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UNION AND  
IT'S WORK

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2072010

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London O.R.T. School, engineering section

*Photo Krongold, London*

# THE O.R.T.

## UNION AND ITS WORK

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# THE O.R.T.

THE YEAR 1945 marked the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the O.R.T. organization for Rehabilitation and Training.

The idea is plain and simple; it is that the best way of helping the masses of the Jewish population in Europe, distressed and ruined by wars, revolutions and persecution, is to help them to stand economically on firm ground; enable them to earn their own living by work in industry, handicrafts and agriculture; to teach them good craftsmanship so that their labour is required wherever they may have to live or wherever they may have to go in the course of their compulsory wanderings.

After the war of 1914-1918 the work of the O.R.T., based on this simple idea, helped many thousands of Jews in Russia, Poland, Roumania and other countries to save themselves from the consequences of the catastrophe that had befallen Eastern Europe at that time.

When in 1933 the violent persecution and systematic ruin of the Jewish population began in Germany, many thousands of Jews fled from Germany to other countries, having lost their properties, their businesses and their professions. For large numbers of them the only way of maintaining existence without recourse to charity was by learning to work in industry, in handicrafts and in agriculture. The O.R.T. (and other organizations which had in the meantime adopted the same ideas) helped them to achieve it.

The calamity of the Second World War has placed scores of millions of people in most countries of Europe in a situation from which until then the Jews were the main sufferers; as Refugees driven from the countries in which they lived for generations, deprived of their homes and property, many of them were unable to return. Officially they are called Displaced Persons, all urgently requiring Rehabilitation.

To help this vast number of war sufferers the United Nations set up the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) at whose disposal many hundreds of millions of pounds are placed annually for carrying out that work.

It was a great compliment to the ideas and the work of the O.R.T., that the first Director-General of UNRRA, Governor Herbert Lehman, who had been for many years associated with the O.R.T., wrote to the American Committee of the O.R.T. when they congratulated him on his appointment: "UNRRA," he stated in his letter, "was based on the O.R.T. idea—help people to help themselves, and represents the application of the O.R.T. methods of work (with the necessary changes, of course) on a vast, world scale."

During the few years preceding the war and the first years of the war itself vast numbers of Jewish Refugees from Germany and other countries threatened by German occupation, accumulated in France, Switzerland, Canada and in England. The following is a description of the work of the O.R.T. in some of these countries.

That work was done notwithstanding the fact that the Executive Committee Central Board of the O.R.T. Union which conducted this work was compelled first to leave Berlin (1935), then Paris (in 1940), and itself became divided between Switzerland and the United States of America.



Future radio mechanics undergoing O.R.T. instruction

## O.R.T. Work in France

It should be noted that there is at present a tendency among Jewish Youth in France to interest themselves in handicrafts and manual labour. There is a growing determination among them to acquire the skill of good artisans which would allow them to fit into the economic system of the country in which they live. The influx into the available O.R.T. Schools and Courses is considerable and calls for the opening of new Schools and Courses both in Paris and the provinces. One thousand five hundred young men and women are at present receiving training in the O.R.T. institutions. There is a definite preference for electro-technical occupations. The most popular O.R.T. course in Paris is in radio-technics. It has 65 pupils and consists of two classes—a preparatory course of eight months' training; and a final course in which training is thorough and lasts two years.

Two new courses were opened in October; one for gas-welding and one for ladies' and men's tailoring. A special section was opened at the Mechanical School in the Rue George Lardennois for the repair of sewing machines. With the present shortage of machines the work of machine repairers will be in demand and will ensure the former trainees a good living.

One feature of the new O.R.T. establishments is that the trainees, having suffered for such a long time from extremely difficult conditions, are not physically fit and require constant medical attention. To help them in this respect the O.R.T. administration has organized a complete medical service including physical training and maintenance of the young trainees when parents, if they have any, are in a state of complete ruin and exhaustion.

With the help of the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees more than one hundred O.R.T. pupils have been enabled to receive a maintenance grant. At the O.R.T. School at Rue des Saules a School Canteen was organized and between 200-220 meals are served daily to the pupils and the staff.



Draughtsmen's class for locksmiths

In the neighbourhood of Paris the O.R.T. rented an estate and established a vocational school in a hostel of Agudas Israel for former young deportees or for children of deportees. The School and Hostel provide for 60 persons and there are four courses—building, cabinet-making, dress-making, and vegetable and general gardening.

At LYONS a large building has been acquired for the installation of a mechanical training workshop with classes in radio-technics and general electricity. Classes for ladies' tailor-cutters and leatherwork have already been established. About 40 applicants are awaiting admission. This training centre has found it necessary to organize a canteen of its own and the work is on the way to completion.

At GRENOBLE—one of the places of Jewish concentration during the Nazi occupation—a course in dressmaking and a class for electricity work were well attended. The twelve weeks' course at the electricity workshop allows the students to take up paid employment in private workshops and firms, whilst arrangements are made for them to continue their training at O.R.T. evening classes. A new feature of the O.R.T. Centre is that many evenings are utilized for social gatherings of students at which talks are given on various subjects, such as Jewish history and current social problems; on several occasions concerts were given and even an O.R.T. Ball was organized. These functions have proved extremely successful in raising the morale and brightening the lives of the young sufferers. The Municipal Authorities showed great sympathy for these functions and proved very helpful. Similar establishments are now being set up at Nice, Marseilles, Toulouse, Limoges, Perigueux and Strasbourg where O.R.T. Committees and Agencies were set up as soon as access to these places became possible and peaceful reconstruction could commence.

