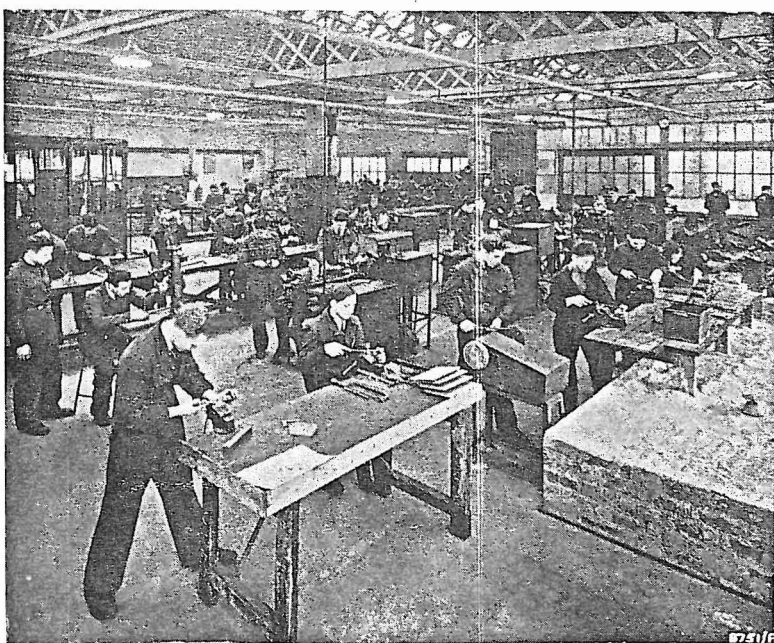


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The O.R.T. and O.S.E.

FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE :
A CONSTRUCTIVE FORM
OF HELP



A Section of the Instructional Centre

THE O.R.T.
TECHNICAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL
LEEDS

O.R.T.

A Society to strengthen and improve Jewish economic life by transferring as large a part as possible of the Jewish population from petty trading and commerce to productive labour, industry, and agriculture. Founded 60 years ago.

O.S.E.

An organisation for the protection of the health of the Jews.

Founded 30 years ago.

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THE LEEDS O.R.T. TECHNICAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL

THE Leeds O.R.T. Technical Engineering School is the first of its kind to be established in Great Britain. It is, however, not really a new school, but a reconstruction of the school transferred from Berlin. Thus it presents a remarkable, practical expression of resistance to persecution which Jewish Youth have shown in a most cruel period of their lives.

For many years the O.R.T. has been engaged in the reconstruction on a sound basis of productive work of the stunted and unbalanced economic life of the Jewish masses in Eastern and Central Europe. In 1938 there were established in eight countries some 336 O.R.T. Training Institutions and Agricultural Settlements. Many thousands of youths, men and women, were receiving training, and thousands more had already left for Palestine where their services in skilled labour and in agriculture were of inestimable value.

PERSECUTION

When Hitler came to power in 1933, there began the ruthless persecution of the German Jews, and help from outside became urgent. Deprived of their civil rights and previous occupations, there was nothing left to the younger generation but to prepare for emigration. The Central Executive of the O.R.T. and the British O.R.T.-O.S.E. came to their assistance, and early in 1936 established in Berlin, at considerable expense, a first-class Technical Engineering School in which nearly 300 selected boys were enabled to receive a sound engineering education and training which would fit them to become useful skilled workers in any country into which the stream of emigration might lead them. The O.R.T. school in Berlin was an undoubted success, and everyone who had an opportunity of seeing the results achieved by the students was made aware of the inestimable value of the training they had received. Many of the students have since been able to find good work, some even before they had completed their studies.

FLIGHT TO ENGLAND

After the terrible pogrom which took place in Germany at the end of 1938, the Central Board of the O.R.T. and the British O.R.T.-O.S.E. began planning the transfer of the entire school, its staff and machinery and equipment, to England. Thanks to the helpful attitude of the Home Office and the Ministry of Labour, and financial assistance from the Central Council of German-Jewish Refugees, this transfer became possible, and 106 students with eight instructors and their families left Berlin and arrived in England on August 29, 1939. They carried their only belongings in one or two suitcases.

