

Richard Grunberger

NAILING THE HITLER MYTH

Evidence Points One Way Only

Henry Ford's dictum "History is bunk" ranks among the great catchphrases of our time. Although the phrase itself has absolutely no meaning, the debunking of history—i.e. of historical truth—can be a meaningful activity. It is, for instance, highly meaningful for some individuals to falsify the record of the Third Reich. Those falsifiers whose motives are blatantly obvious tend to be dismissed as Neo-Nazis; more subtle operators in the same murky area go under the almost respectable appellation of "revisionist historians".

The best known of the British revisionist historians is one David Irving. Irving is a workaholic document grubber of maverick, not to say downright dangerous, disposition. An early brush with the law of libel brought him as much publicity as it cost his publisher damages; he still awaits arraignment before the court where historical truth is judged.

His appearance there is long overdue. In 1977 he published a book which in essence absolved Hitler of responsibility for the Final Solution. Irving compounded the affront contained in this statement by asserting that Hitler had been kept in the dark about the mass murder of Jews by the SS until late in 1943. (Shades of *Wenn das der Führer wüsste*—the stock phrase with which "moderate" Nazis would gloss over atrocities during the Third Reich!).

The furore which greeted the publication of this book incited Irving to a further bout of exhibitionism. He offered to pay a thousand dollars to any historian who could produce a document signed by Hitler relating to the Final Solution.

Historical truth, no less than respect for the dead, demanded that Irving's challenge be met. The scholar who did so is Gerald Fleming, Senior Lecturer at the University of Surrey.* Fleming spent four years researching his topic—a labour of scholarship that took him as far afield as the USSR Historical Archives at Riga. He has followed every trail and wherever possible cross-checked the discovered

* *Hitler und die Endlösung*. By Gerald Fleming. Limes Verlag, Munich.

evidence by interviews. His findings, published as *Hitler und die Endlösung* have received endorsement by such renowned historians as Professors Scheffler (Berlin) and Hugh Trevor-Roper.

Fleming has failed to unearth any document signed by Hitler ordering the mass murder of the Jews. Within the terms of his wager Irving would therefore appear to have won—but at a more meaningful level the very opposite holds true. Fleming's study establishes Hitler as, beyond peradventure, both chief instigator and relentless enforcer of the Final Solution.

DELIBERATE EVASION

Reasons for the lack of documentary evidence for this are not far to seek. They are already suggested by the very phrase *Endlösung*. The same addiction to the technique of the Big Lie which made the Nazis use evacuation, resettlement, special treatment, and so on, as euphemisms for extermination, and made them perpetrate mass murder secretly and on non-German soil, caused Hitler to refrain from signing any document that might link his exalted person to the unspeakably vile things done in his name.

So much for what might be termed the negative corroboration of Fleming's thesis. Its positive complement consists of an overwhelming accumulation of circumstantial evidence, faced with which no jury would bring in any other verdict than "proven".

Limitations of space permit only a cursory summary of Fleming's rigorously substantiated case for the prosecution. There is first of all the link—alike with regard to technique and personnel—between the Nazi *Euthanasie-Programm* and the extermination of the Jews. The murder of incurable German invalids was undertaken by section "T4", an SS team directly responsible to the *Reichskanzlei* (i.e.

Hitler himself). When soon after a public outcry in Germany had put an end to the Euthanasia programme the Final Solution got under way. "T4" experts on gassing techniques took charge: Viktor Brack at Riga and Christian Wirth in the Belzec-Sobibor-Treblinka death camp complex. (Unlike the "mercy killing" of Germans the mass killing of Jews, incidentally, stirred no public reaction inside the Reich.)

A few months later when an eyewitness account of the massacre at Riga reached Admiral Canaris, the *Abwehr* chief remonstrated with Hitler, who told him: "You are too soft! I have to do this; after me no other man will do it". At the start of the invasion of Russia Hitler informed his generals that "certain activities" in the Eastern theatre were reserved for the SS; the army, he said, owed him a debt of gratitude for allocating the "dirty work" to others.

The bloodiest of this dirty work was undertaken by mobile mass extermination squads called *Einsatzgruppen*. After a mass shooting at Minsk Himmler barked at a badly shaken *Einsatz* officer "These orders come from the Fuehrer and have the force of law!" It was likewise on the orders of Hitler, as supreme military commander, that service at Auschwitz ranked on a par with front line duty and carried with it identical opportunities for promotion and decorations.

In the matter of antisemitism Hitler found even Streicher wanting. In the course of one of his monologues at the *Führerhauptquartier* he said: "*Streicher hat im Stürmer den Juden zeichnerisch idealisiert. The Jew is much viler, bloodthirstier and more satanic than Streicher has depicted him.*"

LAST MESSAGE

Another antisemitic monster whom Hitler was eventually to find wanting was Himmler. Near the end of the war the latter, desperate to save his own life (and already in treasonable communication with Bernadotte) disobeyed Hitler's order to blow up the remaining concentration camps. Hitler thereupon directed Kaltenbrunner to countermand Himmler's instructions—with the result that the fate of such Jews as still survived depended on how effectively this *Führerbefehl* was carried out.

Then on 29 April 1945 Hitler issued his last message to Germany from the bunker. In it he, who was about to die, yet again pronounced the death sentence upon the Jewish people which he had come so tragically close to carrying out.

Hitler's dying words were a final summation of his lifelong anti-Jewish obsession—the same obses-

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sion that had made him divert scarce resources from the front at the height of the war in order to expedite the extermination programme.

Salient facts like these have of course long been common knowledge. What the author of *Hitler und die Endlösung* has done is to supplement them with a whole array of previously unknown facts. In so doing Gerald Fleming—a German Jew whose family had lived in Baden-Württemberg for generations—has countered David Irving's mischievous provocations with exemplary scholarship. This book deserves speedy translation into English and the widest possible readership.

LUEBECK BAY SINKINGS

"Stern", the Hamburg weekly, recently published the story of how three ships with concentration camp prisoners from the Neuengamme Camp, were sunk by RAF Typhoons in the last days of the war, on 3 May, 1945 in Lübeck bay. The object of the "Stern" story was to emphasise Allied guilt. An article in "The Daily Telegraph" and a series of letters to the same newspaper during March told a very different story. The letters were from the son of the then commandant of the area, the late Vice-Admiral H. T. Baillie-Grohman, the ADC to the 8 Corps commander, and survivors of the event, two of whom live in Britain.

From their story, it emerges that the ships were unmarked, and the RAF had reason to believe that they might be carrying fleeing Nazis abroad. There had clearly been a breakdown in communications. The *Cap Arcona* and *Athenas* were sunk. Prisoners who escaped and reached the shore were massacred by German marines. When Field Marshal Milch surrendered to Admiral Baillie-Grohman, handing him his Field Marshal's baton, the Admiral was so upset and incensed at the massacres that he broke the baton on Milch's head and made him go down to the beach and see the corpses strewn along the shore. There are conflicting reports of Milch's reaction. Mr. F. G. Parson, the former ADC, said that Milch broke down and said he was ashamed to be a Reich field marshal and a German, but Admiral Baillie-Grohman's son says that Milch's comment was, "After all, they are only Poles and Jews."

In a final letter, Ms Lillian Strachan of Manchester, who worked in 1947 in Displaced Persons Accommodation Centre 118 in Neustadt/Holstein, reports that there were Jews on the ships and that two survivors, a German Jew called Preiser and a Polish Jew called Pefferman (Fefferman?) told how they had been marched north from their concentration camps, and that all the survivors blamed the Germans, and not the RAF.

GARDEN MEMORIAL FOR HOLOCAUST

Work is to begin at once on landscaping a garden near the Serpentine in Hyde Park, to be created in memory of Holocaust victims. Mr. Greville Janner, President of the Board of Deputies, described plans for the garden as modest and simple, consisting of an arrangement of trees and plants with a central stone bearing a biblical quotation. London, he said, will no longer be the European capital with no memorial to those who perished. The opening ceremony will probably take place at the end of June. The garden is expected to prove a natural site for memorial meetings and similar events.

A CHILD OF OUR TIME

Autobiography of Walter Schwarz

Calling the book *Spaete Frucht—Bericht aus unstillen Jahren*. (Hans Christians Verlag, Hamburg, 157 pp, DM 18. —), Walter Schwarz, an authority in the field of restitution, has written his reminiscences. They mirror the upheavals he and his contemporaries had to live through. Born in 1906, he belongs to that generation of German Jews who spent their formative years in their country of birth but were still young enough to adjust their lives to the changed conditions of their countries of emigration. This at least was the general assumption. However, as Walter Schwarz's life story confirms, things were not quite as easy as they seem at first sight.

In his youth his life did not seem to differ from that of any other Berlin-W. boy and student. Yet behind the façade of a secure middle-class milieu was the hard struggle of a father to make ends meet. Walter had to contribute to the household by earning some money as a tutor of younger pupils. There was nothing unusual in tutoring ("Nachhilfestunden"), but most other "tutors" could enjoy the fees as pocket money for their own pleasure. Later, as a student, he took various jobs, one of them with the firm of the financier Jacob Michael. He did not have the time to attend the lectures of outstanding professors outside his legal curriculum. He passed his first examination (Referendar) with a good degree and attributes this to a large extent to his coach, the well-known "Repetitor" Siegbert Springer. There followed the training years as Referendar.

