

# ORT and the Rehabilitation of Holocaust Survivors



ORT and the  
Rehabilitation of  
Holocaust Survivors:  
ORT Activities 1945–1956

Katarzyna Person



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## Gideon Meyer ז"ל

This book is dedicated to the memory of Gideon Meyer, who died on 6th December 2010. His tireless work on behalf of ORT began as a young teacher and continued throughout his working life and into his retirement. From 1999 to 2009 he served as World ORT Deputy Director General. The project to publish and document ORT's work in the rehabilitation of Holocaust survivors was one of his many passionate interests.

It was the final project on which he worked at World ORT.

The production of this book has been kindly sponsored by

**Lucien Kalfon**  
**Member of the Board of Trustees, World ORT**  
**and President of ORT France**

and

**Huguette and Guy Séniak, World ORT Representative in France**



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# Tribute to Gideon Meyer

Lucien Kalfon

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Gideon, whom I had known for many years. He was a man of outstanding qualities and many talents, who was devoted to World ORT.

His devotion and dedication to the development of World ORT's numerous activities were unanimously appreciated, and our international renown is in large part owed to him. A man of conviction, he was always able to share his strong ideals with patience and care.

He had the ability to suggest fair compromises in difficult situations and this allowed World ORT to progress, without fear of embarrassing or upsetting any interested parties.

A man of great humanity, he always showed great respect to people of all backgrounds, with whom he came into contact.

I remember the last time that I had the pleasure to spend time with him. It was at the Warsaw General Assembly. Smiling, welcoming, helpful, his wish was to bring together delegates from all over the world, to help them to feel at ease, and in order to do this he used his secret weapon: a confident multi-linguist, he was a great asset to an international organisation, and we truly appreciated his knowledge and his quick mind.

A long-standing member of the Council of Administration of ORT France, he never missed our meetings and spoke up with enthusiasm, offering useful information or making perceptive observations which allowed the Council to make informed decisions on sometimes difficult subjects.

Gideon, we miss you greatly. World ORT misses you greatly. You are missed by those, me included, who held you in such a high esteem.

You leave a void that no one is able to fill.

Throughout your life you were a man of great works. Let us never forget this.

Lucien Kalfon, Préfet (h)  
Member of the Board of Trustees, World ORT  
President of ORT-France

# Foreword

David Cesarani

It gives me great pleasure to contribute a few words to this encyclopaedic record of ORT's post-war work with Jewish survivors of ghettos, camps and Nazi occupation in Europe. The material is drawn from ORT's archives and is richly illustrated with documents and photographs. These images, many seen for the first time, bear vivid testimony to the way ORT transformed for the better the lives of tens of thousands of Jews in many countries. Indeed, few relief agencies of comparable size and resources can boast of activities ranging across the world from France to Shanghai. The number of ORT schools in camps for Jewish 'displaced persons' is awesome, while the range of enterprises in one country after another is breathtaking.

I am especially delighted to be able to commend the text, researched and written by my former doctoral student Dr Katarzyna 'Kasia' Person. Kasia is an outstanding historian of her generation, a product of the new Poland that has emerged since 1990. She is typical of the young Polish intellectuals who now engage with their country's Jewish past and heritage, freely exploring the creative, conflicted, tragic relations between Poles, Jews, and other minority groups in Polish history. Kasia wrote a brilliant PhD thesis, on Polonised Jews and converts in the Warsaw ghetto, soon to be published. She was invited by the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw to edit a volume of the Ringelblum Papers – the collection of writings by Emanuel Ringelblum, and others, assembled by the Oneg Shabat group under Ringelblum's direction in the Warsaw ghetto – and is currently at work on a second one. She is sure to make a huge contribution to the history of Polish Jewry, Poland, and the years of catastrophe 1939–45.

Katarzyna Person brings all her formidable skills to the capsule descriptions of ORT's work in various countries and to the organisation of a large, unruly body of information. These summaries plus the data on individual ORT establishments make this book an invaluable source of facts as well as a moving tribute to one of the foremost Jewish relief agencies at work in and beyond Europe in the crucial decade after 1945. Few Jewish organisations can have done so much to improve the lives of so many in the wake of such a total disaster. The photographs of busy youngsters and smiling faces tell a story that should inspire us for years to come.

David Cesarani OBE  
Research professor in History  
Royal Holloway, University of London

# Part 1

## ORT in the Displaced Persons Camps

The fate of Displaced Persons was one of the greatest challenges met by the international community in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. By mid-1947, the Jewish DP population had reached about 250,000. They were housed in hundreds of DP centres – about 185,000 in Germany, 45,000 in Austria and 20,000 in Italy.

The general attitude in the camps was one of despair and apathy. Little food, no prospects for the immediate future due to emigration restrictions and above all, in most cases loss of family members had a demoralising effect on the emotional condition of the survivors. According to a visitor to Landsberg camp: 'Camp life was a stifling compost of monotony, irritations and growing hopelessness'.<sup>1</sup> In such conditions, and after years of persecution, reintegration of the DPs into regular social life became a task of immense importance.

In November 1945, Dr David Lvovitch, the Chairman of the World ORT Union, made an agreement between the World ORT Union and UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) for vocational schools to be set up wherever possible to aid the DPs. The vocational schools were not only to equip students with new skills but also to equip them with the confidence to imagine a future in which they could use those skills. On completion of any ORT course the students received a certificate, which would prove to be a valuable document for those seeking to emigrate. The ORT diploma was recognised by governments as a valid certificate of trade qualification and, as such, served as an immigration document that helped many to obtain their visas.

Immediately after the liberation, a handful of veteran ORT workers – headed by Jacob Oleiski, former director of ORT in Lithuania and later to become director of ORT in Israel – who were in the camp at Landsberg, near Dachau, established the first vocational course there. In December 1945, the first training centre in the British zone was instituted at Bergen-Belsen by another group of former ORT instructors.

ORT became the recognised vocational training agency for the camps. Machines and equipment were brought in. Hundreds of instructors were recruited from among surviving ORT personnel, and DP engineers, educators and craftsmen. ORT headquarters was flooded with requests from all directions. Classes and workshops sprouted wherever there were groups of survivors.

In the latter part of 1946, ORT received a request made jointly by UNRRA, Rabbi Philip Bernstein, the Special Advisor on Jewish Affairs to the US Army, and the Vienna Jewish community to introduce programmes into Austria similar to those activated in Germany. ORT responded immediately and centres of two types were opened: within the camps, as in



Millinery class in the ORT school in Linz, Austria c.1947–1948. World ORT Archive ref. p09a045.

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A few months later, the programme was extended to Italy, where there was a concentration of survivors planning to get to Palestine quickly. The services that were instituted were geared to preparation for such emigration. Fields were chosen with an eye to what would be useful in Palestine, for example, an agricultural training programme near Turin and a centre for construction workers in Milan – masons, roofers, carpenters and stone cutters.

By the end of 1947, ORT had become a network of over 700 courses located in the DP camps of Europe. That year, 22,620 persons were enrolled; almost one-tenth of the DP population of the time. A staff of 934 teachers taught more than 50 trades, including metalwork, shoemaking and carpentry – traditional Jewish trades – but also automobile repair, dental mechanics, millinery design, typesetting, goldsmithing, watch repair and such relatively complex fields as optics and surveying.

The tide began to turn with the independence of Israel in May 1948. The exodus from the camps was further accelerated by the US Displaced Persons Act of 1948. As the refugees left, the vocational network contracted. Tools and machines were sent to Israel to form the equipment base for many of the schools which were later established there.

A new phase emerged and grew in importance – occupational therapy and rehabilitation of the disabled and those suffering from tuberculosis. This was conducted jointly with the IRO (International Refugee Organisation), the JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) and the Jewish Agency. This phase continued until the closing of the centre for tubercular at Grottoferatta, Italy, in 1952. The last ORT course for DPs ended with the closing of the last DP camp at Fohrenwald, Germany, in 1956.

## Austria



Students in the ORT school in Ebelsberg DP Camp, Austria c.1947. World ORT Archive ref. p09a003.

In December 1946, the first ORT trade school in Austria was opened in Vienna. In March 1947, ORT institutions in Austria had an enrolment of 148. Just six months later, in October 1947, enrolment had risen to 1,065 trainees. Of these students, 340 attended the vocational school in Vienna. By the end of 1947 additional schools were open in Ebelsberg, Steyr, Wels, Salzburg, Hofgastein, Hallein, Linz and Bindermilch. At that time the schools conducted programmes in 50 trades ranging from dressmaking to technical chemistry, optics and building trades. Newly introduced courses included window glazing, upholstery, invisible-mending, pastry-making and engraving trades.

As in other countries, ORT's work with Holocaust survivors in Austria came to an end in the late 1940s. As emigration progressed and the DPs were leaving for Australia, Canada, the United States and Israel, ORT schools in Austria closed down and by the end of 1950, only schools in Vienna and Hallein were still running vocational courses. Additionally, English and Hebrew language courses were held in Vienna, Hallein, Asten and Wels.

### **Linz area**

The area around Linz – the regional capital of upper Austria – became a major assembly centre for displaced persons and refugees after the war. In the first five years after the war at least 150,000 Jewish DPs passed through the region. ORT's activities in the area were concentrated in the two permanent camps of Ebelsberg and Bindermichl as well as a large refugee centre in Wegscheid.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Austria
<b>ORT schools</b>	Linz Bindermichl, Wegscheid, Ebelsberg
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Auto repair, carpentry, tailoring, electrician training, shoe-upper manufacture and needle work, auto mechanics, locksmith training, electro mechanics, cabinet making and goldsmiths training.

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### **Wels**

The camp in Wels had a population of about 1,200 DPs who were housed in old army barracks. The camp was known for having poor living conditions: the rooms were very basic and were constantly overcrowded, being shared by four to sixteen people. Despite the poor infrastructure, the camp's inhabitants managed to forge a well-functioning community life, based mainly around different aspects of Jewish culture. They organised Yiddish movie screenings and productions of Jewish plays. The local library was supplied with Hebrew books. The camp's kindergarten had Palestinian folktales painted on its walls. ORT's mission in Wels started in February 1948. Three months later there were 85 students studying needlework, electro-technology, radio technology, carpentry and locksmith training.



<b>ORT school district</b>	Austria
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,200
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	February 1948
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Needlework, radio technology, electrical technology, carpentry and locksmith training.

## Salzburg area



Students at work: dressmaking class in the ORT school in Salzburg c. 1947. ORT's school in Salzburg was the first vocational training centre for Holocaust survivors in Austria. World ORT Archive ref. p04a253.

Over 13,000 Jews, mainly from Hungary and Poland, lived in the three permanent and five transit camps in and around Salzburg. The largest ORT undertaking in the area was the central school in Salzburg – the organisation's first vocational training establishment in Austria. Annexes to the main school and smaller schools were also functioning in Beth Bialik, Riedenburg and Hallein camps.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Austria
<b>ORT schools</b>	Salzburg, Beth Bialik, Riedenburg, Hallein
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Locksmith training, auto mechanics, electro-engineering, radio technology, carpentry, cutting out of men's and women's garments, dressmaking, corset-making, millinery, dental mechanics, nurse's training, trouser making, lingerie making, confectionery baking, beautician training and upholstery.

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### **Bad Gastein**

Bad Gastein was a small camp for Jewish DPs based in requisitioned hotels in the spa holiday town. It housed 1,500 DPs and offered them very good living conditions of living and extensive community life administered by UNRRA and the camp's committee. Bad Gastein operated a number of schools, both secular and religious, and a "People's University". There was vibrant cultural life based around a theatre group and a choir. DPs could also attend a large variety of vocational training. In the DP hospital of Hofgastein, one of the most modern hospitals in Europe, ORT operated a nurse-aid training course for 20 students, the first ORT course of this type in Austria.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Austria
<b>Jewish residents in 1946</b>	1,500
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Nurse-aid training
<b>Closed</b>	March 1946

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### **Vienna**

ORT courses in Vienna were opened at the end of 1946 to cater for the needs of DPs from the camps scattered in and around the city. The first ORT training courses in the city were established in the premises of the State Vocational High School and were run in the evenings, after the school's regular classes ended. The staff consisted of 54 professional instructors. Already by October 1947, less than a year after it was founded, there were 556 applicants for 340 places offered in the Vienna school.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Austria
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Auto mechanics, radio technology, electro-engineering, dental mechanics, dressmaking, lingerie making, cosmetics and hairdressing, mending, tie making, confectionery and metal turning.

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## Germany



ORT Beauty treatment class in the DP camp in Bamberg, Germany c.1947–1948. Aside from successful beautician course, the ORT school in Bamberg ran classes in dressmaking, tailoring, underwear garment making, locksmith training, radio technology, joinery and pastry making. World ORT Archive ref. p04a252.

The first ORT school in the American zone, in the large camp of Landsberg, was opened in August 1945, three months after the end of the war in Europe. It was set up by Jacob Oleiski a pre-war leader of ORT Lithuania who, with extreme dedication during the war, had run vocational courses in the Kovno Ghetto. It was Landsberg that became the first site of the ORT field headquarters, which later moved to Munich, as the school grew.

Due to the constant influx of survivors, which led the number of Jewish DPs to rise to almost 150,000 by November 1946, and the consequent rise in the number of people requiring vocational training, new schools had to be

continually opened. Schools were established in around 65 locations in the American zone of Germany, aimed both at those living in camps and those who had decided to settle in German towns, the so called 'free-livers'. The majority of them were in the south, in the area of Munich, where the largest of all Jewish camps – such as Föhrenwald and Landsberg were installed and where the headquarters of ORT in the American zone was situated. By June 1947 ORT schools in the American zone had a total of 5,304 students.

Due to the number of schools in the zone, they were divided firstly into four, and later five and six administrative districts.

ORT's work in the British Zone of Germany began in the former concentration camp of Bergen Belsen in December 1945. It was a direct result of the founding of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews – an institution created to represent the interests of all Jews in the British Zone of occupation. The Central Committee campaigned for the opening of the possibility of immigration to Palestine and the immediate segregation of Jewish and non-Jewish DP camps. It also decided to ensure that all DPs under the age of 18 were in full time study and on the need to immediately establish training schools in the camp, which would provide vocational skills for young people wishing to emigrate. Within days, 29 cases of tools and 40 sewing machines were sent to Belsen. Next, schools were opened in Hanover, Northeim, Ahlem and Neustadt. Altogether, schools were organised in 11 camps and cities. By May 1947 there were 44 teachers and 583 pupils in the British zone.

ORT's work in the British zone was less intense than in the American zone as the Jewish population of the zone remained stable at around 16,000 people. Since borders were more closely guarded and infiltrators were treated much more strictly than in the American zone, the majority of those crossing into the allied-controlled regions were trying to reach the American zone. Unlike in the American zone, there was therefore no constant fluctuation of numbers of DPs in British-zone camps and no need for opening and closing schools accordingly.

In the American zone, Jewish and non-Jewish DPs were given separate camps; in the British zone it was only Bergen Belsen that had a Jewish-only population. The British opposed the separation of Jews from non-Jews as they did not accept any segregation that was racially or religiously motivated. The Jewish life of the British zone was therefore centralised in Belsen and it was there that ORT concentrated its efforts and set up its headquarters for the zone.

After the establishment of the State of Israel, as the DP camps started closing, ORT's work in Germany came to an end. In 1949 ORT reported 'In a special workshop the machinery of our schools designated for Israel and

other overseas countries was repaired and packed for overseas. Now a good deal of ORT's German and Austrian equipment has arrived in Israel in order to serve once more for the vocational training of the new immigrants and allowing those who had emigrated before graduation to complete their skills [training].<sup>2</sup> In March 1956, Fohrenwald, the last Jewish DP camp in Germany, with 75 ORT students, was officially closed. The ORT mission in the DP camps officially ended with the closing of the Munich office in 1957.

## DP Camps in the American Zone

### Backnang

Backnang DP camp was located in a small town near Stuttgart in the American zone. The camp's inhabitants came mainly from Poland and Hungary and were housed in a former teacher training college. The living conditions in the camp were relatively good, and Backnang was known for its very well organised community life. In May 1948, 37 of Backnang's inhabitants were enrolled into the ORT school functioning in the camp.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Stuttgart
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	320
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tinsmith workshop, woodwork, tailoring
<b>Closed</b>	April 1950

### Wasseralfingen

Wasseralfingen was a mid-size camp located in the housing development in Stuttgart district of the US zone. In mid-1947 it had about 1,800 inhabitants. The camp had an active social life and maintained a *Talmud Torah* and a *Yeshiva*. The ORT school in Wasseralfingen was established in September 1946 and was attended by 190 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Stuttgart
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,800
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Children's clothes tailoring, trouser cutting, dress cutting, suit cutting, corset making, jewellery making, joinery, radio technology and electrical engineering
<b>Closed</b>	March 1950

## Heidenheim

Heidenheim was a DP camp in the Stuttgart district of the US occupational zone. Until its closure in the summer of 1949, the camp had an average of over 2,000 inhabitants, the vast majority of whom planned to emigrate to Palestine. The DPs lived in requisitioned private houses. The ORT school in Heidenheim was established on 1 October 1946. A year later, in November 1947, the school had 190 students. The school had close ties with local firms and many of the graduates worked as apprentices in local businesses.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Stuttgart
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,100
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Watch repair, jewellery and goldsmith training, radio-mechanics, joinery, auto-mechanics, weaving, locksmith training dressmaking and underwear garment making
<b>Closed</b>	August 1949

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## Schwabisch Hall

Schwabisch Hall camp was a mid-size DP camp located in the Stuttgart district of the US zone. DPs lived in requisitioned German houses. In mid-1948 the camp had approximately 1,400 inhabitants, about 250 of them were students in the ORT school, which functioned in the camp from January 1947. The school held classes in knitting, radio technology, joinery, dental technology, boot making, trouser cutting, watch repairing, dressmaking and electrical installation and had a staff of 17.

There was also a fachmittelschule (trade school) operating in the camp, where pupils between 15 and seventeen attended regular, general education classes for 22 hours a week and spent an additional 20 hours in vocational training organised by ORT.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Stuttgart
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,450
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Knitting, radio technology, dental technology, boot making, trouser cutting, dressmaking, watch repair, electrical installation and joinery
<b>Closed</b>	1950

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## Ulm

The Ulm Sedan Kaserne DP Camp was located in the Stuttgart District of the US zone. It was based in requisitioned private houses and in barracks. The camp was heavily overcrowded and in mid-1947 had about 2,300 inhabitants, the majority of whom came from Poland, Hungary and the USSR. Seventy percent of the population planned to emigrate to Palestine. The ORT school in Sedan Kaserne was established in September 1946 and worked for the benefit of four Jewish camps located in the vicinity. At the end of 1947 the school had 306 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Stuttgart
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,250
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Locksmith training, electric technology, radio mechanics, leatherwork, photography, millinery, furriery and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	June 1950

## Neu Ulm

Neu Ulm was a mid-size camp in the Stuttgart district. It was set up in the summer of 1946 to accommodate DPs from the Bad Aibling and Funkkaserne camps. In mid-1947 the camp had about 1,660 Jewish inhabitants, 169 of whom attended the ORT school, which started functioning in September 1946. By the end of 1947 the school held classes in hand knitting, joinery, electrical engineering, weaving, trousers cutting, dressmaking. The school employed 22 teachers. Its director was engineer Simon Citron. Neu Ulm DP camp closed down in March 1951.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Stuttgart
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,600
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Hand knitting, joinery, electrical engineering, weaving, trousers cutting, dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	March 1951

## Leipheim

Leipheim DP camp was located in a former airfield in Bavaria, in the American occupied zone. It operated between December 1945 and June

1950. In mid-1947 the camp had a population of about 3,000 Jewish DPs. The ORT school in Leipheim, was established three months after the opening of the camp, in March 1946. The school had 270 students and employed 24 teachers.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Stuttgart
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,800
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tailoring and dressmaking, radio technology, joinery, electrical engineering, dental technology, auto mechanics, watch repairing and locksmith training
<b>Closed</b>	June 1950

## Stuttgart



Leatherwork course in the ORT school in Stuttgart, Germany, 1947–1948. World ORT Archive ref. p06a102.