The negotiations with the German authorities regarding this transfer lasted several months, and in view of the uncertainty of the final decision, no definite arrangements could be made for accommodation in this country before the students and staff arrived. Temporary accommodation was found for the male staff and students at Kitchener Camp in Kent, and the women and children were sent on to Leeds. War was declared only a few days after their arrival, and it was not possible to effect the transfer of the machinery and equipment from Berlin.

The work of establishing the school and hostels, which at the request of the Ministry of Labour were to be situated in Leeds, was at once taken in hand and proved to be a lengthy and difficult job. Within a few weeks, however, all was ready, and the advance party of instructors and students arrived in Leeds in November, 1939.

THE SCHOOL

A technical school should first be planned and then constructed. In the case of the O.R.T. school there was no time, no money, and no material available for such a project. After a long and arduous search, the most suitable building that could be found, with a floor area of about 12,000 square feet, was rented. It is situated about a mile from the residential hostels. Tools, equipment, and machinery were purchased, and the students, under the guidance of the instructors (all from Berlin), installed the machinery, connected it with the electric power supply, and made all fittings possible in the workshop of the school. The students of the plumbing and sanitary section of the

school erected lavatories, wash-houses, etc., and within a short time the school was at work.

ORGANISATION OF THE TRAINING

The school is divided into five sections or departments :

- (1) Welding, Turning, and Fitting.
- (2) Sanitary Engineering.
- (3) Electrical Engineering.
- (4) Mechanical Engineering.
- (5) Carpentry and Joinery.

A market gardening section is now attached to the Technical School and vacancies are available for those who wish to specialise in this important branch of agricultural training. The course, which is both practical and theoretical, lasts about six months and is in charge of an experienced and scientific Agricultural Director from Palestine.

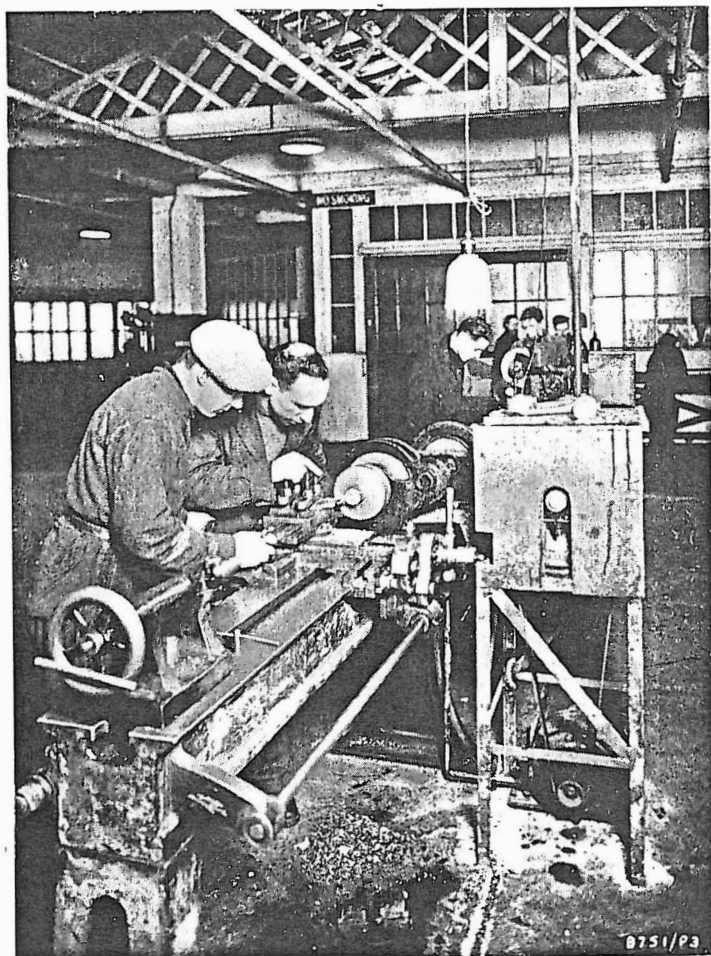
Students taking the course reside in hostels, but arrangements have been made for non-residents, both male and female, to attend daily.

Those students who came from Berlin continued the training which they had already begun, but those who are admitted from Great Britain are, as far as possible, allocated to sections of their own choice. Beginners, naturally, find it difficult to adapt themselves to the conditions applying to the older students who have had a long period of training. Arrangements are, therefore, made to deal with them in special classes, and with a little patience, they soon fit in and pick up the work.

