

From: Joint Distribution Committee  
270 Madison Avenue  
New York 16, N. Y.  
LE 2-5200

Raphael Levy, Publicity Director

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12,000 REFUGEES IN SHANGHAI  
DEPEND ON J.D.C., UNRRA AID,  
JEWISH ARMY CHAPLAIN REPORTS  
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Chaplain Fine Describes Living Conditions of Stateless  
Jews Who Found Haven From Nazism, Then  
Were Interned by Japanese  
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NEW YORK, N. Y. -- Twelve thousand Jewish refugees in teeming Shanghai -- victims of Nazi terror who sought haven in China only to be imprisoned when Japanese forces occupied the city -- were described yesterday by Army Chaplain Alvin Fine, of Portland, Oregon, as homeless, destitute, and almost completely dependent for their daily bread on the Joint Distribution Committee, major American agency aiding Jews overseas, and UNRRA.

In an interview held under the auspices of the United Jewish Appeal, Chaplain Fine, who is now on terminal leave after returning recently from twenty-seven months of service in China, declared that the Jewish refugees see no future in the Orient. "They look to the United States, to the British Dominions and to Palestine as lands where they may start their lives again in decency and dignity," he stated, "but few emigration opportunities are being provided them and since V-J Day there has been a noticeable growth of a feeling of hopelessness among them.

"I first reached Shanghai as UNRRA liaison officer with China Theatre Headquarters shortly after liberation in September, 1945," Chaplain Fine disclosed. "There, amidst the awful confusion of the Hengkwu ghetto, where the Japanese had imprisoned the refugees, I saw the magnificent work of Manuel Siegel, J.D.C. representative in Shanghai, who even before the city's official liberation, walked out of a Japanese internment camp where he had been held for two-and-one-half years, and had resumed his work of setting up the J.D.C. assistance programs when American Army forces entered the city. After Mr. Siegel left to return to the United States, this vital work was taken up by J.D.C. field worker Charles Jordan, of 23 West 82nd Street New York, who has continued the activities Mr. Siegel directed. It was a privilege to work with both these men to help relieve the suffering and the hunger among the refugees."

Chaplain Fine reported that a regular monthly grant of \$100,000 by the Joint

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Distribution Committee in behalf of Shanghai's Jewish refugees was continued throughout the war period, via underground channels, with full approval of the American government. Since the closing months of 1945, UNRRA has provided food for the refugees, but the J.D.C.'s monthly \$100,000 appropriation is still needed for the provision of relief to more than 8,000 Jews, plus medical assistance, rent aid, and other help, he said. As of June 1st, it was disclosed, the J.D.C. raised its monthly allocation for assistance programs in behalf of Shanghai's Jewish refugees to \$130,000.

"Although the J.D.C. has been able to ship penicillin, insulin and other drugs to the refugees from the United States," he added, "Shanghai is still a danger spot, medically speaking. Overcrowded housing conditions among the refugees increases the chances of epidemic outbreaks among them. In one room where four or five men might live comfortably, fifty sleep -- this is almost typical."

Chaplain Fine disclosed that the J.D.C. has recently opened a rest center for aged Jewish refugees in Shanghai and plans to expand its rehabilitative activities among the Jewish population. A school and a well-run hospital for the refugees are also being operated now by the J.D.C.

Urging widespread support of the \$100,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, from which the J.D.C. receives funds for its relief, rehabilitation and emigration activities among Jewish survivors in nearly fifty countries throughout the world, Chaplain Fine predicted that hundreds of Jewish men and women who found employment as truck drivers, sales clerks and stenographers with the United States occupying forces in the city will be returned to J.D.C.-UNRRA relief rolls when the Army leaves Shanghai. "As our forces reduce their strength in the city," he noted, "more and more are being thrown out of work -- to return to a blank future."

"One reason that the Jewish refugees in Shanghai -- most of whom are of German or Austrian origin -- have been unable to find useful, self-supporting activity in the city is because the Chinese government has classified them as enemy nationals," Chaplain Fine noted. "They are not permitted to conduct their trades and professions. Thus, the first victims of Nazi brutality and horror have been forced to pay for the sins of their tormentors. Only very recently has the government permitted a 'reinterpretation' of this order," he added, "yet as far as I have seen there has been no restitution of Jewish-owned property and no sign of any such program being contemplated. Even UNRRA, by its charter, has been unable to employ any 'stateless' persons, and thus, poverty-stricken, strangers in a strange land, the Jewish refugees look to emigration as their only hope," he said.

Another reason for the dependence of Shanghai's Jews on outside help is that more than a third of the survivors are over 50 years old -- men and women whose wanderings and years of imprisonment have made them physically and mentally tired, Chaplain Fine noted. "But many of the youngsters," he pointed out, "are now studying (more)



in J.D.C.-supported classrooms, learning English and Hebrew as well as other academic subjects in the hope that they may soon be allowed to leave China."

J.D.C. officials at the interview disclosed that approximately twenty-five cases of educational supplies, toys, typewriters, arts and crafts materials, song books and other items are now en route to Shanghai with Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Grodsky, of Springfield, Mass., J.D.C. field representatives who will join Mr. Jordan in Shanghai this month.

In the J.D.C. emigration program in behalf of Jewish refugees in Shanghai, Chaplain Fine disclosed some refugees have already been helped through J.D.C. funds and migration services to leave Shanghai for Australia, the U.S., Canada and Palestine.

The Chaplain paid tribute to the National Jewish Welfare Board and American Jewish soldiers stationed in Shanghai who, he said, befriended the refugees, arranged parties for the children, put on shows for them and brought them the first cheer they had known in a decade. "Nearly every Jewish soldier stationed in Shanghai 'adopted' one or more Jewish families," he said, "and, with the encouragement and good offices of Harry Herbert, Jewish Welfare Board representative in the Shanghai area, many friendly relationships were established among American boys and the refugees. As a matter of fact," he added, "I performed three marriages during my stay between American Jewish soldiers and refugee girls in Shanghai."

Chaplain Fine, whose last civilian post was with Temple Beth Emeth, in Wilmington, Del., said he plans to return to his home in Portland soon.

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