LACK OF OPTIONS

When the Nazis came to power, most of his "Bundesbrueder" in the Zionist rowing fraternity to which he belonged qualified for immigration certificates to Palestine as "capitalists" because they had the required sum of £1,000 at their disposal. However, this did not apply to Schwarz. On the other hand, he did not feel qualified to go as an agricultural worker. Thus he had to choose another country of emigration and decided to go to France.

The stay in France turned out to be a failure for him, as it was for so many other émigrés. Comités and personal recommendations were of only limited value. He gave German lessons, worked as a waiter, dishwasher and hotel receptionist. Sometimes he slept in a shelter for the homeless, mainly refugees like himself. All chances of getting an adequate and permanent position were frustrated by the refusal of a labour permit. Thus, after little more than a year, he returned to Berlin. This was still possible at that time; a few years later, returnees risked being put into a so-called "Schulungslager", a euphemism for Concentration Camps.

Back in Berlin, Schwarz first obtained a position as emigration adviser with the Palestine Office in the Meinekestrasse. Later, he was engaged by his "Bundesbruder" Dr. Siegfried Moses who ran a much frequented lawyer's office specialising in capital transfer arrangements for immigrants to Palestine. Schwarz gives a vivid description of the outstanding personality of Siegfried Moses who was his mentor and to whom he felt deeply attached. He also pays tribute to the Immigration Officer of the British Consulate in Berlin, Captain Foley, who in many cases helped Jews obtain immigration certificates by overcoming formal obstacles.

Finally, one day before the November 1938 pogroms, Schwarz himself left for Palestine. One year after his arrival he passed his law examination; it was only of theoretical value. The number of lawyers considerably exceeded the number of potential clients. Together with his newly wedded wife he went through the most difficult financial period of his life. Later, he joined the British Army and, after a frustrating initial period was seconded to the Intelligence Service in Egypt. He belonged to the team which had to crack the German code and, thanks to his knowledge of German and his imagination, was extremely successful. Yet in the eyes of the British officers the Palestinian Jewish members of the Forces were considered as inferior "natives" and Schwarz's application for a commission was turned down.

As a sergeant's pay was not sufficient to maintain his wife and her son from her first marriage he left the Army in 1944. Back in Palestine, he tried again to build up a lawyer's practice, but on the whole success was limited. After the creation of the Jewish State he was called up as a member of the Haganah and sent to Acre to supervise the registration of the property of the Arabs who had fled. Later he became for some time Secretary of the Organisation of Jews from Central Europe, the corresponding organisation of the AJR. Finally, in spring 1950, Siegfried Moses proposed him as legal adviser on restitution matters to the newly established Jewish Agency Office in Munich. However, personal differences resulted in his resignation as early as January 1952. In the same month, at the age of 46, he passed his doctor's examination with a thesis on the interrelation between the two forms of "Wiedergutmachung", restitution and compensation. This thesis became a standard work and was published as a book.

LATE FLOWERING

After his resignation in Munich Schwarz was again back to square one. Yet now he took a step which at last, as a "spaete Frucht", gave him permanent success and security. He established himself in Berlin as a lawyer specialising in "Wiedergutmachung". Because of his legal proficiency and his administrative ability his office became one of the leading practices in this field, and the number of Nazi victims who owe the settlement of their claims to him is particularly great. Yet he did not restrict his activities to the representation of individual claims. He established contacts with the German authorities in charge and also maintained personal relations with leading officials of URO and the Claims Conference. Beyond this he widened the publication of decisions in the field of Wiedergutmachung into a monthly periodical which also included articles on the subject.

After 15 years, in 1967, he gave up his lawyer's practice and settled in Zurich. With the help of the Ministry of Finance he embarked on a great project, a work on the history of restitution and compensation. The first volume, written by Schwarz himself, has already appeared. Thus the retirement from the day-to-day work is not a time of leisure for him. He also takes an active interest in German-Jewish historiography and is a London Board member of the Leo Baeck Institute.

The book relates a wealth of details and captures the atmosphere of the various periods his generation went through. It is written in a clear style and also reflects the author's sense of humour. He neither exaggerates his achievements nor plays down his shortcomings.

W. ROSENSTOCK

John H. Kahan

HOME NEWS

THE REICHSTAG FIRE MYSTERY

John H. Kahan was a journalist and film script-writer in Berlin when the events he describes in this article took place. In 1935 he came to Britain at the invitation of the film star Conrad Veidt, and worked for Alexander Korda. He wrote the script for George Formby's first large-scale film success, "I See Ice". Mr. Kahan, who lectures for the British Film Institute, is a member of the AJR. He was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour First Class for Art and Science five years ago, at the age of 80. This article is intended as a footnote to an important historical event.

Half a century has passed since the German Reichstag in Berlin went up in flames. I believe that I am the only person still alive who knew most of the people concerned, and by chance had knowledge of the machinations behind the scenes of that event.

To sketch in the setting I have to go back fifteen years before the fire. Towards the end of the First World War I met a young sergeant (*Zugführer*) in the Austrian Imperial Army called Erich Steinschneider. He was working as a dowser, a water diviner for the troops, in the rocky Karst Mountains. He came from a small town near Brno called Boskowitz, and after the war automatically became a Czech citizen.

From dowsing, he went on to take up clairvoyance, and decided to give public performances as a clairvoyant, beginning in Vienna. At the suggestion of his manager, he changed his name to Eric Jan Hanussen. However, his talent for publicity and sensation got him into trouble and he was expelled to Czechoslovakia. A few years later he turned up in Germany as the great clairvoyant Hanussen and his performances throughout the country attracted packed houses. Hanussen was clairvoyance.

GULLIBILITY EXPLOITED

Ever ambitious to further his career and promote himself, a few years later he started his own popular "boulevard weekly" called the "Berliner Wochenschau". The paper started with a circulation of 10,000, but after the first week Hanussen, who was no journalist, did not know how to carry on, so he appealed to our old friendship and asked me to become editor of the paper. In a few weeks we were able to raise the circulation—with scoops real and invented, one recording a clairvoyant session with Hanussen which revealed all about Mayerling—to 150,000. The last page was full of horoscopes and analysed readers' handwriting and was immensely popular. There was no end to people's gullibility, which Hanussen knew how to exploit.

In 1931 Hanussen returned from a tour through Germany and, floating with the tide, decided to turn

the paper into a Nazi-orientated organ, imitating the front page of Goebbels's "Angriff". Hanussen the opportunist and self-promoter did not realise what murky waters he had waded into. The change brought him contact with some highly-placed Nazis, and he had to dismiss me and all the other Jewish journalists. Among his important new friends were Count von Helldorf, an important SS officer who became Deputy Police Commissioner for Potsdam, and Sturmgruppenführer Ernst, the leader of SA Stormtroop 33 Charlottenburg. The members of this stormtroop were hooligans, keen for street brawls and fervent Jew haters. There were also many former Communist Youths who joined the brown shirts. The meeting places for both were around the corner from my flat. One day I asked a young man whom I had previously seen in communist garb and who was now in a brown shirt, what had made him change. He answered with a smile, "Well, Adolf pays us two marks more per day". Thus it was no great surprise that the mentally disturbed former communist youth van der Lubbe was now in a brown shirt.

FATEFUL SEANCE

In March 1933 Hanussen was contracted to appear twice daily at the Berlin Scala, the equivalent to the London Palladium, where he was billed to fill the second part of the programme.

For a long time, despite his high earnings, Hanussen had lived in a rented furnished flat. Now he took a huge luxury flat in the Augsburgstrasse, and arranged an enormous reception. Many leading figures of Berlin society came in formal dress, among them Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia, the grandson of the Kaiser, with his Russian princess, and of course Count Helldorf, with another high-ranking SS officer, von Ohst. In the afternoon Hanussen had rung me to invite me to the party and asked me to bring along Siegfried Arno, the famous comedian who had the lead in a play I was rehearsing for a tour to The Hague, because he wanted to show that he still had some Jewish friends.

Hanussen's manager-cum-secretary was a handsome young adventurer, a Serb called Dzino. He was the son of the only Moslem staff officer of the former Austrian Imperial Army. He would vet and scrutinise anyone who wanted to question Hanussen or attend one of his seances. Dzino was married to the daughter of an English admiral.

In the course of the evening Hanussen went into one of the side rooms with Helldorf, von Ohst and Dzino for a private seance. The next morning Hanussen rang me and asked me to come round to see some-

thing important. He showed me the transcript of the seance. Helldorf had put the question: "Will the plan for the consolidation of our power be successful?"

Pretending to be in a trance, Hanussen had answered: "The great plan for the consolidation of the Party's power will be completely successful and I see the great Wallot building going up in bright flames!" (Wallot was the architect of the Reichstag building.) Since I knew that Hanussen's clairvoyant talents were by no means infallible, I asked him what that meant. With a smile he replied, "In a few days you will see that Ernst and his chaps will attend to that".

Two nights later the Reichstag went up in flames and I had no doubt that SA Stormtroop 33 Charlottenburg, under Ernst's command, had done the job, leaving the deranged van der Lubbe as a scapegoat.

