

לשנה טובה תכתבו

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**JEWS IN BATTLE AND BLITZ**  
(Cont. from Page 20)

book "No Arms, No Armour" and who has just written another successful novel named "The Voice of the Trumpet", has been an officer in the regular army for many years and during the present war has served with the Commandos in the raids on Norway and Casablanca. He is now a member of the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten, who is in command of Combined Operations of the British and American Forces.

Among Jewish officers who have distinguished themselves in the Royal Navy during the present war are Commander R. Jessel, who was in command of the destroyer "Legion" and won the Distinguished Service Cross and Bar for his bravery at Narvik and Malta; Lieut. H. R. Newgass, of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, who was awarded

the George Cross; Lieut. Maurice Stockland, R.N.V.R., who was awarded the British Empire Medal; Lieut. M. H. B. Solomon, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Bar for his services in the Mediterranean; and Commander D. M. Bright, who rose from the lower deck to commissioned rank in the Royal Navy during the last war, and has won the Distinguished Service Cross in the present war.

Among the Jews in the Canadian Navy during the present war there are at least two Lieut. Commanders, five Lieutenants, and five Sub-Lieutenants. Petty Officer Max Abramson, of Vancouver, was mentioned in despatches for "gallantry at sea, distinguished courage, resolution and devotion to duty" for his work as a member of the Canadian destroyer "St. Croix," in connection with the destruction of an enemy submarine.

In the lurid nights of the German air attacks upon London, Jewish men and women in the Home Guard and Auxiliary Fire Service distinguished themselves by their bravery and resourcefulness. German bombs fell upon the Jewish districts in London, Plymouth, Bristol, Liverpool and Hull. The remains of Jews and Christians alike, victims of the blitz, were buried in common graves.

Two new awards were created by His Majesty King George VI for bravery during the blitz. One was the George Cross, awarded to civilians who, had they been soldiers, would have been awarded the Victoria Cross. The other was the British Empire Medal, awarded for heroism in civil defence. The first person ever to receive the British Empire Medal was a Jewish girl, Rosalie Gassman, of the Auxiliary Fire Service, who remained at her post and attended to injured people when the station in which she was serving was struck by a bomb. Another Jewish girl who was one of the earliest recipients of the British Empire Medal was Nursing Sister Fay Caplan, of the Voluntary Aid Detachment, who was decorated for "her bravery and devotion to duty during the enemy air attacks."

Among the first 13 persons to be awarded the George Cross was Harry Errington, a Jewish tailor, a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service, who saved the lives of two men from a burning building although himself injured.

Nowell Landay, Jewish member of the Liverpool Fire Fighting Service, and A. Nabarro, of the Portsmouth Auxiliary Fire Fighting Service, were awarded the British Empire Medal, as was Bernard Kyte, Jewish policeman of Manchester, for climbing on top of two gasometers 50 feet high and stopping the escape of gas due to incendiary bombs, and Miss Winifred Ortweiler, a London Jewish girl.

Among the first to win the George Cross were Dr. Hannah Billig, a Jewish woman doctor in the east end of London, and a Jewish boy, David Lazarus, 17 years of age, who saved four persons who were trapped in a ruined building, and who was buried by falling masonry while trying to rescue the fifth.

Jewish fliers have figured prominently in the Royal Air Force, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and the Air Forces of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The first flier from the Dominions to be killed in action was a Jew, Pilot Officer H. Rosofsky, of Rhodesia, who fell in the first raid over Wilhelmshaven. Sgt. D. Nabarro, of the Royal Air Force, was the first

airman to receive the Distinguished Conduct Medal when the Royal Air Force was made eligible for it. Pilot Officer Peter Isaacson, of the Australian Air Force was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his gallantry in night attacks on Berlin. Flying Officer B. Van Mentz, of the South African Air Force, won the Distinguished Flying Cross and was killed in action, as was his father before him in the last war.

There are more than 50,000 Jews serving in the British Army, Navy and Air Force, some 9,000 Jewish men and women serving in the 21,000 Jews from Palestine serving in the British Forces.

To date more than 11,000 Canadian Jews are on active service in all branches of the Canadian Armed Forces. They have served and won distinction at Dieppe, Tobruk, Narvik, Hong Kong and Sicily, and in the air over Berlin and Hamburg. Their number in the Air Force is particularly large, forming more than 3 per cent of all men in the Air Force, although Jews form less than

1.5 per cent of the total population of Canada.

Besides others already mentioned in this article, there are Flying Officer William Nelson, of Montreal, who twice received the personal congratulations of King George, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Bar and was subsequently killed in action. Lieut. Raphael D. de Sola, a member of the well-known Canadian Jewish family of de Sola, has served with the Royal Navy at Algiers and at Gibraltar, and was decorated for his work in the evacuation of Dunkirk. Flying Officer Harry Shapiro, of Montreal, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar and was the first Canadian member of the Pathfinder Squadron.

Flight Lieut. Albert E. Glazer, of Toronto, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his work over Sicily. Other Canadian Jewish fliers who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross are Pilot Officer Seymour Bernard for "courage and determination of a high order"; Pilot Officer Hector Rubin, of Kamsack, for his work as a "navigator of great ability, resourcefulness and determination"; Pilot Officer Edmund D. Fleishman, of Vancouver, and Cpl. Louis Goldstein, of Montreal, were awarded the Air Force Medal, and Wing Commander Morris Lipton, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, was mentioned in despatches for his work as commander of a squadron.

Among those in the Canadian Army, Sgt. David Lloyd Hart, of Montreal, and Lance Corporal S. S. Guberman were awarded the Military Medal for bravery at Dieppe; Major M. M. Medine, of Montreal, was awarded the Order of the British Empire, Military Division, for bravery in the Middle East; Major Bert Sucharov was awarded the

Order of the British Empire, Military Division, for bravery at Dieppe; while Capt. Ben Brachman, of Regina, and Lieut. M. S. Rosenthal, of the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, have been mentioned in despatches.

As the war enters its fifth year the roll of honor of Jews in the British and Canadian Armed Forces grows longer, and the number of Jews on Canadian casualty lists and decorations for bravery lengthens. There is hardly a Jewish home in Canada without one or two and sometimes as many as five and six sons in active service.

Canadian Jews, like Jews in the fighting forces of all the United Nations, have gladly answered the call and are willingly making every sacrifice so that the world may be freed permanently from the threat of racialism, Fascism, and militarism

run mad, so that they and their loved ones, and all mankind may face the world of the future without fear. Is it too much to hope that before the next Jewish New Year is ushered in, not only will the enemy be crushed but also that Jews throughout the world will no longer be "Unknown Soldiers", to be honored anonymously only in death, but will be able to live, to work, to worship, and enjoy life as free men and as Jews.

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