

Concentrated in the neighborhood of Hongkew, some 8,000 of the refugees lived in five buildings that had survived a Japanese bombardment. There was a shortage of food and funds, and the sanitary conditions were deplorable. In April 1941, a JDC representative, Laura L. Margolis, arrived in Shanghai to guide refugee aid and emigration activities, and a second representative, Manuel Siegel, joined her on the eve of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Though Margolis and Siegel were classified by the Japanese as enemy aliens, they were permitted to remain at liberty until February 1943, when they were interned. By then, they had succeeded in organizing a system of emergency relief and had rounded up the heavy equipment needed to run steam kitchens capable of feeding thousands of people a day. These kitchens kept the refugees alive for the duration of the war. Margolis was repatriated in September 1943, but Siegel was not freed until V-J Day, in August 1945.

Between 1946, when emigration resumed, and 1953, JDC helped some 16,000 Jews, mostly from Shanghai, leave China for other lands. Approximately 6,700 were admitted to the U.S., including several hundred who were in transit to third countries. The remainder went to Israel, Europe, Australia, Latin America, and Canada.

Barcelona and Lisbon

Following the Nazi occupation of northern and coastal France in June 1942, Spain became the land bridge to the high seas for Jewish refugees, and JDC played a major role in assisting them. More than 20,000 people had already crossed into Spanish territory by the summer of 1942, with a fresh wave of refugees coming in August. The numbers swelled once again after the Nazis occupied southern France.

Many Jewish refugees had crossed the Pyrenees Mountains by foot to escape from France, and most arrived without proper visas or legal papers. JDC would often intervene with the Spanish authorities to secure the release of Jews who had been interned.

In addition, since Jewish organizations were not permitted to function in Franco's Spain, the distribution of JDC aid was beset with complications. JDC first recruited a Portuguese citizen, Dr. Samuel Sequerra, who could travel freely in Spain, to represent it. In 1943, the Franco government finally permitted an American social worker, David Blickenstaff, to distribute refugee aid. Later that year, Herbert Katzki became the JDC representative in Barcelona.

The services extended by JDC included protection and intervention on the refugees' behalf, financial support, and assistance with their departure from Spain. JDC arranged for the evacuation of groups of children to the U.S.; helped refugees communicate with friends and relatives abroad; and provided medical care where possible.

JDC had to assume formal responsibility for several thousand stateless refugees until their cases could be resolved. JDC allocations for Spain began in 1936 and continued through the war years, totaling more than \$2.6 million—the fifth highest sum allocated during that period to any single country.

Situated in neutral Portugal, Lisbon was JDC's wartime European headquarters, and the port of embarkation for most refugee evacuations. It is estimated that some 100,000 refugees passed through Portugal during the war years en route to overseas lands, and a great many of them were assisted by JDC. Between 1936 and 1944, JDC allocated more than \$1.1 million for refugee aid in Portugal, most of which was expended following the fall of France.

JDC financed or shared in the financing of dozens of sailings from Lisbon and nearby ports, using large ships like the *Serpa Pinto* and the *Nyassa* for trans-Atlantic crossings and voyages to North Africa and Palestine.

Overall, JDC based its evacuation plans on the refugees' country of origin. Polish Jews were taken to Gibraltar and from there, to England or the Near East. The Czechoslovaks were transferred to England; the Belgians were mostly evacuated to the Belgian Congo; and the Dutch were sent to Jamaica and Surinam. Many were taken to Tangier, an international city, and from there to other countries, including Canada and the U.S. JDC's guarantee of care and maintenance costs often facilitated the refugees' acceptance. Arrangements were made through the Jewish Agency for immigration certificates for Palestine, and JDC covered the cost of hiring the ships bound for Haifa.

The Displaced Persons (DP) Camps

By the end of 1945, tens of thousands of European Jews, aided by underground networks of guides, had flooded into the U.S. and British occupation zones in Germany and Austria. They crowded into the Displaced Persons camps that were hastily set up by the Allies to house the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the war.