## Vocational Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship carefully organized and adequately supervised helps considerably to accelerate the vocational training of those who cannot be admitted to schools and training workshops for lack of accommodation.

A number of apprentices can receive training in towns where it would be too expensive to establish special classes. Out of 1,100 applications received by the O.R.T. from prospective apprentices 700 have already been placed in some 54 different occupations, and arrangements are made for placing as many others as possible. Most of the apprentices are of the age groups 14-18. The general welfare services of the country are of considerable assistance.

In order to accustom Jewish children to handwork the O.R.T. has organized classes for simple cardboard work in Children's Homes.

### Constructive Assistance to Artisans

In Paris, 1,341 artisans had (up to November 1st, 1945) applied for assistance in the provision of machines and tools to enable them to exercise their trades. By May, 1946, 1,005 artisans had received assistance to the extent of 12,000,000 Frs. from the O.R.T. Tool Supply Corporation in America. The machines and tools were for use in eighteen different branches of industry, though the predominating number was that of sewing machines.

The O.R.T. Training Establishments in France include the following :

Paris .. .. .	17	Nice .. .. .	6
Paris neighbourhood (Maimonides School) .. .. .	1	Grenoble .. .. .	4
Marseilles .. .. .	4	Cessie (at a Home for Children) .. .. .	1
Limoges .. .. .	3	Moissac .. .. .	1
Toulouse .. .. .	2	Aix-les-Bains .. .. .	1
Lyons .. .. .	7	Lot-et-Garonne (Agricultural training centres) .. .. .	3

The total number of persons served by these establishments is 3,300.

Tailoring and dressmaking at an O.R.T. School



Towards the end of 1945 the British O.R.T. succeeded, with the financial help of the Central British Fund, in sending to the O.R.T. Schools and Workshops in France a number of machines used for several branches of industry. Among these were :

34 Tailoring Machines	2 Boot-repairing Machines
10 Lingerie-making Machines	1 Corset-making Machine

The improvements which these machines, together with many more which are being prepared for shipment to France, will have effected will only be shown in 1946, but are confidently expected to be considerable. With the permission of the Board of Trade the British O.R.T. has also been able to send a good supply of second-hand overalls for use by the trainees in the O.R.T. workshops in France.

## Rehabilitation Work in Germany

As soon as rehabilitation work became possible among the displaced persons in Germany, negotiations were commenced with UNRRA and the several independent Jewish Relief Bodies in the various zones regarding plans for organizing that work on an adequate scale. A member of the New York Emergency Central Board Committee of the Union O.R.T. visited the camps and made the necessary preliminary arrangements; under an agreement with UNRRA for the vocational training of 10,000 displaced persons, more than 70 vocational training centres have been established in the three zones. Supplies of machinery and tools are being acquired from America, Canada, England and Switzerland, and obtained locally with the help of the Military Authorities.

The O.R.T. Representative arrived in Frankfurt from Canada in the middle of January, 1946, and brought with him a considerable quantity of tools and implements. He established a central storehouse in Arolsen, from where the tools and implements could be distributed to centres at which workshops were to be established.

By the beginning of February, there had arrived in Arolsen 155 chests of tools of a total weight of 3-4 tons. These supplies were purchased by the O.R.T. from the Canadian War Surplus Stores then in Holland and transportation was organized for the O.R.T. by the representative, in the British Zone, of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad. The sets of tools received there, though not complete and to be supplemented with additions, were sufficient to equip almost a hundred units of small shops for carpentry work, electricity, sheet metal work, blacksmith work, welding and so on.

On February 13th, 1946, five large UNRRA lorries left the O.R.T. warehouse at Paris with seven tons of new tools and machines shipped by the Canadian and American O.R.T. several months earlier.

A large shipment of sewing and knitting machines arrived in Bremen. These tools and machines were first to be assembled in Arolsen from where they were distributed where and when required in the American, British and French zones.

In the American zone a number of workshops were established in Landsberg, Grenzenhof, Fahrenwald, Holzhausen and other centres by Mr. Jacob Oleiski, an O.R.T. expert in vocational training who had been put in a concentration camp by the Germans. As soon as he was liberated

Oleiski started his organizing activities. He was appointed by the Central Board as O.R.T. representative for Bavaria. He got into touch with the O.R.T. centre in Switzerland, from which he received five valuable consignments of tools and machinery for various branches of industry. Altogether about ten tons of tools and equipment were sent from Switzerland.

In May, 1946, the number of trainees under O.R.T. auspices and supervision was 3,500 in all zones.

Direct agreement has now been reached with UNRRA, and in confirming it Lt.-General F. E. Morgan, Chief of Operations, Germany, wrote on March 18th to Dr. D. Lvovitch, Vice-President of the World O.R.T. Union as follows: "We are pleased to inform you that the proposals of the World O.R.T. Union for operation in Germany, as set forth in your communication of March 14th, 1946, have been approved, subject to the terms of agreements between UNRRA and the military authorities of the British, American, and French Occupation Zones in Germany.