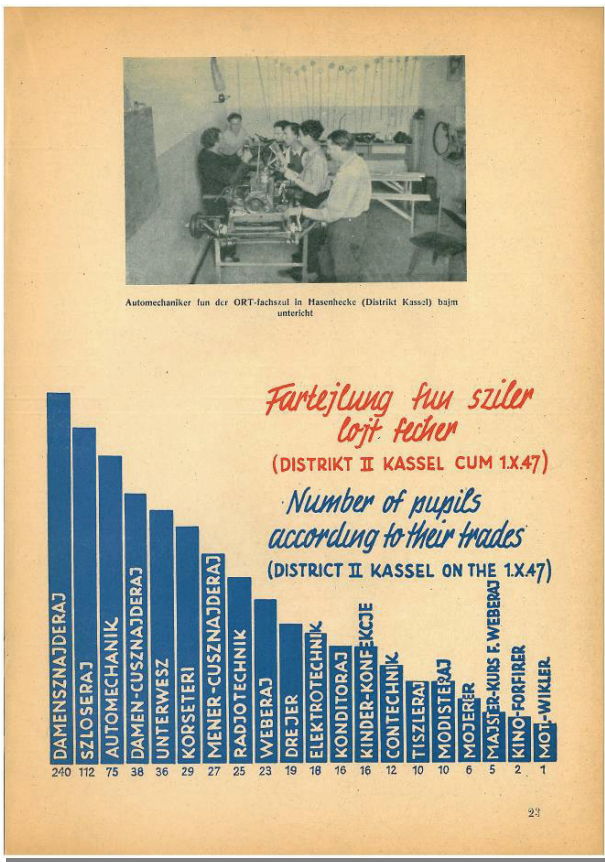
Stuttgart West was an all-Jewish DP camp located in the city of Stuttgart. The camp housed approximately 1,400 Jewish DPs who were living in



requisitioned private apartments. A large vocational school run by ORT in Stuttgart, was established in March 1946. At the end of 1947 it was attended by 234 pupils.

ORT school district	Stuttgart
Jewish residents in 1947	1,400
Courses taught included	Dental mechanics, metalwork, leather work and goldsmiths training, needlework, dressmaking, underwear garment making, corset making and hat making. Children's workshops for cardboard and metalwork.
Closed	June 1949

### Bad Salzschlirf



A page from a 1947 ORT report showing student enrolment by trades in the Kassel school district. World ORT Archive ref. d04a018: ORT US-Zone Germany 1945–1947.

Bad Salzschlirf DP centre was a small camp located in a spa town near Fulda in the American occupied zone; it operated between 1946 and 1949. At the end of 1947, the camp had over 700 inhabitants, approximately 60 of whom were enrolled in ORT courses, held in a variety of subjects including corset making, cinema operating and pastry making. The director of the school was Chiel Pryszkulik.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	720
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Corset making, cinema operating and pastry making
<b>Closed</b>	March 1949

### **Munchberg**

Munchberg DP camp was located on the outskirts of Kassel, in a workers village adjacent to a factory. The population of about 150 Jewish DPs lived in small two family houses. With its clean houses, small streets and shops, Munchberg was one of the rare camps to provide the DPs with a semblance of pre-war life. The ORT school in Munchberg was set up in mid-1947; by the end of the year it offered classes in tailoring, dressmaking, dental technology, and auto mechanics. and trained eighty-four students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1946</b>	120
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tailoring, dressmaking, dental technology, and auto mechanics
<b>Closed</b>	March 1949

### **Gabersee**

Gabersee DP camp was located near Wasserburg, Bavaria in the American zone of occupation. It opened on 29 March 1946 and by the end of 1947 had a Jewish DP population of 2,000. After the mass emigration of 1948, Gabersee became a camp for people who, due to illnesses or other problems, were not able to emigrate. The ORT school in Gabersee opened on the 1 July 1946 and offered classes in women's and men's tailoring, dressmaking, radio technology, leather work, joinery, driving and auto

mechanics. The school had 161 students. Gabersee DP camp closed in June 1950.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,000
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Women's and men's tailoring, dressmaking, radio technology, leather work, joinery, driving and auto mechanics
<b>Closed</b>	June 1950

### Fritzlar

Fritzlar DP camp was located in a small town in northern Hesse in the American occupied zone of Germany. The camp had about 900 inhabitants and was badly neglected. Already in mid-1948 the IRO (International Refugee Organisation) considered closing it on the basis of poor sanitary conditions. Despite that, the camp had an extensive cultural life. It maintained an elementary school, a *Tarbut* school and a *Talmud Torah*. The ORT vocational school in Fritzlar, located in a building that had previously been used as the stable of a German cavalry regiment, offered courses in radio technology, locksmith training, auto mechanics and dressmaking. They were attended by 55 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	950
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Radio technology, locksmith training, auto mechanics and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	January 1950

### Eschwege

The Eschwege DP Camp was located in a former airbase near Frankfurt, in the American zone of occupation. With around 3,000 Jewish DPs, Eschwege was one of the biggest Jewish DP communities in Germany. The camp opened in the beginning of 1946 and soon formed itself into a very well organised community. It maintained a large orphanage housed in a castle, a former TB sanatorium, in nearby Schwebda and a Hashomer Hatzair kibbutz which prepared over 200 young DPs for emigration. An important part in this preparation was played by the ORT vocational school, which, by the end of 1947, had an enrolment of 220 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	3,100
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Radio technology, electrical engineering, dental technology auto mechanics and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	March 1953

### Hofgeismar

Hofgeismar DP camp was located about 30 kilometres north of Kassel in the American occupied zone. The camp was run mainly by DPs. It maintained a hospital and a number of schools including a *Tarbut* school and a *Talmud Torah*. The living conditions in Hofgeismar were good even though the camp was overcrowded. The DPs lived in barracks (kassernes), with two or three families living in one room. There was an extensive sports and cultural life. In mid-1947 the camp had over 1700 inhabitants. In 1947, ORT's courses were attended by 164 students. The school employed 14 teachers.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,700
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tailoring and garment cutting , radio technology, electrical engineering, dental technology, hat making, auto mechanics, dressmaking and a bricklayers course
<b>Closed</b>	February 1949

### Hessisch-Lichtenau

Hessisch-Lichtenau was a complex of camps located southeast of Kassel in the US occupied zone of Germany. The complex included Goldcup, Herzog, Rochelle, Teichhof and Velmeden camps. At the end of 1947 the ORT school in Hessisch-Lichtenau ran courses in joinery, dressmaking, weaving, dental technology, and auto mechanics. There were 161 students enrolled. The director of the school was engineer Henryk Schotten.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1946</b>	700
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Joinery, dressmaking, weaving, dental technology, and auto mechanics
<b>Closed</b>	February 1947

## Hasenecke

Hasenecke bei Kassel was a medium sized camp situated in Hesse in the US occupational zone. It was located in wooden barracks and despite severe overcrowding, the Hasenecke community was very active and well organised. The camp's religious life was coordinated by the religious committee which organised a *Talmud Torah* and a synagogue that held memorial services for perished communities. By the end of 1947, the camp had over 2,200 inhabitants, 148 of them ORT students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Kassel
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,200
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Galvanizing, joinery, auto mechanics, dressmaking and a machine shop
<b>Closed</b>	March 1949

## Aschau

Aschau DP camp was located the Munich district. In mid-1947 the camp had approximately 260 inhabitants, among them many orphans liberated from concentration camps. The children prepared for the *aliyah* by learning Hebrew and attending classes at the ORT vocational school. The school had 130 students and offered courses which included joinery, auto mechanics and dressmaking. The director of the school was Heinrich Tojerow. The camp was closed on 1st July 1949.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	260
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Joinery, auto mechanics and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	July 1949

## Wasserburg

Wasserburg DP camp was located on the shore of Lake Constanz in the US occupied zone of Germany. The camp had an extensively developed educational system and maintained a *Talmud Torah*. ORT ran a small vocational school in the camp. The principal of the school was engineer Josef Goldberg.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	600

## Pocking

Pocking was the largest DP camp in the US zone of Germany. In mid-1947 the camp had approximately 6,300 Jewish inhabitants. Pocking camp was known for its bad sanitation, lack of food and bad living conditions. The DPs were housed in a former Luftwaffe camp which comprised wooden barracks with insufficient heating. Despite that, the DPs managed to organise a thriving community life. Over 300 Pocking DPs attended one of the 25 courses organised by the camp's ORT school, one of the largest ORT schools in Germany. The school was based in an abandoned air force hangar and employed 27 teachers, both Jewish and German.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	6,250
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Nursing, corset making, radio technology, leather work, joinery, electrical engineering, dental technology, weaving, auto mechanics, and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	February 1949

## Passau

The DP camp in Passau housed over 50 DP patients in the final stages of recovery from tuberculosis. The sanatorium was installed in an old Jesuit College, adapted for the needs of TB patients. ORT vocational courses in the school, which formed part of the DPs' rehabilitation process, were in most cases a continuation of courses started by the patients in the Gauting TB sanatorium. The school opened in late 1947 and offered courses in the traditional subjects of auto mechanics and dressmaking as well as courses in radio technology and telephony/telegraphy that took place in the former physics laboratories of the college. Students of

telegraphy also attended apprenticeships in the local post office; the school's director was Mr Kantor.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	50
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Auto mechanics, dressmaking, radio technology and telephony/telegraphy

## Purten

Purten I was a children's camp in Bavaria, located in a former Nazi factory. The camp boasted very good living conditions and was very well run. It housed almost 300 children who were divided according to age. The majority of them attended ORT vocational courses in the camp. At the end of August 1947, children from Purten were transferred to Aschau DP centre. Purten II was a *kibbutz*, which housed 168 Jewish residents who were transferred to Rosenheim at the end of August 1947. Youth from Purten II attended ORT classes as part of their preparation for emigration to Palestine.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	225 (Purten I) and 168 (Purten II)
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Pre-vocational courses (Purten I)
<b>Closed</b>	June 1949 (Purten I) and August 1947 (Purten II)

## Deggendorf

Graduation of Nurses - On December 18, 1947 14 pupils of the nursing course at Deggendorf passed their final examinations before a board of examiners consisting of physicians from the Military Government and medical personnel from IRO and AJDC as well as from the Deggendorf hospital. According to the report of District Director Eng. Altmann, the Board of Examiners was highly satisfied with the practical as well as the theoretical part of the examination. Dr. Berash of IRO Headquarters and Dr. Eichenholz of AJDC Regensburg, expressed their thanks for the organization of the nursing course and the efforts made to develop the training to such a high standard. Each pupil was rewarded with a first-aid kit.

Press cutting showing ORT's cooperation with various aid agencies in the organisation of vocational courses for Jewish refugees. World ORT Archive. (The Weekly Summary. World ORT Union Financial and Accounting Office vol. II no.10 (Week ending March 12, 1948) p.3)

Deggendorf was a DP camp in Bavaria, in the American zone of occupation. The camp was established in 1945 in a former Wehrmacht barracks, it was inhabited by approximately 1,300 Jewish DPs, among whom were survivors from Theresienstadt. The camp had a very active social life, and maintained a number of schools including an elementary school, kindergarten and a *Talmud Torah*. By the end of 1947 the ORT school in Deggendorf had an enrolment of 136 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,300
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Radio technology, leather work, joinery, electrical engineering, weaving, dental technology, hat making and goldsmiths training
<b>Closed</b>	June 1949

### Eggenfelden

The Eggenfelden DP camp was established in late 1945. The camp inhabitants lived in requisitioned houses located in the town of Eggenfelden, 55 kilometres southwest of Passau in Bavaria in the American zone of Germany. The camp was overcrowded and in 1947 had over 700 inhabitants, three quarters of whom were between the ages of 17 and 45. The ORT school in Eggenfelden was attended by 105 students, both teenagers and adults.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	730
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Electrical engineering, machine knitting, auto mechanics, dressmaking

### Holzhausen

The DP kibbutz in Holzhausen was located 20 kilometres from Landsberg DP camp. It was housed in a former military hospital which was inhabited by both Jewish *kibbutzniks* and sick DPs of other nationalities. The *kibbutz* operated between February 1946 and October 1947. It housed over 100 Jews, most of them in their early twenties, who, as part of their preparation for emigration to Palestine, attended ORT courses which included agricultural training. There was also a tailoring and woodwork workshop on the *kibbutz* premises.



<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1946</b>	150
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Agricultural training, woodworking
<b>Closed</b>	October 1947

### Altotting

Altotting was a small camp located in a small town in Bavaria in the US zone of Germany. In mid-1946 the camp had 207 Jewish inhabitants. The ORT school in Altotting opened fairly late, in the last months of 1947, under the headship of Mr Treger. Around 40 students attended courses in automechanics, dressmaking and joinery. The camp was closed in April 1948.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Passau
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	170
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Auto mechanics, dressmaking and joinery
<b>Closed</b>	April 1948

### Hochland

The Hochland DP centre was a small camp in the Munich District of the American Zone of Germany. The camp housed about 300 Jewish DPs, all *kibbutzniks*, who were learning various branches of agriculture on the *kibbutz's* 40 hectares of land. In December 1948 Hochland merged with Fohrenwald DP camp. By mid-1947, the ORT school in Hochland had an enrolment of forty students and employed three instructors.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	280
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Agricultural training
<b>Closed</b>	December 1948

## Greifenberg

The DP *Kibbutz* in Greifenberg was located in the former Nazi school for girls, 15 kilometres north of Landsberg. The *kibbutz* operated between December 1945 and March 1948 and had on average 150 inhabitants aged 15 to 18. In mid-1947 50 of them attended ORT vocational courses in carpentry and shoemaking.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	150
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Carpentry, shoemaking
<b>Closed</b>	March 1948

## Diessen



The ORT school of Fishery-Diessen, Germany, c.1947. World ORT Archive ref. p04a258.

Diessen DP Centre was a small camp located in a fishing town and a summer resort on the shores of Ammersee in the Munich district. In mid-1947 the camp had fewer than 100 inhabitants, around 40 of whom lived in

a *Dror kibbutz*. The ORT school in Diessen ran a course in fishery during the summer and classes in woodwork and ceramics in the winter.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	97
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Fishery, woodwork, ceramics
<b>Closed</b>	October 1949

### Attel

Attel DP camp was located in a village in Upper Bavaria near Wasserburg am Inn. It housed about Jewish 400 DPs. There was a small ORT school operating in the camp. Attel DP camp closed in January 1950.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	400
<b>Courses taught included</b>	
<b>Closed</b>	January 1950

### Ainring

Ainring DP transit camp was located in the southern German Alps, near Munich. The camp was established on a former civilian airfield that, during the Second World War, was used by Adolf Hitler when he was staying at The Berghof, his headquarters in Bavaria. At the end of 1946 the camp housed over 3,000 Jewish DPs. ORT's school in Ainring had an enrolment of 180 students, employed 18 instructors and ran 7 courses, including a very popular locksmith training course. The director of the school was engineer Maurycy Znamerowski. Due to very bad living conditions in the camp all DPs from Ainring were transferred to Lechfeld camp in September 1947.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1946</b>	3,000
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Locksmith training
<b>Closed</b>	September 1947

## Weilheim

Weilheim DP camp was located in the Munich district. The camp had a rich community life. It maintained a kosher kitchen and a *Talmud Torah*. In mid-1947 Weilheim housed about 500 Jewish DPs. ORT's vocational school in the camp was established at the end of 1946. It held classes in a variety of subjects including beautician training, photography, typesetting, dressmaking and knitting. There was also a medical laboratory and a dental technology training facility. At the end of 1947 ORT courses were attended by 91 students. The director of the school was Dr Stern.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	530
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Beautician training, photography, typesetting, dressmaking and knitting, medical laboratory, dental technology

## Traunstein

Traunstein DP camp was located in south-eastern Bavaria in the US occupational zone of Germany. It was opened in 1947. Living conditions in the camp were comparatively good, and because of this the camp was chosen by many families with children. In the mid-1947 the camp had approximately 1,600 inhabitants, 165 of whom attended ORT classes.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,600
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Hand knitting, women's garment cutting, dressmaking typewriter repair, photography, auto mechanics, cinema operators training and beautician training

## Rosenheim

Rosenheim DP camp was located in Bavaria in the US occupied zone of Germany. In mid-1947 the camp housed about 900 DPs, including a large number of orphans. The ORT school in Rosenheim functioned from the beginning of 1947. About six months after it was established, the school was attended by 195 students enrolled in courses in radio technology, joinery, electrical engineering, dental technology and tailoring. The director of ORT courses in Rosenheim was engineer Schwartz.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	850
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Radio technology, joinery, electrical engineering, dental technology and tailoring

## Prien

The International Children's Centre in Prien in Bavaria operated between mid-1946 and June 1949. At the end of 1947 the school housed approximately 200 children. The school was located in a former German sanatorium situated in beautiful surroundings on the Cheimsee. Children attended compulsory classes in the morning and had voluntary training provided by ORT in the afternoon.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	225
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Pre-vocational training
<b>Closed</b>	June 1949

## Neu Freimann

Neu Freimann DP camp was located on the outskirts of Munich and operated between 1946 and 1949. The population of the camp initially included both Jewish and non-Jewish DPs, but later had mainly Jewish inhabitants. The DPs were housed in 200 former workers houses. From 1949 Neu Freimann operated as a transit camp. The ORT school in Neu Freiman was established very shortly after the creation of the camp. At the end of 1947 it trained 119 students. There were nine teachers leading courses.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	3,000
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Book keeping, dressmaking and corset making
<b>Closed</b>	June 1949

## Munich

The first ORT school in Munich was founded in 1946. It catered for the needs of students in the nearby DP camps as well as DPs living on their own in Munich. In late 1947 the five ORT schools operating in Munich had 464 students and employed 52 teachers.

## Lechfeld

Lechfeld DP camp was located south of Augsburg in Bavaria. It operated between August 1947 and March 1951. The camp was located at a former airfield. It had population of over 2,000 Jewish DPs. At the end of 1947 the ORT school in Lechfeld ran courses in bookkeeping, corset making, radio technology, electrical engineering, tailoring and dressmaking and auto mechanics. The school trained 156 DPs. Its director was engineer Maurycy Znamerowski. There was also a *Fachmittelschule* operating in the camp, where pupils aged between 15 and 17 attended regular, general education classes for 22 hours a week and spent an additional 20 hours in vocational training.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	3,000
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Bookkeeping, corset making, radio technology electrical engineering, tailoring and dressmaking and auto mechanics
<b>Closed</b>	June 1950

## Landsberg

Landsberg, the second largest DP camp in the American Zone, was located in a former military barracks near Munich. The camp was founded after the liberation of the Landsberg concentration camp in April 1945. From October 1945 Landsberg functioned as an exclusively Jewish Camp. At the end of 1947 the ORT school in Landsberg had an enrolment of 300 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	4,500
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Nursing, tailoring, garment cutting, radio technology, leather work, joinery, dental technology, typesetting, auto mechanics and watch repair
<b>Closed</b>	October 1950

## Geretsried

Geretsried DP camp was located in the former arms factory workers' housing in the Munich District of the US zone of Germany. The camp was located in the middle of the woods in the countryside about 25 miles south of Munich and four miles from Fohrenwald. The DPs lived in very basic conditions and the camp was seriously overcrowded. Geretsried operated as an all-Jewish camp between June 1947 and March 1950. It housed about 600 Jewish DPs, who were a mix of survivors liberated in Germany, arrivals from Poland and *kibbutz* members from Poland and Czechoslovakia.

In mid-1947, 20 of the camp's inhabitants attended an ORT course in dressmaking. The camp also maintained a kindergarten and a primary school. It ran pioneering courses for hearing-impaired DPs, attended by almost 30 students, both adults and children.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	800
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	March 1950

## Gaunting

Gaunting was a TB sanatorium for DP patients in the first stage of their treatment, situated 17 kilometres south-west of Munich. Most of the original patients in Gaunting were Dachau survivors. The camp housed on average 500 patients, the vast majority of them Jewish. As part of the rehabilitation process Gaunting DP patients often attended ORT courses. ORT's work in the sanatorium was divided into two groups; 'occupational therapy' and 'vocational training'.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	500
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Radio technology and handicraft work
<b>Closed</b>	May 1951

## Fohrenwald

Fohrenwald DP camp was one of the largest Displaced Persons centres in Germany. It was based in former workers' housing and known for its relatively good conditions of living. The camp had a vibrant community

life organised by the DPs. ORT started its activities in Fohrenwald in November 1945 by opening the first driver-training school in the US Zone. Soon after, the school hired 15 instructors and enrolled 265 students

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	4,300
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tailoring, corset making locksmith training, shoe and boot making, carpentry, radio technology, electrical technology, beautician and nurses training.
<b>Closed</b>	1956

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### **Feldafing**

Feldafing camp, located on the outskirts of a village in Bavaria, was the first all-Jewish DP camp in the US zone of Germany. It housed about 4,000 DPs who lived in the barracks of a former elite Hitlerjugend (Hitler Youth) training institute as well as in private housing requisitioned from the German inhabitants of the town. The camp opened in May 1945 and became exclusively Jewish in July 1945. Vocational training in Feldafing was provided by a large ORT school, which at the end of 1947 trained 267 DPs.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	3,800
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Corset making, hat making, tailoring, dressmaking shoe and boot making, auto mechanics, dental mechanics and nurse training
<b>Closed</b>	March 1953

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### **Bayerisch Gmain**

Bayerisch Gmain DP centre was a children's camp in Bavaria. Almost all of the 80 children who were living in the camp in mid-1947 attended ORT vocational courses. Bayerisch Gmain was also the site of a rehabilitation centre for TB patients in the last stage of the treatment. ORT vocational courses conducted in the centre were intended to ensure that their physical recuperation was connected with learning a trade necessary for independent living.



