The Hunt" on the local scene. This special column was called "The Ramle Vale" and appeared regularly from November till March or the end of the rainy season. It was written by Sabreur, who was in reality R. G. B. Spicer, the Chief of Police.

"The Ramle Vale" was a great favourite of many people who knew absolutely nothing about the chase and cared less. It seemed to have so little to do with the realities of life in Palestine. The Hunt had all of the trappings of the real thing, pink coats, the proper breakfasts, dogs, horses, riders and hunted animals which appear to be called Jack. Sabreur had a beautifully obscure turn of phrase which made his tales of the chase even more intriguing. Early in the paper's history Ramle Jack soliloquized in verse:

When Samson set my brush on fire
To spoil the Timmites' barley
I made my point away from Tyre
And left Philistia early.
By Gath to Ramle Vale I fled
And took the Joppe Road sir!
And was a gentleman in Red
When all the quorn were woad, sir!

The poem follows the "Jack" through the pages of history down to the present day. He was in turn pursued and hunted by Romans, Crusaders and Bonapartian aspirants to the conquest of the Holy Land. At the time of the writing the poor scraggly fox was being chased by Britons in moth-eaten Pink coats...

During the war years sports continued to occupy important space in *The Post*. The reports became more earthy and often less literary as they began to carry stories of competitions on the local scene. Army, RAF and Police teams competed, and local teams such as Maccabi and Hapoel began to develop as a result of the challenge. Spectator interest grew and the results of a good Rugby football or soccer game became news for local readers of every extraction.

After the end of the World War, teams from abroad came to compete with local teams, and excitement ran higher. Sport had become a part of the pattern of life in the Jewish community. Once having taken its undisputed place in the life of the people, the space allotted to sports events in the country fell into place. Special events got special space and the regular competitions were reported briefly and concisely by reporters who had developed their sports sense and knowledge with the teams. A lot of the colour and fun had been washed out of the reports for the non-sporting reader, and sportswriting took on a down-to-earth, journalistic tone. Keith Beecher succeeded Speed as sports editor, again, however, only on a part-time basis.

Development of Woman's Page

NO paper worthy of its name would be complete without a woman's page. Just as the Sports news was designed to appeal to the British male reader, the woman's page was designed to tell the English woman away from home just what her sister in London and the provinces were eating, wearing or doing in order to become beautiful and remain young. The arts of living and eating as presented in the early *Post* were often far removed from the realities of living in Palestine. The hints and suggestions were as often as not of the kind suitable for the sunless, fireplace-heated homes in Yorkshire or Surrey, but they were given to the women living in Palestine in all seriousness. Beginning with 1935, however, Lillian Cornfeld, a local dietitian, began to publish a column on food news in Palestine, with suggestions as to how the local foods could be used satisfactorily and economically.

The most amusing and hardest feature was Mrs. Pepys' Diary. Mrs. Pepys had an original way of giving her prescriptions and proscriptions with a Pepsian turn of phrase.

Of recent years the women's interests are confined to the Friday papers and contain articles devoted to the development of local fashions, cosmetics and beauty trends, with occasional bows to the Paris, London and New York scenes. The cookery articles of Molly Bar-David are timely and pay due attention to both palatability and the use of local produce. Like sport, women's interests have been localized.



Some of *The Post's* printing staff a quarter of a century ago. Left to right: the late David Tarnopolsky, one of the country's first linotypists; Yitzhak Florentine; Nathan Rabbinowitz, who died of his injuries received in the bombing of *The Post*; Aaron Baumgarten; Shalom Lachs, the stonehand who made up the paper's first issue and this supplement 25 years later; and the late Yehuda Russo. In the foreground is Yitzhak Tavil, who lost an eye in the explosion in 1947.

Ann Goldsmith was amongst the small group of people who were in on the beginning. Everyone who had any connection with the paper in the first half of its existence remembers Ann with the deepest affection. She was an important part, not only of the paper, but of Jerusalem itself. Violet Citron, the paper's first art critic who has lived and painted in the country for many years, says her recollections of those days are inevitably interwoven with her memories of Ann Goldsmith:

She didn't in those days just sit comfortably in her office, which, by the way, was on the opposite side of Hassolei Street then, and wait for the ads to come to her (she was the first Advertising Manager) because at that time such a necessity had not occurred to many either inside or outside the country; therefore Anne was more often to be met equipped with sunshade and perspiring smile in the Jaffa Road, off to pin down the latest businessman she had marked down as a possible victim to the revolutionary idea of advertising in *The Palestine Post*...

She was later succeeded by Helen Rossi, the present woman's page editor. Helen also plays an important part in the promotion of advertising. But she is most proud of her directorship of the annual Jerusalem Post Toy Fund Appeal.

She began this in the winter of 1950 in concert with the late Marion Hootfen of the Saad Organization and since then every Hanukka *The Post* has carried a heart-moving appeal to its readers for toys for every one of Israel's underprivileged children. The response from this country and all parts of the world has been a mounting delight. To date nearly IL65,000 have been raised in cash and an equivalent amount in toys. Ma'barot, border villages and all government children's institutions are beneficiaries, and last year no less than 300 places received toys. The Toy Fund has also been responsible for the establishment of children's playgrounds in various places.

