

# JTA

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY  
106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. VIII. NO. 245

Sunday, October 5, 1941

### M. M. USSISHKIN LAID TO REST IN ANCIENT CAVE ON MOUNT SCOPUS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5. (JTA)-- All Jewish activity was suspended in Palestine today at 11 A.M. when this city witnessed the most impressive funeral ever held in Palestine in modern times, as Menahem Mendel Ussishkin, doyen of the Zionist movement and President of the Jewish National Fund, was laid to rest in "Nikanor's Cave" in the grounds of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus.

"Nikanor's Cave," which was uncovered ten years ago during excavations by Prof. Sukenik of the Hebrew University, dates from the time of the Second Temple and looks out on what was formerly the Temple grounds. Legend has it that from this point the Roman legions launched their attack on Jerusalem. Ussishkin expressed a desire to be buried there when he died. He planned to convert the Cave into a pantheon for Zionist leaders.

The funeral procession, which was arranged at an all-night session in the dead leader's house of prominent Palestine Jewish personalities, started from Ussishkin's home. Leading the procession were pupils from the Jewish schools in Jerusalem, all of which were closed during the funeral. After them came the pall bearers, who were chosen from the surviving members of the first World Zionist Congress, members of the Jewish Agency and representatives of the Vaad Leumi. Ussishkin's family followed after the pall bearers.

The entire executive of the Jewish Agency, members of the Vaad Leumi, the executive of the JNF, the Palestine Rabbinate, the Senate of the Hebrew University and the Hadassah followed in the procession. Then came representatives of the Palestine Government, consuls of the different countries, representatives of the municipal authorities, delegates from the Jewish settlements and representatives from the various youth organizations.

The funeral proceeded along the street that bears Ussishkin's name and made its first stop at the synagogue where the aged leader used to worship. The next stop was made before the JNF building. From there the funeral proceeded to Mount Scopus, while all traffic was cleared from the streets.

Ussishkin left two messages in sealed envelopes. One was marked: "To be Opened At My Death." The other bore the inscription: "To be Opened Seven Days After My Death." The first message when opened was found to contain explicit instructions as to the funeral. It provided that no eulogies be delivered at Ussishkin's bier and no flowers bedeck the casket. It asked that the casket be covered by the Jewish Blue-White flag and that only Kaddish and El Mole Rachmim be recited at the burial ceremony.

Ussishkin's last words before he died were uttered to Dr. Rokach, who had been treating him. When the doctor entered the room in which the Zionist leader was sitting Ussishkin said to him: "Zehu Hasof." ("This is the end.") Dr. Rokach attempted to assure Ussishkin that he had no need to be alarmed and that he would feel better as soon as he had received the injection which the doctor was preparing. But Ussishkin only repeated: "This is the end. I tell you it will not help." Five minutes later he was dead.

The news of his death spread like wildfire throughout Palestine. It reached Tel Aviv during a session of the municipal council. The meeting was immediately adjourned. All cafes and places of entertainment were ordered closed. Leading citizens of the city departed an masse for Jerusalem to pay their last respects to the venerable leader of Zionism.

Ussishkin continued to play a vital part in the affairs of the Yishub until the very hour of his death. Following the operation he underwent in the Rothschild-Hadassah-University hospital about two weeks ago his physicians demanded that he remain in the hospital to convalesce. But when on the first day of Rosh Hashanah a rabbi came to the hospital and blew the Shofar, Ussishkin broke down and cried and demanded that he be taken home. Two days before Yom Kippur the doctors agreed to release him and he went home.

Disregarding his weakened condition Ussishkin closely followed the news of the world. Only a few hours before his death he conferred with Chief Rabbi Herzog in his room and discussed latest developments in Palestine. Shortly after the Chief Rabbi left he began to grow weaker, and by the time the doctor arrived he was but a few short minutes from his death.

