

# JOURNAL

## J OF THE '45 AID SOCIETY

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They should, if possible, be typed in double-spacing and reach the Editor not later than 15th March 1978.

## EDITORIAL

Although the appearance of the present issue has been considerably delayed (for reasons which it would be otiose to analyse) it is nevertheless a notable issue in several respects.

First, we are privileged indeed to have received an article from Mrs. L.G. Montefiore which adorns this issue, and we would hardly wish to conceal our delight at what Mrs. Montefiore has to say.

Second, in this issue we publish for the first time the Chairman's Annual Report. Hitherto this report used to be delivered as part of the Chairman's speech at the Annual Reunion, and Members may agree that its publication in this journal is a superior alternative. For one thing, it will (at least, let us hope it will) relieve the Chairman of the strain he must suffer at the Reunions from the knowledge that, after the Dinner, he will be obliged to speak at some length to deliver his Report. Moreover, its publication offers Members a more durable account of the activities of our Society over the preceding year. Let us hope, therefore, that the publication of the Annual Chairman's Report will become a permanent feature of our Journal.

Third, in this issue we publish for the very first time a list of names and current addresses of the original members of our group (see Appendix). The reasons for publishing this list are referred to in several places in this issue, for example in the Chairman's Report, in the sections "Here and Now" and "Members' News".

In the last Editorial it was suggested that we might begin a new section, to be called "Childhood Remembered", and the Editor invited contributions for that section. No such contributions have been received and the Editor has decided to withdraw his threat that, in the absence of such contributions, he would write a piece himself!

Finally, I have just noticed that none of the previous Editorials contained the disclaimer which should have been inserted in the very first Editorial. The disclaimer is quite simple: the responsibility for any views or (alleged) facts expressed in these pages is solely that of the author and not of the Editorial Board, which need not necessarily agree with the views of individual authors, including those of the Editor.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by

BEN HELFGOTT

It is with great satisfaction that I look back over the activities of the past year to the steady progress made by our Society. Our first and foremost object, for which we were originally established, was to extend moral and material help to our members. This we have continued to do scrupulously and with great discretion. It is, however, gratifying that there was a diminution in the need for help and assistance, thus affording us the opportunity to make a larger contribution to well deserving causes both in England and in Israel.

The Society has also broadened its horizons in several directions, e.g. by associating itself with a possible project at Yad Vashem; by the establishment of an Annual Leonard G. Montefiore Memorial lecture and the sponsoring of a cultural evening in conjunction with the Israeli Embassy.

The project suggested to us by Dr. Arad of the Yad Vashem was intended to commemorate the memory of Dr. Janusz Korczak whose love for children and humanity was greater than his concern for his own life. It is impossible to predict one's reaction when one is presented with the choice between life and death, but Dr. Korczak declined the opportunity to save himself from the gas chambers in Treblinka by insisting that he accompany the orphan children in the Warsaw Ghetto. Unfortunately, this project did not materialise, but we are looking into other ways in which to associate ourselves with Yad Vashem - a memorial to the six million Jews who perished in the holocaust whose numbers include many of our near and dear ones.

Our Second Annual Leonard G. Montefiore Memorial lecture is due to be held on February 16th and will be delivered by the distinguished historian Dr. Martin Gilbert. The idea of holding this Memorial Lecture will, I hope, serve as a token of our appreciation for the very close and personal interest Mr. L.G. Montefiore took in us when we first came to England. His humility and philanthropy stand as a shining example to us and we are deeply indebted to him. It was a source of great satisfaction to us that his son Allan G. Montefiore accepted our invitation to deliver the Inaugural Lecture. His address "A Moral Philosopher's View of the Holocaust" was illuminating, sincere and we were aware of the soul searching his subject provoked.

In the cultural field we joined forces with the Israeli Embassy by organising an evening at Hillel House with the well known actor and broadcaster Robert Rietti. There was a large attendance - the light hearted entertainment and varied programme was enthusiastically received. There is no doubt that such functions are enjoyable and desirable and many more are planned for the future.

The publication of our Journal in its new format is now firmly established. We are pleased with the response to it - readers are enthusiastic and the contributions of articles, commentaries and observations very interesting. Many complimentary comments have been received about its contents and the progress we have made from an occasional Newsletter to a regularly published Journal is very encouraging.

It acts as our mouthpiece and is often distributed widely beyond the confines of our Society whose branches extend to Israel, Canada, U.S.A. as well as Manchester and London. Our list of newly discovered compatriots keeps growing and the formation of a "45 Aid Committee" in the U.S.A.(which is reported in this issue) has largely been inspired by our regular contacts and through the influence of the Journal.