"The UNRRA directors and the military commands of the respective zones are being informed of the services available to them in future from your organization as a society in direct agreement with UNRRA.

"It is a matter of satisfaction to this Headquarters that our acceptance of your present proposals for agreement with UNRRA marks the continuation and development rather than the commencement of your assistance to UNRRA in Germany. The supplies already provided by your organization and the skilled personnel now at work in vocational training projects for displaced persons have proven their worth and are making a valued contribution to our rehabilitation programme."

One of the features of the Agreement between the O.R.T. and UNRRA is that the vocational training work of the O.R.T. shall be directly related to the programme of UNRRA and carried out in harmony with the activities of UNRRA's Employment and Vocational Training Officers. Another feature is that the O.R.T. retains its property rights to the machines and tools brought into Germany, so that when the work in Germany is completed, these machines and tools can be taken to other countries where the Jewish population is served by the O.R.T. On March 8th Lt.-General Morgan sent the following letter to Mr. Vladimir Grossman, Chief Representative of the World O.R.T. Union in Germany:

"I should like to take this opportunity to express my personal as well as official appreciation for the contribution which you and your organization have made to the employment programme for the D.P. Operations, Germany.

"My own inspection of the hand tools and equipment for the operation of work-training projects in assembly centres, which you have already brought into Germany, and reports from my staff concerning your work, show that your activity here is in keeping with the traditions and standards of your agency.

"I understand that you plan soon to travel to Paris and New York in order to report to the Executive Board of the World O.R.T. Union, and also to bring back to Germany additional supplies of hand tools and light machinery. Please express to your organization my thanks and appreciation."

As can be seen from the above documents the O.R.T. in Germany works in co-operation with the Employment Office at UNRRA's Head-

quarters at Arolsen and UNRRA's Regional Offices in the particular Zones. In addition the O.R.T. co-operates also with the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad.

## O.R.T. Work in Switzerland

The O.R.T. has established 17 workshops for Refugee Children between the ages of 9 and 14. They learn simple woodwork and the making of a variety of cardboard articles.

The workshops are either attached to the Red Cross Homes, or the Youth Aliyah Homes. All these workshops are supplied with instructors,



Shirtmaking course at the O.R.T. School at Basle

working materials and tools, and detailed programmes of work for the guidance of the Instructors are prepared by specialists. This method of work with children has since been applied in similar establishments in France and has met with the fullest approval from the French Education Authorities.

## Trade School for Adolescents

Nine vocational training schools for young people of the age groups 16-19 have been opened in Geneva, Bex, Basle, Zurich, Hasenberg and



Model construction for children at the O.R.T. Home for Youth Aliyah



Instruction in cardboard work for children at the O.R.T. School—Futura

other places. The boys are taught simple mechanics, joinery, electro-assembling, radio-technics; the girls learn dressmaking, children's clothing and corsetry.

The O.R.T. aim to select high-grade teachers, and special attention is directed to the quality of the equipment for the classes and the careful preparation of the programmes. Particular care is taken to ensure that the trainees get a good foundation so that even if they had to leave Switzerland before completing their normal training they should not find it difficult to pass the last stages of acquiring a good standard of workmanship in other countries.

In addition the O.R.T. has placed 156 young persons in trade schools and in Swiss private workshops, providing their maintenance, tuition fees, and the material on which to work.



Tuition for girls in the art of tailoring at Basle

## Training Workshops and Vocational Courses for Adult Persons without a Trade

Fifty-six training workshops and vocational courses have been opened for Jewish men and women in Geneva, Zurich, Basle, St. Gall, Beatenberg, Sonnenberg and elsewhere. Training is given in shirt-making, dressmaking, machine-knitting, motor car driving, millinery and corsetry. The classes are always filled to capacity and they are repeated.



An O.R.T. School for dressmaking for girls at Basle



Radio section at the O.R.T. School of Electricity—Hasenberg

## Training Workshops for Short Courses for Deceased Persons

Twelve such workshops are now in operation in Chambery, Beatenberg, Clarens, Zurich and other places. The subjects are techno-chemistry, cosmetic chemistry, hat cleaning and reshaping, dyeing of fabrics and cardboard articles.

Some of the trainees have left Switzerland and have since reported that



Advanced cardboard work instruction at Yeshiva, Beatenberg

their newly-acquired skill and training enabled them to earn their livelihood in their new abode. The graduates who leave Switzerland for other countries start with the necessary tools and some working material to begin with supplied by the O.R.T.

## Advanced Training for Jewish Artisans

The O.R.T. set up large bootmaking workshops in Basle and Zurich in which a considerable number of Jewish Refugee bootmakers could supple-



Technical chemistry instruction at the O.R.T. School in Yeshiva, Beatenberg



Special pattern cutting class for Soviet internees at the O.R.T. Home in Sonnenberg, Lucerne

ment their training and improve their workmanship under the supervision of instructors and by special courses. Similar courses were also begun by the O.R.T. for tailors and dressmakers.

## Workshops in the Camps for Refugees

In the 21 Camps and Homes for Refugees now in operation in Switzerland, the O.R.T. has set up 30 workshops which work for the inmates of the Camps themselves under the direction of 100 of the more skilled artisans. About 4,000 refugees are served by these workshops. The total number of trainees in the O.R.T. Training Workshops, Vocational Schools and Courses exceeds 2,000. The work of the O.R.T. in Switzerland has gained recognition by the Swiss authorities. Graduates of O.R.T. Schools and Training Centres have been granted the right to work in Switzerland, and an O.R.T. diploma secures for them admission to industrial undertakings.