#### AMERICAN ZIONIST LEADERS HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR USSISHKIN

NEW YORK, Oct. 5. (JTA)-- Leaders of all Zionist parties and groups in the United States gathered today at a memorial service held for M. M. Ussishkin in the New York headquarters of the Jewish National Fund. Simple rites marked the occasion. Psalms were read by A. L. Gelman, president of Mizrahi and Mrs. David de Sola Pool, president of Hadassah. Eulogies were delivered by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the JNF in America and by Zalman Schocken, member of the governing board of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem.

Following the service, Dr. Goldstein on behalf of the directors of the Jewish National Fund in America cabled the following message to the JNF in Palestine, of which Ussishkin was president:

"Tragic news, death of our beloved and revered Menachem Ussishkin came as a thunderbolt causing profound shock and widespread grief among American Jewry. Please accept and convey to the Yishub profoundest expression of our deep mourning. A prince of the spirit has fallen in Israel. A towering figure whose great achievements for our people and its homeland will long be cherished and remembered has entered the realm of immortals. Our suffering, bleeding but unconquerable people which has for many decades loved, admired and followed him in his work for Geulah Hearetz and Hebrew renaissance stands at his grave with bowed heads but unshaken in the faith and hope that his life's ideals will triumph. His ringing message 'Don't despair, justice will triumph. Zion will be rebuilt,' will be accepted as a binding testament and inspire great numbers to follow his inspired life's example."

ZIONIST EMERGENCY COMMITTEE EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER USSISHKIN'S DEATH

NEW YORK, 'Oct. 5. (JTA)-- The Zionist Emergency Committee, which represents all Zionist groups in America, issued a statement saying: "With profoundest grief we mourn the passing of Menachem Ussishkin. He was more than a leader. In his person he epitomized the steadfastness, the faith, and the unbreakable resolve of the Jewish people to achieve a national future for themselves in their own homeland.

"Ussishkin's singleness of purpose, his unbending insistence on first principles, and his passionate love of the land, made him the ideal head of the movement for the redemption of the land of Palestine. Under him the Jewish National Fund had gone from strength to strength and for countless thousands Ussishkin was the National Fund. His loss will be deeply felt in every sphere of Zionist work. He was a pillar of Zion and in the history of the Jewish people his name will stand out as a symbol of national devotion."

Valiant Champion of Zionist Movement, says Levinthal

Judge Louis Levinthal, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in a statement said: "American Zionists and all friends of Palestine everywhere mourn the passing of Menachem Mendel Ussishkin. From the very inception of the modern renaissance of the Jewish homeland Ussishkin has been universally recognized as one of the most valiant champions and ablest leaders of the Zionist movement. His own vigorous and courageous personality symbolized the strength and heroism of the Jewish pioneers and his indomitable spirit reflected the unshakable determination of self-respecting Jews to help reestablish a free and creative Jewish commonwealth in Palestine."

His Iron Will Remains Unimpaired, Dr. Goldman States

Dr. Solomon Goldman, in a message from Chicago said: "It is unbelievable that Menachem Mendel Ussishkin yielded to death. Certainly his iron will remains unimpaired even as his illustrious name remains undying and the faith and determination that name will always inspire in the Yishuv and among Jews everywhere will redeem the soil of Palestine. The grief of Zionists the world over is beyond expression."

Was the Brazen Walls of Our Movement, says Dr. Silver

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, in a message from Cleveland declared: "Profoundly saddened by death of Ussishkin. Few men could be spared as little as Ussishkin in these critical times. He was the iron pillar and brazen walls of our movement. The land which he loved so deeply and the people whom he served so nobly and so unswervingly will never forget him."

Emanuel Neumann, former president of the JNF of America, issued a statement saying: "The death of Menachem Ussishkin is an incalculable loss to the Zionist movement. He has been fittingly described as a human monolith, hewn of bedrock, whole, harmonious and unshakable in his convictions. It was my privilege to serve with him as governor of the Keren Kayemeth in Jerusalem, representing the Zionist Executive, and I shall always cherish the recollection of his sterling qualities, his massive character and his utter devotion to the Land of Israel."

Dr. Israel Goldstein announced today that a public meeting dedicated to the memory of Ussishkin will be held following the expiration of the thirty-day period of mourning.