Many of you will remember our Primrose Club leader and mentor Yogi Mayer to whose retirement party we were privileged to be invited on September 7th 1977. It was organised by the Islington Youth Committee, as Yogi was the Area Youth Officer in Islington in recent years. It was a grand event and was attended by many of those with whom Yogi has been associated over the years. He is especially held in great esteem and affection by our members, with whom he has established a lasting bond of friendship. He is an Honorary Member of our Society in which he takes a keen interest and has never missed an attendance at our Annual Reunion.

Our Reunion is, of course, our main function of the year and fulfills many objectives. Therefore, our energies are particularly concentrated on it. Once again it was a great success - it was attended by over 300 people including members from abroad. Our fund raising activities also culminate at the Reunion and we were happy to announce donations of £3000 to the C.B.F. as a token of our gratitude for bringing us to England, £2,000 each for both the Micha Society for Deaf Children and the Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Israel and £500 to Cystic Fibrosis in Britain.

I always appeal to you at the Reunion, and now I would like to do so through these columns, for your greater participation in the Society and greater contribution and support in our fund raising activities. The Manchester Group under the leadership of David Sommer has always been very forthcoming and I should like to pay tribute to them. Equally I should like to express my gratitude to our secretaries and large Committee which works so harmoniously and so enthusiastically. I have no hesitation in stating that our group is unique, a uniqueness which manifests itself in many ways. In this Report I cannot take up more space in elaborating this point. I conclude by simply saying that I am, indeed, very proud of belonging to this group.

## YAD VASHEM

In the last issue of our Journal we published an article by Roman Halter about the (then forthcoming) opening of the Hall of Names at the Yad Vashem. We also published a sample of A Page of Testimony. In this issue we copy a report from the Jerusalem Post about the opening of the Hall of Names, and take this opportunity once again to urge members of our Society to send Pages of Testimony to the Yad Vashem. Ed.

"A Hall of Names holding millions of pages of testimony, each monument to a Jew lost in the Holocaust, was dedicated at Jerusalem's Yad Vashem memorial last night.

An audience of some 200, mostly middle-aged and elderly Jews who survived the Nazi era, converged upon the new hall to mark the 39th anniversary of Kristallnacht - the government-organized pogrom that marked the onset of German and Austrian terror against their Jewish population and left 200 Jews murdered and scores of synagogues destroyed.

The low-ceilinged hall, lit by six metal lamps bearing sculpted outstretched hands, houses an archive of volumes listing by name nearly three million Holocaust victims, each registered by surviving relatives and friends.

"Six million worlds were destroyed ... erased," said Prime Minister Menahem Begin at the opening ceremony for the archive, which was two years in the making. "We will never forget what happened," added the Polish-born premier, who lost his own mother and sister in the German wave of mass murder.

Dr. Yitzhak Arad, chairman of the Yad Vashem executive, noted that most of the victims disappeared without ever being buried in a Jewish grave: the hall of names is their only monument.

He urged Jews around the world to contact Yad Vashem and register loved ones who were lost in the Holocaust, so that all Six Million will be remembered forever.

One family collected some 78,000 names during research in France, said Arad, whose parents were Holocaust victims and who barely escaped himself."

(The above report was by Judy Siegel)

"YOUTH" REMEMBERED

The author, Zwi Friedmann, was at Lingfield and now lives in Israel where he works as a physiotherapist.

IN ISRAEL

by Zwi Friedmann

A glass case in a dark hall  
All  
Around voices  
Modern uncaring  
Scientifically explaining  
Unhearing  
The whimper of a child  
His silence  
The gift of death  
In gas  
He has  
One small shoe  
In memory

In this issue we continue with the following two of Michael Etkind's pieces.

WRITING ABOUT THE PAST

by Michael Etkind

Fools rush in, where  
Angels fear to tread  
If you wish to express  
What really happened there,  
To the 6,000,000 dead  
Tread gently my friend  
You're walking on their graves,  
And our hearts and souls  
Tread gently  
You are opening our wounds  
Which can never heal completely  
Slowly and gently,  
Or we shall bleed to death

After the war we all wanted to tell, to communicate our experience, but after a few minutes of talking we stopped, even the most articulate of us. We stopped because of the inane questions asked by our listeners. We realised that we just could not convey even one grain of truth of what happened.

We realised that unless we could build a full size model of the camps and ghettos, resurrect Hitler with all his paraphernalia, even then it would take about five years to demonstrate what we wanted to tell.

In fact we gave up trying to communicate, and yet what can be more important for one human being than to tell another human being what is really happening to him. What else makes us different from the lower animals than this, however imperfect, way of communication? The advantage of writing is that you are not interrupted, that you can at least complete your thought to the best of your ability.