<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	80
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Bookbinding, dressmaking, typewriter repair, men's underwear cutting, corset making, leather work, radio technology, joinery, watch making and tailoring

### **Bad Worishofen**

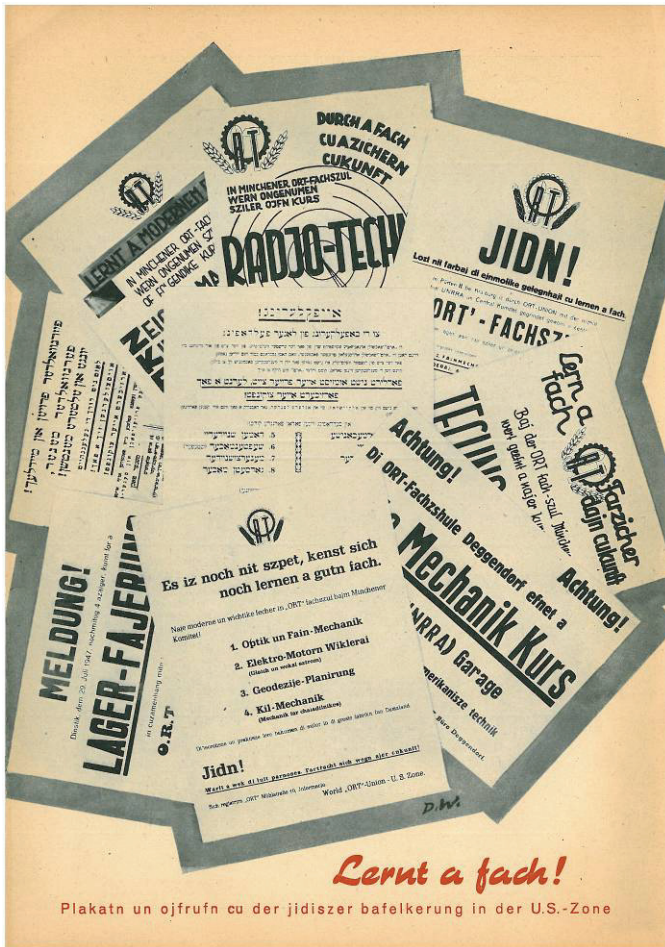
Bad Worishofen DP camp was located in a spa town in Bavaria, 65 kilometres west of Munich. It housed 300 DPs, the majority of whom were Lithuanians. The camp maintained a kosher kitchen and issued its own currency. In 1947 the ORT school in Bad Worishofen held courses in photography, dental technology and dressmaking. The school had 67 students. The director of the school was engineer Alexander Goldwasser. Bad Worishofen DP camp closed down in May 1948.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Munich
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	250
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Photography, dental technology and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	May 1948

### **Bad Reichenhall**

Bad Reichenhall DP camp was a large camp on the outskirts of a spa town located on the German-Austrian border, in the Munich District of the American Zone of occupation. Due to its location, the camp served as a stopping station for many Jewish refugees travelling between Germany and Austria on their way to Italy and later to Palestine. ORT operated a large school in Bad Reichenhall. It was opened in August 1946 and initially trained 60DPs. A year later, in mid-1947, out of the camp's 5,000 inhabitants over 400 were ORT students.

ORT school district	Munich
Jewish residents in 1947	5,100
Courses taught included	Tailoring and garments cutting, corset making, dressmaking, radio technology, leather work, joinery, machine knitting, cinema operator training pastry-making, nurse training
Closed	July 1951



Fragment of an ORT publication promoting vocational training in the US zone of Germany. World ORT Archive ref. d04a018: ORT US-Zone Germany 1945–1947.

## Giebelstadt

Giebelstadt DP camp in Bavaria in the US zone of occupation was opened in the spring of 1948 to house the 1,700 Holocaust survivors, including 600 children from the closed down Vilseck DP camp. Giebelstadt quickly became a regional centre for survivors who, while waiting for emigration, developed community life that included theatre, a library and an ORT vocational school. The ORT school ran five courses and was attended by over 100 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Frankfurt
<b>Jewish residents in 1948</b>	1,400
<b>Closed</b>	June 1949

## Zeilsheim

Zeilsheim was a DP camp located on the outskirts of Frankfurt am Main. Based in requisitioned houses and barracks, the camp had a very active community life. Among Zeilsheim's many schools were a nurse training school and an ORT vocational school, which opened in May 1946. In February 1947, when the camp had about 3,000 Jewish inhabitants, the ORT school had an enrolment of 250 students and employed 17 instructors.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Frankfurt
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	3,150
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Corset making, men's tailoring, dressmaking, photography, electrical engineering, hat making, typesetting, auto mechanic and diamond cutting
<b>Closed</b>	November 1948

## Lindenfels

Lindenfels was a DP children's centre in the Frankfurt District. It operated from July 1946. The camp was located in picturesque surroundings in a holiday resort in the hills north of Heidelberg. The camp housed children aged five to 18, mainly Polish Jews whose parents had perished during the Holocaust. In May 1948, 55 of Lindenfels' young inhabitants attended one of three ORT vocational courses offered in the camp.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Frankfurt
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	360
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Pre-vocational courses for children
<b>Closed</b>	November 1948

### Lampertheim

Lampertheim DP camp was located in a small town on the bank of Rhine in the Frankfurt District of the American occupational zone. It operated between the end of 1945 and May 1949 and housed 1,200 Jewish DPs, mainly from Poland, who lived in requisitioned private houses. A few kilometres from the town, the camp operated a *kibbutz* for 30 young people training in farming in preparation for their emigration to Palestine.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Frankfurt
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,100
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Agricultural training, dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	May 1949

### Dieburg

Dieburg DP camp was located in the Frankfurt District in the US zone of occupation, about 30 kilometres from Lampertheim camp. In mid-1947 the camp housed over 800 Jewish DPs, who lived in private houses. The camp had a well-developed education system with a kindergarten and elementary school as well as a *Talmud Torah*, *Bais Yaakov* School and a *Yeshiva* providing religious education. At the end of 1947 the ORT school in Dieburg trained 101 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Frankfurt
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	830
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Garment cutting and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	March 1949

## Bensheim

Bensheim DP camp was located in southern Hesse in the American zone of Germany. It was established as a camp for Polish forced labourers in August 1946 and was later transformed into an all-Jewish camp with a population of nearly 1,200. The camp was known for its rich community life. At the end of 1947 the ORT school in Bensheim was attended by 90 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Frankfurt
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,120
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tailoring, radio technology, joinery, corset making, auto mechanics and fountain pen repair.
<b>Closed</b>	April 1949

## Wetzlar

Wetzlar DP Camp was situated in Hesse. It was a large camp with over 4,000 Jewish inhabitants living in former military barracks. The camp maintained a number of schools, both religious and non-denominational. The large ORT school in Wetzlar trained 175 students, a large percentage of them middle aged.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Frankfurt
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	4,400
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Radio technology, joinery, electrical technology, dental technology, auto mechanics, dressmaking and locksmith training
<b>Closed</b>	March 1949

## Neuburg

Neuburg am Donau was a small DP camp in Bavaria. In December 1947 the ORT school organised in the camp trained 46 students. They attended classes in men's tailoring, millinery, electro technology and leather work.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	900
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Men's tailoring, millinery, electro technology and leather work

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### **Schwandorf**

Schwandorf was a transit camp in Bavaria in the US zone of Germany. At the end of 1947 the ORT school in Schwandorf had an enrolment of 53 students and ran courses in dressmaking, corset making, shoe and boot making as well as radio technology.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	150
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, corset making, shoe and boot making and radio technology

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### **Furth**

Furth DP camp was located in a historic town in northern Bavaria in the US zone of Germany. The camp had about 700 Jewish inhabitants who lived in 50 confiscated private houses. ORT courses were very popular among Furth DPs and, at the end of 1947, were attended by 119 students.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	700
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, weaving, millinery, window dressing, auto mechanics, watch repair, window glazing, , shoe and boot making
<b>Closed</b>	July 1949

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### **Marktredwitz**

Marktredwitz DP camp was located in Bavaria in the US zone of Germany. In October 1947 the camp had 250 Jewish residents. In mid-1948 the ORT course in the camp trained 18 DPs.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	250

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## Vilseck

Vilseck DP camp was located in north-eastern Bavaria in the US zone of Germany. It operated between the summer of 1946 and the spring of 1948. The camp was situated on the Czechoslovakian border and its inhabitants were mainly survivors from Poland. In mid-1947 over 100 of the camp's inhabitants were attending the ORT school.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,700
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Bricklaying, radio technology, locksmith training, men's tailoring, dressmaking and joinery
<b>Closed</b>	April 1948

## Regensburg

<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, men's tailoring, millinery, shoe and boot making, locksmith training, auto mechanics, radio technology, photography and chemical technology
<b>Closed</b>	1949

Regensburg DP camp operated between 1945 and 1949 and housed mainly Ukrainian DPs. At the end of 1947, the ORT school in Regensburg had 105 students. They were enrolled in nine courses which included dressmaking, men's tailoring, millinery, shoe and boot making, locksmith training, auto mechanics, radio technology, photography and a laboratory in chemical technology.

## Hof

Hof was a mid-size camp in Bavaria on the Czechoslovakian border. The camp was located in the former army housing. It operated from summer 1946 until the end of 1947. Many of the inhabitants reached the camp by illegally crossing the Czechoslovakian border, and for a while Hof functioned as a transit camp. The ORT school in Hof trained a total of 180 students.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	750
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, weaving, underwear garment making, leather work, locksmith training, auto mechanics, radio technology, photography, bricklaying and watch repair
<b>Closed</b>	December 1947

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### **Ansbach**

Ansbach Bleidorn Kaserne DP camp was located on a military base in Bavaria in the American occupied zone. The camp housed on average 1,000 Jewish DPs, the first of whom arrived in early 1947. In December 1947, 209 of the camp inhabitants were enrolled as students at the Ansbach ORT school.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,200
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, underwear garment making, shoe and boot making, locksmith training, auto mechanics, radio technology, photography, dental mechanics, book keeping, nursing, beautician training
<b>Closed</b>	October 1949

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### **Windsheim**

Windsheim DP camp was located near a small spa town in Bavaria. Windsheim was one of the most overcrowded camps in the area. In November 1946, despite a capacity of 2,500, the camp had 3,200 inhabitants. The camp's 198 inhabitants attended the ORT vocational school. A large percentage of the school's students were Hungarian Jews.





Radio mechanics course in the ORT school in Windsheim DP camp, American zone of Germany c.1947. World ORT Archive ref. p06a101.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,500
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, men's tailoring, children's tailoring, machine knitting, locksmith training, radio technology, dental mechanics, joinery, typewriter repair, book keeping and beautician training
<b>Closed</b>	July 1949

### **Eichstatt**

Eichstatt DP camp was located in Upper Bavaria in the American occupied zone of Germany. The camp housed around 1,200 DPs and maintained a *Talmud Torah* and a *Yeshiva*. At the end of 1947 the ORT school in Eichstatt trained 130 students. There was also a *fachmittelschule* operating in the camp for pupils aged between 15 and 17.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,300
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, men's tailoring, weaving, leather works, auto mechanics, radio technology, joinery, goldsmiths training, hairdressing, and upholstery training.
<b>Closed</b>	October 1949

## **Bamberg**

Bamberg DP camp was a mid-sized camp, which operated between early 1946 and April 1949. The camp housed approximately 1,500 Jewish DPs. It had well-established social and religious life. ORT operated a large school in the camp that, at the end of 1947, had an enrolment of 148 students.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Bamberg-Regensburg
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,460
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, tailoring, underwear garment making, locksmith training, radio technology, joinery, pastry-making and beautician training
<b>Closed</b>	April 1949

## **Berlin**

ORT ran vocational training in two DP camps located in the Berlin district, Schlachtensee (also known as the Duppel Centre) and Mariendorf, both in the American occupation zone. Mariendorf was a mid-size camp. In June 1948, the ORT school had 56 students. Schlachtensee was the largest camp in the Berlin district, with DPs living in barracks and wooden huts. Schlachtensee was widely regarded, especially in the period immediately after the establishment of DP camps, as the first stop for all those who illegally crossed the eastern border of Germany. The ORT school had an enrolment of 100 students.

<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,600 (Mariendorf), 3,500 (Schlachtensee)
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, men garment cutting, underwear making, women's dresses cutting, metal trades, auto-mechanics, radio technology and dental technology
<b>Closed</b>	July 1948

## DP Camps in the British Zone

### Belsen

The Belsen DP centre was located near the site of the former Bergen Belsen concentration camp in the British occupational zone of Germany. It was created immediately after the liberation of the concentration camp in May 1945 and the first inhabitants consisted of former inmates. From November 1945, the centre was exclusively Jewish. With a population reaching 11,000 by 1947, Belsen was the largest and most prominent of the Jewish DP communities in Germany, and included a dental technical school regarded as the best vocational school in the British Zone. At the end of 1947 ORT's vocational courses in Belsen were attended by over 300 DPs.

<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	7,800
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dentistry, locksmith training, blacksmithing, technical drawing, mathematics, carpentry, auto mechanics, electro engineering, garment cutting, dressmaking, corset making, shoemaking, underwear garment making, cap making, building and plumbing
<b>Closed</b>	August 1951

### Kaunitz

Kaunitz DP camp was located in Westphalia in the British Zone. The camp was created in March 1945, initially to house survivors of the Lippstadt women camp, a sub-camp of Buchenwald concentration camp. In June 1946, Kaunitz had 360 residents, the vast majority of them women, predominantly from Hungary. Despite an acute shortage of materials, there was a successful ORT school functioning in Kaunitz. At the end of May 1948 it trained 40 students in tailoring and lingerie making.

<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	300
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tailoring and lingerie making
<b>Closed</b>	1950

## Neustadt

Neustadt DP camp was situated on the Bay of Lubeck in the Schleswig-Holstein district of the British Zone. The camp housed survivors from Stutthof and Heuegamine concentration camps. The DPs lived in relatively good conditions in wooden huts and brick barrack blocks. The camp was not severely overcrowded and most families could be provided with a room to themselves. The main feature of the camp was the former German submarine school in which ORT located its School for Maritime Trades and its headquarters for the entire British zone.

<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	360
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Maritime trades: maritime mechanical and electronic work, rigging (sailor net making etc.), radio operating and signalling, diving and marine salvage, fish dressing and welding as well as carpentry and machine woodworking, locksmith training, fitting and machine shop engineering and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	October 1948

## Ahlem

The Ahlem Farm DP *Kibbutz* was organised by ORT in mid-1946. The *kibbutz* was based in the former German horticulture school and sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The farm and surrounding 40 acres of land were requisitioned in a dilapidated condition, partly bombed and severely neglected and were restored by the young DPs themselves.

<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	300
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Agricultural training
<b>Closed</b>	October 1948

### **Bad Aibling**

International Relief Organisation's Bad Aibling Children's Village, a transit camp for DP orphans and homeless children, was located in a Bavarian health resort near Munich. Around 500 Jewish children stayed at Bad Aibling until it was possible to organise their emigration, either to Palestine or to the USA. The ORT school in Bad Aibling had 100 students, the majority aged 14 to 18.

<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	500
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Auto-mechanics, locksmith training, electro technology, radio technology, bricklaying, joinery, dental mechanics, dressmaking, shoemaking and domestic sciences
<b>Closed</b>	1951

### **Hannover**

ORT started its work with DPs from many camps scattered in and around Hannover in early 1946. A year later it had more than a 100 students who attended courses in two camps, Hohenstrasse and Vonnhorst. The larger school, at Hohenstrasse, trained DPs in various types of metalwork, auto mechanics, electro-engineering as well as tailoring and dressmaking. The smaller school in the Vinnhorst DP camp trained students in garment cutting, dressmaking and corsetry. In 1947 courses in doll and soft toy making were also held in the ORT house in Lindener Berge in Hannover.

### **Luneburg**

The ORT school in Luneburg, 45 kilometres southeast of Hamburg, was formed to facilitate the emigration of free-living (non-DP) Jews from Germany to Israel. In 1947 the school trained almost 70 students, mainly in needle trades: tailoring, dressmaking and embroidery.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	30
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Tailoring, dressmaking and embroidery
<b>Closed</b>	

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### Norheim

Norheim DP camp was located in Lower Saxony in the British zone. It housed mainly DPs from Poland and the Baltic States. ORT ran a very small school in the camp which in 1947 trained altogether 32 pupils in dressmaking, carpentry and dental mechanics.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, carpentry and dental mechanics

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### Emden



Former passengers of the 'Exodus' attending a locksmith training class at the ORT school in Emden, Germany (February, 1948). Emden was the larger of two camps housing former 'Exodus' passengers . The vocational school in the camp trained almost 700 students. World ORT Archive ref. p06a103.

Emden and Sengwarden were two DP camps housing Holocaust survivors who in 1947 attempted to emigrate to Palestine on board 'Exodus 1947'. Both camps were former German naval installations. Emden DP Camp in East Friesland was the larger of two camps. It housed 2,500 of the 'Exodus' passengers who lived in seven three-storey stone barracks based around a central square. ORT's work in Emden started within a fortnight of the arrival of the 'Exodus' passengers.

<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	2,500
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, men's tailoring, metal trades, electrical trades, auto mechanics, cabinet making, dental technology and first aid
<b>Closed</b>	October 1948

## Sengwarden

Sengwarden was the second of the two DP camps housing Holocaust survivors who were turned back while attempting to reach Palestine on board the 'Exodus 1947'. The Sengwarden DP Camp in Lower Saxony housed approximately 1,500 people who lived in houses in comparatively good conditions. ORT's work in Sengwarden started within a fortnight of the arrival of the Exodus passengers.

<b>ORT school district</b>	British zone
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	1,600
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Carpentry, welding, electro technology, radio technology, auto mechanics, bricklaying and dressmaking
<b>Closed</b>	October 1948

## Italy

For Holocaust survivors, Italy became the main transit point en route to Palestine. In 1947 there were 30,000 Jewish DPs in Italy, gathered in camps run by UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) with the help of other organisations such as ORT.



The ORT building school in Milan – the first Jewish school of this type in Europe (March 1948). World ORT Archive ref. p03a400.

ORT's work in Italy started at the end of 1946, much later than in Austria and Germany. The main reason for this was that the camps in Italy were seen as the last stop before reaching Palestine and therefore Italian DPs were more interested in moving on as fast as possible, rather than attending long-term vocational courses. Most of them believed that they would not stay in the camp long enough to learn a new trade. In Italy, unlike in Germany, there was therefore no large scale spontaneous organisation of vocational training by the DPs themselves.

After overcoming these initial obstacles ORT's work in Italy developed very quickly. In July 1947 there were 41 ORT training schools with 936 pupils; by November 1947 the number of students had risen to 1,476 across fifty-eight institutions.

ORT activities among DPs in Italian transit camps lasted until the early 1950s. Its training facilities in the cities kept functioning and expanding, catering to the needs of the local Italian-Jewish community.



## Rome area

Camps around Rome, the city with the largest Jewish population in Italy, constituted the administrative centre of DP life in the country. ORT conducted extensive work in the area with number of large schools in the Italian capital and the surrounding camps. Work was also conducted on many training farms around the city.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>ORT schools</b>	Rome, Cinecitta, Grottaferrata, Anzio, Ladispoli, Nemi, Ostia, Capannelle, Montemario
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Embroidery, sewing, tailoring and dressmaking, radio technology, ladies' hairdressing, needle trade, cutting of men's and women's garments, machine knitting, knitting, confectionary, building trades, dental mechanics, leather work, watch making and agricultural training, training for plumbers, mechanics, television technicians, secretaries and salesmen.