In March Hanussen started his engagement at the Scala and between matinee and evening performances Ernst and some of his boys would come to Hanussen's flat for a drink. However, one day towards the end of March, Ernst asked Hanussen in a very official tone to accompany him to his (Hanussen's) flat, where Ernst and his men ransacked the place, even breaking up his elaborate custom-made desk.

They must have been looking for documents connecting Hanussen with them—the transcript of the seance, as well as receipts for money Hanussen had lent to Helldorf and Ernst (he had paid for the furniture when Ernst married). Hanussen had told me that morning that the transcript of the seance was deposited in several banks, where it may well still lie.

They arrested Hanussen and took him away in their motor car. A few days later his body was found in a wood near Potsdam with 20 bullets in it. The police commissioner of the Potsdam district was Count Helldorf.

MURDER MOTIVES

Dzino was held under house arrest by the SS, but managed to escape with his wife and child, first to Denmark, and then to Vienna where he came to see me. He told me that Hanussen had been bragging foolishly that the Nazis would hand over to him, because of his connections, the Mosse publishing firm which produced the "Berliner Tageblatt", and he had also been making careless remarks about the Reichstag fire—immediately after the fire the Nazis had banned the Communist and Social Democratic Parties. Thus the Nazis had decided to murder Hanussen. Dzino was worried for his own life.

In June 1934, when the Roehm massacre was carried out, the 30-odd members of SA Stormtroop 33 Charlottenburg, with their leader Ernst—who, as a bi-sexual had been close to Roehm—were shot.

In 1936, in Vienna, in a fit of despair, Dzino shot his wife and child and then himself. In 1944, after the July 20 assassination attempt on Hitler, the last people in the know, Count Helldorf and von Ohst, were hanged. With their elimination, the mystery of the Reichstag fire had seemed to be buried.

A more detailed account of the above will be found in the author's forthcoming memoirs, "Karussell der Unwirklichkeit".

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HOME NEWS

DUKE'S TRIBUTE TO CBF

The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Central British Fund's jubilee appeal dinner and paid tribute to the fund's achievements. The Jewish community, he said, had contributed more than generously over the past fifty years, but the need for the CBF would, sadly, continue unabated for many years to come. In conclusion, Prince Philip gave his congratulations to the Fund and wished it success for the next 50 years to come.

Many former "clients" of the CBF were at the dinner, including the Chief Rabbi and Lady Jakobovits, Lord Weidenfeld and Sir Claus Moser, Chairman of the Royal Opera House. Sir Claus, in his appeal, said that but for the CBF many of the 70,000 refugees who came to Britain would not have survived. On behalf of all the "old customers" he expressed his gratitude, but added that the problems had not gone away. "This is the age of the refugee... we must always be ready... we can't wait for the money and we need to raise one million pounds".

INTERFAITH TANGLE

It is odd to note that old file cards, printed for use by the Central British Fund before the war, carried a space to be filled by the "Christian name" of the person seeking help. The CBF was, of course, primarily set up to help Jewish victims of persecution. An even stranger confusion of religions occurred recently in the King David Jewish Primary School in Liverpool. One of the winners in an essay competition on the theme of "My favourite festival" was a Moslem pupil, who declared that his favourite festival was Christmas.

TRIPLE OPENING FOR JEWISH BOOK WEEK

For the first time, Jewish Book Week opened in three different locations simultaneously. Woburn House, Stanmore and Canons Park Synagogue and the Yeshurun Synagogue, Gatley (Manchester), all mounted lecture series and children's programmes to mark the occasion.

Speaking at the Hebrew evening of book week was Yehuda Amichai, who has received many honours in Israel for his poetry and is now a world figure. A native of Wuerzburg, he was taken by his parents to Palestine in 1935. After service as a sergeant-major in the British Army Jewish Brigade, Amichai fought in the War of Independence before publishing his first book of poetry in 1955. His works have been translated into 20 or more languages, including English, and some of his poems have been set to music. His books are published in Britain by Penguin and the Oxford University Press, and in America by Harpers.

GLC GRANTS TO JEWISH CHARITIES

Beth Heleved, Hackney, which runs a home for the physically handicapped, is to receive £10,000. This is made up of a £7,500 grant from the Government with an allotment of £2,500 from the GLC. Another Jewish organisation, Agudas Israel of Stamford Hill, will receive £26,000 from public funds to enable it to convert existing premises into a meeting hall for the Jewish community. The GLC will also provide £10,000 for the Jewish Association for the Physically Handicapped, and is considering other grants to the Council for Social Responsibility and the Institute of Community Relations.

JEWISH HISTORY IN THE SALE ROOM

Ritual items made in Germany out of precious metals were a notable feature of a sale in March by Sotheby's. A silver spice tower and a Havdala candlestick from Nuremberg figured prominently among the sale items, together with kiddush cups from Augsburg. Most of the lots dated from the 18th century, but there were also some later objects, such as a musical menorah produced in Birmingham in 1930.

Recently seen in the sale room, too, was the postcard and postal history collection of Alexander Kaspar. This included postcards on the subject of the Dreyfus trials and a Zionist Congress card from the Hague dated 1907.

Rare cancellations from Jaffa and other cities of Palestine were also in the sale.

RETURN OF TOPOL

It is 16 years since Topol first appeared in a London theatre to enthral the British public with "If I were a rich man" and other songs from "Fiddler on the Roof". In June he will be seen once again in his role as Tevye at the start of 96 performances at the Apollo Victoria Theatre.

AJR GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting of the AJR will be held on Thursday, 30 June, at 7.45, at Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3. The main talk will be given by Mr. Peter Fraenkel, Controller of the European Service of the BBC, on "From the African Bush to BBC Bush House". Mr. Fraenkel has had a varied career, from the conflicts of Africa to the polarities of divided Europe and he will take his audience behind the scenes. It will be a talk not to be missed.

SURVIVOR MURDERED

A frail and sick widow who had survived the years of the Holocaust in Germany, Carmen Blanck-Sichel was beaten about the head and murdered in her home at Stanhope Avenue, Finchley. After the war she had worked as an actress in this country and was for a time associated with Joan Greenwood's Theatre Workshop. A woman of 19 has been charged with the murder. Miss Blanck-Sichel was at one time a client of the AJR.

PRIVATE TALKS ON LONDON EMBASSY

An Israeli newspaper has reported that the withdrawal of Eliahu Lankin as prospective ambassador for Israel in Britain was preceded by a diplomatic initiative from Mrs. Thatcher. Mr. David Wolfson, political chief of staff at 10 Downing Street and nephew of Sir Isaac Wolfson, had a secret meeting with Mr. Begin to explain that the appointment of a former Irgun Zvai Leumi leader would seriously damage Anglo-Israeli relations. The original suggestion to send Mr. Wolfson on this mission—by no means the first time he has met the Israeli premier—apparently came from Foreign Minister Francis Pym.

BALLET ON ITALIAN-JEWISH FATE

Although the sufferings of Italian Jews caught up in the Holocaust seems to present a strange theme for a ballet, Kenneth MacMillan's "Valley of Shadows" has received critical approval following the opening performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Based on Giorgio Bassani's "The Garden of the Finzi-Continis", the work alternates between two contrasts, the first set to the music of Tchaikovsky and showing the idyllic life of a wealthy Jewish family. In the other part, using music by Bohuslav Martinu, the ballet attempts to describe the horrors endured in a Nazi concentration camp and the ultimate murder of the once happy family.

MORE PROTESTS AT KEMPINSKI PLAY

Tom Kempinski's play "The Beautiful Part of Myself" will not now be shown at the Hampstead Theatre. The author is trying to find another venue for his work. Controversy over the play began when the proposed leading man withdrew, alleging that the work denigrated the part played by Zionists during the Holocaust. Warren Mitchell agreed to take over the role but continued criticism from the Board of Deputies has led to cancellation of the production.

NEW FELLOWSHIPS AT OXFORD

Former chairman of the National Yad Vashem Committee in Britain, Mr. Frank Green has initiated a scheme for fellowships at the universities of Oxford and Jerusalem. The new fellows will lecture on the theme of European Jewry from 1848 until the Holocaust and after. This is in addition to the courses already offered by the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies. Mr. Green has made a generous donation to cover almost half the annual expenses of the research and lecture courses involved, which it is hoped will attract the interest of undergraduates as well as postgraduate students.

MR. MICHAEL FLESCH, Q.C.

Mr. Michael Flesch, an authority in the field of tax legislation, has taken silk. He is the son of Mr. C. F. Flesch, for many years associated with the AJR as a member of its Executive, and with Self Aid. Belonging to the younger generation of Continental background, the new Q.C. has added lustre to our community through his achievement. We extend our cordial felicitations to him.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Holocaust Commission Quarrels

Charge and countercharge marked the disbanding of a private commission formed some 18 months ago to study the reactions of American Jewish organisations to the Nazi Holocaust. The original sponsor, Jack Eisner, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, promised \$69,000 for each of the first two years of the project. He has, however, withdrawn his support because he fears that the commission, consisting of 26 prominent American Jews, would not conduct a totally honest investigation. He said that there would have been attempts to protect the reputations of some American Jewish bodies and their leaders: the very people who should have brought pressure to bear on the President to save Europe's Jews. The commission chairman, former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, agreed that the U.S. Jewish leadership had been slow to react to the danger to European Jewry, but denied that the commission had given in to pressure from Jewish groups.