There are other ways of communicating: they all come under the category of Art: Painting, Music, Poetry, all means of expressing our feelings and emotions.

There is no doubt in my mind that when humanity will achieve a high standard of communication, our troubles will be over. Who can hurt another if they can really feel the pain?

OH! BUCHENWALD

by Michael Etkind

This poem (Or something) is dedicated to the memory of an unknown inmate who was hanged for composing a song, To those who perished to those who survive to all those who sang it..... and to all potential Inmates i.e. the whole of Humanity

"O, Buchenwald, how can I forget you,  
You are my destiny,  
For he who does forget you,  
Knows not how to be free"

For some you were a transit camp  
of limited duration  
For others dead finality  
Unholy condemnation

Beautiful acres of Fertile land  
Forestrial Vegetation  
Your tranquil peace disturbed  
by ruthless Violation

Why, O Why, was hell created  
In such a lovely place?  
Why was this tranquil land  
Turned into a festering tumour  
Has Satan got a grin on his face  
Has he a sense of humour?

Russians from Omsk and from Siberia  
Czechs from far and near  
Poles from Warsaw and Gdynia  
Even Americans were here  
Frenchmen from Paris and Lyon  
Hungarians from Budapest  
Dutchmen from Amsterdam  
Rumanians from Bucharest  
Belgians from Brussels  
Scandinavians from the North  
Italians from Rome  
And so many others  
Far away from home  
Negroes from somewhere  
Maybe Timbuktoo  
And, would you believe it?  
Some Germans too  
And Jews, of course, from every town  
To make more room, more, "Lebensraum"

The Tower of Babel had nought to compare  
With the different tongues one could hear there

All herded together into  
This accursed place  
To work, suffer and perish  
For the Master Race  
For not quite fitting  
Into a Master Plan  
For being alive when the war began

O you, who have missed being in that place  
What do you know of life and death  
What do you know of the human race?  
What schools, universities,  
What halls of learning could compare  
With the education received there?

Pause for a moment... think  
In the Nazis fertile mind  
There was room for everybody  
Everyone they could find  
and if only... who can tell  
You too could have been there  
You too would have seen hell

How many Einsteins, Picassos, Sartres  
And ordinary humans  
Have perished in those camps  
How much human hair  
How many tatooed skins  
Used for rags and lamps?

O, Buchenwald, if I forget thee?  
If I could?  
What penalty for forgetting?  
What prize for remembering?

## HERE AND NOW

The author, Zev Kedem, came to England with the Southampton group and was then known as Bibi Gross. He went to Israel and lost all contact with our group. We re-established contact with him as a result of a chance meeting in Jerusalem. If any reader knows of others who have similarly lost contact with us, would he/she please let us know, so that we might try to resume contact. For example, does anyone know the whereabouts of Hans Neumann, who was in the Finchley Road hostel? (Ed.)

## MY TESTAMENT

This is the last will and testament of Zev Kedem, living at 9 Hamalach St. Old City of Jerusalem. I hereby revoke all former wills and codicils.

The power of a will does more than shape the destinies of descendants; this I learned from my neighbour Baruch Mizrachi. He, like myself, came to the Old City from a distant land, but that was four hundred years ago under the Sultans' rule. His will like a time-bomb is making a substantial impact even to to-day. Mizrachi came to Jerusalem from Turkey, I came here from England. Born in Poland I was brought to England in 1945 at the ripe age of eleven and educated in Oxford at S.S. Phillip's and James Primary School; my pre-school education was at Auschwitz and Mauthausen. In 1959 I qualified as an Agricultural Engineer, and on settling in Israel in 1960, I joined the Soil Conservation Department, then worked as an irrigation engineer in the Upper Galilee, where my work included flood control and small dam construction; I also spent a year as construction engineer in the civilian airfield at Santa Catherina Monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai. The last six years have been the most satisfying for me as I have been involved in the restoration of the destroyed Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, where I have reconstructed one of the old houses to make a home for my family.