'A Private View and a Thank You'

Those whose names have been cited are only a few of the small army of men and women who worked on *The Post* and progressed to other fields. Their feelings are best summed up in the following tribute from David Vital, now a member of Israel's diplomatic corps abroad and in recent years a sub-editor and contributor of second leaders and Marginal Columns. He calls his contribution: "*The Post—A Private View and a Thank You Letter*":

My connection with *The Post*, was, I believe, highly typical. It is, in fact, one of peculiarities of *The Post*, as well as one of its virtues, that it has for years served as something between a training school and a transit centre for a host of young, on the whole intellectually and above all unemployed, young people from the English-speaking countries. Not all of us were truly new immigrants; not all of us went to *The Post* because we had no Hebrew and it was the only available and congenial place of employment; not all of us were vitally interested in journalism; not all of us enjoyed the smoky, smelly, utterly unique atmosphere of the printshop; and not all of us were grateful to the management or considered that we got as good as we gave. But some of this was true of all of us, even if the proportions varied very considerably. The common denominator was our knowledge of the English language, a minimal understanding of and acquaintance with Israel and a willingness to work at awkward hours for modest pay.

This last willingness was not of infinite duration. Acquaintance with the country and knowledge of the language advanced very rapidly—there is certainly no more efficient way to enter into the bones of a community than by practising journalism in it for a year or two. The longer a boy or girl was on *The Post* and moved in interesting circles in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, the more often he came up against offers of other jobs, more lucrative, perhaps more glittering at first, certainly easier of execution. Some stayed, of course, and serve the paper to this day; but many left after a period and occupy what must be quite a fascinating variety of positions and jobs.

This is probably the picture of things that the management was most conscious of; the turn-over of young, green people. But there was another aspect which, I think, does considerable credit to both sides: the permanent senior and the transitory junior staffs of *The Post*. For the one taught the other as best it knew. We the juniors learned a great deal of the trade, as much, or almost as much as we wished: how to write a lead, how to make up a page, how and why to sub copy, how to write a leader or a headline or an obituary or a wedding announcement, and so on and so forth, without end...

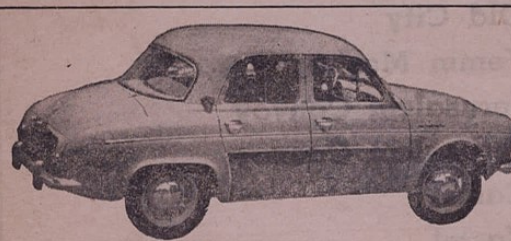
I venture to say we were a permanent source of fresh, dust-free air amid the worn and somewhat creaky furniture of *The Post's* editorial rooms. Journalists are notoriously cynical and sceptical, but it takes time to become a journalist. I believe the editors of *The Post* were aware, if only half-consciously, that public opinion began to win the building, not without. Of course, there was a much less satisfactory side to the coin. You can't run a paper very efficiently with a crowd of greenhorns. They make mistakes, they misunderstand, they question purely technical decisions on highly moral but utterly inappropriate grounds, they know less than they think they do, and, cardinal sin, they fail to distinguish between the important and the unimportant item of news. The vigilance of the seniors had to be twice the normal ration. Nor was it always successful. But the young do not care greatly about the wounds they inflict on institutions. We were quite content to learn at the school of *The Post* without troubling greatly about its profit and loss account. The editors and management probably had doubts at times about the value of our services. But I think we rarely had—about their value to us.

'...Gory But Glorious'

And finally from Monty Jacobs, an old staffer and feature writer, now living in New York, comes the following: "...when someone asks me 'When were you in Israel?' I tend either to murmur modestly, 'Oh in the Independence period,' or I'll almost shout so all may hear: 'In 1946, and '47 and '48... in those years of guts and action'..."

"And when I've paused for effect, I invariably add 'I was on *The Jerusalem Post*, y'know!'"

"...It was gory but glorious."



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C. Z. KLOETZEL

S. GLOOZ

Dr. M. DRIMMER

DAVID TARNOPOLSKY

YEHUDA RUSSO

AHARON TANACHI

MOSHE SACHS

KILLED IN ACTION

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1948

DAVID MIZRAHI	—	Atarot
YEHUDA RADOSZ	—	Old City
YOSEF DISHI	—	Yemin Moshe
YAACOV ALCALI	—	Jerusalem Convoy
YOSEF LEVI	—	Jerusalem Convoy
HAIM COHEN	—	Castel
YAACOV MEIMIRAN	—	Castel
NURIEL ALIMAH	—	Mamillah Road
ROBERT STERN	—	Talbieh
HAIM FARBER	—	'The Post' Bombing
NATHAN RABINOWITZ	—	'The Post' Bombing
MOSHE WEINBERG	—	'The Post' Bombing

"The power of resistance which has enabled the Jewish people to survive for thousands of years has been based to a large extent on traditions of mutual helpfulness. In these years of affliction our readiness to help one another is being put to an especially severe test. May we stand this test as well as did our fathers before us."