O.R.T. Institute for Training Instructors (Geneva, Switzerland)

## Instructors for O.R.T. Establishments outside Switzerland

By way of preparation for reconstructive work among the surviving Jewish population in Eastern Europe the O.R.T. has taken the initiative in establishing advanced courses for instructors. Seventy-one persons—53 in O.R.T. courses and 18 in State Schools and private industrial undertakings—have been thus trained in the branches of work which will have to be developed in the various countries of future O.R.T. work. This O.R.T. work is the result of great effort and heavy expense.

## Machines and Tools for Artisans

A special department of the O.R.T. in Switzerland deals with the problem of providing tools to Jewish artisans who leave the country. Such tools have already been supplied on easy credit terms to artisans who had gone to France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Hungary, and Palestine.

With the authorization of various Swiss Government Departments the O.R.T. has sent transports of tools and machines to France, Hungary and to the camps in Germany.

An indication of how greatly the work of the O.R.T. in Switzerland is appreciated by Jews is provided by the Swiss Zionist Federation which at its Conference held in Geneva in December, 1945, passed the following resolution:

*Considering the extraordinary importance of professional training for*

*the Jewish youth in general and the Olim in particular, the Assembly of the Delegates of the Swiss Zionist Federation expresses its gratitude and admiration to the O.R.T. Union for its model work in Switzerland and requests that Organization to continue, in future, also to take in consideration the interests of the Zionist youth.*



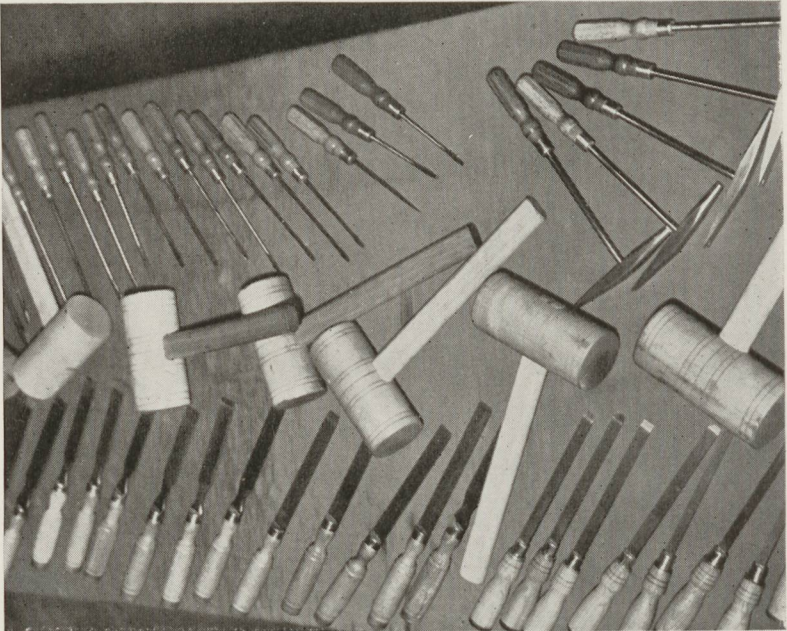
O.R.T. School for Mechanics—Geneva

## **O.R.T. Work in Canada**

During the first year of the war a considerable number of Jewish refugees who had previously escaped from Germany were sent to Canada and, for reasons of security, were placed in camps. In one of these camps—at Fort Lennox, Ile aux Noix—the Canadian O.R.T. established its first Training School. Experience had soon shown that a greater effort in vocational training was also required for considerable numbers of Jewish people in Montreal itself and a Training School was established there in 1942.

The demand for more training grew rapidly, and in 1943 the need for a big new Technical School for Jewish Trainees became apparent; such a school was opened in Montreal and the venture was given a great welcome by Jews and non-Jews alike. Among the first 800 applicants for admission there were 311 who required training and 489 wished to be retrained for new occupations. They included former office workers, petty traders, technicians, a lawyer, an artist and a musician.

The capacity of the school is 150, but even this number of students must work in three shifts. The courses last from three to five months and tuition is free to all. We give below an illustration of the work of the students.



Dr. E. H. Coleman, Canadian Under-Secretary of State, wrote as follows on the work of the O.R.T. in Canada when the first training centre at Fort Lennox was set up:

“I am honoured in having the opportunity of thanking the O.R.T. organization for the establishment of this magnificent workshop. It is another step forward to a world of justice and individual freedom.”

In February, 1943, in a speech at the official opening of the Montreal School, E. Edward Workman, the Chairman of the Board, said:

“This School which is in efficient and satisfactory operation is non-sectarian and co-educational. It admits men and women in the early and later age groups and classifications outside of the scope of our military service regulations. This is definitely not a charitable enterprise. It gives people an opportunity to train or retrain for work which is patriotic, congenial and permits them to be self-supporting. . . .”

Thus the O.R.T. work in Canada as in other countries is a real step towards solving the economic problems of readjustment of our people.