One day while I was working on the house, a young Hassid entered the courtyard and, looking at a list in his hand, stated that the upper floor of my ruin had once been a Synagogue. At the turn of the century he said, a publisher Michael Roitman, who had been the original owner of the house, was involved in a court case over aerial and territorial rights with his neighbour Yisrael Mizrachi, a descendant of Baruch Mizrachi of whose will a free translation follows:

GOD HAS SEEN FIT TO BESTOW UPON ME, BARUCH MIZRACHI,  
A HOME WITHIN JERUSALEM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CUSTOMS  
OF MY FOREFATHERS, I BEQUEATH THIS HOUSE, FROM THE CENTER  
OF THE EARTH TO THE HEIGHTS OF THE HEAVENS, ALL MY  
COPPER UTENSILS, AND BOOKS OF STUDY TO MY ONLY SON,  
WHEN I DIE. BUT ON ONE CONDITION: THAT NEITHER HE, NOR  
HIS SONS, NOR THE SONS OF THEIR SONS, TO THE LAST  
DESCENDANT, NONE SHALL DARE TO EITHER SELL, OR LEASE,  
OR MORTGAGE THIS HOUSE, OR DRAW UP CONTRACTS RELINQUISHING  
ANY RIGHTS TO THEIR WIVES OR DAUGHTERS.

IF GOD FORBID THERE BE NO MALE DESCENDANTS, THE HOUSE SHALL BECOME A TRUST FOR THOSE WHO PURSUE THE LEARNING OF THE TORAH.

SHOULD ONE OF MY DESCENDANTS EVEN MY SON DISOBEY ONE IOTA OF THIS WILL, HE SHALL BE EXCOMMUNICATED FROM THE TRIBE OF ISRAEL FOREVER BY THE STRENGTH OF THE TORAH. THIS I HAVE DONE SO THAT I SHALL HAVE A HOME TO RETURN TO IN JERUSALEM WHEN I AM RESURRECTED UPON THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH..

Even when building one's own house there is sometimes a little time to day-dream. My dream was to make a documentary film about the reconstruction of the Jewish quarter. Last year's World Jewish Film and Television Festival provided the opportunity. A good idea, backed by professional standards acceptable to the film industry, found its way to a man of true faith; Mr. K. Durieux of the Dutch Evangelical Television Network listened to and approved, my ideas, giving not only practical but also financial support to the film I wanted to make. He even allowed this producer a free hand.

3000 years of history: 24,000 Muslims, Armenians, Christians and Jews: more than a hundred different communities; new and old architecture: exciting archaeology; an ancient yet modern traffic-free city, its surrounding walls and massive gates, all begged to be in the film; yet the powerful human story of one man's unquashed belief as stated in his will best expressed the energy and dedication of the restoration of the Jewish Quarter and its resettlement. This is where our paths met, Baruch Mizrachis' and mine. He wanted to be sure that when the Messiah came (of his coming he had no doubt) and Mizrachi was resurrected from the dead he would have a home in Jerusalem to live in until eternity.

The film "Only in Jerusalem" evokes not only the physical restoration of the homes in the Jewish Quarter but also the spiritual roots through Mizrachis' final testament. The film was shown in Holland, presented by the Dutch T.V. network at the European T.V. Union's festival at Milano. Part of the film was shown by the B.B.C. and in the United States by the P.B.S. and shortly it will be shown in Australia and Canada.

A joint decision has been taken with the Dutch T.V. to produce the "Jerusalem Quartet". Four half-hour films in colour, each one relating to one of the quarters of the Old City.

Consider well when making your will: who knows what impact it will have 400 years hence.

I am still working on Jerusalem and on my will!

## TEL-AVIV DIARY

by Felix Berger

London party givers have a lot to learn from our boys in Israel. Informality, excellent food, and the fact that you can arrive anytime between ten o'clock and midnight, make their Friday night gatherings intimate and exciting.

I took the last flight out of Eilat, and after an excellent dinner with Myer and Marion Stern, I was amongst the early arrivals at the party given by Ray and Anna Jackson. They celebrated their new home, a beautiful and spacious mansion in one of the most exclusive parts of Tel-Aviv.

The regulars were all there; Menachem Silberstein, a warm and charming personality, giving you a most interesting interpretation of the recent Israeli political scene. One charming lady kissed me excitedly, wishing me a hearty mazeltov - "What a lovely wedding you made for your beautiful daughter." I was obviously mistaken for Ziggy. I told her that I hardly knew the fellow, but kept the kisses. Being kissed by one of Ziggy's conquests put me in a really good mood- besides, by then, I was already hugging a large gin and orange plus a full plate of various delicious meats and salads.

Roman is now another regular at the Friday night parties. I found him stooping gently over the boys (thereby minimising his own height and maximising theirs,) relating the tit bits of Israeli high society; something about Teddy (Kollek Mayor of Jerusalem) and Giddi (Gideon Hausner of the famous Eichman trial,) and suddenly exclaiming Fishek (that's me) "You must have lunch with me at the Yad Veshem"---a deadly proposal. I later discovered that everyone gets a similar invitation. What is he going to do if we all turn up?