JEWISH AGENCY IN LONDON MOURNS USSISHKIN

LONDON, Oct. 5. (JTA)-- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency, and other leaders of the world Zionist movement, will be among the principal speakers at a memorial meeting for M. M. Ussishkin, which will be held on Sunday.

In the meantime Zionist leaders and organizations in London today cabled messages of condolence to the widow of the late dean of the Zionist movement and to the Jewish National Fund of which Ussishkin was president.

The Jewish Agency cabled the following message from London: "We are overwhelmed by inexpressible grief at the tragic news of the demise of the doyen of Zionism, the pillar of our movement for several generations, who wrote so many glorious pages in the history of Zionism and sealed them with his large conviction and wholehearted devotion. He will live in the annals of our history for all time and serve us as a guide through his unceasing efforts for the revivel of our people, our land and our language; for all of which he labored uninterruptedly and uncompromisingly, and with unparalleled zeal."

BOMBS DEMOLISH SIX SYNAGOGUES IN PARIS

VICHY, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- Six synagogues in various sections of Paris were demolished early this morning and two persons were wounded when bombs apparently planted by Nazi agents exploded in the building of the Jewish houses of worship.

Among the synagogues destroyed was the famous temple on Rue de la Victoire, which was the seat of the Jewish consistory in France and housed the archives, library and administrative offices of the Grand Rabbi. The temple dated from the eighteenth century. Another bomb demolished the Sephardic synagogue in Rue Notre Dame de Nazareth, destroying the remains of James Rothschild, founder of the famous banking house, which were interred there. Other synagogues bombed were on the streets: Tournelles, Montespan, Copernic, and Pavee. An unexploded bomb was removed from another synagogue before any damage could be done.

The Paris police announced that they were "actively investigating the incidents."

The news of the bombing of synagogues was received by leaders of the Catholic Church in Vichy with disfavor. The Catholic Church has been particularly articulate in its opposition to "anti-Christian racism." It is understood that a leading member of the Catholic hierarchy counselled Marshal Petain against too stringent anti-Jewish measures.

FORTY PERCENT OF JEWISH YOUTH IN WARSAW GHETTO UNFIT FOR WORK

ZURICH, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- Registration of all Jewish males between the ages of fourteen and sixteen in the Warsaw ghetto has revealed that forty percent of them are totally unfit for manual labor, because of ill health, it was reported in the Deutsche Zeitung, reaching here today.

POLISH PREMIER DISCUSSES PROBLEMS WITH JEWISH LEADER

LONDON, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council, was received today by the Polish Premier Gen. Sikorski and by Foreign Minister Raczynski with whom he discussed a number of problems.

DANISH JOURNALIST PUNISHED IN GERMANY FOR REPORTING SYMPATHY TO JEWS

ZURICH, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- For reporting that Poles have demonstrated sympathy with Jews in Warsaw by throwing flowers and baskets of fruit to the Jews over the walls of their ghetto on the day of the Jewish New Year, Axel Biernson, Berlin correspondent of the Danish newspaper National Tindente, was deprived of his rights to send news from Germany for a period of six months, it was reported here today.

The order to deprive the correspondent of his journalistic rights came from the German Ministry of Propaganda, stating that it should serve as an example for other foreign correspondents in the Reich. The Ministry did not deny the report of the Danish journalist. It stated that the acts of sympathy reported by the correspondent were committed "by irresponsible elements." It added that other correspondents will be deprived of the use of telegraph, telephone and mail facilities should they send similar reports to their newspapers abroad.

DELEGATES FROM ALL PARTS OF BRITISH EMPIRE OPEN TRADE CONFERENCE IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- The importance which the British Government attaches to Palestine as a trading center for the entire Near-and-Middle East was emphasized here today by the opening of an impressive British commercial conference at which delegations from England, South Africa, the dominions, colonies, mandated territories and protectorates participated.