## Milan area

An important stage in the *Bricha* operation (the organised illegal immigration movement of Jews from Eastern Europe across the occupied zones and into Palestine), the city of Milan and the camps surrounding it became the centre for DPs in Northern Italy. ORT ran a number of important undertakings in the area. Large schools were opened in camps in Milan, Adriatico, Lecco-Brivio and Arona. Of special importance was the ORT school for builders in Milan, the first Jewish school of its kind in Europe.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>ORT schools</b>	Milan, Adriatico, Lecco-Brivio, Meina Arona
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Building construction, dental mechanics, typewriter mechanics, dressmaking, cutting of men's garments, furriers training, children's workshop, instructors for children's workshop, assistants for chemical industry, metal fitting, locksmith training, typewriter repair.

## Selvino

The village of Selvino in the Italian Alps housed approximately 800 Jewish children orphaned during the Holocaust. The children lived in a large former Fascist children's home, Sciesopoli, where they were instructed in general education as well as in Jewish culture and Hebrew language.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	800
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	1947
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Children's workshop

## Turin area

Camps in the Piedmont area of Italy were the first stop for DPs who entered Italy from Austria. Even though generally overcrowded, the camps maintained a thriving cultural and community life. ORT ran its courses in a number of camps in the region: the large refugee camp in Rivoli, the Avigliana Home of Youth *Aliyah*, Ivrea and Nichelino.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>ORT schools</b>	Rivoli, Avigliana, Ivrea, Lucento, Grugaliasco, Trani
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Agricultural training, dressmaking, mechanical knitting, corsetry, shirt making, upholstery, cutting of men's garments, children's workshops, welding, tinsmiths training, dental mechanics, building construction, diving, , joinery, plumbing, metalwork, typewriter repair.

## Livorno

In the port city of Livorno in Tuscany, ORT ran a small vocational school. In May 1948 there were 30 students training in dressmaking.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	1948
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking

### Cevoli

The training farm at Cevoli San Marco near Pisa in Tuscany was opened in May 1947 and functioned until 1950. In February 1948 it trained 40 students who were recruited almost exclusively from the Italian *Hechalutz* movement.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	May 1947
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Agricultural training

### Genoa

After the war, the seaport of Genoa became an important transit point for Holocaust survivors trying to reach Palestine. An ORT training workshop for manufacturing working suits was opened in the city in March 1948. In October 1948, the school had 30 pupils. It closed after they passed their examinations in late 1948.

<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	March 1948
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Cutting of working suits

### Cremona

The DP camp in Cremona was one of the largest centres for displaced persons in Italy. It housed over 1,000 refugees, most of whom were Jewish. The refugee centre was located in a former school building and was badly overcrowded. The vocational school in Cremona was one of the first post-war ORT establishments in Italy and, despite difficult living conditions in the camp, it was known to be particularly successful. In February 1948 it trained 108 students who attended courses in dressmaking, locksmith training, carpentry, electrical installation and radio technology. The camp closed in March 1947 and the school was moved to southern Italy.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	1946
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Dressmaking, locksmith training, carpentry, electrical installation and radio technology

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### **Fermo**

In the camp located near the city of Fermo, which functioned between 1945 and 1948, ORT held a training workshop for upholstery. The course was run between 1947 and 1948 and all of its graduates managed to get to Israel.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	1945
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Upholstery

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### **Bari Area**

Camps in the Bari area, located near the Bari port became a major DP centre in Southern Italy and an important stage in illegal emigration to Palestine. ORT conducted extended activities in a number of camps in the area including the Bari Transit Camp, Barletta, Palese and Andria.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>ORT schools</b>	Bari, Barletta, Palese, Andria
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Cutting of men's and women's garments, shirt making, leather work, locksmith training, mechanical knitting, auto-mechanics, cutting of shoe-uppers and agricultural training.

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### **Anzano**

The ORT school in the city of Anzano in Apulia in Southern Italy was opened at the beginning of 1948. In February that year 45 students were training in agricultural skills.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	1948
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Agricultural training

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### **Villa Alba**

From 1947, ORT ran a school for mechanical knitting in a small camp at Villa Alba, near the city of Salerno, which housed 110 DPs.

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<b>ORT school district</b>	Italy
<b>Jewish residents in 1947</b>	110
<b>The ORT school opened</b>	1947
<b>Courses taught included</b>	Mechanical knitting

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## Part 2

### ORT's Work With Jewish Communities Outside Displaced Persons Camps



ORT course for tailors in the vocational school in Brussels, Belgium c.1947. World ORT Archive ref. p06a050.

Just as important was ORT's work in Jewish communities outside DP camps, for those who found refuge there as well as those who tried to re-establish their lives in their native countries.

The end of the Second World War reopened the possibility of establishing contact with the surviving communities of Eastern Europe – the traditional area of ORT's operations. The area had been radically transformed. Russia was closed to access. Lithuania, Latvia, Bukovina and Bessarabia, formerly rich fields of ORT activity, had been absorbed by the Soviet Union. Above all else, the largest community, in Poland, had practically vanished. A straggling remnant of some 80,000 was all that remained of the more than three and a half million before the war. ORT together with the JDC came to their aid. The work began with accelerated courses for "declassified" adults. Once this most pressing task was under way, regular full-time schools for adolescent youth -were also instituted. During the brief period that ORT was allowed for this work, it was able to assist large segments of these communities to achieve a substantial level of economic recovery. By 1947, there was hardly an area in which Jews were living in Eastern Europe that did not have an ORT institution – in Poland in fourteen cities, in Romania in eight cities, in Hungary in eight, in Bulgaria in two and in Czechoslovakia in six. By the end of 1949, when the Iron Curtain descended, all international

Jewish organisations, ORT among them, were excluded from the region. However, between the resumption of work after the war and the cessation of activities, at least 20,000 persons passed through ORT programmes. A considerable portion of these succeeded in emigrating to Israel.

ORT however also spread its activities to new areas of Europe. Totally new indigenous committees had to be organised to administer the work in Italy, Holland, Belgium, Greece and other continental countries where ORT had no prior history to build on. Soon ORT was operating a substantial network of institutions in six Western European countries. Supporting organisations had to be developed throughout Europe, in Canada, Latin America and elsewhere.

An important and interesting chapter of ORT's work with Holocaust survivors was its activities in the International Settlement of Shanghai. At its peak the Jewish Community of Shanghai numbered 30,000 people. With the support of the existing community and international organisations, the refugees were able to find homes and establish thriving businesses. The 'Shanghai Jews', coming mainly from Germany, Poland and Austria, established their own schools, Yiddish newspapers, hospitals and a total of seven synagogues. Altogether 3,500 students, more than fifteen percent of the refugee population of Shanghai, were trained in ORT courses.



Students attending a class in mechanical knitting in the ORT school in Brussels, Belgium c.1947. World ORT Archive ref. p06a049.



## Belgium

ORT courses in Belgium were set up to answer the needs of young Holocaust survivors, who spent the war either in concentration camps or in hiding. Due to their insufficient education, lack of French language skills or in some cases lack of funds, these young people could not immediately integrate into the public school system in Belgium. The courses were established in cities with the largest Jewish population – Brussels and Antwerp. They were run in the form of practical and theoretical vocational courses for adults, daytime trade schools for youth, courses for school children as well as courses established in children's houses which immediately after the war were taking care of about 2,000 orphans of the Holocaust.

The first training workshop opened in April 1946 in Brussels and courses were taught by both pre-war Swiss ORT teachers and graduates of the post-war instructors' training. The subjects of the courses established in the school answered to the most immediate needs of Belgian industry and the first intake of 60 students was trained in cutting-out of garments, tailoring and sewing. Soon after that, ORT Brussels added training in technical subjects which included electrical installation, radio-technology, welding, gas, water and central-heating installation as well as a laboratory for a techno-chemical course.

Within a year of its establishment, by August 1947, ORT Belgium had opened 32 trade schools, training workshops and vocational courses in Brussels. By that time its courses had been attended by 616 students. From mid-1947 vocational courses were also held in Antwerp and Boitsfort near Brussels. The duration of training varied from five months in training workshops to three years in trade schools. One such trade school was a popular two-and-a-half-year trade school for girls, which combined general education on the same level as in Belgian middle schools with training in tailoring.

A training farm and agricultural school for 40 young *aliyah* candidates was opened in Kessel-Loo near Leuven in May 1946. The training included kitchen-gardening, dairy farming and poultry farming.

Those Holocaust survivors who intended to remain in Belgium were provided with help in finding employment. In case they did not speak French well enough to find work or were still awaiting a work permit, they could join one of the ORT former students' cooperative societies, which were organised by ORT to execute orders for local firms.

## Bulgaria



Rug making at the ORT Sofia school, Bulgaria c.1948 ORT's large workshop for manufacture of kilims in Sofia provided students with one year courses in carpet decorations, carpet dyeing and carpet weaving. World ORT Archive ref. p05a055.

ORT began its activities in Bulgaria in 1926. In cooperation with the Jewish community, it set up small-scale courses in the Jewish primary school of Sofia, which included woodworking, bookbinding and tailoring for younger students as well as a textiles course for adults. The establishment of pre-war courses in Bulgaria marked the beginning of ORT's work among the Sephardic community as until then all its activities had been directed towards Ashkenazi Jews.

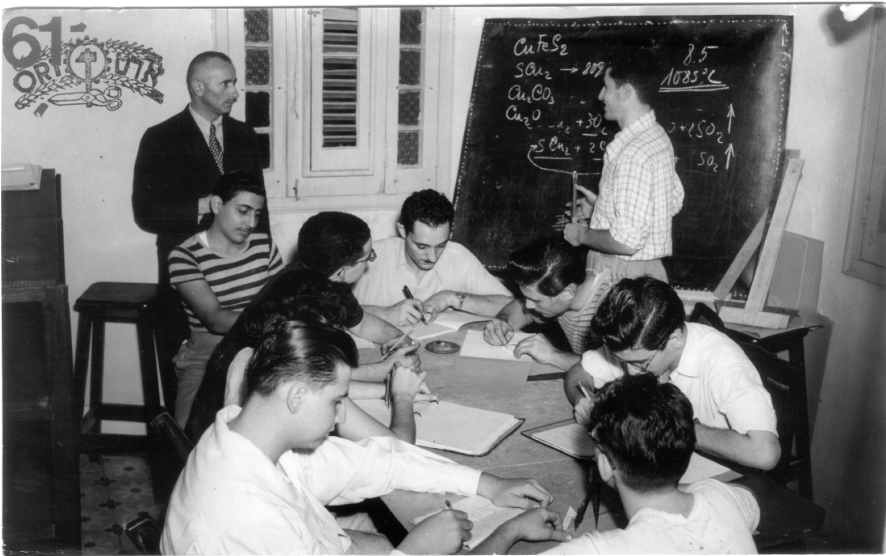
The work of ORT in Bulgaria resumed immediately after the end of the war. Since there were no displaced persons in the country, ORT courses were aimed at the Jewish Bulgarian community as the vast majority of Bulgarian Jews had been left severely impoverished by the war and were in immediate need of vocational training. The first ORT courses in Bulgaria were conducted in traditional trades – agriculture, tailoring, shoemaking, dressmaking, shirt-making, furrier training and cabinet making. There was also a large workshop for manufacture of kilims (tapestry-woven Turkish rugs), which provided students with one year courses in carpet decorations, carpet dyeing and carpet weaving. In 1947, in order to bring its programmes up to date and relevant to the needs of

post-war industry, ORT opened a large trade school in Sofia, with courses in various aspects of mechanics and electro technology. In the school year of 1947–48, the school in Sofia trained 800 pupils and served as the central office of Bulgarian ORT. The Sofia school provided both day-time education for the youth as well as evening advanced classes for adults already working in industry.

In cooperation with the Sofia Jewish school, Bulgarian ORT organised pre-vocational courses for children. Over 400 pupils followed five-hour-a-week courses in woodworking, sewing and embroidery, cardboard work, locksmith training and radio technology. The best students were given scholarships enabling them to attend the trade school in Sofia. Training of adults and a workshop for children aged 10 to 13 was also held in Plovdiv, an industrial centre and the second largest city in Bulgaria. ORT Plovdiv organised courses in woodworking, dressmaking and embroidery, which in 1947–1948 were attended by 210 students.

ORT's work in Bulgaria decreased significantly after 1948, when a vast majority of students emigrated to Israel. At the end of 1949, as in other Soviet-bloc countries, the ORT programme was liquidated by the government.

## Cuba



ORT students in Havana, Cuba. World ORT Archive ref. p00a361.

ORT's work with Holocaust survivors in Cuba started in 1943 when a school for newly arrived Jewish refugees was opened in Havana. The school offered courses in a variety of subjects: bookbinding, leatherwork, drafting, electro-technology, cutting and sewing. It also trained students in diamond cutting. In its first two years of operation, the school trained 259 students. Nearly all first-year graduates became self-supporting immediately after graduation. At the end of the war, as many refugees found new homes, the school closed. Two years later, however, a new wave of immigrants from Europe, consisting mainly of young people, reached Cuba. The ORT Union reported at the time: 'The need for vocational training became acute again with the influx of new immigrants to Cuba from Europe.<sup>3</sup> Following the visit of Philip Block, a former American ORT Federation Executive Director, and on his recommendation, a new ORT vocational training centre was opened in July, 1947. About 60 students enrolled in the following courses: watch making, manufacturing of fancy leather goods, cutting, dressmaking and dress cutting. The number of students at Havana varied with the arrival of new refugees from Europe emigration from Cuba to the United States. The average, however, was always about 60 students.' The school employed one supervisor and four instructors. Two-thirds of the students were men, one-third of them were over 25 years of age. The courses were given mainly in the evenings.

This successful programme continued until 1959, when the majority of the Jewish community left the country.

## Czechoslovakia

ORT operated in Czechoslovakia between April 1947 and 1 July 1949. During that period it set up a total of 32 vocational courses and training workshops. They were attended by 649 students of whom 229 graduated. The first ORT establishment in the country was a workshop for dressmaking in Teplice. Not much later schools were set up in Usti, Podmokly and Karlovy Vary. In October 1947, there were new courses operating in Prague, Liberec and Litomierzec. In 1948 a course was opened in Bratislava.

ORT's post-war mission in Czechoslovakia was particularly difficult. 'From the first day of its existence, our organisation was forced to fight against difficulties hardly arising elsewhere' reported ORT in 1949.<sup>4</sup> And indeed, the vocational school organisers faced a constant struggle to attract students to the courses and ensure that they complete them before emigration from Czechoslovakia. The difficult living conditions of refugees in post-war Czechoslovakia meant that most potential ORT students were forced to take any job offered in order to make a living and

could not spare time to attend vocational courses. According to an ORT report, a large percentage of the refugees at whom the courses were aimed 'required to earn their living chiefly by illicit employment, were unable, despite their willingness, to afford the reduction in earnings occasioned by the hours lost in ORT training workshops'.<sup>5</sup>

The second cause of difficulties in organising vocational training was linked to the transitory character of the Czechoslovakian Jewish community. 'But even those who embarked on vocational training could not be regarded as stable elements, as concerns the conclusion of their studies. Once their applications for emigration were successful, they departed, and thus, the total number of ORT pupils was often suddenly reduced by half, owing to the departure of entire groups. Vocational courses and training workshops, set up with a quota of 20 to 25 pupils, frequently numbered 10 to 15 after two months only, and of these merely 7 or 8 remained for their final examination...' according to ORT reports.<sup>6</sup>

As was the case with other ORT schools in Eastern and Central Europe, the schools in Czechoslovakia were nationalised in 1949.

## France



Fashion design class in the ORT school in Paris, France c.1948. World ORT Archive ref. p04a250.

ORT's activities in France started officially in 1921. ORT France originally concentrated on raising money for ORT programmes in Eastern Europe. The organisation's first vocational courses were established only after refugees from Nazi Germany started arriving in France in 1933. In this year World ORT headquarters were moved to Paris and started intensive work on establishing courses both for the native community and for the immigrants. After the fall of France in June 1940, ORT moved its headquarters to Vichy and later to Marseilles. Despite the war the organisation did not stop its activities. It continued with its vocational courses and expanded its work to French internment camps. The primary beneficiaries of the work of ORT France were not the indigenous French Jewish community but those Jewish refugees who had fled Germany and Austria and now found themselves interned as 'enemy aliens' in France.

Almost immediately after liberation ORT France restarted its activities in the country. Its aim was to help the survivors from among the French Jewish community as well as a growing number of refugees who came to France either to start a new life there or who considered it a stopping point in transit to Palestine. The first schools were set up in the largest French cities and in places with long established Jewish communities, such as Paris, Lyons, Marseilles and Strasbourg as well as in Toulouse, Limoges and Grenoble, where refugee communities had developed during and after the war. On 1 January 1946 ORT had 39 institutions for vocational training in France, 14 of these were located in Paris. In the next six months 18 new institutions were opened. The number of students grew from 1,225 in January 1946 to 2,925 in January 1948.

The types of courses offered in ORT schools included training workshops for adolescents and adults, proficiency courses for skilled artisans, placement services and complementary courses for apprentices and manual training workshops for children. The courses covered a wide range of topics. For example, in mid-1947 the schools in Paris offered courses for adolescents in locksmith training, mechanics, radio technology and dressmaking. Courses for adults were conducted in electrical installation, welding, radio technology, cable fitting, haute couture, corsetry, leather work, tailoring, trouser tailoring and auto mechanics. They were attended by 347 students. Particular attention was devoted to retraining survivors who wanted to return to their pre-war professions. Demobilised army men, ex-prisoners of war and people returning from deportation were provided with free machinery and technical help enabling them to re-establish their practices. In the immediate post-war years, ORT schools became not only vocational training providers but also important Jewish community centres.

ORT also operated a number of specialised schools. A marine trade school training seamen, fishermen, ship-carpenters and divers was opened at the end of 1946 in Marseilles. The school enrolled 75 students aged between 14 and 21, the majority of whom later planned to join the Israeli Navy.

In the field of agriculture, ORT training farms were established in Combes du Pujols, La Roche, Monbardon, Encoudrille, Les Bonnets and La Galiniere. Students were learning cattle breeding, poultry and dairy farming, how to raise vegetables and cereals and maintenance of agricultural machinery. In cooperation with the Jewish Agency ORT conducted agricultural training for young *halutzim* preparing for emigration to Israel. After their departure, once the students were established on their own farms in Israel, ORT provided them with technical assistance as well as credits for the purchase of machinery. Pre-vocational courses for gardening were also conducted in a number of children's homes for Holocaust orphans.

## Greece

The post-war Greek Jewish community included approximately 9,000 people, distributed between Athens and Thessaloniki. Since there were no DPs in Greece, ORT's work there from the outset was aimed at these two communities. As a result, the main ORT school in Greece was organised in Athens but also provided boarding facilities for students from Thessaloniki. The school started operating in 1948 and conducted three-year day courses in mechanics and dressmaking for pupils aged 14 to 18 as well as evening courses in mechanical drawing for adults. There were also shorter courses on various aspects of Jewish history and culture. At the end of 1948 the school had 120 pupils. In conducting the courses ORT cooperated with the Greek Council for Vocational Training which validated diplomas issued by the school. In November 1949 the *ORT Bulletin* reported from Greece:

'The ORT school in Athens is about to enter its second year and at present trains 71 students in dressmaking, machine-shop, welding, technical drawing and dress cutting. Advanced courses in dressmaking and machine shop, as well as a workshop in electrical training and a course in arc-welding are in preparation. New applications are steadily coming in, particularly from students living in the provinces.'<sup>7</sup>

From the end of 1948 the number of students in Greek ORT started dwindling due to emigration to Israel.

## Hungary

Hungarian ORT started its activities in the second half of the 1930s. Despite the outbreak of the war, the organisation continued running its newly established courses in Budapest and in the provinces. It also extended its work to Jewish refugees from Poland and Yugoslavia who fled to Hungary at the outbreak of war.



Students working with animals at the ORT training farm in Bonyhad, Hungary c.1949. World ORT Archive ref. p05a169.

The main ORT schools in Hungary were the technical secondary-level colleges in Budapest, which taught over 300 pupils, both girls and boys. Their graduates were awarded both technical qualifications and high school leaving certificates in general studies. In June 1947 the first workshops outside the capital – sewing courses in Debrecen and Miskolc, were opened. Later ORT also set up vocational workshops in Bekeszaba, Gyongyos and Szeget. An agricultural school and training farm was established in Bonyhad. A large group of ORT students were women whose husbands were deported during the Holocaust and who after the war had to single-handedly provide for their families. The high percentage of women resulted in a very high share of sewing workshops among the courses offered by Hungarian ORT. At the same time more technical classes were introduced, as the subjects of the courses had to fulfil the needs of industrialization and of the changing economic and political system in Hungary. Among the students



obtaining new trades were former shopkeepers and bank clerks as well as lawyers and others.