Shamai Davidson, an old friend from Scotland was there. Shamai is an honorary member of the Forty Five. As director of the psychiatric centre of the Tel-Aviv University Medical School, he is truly amazed how normal we all are. Incidentally, Shamai's two brothers are also in the medical business - should you need to have a little job done, like haemorrhoids, straightening the nose (I should not wish on you anything more serious,) I can arrange a very good discount. (Only fully paid up members of the Forty Five may apply.)

A little advice for members who intend to go to those Friday night do's: starve yourselves totally on Thursday and Friday, for about one a.m., after you have consumed tons of food, the main course arrives. I guess this helps to fill up those who are returning home to the Negev or Sinai; the chaps who have lost their money at cards take it out on the host's tasty midnight cholent.

By two thirty a.m., people start to think of leaving. Mind you, one can discern the budding of a "cousinhood"; those with houses in Savion come late and leave early. Good-byes, Shaloms, and political arguments near the door may consume twenty minutes, and if carried on near the car as much as one hour.

Although a warm bed was waiting for me in Netanja, Myer and Marion insisted (I did not resist too much) on my staying with them overnight in nearby Zahala. I have a particular affection for their house, having first seen it as an ancient ruin, and regularly visited it at various stages of Myer's and Marion's creative activities; they literally planned and rebuilt it themselves. A garden of Esher in the house of Israel.

Many a Friday night have I left the table of a close relative to be with our "boys". Those meetings have always held a certain magic for me. I don't know about the Savage or the Athaeneum, but I belong to a damn good club.

The author, Felix Berger needs no introduction by readers of this Journal.

## A VISIT TO ISRAEL

by Mrs. L. G. Montefiore

It all started with a suggestion which became more and more forceful, till it ended up by being almost an order from Roman Halter aided and abetted, I believe, by Ben Helfgott, that I should take a short holiday to Israel and go to see some of the "Boys and Girls" who had settled there. It seemed to me a fanciful idea, but a very tempting one, and after a good deal of shilly-shallying and being pressed by my sons to go I weakened and in the end succumbed.

And so on November 11th, 1977 escorted and indeed greatly helped by Ben I set out for Heathrow and I must confess that once on the plane I was glad there was no turning back.

It was in 1955 at the time of Partition that my husband and I last visited Israel so I was prepared for many changes, but not the staggering ones that I found.

I was met at Ben Gurion airport by Roman and Zwi and that was the start of an unforgettable 10 days holiday in Israel.

As you know the purpose of my visit was to meet the "Boys and Girls" and when that moment came the day after my arrival at the Ramat Aviv Hotel in Tel Aviv I felt very moved. It was wonderful to see them again after all these years and I know how pleased my husband would have been had he lived to see what they have managed to achieve after those hard and difficult years. There were more meetings and phone calls in Jerusalem and it was a real pleasure to be in contact with so many of the "Boys" again.

I was taken on many trips and shown many relics of the historic pasts. It would take too long to describe all that I did, for Roman had mapped out every minute and I am grateful to him and to the others who took me around and gave up so much of their time. The visit to the Dead Sea Scrolls with Eli Pfeferkorn as a very able guide, was enthralling and so full of interest. I had been shown the spot where they had been discovered whilst driving to Masada and the Dead Sea, It seemed unbelievable to be driving on such a fine modern road in the midst of the Biblical and awe-inspiring scenery with its history of the past. The desert land interspersed with oasis, the changing colours of the hills, the deep blue sea and that very special light that shines over the hills, have made an unforgettable impression, one of wonder and humility.

To mention but a few of the places I visited, there was the Leo Baeck School at Haifa, that fine tribute to a great man, of course Yad Vashem, Mishkemet Shaonanim, the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, some kibbutzim, Cesaria and then there were walks and drives in and around Jerusalem to places which were out of bounds in 1955, among them the Mosque of Omar with Zeff Kedek as guide and afterwards host to lunch at his house. I wish I could mention all the interesting and kind people I met but that would take too long. Everywhere I sensed the feeling of friendliness from all quarters which was heartwarming and eye-opening.

And then at the end of my stay came the thrilling arrival of President Sadat of Egypt. One could sense the feeling of excitement on all sides and the hope that

this historic event might be the forerunner of Peace in the Middle East. It seemed almost incredible to see Israeli and Egyptian flags flying alongside.

The last day, November 21st came all too quickly and it was good-bye to the lovely lemon trees and all the beautiful flowers in the courtyard leading from my room at the American Colony Hotel to the blue skies and sunshine of Jerusalem and back to wintry England.

There is much that I have left out: the activities and excavations that are still going on and the discoveries that are still being made, but I do want to thank everyone for all the trouble they took to make those ten days so memorable and so happy. And thank-you Roman for thinking up the idea and for all you did to make this holiday so worthwhile.

