

PRESENT RECRUITING CAMPAIGN OF JEWS IN PALESTINE

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Points affecting the Jewish Units of the RASC:

1. The establishment of Jewish RASC units and the adoption of the double banking policy recently ordered has shown the urgent need for the enlistment of specially selected personnel who can within a reasonable period be trained and made available as senior officers in these units. Such men can and have been found among the more prominent members of the Jewish community in Palestine. They are generally between 35 and 45 years of age, and hold responsible and sometimes key positions in their civilian occupations. They are in most cases prepared to enlist in the ranks. It is however suggested that if they follow the present scheme of training it will be well over six months before they are posted to the RASC where they will again experience of the service in the field and it may be between nine months or a year before they are ready to assume the duties for which they will have been especially selected.

It is therefore suggested that without creating any precedent in the normal training of officers these specially selected senior men have their period of training reduced to a minimum, that they be granted a commission as soon as the OC Training is satisfied that they are the type required and if they pass out adequately they might well be posted to the units as A/Capts. on probation.

2. The need for senior technical NCOs to hold positions such as MSM, MQMS, MSS, is becoming increasingly apparent. Such men are at best of times difficult to find. Normally they hold responsible jobs as Yard Masters in garages and Work Shops. They earn good pay in their civilian occupation. A number of such men have been interviewed in Palestine and provided some guarantee can be given them that they will receive rapid and adequate promotion to senior NCO rank enabling them to maintain their standard of life, they would be willing to enlist. Special facilities for training these selected personnel would have to be established taking into consideration that most of these men are mechanics and often possess a poor knowledge of English (which would of course, not affect their mechanical executive competence in Jewish units where Hebrew and other languages are still largely the vernacular).

(ii) During recent months a certain number of technical personnel has found its way into Palestinian coys of the Buffs, Pioneer Corps, etc. The names of these personnel are being collected and most are desirous of being transferred to the RASC where their experience as drivers, mechanics, etc. can be exploited to the full. When this list has been fully compiled it is suggested that facilities for transfer of these personnel be created.

(iii) Although it is not yet certain how many recruits will come forward during the present campaign in Palestine it is obvious that a large proportion are urgently required as drivers for the units now being formed and for additional Jewish RASC units. It is suggested that a quota be fixed for the proportion of RASC personnel required as against the other Palestinian units for which recruiting is also taking place.