In mid-1947 Hungarian ORT maintained 27 institutions with 809 students. ORT's activities in Hungary became less intensive after the massive emigration to Israel started in mid-1948. As happened in other Eastern European countries, ORT's activities were stopped by the Communist government in 1949. In the beginning of that year, ORT's flagship schools, the youth colleges in Budapest, were nationalised. As a result, ORT focused on its work with 2,000 students in the smaller towns and opened an additional dressmaking school in Hodmezovasarhely. The organisation also continued running vocational training of adults in Budapest. By 1950 however all ORT activities in Hungary were nationalised.

## The Netherlands



Cardboard work course in the ORT school in Amsterdam, Netherlands, c.1948.  
World ORT Archive ref. p06a055.

Dutch ORT was created in the beginning of 1946. In May 1946 it began its activities in the Netherlands by starting a small cutting and dressmaking

course in a Jewish community school in Amsterdam. The majority of the first students were DPs and students without nationality. The group included many women who had lost their husbands during the deportation. The courses progressed rapidly and the number of students grew from 220 at the end of 1946 to 765 a year later. After Amsterdam, the next training centre was established at The Hague, and later in Rotterdam and Enschede. As in all the other countries, Dutch ORT encountered very serious difficulties when setting up the courses. 'Holland completely lacks some everyday commodities, not only are machines and tools not obtainable, also buttons, needles, shoe-laces etc. must be imported' reported ORT in 1947.<sup>8</sup>

An important part of Dutch ORT's work among Holocaust survivors was the creation of training programmes for children. Workshops for children aged 9 to 14 were set up in Amsterdam, Apeldoorn, Bussum, The Hague, Haarlem, Hilversum and Eindhoven. These courses consisted of pre-vocational training in woodwork, cardboard work, leather work and dressmaking. Additionally, courses were organised in a number of children's homes including the Boarding School for War Orphans 'Rudelsheim Stichting' at Hilversum, the Aliyah Home 'Birnbaum' at Bussum, the Agudah Home, the Boarding School for Young Jews and the Jewish School in Amsterdam. In 'Pedagogium Achisomog' at Apeldoorn, ORT worked with children with learning difficulties. ORT also operated 'Ilaniah' a children's village set up for 500 Romanian children and youths who were admitted to Holland to prepare for *aliya*. In most of these institutions ORT's vocational training was incorporated into the curriculum, allowing the children to attend the courses during school hours.

## Poland

ORT's mission in the newly independent Polish state started in 1921 in order to train members of the country's impoverished Jewish community. Despite the political and economic turmoil of the 1930s Polish ORT developed very quickly. In 1939 it ran 66 institutions and trained over 4,500 students. The organisation was active in all main Polish Jewish communities and ran a whole range of courses including day schools for youths, workshops for adults, workshops for experienced artisans, preparation courses for craftsmen government certificates, training farms and training factories.

The first post-war ORT office in Poland was opened in January 1946. Despite problems with acquiring instructors and premises and a constant migration of students, the organisation managed to rebuild an extensive

network of schools and activities which during the years 1945 to 1950 were instrumental in providing skills to more than 10,000 men, women and young people. The main ORT centres for vocational training were located in Wroclaw, Krakow, Lodz, Warsaw, Katowice, Walbrzych and Szczecin. Two of the organisation's most significant technological achievements during the period were the setting up of the ORT radio school in Dzierzoniow and the ORT textile school at Bielsko. A two-month course in fishery was organised for 11 pupils by the ORT committee in Trzebieszow, sponsored by 'Rybak' [The fisherman], the first Jewish fishing cooperative in Poland.



Students planting trees at the Jewish training farm in Bielawa, Poland. The majority of settlers in the training farm in Bielawa were Jews who survived the war in the USSR as well as former partisans. The grounds for the school were assigned by the Polish government and the materials were provided by ORT. Among the students were members of the neighbouring Kibbutz. World ORT Archive ref. p05a075.

In the immediate post-war years ORT paid special attention to young Holocaust survivors providing them with vocational skills and general education. The organisation set up courses in Jewish boarding schools and children's homes run by the Central Committee of Polish Jews. Most of the young people there were below the educational level for their age as those who arrived as repatriates from the Soviet Union often had insufficient knowledge of the Polish language, while those who had been in concealment often had no previous schooling and were riddled with

emotional problems. To help instructors deal with these problems ORT organised instructors conferences which allowed for the introduction of new teaching methods, exchange of experiences and improvement of the content of courses.

Aside from regular trade courses, ORT also ran advanced courses and qualifying examinations for older specialists to allow them to meet growing demands for formal qualifications. It also ran networking and support groups for graduates. Many of the schools also provided students with additional courses in Jewish language and history and held Jewish culture-related activities.

An important part of ORT's work was agricultural training. The organisation established two large Jewish farming centres, located in Dzierzoniow in Lower Silesia and in Szczecin. Most of the Jewish farmers later emigrated to Israel.

The post-war period of ORT's work in Poland ended in 1950. It resumed again in 1957 with the liberalization of the Communist regime and lasted until the Communist government's anti-Semitic campaign of 1968.

## Romania

ORT's work in Romania started in the early 1920s. In 1936 the organisation trained over 1,600 students in trade schools, workshops and training centres.

In November 1940 Romania joined the Axis powers. Despite harsh wartime conditions and mounting anti-Jewish legislations and pogroms, ORT's activities in Romania did not stop during the war. The main school in Bucharest remained in operation and the organisation maintained projects in Ordea Mare, Cluj and Jassy.

After the Second World War Romania became one of the most important fields of ORT's activities in Europe. Romanian ORT started its work by initiating reconstruction of pre-war schools and establishing new ones. At the end of 1946 schools were opened in Bucharest and Jassy, in 1947 in Galatz and Botosani and in 1948 in Cluj, Oradea, Arad and Timisoara.

Altogether, as of April 1948, ORT had 2,417 students in Romania – 1,179 in Bucharest, 393 in Jassy, 370 in Botosani, 169 in Galatz, 156 in Oradea and 150 in Cluj. The schools employed a teaching staff of 122.

In 1948 the large ORT school in Bucharest conducted courses in dressmaking, men's tailoring, underwear garment making, leather work, shoe-making, cardboard-work, book-binding, garment cutting, making shoe-uppers, tinware, toy-making, masonry, weaving, mechanical

knitting, mechanics, radio technology, electricity. There was also training in tractor driving. The majority of courses were full time and were attended by young people. The schools also ran additional workshops for students of the Jewish secondary schools in Bucharest. Besides offering vocational training, the ORT school in Bucharest became the centre of Jewish communal life. Every Saturday the school organised public lectures on Jewish history and culture as well as performances and concerts.

The situation of Romanian ORT was very difficult not only because of the acute shortage of materials and premises but especially due to the difficult social situation of many students. A significant percentage of the youth was orphaned, and many of them had to support younger siblings. Several hundred orphans attended specially constructed ORT courses in Bucharest which consisted of pre-apprenticeship instruction as well as schooling in general subjects. Special care was paid to the school for Jassy, where almost half of the surviving community consisted of orphans, many of whom had returned from concentration camps. In the Jassy trade school, ORT courses in metalwork, electrical technology, tailoring, dressmaking and underwear garment making were directed almost exclusively to students under 18 years of age. The student body of the school in Galatz was also comprised almost exclusively of young people.

As in Poland, ORT's work with Holocaust survivors in Romania ended in 1949, when its schools were taken over by the Jewish Democratic Committee established by the Communist government.

## Shanghai

At its peak, the Jewish Community of Shanghai numbered 30,000 people. With the support of the existing community and international organisations, the refugees were able to find homes and establish thriving businesses. The 'Shanghai Jews', coming mainly from Germany, Poland and Austria, established their own schools, Yiddish newspapers, hospitals and a total of seven synagogues.

ORT's work in Shanghai began in early 1941: Six-month courses offered by ORT included building trades, electricity, locksmith training and carpentry and later cooking, gardening, bookbinding, gas welding, typewriter repair, millinery, driving, wireless operating and industrial trades. Altogether 3,500 students, more than 15 percent of the refugee population of Shanghai, were trained in ORT courses. The fortunes of the community changed in December 1941 after Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor and the Shanghai community was cut off from communication with America and help from American charitable institutions.

ORT Shanghai continued to run its training courses, providing practical skills and moral encouragement. But by now it was completely cut off from World ORT and had to rely on its own resources. In 1945, ORT was forced to relocate to a metalwork factory when Allied air raids destabilised its building (it later collapsed). The Japanese surrendered Shanghai in September 1945 and the city was occupied by American troops. Many ORT graduates (and current students) found employment with the US Forces. World ORT re-established contact with ORT Shanghai and money was sent through in 1946, enabling it to finally move into a more suitable building. ORT's programmes were centralised there and its many courses included building, gardening, fashion-design, book-keeping, hairdressing, driving, spray-painting and the manufacture of neckties.

An ORT Bulletin report from January 1949 discusses the impressions of an American visitor to the school:

Mrs. Hirshenhorn described a carpentry class 'where they are building doors and windows as well as other construction projects.' The students, she said, built furniture in one class while an industrial art class supplied 'lovely decorative designs for the nursery school'. 'The children in this nursery' she explained, 'which is maintained by the JDC, receive a hot meal a day cooked by the girls in the ORT cooking course. In the bookbinding course former lawyers, businessmen and even a philosopher are successfully studying to acquire manual skills and produce beautiful pieces of excellent craftsmanship'.<sup>9</sup>



Fashion design exhibition in the ORT school in Shanghai. World ORT Archive ref. p06a078.

After the war there was a steady migration from Shanghai, with most leaving for Israel, North America or Australasia. At that point ORT's attention was turned to the needs of those seeking to migrate. A very intensive carpentry course was organised in the autumn of 1948 for young men who expected to emigrate soon to Israel. By 1948 the Jewish population had shrunk from 30,000 to 10,000 and the remainder was forced to leave after the Chinese Revolution of 1949.

M. Rechenberg, the director of the ORT school in Shanghai, explained that the school provided much more than just vocational training: 'Our training...was more than a mere teaching of a trade. Many of our pupils had suffered and undergone great hardships, and often have broken down under this strain. We tried to assist them morally, we tried to give them a new outlook and a new way of thinking, and thus to build up their character and personality.'<sup>10</sup> ORT's work with Holocaust survivors in Shanghai closed in early 1949.

## Switzerland



ORT carpentry workshop at the Home for Youth Aliyah in Bex Switzerland, c.1949. World ORT Archive ref. p07a101.

ORT started its work among refugees in Swiss camps and internment houses during the war. Its activities reached their peak in 1945, when a total of more than 2,000 students were attending 158 ORT vocational training workshops. After the armistice, the number of refugees in Switzerland decreased from more than 20,000 in 1945 to 6,500 in August 1946 and to 3,200 in May 1949; in consequence ORT reduced its work accordingly, concentrating on running specialised training for TB patients recovering in Switzerland and on advanced courses for ORT instructors.

The main emphasis of ORT's work in Switzerland was placed on youth training. The most prominent of all Swiss ORT institutions for young people was a large trade school in Geneva. The school operated between May 1944 and April 1949 and had on average 95 trainees, most of whom trained in mechanics and joinery. After graduation the majority of students emigrated to Israel. Electro-technical schools running 16 month full time courses were established in Les Avants and Anières. All twenty of the Les Avants school students lived together in a house provided by the Swiss authorities. Machine and welding training workshops were organised at Bex and Engelberg. Two-year dressmaking schools for girls were opened in Geneva and Basel.

A special category of ORT establishments were schools created for young former Buchenwald concentration camp inmates who in the second half of 1945 arrived in Switzerland from Germany. These courses were carried out in specially created sections of the Geneva and Basel school. The young Holocaust survivors were trained in a variety of subjects, with metalwork and sewing being the most popular. As almost all of the young people had gaps in their general education, the courses also included instruction in general subjects and Jewish history. Additionally, children's workshops in woodwork and cardboard work were set up by ORT in a number of children's homes maintained by the Red Cross and the Aide aux Enfants d'Émigrés.

The principal centre for vocational training of adults was Zurich. Between 1947 and 1950 various courses there were attended by 605 people. The main training workshop in dressmaking was organised in St. Gall. Additional training workshops and vocational courses were held in Cahmby, Clarens, Territet, Beatenberg, Meiringen, Morcote, Los Avants, Geneva and Lugano. All of the courses came to an end by the first half of 1949.

Swiss ORT also carried out specialist courses for instructors, who were to later work in ORT schools in Switzerland and abroad. A special school for this purpose was built in Anières.



From the end of 1947 ORT started work with TB patients, mainly in Davos and Montana. A large trade school in Montana trained young people who came to Switzerland from Germany to be cured. It conducted courses in sewing and electrics. The school in Davos held classes in sewing, artistic hand weaving and a leather work workshop.

## United Kingdom



Compass instruction on board the training ship T. S. Joseph Hertz. World ORT Archive ref. p01a507.

British ORT's work with Holocaust survivors started in August 1939 when, on the eve of the outbreak of the war, over a hundred pupils and eight instructors of the ORT Berlin Engineer School were transferred to Leeds in England. Once the school in Leeds was established it carried on the work and training that had begun in Berlin. It was divided into the same six categories: locksmiths, blacksmiths, plumbers, electricians, mechanics and welders. The school operated for two years, training both boys from the Berlin school as well as refugees from Czechoslovakia, Austria, Germany and Poland. A large portion of the school maintenance was paid by the American Joint Distribution Committee. After America entered the war in 1942, the school in Leeds lost its funding and was closed. Those of the boys who were already

trained, found jobs. At least 18 of them were interned and sent to Australia.

A year after the end of the war, in June 1946, training workshops for boys in mechanics and electro-technology were set up in Old Brompton Road, London. Later, in the same building, dressmaking and designing courses were opened for girls and women. The first students of the school were refugees brought to England and from the sites of former concentration camps in Germany. In the same year, ORT started training young men for careers as merchant navy officers and navigators. In agreement with the Jewish Marine League British ORT took over an anti-submarine vessel used by the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

From October 1946 agricultural training was provided by a training farm run by ORT in Bedfordshire. The Goldington ORT centre was established in association with *Hechalutz B'Anglia* and provided practical training in general farming, poultry keeping and market gardening. Within the farm was also an ORT workshop where students learned to carry out their own repairs. On the completion of their two-year training, the students were expected to immigrate to Israel, so they also obtained general education with emphasis on Hebrew and Jewish History. Describing the school, the *ORT Bulletin* wrote, 'They were a completely self-sustaining group. Through gardening, dairying and chicken-raising, these 18- and 20- year-olds, all from Poland, speaking a hodge-podge of tongues picked up in transit across five or six different countries, are learning to cope with the future.'<sup>11</sup>



## Notes to the text

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<sup>1</sup> Abraham Penn, 'The Road Back', *ORT Bulletin*, Vol. XIX, No. 3 (May 1965), pp. 4-5, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> Report on Germany and Austria, in Three Years of ORT Activities: Report for the Period August 1946–June 1949. Submitted to the Congress of the World ORT Union, Paris, July 10<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> 1949, p. 79. World ORT Archive ref. d05a019.

<sup>3</sup> Report on Latin America, Cuba section, in Three Years of ORT Activities: Report for the Period August 1946–June 1949. Submitted to the Congress of the World ORT Union, Paris, July 10<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> 1949, p. 152. World ORT Archive ref. d05a019.

<sup>4</sup> Report on Czechoslovakia, in Three Years of ORT Activities: Report for the Period August 1946–June 1949. Submitted to the Congress of the World ORT Union, Paris, July 10<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> 1949, p. 113. World ORT Archive ref. d05a019.

<sup>5</sup> Report on Czechoslovakia, in Three Years of ORT Activities: Report for the Period August 1946–June 1949. Submitted to the Congress of the World ORT Union, Paris, July 10<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> 1949, p. 113. World ORT Archive ref. d05a019.

<sup>6</sup> Report on Czechoslovakia, in Three Years of ORT Activities: Report for the Period August 1946–June 1949. Submitted to the Congress of the World ORT Union, Paris, July 10<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> 1949, p. 113. World ORT Archive ref. d05a019.

<sup>7</sup> *ORT Bulletin*, Vol. III, No. 3 (November 1949), p. 7.

<sup>8</sup> Report on Holland, in Report on the ORT Activities August 1946–July 1947. Submitted to the meeting of the Central Board of the World ORT Union Paris, July 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> 1947, p. 40. World ORT Archive ref. d05a014.

<sup>9</sup> World ORT Roundup: Shanghai, *ORT Bulletin*, Vol. II, No. 5 (January 1949), p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> Activities for the years 1947–1948: ORT Shanghai, March 1949, p. 27. World ORT Archive ref. d02a001.

<sup>11</sup> Mrs Ludwig Kaphan, 'More ORT Work Needed in Europe, Leaders Say', *ORT Bulletin*, Vol. II, No. 2 (October 1948), p. 8.



## Alphabetical List of DP Camps

**..ORT..**  
*in the - in der*  
**U.S. ZONE**  
**GERMANY - IN DAIJSZLAND**



Wojcikman

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## Appendix

### From the Archive

The following documents which are referred to in the text (*see* Notes to the Text, p. 73) are from the World ORT Archive in London.

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| Three Years of ORT Activities: Report for the Period August 1946–June 1949. World ORT Archive ref. d05a019. | 81 |
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# **THREE YEARS** of **ORT ACTIVITIES**

**Report for the period August 1946 - June 1949**

Submitted to the Congress  
of the World ORT Union  
Paris, July 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> 1949

## **ORT UNION**

**GENEVA**

**PARIS**

**July 1949**

105013

## GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

Three years ago, when the first post-war World ORT Union Congress met, the vocational work which we had undertaken for the refugees in Germany, was rather a spontaneous one. It began three months after the Liberation of the Jewish survivors in Nazi concentration camps, where a few former ORT workers started the first vocational school for Jewish DPs in Landsberg, under the leadership of Jacob Oleiski. Spontaneously other schools had been opened in neighboring camps. World ORT Union's activity had officially begun in November 1945, when Dr. Lvovitch, on behalf of the Emergency Committee, World ORT Union, visited Germany and signed an agreement with UNRRA and JDC. In March 1946, Mr. V. Grossman came to Germany as Director of the British and American Zones. Machines were sent from Switzerland and Canada, and ORT work started also in the British Zone.

Our organization felt the moral obligation to assist the most stricken Jews in the DP camps by providing them with vocational skills, and this was the general feeling of the 1946 World ORT Union Conference. But the time was not ripe yet for a planned activity to cover all vocational training needs in the former enemy countries: it was uncertain how long the Jewish DP camps would exist in Germany; everybody expected a rather speedy solution of this most urgent problem, while on the other side the influx of Jews from Eastern and S-Eastern Europe to Germany and Austria took on great proportions. Emigration to overseas countries was pending, but Palestine, still under the British mandate, seemed not yet able to receive mass immigration of refugees. ORT, which had very limited funds and operated at that time in Germany nearly exclusively with funds from the South African Jewish War Appeal, looked for financial assistance which would allow it to cope with the needs for premises, machines, raw materials, teaching personnel, transport, food and clothing for its prospective students, etc.

Three years ago the initial network of ORT schools in Germany provided vocational training for about 2,500 students with 80 courses, while tens of thousands of DPs were anxiously waiting for moral help in the camps through vocational courses, which should give them the possibility of emigrating from Germany with a trade in the hands so that they may be self-supporting in the receiving countries.

When, in autumn 1946, Dr. Lvovitch visited Germany again, it was necessary to bring foreign personnel to represent ORT at UNRRA and the military government. Mrs. Sylvia K. Margulies was named Director of the US Zone in Germany; the Munich area was organized, then the Stuttgart, Kassel and Regensburg areas with the effective help of our efficient DP staff: engineer J. Oleiski, Rabinowitch, Schachnowsky, and others.