FROM OUR FRIENDS AND WELLWISHERS

A Snapshot from Long Ago

The author, Lorna Berger, is the wife of Felix Berger.

Dislodged from its dusty shelf  
The snapshot flutters to the ground,  
Stooping I stretch to pick it up  
And read - Theresienstadt - forty five.

A face stares back  
Knowing no smile,  
Bewildered eyes sear my sight  
Lost in a lightless formless night  
The pain and the hurt  
Explode in my head.  
All the long of the task filled day  
From the garden to the house  
And back,  
I carry your eyes on a thought dark journey  
And put them gently back  
Upon the waiting shelf.

## FROM OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS

The author, Michael Kagan, is the son of Jack and Barbara Kagan.

### THE LESSON OF THE HAGADDAH

by Michael Kagan

"And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him". (Genesis XLVI, 6).

"And the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly and multiplied and waned exceedingly mighty and the land was filled with them" (Exodus I, 7).

"And Pharaoh said unto his people: 'Behold, the people of the children of Israel are too many and too mighty for us; come, let us deal wisely with them lest they multiply and it came to pass, that when there befalleth us any war, they also join themselves unto our enemies and fight against us.' " (Exodus I, 9, 10).

Antisemitism is as old as the Jewish people. The above verses describe events that occurred more than 2,200 years ago and yet they could quite easily be applied to the position of the Jews in Germany only forty years ago. In fact, there are numerous instances throughout our history of this tragically recurring theme, Italy, Spain, France, England, Poland and today in Russia and Argentina.

Antisemitism can historically be divided into three types of discrimination: religious, racial and national. Religious antisemitism is hatred of the Jew because he is not a Christian; racial antisemitism is the hatred of the Jew because he is not an Aryan; and national antisemitism is the hatred of the Jew because he cannot assimilate and wishes to live in his own State. But the Haggadah does not specify which of these categories Pharaoh employed against our ancestors except that he suffered from what is perhaps the common denominator of all forms of antisemitism, namely, suspicion, jealousy and fear. But the mind of Pharaoh is not the central issue here. The important point is why and how did our ancestors get into the position where Pharaoh had reason and the ability to implement his "Judiophobia". The situation of the Jews in ancient Judio-Egypt was one of a rich, influential minority that had forgotten its' roots. The Jews of Egypt must have been as anxious to assimilate as the Jews, say, of Germany in the nineteenth century. A Commentary on the reason for the slavery was that the Jews were turning away from their past, from their heritage and that slavery and repression was the only way of reversing this process.

The Haggadah relates the first example of Jews causing their own destruction by attempting to discard their identities. The Haggadah warns us that complacency breeds antisemitism. It not only warns us of his danger but it also provides the means of avoiding it; from generation to generation you should pass on the message,

"Next year in Jerusalem! " This does not necessarily mean that all Jews must return to Zion in the physical sense. However, they must continually be aware of Zion as the centre of their identity, the essence of their being.

Whenever the familiar expression, "It can never happen here" is used to justify complacency, that is the time of danger. The most striking example of this reaction was Germany and Austro-Hungary from the mid-nineteenth century until the mid-twentieth century. Whereas in Egypt it took 200 years of slavery to remind the Jews of their heritage, the result of the modern enlightenment (Germans of the Mosaic faith etc.) took Six Million lives to reverse. That is not to say that Jewish complacency is the cause of antisemitism; it is, however, a great factor in it's success.

But for those who have survived the holocaust, how are you realizing this message of the Haggadah? Are your children fully aware of your past and the history of their people? Today Israel represents the ultimate freedom for the Jew. Do your children realise this, and will they be able to make a conscious decision whether to live there or stay in Exile?

The author, David L. Zwirek, is the son of one of our Committee members, M. Zwirek

#### JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN

by David L. Zwirek

Countless, endless generations  
Destroyed in a single instant,  
Burning charcoal Flames of Hell  
Swallow up mankind, - visions of  
Ruined dreams; close embrace next to warm cheek,  
Arms enfold, intertwining hands - Stop!  
Stark reality, formation of a thousand anthills,  
Row upon row, endangering disciplined progress.  
Yet who knows? - basic foundation for a modern city;  
Upon the bones of forsaken, forgotten martyrs  
Suburbia crawls - eating into the core of rotting humanity.  
"Who lies there? What? When? No - never - I do not believe,  
- Will and Reason distinguish; we are Man".

Journey into the unknown, through Chaos to oblivion.  
Endless infinite features of shattered ambitions,  
Destruction, death, despair - the darkness surrounds, -  
Cower in a corner, wild eyes perceive  
Though blind action overwhelms.  
We, - yes we - are man.

