

Obituary

BRIGADIER ERNEST BENJAMIN

The death occurred last Friday of Brigadier Ernest Frank Benjamin, who was Commander of the Jewish Brigade Group during the Second World War. He was aged 69.

Brigadier Benjamin, who was born in Toronto, was the only son of the late Mr. Frank D. Benjamin, a leading Jewish communal worker in Toronto and later in London—two of his offices in London were treasurer of the United

Synagogue and treasurer of the Union of Hebrew and Religion Classes.

After leaving Clifton College, Bristol, where he was head of Polack's House, Ernest Benjamin entered Woolwich and was commissioned in the Royal Engineers. He served in Egypt, India and Malaya before returning to England in 1939.

In the early part of the last war he served at home, holding the rank of temporary lieutenant-colonel. In 1942 he went to Madagascar and took an important part in the campaign there, for which he was mentioned in dispatches. Later, he held staff appointments in Italy and the Middle East.

In 1944 Brigadier Benjamin was appointed to command the Jewish Brigade Group which was formed out of the Jewish battalion of the Palestine Regiment reinforced by English units from brigades that had been disbanded. The Jewish Brigade played its part in the spring offensive which ended the war against Italy. After the war the Brigade gave valuable help to the hordes of refugees who were making their way south—with the aim of reaching Palestine eventually—and started two camps for them.

In recognition of his services in Italy Brigadier Benjamin was made a C.B.E.

He was a vice-president of the "Forest of Freedom" committee formed in London in 1946 to plant trees in Palestine in the names of Jewish men and women who took part in the war effort. He was parade commander, in 1951, of the annual Jewish Remembrance Parade in London and in several other years he headed the wreath party. He took an active interest in the Jewish Lads' Brigade, serving as joint treasurer.

MR. HARRY JACOBS

Mr. Harry Jacobs, who died in Hove last Saturday at the age of 71, gave nearly 40 years' service to the Brighton and Hove Jewish community.

After 31 years as honorary secretary of the Brighton and Hove Jewish Board of Guardians he was made hon. life president when he retired two years ago.

In 1938 Mr. Jacobs was one of



the founders of a local refugee hostel for 30 children rescued from Nazi Germany. He served as president of the local Norwood Orphan Aid Society and of Maccabi.

From its inception in 1941 he was hon. secretary of the Brighton and Hove Jewish Communal Council until he became treasurer in 1959.

In the general community Mr. Jacobs was well known as a cinema owner and he had been the chairman of the Sussex branch of the Cinematograph Exhibitors Association and of the Cinema Trade Benevolent Fund.

A prominent freemason he was a past master of the Sussex Unity lodge.

Dr. RUDOLPH JOSHUA FALK FRIEDLAENDER, of Manchester, who died last November, left £49,667 (net, £46,633; duty, £17,351).

Mrs. MIRIAM LANGLEBEN, of Hampstead, who died last December, left £178,009 (net, £167,655; duty, £92,473).

MR. BEN SHAHN

Mr. Ben Shahn, the American artist who was noted for his social realism and his support for liberal causes, died in New York last Friday at the age of 70.

Shahn was born in Lithuania and went to the United States as a child. He was apprenticed to a Brooklyn lithographer and after attending New York University he began to study art at the National Academy of Design.

He travelled extensively, visiting the art centres of Europe. The first paintings that brought him into notice were concerned with instances of social injustice, including the notorious Dreyfus and Sacco-Vanzetti cases.

Shahn produced several murals depicting a broad view of American life, he created illustrations for a Hagada and for the works of Sholem Aleichem and other famous writers, and had published volumes of his own work.

He lectured at the Tate Gallery and an exhibition of his graphic art was held at the Leicester Galleries in London in 1959.

MRS. SOPHIA DOMNITZ

If ever the description of "Eshet Chayil" could be applied to any woman, it could be to Mrs. Sophia Domnitz, who died in London last week, writes Mr. NATAN BARNETT.

Coming from a long and illustrious line of rabbinic scholars she fulfilled the precept laid down in the Ethics of the Fathers, "Let thy house be open wide; let the poor be members of thy household. . . ." For hers was an ever-open door, her hospitality and good deeds knowing no bounds.

Mrs. Domnitz is survived by three children, one of whom, Myer, is secretary and education officer to the Central Jewish Lecture Committee.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Mr. Levi Eshkol

A memorial service was held for Mr. Levi Eshkol, the Israeli Prime Minister, by the Federation of Synagogues in association with the Synagogue Council of the Zionist Federation at the Great Garden Street Synagogue, London, E., on Tuesday.

The Hespel was delivered by the acting Rav Rashi, Dayan M. Fisher, and the service was conducted by the Rev. L. Shapsonnick and the Rev. D. Friedmann.

In his address Dayan Fisher said that "Israel and world Jewry will eternally be grateful to Levi Eshkol for what he has achieved at the time of their greatest peril."

MR. ASHER WINGATE

A memorial service for Mr. Asher Wingate, former warden of the Willesden Synagogue and treasurer of the United Synagogue, was held at the Willesden Synagogue last week.

The service was conducted by the Rev. J. Landenberg, and in his address, Rabbi Dr. A. Melinek paid tribute to Mr. Wingate for his 32 years of communal work.

Among those present were Sir Isaac Wolfson, president of the United Synagogue, the Hon. Ewen Montagu, former president, and other honorary officers of the United Synagogue.

MR. SAMUEL FISHMAN

By the death last Friday of Mr. Samuel Fishman at the age of 75, the community has lost a modest and upright man and a loyal and devoted Jew, who served several good causes, first in Stamford Hill and then in Golders Green, writes Rabbi Dr. EUGENE NEWMAN. He was actively associated with the Mizrahi movement.

Mr. Fishman is survived by his widow, his son, Asher (the chairman of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education and president of the National Council of Shechita Boards), another son and a daughter.

CANTOR N. STOLNITZ

Cantor Nathan Stolnitz, writer, cultural leader and dean of Canadian cantors, died while on holiday at Miami Beach. He was aged 75.

Mr. Stolnitz founded the Ontario Cantors' Association and he was the author of two books, "Music in Jewish Life" and "On the Wings of Song," both in Yiddish and English. He was for many years Toronto correspondent for the New York "Tog Morgen-Zhurnal" writing under the pen-name of A. Vilensky (a reference to his native Vilna).

J.C. 100 years ago . . . and 50 years ago

March 19, 1869

NEW FORM OF OATH.—The oath more Judaico, so offensive to the Jews, has at last been abolished in Prussia. The new form of oath runs thus: "I swear by God the Almighty and Omniscient," and concludes with the words, "So may God help me." Men have to raise their right hand while being sworn, and women to lay their right hand on the chest. Whether a rabbi, in order to exhort the swearer, should be present or not is left to the discretion of the authorities.

By new electoral laws introduced in Saxony all distinctions between Jews and Christians are removed, this law distinctly stating that civil and political rights are altogether independent of the religious confession of a citizen.

March 21, 1919

"A GOOD AND URGENT CAUSE."—We wish God-speed to the joint scheme of the West London and the Liberal Synagogues for launching a sort of Jewish Toynbee Hall movement in East London. The scheme will entail a considerable yearly outlay, but the readiness with which the two bodies concerned have undertaken the obligation shows an excellent spirit aroused in a good and urgent cause. It is also significant that most of the initial capital outlay—some £5,000—has been raised among those who are not members of either synagogue. This is said to be a tribute to the devoted labours of Capt. and Mrs. Basil Henriques—a tribute with which we would cordially associate ourselves.

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