The training consists of both practical and theoretical work, and all lessons are given in English. In the practical section students learn methods of working with metals, wood, tools, and machines. Generally, in each five one day is allotted to theoretical training in mathematics, physics, geometry, etc.

MEDICAL ATTENTION AND HYGIENE

Every possible care is taken to look after the health of the students. A doctor visits the main hostel daily, and one large room has been set apart as a ward for students ordered to remain in bed for a few days. Serious cases are sent to the local hospital. Arrangements have been made for the care of teeth, and many of the students attend at the local School of Dentistry for treatment.



Instruction of Students in Government Contract Work

CLOTHING

In special cases replacements of worn-out clothing and underclothing are provided by the school. To preserve clothes, each student is given overalls to wear when in the workshops or for cleaning purposes.

COMPLAINTS

Any student having a grievance may see the Secretary, Headmaster, or Hostel Superintendent, and if not satisfied, he may see the Chairman and Director of the school. No student is allowed to leave the school without authority from the Secretary.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

In each room of every hostel there is a printed list of Rules and Regulations. These must be strictly observed, and any student not obeying them is liable to be expelled without notice.

AGE OF ADMISSION

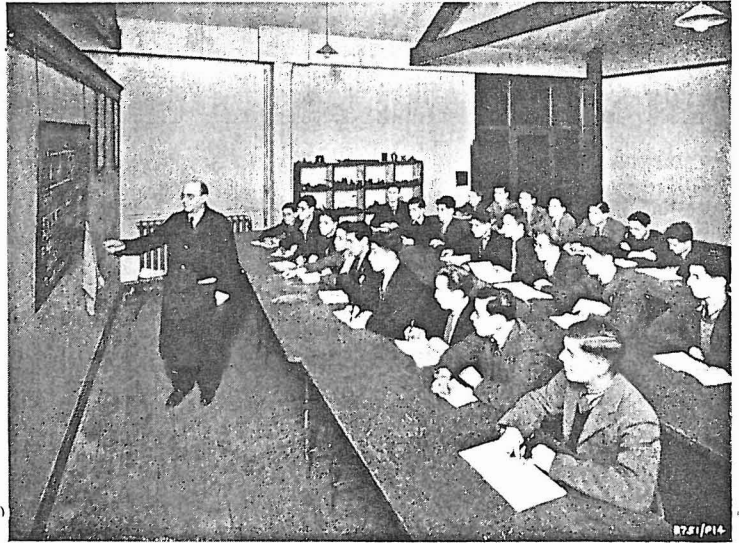
Resident students are accepted on reaching the age of 15. Consideration is given to applicants over 15 and under 18, but we prefer to accept students of 15.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION

The school is open from Monday to one hour before sunset on Friday. The working hours are from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., with one hour for lunch, and no work is carried out on the Sabbath or Holy Days. Air raid shelters are provided, and a party of six student fire-watchers remains on duty at the school under a permanent fire-watcher. There is also a first-aid outfit in charge of trained personnel in case of accident.

The students take turns in the general cleaning of the school premises. Washing accommodation is provided, and each student has his own towels.

Many of the students also attend evening classes at the Leeds School of Technology. These are provided with an evening meal at the school to enable them to go direct to the evening classes from the school.



Theoretical Lessons

LENGTH OF TRAINING

No time can be laid down for the length of the courses. This depends on the choice and ability of the individual student, but generally speaking, it takes two years of hard work and study to become efficient as a skilled worker in practical work and in theory.

POCKET-MONEY

Thanks to arrangements made with the Foster Parents' Scheme of America, we are able to allow each student a sum of £1 per month as pocket-money.

LEAVE

Students who have relatives or friends in England are granted leave during Passover and New Year holidays. Special leave is also granted when occasion demands it.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE

A school magazine is published by the students and issued monthly. It contains items of topical interest, and each student is provided with a free copy.

POLICE REGULATIONS

As Leeds is not a Protected Area, there is no need to make application to the Leeds Police for permission to proceed to the city. If a student is over 16 years of age, he must, however, report at the Police Headquarters where he is registered, for permission to change his address. A letter to be presented to the Police at the time permission is applied for may be obtained from the Secretary, O.R.T.-O.S.E., 150 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

THE HOSTELS

We started in November, 1939, with one hostel, but since then five others have been provided. All are inhabited solely by O.R.T. students and the staff.