LETTERS

Sir,

I read with interest the article by Kitty Dessau in the Journal of the '45 Aid Society and, though I was impressed with most of the contents, I do not entirely agree.

She writes "....., those that do not attend our reunions do not know what they are missing." I am one of those voluntarily absent from the celebration and remain convinced that my absence is as much in my interest as it may be of those who attend. I reckon that I do know what I am missing!

Yours,

Jerzy Herszberg.

(The Editor reports with regret that the above is the only letter he has received.)

## MEMBERS' NEWS

ALEX GROSS - We have received a letter from Alex Gross, who now lives in Atlanta, Georgia, informing us of his activities on behalf of "HEMSHECH" 'a group of survivors from the concentration camps.' Partly in this capacity Gross writes articles in American papers, of which he kindly sent us some copies. In a letter he sent to Ben Helfgott and the Editor Gross suggested that "..... it might be a good idea that the next Journal should be concentrated as an effort to pull us back together, a special appeal to contact as many of the people that were in England, and maybe publishing....." a list of their addresses. Alex was not the only one to have this idea - hence the Appendix of the present issue. We were delighted to know of Alex's interest in our Society, look forward to seeing him soon, take this belated opportunity to express to him and his wife our most sincere condolences on the loss of their only son two years ago, and say: Shalom Alex!

ROMAN HALTER - Another write-up for Roman in the Jewish Chronicle regarding the stained glass windows he designed for the Central Synagogue, London.

RABBI HUGO GRYN - T.V. superstar! Seen on B.B.C.'s "Everyman" on Sunday 11th December 1977 which dealt with the relationship of food to Religion in various Faiths, noshing latkes at Chanukah! Hugo also gave a 15 minute talk on 4th January 1978 on B.B.C. 2 series "In the Light of Experience". Too bad he didn't give advance publicity to his performance, so many of us didn't see him.

LEON & VICKY ROSENBERG - They have reason to be proud of their son Alan who under the name of the 'Alan Ross Group' produced a single record called "Get the Guns" and an L.P. He received publicity at the time in the Jewish Chronicle and Evening Standard.

VARIOUS MAZELTOVS TO MEMBERS OF THE LONDON GROUP

MAZELTOV ON THE BIRTH OF A:

Second grandchild for Doreen & Harry Wajchandler - a daughter for son Leslie and his wife Sandra.

Second grand-daughter for Sallah & Benny Newton - Sarah Sultana - another 'gay Parisienne' for Janet and Denis.

A grand-daughter - Hayley - for Sylvia and Mark Goldfinger, Proud parents Michelle and Simon.

Third grandchild for Issy & Gertie Finkelstein.

Fourth grandchild for Thea & Israel Rudzinski.

MAZELTOV ON THE ENGAGEMENT OF:

Mimi, daughter of Thea & Israel Rudzinski

Denise, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. I. Pomeranc

MAZELTOV ON THE MARRIAGE OF:

Mimi daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. Rudzinski to Noah from Zurich.

Susan, daughter of Mary & Bob Obuchowski, to David. David is in 'Stocks and Shares' - when he met Susan he took stock then later asked Bob for his share!

Eve, daughter of Betty and Charlie Lewkowicz, to Howard. They are both studying in Brighton - Eve, for her M.A. and Howard in Pharmacology.

Michelle, daughter of Jeannette and Zigi Shipper married Marcus. The happy couple certainly won't be a printer's error!

Moshe, son of Doris and David Denderowich (Israel) married in Jerusalem.

Hannah, daughter of Rita & Rueben Orzech married Joshua.

MAZELTOV TO:

Tina & Kushi Greenberg on the Barmitzvah of their son Alan. Apparently he has 'quite a voice' and sings in the Haberdasher's School choir!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Millie & Monty Graham on their Silver Wedding Anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jonathan Gutt for passing 3 'A' Levels at grade A each and winning an Open Exhibition to Hertford College, Oxford.  
Steven Pomerance for passing 3 'A' Levels - he is now studying Law at King's College, London.  
Simon Wilder for gaining 'A' Levels in Art.  
Benny Freiman for passing 'A' Levels in Physics. He is now studying at Kingston College.  
Ellis Friedman eldest son of Muriel and Norman has qualified as a Doctor at Manchester. As mentioned before brother Trevor is studying Medicine at the Middlesex, so there will always be a 'Doctor in the house' !  
Lyla Ward Hetty & Alec's daughter had something to celebrate. She gained her B.A. Hons. in Law at Sheffield, and hopes to do Social work. Meanwhile brother is studying drama at Exeter. Good Luck.  
Mark Ward

Moniek & Fay Goldberg are on the move again -

Kendall Gate, Apartment 209,  
10850 Nth. Kendall Drive,  
Miami, Florida 33176.