O.R.T. carpentry workshop

## O.R.T. Work in the U.S.A.

It would seem hard to imagine that in a country like the U.S.A., with its benevolent attitude to all its inhabitants and with its great facilities for technical education and training, there should be any need for opening O.R.T. vocational schools. It was, however, found necessary, in view of the peculiar needs of a considerable number of immigrants from Europe not sufficiently acclimatized in the States, to open three O.R.T. Schools. Two are operating in New York. The third was set up in the camp at Oswego where 900 refugees from Europe were given temporary shelter by order from President Roosevelt. Some of the Oswego internees returned to Yugoslavia and these were supplied by the O.R.T. with tools and implements for their future use.

Preliminary reports show that the training the Oswego refugees had received during the time of their enforced residence in the camp was of great assistance to many of them when towards the end of 1945 they were liberated from the camp and allowed to settle freely in the States.

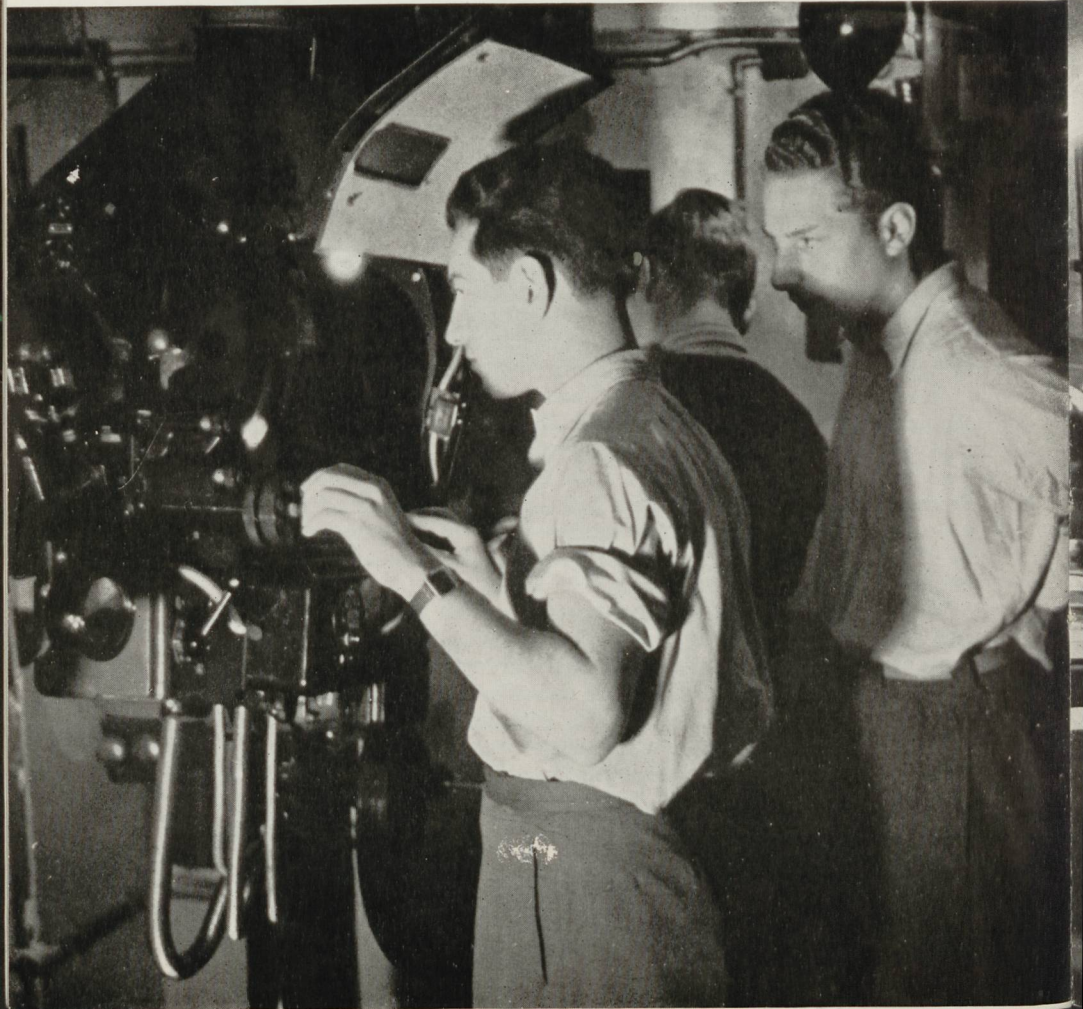
However, vocational schools and training were only one aspect of the O.R.T. activities in the U.S.A. In addition to the Central Organs of the World O.R.T. Union there are in the States the American O.R.T. Federation, the Women's O.R.T., the Labour O.R.T. and Association of O.R.T. Landsmanschaften, and the European Friends of the O.R.T. Each of these

O.R.T. Organizations has large memberships among the Jewish population of the United States and each performs extremely important functions all necessary in view of the paramount place held by America in the work for Europe.

As many refugees settled in the South American Republics the O.R.T. extended its work also to those countries, and O.R.T. Schools and vocational training centres are now in successful operation in Buenos Aires (Argentine), San Paulo and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), La Paz and Cochamba (Bolivia), Santiago de Chila (Chile), Montevideo (Uruguay) and Havana (Cuba).