Samuel Merlin, a former member of Herut, who wrote the first draft of the terms of the commission, has argued that the American Jewish organisations concentrated on support for Zionists in Palestine during the Second World War and neglected the plight of European Jewry. Rabbi Stephen Wise, a founder of the American Jewish Congress, was particularly criticised. During the war, Mr. Merlin helped to organise a "Committee for National Liberation" designed to mobilise public opinion and put pressure on the US Administration to save Hitler's Jewish victims. He alleged at the time that American Jewish groups were attempting to sabotage the CNL's efforts.

It now appears likely that the Holocaust Commission will reconvene under Mr. Goldberg. Several institutions have promised to provide funds.

HISTORY FILMS FLOOD US

A new wave of interest in the 1930s and 1940s is sweeping through America, to judge by the number of films and TV programmes dealing with the period. The average citizen's regard for recent history seems to have awakened with the series "Holocaust" and "Roots". Not only will a 12-part portrayal of the rise of Adolf Hitler shortly be shown on American screens, but an 18-part epic, "The Winds of War", has just been watched by 140 million viewers. Interest in this series, based on Herman Wouk's saga of an American naval officer and his family at the outbreak of the Second World War, has been echoed by months of full houses for a German film "Das Boot", shown in Britain last year. This is the story of a U-boat and is subtitled in English, not a popular procedure in the US generally. The Hungarian film based on Klaus Mann's "Mephisto" has also had considerable success. Yet another current series, "Blood and Honour", concerned with the Hitler Youth organisation, has been well-received.

GHETTO LEADER

AVOIDS WARSAW COMMEMORATION

The last surviving commander of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising refused to take part in the official commemoration ceremonies held on 19 April, the 40th anniversary of the uprising. Dr. Mark Edelman, a member of Solidarity who practises medicine in Lodz, was arrested in December 1981 when martial law was imposed in Poland. Released after an international outcry, he prefers to mark the occasion by a private visit to the site of the ghetto.

Dr. Israel Kugler, of the Workmen's Circle in the US, urged Jewish leaders not to attend the official gathering. He pointed out that the chief organising body was Zbowid, the association for fighters for freedom and democracy; this veterans' association had often shown itself, through its leaders, as uncompromisingly antisemitic.

CLUB 1943

Meetings on Mondays at 8 p.m.
Hannah Karminski House,
9 Adamson Road, N.W.3

1983

- 9 May. Karin Reinfrank: "Peter Weiss and his Work".
- 16 May. Dr. Kurt Pflüger: "Schiller. Die Räuber".
- 23 May. Harry Blacker: "The Jewish East End" (with slides).
- 30 May. No Lecture (Spring Holiday).
- 6 June. Dr. Ruth von Schulze-Gävernitz: "Das Weltbild des Claudius Ptolomaeus (AD 140) und das Weltbild des Copernicus (1473-1543)".
- 13 June. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 1. Kassenbericht und Neuwahlen. 2. John Barlow, C.Eng., will give an Introduction to our Excursion in July to Old Jordans and Dorney Court (with slides). 3. Celebration of a 90th Birthday.
- 20 June. Dr. Gerhard Hirschfeld: "Das Deutsche Historische Institut, eine Brücke zwischen der deutschen und der englischen Geschichtswissenschaft".
- 17 June. Barry Fealdman: "Jewish Art and Artists" (with slides).
- 4 July. Peter Seglow: "Selected Views of Foreign Lands" (with slides).
- 11 July. Dr. Angela Hobart: "The Buddha and the Concept of Merit in Thailand (Siam)".
- 18 July. Berta Sterly: "Grosse Deutsche Schauspieler sprechen ein Tonband".
- 25 July. Kurt Passer: "Der Rosenkavalier" (Tonband).
- 1 Aug. Bank Holiday.

Date and details of the excursion will be announced later at Club Meetings and can also be obtained from B. Sterly, Tel. 883 2158

HOLLAND

"Largest Antisemitic Find"

The largest hoard of antisemitic and neo-Nazi publications discovered in Holland since the end of the Second World War has just come to light in Valkenburg. A secondhand book dealer was found to possess books, photographs, badges, records of Hitler's speeches and dozens of copies of "Mein Kampf". The holding and spreading of such material is forbidden under Dutch law and the book-seller has previous convictions under this provision.

"Raja" Pursued in Austria

At one time Adolf Eichmann's assistant, Erich Rajakovitch may face prosecution by the Austrian authorities if a Dutch government request is granted. Rajakovitch, now aged 77, ran the "Jewish emigration centre" in Holland in the occupation years 1941-42. In 1965 he was sentenced in Vienna to 30 months' imprisonment for his acts in connection with the death of 62 Dutch Jews in Auschwitz. At that time the Dutch did not ask for extradition, since they knew that it was Austria's policy not to allow her citizens to be extradited. Now, however, they have decided to ask the Austrian Government to prosecute Eichmann's former aide. "Raja" was almost trapped in Yugoslavia in 1967, but managed to evade arrest.

ROYAL PRESENTATION IN BELGIUM

The first copy of a book issued to commemorate Belgian Jews deported under the Nazi occupation has been given to King Baudouin at a ceremony in Brussels. At the same time, an album of paintings by the young artist Charlotte Salomon was presented to Queen Fabiola. Charlotte Salomon was among those who died in the deportation.

FIRST JEWISH JUDGE IN NORWAY

Charles Philipson, who escaped with most of his family to Sweden from Oslo during the Nazi occupation, is the first Norwegian Jew to have been appointed as a judge in that country.

ISLAM OVERTAKES AUSTRALIAN JUDAISM

The latest census figures in Australia show that for the first time the major non-Christian religion in that country is Islam. There are now 77,000 Moslems in Australia, compared with 62,000 Jews—proportions of 0.5% and 0.4% respectively. To answer the census question on religious affiliation was not obligatory, but most people apparently did so.

BELGIAN COLLABORATOR SOUGHT

The Belgian Parliament has been asked to institute proceedings for the extradition of Léon Degrelle, now living in Spain. Degrelle, considered to be Belgium's most important collaborator with the Nazis before and during the Second World War, founded the Waffen-SS Legion Wallonia.

LEGACIES

The AJR Charitable Trust has received the following legacies: £400 from the estate of the late Mrs. Johanna Cohen; £200 from the estate of the late Mr. A. Kremmer; £250 from the estate of the late Mr. Max George Streat; interim payments of £5000 from the estate of the late Miss Charlotte Franziska Reizenstein and £1500 from the estate of the late Mr. W. Oelsner; a final payment of £5950 from the estate of the late Dr. Kate Silber.

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BIRTHDAYS

DR. CURT C. SILBERMAN 75

On 23 May, Dr. Curt C. Silberman, Joint Chairman of the Council of Jews from Germany and President of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, will celebrate his 75th birthday. Born in Wuerzburg, he found refuge in the United States after having been imprisoned during the November 1938 pogroms. A Referendar in his city of birth, he resumed his legal activities in the US, after having been admitted to the Bar of the State of New Jersey and to the US Supreme Court. He became the trusted lawyer of many clients and beyond attending to his practice also did legal research work, especially in the field of international corporation law. "The list of his publications would do honour to every University scholar", said the Dean of the Wuerzburg Law faculty when a special ceremony was held last year on the occasion of the golden jubilee of Curt Silberman's doctorate.

As Chairman of the American Federation he has created a platform for the various organisations of former Central European Jews affiliated to the Federation. At the same time he has established contacts with leading American organisations as well as with representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany. Full of initiative and endowed with the gift of a skilful negotiator, he has become one of the most widely recognised spokesmen of our sister organisation in political, legal and cultural matters. On the occasion of his visits to Europe he has also lectured to the residents of post-war Germany about our destiny. All these activities enhance his position as Joint Chairman of the Council of Jews from Germany, the world-wide representation of the former German Jews with constituents in all major countries of resettlement. His sometimes critical but always constructive contributions to the leading body of the Council have always proved a great asset and made him a respected friend of his colleagues. His 75th birthday gives us a welcome opportunity of thanking him for his work. We wish him many returns of the day in undiminished health and vigour. W.R.

WERNER MOSSE AT 65

Professor Werner E. Mosse recently turned 65. Prof. Mosse, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, was born in Berlin and is Chairman of the London Board of the Leo Baeck Institute. He is Professor of European History at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, and the author of important historical works. Among them are "The European Powers and the German Question", "Alexander II and the Modernisation of Russia 1855-1881", and "Liberal Europe—The Age of Bourgeois Realism 1848-1875". He has edited "Entscheidungs-jahr 1932. Zur Judenfrage in der Endphase der Weimarer Republik" and "Juden in Wilhelmischen Deutschland 1890-1914" and contributed to the Leo Baeck Yearbooks IV, XV, XXIV and XXVIII, as well as being co-editor of "Revolution and Evolution. 1848 in German Jewish History".

40 YEARS OF THE CCJ

The 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Council of Christians and Jews was marked by a ceremony at London's County Hall. 6 yearzeit candles were lit in memory of Holocaust victims, while psalms and other appropriate passages were read in the presence of over 50 representatives of different faiths. (See Letters).