Dr. Lvovitch presented, in the autumn of 1946, an ORT training program for DPs with the aim that 10,000 students receive vocational skills in the US Zone. At that time this seemed to many a fantastic venture rather than a realistic program. When this program was approved by UNRRA, the military authorities and the Jewish organizations, and an agreement was signed

with the Central Committee of Liberated Jews (which recognized ORT's exclusive competence in the vocational training of Jewish DPs), the execution of this program became possible. ORT called upon instructors and students and hundreds and even thousands came, especially those who were formerly instructors in pre-war ORT schools in various countries. ORT Union, it seemed at that time, tended to overrate its own forces when, at the end of 1946, Dr. Lvovitch and Mrs. Sylvia K. Margulies proceeded to Austria and prepared there another network of vocational training institutions.

Already in the beginning of 1947 the Jewish communities in the countries which had not suffered by the war understood profoundly their obligation to help the most distressed survivors of European Jewry living under the most inhuman conditions in the DP camps. World Jewry rejoined ORT's pioneer ideas: JDC signed its first post-war subvention agreement with ORT. The necessity of helping in the rehabilitation of the DPs was mainly instrumental in this. JDC not only put money at the disposal of ORT, but provided food, clothing and other assistance to the ORT students. UNRRA, having recognized the importance of ORT's task for the refugees for whom it had to care, assisted ORT in many ways: in providing premises, loan of machines as well as administrative facilities of different kind.

Early in 1947, the year of ORT's growth in Germany and Austria, a new phase of ORT work in the DP countries began. A flow of machinery and transportation reached our DP schools from Switzerland, France, the U.S.A. and other countries; under L.J. Walinsky, Director of Germany and Austria, foreign personnel was sent from overseas to the ORT organization in the US and British Zones of Germany and Austria, namely Dr. A. Steiberg, Mrs. D. Green, Dr. O. Dutch, Mr. H. Branten, Mr. A. Solun and others, and an efficient administration was built up.

New school buildings were provided, the old ones renewed, equipment provided; our instructors benefited from teachers' conferences and seminars, zonal staff conferences were called, exhibitions of students' work organized, new technical publications (courses of study, technical manuals and a regular technical review) were published by the ORT central office in Munich, the standards of the schools as well as the curricula were improved, the duration of courses increased, modern trades were introduced in such technical branches where Jews could benefit from German technicians for their resettlement outside Europe. Trade-technical testing was introduced into the schools and thanks to the Women's ORT Organization overseas our workshops were provided with raw materials so that our schools became really solid institutions providing to the DPs the skills they needed for their resettlement.

At the end of the year 1947, ORT reached in Germany and Austria the climax of its activities with 78 training centers, 597 courses, 934 instructors and 11,668 students enrolled, while during the year more than 3,000 pupils graduated from our schools. From Cassel to Munich our school network covered the whole American zone. We developed our activities in the British zone. In Austria, where the first schools had been operated for the Jews outside the camps, ORT began organizing vocational courses within DP camps. Our curriculum was established for 50 trades, going from dress-making to technical chemistry, optics, building trades and survey.

The DPs wanted to be trained primarily in modern technical trades, while in the needle trades - formerly one of the Jewish traditional men trades - 97 % of our students were women. This choice of modern technical and industrial trades was encouraged by our organization in order to facilitate the resettlement of its students in such industrial countries as the United States, Canada, Australia and also for Israel, where the need for highly qualified manpower was a vital problem for the future.

The year of 1948 became a year of stabilization and later of emigration. Stabilization first, because the great efforts in 1947 to improve the standard of our institutions and to assure longer training for our students, began to bear its fruits. In fact, our institutions turned out more than 4,500 graduates that year. But even the students who emigrated prior to graduation largely benefitted from the high level type of instruction in our institutions. ORT's performance was fully recognized by IRO which began to contribute funds to our DP program in 1948; while the World ORT Union subvention to Germany and Austria amounted to \$480,000 in 1948, the local income of our organization in these countries amounted to \$600,000.

1948 became a year of emigration when the new State of Israel opened its borders to immigration for the homeless Jewish masses who had lived on the blood stained German soil for three long years following the end of the hostilities. At an ever increasing rate DPs left Germany and Austria to defend their new homeland Israel, while the immigration bills in the United States and Australia made the resettlement of thousands of others possible.

The DPs went their way with confidence in their future as every fourth of them (children, women and old people included) had received some training at the ORT institutions in Germany and Austria. In fact, one half of all vocationally trained DPs (Jews and Gentiles) have been trained by ORT, even though the Jews represented less than a quarter of the total number of DPs. With the beginning of emigration new groups of students called upon ORT : after an agreement with IRO our students of the schools in the cities, the free living Jews, benefitted from IRO's maintenance and our activities for them were expanded, so that at the end of 1948 one third of our students were young people from 14 to 17 years of age. A coordinated program for TBs, invalids and other disabled was established by us with the assistance of IRO, JDC and the Jewish Agency, and a number of rehabilitation centers were opened.

In 1949, emigration continued at an increasing rate and ORT began to carry out its promise inserted in its agreement with UNRRA and the Central Committee of Liberated Jews that the school equipment will follow the emigrants. In a special workshop the machinery of our schools designed for Israel and other overseas countries was repaired and packed for overseas. Now a good deal of ORT's German and Austrian equipment has arrived in Israel in order to serve once more for the vocational training of the new immigrants and allowing those who had emigrated before graduation to complete their skills.

## GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

Three years ago, when the first post-war World ORT Union Congress met, the vocational work which we had undertaken for the refugees in Germany, was rather a spontaneous one. It began three months after the Liberation of the Jewish survivors in Nazi concentration camps, where a few former ORT workers started the first vocational school for Jewish DPs in Landsberg, under the leadership of Jacob Oleiski. Spontaneously other schools had been opened in neighboring camps. World ORT Union's activity had officially begun in November 1945, when Dr. Lvovitch, on behalf of the Emergency Committee, World ORT Union, visited Germany and signed an agreement with UNRRA and JDC. In March 1946, Mr. V. Grossman came to Germany as Director of the British and American Zones. Machines were sent from Switzerland and Canada, and ORT work started also in the British Zone.

Our organization felt the moral obligation to assist the most stricken Jews in the DP camps by providing them with vocational skills, and this was the general feeling of the 1946 World ORT Union Conference. But the time was not ripe yet for a planned activity to cover all vocational training needs in the former enemy countries: it was uncertain how long the Jewish DP camps would exist in Germany; everybody expected a rather speedy solution of this most urgent problem, while on the other side the influx of Jews from Eastern and S-Eastern Europe to Germany and Austria took on great proportions. Emigration to overseas countries was pending, but Palestine, still under the British mandate, seemed not yet able to receive mass immigration of refugees. ORT, which had very limited funds and operated at that time in Germany nearly exclusively with funds from the South African Jewish War Appeal, looked for financial assistance which would allow it to cope with the needs for premises, machines, raw materials, teaching personnel, transport, food and clothing for its prospective students, etc.

Three years ago the initial network of ORT schools in Germany provided vocational training for about 2,500 students with 80 courses, while tens of thousands of DPs were anxiously waiting for moral help in the camps through vocational courses, which should give them the possibility of emigrating from Germany with a trade in the hands so that they may be self-supporting in the receiving countries.

When, in autumn 1946, Dr. Lvovitch visited Germany again, it was necessary to bring foreign personnel to represent ORT at UNRRA and the military government. Mrs. Sylvia K. Margulies was named Director of the US Zone in Germany; the Munich area was organized, then the Stuttgart, Kassel and Regensburg areas with the effective help of our efficient DP staff: engineer J. Oleiski, Rabinowitch, Schachnowsky, and others.

Dr. Lvovitch presented, in the autumn of 1946, an ORT training program for DPs with the aim that 10,000 students receive vocational skills in the US Zone. At that time this seemed to many a fantastic venture rather than a realistic program. When this program was approved by UNRRA, the military authorities and the Jewish organizations, and an agreement was signed



HISTORICAL EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS

ORT GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

	<u>Dec. 31, 1945</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 1946</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 1947</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 1948</u>	<u>June 1, 1949</u>
<u>Training Centers</u>					
Germ.US Zone	n.a.	37	60	53	27
Brit."	-	4	12	8	6
Austria.....	-	-	6	8	5
<u>Total</u>	<u>n.a.</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Courses</u>					
Germ.US Zone	68	241	490	328	165
Brit."	-	14	61	44	36
Austria.....	-	-	40	64	44
<u>Total</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>597</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>245</u>
<u>Students' Enrolment</u>					
Germ.US Zone	1,895	4,773	8,412	4,559	2,473
Brit."	-	470	2,219	542	365
Austria.....	-	-	1,037	835	669
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,895</u>	<u>5,243</u>	<u>11,668</u>	<u>5,936</u>	<u>3,507</u>
<u>Graduates (Cumulative)</u>					
Germ.US Zone	-	1,038	3,099	6,167	6,926
Brit."	-	330	1,061	1,697	1,999
Austria.....	-	-	261	1,221	1,571
<u>Total</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,368</u>	<u>4,421</u>	<u>9,085</u>	<u>10,496</u>
<u>Frequency (Students enrolment, graduates and discontinued)</u>					
	2,395	9,111	22,680	22,268	8,448

C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A

Amongst the reports presented here, this will probably be the only one to supply a history from beginning to end. Work in Czechoslovakia having commenced in April 1947, ORT will end it on July 1, 1949.

From the first day of its existence, our organisation was forced to fight against difficulties hardly arising elsewhere. The causes are varied: on the one hand, the peculiar composition of the Jewish population, and on the other hand, the fact that there has been no Jewish social life since World War II. That portion of the indigenous Jewish population who survived the war, has been considerably reduced in number, and probably does not exceed 25,000, of whom some 5,000 in Moravia and 20,000 in Slovakia. In addition, some 10,000 refugees from Poland, Hungary, Roumania and Russia are at present in Moravia, regarding their stay as provisional and preparing for their emigration overseas. After liberation, the Czechoslovakian Jews were restituted their various businesses, homes and fortunes, or again entered Government or private officialdom. Accordingly, vocational training was indicated for refugees only, most of whom were supported by the AJDC. The remainder, required to earn their living chiefly by illicit employment, were unable, despite their willingness, to afford the reduction in earnings occasioned by the hours lost in ORT training workshops. This state of affairs again reduced the circle of prospective pupils. But even those who embarked on vocational training could not be regarded as stable elements, as concerns the conclusion of their studies. Once their applications for emigration were successful, they departed, and thus, the total number of ORT pupils was often suddenly reduced by half, owing to the departure of entire groups. Vocational courses and training workshops, set up with a quota of 20 to 25 pupils, frequently numbered 10 to 15 after two months only, and of these merely 7 or 8 remained for their final examination after a six-to-eight-month course of training. Some vocational courses, such as those at Karlovy-Vary, had to be closed before their normal conclusion.

Nevertheless, ORT's propaganda campaign during the first months, and the success of its training activities had an educational effect. With every month, interest in ORT courses increased, and the number of applicants exceeded 200 in the months from March to June 1948.

The results of our first experiments with ORT activities on behalf of indigenous Jews in Slovakia, begun in the Winter of 1948 at Bratislava, Kosice and Presov, were disappointing, to say the least. Whilst the dressmaking, weaving and leather work classes at Bratislava and the weaving class at Presov were successfully completed, the dressmaking course at Kosice had to be prematurely closed.

During ORT's two years of existence in Czechoslovakia, a total of 32 vocational courses and training workshops was installed, of which 30 were successfully maintained until final examinations. These were frequented by 649 persons of whom 229 graduated; 106 emigrated with certificates testifying to the training received, and 314 discontinued their lessons. Most of the latter category left precipitately, especially during the months from February to April, when they received their Israeli visas; most will have left the country by the end of July.

In view of the above circumstances, the quantitative success was not unimportant; the quality of the ORT training, however, was unanimously considered excellent. Following an agreement with the various Chambers of Commerce, the latter sent official delegates to act as examining experts. It is well known that Czech artisans are first-rate craftsmen, and very critical of other people's work. Thus, the fact that they were willing to confirm ORT's diplomas and certificates with their signatures is overwhelming proof of the high quality of ORT's training. In this connection, we should like to cite the statement of the expert assisting at the leather course examinations in Bratislava, notably a 72-year old artisan with 58 years of experience in the trade: "I am happy indeed to have assisted at this examination. I am convinced that it is possible to teach, in comparatively short time, a trade to adult persons who have never before worked with their hands, and, moreover, not merely to teach the trade itself, but imbue them with the love of it, facts, to which every examination product here bears witness."

All graduates willing to remain in the country, preponderantly those from Slovakia, have found employment. The graduates of the weaving workshop at Bratislava are active in the "Rukoteks" cooperative, while those from Presov have formed their own cooperative.

We are now negotiating for the permission to transfer ORT's equipment from Czechoslovakia to Israel, to which most of the refugees have emigrated.

Although modest, ORT's activities in Czechoslovakia have been important, especially for those forced to emigrate again, it is to be hoped for the last time, in order to build up a new existence in another country. In this connection, it should not be forgotten that our work has contributed directly and indirectly to the spiritual and intellectual rehabilitation of many thousands of persons.

## L A T I N A M E R I C A

As a result of World War II economic conditions in the South American countries have improved considerably. With the exception of Brazil, which participated actively in the war, nearly all the other South American countries derived benefits from the war by furnishing raw materials to the Allies, etc.

This general prosperity left also its imprint in these countries. The ORT movement in South America had, as a result, to undergo some modifications. Especially in the last three years there has been a decrease in the number of students attending ORT schools. Parents who had formerly sent their children to ORT trade schools, made different plans for the future of their sons and daughters, and this quite naturally, has its effect on the figure of ORT trainees. At the same time the interest of the Jewish population in ORT activities in Europe increased considerably.

The Jews of South America value highly the post war work of World ORT Union in Israel as well as in Germany, Austria and Italy - especially our work in the DP camps. This interest found its reflection in the membership of ORT committees in South America.

In Argentine, for instance, we have had 2.500 members in 1940, while in 1948 our membership increased to 6.500. The same development is to be observed in all other South American countries. Membership was doubled in Uruguay and tripled in Rio de Janeiro, Chile and Sao Paulo.

The very favorable attitude of South American Jewish leaders towards ORT activities also found expression in the various fund-raising campaigns which have been carried on in the last three years, either independently or jointly with other organizations.

In South America Jews of all classes and varied political ideologies are members of our committees. During the year 1948 ORT became even more popular and this largely due to the fact that we have begun to work in Israel, North Africa and the near East. New arrivals, who came to South America from the DP camps, have been, indirectly, excellent propagandists for us. The boys and girls who received vocational training in our schools, prior to their departure, have frequently found work even though they did not know the language of the receiving country. This fact has also created a favorable attitude towards ORT in government circles.

In the last three years all ORT schools in South America have been officially recognized by the governments and through official decrees received rights of governmental institutions.

ORT committees have also been created in countries where no ORT schools or courses have been organized due either to the small Jewish population or technical reasons. These committees help our movement both morally and financially.

### ARGENTINE.

The ORT school in Buenos Aires is one of the oldest in South America. There the first ORT committee was established and from Argentine, following the creation of the South American ORT Federation, the network of ORT schools spread to the Continent. Mr. E. Trotzky was the first delegate of ORT in South America. In 1936, Dr. M. Merkin joined ORT, and in 1941 Dr. B. Surowich

went to South America. These three ORT coworkers succeeded, in cooperation with a number of prominent Jewish personalities in South America, in making ORT work popular so that today our movement plays a vital role in Jewish life of South America. In this connection we wish to stress particularly the activities and devotion of the President of the South American ORT Federation, Mr. Moses Avenburg, its secretary general, Mr. Jacob Wengrower, both residents of Buenos Aires. In Chile, Mr. Samuel Goren is President of the ORT since the establishment of the ORT school in Santiago. Ing. Momigliano is President of the Uruguay ORT, while Dr. Malamud, Messrs. Sztern, Saubel and others direct our activities in Rio de Janeiro. Mr. Alfred Ettlinger and President Dr. Jacob Klabin direct our activities in Sao Paulo.

In Buenos Aires the ORT organization has purchased a large plot of land thanks to the help and active work of Mr. Jacob Saslavsky and other outstanding Jewish personalities in Argentine. Here, a large school house is now being built and only a few weeks ago the setting of the roof of the new building has been celebrated. The plot with the building represent a value of about \$ 150.000. The Buenos Aires school has been functioning in rented premises and comprises a course of three years for mechanics and electro technicians, and evening refresher courses for apprentices. This school had an enrolment figure of about 150 since 1946. Now it has additional 50 students in Hachscharah evening courses.

The program prepared for the new school will add the following trades to the curriculum: general engineering, industrial mechanics, agro-mechanics, welding, locksmithing, pressing machinery and electro mechanics, telegraph and telephone operating, auto mechanics, etc. The ORT committee hopes that in 1950 the enrolment figure of the school will reach to about 300 to 500 students since workshops for girls are now also being established.

The new school is organized along most modern lines and has a large canteen which is excellently supervised by the Women's ORT Committee. In this connection we wish to emphasize that the Women's Committee cooperates closely with the ORT Administration and does much, materially and morally, for the ORT movement in Buenos Aires.

#### URUGUAY.

The number of students in the ORT school of Montevideo, while more or less stabilized in the beginner's classes in mechanics, machine-shop work, lathe-work, locksmithing and welding, is subject to fluctuation in the 3rd and even in the 2nd year. Students in the third year leave school to accept jobs in local industry. The enrolment figure of the entire school, including evening courses in electro mechanics, varied between 60 and 100 during the period 1946-1949.

The school in Montevideo fills the important local need. The economic situation here is not as favorable as in other parts of South America and vocational training is vital for the local Jewish population. This is the prevalent view of Jews in Uruguay and we can state the three Jewish communities there - the community of Eastern Jews, German speaking Jews and Sephardi - have included in their yearly budget special subventions for the ORT school. Unfortunately, as already indicated, the financial situation of the Uruguayan Jewry is not favorable since Uruguay, of all South American countries, benefitted least from war prosperity. This affects seriously the financing of our institution there. But this school had undoubtedly the best prospects for further expansion. We hope that with the stabilization of the Uruguayan economy there will be an increase in the number of students as well as an improvement in the school's financial situation.

### BRAZIL - Rio de Janeiro.

The ORT school in Rio was founded in 1944 and has had from its inception, great difficulty in finding suitable premises. Therefore, the committee there decided to build its own school. Thanks to the financial assistance of the World ORT Union and to the enthusiastic support of the Jewish population in Rio, we have succeeded in the course of one year in erecting a magnificent building which is one of the best Jewish institutions in Brazil's capital. On the land we acquired we also plan to construct a second building. The late Simon Raskin left in his will \$ 50,000 for this purpose, but under the condition that the Jews in Rio contribute additional \$ 25,000. This sum has already been raised, in the near future we shall begin the construction of the new building. The land, buildings and equipment will be worth about \$ 250,000.

The number of students has been stabilized at about 80 to 90 for the long term schools in mechanics and electricity. Due to the lack of space the number of trainees remains stationary, but we hope that with the completion of the new building the number of students may reach 150. We also plan to open special workshops for girls.

Mention should be made here of the activities of the Women's Committee of the ORT school in Rio, which has achieved much in its membership drive. Membership of the Women's Committee has been raised from 600 to 1,600. Because of the multitude of fund-raising-campaigns the school in Rio has to cope with financial difficulties. One of our greatest supports has been and is the Klabin family, a well-known and respected family in Brazil. In general, the ORT school in Rio is highly appreciated by the local Jewish community. During the past year the Brazilian Government has extended official recognition to the ORT school. It now enjoys the same rights as other governmental institutions.

### BRAZIL - Sao Paulo.

This school is considered by experts to be one of our best vocational institutions in South America. It is efficiently directed by Mr. Alfred Ettlinger who, although a volunteer, gives most of his free time to it as well as to the ORT movement. He is assisted by Dr. Jacob Klabin-Laffer, a prominent man in the community. An interesting phenomenon is observed with respect to this school: Sao Paulo is one of the few highly developed industrial centers in South America. One would expect that precisely in Sao Paulo the number of students would increase from year to year since there is a widespread demand for qualified mechanics. Unfortunately, this school is constantly losing students, unlike the Rio de Janeiro school. The number of students studying mechanics and electricity decreased from some 50 to 30 during the last three years. It is difficult to judge the reasons for this. It is possible that the Jewish youth benefits from the favorable economic conditions in commerce and in the light industries. The school has a considerable number of machines and ranges with its equipment among the best organized ORT schools in South America.

### CHILE.

The enrolment figure of the ORT school in Santiago is more or less stabilized with about 50 students. They are engaged mainly in mechanics and electricity (courses of 4 years duration) plus special classes for Hachscharah boys and girls in mechanics and woodworking.