The conference was arranged by Lord Carlisle, director of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, for the purpose of extending and coordinating the British trade program for the Near East, the Middle East, the Far East and Africa. This is one of the largest trade conferences ever held in the British Empire. Representatives of Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Egypt are also participating in the conference.

The United Kingdom Commercial Corporation is at present engaged in blocking Germany's attempt to win Turkey through economic concessions. The Corporation is supplying Turkey with huge shipments of war planes, locomotives, heavy machinery and war materials which Turkey has no chance of getting from Germany. In this way England hopes to keep Turkey's territory closed to the German army and thereby prevent the development of a dangerous strategic situation for the Soviet front in the Caucasus as well as for Palestine and the British position in the Near East.

BRITISH PROVIDE FREE SHIPPING FOR HADASSAH SUPPLIES SENT TO PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- The British War Relief Society, Inc., through the British Ministry of War Transport, has provided free shipping for all future war emergency food, medical supplies, linen and clothing to be sent by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America to its hospitals, child welfare and social service institutions in the Holy Land, Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, Palestine chairman of the group, announced here today.

The first consignment to go under the new arrangement will leave shortly on an American Export Line steamer. It will weigh approximately six tons and include sugar, drugs, hospital linens, sweaters and other outer garments, x-ray tubes and surgical instruments.

ANTI-SEMITIC NEWSPAPER APPEARS IN MEXICO CITY

MEXICO CITY, D. F., Oct. 3. (JTA)-- "Vanguardia," an anti-Semitic newspaper obviously patterned after the notorious "Sturmer" of Julius Streicher, appeared on the streets of this capital today.

AMERICA NEGOTIATES WITH MOSCOW FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN RUSSIA, ROOSEVELT REVEALS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- The United States Government expects the promulgation of religious freedom in Soviet Russia and is conducting negotiations in Moscow to this effect, it was indicated today by President Roosevelt at a press conference.

The President revealed that he had instructed W. Averell Harriman, head of the American mission to Moscow, to negotiate this question with the Soviet Government. He also indicated that the matter has already been taken up in Moscow by the American Ambassador there.

Asked whether he has received any information from Harriman on this subject, the President said that he has not received any report as yet and would not say whether the negotiations are successful until he gets the expected information.

JEWISH LEADERS CALL CONFERENCE FOR PRESERVATION OF JUDAISM

NEW YORK, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- Rabbinical and lay leaders of Jewish congregations, sisterhoods and men's clubs throughout the country have been invited to a Conference for the Preservation of Judaism, called by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America for October 19, to mobilize the spiritual and cultural leaders of American Jewry in a program dedicated to the preservation of the Jewish traditions and culture.

The Conference has been called to consider the responsibilities which devolve on American Jewry in view of the effects of the war on Jewish institutions abroad. The call is signed by Dr. Louis Finkelstein, President of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Henry S. Hendricks, Secretary of the Seminary Board of Directors, Dr. Max Arat, Director of the Seminary's Field Service and Activities, Rabbi Leon S. Lang, President of the Rabbinical Assembly, and Mrs. Frieda Schiff Warburg, Co-Chairman of the Conference Committee.

SWISS GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO AID ITS JEWISH CITIZENS IN FRANCE

BERNE, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- The Swiss government today declared that its consular agents in France are doing all possible to safeguard the rights of Swiss Jews there who are menaced by the anti-Jewish laws. The statement was made by a government spokesman replying to a question put at a session of the Swiss National Council.

ELIEZER LEV, JTA NIGHT EDITOR, DEAD

NEW YORK, Oct. 3. (JTA)-- Eliezer Lev, night editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, died here today at his home, after a short illness. He was 46 years old.

Born in Brest-Litovsk, Lev came to the United States in 1912. He attended the New York City College and contributed prose and poetry to Jewish literary publications. For several years he taught Hebrew in New York schools. In 1936 he joined the editorial staff of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency with whom he has been since. Last year when the British issued a call for blood donors, Lev donated several pints of blood to be used in transfusions for wounded English soldiers.

Funeral services will be held from his home 2885 Valentine Avenue in the Bronx, on Sunday noon. He is survived by a mother and three sisters.