ONE HUNDRED PLUS

Greetings to Mrs. Margaret Jacoby

So she made it! On 22 May, Margaret Jacoby will celebrate her 101st birthday. A short while ago, she had an accident, but she made a very good recovery. There was no interruption in her clear and energetic way of making the necessary arrangements for the AJR Club. Our mind goes back to the memorable centenary celebration last year, when tributes were paid to her by the Mayor of Camden and the Hampstead M.P. in the presence of several hundred Club members, relatives from abroad and friends. How fortunate we are that this month we may keep up the tradition of our annual congratulatory messages in this journal. In gratitude and affection we extend our best wishes to "Tante Gretchen".

DR. GEORG WEIS 85

On 28 May Dr. Georg Weis will be 85 years old. In 1944 Dr. Weis joined the Jewish Relief Unit, created by the Central British Fund and attached to the British Army, in whose wake it moved into occupied Germany. He devoted himself to the re-establishment of the Jewish communities and to preparations leading to the identification of spoliated Jewish property. Later he was appointed to the managerial staff of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (JRSO), whose task was the recovery of heirless and unclaimed Jewish property in the American occupation zone of Germany and in the American sector of Berlin. He was put in charge of the Berlin offices of the JRSO and later also of the Jewish Trust Corporation.

In 1956 Dr. Weis became Chief Executive of the first Austrian Government Assistance Fund. The work was carried out so speedily and successfully that Dr. Weis was appointed Chief Executive of the second Hilfsfond, the Property Restoration Fund (Abgeltungsfonds) and the Sammelstellen (Collecting Agencies) A (for Jewish) and B (for non-Jewish) heirless property.

His most difficult task in Vienna was the administration of the last and final Hilfsfonds, established in 1977 for Jewish and non-Jewish victims of Nazism living in Austria and abroad in straitened circumstances. Thus for the first time a means test was introduced in the distribution of grants. Despite the difficulties of determining the financial position of applicants living all over the world, it proved possible to distribute that final fund as planned, in five years. Residents of the London Old Age Homes, where the position was easily established, received their share in February/March 1977, i.e. only a few weeks after the fund was set up.

Dr. Weis's work has been widely acknowledged, bringing him in 1964 the Austrian Grosses Ehrenzeichen, and in 1965, he, a Jew, was made a Commandatore of the Papal Order of St. Silvester for having recovered Church property confiscated by the Third Reich. Five years ago the President of Austria conferred on him the title of professor.

Last but not least, thanks are due to him for his untiring efforts to restore the cemetery of Theresienstadt, where so many deportees are buried, to a decent state.

Dr. Weis continues his historical research. We wish him above all the health and strength to continue his work in his chosen fields. *Ad multos annos!*

C.I.K.

FRIEDA KOCHMANN 85

On 16 May, Mrs. Frieda Kochmann will have her birthday. It is hard to believe that she will then be 85 years old. Her life is as full of activity as it has always been. With undiminished vigour she serves on the House Committee of Otto Schiff House. Having been associated with the Home almost since its inception 27 years ago, she is now the oldest member in seniority. Her work is not restricted to participation in the Committee Meeting. It is part of her life just as she has been part of the life of the Home. Keeping regular contact with the staff and with the residents, she is welcome as a trusted and understanding adviser. Beyond giving advice, she helps in running the Home whenever help is required. She is also a longstanding member of the Board of the AJR which, jointly with the CBF, is in charge of running the Homes.

Her second field of activity is the Belsize Square Synagogue. Despite her age she still participates in the sacred work of the Synagogue's Chevra Kadisha. Last but not least, she is a widely loved member of the Leo Baeck Women's Lodge. During the past years her relationship has also become close in the geographical sense as a resident of the new Flatlet House of the Lodge at Fitzjohn's Avenue.

Her unreserved commitment to Jewish causes is shared by her son and her daughter and their spouses. This is to a great extent due to the atmosphere in which her children grew up. Now she is not only a grandmother but, as a fitting attribute of her generation, a proud great-grandmother. Yet she is not an "old lady". Her vigour is undiminished. She undertakes any duties she is called upon to perform. Her common sense and her energy are linked with a warmth of heart, which has endeared her to all who knew her. We wish her and us many happy returns of the day. W.R.

WIDER FIELD FOR RADIO PROGRAMME

Michael Freedland's popular Radio London programme "You Don't Have to be Jewish" may shortly be heard countrywide in digest form. A monthly edition of the programme, already being broadcast in several midland cities, has been offered to the whole network of local BBC broadcasting.

TV SERIES ON JEWS CANCELLED

Shortage of money is given as the BBC's reason for cancelling Desmond Wilcox's projected series entitled "The Jews". Aubrey Singer of BBC Television said that the corporation had sought in vain for a co-producer to bear part of the £1 million cost. An Israeli company had declared itself willing to provide about one-third of the money, but in the event had not been able to raise sufficient funds. Research into American Jewry had been completed, however, and at least one programme on this subject will go ahead.

FAMILY ARCHIVE FOUND

While clearing the house formerly owned by an elderly lady named Flora Heilbrun, a builder, Stephen Williams, found a collection of a thousand or more family photographs. As Mrs. Heilbrun and her husband Rolf had both died, Mr. Williams made attempts to trace the family, in case anyone was interested in having the photos, which depicted a prosperous life in Halle up to the time of the Third Reich. Eventually a nephew of Rolf Heilbrun was found to be living in Israel. His stepmother is looking forward to presenting him with the collection of family documents when he next comes to visit her.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

FORMER NAZI RESIGNS SEAT

Following a four-hour debate among the West German "Green Party" leaders, Werner Vogel, one of the party's successful candidates in the recent parliamentary elections, agreed not to take his seat in the Bonn Parliament. Vogel had been associated with the NSDAP since 1933. For a time he was a storm trooper and rose to the equivalent of a lieutenant. During the war he worked in the German Ministry of the Interior. His reputation as a democrat after the fall of the Third Reich had never come into question and he had disclosed his Nazi past to the "Green Party". Had he not resigned, Werner Vogel would have been the oldest member in the new Bundestag, with the privilege of making the opening speech.

OLD SS MEN MEET AT SPA

For a number of years "old comrades" of the SS divisions Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler and Hitlerjugend held a reunion each Whitsun at Nassau an der Lahn, until demonstrations against them became insupportable for the local population. Now they have fixed their meeting-place at Bad Hersfeld, where they are able to hire the council hall and where town authorities tell questioning opponents that they know nothing about the veterans' reunion. About 600 old SS men are expected to meet in the town—but the number of protesters is also growing.

TV PAYMENT TO NEO-NAZIS

After accusations that Westdeutscher Rundfunk had connived at violent resistance and protests by neo-Nazis against the TV series "Holocaust", it was admitted that the "usual fee" of 750 DM had been paid to the right-wing extremists who had taken part in the news item. The Cologne broadcasting organisation has now forbidden such payments.

GOETTINGEN NAZI ARCHIVE BEGAN IN 1925

Led by Dr. Hans-Joachim Dahms, a group of researchers at Goettingen university has been looking into the earliest traces of Nazi action against Jews in the city. They have found that in 1925 a student named Achim Gerke began to build up an archive of information based on school records, to which he had access through his work in the university library. In 1931 this "archive for corporate racial statistics" was already held by the local branch of the NSDAP and was known as the NS-intelligence file. It contained particulars of over 400,000 Jews and people of Jewish ancestry, with notes about their jobs and other personal data.

FORMER NAZI PILOT BURIED

Hans Ulrich Rudel, Nazi Germany's most successful Stuka pilot, was buried in Dornhausen, Bavaria, recently. A number of those attending the funeral gave Nazi salutes over his grave.

Rudel, who personally damaged or destroyed 3 Russian warships, 70 landing vessels and 500 tanks, was known as the "Eagle of the Russian Front" during the Second World War. After the German collapse, he fled to Argentina but returned to West Germany where he aroused indignation with his pro-Hitler writings and speeches.

QUICK SALE FOR SIEGEN BOOK

Within a month of the appearance of "Siegen unterm Hakenkreuz", published by the Siegen association for Christian-Jewish Co-operation, all 2,000 copies were sold and a second edition was immediately put in hand.

FILM STARS BACK IN BERLIN

The 33rd Berlinale devoted this year's theme to film actors forced into exile in the Nazi years. 46 films were shown, starring Elisabeth Bergner, Curt Bois, Hertha Thiele, Dolly Haas, Franz Lederer and Wolfgang Zilzer (Paul Andor). The six stars were invited to a reception by West Berlin's lord mayor. Only two of them have returned to Germany: Curt Bois to the Federal Republic, while Hertha Thiele, once the star of "Maedchen in Uniform", works for East German radio. 86-year-old Elisabeth Bergner lives in England and all the rest settled in the USA.

OCCULT VIEW OF HITLER'S CAREER

Followers of the occultist Guru Bhagwan assembled before the Gedächtniskirche in West Berlin on the anniversary of the Nazi take-over. About 900 people gathered in uniform and waving torches, and a sketch satirising Vice-President Bush was acted out before them.