A Conference was held in Buenos Aires on April 27th, 1946, at which a South American O.R.T. Confederation was established. This O.R.T. Confederation is co-operating with a similar O.S.E. Confederation for launching a United Appeal for the work of the O.R.T. and of the O.S.E. in Europe.

Practical instruction in cinematograph mechanics at Kabine



## O.R.T. Work in South Africa

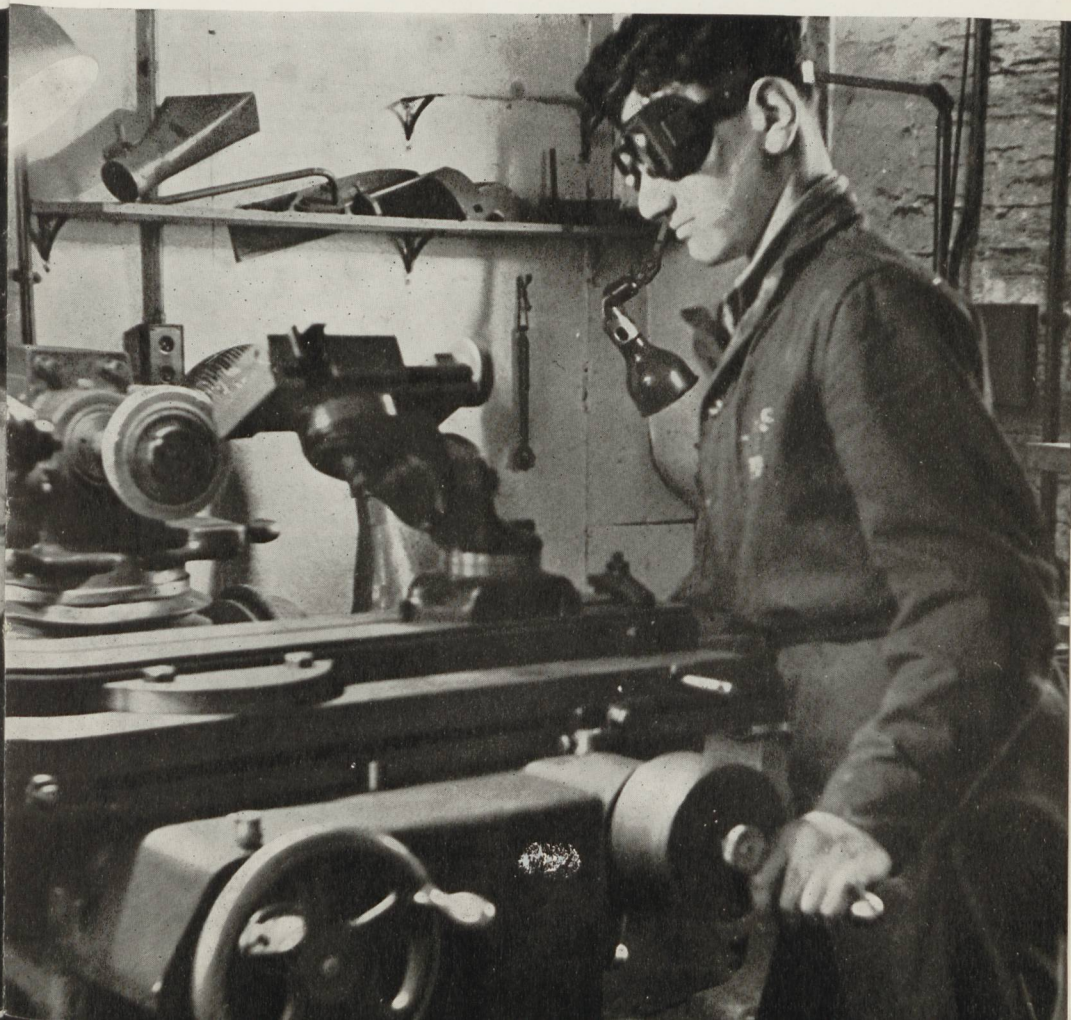
The O.R.T. began its work in South Africa in 1926 with raising funds for work in Europe. This fund raising was for a time carried on in cooperation with O.S.E. During the second world war the South African Jewish War Appeal was organized and the O.R.T. has been receiving direct allocations from the Jewish War Appeal. It was the contributions from South Africa that enabled the O.R.T. to develop its work in the British Zone in Germany on a considerable scale; to send machines to France and Germany and to establish an O.R.T. Vocational Training School in England.

## O.R.T. Work in Great Britain

Actual reconstructive O.R.T. work in Britain commenced in August, 1939, when on the eve of the outbreak of this war over a hundred pupils and eight instructors of the Berlin Engineering School of the O.R.T. were transferred to England, having been compelled to abandon all its machin-

Engineering workshop at London O.R.T. School

*Photo Krongold, London*



ery and equipment in Germany. The School was set up in Leeds where it trained a considerable number of young refugees—displaced persons of that time—in a number of useful technical occupations. Unfortunately the danger of the military position at the time compelled the Government for security reasons to transfer most of the refugees from Germany, pupils as well as teachers, to remote places of internment. With the growing difficulties of obtaining supplies and machinery and restrictions in finding accommodation and organizing the management in the conditions then prevailing, it was found impossible to maintain the school beyond the beginning of 1942 and it had to be closed.

