

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — Thousands of people flocked to the Bet Ha'Am here tonight to catch their first glimpse of the Jewish Brigade Commander, Brigadier E.P. Benjamin.

They accorded the red-tailed officer, wearing the blue-white-blue flash of the Brigade Group on his sleeve, a tremendous ovation when he mounted the platform, accompanied by Jewish leaders and Palestinian officers under his command.

Brigadier Benjamin, who was introduced by Mr. Shertok by his Hebrew name, Levi Benjamin, began in Hebrew with greetings to Palestine Jewry from the Brigade Group. He went on to thank the gathering for their welcome which he felt was not addressed to himself as an individual so much as to a representative of the Brigade Group. He would be happy to go back to his Brigade and tell them about the great interest which the people of Tel Aviv had shown in the affairs of the Brigade Group.

Appealing for more recruits to bring the Brigade Group up to strength and provide replacements, the Brigadier said that he realized that one of the difficulties in getting new recruits was the fact that Palestinian Jews had joined up so freely before the Brigade was formed. However the group was short of infantry. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Jewish Battalions were below establishment.

In conclusion he called for an additional effort, despite what had already been done, to furnish the large intake he needed. He explained that the War Office would not permit the disbanding of existing units in order to bring the Brigade Group up to strength on account of the valuable services they were rendering.

The Mayor, Mr. I. Rokach, who presided, observed that Brigadier Benjamin had this time come alone, but he felt that he would soon return at the head of his columns of Jewish soldiers, to take part in the victory march under their Zionist colours.

Loyal Son

Brigadier Benjamin, declared Mr. M. Shertok, was a loyal son of his people and a loyal servant of his King. He had been proud to shoulder his historic task and place his wealth of military knowledge at the service of his people.

Referring to the non-Jews at present in the ranks of the Brigade Group, Mr. Shertok said that they wore the Jewish emblem and saluted the Jewish flag. But as a self-respecting nation, the Jews could not rest until the ranks of the Brigade were filled with

Mr. M. Shertok, Head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department, called on the Egyptian Consul-General in Jerusalem on Sunday and conveyed on behalf of the Jewish Agency an expression of its shock at the brutal murder of the Prime Minister, Dr. Ahmed Maher Pasha. Mr. Shertok requested the Consul-General to convey to the Egyptian Government the Jewish Agency's sorrow at the loss sustained by the Egyptian Government and people.



Jews only. Hundreds had enlisted during the last few months, but the rate would have to be doubled and even trebled.

Mr. Shertok said that Brigadier Benjamin, who was leaving the country tomorrow, had visited the Jewish national institutions in Jerusalem and had met leaders of the Zionist movement, including Dr. Chaim Weizman.

To the Zionist President Brigadier Benjamin had presented the Brigade Group's letter of introduction. The Brigadier had also visited the offices of the Vaad Leumi and had paid a call at the Pinner, where wives and children of Jewish immigrants asked him to give his regards to their menfolk.

Yishuv's Oath

Mr. Shertok closed with a plea that in leaving his post as Brigadier Benjamin, the Yishuv should take an oath not to rest until the ranks of his formation had been filled.

NO INCREASE IN CERTIFICATE QUOTA

INADEQUATE FOR URGENT DEMAND

From Our Own Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — No increase in the monthly immigration quota of 1,500 certificates was granted when in accordance with the promise made last October, the Government reviewed its policy at the turn of the year. The only modification was permission for the Jewish Agency to carry over balances not exceeding 500 certificates from month to month in the event of full quotas not being expended.

In Rumania, 50,000 Jews had applied for immigration certificates, while half of the Jewish population of 175,000 were candidates for immigration to Palestine. In Bulgaria, nearly all the 45,000 Jews who were destitute looked to Palestine. In Greece, only 5 percent of the 8,500 surviving Jews were able to make a living. Seventy percent of them were roofless and would have to be fully supported if they were to survive. Six hundred and fifty children, mostly orphans had been registered for immigration, but there were no certificates available.

Of the 10,300 quota of certificates granted in October, 1,000 remained for Rumania,

These facts were the burden of a statement by Mr. M. Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department, in reply to a barrage of questions on immigration put by journalists at the Press Club today.

Position in Balkans

Asked why the February convoys had not yet left, Mr. Shertok said that a deadlock had arisen regarding the Balkans, which had only recently been resolved.

Previously visas for refugees from the Balkans had been granted by the British authorities in Istanbul, but this practice was discontinued when the British authorities arranged to open Consulates in the liberated Balkan states. There had been a hitch in the opening of the Consulates, and prospective emigrants could not collect their visas.