Bhagwan left India a few years ago and settled, without permission under US immigration laws, in Oregon, where he has managed to attract young people to his fringe sect. Efforts by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith to expose anti-semitic leanings of the Bhagwan sect are described as "Jewish persecution" by the guru. He ascribes to Hitler occult powers, aided by the mystic force of the ancient sign of the swastika. The dictator's fall, according to Bhagwan, was a result of attempting to make his own decisions, rather than continuing to follow occult guidance. "Hitler's career", he says, "was a miracle unparalleled in the history of war".

AUSTRIAN POLICE GET BUSY

Austrian anti-Nazi legal moves have increased in the last few weeks. Leaders of the Aktion Neue Rechte have been accused of bomb outrages, among them the attempted blowing up of Simon Wiesenthal's home. Six other members of the group have been charged with neo-Nazi activities. Enquiries are also being made about the fraudulent acquisition of £120,000 from Austrian banks and three NDP leaders are strongly suspected of being concerned in the matter.

Other anti-social elements, seeking to emulate rowdy British football fans, formed a group under the English name of "The Hooligans". They infiltrated the Rapid Club's fans and provoked fights and riots with supporters of the rival "Austria" football club. "Austria" is often called the "Jews' club", although it has no Jewish players. Football disturbances accordingly took on a veneer of anti-semitism and political extremism, intensified by the "Hooligans". When the Viennese police arrested twelve of their number, clubs and other weapons were found, as well as a large quantity of Nazi propaganda.

HITLER LOSES CITIZENSHIP

Replying to a query from an SPD deputy, the Bavarian Interior Minister said that Adolf Hitler is no longer an honorary citizen of any Bavarian town or district. The minister pointed out that such a distinction dies with the person so honoured, but in any case a number of towns and cities had formally disclaimed their grants of citizenship to the dictator. The town of Paderborn in particular, which had given Hitler citizenship early in 1933, had unanimously voted to erase his name from all official documents. It was stated that the original honour, awarded on Hitler's 44th birthday, had only received the necessary votes because of extreme pressure at the time.

CENTENARY PLAQUE FOR RABBI CARLEBACH

Marking the centenary of the birth of Chief Rabbi Joseph Carlebach of Hamburg, a plaque was recently unveiled at the Grindelhof site of the Jewish school housed there from 1911 to 1933. Rabbi Carlebach was murdered in Riga concentration camp in 1942. The ceremony was attended by his eldest son Julius, now of Sussex University.

NEW RABBI FOR FRANKFURT

The new communal rabbi of Frankfurt a.M., the second largest Jewish community in West Germany, is Rabbi Joseph Schlesinger. His predecessor, Sigmund Szobel, has been named as chief rabbi for the city.

HISTORY OF SCHARMBECK JEWS

Andrea Kammeier, a history student, has joined with Pastor Wolfgang Bornebusch to produce a short history of Scharmbek's (Hanover) Jewry. Last year, Frau Kammeier and Pastor Bornebusch were successful in their project of erecting a memorial tablet on the site of the former synagogue of Scharmbek. Historical exhibitions held in this small town have also displayed documents relating to the life and persecution of the Jewish community there.

BOOKS IN THE CATACOMBS

The town of Marbach am Neckar has been holding an exhibition relating to Jewish publishers between 1933 and 1938. Entitled "In the Catacombs", the display includes books issued by the Schocken and J. Kauffmann publishing houses, Vortrupp-Verlag and Philo-Verlag, as well as newspapers, pamphlets, official documents, material from the Reichsvertretung der Deutschen Juden and many other contemporaneous items.

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OBITUARIES

DR. LEONORE GOLDSCHMIDT

Leonore Goldschmidt, a great teacher and headmistress, died in London on 7 March at the age of 85. Her central achievement was the establishment of a Jewish private school in Berlin called the Goldschmidt School which lasted only four years before the Nazi government, following the start of the Second World War, forced its closure. The school served as an important stepping stone for the children of German Jewish families preparing for emigration to Britain and the United States. It was recognised by Cambridge University and all the High School classes studied and some qualified, for entrance to Cambridge University. Many of the teachers were British born, and in the higher forms, classes in all subjects were conducted in English. The school also provided evening classes in the English language for Jewish adults who were thus enabled to start their new life with basic communication skills. In spite of its brief existence, the Goldschmidtschule attained international recognition and left its pupils with a unique experience never to be forgotten.

At the height of its activities, the Goldschmidtschule catered for 750 Jewish children during the day, and for more than 1,000 adults in evening classes. 150 children were boarders. Of those who fled abroad successfully, hundreds of Goldschmidt's pupils later followed distinguished careers around the world.

After securing the emigration of her family and of many pupils, Leonore Goldschmidt set up a new school in Folkestone, merging it with a small English private school. The threat of German invasion, the artillery bombardment of Folkestone in May 1940

and British internment policy, forced the closure of the school and the evacuation of its pupils to South Wales.

She held several posts as a teacher in the English state school system, and completed her career as Joint Headmistress of Leyton High School for Girls in Essex.

To the thousands of pupils and friends who have known Leonore Goldschmidt, her warmth and generosity were boundless.

To everyone's astonishment she even took up the study of Russian language and literature in her late seventies and passed the "A" level exam at the age of 78. She leaves two children and six grandchildren to whom she will always remain an unforgettable, if unattainable, example.

ALFRED LEWINNEK

After a short illness, Mr. Alfred Lewinnek died in his 91st year. A teacher by profession, he was closely associated with the ORT training organisation, first in Berlin, later in Leeds and finally in London. After the ORT school in London was wound up two years after the war, he was for 14 years senior maths-master at Wandsworth Grammar School. He retired at the age of 71. Yet his health was unimpaired and he could enjoy his retirement and celebrate his 90th birthday a few months ago. He will be gratefully remembered by his friends, many of whom were associated with him as teachers and pupils of ORT. We extend our sincerest sympathy to his widow, a member of Otto Hirsch House (Kew) from its foundation to its closure, and the other members of his family.

DR. H. W. KUGELMANN

Dr. H. W. ("Hermi") Kugelmann, who died in Jerusalem on 3 March, was born in Hamburg on 18 June, 1903 and attended the Talmud Torah School there. His father moved his printing firm and his family to Berlin in 1916. Hermi studied law at several universities and wrote his doctoral thesis on "Guilt through Omission". He went on to study what was then called "Papier und Technik" in order to be well prepared to enter the family business. Both his parents and his older brother died very young and he assumed the responsibilities of being the head of the family by looking after his brother's children, his father's second wife and daughter as well as other relatives.

When in 1935, the family settled in London, he became one of the early members of the Golders Green Beth Hamidrash. Through his personal friendship with the late Mr. A. Schoyer, he took an active interest in the AJR from its inception onwards as a member of its Board, an office he held until his retirement to Jerusalem. He was also a founder member of the Leo Baeck Lodge.

A generous man, he was helpful to everybody who required his assistance, and his personal orthodox attitude never impaired his tolerance of people with different views.

REBECCA WEST

Dame Rebecca West died a short time ago at the age of 90. Born Cicily Isabel Fairfield, Dame Rebecca took her pseudonym from one of Ibsen's heroines in token of her radical and progressive outlook in the early years of the century. Among her many books her studies of the Nuremberg war crimes trials and the trial of William Joyce for treasonable broadcasting will be particularly remembered.

DR. ARTHUR KAUFFMANN

Dr. Arthur Kauffmann, who died in January, was one of the most respected and long lived figures in the art dealing world, both in this country and in Germany. He possessed not only great learning and a remarkably wide ranging and discriminating eye, but also the much rarer qualities of absolute integrity and genuine modesty which prevented his name ever reaching public attention.

Born in Stuttgart in 1887, he studied in Berlin and at Erlangen University, entering the art dealing world through the Paris auction house of Hotel Drouot in 1911. After serving in the German army in the First World War he became a director of Hugo Helbing, the fine art auctioneers in Frankfurt, until his departure from Germany in 1938. Thereafter his office and gallery at 21 Grafton Street in London became a natural meeting place for many academics and dealers from all over the world.

Perhaps the nearest to a public accolade that his modesty permitted was his part at the von Hirsch sale in 1978, a collection which went near to expressing his own catholic taste, when he was asked to orchestrate the purchases made by the German National and State Museums. Although many of the items that passed through his hands are now in museums, the walls of numerous private collectors must bear testament to the debt they owe him. Throughout a long and eventful life his high principles, intellectual curiosity and boundless generosity never left him.

CONAL MACFARLANE

JOSEPH BERG

The death was recently announced of 60 year old Joseph Berg, who came to South Wales from Germany when aged only 15. For over 20 years he worked for the South Wales Home for the Aged, retiring because of ill-health in 1982. On retirement he was elected honorary life president of the home.

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JOSEPH LEFTWICH

Mr. Joseph Leftwich, who died on 28 February at the ripe old age of 90, dominated the Anglo-Jewish cultural and social scene for well over half a century. He was born in Zutphen, Holland, the son of a Polish cobbler, the family emigrating to London when he was five years old. His personality was shaped by having spent his youth and early manhood in the East End, to which he remained attached to the end of his days. The promotion and preservation of the Yiddish language and culture was one of the causes very near to his heart and is reflected in many of his literary works. At the same time, he held various positions with Jewish organisations and was London correspondent for Jewish papers abroad. When Jewish victims of Nazi persecution came to this country, he took an active interest in their well-being and also established personal contacts with literary figures among them, one of them being Stefan Zweig. Some of us still remember the regular meetings between refugees and Joseph Leftwich and other Anglo-Jewish personalities in the basement premises of the Jewish Czech Club at Belsize Park Gardens during the early war years. Joseph Leftwich was an ardent reader of *AJR Information* and repeatedly expressed his appreciation of this journal. He will be remembered with gratitude and affection by all who knew him.

