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JEWS IN R.A.F. AND W.A.A.F. CELEBRATE

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE

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The Ewart Memorial Hall in Cairo was filled to overflowing on Saturday evening, with rows of Palestinians in the R.A.F. and the W.A.A.F. attending a ceremony to celebrate the third anniversary of Palestine Jewry's service with the Royal Air Force (as reported yesterday).

Facing the platform, which was draped with the R.A.F. flag and the blue and white Zionist colours, were senior Air Force, Army and Allied officers, including Air Vice Marshal R.E. Saul, A.O.C., Air Defences Eastern Mediterranean, who represented Air Chief Marshal Sholto Douglas.

An unexpected guest was Mr. Moshe Shertok, head of the ~~Political~~ Political Department in Jerusalem, now on a visit to Cairo. The audience was welcomed by Mr. Weissman, Chairman of the Jewish Comforts Fund in Cairo, in a short speech followed by a prayer offered by the Rev. I. Brodie, Senior Jewish R.A.F. Chaplain, for those fallen in the fight against the enemy.

Common Cause

Air Vice-Marshal Saul speaking on behalf of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief praised the achievements of Palestinian Jews in the R.A.F., declaring, "We are fighting in a common cause which is now beginning to bear fruit."

The Air Vice-Marshal devoted a few words to special appreciation of the Palestinian W.A.A.F.s, now in Egypt for the first time, declaring how satisfied every one was with their work.

Enthusiastic applause greeted Mr. Shertok when he rose to speak. He mentioned how happy he was that one of his periodical visits to Cairo coincided with this celebration. Bringing greetings from the folks at home, he declared how all Palestinians were proud to fight in the ranks of that glorious organization, the R.A.F., and proud to be in it as Palestinian Jews and Jewesses.

Part in Victory

They had joined the R.A.F. not under compulsion but of their own free will and at the dictates of their own national policy. Mr. Shertok went on:

This magnificent gathering an expression of that collective feeling which unites all Palestinian Jews in the Royal Air Force, men and women alike, scattered though they may be hundreds of stations and so of occupations. The gathering symbolic of a still wider unity, that which embraces all the 23,000 Palestinian Jews who have so far joined His Majesty's Forces and the 7,000 more who have volunteered their full-time services for Palestine local defences.

"But it is our ardent wish and desire that they should all go on from strength to strength, that they should play the fullest possible part in the achievement of final victory, thereby avenging their martyred brethren and helping to pave the way to a brighter future for the survivors."

The ceremony concluded with music and the singing of Hebrew songs, followed by "Hatikvah" and the National Anthem and then the whole audience adjourned for a friendly and informal reception in the garden of the American University where refreshments were served.

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