The Government, however, has now released 1,000 visas to the Consulate at Istanbul for Rumanian Jews to be recommended by the Palestine Office at Bucharest. This number of visas exhausted the share for the Rumanian Jews in the quota of 10,300.

One hundred and eighty immigrants had been approved for admission to Palestine from Bulgaria and it remained to be seen whether the Bulgarian authorities would permit the departure of Jews. The ban on emigration to Palestine had been imposed owing to pressure brought to bear by Jewish communists in Bulgaria trying to combat Zionism.

Three hundred immigrants were now on their way from Aden, Mr. Shertok continued. A group of 900 was awaiting sailing arrangements in Italy. A batch of 250 visas had been despatched to the British Consulate in Paris where a Palestine Office and a Youth Aliya Office were opened recently.

Asked about the 1,370 refugees from the inferno of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp who had reached Switzerland, Mr. Shertok explained that the Swiss had admitted them on the recommendation of the U.S. authorities who had guaranteed to move them at the first opportunity. The Americans intend to take them to Philipville in Algiers, and the first 185 had already been sent.

All but a few of these people were Zionists and wanted to come to Palestine, Mr. Shertok continued. It was inconceivable that people who had gone through such ordeals should be doomed to an indefinite period of uncertainty in a refugee camp. The Jewish Agency had applied for a special grant of certificates for them, over and above those remaining from the 10,300 grant in October, which was pitifully inadequate.

Unconfirmed reports indicated that only 90,000 Jews have remained alive in liberated Poland, Mr. Shertok concluded. The Jewish Agency had requested a tentative schedule of certificates for Lublin.

The general picture, said Mr. Shertok in summing up, which emerged from reports from liberated Europe was one of appalling distress among the Jewish communities. In Poland and in some other countries anti-Semitism was raging with unabated fury. The cry for immigration permits for Palestine was increasing daily.

...the contribution that s...
land of her fathers, had e...
titled Annie Landau to...
hailed as a "daughter of J...
usalem," said Mr. M. Shertok in his tribute.

Dr. J. Magnes, President of the Hebrew University, then read Psalm XC in Hebrew and in English, and Major Eban read Ch. XXXI of the Book of Proverbs, also in both languages. The Memorial Prayer and Kaddish were chanted by the Cantor.

The platform was flanked with two candelabra, a large photograph of Miss Landau on the left. The candles were lit as the readings from the Bible were given.

Among those present were the Chief Secretary and Mrs. Shaw; Mr. and Mrs. M. Shertok; Sir George and Lady Heron; the U.S. Consul General and Mrs. Pinkerton; Mr. Justice and Mrs. Franklyn; Judge and Mrs. Shaw; Mr. Gumbley; Mr. and Mrs. Moss Levy; a representative of the Inspector General; Sq. Ldr. and Mrs. Reed; Dr. Semple; Mr. and Mrs. A.P.S. Clark; Mr. and Mrs. Harvey; Mr. J. Kisselov and many others.

Farewell Party for Brigade Officers

The Jewish Brigade Group has inscribed Mr. M. Shertok, Head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department, in the Jewish National Fund's Golden Book.

The Certificate was presented yesterday at a farewell party given by Mr. and Mrs. Shertok for the officers of the Brigade Group who are leaving Palestine to return to their units on completion of their recruiting mission.

The inscription runs: "Presented to Moshe Shertok, founder and shaper of the Jewish Brigade Group, in recognition and appreciation of his devoted efforts to bring the Jewish fighting formation into being."

About 100 guests were present at the reception when Capt. Capri, Capt. Izhar and Capt. Rabinovitz brought greetings from their men. Those present included members of the Executives of the Jewish Agency and Vaal Leumi as well as wives and parents of serving men.

Mr. Shertok expressed appreciation of the assistance given by H.E. the High Commissioner who, following meetings with Dr. Weizman, and representations from the Chief Secretary, had supported the Jewish Agency's request for the admission of the Mauritius internees to Palestine.

A small number of permits had been approved for Greece, Yugoslavia, and liberated parts of Holland, while the Agency's request for 1,670 visas for refugees in the Bergen Belsen camp had been transmitted to London. Of the 10,300 certificates issued last October, only 6,000 were still unused by February 1.

More A.T.S. Needed

An appeal for intensified recruiting to the A.T.S. was also made by Mr. Shertok, who paid tribute to the splendid work done by Jewish servicewomen, mentioning in particular their help on behalf of Jewish refugees in Italy.

He also revealed that following the efforts of the Jewish Agency, 23 Temporary Additional Constables had recently been transferred to the Palestine Police Force, having to take a two weeks' course only instead of the three months required of fresh recruits.