The Santiago school is officially recognized by the Chilean Government. Its examinations are officially validated and its educational program conforms to instructions from the Ministry of Public Education. The school prog-

ram corresponds to a High School degree (pre-University) in mechanics and electricity with a four year curriculum for boys from 14 to 18 years of age. In the final examinations, given before professors of state schools, our students have received a much higher percentage of good qualifications than those of any other trade school in this country. After graduation our students go either to the State University for Industrial Engineering or to Israel, while a third group is composed of graduates entering local industries or becoming independent artisans.

We should point out that there are a great number of non-Jews who wish to send their children to our school. The Santiago ORT school works in close cooperation with the Zionist youth and sends instructors to the local Hachscharah in order to give special instruction to the Chalutzim. The Santiago school is well equipped and brilliantly directed by two outstanding engineers, Messrs. Mankiewicz and Strasser, who work on a voluntary basis. The Santiago vocational school and the ORT movement in general are very popular with the Jewish population of Chile and are generously subsidized by the communities and Jewish population. However, this institution is in financial difficulties due to the inflation in Chile where life is very expensive and the social charges represent a heavy burden on the school's budget. These difficulties are, in our opinion, only temporary and we count on an amelioration of the financial situation of the ORT school as soon as the Chilean Peso is stabilized.

#### CUBA.

The ORT vocational school in Havana, Cuba, was organized in 1943 but was closed at the end of the war.

The need for vocational training became acute again with the influx of new immigrants to Cuba from Europe. Following the visit of Philip Block, former Executive Director of the American ORT Federation, and on his recommendation, a new ORT vocational training center was opened in July, 1947. About 60 students enrolled in the following courses: watchmaking, manufacturing of fancy leather goods, cutting, dressmaking and dress cutting. The number of students at Havana varied with the arrival of new refugees from Europe and the emigration from Cuba to the United States. The average, however, was always about 60 students.

Close to one third of the students receiving accelerated training were over 25 years of age. Two-thirds of the students were men.

The school operates with one supervisor and four instructors. The organization of a course in electro-mechanics has been delayed because of lack of funds.

There were periods when immigration to the United States slowed down while the influx of refugees continued and the school was not in a position to satisfy all those requesting vocational training. However, at the end of April 1949, the students' enrolment dropped to half of its usual figure, due to the graduation of 20 students and some departures from the country before graduation.

The 5 courses of the Havana school are given mostly in the evening and are both for young people and adults. No special theoretical training is required by the curriculum, but the necessary theoretical knowledge is taught during the practical work hours.

The Escuela Tecnica ORT in Havana is so popular with the population of Cuba both permanent settlers and those in transit, but the major part of

the school's expenditures are raised locally.

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\*

OTHER COUNTRIES.

We operated mechanical courses in La Paz (Bolivia) which had to be liquidated a year and a half ago because the Jewish population in Bolivia had dwindled down, due to climatic and political conditions in this country. At the present time we are operating short-term mechanical courses in Cochabamba (Bolivia) but, unfortunately, we will have to close these also in the course of this year for the same reasons. In La Paz we still have an ORT committee which deals with fund-raising for our movement. From time to time we succeed in obtaining relatively high funds there and therefore would like to see this activity continued.

In Lima (Peru) we have an ORT committee under the direction of our very popular and efficient ORT friend, Mr. Louis Schydlofsky. This committee, too, works principally in fund-raising for the ORT movement. We have decided not to open an ORT school in Peru because of the small local Jewish population.

There are two ORT Committees in Ecuador: one in Guayaquil and one in Quito. Both committees are engaged in spreading the ORT ideas and in raising funds. The ORT movement is very popular in Ecuador. However, the Jewish community is too small to warrant the operation of an ORT school.

We have a well organized local ORT committee in Columbia, Venezuela and in the Isles of the Dutch West Indies (Aruba and Caraçao). These are concerned exclusively with fund-raising. With the exception of Columbia, where, due to the political events, no campaign could be organized, we have received from Venezuela and the Netherland West Indies comparatively substantial contributions. Our movement in these countries is very popular and we can foresee a further increase in our receipts. In Trinidad, too, a new ORT committee has been founded with the cooperation of Mr. Averbuch and we expect to raise some funds there too. We have set foot in these countries and we can expect to expand our activities in the neighboring republics of the Antilles.



# **REPORT ON THE ORT ACTIVITIES**

**AUGUST 1946–JULY 1947**

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Submitted to the meeting of the  
CENTRAL BOARD of the WORLD ORT UNION  
PARIS, July 6th–7th 1947

**ORT UNION**

**PARIS**

**GENEVA**

**June 1947**

*desa 014*

H O L L A N D

Here all is very reliable but slow, one might even say very slow. The "NEDERLANDS E STICHTING ORT TER BEVORDERING VAN AMBACHT, INDUSTRIE EN LANDBOUW ONDER DE JODEN" comprises 3 local Committees (Amsterdam, the Hague, Rotterdam). They are composed of very influential Dutch Jews, who are accustomed to examine everything very carefully from different points of view, especially where expenditure is concerned, and who will realize projects only when not the slightest doubt, particularly by authorities, is being expressed. Naturally, such procedure results in very reliable work, but it entails also a retardation of this work. The very high costs of living in this country are a great hindrance, too.

Then, a very peculiar kind of Government bureaucracy must be mentioned, which, in spite of the great sympathy of the Dutch people for the work of ORT, prevents that assistance on the part of the Government, to which we are accustomed in other countries. An example: Holland completely lacks some everyday commodities, not only are machines and tools not obtainable, also buttons, needles, shoe-laces etc. must be imported. Under these circumstances, the authorities should appreciate and facilitate an import of machines and tools as done by ORT, which does not call for any expenditure of foreign currency on their part. As things are, the "appreciation" is not refused, but facilitation is quite another matter; and so we had to pay duty on each machine we imported, and only after one year's time did we succeed in being granted a reduction of the usual tariff.

But: despite all difficulties our efforts are being rewarded. They are stimulated by the knowledge, that all those, who depend on the help of ORT, are former deportees, Jews who came from the east, who will find no obstacles placed in their way by the Government, but who only with our help and in no other way can become firmly rooted in the economic life of Holland.

In the last months difficulties were arising in the Main Committee at Amsterdam which required a thorough reformation of this Committee. The Main Office at Geneva proposed to Amsterdam at least to change the form of a "stichting" into an "association" with membership etc.

The Administrative Committee asked Mr. van Praag, President of the Executive of the Belgian ORT, to go to Amsterdam. With his assistance the above-mentioned renewing and extension of the the Committee has been carried out. Dr. Vedder was elected as President. Further members are: Mrs. Wismuller, Engineer M. Cohen, Professor J. Coops, Engineer Dikker, Mr. Flörsheim, Mr. Fuks, Dr. A. Polak, Mr. S. van Praag (well-known Dutch writer), L. Raffalowicz (President of the Anski association), Dr. Simons, Rabin Dr. Schuster, Mrs. de Vries-de Gunzburg.

Recently 500 Jewish children from Rumania and Germany have been admitted to Holland by the Dutch government and at Apeldoorn a big children's village has been founded. The direction of the Youth Alyah applied to ORT for organizing of professional courses and children's workshops. 4 new children's workshop are in preparation.

The following institutions are functioning in Holland:

Amsterdam: 1 day-time trade school for electro-installation for youths is working there. It has 15 pupils and was opened even during the most difficult period of this winter, when all official schools were closed for lack of coal and electricity. Equally for youths is a workshop for girls, attended by 22 pupils, who are being trained in cutting-out and sewing.

A total of 41 adults are working in 6 training workshops for sewing. On March 24th and 25th, a group of pupils passed their final examination. Examiner was the head cutter of one of Amsterdam's most fashionable "haute couture" establishments, the "Bonneterie". Notwithstanding the very high requirements, the results of the examination were very satisfying, and most of the graduates have already found jobs. In February 4 new vocational courses for adults have been opened. They have a total 49 pupils, who receive 6 months training in cutting.

Of particular importance is the training workshop for mechanical knitting with 24 pupils. Just at this moment, when this report is written, we are informed that the final examination took place on 27th of June. Mr. Kossmann, instructor of mechanical knitting in

Brussels, was delegated as expert and the authorities of Amsterdam had delegated Miss Sicfforts to assist at the examination. The 18 candidates passed with excellent results, the average reached was "very good". The interest in this profession is very great and there are already sufficient applicants to form a new workshop, which will be opened in a very short delay.

1 children's workshop for woodworking, attended by 12 boys.

Nowly opened are the following institutions:

1 workshop for ladies' garments with 5 attendants, 1 professional course for cutting overcoats with 20 pupils, 1 children's workshop for woodworking with 18 attendants, 2 children's workshop for cardboard work with 50 children.

For technical reasons the trade school for leatherware has not yet been opened, but will start to work the next week with 30 pupils.

At Hilversum: 1 children's workshop for cardboard work with 21 children.

At Bussum: 1 children's workshop

The Hague: 1 training workshop for cutting and sewing with 15 attendants.

Nowly opened: 1 children's workshop for cardboard work with 15 children.

1 children's workshop for pottery with 12 children.

Eindhoven: 1 children's workshop for cardboard work with 12 children.

In total Holland possess 1 daytime trade school for electro-installation, 8 training workshops for sewing, 1 training workshop for mechanical knitting, 5 vocational courses for cutting, 1 training workshop for leatherware, 9 children's workshops, in all 26 institutions with 389 pupils.

SHANGHAI ORT



*Activities for the years  
1947—1948*

◀ORT▶ SHANGHAI ◀ע"ת▶

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF HANDICRAFTS  
AND AGRICULTURE FOR JEWS IN EAST ASIA

MEMBERS  
OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SHANGHAI—ORT  
1947—1948

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MR. W. J. CITRIN  
MR. I. COVITT  
MR. M. V. DIATLOWITZKY  
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MR. A. LEVENSPIEL  
MR. G. RABINOVICH  
MR. W. STERN  
MR. W. TISCHENKEL

**T**HE departure of the majority of the Jewish Refugees from Shanghai has brought to a close a very important phase of the activities of Shanghai-ORT—namely, the vocational training of the Jewish Refugees from Europe who fled the Nazi terror.

This, however, has not put an end to Shanghai-ORT activities. There still remains the necessity of offering vocational training to those who remain, especially the younger generation.

The close co-operation of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Shanghai Jewish School, and the Shanghai Sephardic Community enabled us to establish a second training school at 544, Seymour Road, and it is here where all our future ~~his~~ activities will be located.

We appreciate most highly the valuable services of our staff members under the capable direction of Mr. M. Rechenberg who at all times used their knowledge, abilities and experience for the benefit of the pupils.

In particular, our sincere thanks are due to the Central Board and the Executive Committee of the World-ORT-Union in Paris and Geneva, and our friends at the Financial and Accounting Office in New York, who understood our various difficulties, and it was only due to their assistance that we were able to carry on with our work.

This statistical survey is dedicated to our friends all over the world, and gives a fair picture of our activities for the years 1947-1948.

To our former pupils we can but repeat:

“BLESSED BE THE HANDS WHICH WORK”

**A. LEVENSPIEL,**  
*Hon. Secretary, Shanghai-ORT*

## Excerpts from "ORT in CHINA"

(Published in April, 1947)

WITH the gradual migration to other countries, the history of the Jewish Refugees from Central Europe who escaped from Nazi persecution and found a temporary shelter in this city is nearing its end.

¶ In the eight years of the Jewish Refugee Center in Shanghai which now represents a part of the latest Jewish history, the Shanghai "ORT" held an important place within this community, and its productive activities exercised a wholesome moral influence upon the Refugees. Our untiring and ceaseless efforts—in hardest war time, in the segregated area—made the Refugees understand that despite everything there was a future for which everyone should make himself fit in order to build up a new life; a task to be mastered only if a re-orientation towards productive work took shape in the life of the individual. To achieve this goal, "ORT" gave every possible assistance. During the ghetto-time we were a strong moral support to many fellow-sufferers, and our influence was as well felt outside, as our environment saw to it that the Refugees carried on as productive people.

¶ When the Pacific War cut off the connection with the United States and left us without any means, when the relations to the Japanese authorities grew more and more irritating, when the food situation among the Refugees became desperate, when the Refugees could discuss their problems with only the greatest caution—as, under German pressure, the Japanese fist was omnipresent—we "ORT" people did not lose courage. We kept on struggling to survive and prepare for the future.

¶ Our booklet "FOUR YEARS ORT ACTIVITIES IN SHANGHAI, 1941-1945" (edited at the end of the war) gives a full report on the war time. It bears witness of all the difficulties through which to squeeze it took much courage and diplomacy. Unshakable confidence in the future and the will to translate this confidence into practical work for the future governed "ORT", thus giving much impetus to the entire Jewish handicraft in the ghetto.

¶ With the arrival of the U.S.-Forces in Shanghai the practical value of "ORT" training was convincingly demonstrated. A great number of the Refugees who had undergone a training with "ORT" and even many of those who were still in training courses got wellpaid jobs with the U.S.-Forces, and it can safely be said that many more might have found occupation had they participated in a training course in time.

¶ The end of the war confronted us with the problem of adapting our activities to the demands of the post-war period. First of all, we tried to get in touch with our central-offices in New York which was effected through the assistance of a friend of "ORT", Mr. Trone, a man of authoritative position in the United States. His visit which he paid to Shanghai-"ORT" when he was on his tour through China gave all of us a tremendous uplift (October 16th, 1945). Our contact with our friends in the world was restored. Mr. Trone could fully inform himself about the work and activities of Shanghai-"ORT" and reported on them in New York after having returned there.

¶ Airraids on military targets in the vicinity of our Training Center, 475 Jansen Road, rendered this building ramshackle. It collapsed in September, 1945, and our installations were looted by Chinese mobs. Immediately, a temporary Training Center was established on the premises of a metal factory, 282 Baikal Road, where the courses continued until—with the financial help of "ORT" Central Board—a suitable building was acquired at 511 Dalny Road, where our Training Center is now housed.



¶ Since the end of the war the number of applicants to our courses increased so much that many of them had to wait for their turn to join their respective courses. In this connection it will certainly be of interest to learn that during the war time an extensive propaganda was necessary to impress the Refugees with the importance of a proper training in handicrafts. It proved even necessary to support the trainees materially as with food, clothing, etc. Times have changed. We are now charging small fees for our courses, according to the financial situation of the respective applicant, and we have found that these small fees constitute a valuable paedagogical influence on the pupils.

¶ Our activities are inseparably bound with the destiny of the Refugees, and with the liquidation of the Refugee Center in Shanghai our work and activities will also come to an end.

**Ch. ROZENBES,**

*Delegate.*

*Central Board, World "ORT" Union.*

## Shanghai-ORT in 1947/1948

Since the expectations of the Jewish Refugees from Europe for a permanent settlement in China could not be realized, we had to orient our activities with a view to their further migration: we had to consider what were the most suitable trades to teach prospective migrants; we had to shorten the training period as many of the Refugees expected to leave in the near future; we had to give our pupils assistance in migration problems wherever possible.

Last but not least, we had to provide for the continuation of "ORT" training in Shanghai for the remaining Jewish residents. In this respect, Mr. Ch. Rozenbes, Delegate, World ORT Union, before leaving for Australia in June 1947, reached an agreement with the Authorities of the Shanghai Jewish School (SJS), the chairman of which, Mr. W. J. Citrin, is a Member of the Executive Committee of Shanghai-ORT, whereby "ORT" vocational Classes were incorporated into the regular school curriculum of the SJS for their senior pupils.

In order to impress the schoolchildren with "ORT's" vocational training we displayed at the SJS articles made by our pupils of the "Dalny Road Center", and this exhibition proved very attractive to the many visitors and the SJS pupils.

The "ORT" vocational training at the SJS was commenced on Sept. 8, 1947, with Dressmaking Classes, followed by Carpentry Classes on Oct. 8, 1947. Gardening Classes were opened on Jan. 26, 1948 (Hamischah Assar Beschwat) with a tree-planting ceremony attended by all schoolchildren, on which occasion explanations were given them regarding the aims and objects of "ORT".

It is of interest to read in the "HAKOL", the SJS periodical edited by the pupils, notes like: "—the ORT vocational Classes are something we are very thankful for, and we should be proud of being pupils of the only school that provides such subjects—".

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC) put at our disposal a Quonset hut, and with the consent of the Shanghai Jewish School and the Shanghai Sephardic Community it was erected on their grounds, 544 Seymour Road. The opening ceremony of this, our second training center in Shanghai, was held on March 28, 1948, with prominent personalities and numerous guests present.

The vocational education of the pupils of the SJS gave much impetus toward introducing such classes into the other Jewish school in Shanghai which was conducted by the Shanghai Jewish Youth Association (SJYA). This school was located in Hongkew (726 Tung Yuhang Road) where most of the Jewish Refugees lived, and was attended mostly by Refugee children.

After reaching an agreement with the SJYA-School, the AJJDC, and the "Juedische Gemeinde", two classrooms of the SJYA-School were adapted for "ORT's" vocational training, and thanks to Mr. W. Tischenkel, Member of the Board of Directors of the Juedische Gemeinde and concurrently Member of the Executive Committee Shanghai-ORT, the school kitchen was equipped with all the necessary utensils by the Juedische Gemeinde.

We commenced the "ORT" vocational Classes at the SJYA-School in Dressmaking, Cooking, and Metalwork on May 17, 1948, followed by a Gardening Class on Sept. 20, 1948. Now, all senior Jewish pupils in Shanghai had the opportunity of taking "ORT" vocational training at their school.

When the AJJDC established a Nursery at the SJYA-School (June 22, 1948) our Cooking Classes were entrusted with the preparation of meals (about 40 portions daily) for the children and nursing them. The girls of our Cooking Classes voluntarily

devoted their summer vacation to this task, and thus obtained good practical training both in the care and preparation of food for infants.

Early in September 1948, on the suggestion of Mr. A. C. Glassgold, Director of the AJJDC, we arranged for special lessons in Bookbinding and the Making of Neckties for the elderly inmates of the Joint-House, 1859 North Szechuen Road.

Thus, the age of our pupils ranged from schoolchildren below 13 years up to people well over 60 years; and each of our students was assured of obtaining an adequate and proper training.

As to the scope of our work, we enlarged our curriculum with a series of new courses dealing with subjects not taught before: Auto-Mechanics, Cutting of Ladies' Dresses, English for Craftsmen, Millinery, Men's Underwear, Servicing of Typewriters, and Wireless Operators.

We mention, in particular, a Bookbinding Course for T. B. patients undergoing treatment at the Refugees' Hospital. This course lasted from Jan. 19, 1948, till April 15, 1948, and the final examinations showed good results. We were very pleased to receive a letter from the AJJDC which reads in part as follows:

"We understand that the response to this class by the T. B. patients has been very good, and we wish to congratulate you. Classes of this nature at a hospital not only serve to develop a vocational skill but also serve as occupational therapy for these disabled persons".

Also another course deserves particular mention: a training course in Carpentry for young men who expected to emigrate soon to ISRAEL. This course was suggested by Mr. G. Rabinovich, a Member of our Executive Committee, who devoted much of his spare time to the theoretical lessons in technical drawing, technology, etc. This course lasted from the beginning of September 1948 till the middle of November 1948 and, due to a very intensive training, showed excellent results.

The foregoing survey of our training activities gives proof of how flexible we have been, and of how we have been looking for every way and opportunity to be of benefit to our fellow-Refugees. Thanks to the good co-operation of all local Jewish organizations and Institutions—especially the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee—the aims of “ORT” could be attained, namely, to give all persons who wanted it the chance of a proper training in a useful trade.

In order to acquaint the public with our work, we displayed on various occasions posters and articles made by our pupils: we have already mentioned the display at the SJS (Sept. 1-3, 1947); we participated in the exhibition “Eight years of Jewish Refugees in Shanghai” arranged by the local friends of the “Yiddish Scientific Institute-YIVO in New York” (Oct. 28—Nov. 4, 1947); we arranged an impressive exhibition on the occasion of the inauguration of the Quonset hut at the SJS (March 28, 1948); we gave an informative survey of our activities on the occasion of the first visit of Mr. A. C. Glassgold, the newly appointed Director of the AJJDC, on May 4, 1948; we assisted the Council of Delegates of European Refugees on their Press Conference (June 30, 1948) in order to show the newsmen our productive and constructive abilities.