GERALD FRIEDLAENDER

A fortnight before his seventieth birthday, Gerald Friedlaender died tragically in a car accident in the United States. He left Germany when the Nazis came to power and went to Italy, where he acquired a doctorate in mechanical engineering, emigrating to England in 1939. Here he became involved with Professor Rosin's research and made significant contributions to facilitating aircraft landing in fog, and petrol supply from the South Coast across the Channel to provide fuel for the invasion beachheads in Northern France. He worked afterwards as chief engineer of a Manchester industrial firm, and then, in 1958, became Chief Engineer and Technical Adviser to Marks & Spencer. Even after retirement he continued to advise them on quality control, heating and air conditioning, on all of which he was an authority. His life was dominated by a sense of purpose and continuous striving for perfection. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Susan, who is the accountant of the AJR. We remember him with respect and affection.

L. S. SPIRO

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REVEREND FATHER

This book,* which I chanced upon among the war-time thrillers in the local library, can be looked at from different angles: as a thriller with a Catholic clergyman as its hero or as a piece of recent history of French resistance to Nazism.

As a thriller it is bound to have a particular appeal to readers of this journal. The time is the year 1942, the place Marseille in Unoccupied France swarming with Jewish refugees from many lands, and the hero of this story is a Capuchin monk. The Capuchins are a branch of the Order of St. Francis. They believe that, irrespective of different religious beliefs, we are all God's children and in time of distress it is our duty to help our brothers.

Father Benoît had been a scholar and professor of Theology, at first in Rome and after fighting in both world wars, at a theological seminar in Marseille. As a student of Church History, he was aware that the Catholic Church had in the past often been anti-semitic, even as late as during the reign of Pope Leo XIII (1878-1902), but until he came to Marseille he had had few contacts with Jews and Judaism.

He was understandably surprised when one day in 1942 a well-dressed young woman from the world of fashion appeared at the door of his monastery and wished to speak to him as a matter of urgency. She was a fashion designer, a Catholic Frenchwoman called Fernande Leboucher. Before the war, she had had a flourishing business in Paris and after the invasion of Poland, she had met a Polish Jewish refugee there, an engineer named Ludwik Nadelman. After the German victory in France, Ludwik could have escaped, but due to his wife's indecision, he had quite literally missed the boat and now he had been picked up by the police and disappeared. A few days after this event, she received a censored letter from him from a "collection camp" at Rivesaltes in the French Pyrenees. Although Father Benoît had already helped some refugees to escape from Marseille, this was a particularly difficult case. The possibility of escape existed, as this was a French camp administered by a French commandant and Father Benoît knew the chaplain at the camp. But how could Ludwik survive once he had escaped, without a passport, a ration card or any means of identification?

MONK FORGES DOCUMENTS

As the "law" under which he was imprisoned was an immoral one and therefore had to be actively resisted, the monk turned from now on into a first-class forger of documents. A baptismal certificate was easy to obtain and Nadelman became a Gentile; the much sought after ration card was acquired with the help of professional forgers of the French Resistance Movement, but alas, when Fernande arrived at the camp with the forged documents, Ludwik refused to escape and leave his fellow inmates behind. More forged documents had to be obtained for others, and when he finally overcame his moral scruples and left the camp, mass deportations had already started. It was too late. He was betrayed by an informer in his hide-out at Marseille and taken at

*The Incredible Mission of Father Benoît by Fernande Leboucher. William Kimber, London.

With acknowledgement to the news service
of the Jewish Chronicle.

first to Gurs, then to Drancy near Paris. Fernande's intervention for this "convinced Catholic" was of no avail and only after the war did she learn that he had ended up in Auschwitz.

After the German occupation of the whole of France, the only haven for refugees hiding in the South of France and in the Italian zone of Nice was Nice itself; the numbers involved were considerable, perhaps 10,000 to 12,000. An ambitious plan for their rescue by transferring them to North Africa was put to the British and American ambassadors. The omens were favourable. Mussolini had fallen from power and a new Italian Government had promised to provide the necessary shipping, but alas, Washington and London seemed tragically unable to say a simple "yes" to this humanitarian plan for fear of being inundated with unwanted refugees and the plan failed. Their only hope of escape was then Italy proper and Rome in particular.

HEROIC DEEDS

It is known to the students of these events how Italy gradually came into the grip of the Nazis and especially their Gestapo chief Kappler. However, at this hour Father Benoît performed quite exceptional deeds of heroism and in the opinion of the Jewish historian Pinchas Lapide the Italians now became directly "Europe's finest keepers of their Jewish brothers." Pope Pius XII was approached directly by Father Benoît, his help was given more than once, and there was now hardly a convent, a church, school or other ecclesiastical institution in Northern Italy, chiefly the Vatican itself, that did not harbour at least a few Jewish refugees. Even amongst members of the Pope's own Palatine Guards Jews could be found and many were hidden in the private homes of ordinary Italian citizens. Ration cards, baptismal certificates and residence permits were again forged by our master forger, who, in the hour of supreme need, even assumed the presidency of the Jewish Refugee organisation in Rome. Father Benoît, to whose indomitable courage former U.S. President Johnson paid handsome tribute, was a man with a mission. The source of his conviction was the Catholic doctrine of natural law, which forbids compliance with patently unjust and immoral laws. His belief was shared by the Jew Nadelman, who also held that it is our first duty to help our fellow men.

The final question that history poses remains of course unanswered: should the Pope have spoken up openly against Hitler and his atrocities (see Hochhuth's "Representative") or was it better to help discreetly whenever it was possible? There were different attitudes within the French Catholic Church, many of whose members and especially the lower clergy gave support to the persecuted, but the final judgment must be left to history.

F. REINACH

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INFORMATION SEARCH

Sir,—I wonder if any of your readers could help me to contact people from my father's town of origin, or tell me where I could obtain old photographs of the town, of the schools, synagogues or cemeteries. My grandfather, Elias Aaron Mogilevker, came to the US in 1889 from Oshmyany (Oszmiana), which is some 30 miles south of Vilna, Lithuania.

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AUGSBURG JEWISH CEMETERY

Sir,—In one of your recent issues you reported that the town of Augsburg had taken over the maintenance of the Jewish Cemetery at Augsburg. The grandparents of my wife and her brother are buried there. So my wife wrote to the Stadtverwaltung stating that she was interested in the graves and would like to pay for flowers on the anniversary of the death of her brother.

Enclosed is the reply from Augsburg of which I made a copy for you.

6934 Bioggio,
Switzerland

Dr. PETER MEINHARDT

Augsburg Reply

Your information that the Cemetery Department of the city of Augsburg has taken over the administration of the Jewish Cemetery is inaccurate. As before, the responsibility for the Jewish Cemetery is held by the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde in Bayern, Halderstrasse 6, Augsburg, W. Germany.

If you contact them directly they can probably put you in touch with a florist who can take over the care of the graves.

WOLZ
Cemetery Department

ERNST DRYDEN AT THE
CAMDEN ARTS CENTRE

The first major exhibition of the work of Ernst Dryden (1883-1938) to be shown in Britain, "Designs from Vienna to Hollywood", was held at the Camden Arts Centre.

Ernst Dryden (Ernest Deutsch) was born in Vienna and studied under Gustav Klimt. In 1911 he moved to Berlin where he became a leading poster designer. In 1918 he changed his name to Dryden and returned to Vienna to run his own fashion studio. From 1918, until his move to Hollywood in 1933, Dryden lived in Paris, designing covers and illustrations for "Die Dame", of which he was art director. In Hollywood Dryden turned to the film world and designed costumes for, among other films, "The Garden of Allah" in which Marlene Dietrich starred.

The exhibition ran from 29 March to 24 April at the Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, NW3.

The Whitechapel Open Exhibition 1983 at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (9 March - 10 April) included a large number of new works by artists living and working in the area, including some of the visible results of the Gallery's very successful Artists-in-Schools programme.

A very interesting exhibition will be held at the ICA Institute of Contemporary Art from 19 May to 18 June, comprising the work of Sigi Temple, an important Jewish painter living in Brazil. His work will also be shown at the Hamilton Gallery, 13 Carlos Place from 4-18 July. Incidentally, one of Temple's pictures has recently been used on a new issue of Brazilian stamps.

ALICE SCHWAB

DRIVE TO SELL ISRAEL BONDS

Sales of State of Israel bonds throughout Europe last year amounted to £7 million, although there was a drop in sales of Israel treasury notes. Throughout 1983 a major sales drive will be pursued in Britain; the aim will be to bring sales up to a point commensurate with the importance of the Anglo-Jewish community.