Condolences to Max Cliffe (Lefkovich) on the loss of his wife, in December.

VARIOUS MAZELTOVS TO MEMBERS OF THE MACHESTER GROUP.

May 3rd Erica the daughter of Jack & Marion Cygelman was 21 years old.  
May 25th Louise & Herbert Elliott celebrated their Silver wedding anniversary.  
May 29th Harold the son of Alice & Joan Rubinstein was married to Miss Joan Isaacs.  
May 29th The youngest son of Rosalind & Abraham Pawlowski was Barmitzvah.  
June Pinky Kurnedz appointed President Whitefield Shool.  
Aug 24th Myra & Itzek Alterman celebrated their Silver wedding anniversary.  
Sept 4th Estelle younger daughter of Hannah & Sam Gardner was married to Howard Fink.  
Sept 9th Jack & Marion Cygelman celebrated their Silver wedding anniversary.



#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The annual L.G. Montefiore Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Gilbert Martin, the eminent Oxford historian, on Thursday 16th February at 8 p.m. at:

33 Seymour Place  
London, W. 1.

The title of the Lecture was

"Historians' Views on the Holocaust".

#### 1978 REUNION

The reunion will be held on Sunday 7th May 1978 at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London W.C.2.

For tickets please contact the ticket chairman, Mick Zwireck,  
Tel: 550 9426.

#### BROCHURE

The joint chairmen for the brochure are:

HARRY BALSAM .....	906 1702
FRANK FARKAS .....	203 2692
MARK GOLDFINGER.....	449 8222
JACK KAGAN .....	435 4677
DAVID SOMNER (MANCHESTER)	061773 5080

The Brochure prices are:

GOLD PAGE .....	£75.00
FULL PAGE .....	£45.00
HALF PAGE .....	£25.00
QUARTER PAGE .....	£15.00
CHILDREN'S NAMES.....	£2.00

Members will note that the Brochure prices are the same as they were in 1975! Your Committee trusts that this substantial decline in the real cost of space in the Brochure will result in a more than compensating increase in demand.

## OBITUARY

### ABRAHAM BROCH

Many will remember Abraham Broch, for his survival of the camps, and his arrival in England, seemed almost miraculous. He had lost a leg and yet managed to survive somehow. At Wintershill Hall (Southampton) he hobbled around on crutches and was fitted with an artificial leg only after our arrival at the Finchley Road hostel. Despite his serious disability Abraham always seemed cheerful and I still clearly remember his charming, gentle smile which was so indicative of his character.

Abraham left for the U.S.A. with his cousin Abraham Feldman at the end of the 40's. When I next saw him in 1970 he was married, had children, and had established a successful business in up-State New York. We were informed of his death by Herman Ziering.

Kurt Klappholz.

## OBITUARY

### SAM COOPER

The sudden death of Sam Cooper (Kuczer) at the age of 46 has deprived the '45 Aid Society of one of its staunchest supporters. Sam was for many years a member of the committee and at one time a Vice-Chairman. His contribution to the Society was immense, both materially and spiritually. It is no exaggeration nor is it a secret to say that 10% of the proceeds from our annual brochure came as a result of his efforts. His sober approach and advice in the deliberations of our committee meetings were always highly respected.

He was of a happy disposition that radiated warmth, friendship and optimism. No wonder he had a wide circle of friends from all walks of life. It was perhaps his optimism that was at once his strength and the cause of his early death.

During the war, Sam had many narrow escapes with his life. He was probably one of the youngest survivors of his town Hrubieszow near Chelm. Towards the end of the war he saved his life together with about 30 others by his presence of mind in telling the S.S. that he was not Jewish. Very soon after this episode he was liberated in Weiden, Bavaria by the American Third Army and after spending a few months in children's homes he came from Kloster-Indersdorf to Wintershill-Hall, near Southampton. From there he went to the hostels in Alton - Woodberry Down, where he was a very popular member. He was one of the group of "BOYS" who went to fight in the Israeli War of Independence and was always proud that he had done so. Later on he returned to England and married Valerie with whom he built up a very successful manufacturing and retail business. Theirs was an open and happy family home. He did so much and left so much undone, by dying so young.

We extend our warmest sympathies to Valerie, his daughter Hania and son Joel.

## APPENDIX

This Appendix contains a list of members of our group, and their addresses, in a number of countries. We are aware that the list is incomplete, and sometimes perhaps erroneous. We appeal to all our readers to supply us with any names which may not be on the list and to let us know of any mistakes it may contain (Ed.)