

In the course of his speech at the Poale Zion Conference Mr. Moshe Shertok paid the following tribute to Gen. Wingate.

"Let us turn our thoughts for a moment to that far off corner in the jungle of Burma where lies buried Orde Wingate. His grave is part and parcel of the Jewish tragedy. Britain and we have lost in him a military genius. The Jews have lost the greatest Zionist among Englishmen after Josiah Wedgewood. He came to us in an hour of adversity, when the difficulties with which we struggled became magnified tenfold, where the shadows around our work were congested. He identified himself with our cause completely, without the slightest mental or moral reservation. In one respect there was a fundamental difference between him and many distinguished friends whom it has been our fortune to acquire in this country. All of them tried to help us from outside. He got right inside. He led our young men into battle. He taught his men to follow him into the wildest corners of Palestine and on its darkest nights. He created for our Hagana in Palestine a new tradition. But his judgment transcended the purely military framework. He gave thousands of people new hope and new courage for the great struggle of liberation in which we are all engaged. He did so by his passionate faith in the future of the young Palestine Jew and in the justice and the eventual inevitable triumphs of the cause he was fighting for. He did so by the holy fire which was always aglow within him by the very power of that miraculous phenomenon in our life of which the name is Orde Wingate. His memory will live. He will remain an active force; a source of confidence; a call to battle, a proof of our capacity to enlist for Jewry, friends among the Jewish people.

Our White-and-Blue flag, the unauthorised flag of the Palestinian Jewish units, wherever they are now, in Italy, in Libya, in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, in Iraq, the flag which fluttered before the eyes of the heroic defenders of the Warsaw Ghetto, is lowered to-day in solemn tribute over that distant grave in Burma where lies buried the unappointed commander of the Jewish Army, which remains still an unfulfilled dream. May his spirit hover over us, in the future stages of our just struggle."

-----

(P-Guyll Fe Wn Tr 20/12/44 24) - S25/10685