MURDER LED TO ARMS SUPPLIER

Until the end of 1981, Christian Michel lived quietly in Seeburger Strasse in Berlin-Spandau. But close friends knew him as an expert on the Nazi period and as one who knew where Nazi regalia or weapons were to be found. Two youths who knew that he sometimes sold goods and that he called his house "Reichsdeutscher Boden" visited him. In the course of a quarrel, Michel was strangled, his body covered with a swastika flag and the two boys ran away. Later they told police that Michel had said that they "haggled like Jews" and that the crippled sister of one boy "ought to be gassed".

However, it was not this rather sordid story which chiefly interested the investigators, but the fact that the dead man had owned a whole arsenal. The house concealed heaps of Nazi regalia, two machine pistols, a machine-gun MG42 with cartridge-belt in the bedroom, two rifles, four other fire-arms, five swords and a rapid-fire rifle, all in good working order. Moreover, Michel had kept careful lists of all his weapons, with the price paid for each and the names of his suppliers.

Included among the suppliers was the name of "Goggo", Jörg-Olaf Guggolin, who had, among other items, sold Michel an anti-tank bomb for 300 DM. Goggo had long been under suspicion as the "Arms Supplier By Appointment" to the neo-Nazi movement and a police swoop revealed busts of Hitler, parts of MG42's, a small-calibre gun and other firearms. Brought before the courts, Guggolin admitted five previous convictions for unauthorised possession of weapons, but said that as a friend he had allowed Michel to leave various boxes with him. Accusations against him were ridiculous—he dealt with people who liked to dress up and run round pretending to be soldiers. It was all the fault of the Allies, declared Goggo, and he regretted the 42 years of military rule.

Guggolin was sentenced to 15 months' immediate imprisonment—he was already under a suspended sentence for his last conviction. Further charges are expected to be brought in the light of documents found by the police.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in this column are free of charge, but voluntary donations would be appreciated. Texts should reach us by the 15th of the preceding month.

Birth

Wiener:—Hans and Gerda are delighted to announce the arrival of another grandchild, a son David Samuel, to Stephen and Melanie Wiener.

Birthday

Kremmer:—Congratulations to our sister, Mrs. B. Kremmer, who celebrates her 80th Birthday on 20 May. Mrs. K. Seiler and Mrs. M. Goodwyn.

Acknowledgement

LOTHAR NELKEN, of 17, Tenterden Drive, London NW4, overwhelmed by the concern shown during his recent illness, wishes to thank his many friends, members of the K.C., Leo Baeck Lodge and Theodor Herzl Society.

Deaths

Grünfeld:—Mrs. Ella Grünfeld passed away in her 90th year on 17 March. Sadly missed by her son and daughter, family and friends.

Rosenstrauch:—Rosa Rosenstrauch. On 2 April, cherished wife of Arnold, dearly loved by son Michael and daughter Susan and all who knew her.

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MANNHEIM SYNAGOGUES PAST AND FUTURE

Nothing marks the spot where once stood the Klaus synagogue in Mannheim, yet it was not one of the many buildings burnt in the November Pogrom of 1938. The Lemle-Moses-Klaus-Stiftung was founded in 1708 and the synagogue was totally rebuilt nearly a century ago: it was enlarged in 1930. In November 1938, although it escaped destruction by fire, the building was thoroughly plundered by Nazi mobs. Despite the damage it was possible to hold services there for some months until in autumn 1940 the Jews of Baden were deported to camp Gurs in France. The synagogue was severely damaged by Second World War bombing, and now the site has been so extensively redeveloped that not even the former boundaries can be traced.

A few relics still remain of the Klaus Synagogue. The two-volume memorial book is in the Jewish historical general archive in Jerusalem, while the valuable library has been divided into two, one part held by the reform synagogue in Cincinnati, the remainder owned by the Jewish community of Geneva. Some stones, all that is left of the fabric, were taken by Dr. Max Gruenewald, rabbi of Mannheim's main synagogue until 1938, to Millburn, N.J., where they are preserved.

Dr. Volker Keller, of Verschaffeltsr. 26, 6800 Mannheim 1, is seeking information about the Klaus synagogue for a projected history of the Stiftung and would be glad to receive personal information. He also hopes later on to write on Mannheim's other Jewish organisations.

Even more ambitious plans are on foot, since the city of Mannheim and the Jewish community are at present working on a project to build a new synagogue in Quadrat F 3, at present used as a car park. A high-powered delegation of Mannheimers recently travelled to Israel to meet former fellow-citizens and to obtain ideas for the proposed new building.

NEW EDITION OF HALLO'S WORK

Author of over 40 works, together with numerous lectures, based on his work with Hesse's Landesmuseum in the 20s, Rudolf Hallo died at the age of 36 a few days before Hitler's Machtergreifung. The friend of Franz Rosenzweig and head of the Freie Jüdische Lehrhaus Frankfurt a.M., Rudolf Hallo is particularly remembered for his publications on Jewish art. Now a new edition of his writings is to be brought out, which will show the astonishing breadth of knowledge of this comparatively young man.

WIESENTHAL WINS LIBEL JUDGEMENT

The right-wing extremist newspaper "Deutsche National-Zeitung" has been found guilty of libel against Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna. The point at issue arose out of an article published in 1980, in which the DNZ called Wiesenthal a swindler and said that he falsely held himself out as an academically qualified engineer. In fact, Mr. Wiesenthal obtained his diploma at the University of Lemberg and was able to prove his qualification in court. The paper was not called on to pay damages but, failing a successful appeal, must defray the cost of the action.

AUSCHWITZ-MYTH BOOK CONFISCATED

The Bundesgerichtshof has decided that a lower court was correct in its judgement that a book denying the Holocaust should be seized by the authorities. "Der Auschwitz-Mythos—Legende oder Wirklichkeit?", the book in question, has been one of the most persistent attempts to clear the Third Reich of guilt. The court took into account the fact that, besides glossing over the Holocaust, "Der Auschwitz-Mythos" accused the Jews of making money out of their "lies" and of seeking to crush the German nation.

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THEATRE AND CULTURE

The Development of a German Musical Comedy: **Ralph Benatzky.** The continental "musical", an almost logical sequel to the Silver Era of Viennese operetta and the tuneful music of Lincke and Künnecke, made its first appearance in the early Thirties. Whilst "White Horse Inn" formed the transition from the world of dukes and princes to the scene of more worldly happenings, it was Benatzky (who also composed part of the "White Horse Inn" score) who widened the sphere with "Meine Schwester und ich", and above all, with the charming comedy "Bezauberndes Fräulein", an immediate hit in Germany and Austria, starring tenor Max Hansen and his partner Lizzy Waldmüller. For these artists, alas, happiness was not to last: Hansen died comparatively young after having returned to his native Denmark, Lizzy Waldmüller was killed in Vienna by shrapnel during the last days of fighting in April 1945.

Opera in Israel. The country's National Opera had—to the great regret of its patrons—to close its doors in 1982 owing to the state subsidy being withdrawn. Ever since, efforts aimed at an early re-opening have continued, and recently Mrs. Sarah Caldwell, opera director at Boston, Massachusetts was invited to Israel where she interviewed and auditioned a large number of singers, praised the quality

of voices available and held talks with the municipal authorities. Financial discussions are now under way.

50 Years ago. Film events of 1933 evoke many memories and some nostalgia, films so very different to the ones of today. Hedy Lamarr (née Kiesler) scandalized the public with her first film "Ecstasy", Szoeko Szakall, already one of the most popular comics of German films, enhanced his reputation when seen as one of the most unmusical members of "Streichquartett", Fritz Lang produced the gruesome "Testament of Dr. Mabuse", and Jan Kiepura sang himself to top international fame with the song "Heute Nacht oder nie".

Birthdays. *Hans Weigel*, critic, author and translator, a strong personality, and much discussed in the Austrian literary and musical field, had his 75th birthday; Swedish-born opera singer *Birgit Nilsson*, one of the finest sopranos of the century who has sung at every leading opera house in the world and had one of the greatest Covent Garden triumphs as Brünnhilde in 1957, is 65.

Obituary. The Nestor of French stage authors *Paul Géoaldy* has died in Paris, aged 93. One of his plays, in a German translation by Alexander Castell, "Hochzeitstage", was given in 1924 and held its place in the Vienna Burgtheater repertoire for many years. S.B.

ULM HONOURS EINSTEIN

Ulm, the birthplace of Albert Einstein, has erected a memorial to the great physicist near the spot where he was born. The house itself was destroyed in the Second World War. The memorial consists of a pillar bearing a relief portrait of Einstein with an inscription in his memory.

LITERARY MEMOIR AWAITED

Maria Feuchtwanger, the widow of the well-known writer Lion Feuchtwanger, is about to publish her memoirs. The much-acclaimed recent TV film, "The Oppermanns", was taken from his work. Some of Feuchtwanger's work is based upon his life as an emigré in France and it is hoped that the book will throw new light on this period.

CANETTI HONOURED IN GERMANY

Elias Canetti, the Nobel prize-winner, has been awarded the Grand Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr. Canetti, who lives very quietly in Hampstead, London, obtained the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1981.

PAPAL AWARD FOR MANCUNIAN

The Vatican has conferred an award on Sir Sidney Hamburger of Manchester, consisting of the Papal Cross for the Church and the Pontiff. Sir Sidney co-ordinated arrangements for the Pope to meet Jewish leaders during his visit to Britain.

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