Each hostel is in charge of a resident hostel master, and of these masters two are also instructors at the school. The hostel masters



One of the Hostels to accommodate forty-five Students

are responsible for the discipline and general good conduct of the students. Two of the hostels are situated within 200 yards of each other, but the other three are about a half-mile further away. Accommodation is available in each hostel for from twenty-five to thirty students. Sufficient accommodation for meals in a central place is not possible, so two dining-rooms are available, each sitting from sixty to seventy students and staff. The hostels are fairly large dwelling-houses which have been converted to meet the requirements. From two to six students, in double-decker beds, are allocated to each room, and a room leader in each is responsible to the hostel master for seeing that the rules and regulations are carried out. Extra baths, wash-basins, and lavatories have been fitted in each hostel. One large room is set aside as a common room in each hostel.

The daily time-table is as follows: Out of bed 6 a.m. (summer), 6.30 a.m. (winter); wash, clean up room, make beds, and prepare for breakfast at 8 a.m. School 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Lunch 12.30 to 1.15 p.m. School 1.30 to 4 p.m. Wash and clean up. Light tea at 4 p.m. and dismiss at 5.30 p.m. All students must be in their rooms by 10 p.m., and all lights out at 10.30 p.m.

Most of the equipment, such as metal wardrobes, metal and wooden chairs, tables, etc., has been constructed in the school workshop by the students, and electric wiring, plumbing, and redecoration work has also been done by the students. Sunday morning, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, is allotted to the weekly "spring cleaning", when all rooms are thoroughly cleaned and kits and equipment overhauled and inspected.

The students—except those on duty as fire-watchers or doing special cleaning duties, such as potato-peeling—are free to go where they please after work daily, and after 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Part of the daily domestic cleaning is done by the students themselves working in turn to a plan under the supervision of the staff.

FOOD

Three separate kitchens, larders, store-rooms, and dining-rooms are maintained. Two of these are at the hostels and the third at the school is used for lunches only, Monday to Friday. There is a caterer and manageress, who is assisted by cooks, assistant cooks, and washers-up.

All food is strictly Kosher and is varied and well-cooked, and as



A Corner of a Bed-sitting Room

plentiful as war conditions allow. No food may be kept by students in their rooms. The hours of meals are : Breakfast, 8 a.m. ; lunch, 12.30 p.m. ; light tea, 4 p.m. ; dinner, 6.30 p.m.

RELIGION

Since they have come from various European countries, it follows that some of the students are Orthodox and some Liberal in their religious practices. Attendance at Synagogue is not compulsory, and any student may carry out whatever religious observances he wishes.

No religion is taught at the hostels, but arrangements are made for classes to study Jewish education. This is not compulsory, for we are a Technical School and not a religious educational establishment.

RECREATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

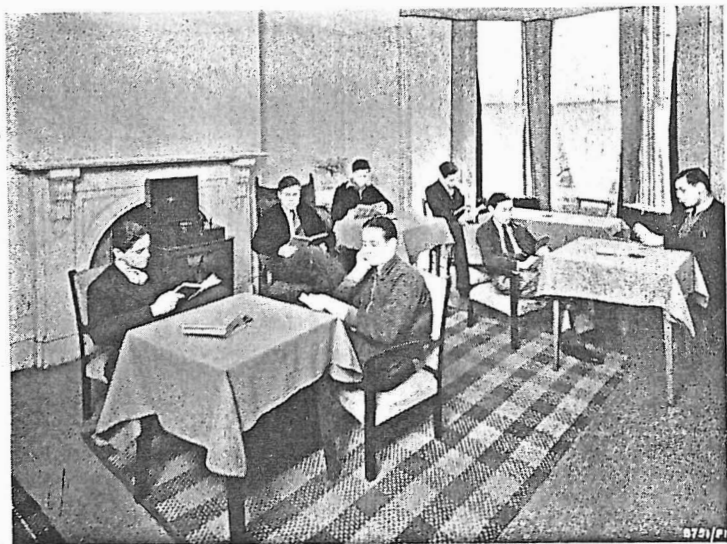
Careful thought is given to these important matters. There are facilities for outdoor and indoor games, such as football, table-tennis, boxing, swimming, chess, etc. A school orchestra and amateur theatrical section and a choir are in process of formation. There is also a debating society and study circle. Lectures and concerts are arranged as far as war conditions permit.