The British O.R.T., though still in existence, greatly reduced its constructive work among refugees in England itself, but as soon as the war in Europe was ended a representative of The Emergency Central Executive Committee of the O.R.T. which throughout the war years had its seat in



London O.R.T. School, engineering section

*Photo Krongold, London*

the United States and in Switzerland, proceeded to Britain. The British O.R.T. was re-established as a centre for supply and assistance to the displaced persons in the camps in Germany and for the numerous refugees who found themselves in Paris and several other cities having survived the German occupation or who were returning to France from the various places of deportation. With the help of grants from the Central Board of the O.R.T.; from the Jewish War Appeal in South Africa, the Central British Fund and the co-operation of the French authorities in London, considerable quantities of machines and tools were supplied to the reviving O.R.T. establishments in France (see section on the O.R.T. work in that country).

The British O.R.T. co-operates also with the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad, which co-operation was in full harmony with the direct agreement with UNRRA. An expert organizer of Vocational Training,

the head of the first-class O.R.T. School in Canada went, during the latter part of 1945, to the American and British Zones in Germany; having acquired for use among the Jewish Displaced Persons a considerable quantity of tools from the Canadian surplus war stocks.

One outcome of O.R.T. work in Britain is the setting up in June, 1946, of a Technical Training Centre in London for the benefit of a number of youths brought over to England, by permission of the Government, from the former Concentration Camps in Germany. Most of these youths who had come during the last few months of 1945 and the beginning of



Section of the London O.R.T. School

*Photo Krongold, London*

1946, had by the middle of the year recovered from their hardships in Germany, and have learnt some English to enable them to begin a course of vocational training.

The O.R.T. Centre will give training in woodworking, light engineering and electrical engineering (to begin with) and, as the number of applicants increases, more subjects will be introduced. In addition facilities will be organized for continuing the learning of English and several other subjects which would serve for improving the general education of the youths.

' CUTTY SARK '

The Cutty Sark was a yacht (828 tons), built in 1920, along the lines of a Destroyer. It was requisitioned by the Royal Navy in 1939 and it was equiped with light armaments to act as an anti-submarine vessel. Its role was changed for the bulk of the war years, however, to operating as a submarine tender, until it was taken out of commission at the end of the War. A photograph of the vessel is available from the Imperial War Museum.

22nd October, 1980.

The Central Office of the Polish O.R.T. is already established in Warsaw in a half-destroyed building which has however been repaired and adapted for the purpose. Similar preparations are made in Lodz, one of the towns which has suffered least from the German occupation and where there is a considerable Jewish population.

## O.R.T. Work in Other Countries

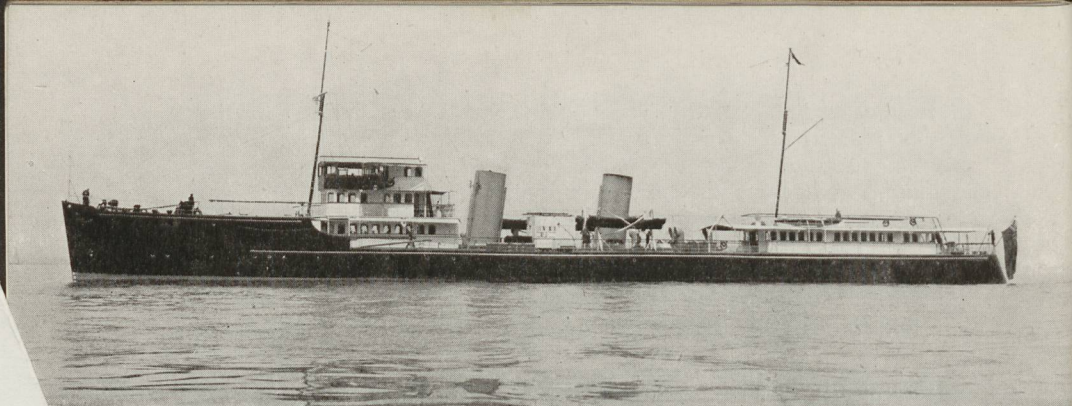
There are schools of the O.R.T. in Roumania (Bucharest, Yassy and Botochany) and in Bulgaria (a training farm on the outskirts of Sofia). Work has also been resumed in Belgium and in Holland. The O.R.T. has also established a training centre for some of the 25,000 Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

With the end of the war and the removal of many difficulties of travelling and communication, the centres of O.R.T. management and administration are being more closely co-ordinated, and it is expected that at a conference to be held in France in August, 1946, a detailed account will be given on O.R.T. work during the long interval of the war; new plans will be adopted for an increased effort in the work in Europe; and the Central Board will be strengthened by the addition of new members to replace a number of those who had died or perished during these last seven years.

*All old members and friends of the O.R.T. in Britain are invited to renew their contact with the O.R.T. Organization which is now being reorganized and re-established.*



Taken on the Swiss border. Transport of machinery and tools sent by the O.R.T. Union in Geneva, to Munich and to Budapest



T.S. "Joseph Hertz" named after the late Chief Rabbi  
Commanded by Captain N. F. Israel, D.S.C.\*\*

### **British O.R.T. Marine Training Ship**

The British O.R.T. has also accepted the affiliation of the Jewish Marine League. An ex-H.M. Destroyer the *Cutty Sark* was acquired from the Admiralty and renamed the *Joseph Hertz* in memory of the late Chief Rabbi. At present in King's Lynn, Norfolk, doing a refit and conversion, she will be brought permanently to Grays, Essex, about September. Meanwhile marine training commences July 25th, 1946. Most of the trainees are refugees. The ship is commanded by Captain N. F. Israel, D.S.C.\*\*, who was in command of destroyers during the war.