ALBERT EINSTEIN

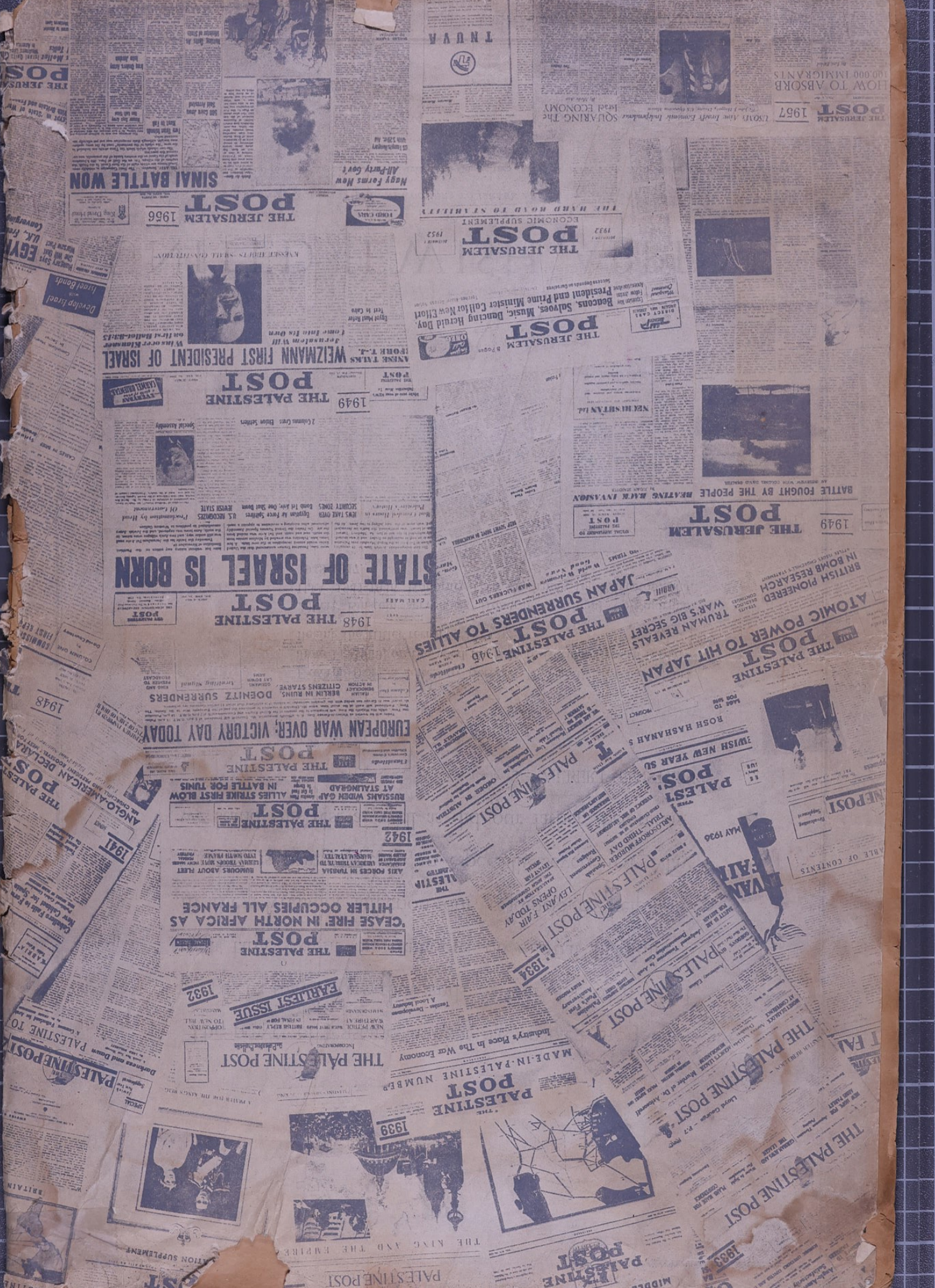
Excerpt from a letter to Bernard H. Sandler of New York, June 14, 1939, on the need for help to German Jewish refugees fleeing the Hitler terror.

Albert Einstein served as Honorary National Co-Chairman, UJA, 1941-1946, Honorary UJA Chairman for Princeton, N.J., 1943-1947.

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SQUARING THE CIRCLE



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ECONOMIC SUPPLEMENT
1952

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SINAI BATTLE WON

THE JERUSALEM POST
1956

WEIZMANN FIRST PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL

THE PALESTINE POST
1949

STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

THE PALESTINE POST
1948

EUROPEAN WAR OVER, VICTORY DAY TODAY

THE PALESTINE POST

CEASE FIRE IN NORTH AFRICA AS
HITLER OCCUPIES ALL FRANCE

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ANGLO-AMERICAN DECLARATION

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