The Leeds Jewish Institute have kindly allowed all students, on reaching the age of 18, to become honorary members of the Institute.

CLOTHING AND KIT

Each student before being accepted for the school, must be in possession of the following :

Two pairs boots (one pair for wear in the workshops).	Two towels.
Two suits.	Four handkerchiefs.
One working suit.	Razor and six blades.
Two pairs overalls (with sleeves).	Pair house slippers.
Cap or hat.	Shaving soap.
Two pairs pants.	Raincoat.
Two vests.	Overcoat.
Three pairs socks.	Three blankets.
Tooth-brush.	Two shoe-brushes and shoe-blackening.
Brush and comb.	



The Common Room in a Hostel

SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following are some of the most important rules and regulations which must be kept strictly by the students at the school :—

Out of bed at 6.30 a.m., October to March ; 6 a.m., April to September.

Blankets and sheets to be folded at once ; then wash and shave. All rooms to be cleaned and all kit put neatly away before breakfast, which will be at 7.30 a.m. summer and 8 a.m. winter.

In the interest of sanitation and health, all students will keep their hair cut short and always neatly brushed. Long hair is a possible breeding ground for germs which may cause an outbreak of disease in hostels. That is why it is always cut short in the Army where men live in camps and barracks.

To avoid attracting attention and for other good reasons, no student will be allowed outside the school or hostels without wearing a hat or cap. Hats or caps must not be worn at an angle.

Keep wash-basins and lavatories very clean, and remember others want to use them after you. Think of the students whose turn it is to clean these after you have used them.

You are not allowed to remain out after 10 p.m. unless you get special permission in writing from the Superintendent.

Obey your room leaders and help them to maintain good discipline. This is the true spirit of co-operation and happiness.

When it is your turn to do domestic work, do it well and cheerfully ; everyone must take a turn at this.

The hostel masters, room leaders, and staff are held responsible to the Chairman for your good behaviour. Obey them at all times.

If you have a grievance ask to see Mr. Lewinnek, the Superintendent. He will do his best to put matters right. You are not to make complaints in any other way.

Do not waste any food and do not grumble. We find it difficult sometimes to buy what we require. We cannot always get what is wanted in war-time.

This is the only Jewish Technical School in Britain. If you all co-operate and carry out orders, we shall be proud to show our hostels and school premises to visitors.

To maintain this school and hostels requires 50s. per week per student. The British O.R.T.-O.S.E. Committee have to find most of this money, which entails very hard work and much labour. We



One of the Kitchens

cannot tolerate any students who will not do their best to co-operate. Breaking rules of the school and hostels may mean expulsion and serious consequences for your future.

You are forbidden to write letters to the Press without the permission of the Chairman.

We want you to be happy in your work, your surroundings, and your comrades. This is easily accomplished if you make up your mind to do your best always and do nothing that will ever bring discredit on this school and hostels.

ADMITTANCE TO O.R.T. TRAINING SCHOOL

All applications, giving full particulars of proposed candidate, must be made in writing to the Secretary, British O.R.T.-O.S.E., 150 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

All candidates are interviewed by the Chairman before acceptance. Copies of the rules and regulations of the school can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

VISITORS

Visitors are invited to inspect the school between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Visitors may be conducted round the hostels only by appointment.

ADDRESSES

The address of the Technical School is 58 Roseville Road, off Roundhay Road, Leeds 8. Telephone number: 21841.

The address of the main hostel and administrative offices is 226 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7. Telephone number: 43882.

CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are interested in and sympathetic with the philosophy of the O.R.T. and O.S.E., and believe in our work of reconstruction and training, why not show it in a practical manner and send what you can to:

Lt.-Col. J. H. LEVEY, D.S.O., O.B.E.,
Chairman and Hon. Treasurer,

British O.R.T. and O.S.E.,
150 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1



**A Group of Students, Teachers and Staff at the
Main Hostel**

O.R.T. TECHNICAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL LEEDS

Chairman and Director :

Lieut.-Colonel J. H. LEVEY, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Secretary :

Miss R. TRAUBE.

Assistant Secretary :

Miss J. KAUFFMAN.

Headmaster :

Mr. F. HEILBORN.

Superintendent of Hostels :

Mr. I. LEVINNEK.

Catering Manageress :

Miss B. BAUMGARDT.

Matron :

Mrs. LEWINNEK.



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