### **O.R.T. Work in Hungary**

The O.R.T. in Hungary functioned throughout the war years and is supporting at present twelve training institutions with nearly 600 trainees. In Budapest there is a technical school with 150 boys and a school in which 120 girls are trained in several trades such as dressmaking and corsetry.

The authorities have now recognized the quality of the training given in these schools and their certificates are equivalent to those given to graduates of similar Government schools.

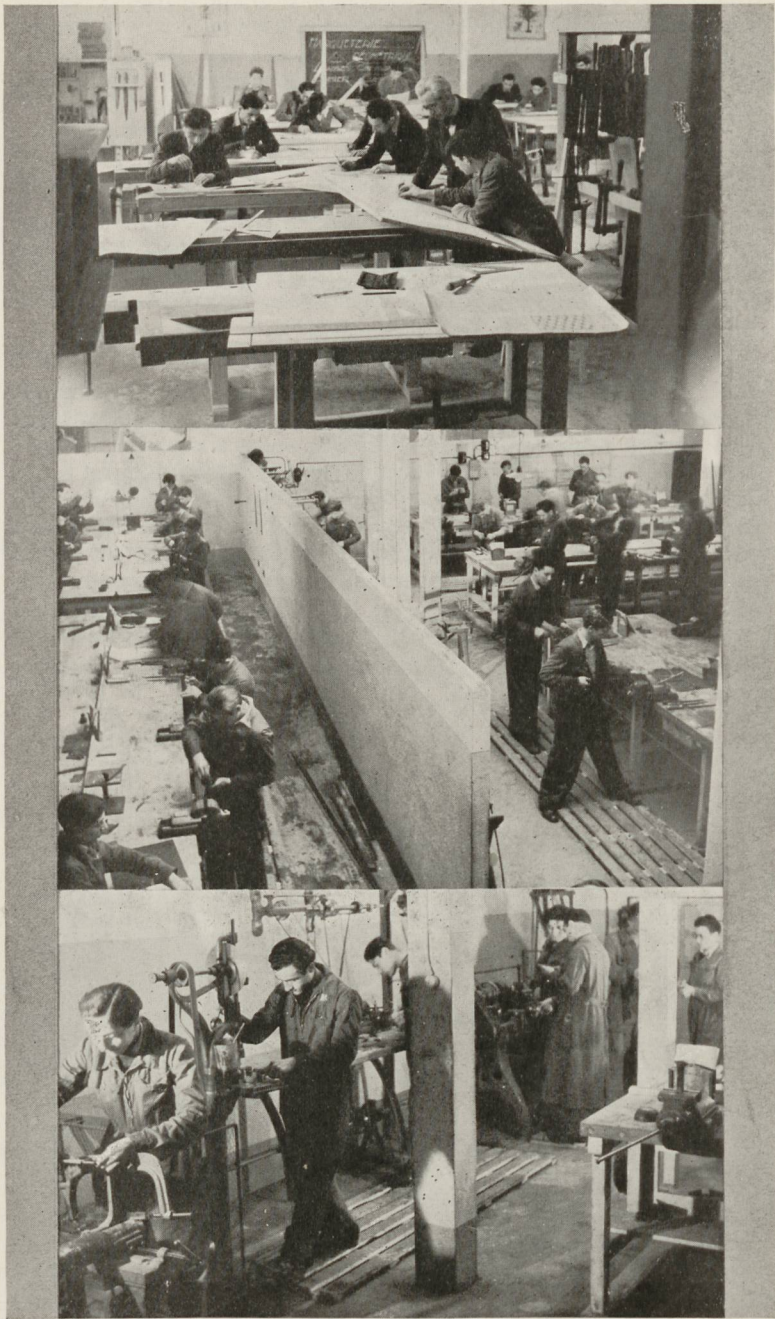
A training farm has recently been acquired by the Hungarian O.R.T. in which 60 boys and 40 girls will be trained in agriculture.

### **O.R.T. Work in Poland**

O.R.T. work has revived in Poland and is mainly directed towards the industrial rehabilitation of the Jewish population in Lower Silesia, where there are already at present more than 70,000 Jews. This part of Silesia has the possibilities of an important industrial centre and can give employment to large numbers of technically trained workmen. A special group of instructors was recently sent by the Central Board of the O.R.T. to Lower Silesia to start the necessary preparations, and committees have been established in Kattowice, Wroclaw, Zarcow, Ribbach, Walbrzych and Piotrolesie.

Courses have been set up for training blacksmiths, weavers, carpenters, radio-technicians, ladies' tailors and for several other branches of industry. The necessary machines have been imported and the buildings acquired.

Considerable assistance is given to a group of 31 Jewish farmers near the town of Ribbach.



Instruction at the O.R.T. School, Geneva

O.R.T.

ORGANIZATION FOR  
RECONSTRUCTION &  
TRAINING

JEWS IN TRADES & AGRICULTURE

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O.R.T. *deserves YOUR support*