The last mentioned institution, in co-operation with the AJJDC and the Juedische Gemeinde, arranged a public meeting (July 21, 1948) to inform all Jewish Refugees that this was their last opportunity to be trained in a trade by Shanghai-ORT; this with a view to their further migration, especially to ISRAEL. This propaganda proved very successful.

In connection with these events, exhibitions, final examinations, etc., the English language Press, and in particular the local Refugee newspaper “Shanghai Echo” (edited by O. Lewin), published appreciative articles about our work, and thus contributed considerably to our popularity.

Our books and statements of receipts and payments have been audited and checked by Mr. E. Potok, Hon. Treasurer of the AJJDC, who certified that our statements were in accordance with vouchers and books which were placed at his disposal, and that he found all entries to be correct.

As a matter of course, we cultivated social life among the friends of "ORT", especially between the staff members and pupils. There were many such occasions. In particular, we mention the farewell party given to Mr. Ch. Rozenbes on June 23, 1947, when many representatives of Jewish institutions and organisations were present. Our last farewell party was arranged on Dec. 18, 1948, when 2 members of our Executive Committee, 7 members of our staff, and many of our pupils left Shanghai for ISRAEL.

As the housing conditions under which the majority of our pupils had to live were very poor, their summer life was very trying. Therefore we installed in the "ORT" Building showers for our students, and we opened our roof garden as a resort where they gladly spent the evening hours. We were pleased to note how many of our pupils became friends, and even contracted marriages.

The climax of our social gatherings was reached when we celebrated the UN decision for the independence of our old Homeland. On Dec. 3, 1947, we were "AT Home" for our friends, and more than 300 persons attended this reception. A few days later, Dec. 13, 1947, on the occasion of Hanukkah, we distributed to our adult and young students valuable gifts donated by the Southern California Region, Women's American ORT, which kindly "adopted" the training centers of Shanghai-ORT.

On the suggestion of our Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Levenspiel, an "ORT" library was founded who himself donated many books for our students, and when closing the "Dalny Road Center" we gave 75 selected books to the SJS, and 62 books and 130 engineering journals and catalogues to the AJJDC for shipment to ISRAEL.

With regard to our guests from abroad, we especially want to mention the visit of Mrs. S. Hirshenhorn on Nov. 2, 1948, who is Program Chairman of the Westchester Chapter of the Women's American ORT. She was given a good view on our activities and reported enthusiastically on her impressions to our Head Offices in New York.

The Central Board, World ORT Union, decided to arrange in the beginning of 1949 an exhibition in New York, featuring "ORT" work all over the world, and we sent there samples of our work which we hope will represent us well.

The figures of the following tables show the number of students at the Training Courses (technical, needle, and various trades)

from Sept. 1, 1941 till Dec. 31, 1946 of about 1,500 persons  
 „ Jan. 1, 1947 „ Dec. 31, 1948 „ 900 „  
 making a total of about 2,400 persons who have been trained in 115 courses in 29 different trades.

At the Engineering Seminar, Complementary School for Apprentices, and "ORT" vocational Classes at the SJS and SJYA-School we have taught about 1,000 persons in 70 courses.

We have taught and trained			
in the period	1941-1946	.....	2,300 students in 105 courses
„ „	1947-1948	.....	1,100 „ 80 „
making a grand total of about		.....	3,400 students in 185 courses

## “ORT”s Vocational Classes in 1947—1948

### A) TECHNICAL TRADES

#### a) Auto-Mechanics

1) 1st Course: Sept. 20, 1948—Jan. 31, 1949

#### b) Carpentry

2) 5th Course: Dec. 6, 1946—Sept. 12, 1947

3) Special Course  
for Emigrants  
to ISRAEL Sept. 2, 1948—Nov. 15, 1948

#### c) Gas-Welding

4) 2nd Course: Feb. 10, 1947—May 6, 1947

5) 3rd " : May 19, 1947—July 14, 1947

#### d) Electro-Welding

6) 2nd Course: July 7, 1947—Aug. 21, 1947

#### e) Service on Typewriters

7) 1st Course: Dec. 28, 1947—March 2, 1948

#### f) Wireless Operators

8) 1st Course: May 5, 1947—Sept. 11, 1947



**B) NEEDLE TRADES****a) Corsetmaking**

- 9) 1st Course: Dec. 12, 1946—Mar. 30, 1947  
 10) 2nd " : April 21, 1947—July 31, 1947  
 11) 3rd " : Sept. 8, 1947—Jan. 18, 1948  
 12) 4th " : Mar. 23, 1948—July 18, 1948  
 13) 5th " : Sept. 28, 1948—Nov. 30, 1948

**b) Cutting of Ladies' Dresses**

- 14) 1st Course: Oct. 14, 1947—Jan. 18, 1948  
 15) 2nd " : Jan. 20, 1948—May 16, 1948

**c) Dressmaking**

- 16) 5th Course: Oct. 20, 1946—July 20, 1947  
 17) 6th " : Nov. 26, 1946—July 20, 1947  
 18) 7th " : Mar. 24, 1947—Jan. 18, 1948  
 19) 8th " : Jan. 19, 1948—Nov. 14, 1948  
 20) 9th " : Nov. 18, 1948—Jan. 14, 1949

**d) Fashion-Designing**

- 21) 3rd Course: Dec. 15, 1946—April 30, 1947  
 22) 4th " : May 4, 1947—Jan. 4, 1948

**e) Machine-Knitting**

- 23) 6th Course: Oct. 20, 1946—April 16, 1947  
 24) 7th " : May 4, 1947—Nov. 7, 1947  
 25) 8th " : Nov. 10, 1947—June 4, 1948  
 26) 9th " : June 7, 1948—Sept. 3, 1948  
 27) 10th " : Sept. 6, 1948—Jan. 7, 1949

**f) Millinery**

- 28) 1st Course: May 5, 1947—Aug. 1, 1947

**g) Making of Neckties**

- 29) 2nd Course: Nov. 24, 1946—March 2, 1947  
 30) 3rd " : March 9, 1947—June 8, 1947  
 31) 4th " : July 2, 1947—Oct. 12, 1947  
 32) 5th " : Dec. 7, 1947—Mar. 21, 1948  
 33) 6th " : June 16, 1948—Sept. 1, 1948  
 34) 7th " : Sept. 6, 1948—Dec. 15, 1948

**h) Men's Underwear**

- 35) 1st Course: Oct. 8, 1947—Jan. 23, 1948  
 36) 2nd " : Feb. 12, 1948—May 13, 1948  
 37) 3rd " : May 24, 1948—Aug. 5, 1948  
 38) 4th " : Aug. 9, 1948—Nov. 22, 1948  
 39) 5th " : Nov. 23, 1948—Dec. 17, 1948

C) VARIOUS LINESa) Bookbinding for Beginners

- 40) 3rd Course: Dec. 10, 1946—April 3, 1947  
 41) 4th " : Jan. 29, 1947—April 30, 1947  
 42) 5th " : May 19, 1947—Aug. 18, 1947  
 43) 6th " : Sept. 25, 1947—Jan. 15, 1948  
 44) 7th " : Jan. 19, 1948—April 15, 1948  
 45) 8th " : Sept. 13, 1948—Dec. 28, 1948

b) Bookbinding for Advanced

- 46) 1st Course: May 20, 1947—Aug. 19, 1947  
 47) 2nd " : Aug. 20, 1947—Jan. 15, 1948  
 48) 3rd " : Jan. 19, 1948—June 6, 1948  
 49) 4th " : June 7, 1948—Sept. 19, 1948

c) Driving Motor Vehicles

- 50) 6th Course: Jan. 15, 1947—April 13, 1947  
 51) 7th " : April 28, 1947—June 15, 1947  
 52) 8th " : June 16, 1947—Aug. 14, 1947  
 53) 9th " : Aug. 18, 1947—Sept. 21, 1947  
 54) 10th " : Oct. 1, 1947—Nov. 23, 1947  
 55) 11th " : Nov. 26, 1947—Jan. 5, 1948  
 56) 12th " : Jan. 12, 1948—March 7, 1948  
 57) 13th " : Mar. 16, 1948—May 16, 1948

d) English for Craftsmen

- 58) 1st Course: July 1, 1947—Jan. 3, 1948  
 59) 2nd " : Jan. 4, 1948—March 4, 1948

e) Industrial Art

- 60) 1st Course: Dec. 11, 1946—April 10, 1947  
 61) 2nd " : April 14, 1947—Aug. 8, 1947  
 62) 3rd " : Aug. 18, 1947—Jan. 11, 1948  
 63) 4th " : Jan. 12, 1948—June 6, 1948  
 64) 5th " : June 7, 1948—Nov. 14, 1948  
 65) 6th " : Nov. 15, 1948—Dec. 17, 1948

**D) COMPLEMENTARY CLASSES FOR APPRENTICES**

- 66) Sept. 1, 1946—July 31, 1947  
 67) Sept. 10, 1947—July 7, 1948  
 68) Sept. 8, 1948—Dec. 8, 1948

**E) "ORT" CLASSES AT THE SHANGHAI JEWISH SCHOOL****a) Dressmaking**

- 69) 3 classes : Sept. 8, 1947—June 30, 1948  
 70) 2 " : Sept. 5, 1948—Dec. 31, 1948

**b) Carpentry**

- 71) 3 classes : Oct. 8, 1947—June 30, 1948  
 72) 1 class : Sept. 5, 1948—Dec. 31, 1948

**c) Gardening**

- 73) 1 class : Jan. 26, 1948—June 30, 1948  
 74) 1 class : Sept. 5, 1948—Dec. 31, 1948

**F) "ORT" CLASSES AT THE SHANGHAI JEWISH  
 YOUTH ASSOCIATION SCHOOL****a) Dressmaking**

- 75) 2 classes : May 17, 1948—Dec. 7, 1948

**b) Cooking**

- 76) 2 classes : May 17, 1948—Dec. 7, 1948

**c) Metalwork**

- 77) 3 classes : May 17, 1948—Dec. 7, 1948

**d) Gardening**

- 78) 1 class : Sept. 20, 1948—Dec. 7, 1948

**G) SPECIAL CLASSES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE AT THE  
 JOINT HOUSE****a) Bookbinding**

- 79) 1st course: Sept. 1, 1948—Dec. 27, 1948

**b) Making of Neckties**

- 80) 1st Course: Sept. 2, 1948—Nov. 4, 1948

## Training Courses in Building and Technical Trades

TRADES	NUMBER OF STUDENTS					Number of Courses
	Sept. 1, 1941 till Oct. 31, 1945	Nov. 1, 1945 till Dec. 31, 1946	1947	1948	Total	
Auto—Mechanics and Driving ... ..	54	272	146	43	515	15
Auto—Electric ... ..	—	31	—	—	31	1
Carpentry ... ..	97	5	1	11	114	6
Electro—Fitting ... ..	170	—	—	—	170	4
Locksmithing ... ..	111	—	—	—	111	3
Mechanicians ... ..	51	—	—	—	51	1
Radio—Technicians ... ..	—	34	—	—	34	1
Welding ... ..	—	30	37	—	67	5
Wireless Operators ... ..	—	—	13	—	13	1
Service on Type-writers ... ..	—	—	11	—	11	1
Total ... ..	483	372	208	54	1117	38

## Training Courses in Needle Trades

TRADES	NUMBER OF STUDENTS					Number of Courses
	Sept. 1, 1944 till Oct. 31, 1945	Nov. 1, 1945 till Dec. 31, 1946	1947	1948	Total	
Corsetmaking ... ..	—	17	33	26	76	5
Cutting of Ladies' Dresses ... ..	—	—	13	12	25	2
Cutting of Men's Clothes ... ..	9	22	—	—	31	3
Dressmaking ... ..	70	81	46	31	228	9
Fashion-Designing ..	31	28	11	—	70	4
Machine-Knitting ...	54	41	34	23	152	10
Millinery ... ..	—	—	10	—	10	1
Making of Neckties ...	—	30	40	25	95	8
Men's Underwear ...	—	—	12	48	60	5
Weaving ... ..	18	—	—	—	18	1
Total ... ..	182	219	199	165	765	48

## Training Courses in Various Lines

TRADES	NUMBER OF STUDENTS					Number of Courses
	Sept. 1, 1941 till Oct. 31, 1945	Nov. 1, 1945 till Dec. 31, 1946	1947	1948	Total	
Bookbinding ... ..	44	15	53	55	167	13
Bookkeeping ... ..	35	—	—	—	35	1
Chem. Lab. Assistants ... ..	14	—	—	—	14	1
English for Craftsmen ... ..	—	—	30	17	47	2
Gardening ... ..	77	9	—	—	86	2
Hairdressing ... ..	41	—	—	—	41	2
Industrial Art ... ..	—	15	40	42	97	6
Spraypainting ... ..	—	29	—	—	29	2
Total ... ..	211	68	123	114	516	29

## Summary

	NUMBER OF STUDENTS					Number of Courses
	Sept. 1 1941 till Oct. 31, 1945	Nov. 1, 1945 till Dec. 31, 1945	1947	1948	Total	
Building and Techni- cal Trades ... ..	483	372	208	54	1117	38
Needle Trades ... ..	182	219	199	165	765	48
Various Trades ... ..	211	68	123	114	516	29
Engineering Seminar	145	278	—	—	423	42
Complementary School for Ap- prentices ... ..	164	128	15	11	318	9
"ORT" Classes for pupils at the SJS and SJYA-School ...	—	—	57	176	233	19
Total ... ..	1185	1065	602	520	3372	185

## Staff Members of Shanghai-ORT 1947-1948

### Director

M. Rechenberg, Consulting-Engineer

### Instructors

#### A) Technical Trades

Auto-Mechanics ... ..	Mr. S. Klawanski
... ..	Mr. H. Nadersohn
Carpentry ... ..	Mr. A. Chanachowicz
... ..	Mr. A. Orter
Gas-Welding ... ..	Mr. G. Nebel
Electro-Welding ... ..	Mr. A. J. Solovey
Service on Typewriters ... ..	Mr. O. Hawelka
Wireless Operators ... ..	Mr. E. Mittler

#### B) Needle Trades

Corsetmaking ... ..	Mrs. R. Rosenfeld
Cutting of Ladies' Dresses ... ..	Mrs. Ch. Mamlok
Dressmaking ... ..	Mrs. H. Ascher
... ..	Mrs. B. Lehmann
... ..	Mrs. Ch. Mamlok
... ..	Mrs. G. R. Saft
Fashion-Designing ... ..	Mr. F. Wachtel
Machine-Knitting ... ..	Mr. E. Wachtel
Millinery ... ..	Mrs. L. Wessely
Making of Neckties ... ..	Mr. M. Gritz
Making of Men's Underwear ... ..	Mr. A. Nussbaum



C) Various Lines

Bookbinding for Beginners	... ..	Mr. J. Goldmann
	.. ..	Mr. J. Linsker
Bookbinding for Advanced	... ..	Mr. J. Linsker
Driving Motor Vehicles	... ..	Mr. K. Schefftel
English for Craftsmen	... ..	Mr. W. Rintels
Industrial Art	... ..	Mr. F. Wachtel

D) Complementary Classes for Apprentices

... ..	Mr. E. Ring
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E) "ORT" Classes at the Shanghai Jewish School

Dressmaking	... ..	Mrs. Ch. Mamlok
Carpentry	... ..	Mr. A. Orter
Gardening	... ..	Mr. D. Stern

F) "ORT" Classes at the Shanghai JewishYouth Association School

Dressmaking	... ..	Mrs. D. Ansbach
Cooking	... ..	Mrs. E. Stern
Gardening	... ..	Mr. D. Stern
Metalwork	... ..	Mr. W. Loeff

G) Special Classes for elderly people at the Joint-House

Bookbinding	... ..	Mr. J. Linsker
Making of Neckties	... ..	Mr. M. Gritz

Administration

Administrator	... ..	Mr. W. Kapise
Bookkeeper	... ..	Mr. W. Rintels
Assistants	... ..	Mr. D. Amtmann
	... ..	Mr. I. Driesen
	... ..	Mr. A. Philippsohn
	... ..	Mr. E. Scheidemann
	... ..	Mr. E. Wiehl

**The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
Far Eastern Office, Shanghai**

¶ My first close association with the work of the ORT was in 1945 in the UNRRA-DP-Camp at Landsberg, Bavaria. I learned there to appreciate the effective work of rehabilitation through training achieved by this organization under the most trying circumstances and with the most limited means.

¶ It was an encouraging thing to encounter the ORT upon my arrival in Shanghai and to realize that those who sought to prepare themselves for a constructive life elsewhere could here get the necessary preparation and experience.

¶ Many thousands of the Shanghai Community have taken advantage of this opportunity and profited thereby; many who ordinarily would have been considered too old and too set to learn a new trade or craft. But under the broad vision and encouragement of ORT even these elderly persons were enabled to prepare themselves for a life of useful activity.

¶ The work of the ORT has meant much in the life of the Shanghai refugee community, now rapidly and happily dissolving. Yet in the hearts of all who have been its students during the long and wearisome years in Shanghai there will always be reserved a spot of pleasant and thankful remembrance.

¶ To their thanks should be added that of the AJJDC which always found in the ORT, its directors and committeemen, full and generous cooperation in the task of rehabilitation.

**ADOLPH C. GLASSGOLD,**  
*Director,  
The American Jewish Joint  
Distribution Committee*

**Juedische Gemeinde**

Communal Association of Central European Jews  
Shanghai

Since the foundation of Shanghai-ORT the "JUEDISCHE GEMEINDE", representing the overall organization of the Central European Jews, has always been aware of the importance and necessity of vocational instruction, and has always promoted the work of Shanghai-ORT and supported it in accordance to its means.

It is indeed a great satisfaction to the "JUEDISCHE GEMEINDE" that more than 3,000 of its members have been trained by Shanghai-ORT where they have been prepared for their future in ISRAEL as well as in other countries, to become capable and useful citizens; a benefit to any country.

We express our gratitude to the World-ORT-Union for its truly generous attitude towards the work in Shanghai and we are grateful to the local Executive Committee for its valuable activities on behalf of our people as well.

The "JUEDISCHE GEMEINDE" feels proud that the meritorious staff of Shanghai-ORT have been Jewish Refugees from Europe themselves, and we acknowledge the devoted and fruitful activity of the instructors towards their fellow-brethren.

We extend our special gratitude to Mr. M. Rechenberg, Director of the local "ORT" Training Centers, who has contributed so much to the efficiency of Shanghai-ORT.

**ALBERT BANDMANN,**

*President,  
Juedische Gemeinde, Shanghai*

*Excerpt from American ORT Federation Bulletin*  
*Volume II, No. 5, January 1949*

**A**N ENTHUSIASTIC report on the work of ORT in Shanghai was given recently by Mrs. S. Hirshenhorn, member of the Women's American ORT New Rochelle Chapter, who visited the school at Dalny Road and observed ORT classes at the Jewish School in Shanghai during a visit to that city in November.

"It is not only from the point of view of the work done that the schools impressed me so favorably," Mrs. Hirshenhorn declared on her return to America, "but also from the point of view of morale.

"It is astonishing how these pupils are able to concentrate on their work and produce marvelous dresses, designs and pieces of industrial art, even while political disaster is closing in on them. In the fashion design courses, young girls who have never seen creations of the haute couture and who are forced to work with poor materials are designing the most fashionable dresses.

"With painstaking zeal, the girls in the dress-making class finish their projects to satisfy the highest standard of workmanship. In the gardening courses, the pupils are eager to prepare themselves for their future lives on the land in Israel."

Mr. Hirshenhorn described a carpentry class "where they are building doors and windows as well as other construction projects." The students, she said, built furniture in one class while an industrial art class supplied "lovely decorative designs for the nursery school."

"The children in this nursery," she explained, "which is maintained by the JDC, receive a hot meal a day cooked by the girls in the ORT cooking course. In the bookbinding course former lawyers, businessmen and even a philosopher are successfully studying to acquire manual skills and produce beautiful pieces of excellent craftsmanship.

Mrs. Hirshenhorn visited many other courses. She concluded, "and what impressed me most was the wonderful spirit which prevails in all the courses—among the older students as well as among the younger pupils and the children—the spirit of devotion to their work, their school and ORT—the spirit which emanates from the director of the school, Eng. M. Rechenberg, and his able and equally devoted staff"

**O**UR report "Four years ORT activities in Shanghai" covers the wartime period 1941-1945, and the report "ORT in China" the first postwar period; in addition, the present report reviews the last two years of the Shanghai-ORT's activities.

The statistical data and figures speak a clear language: they tell of our work, done day for day through seven and a half years. During their transitory stay in Shanghai, more than 3,000 Refugees obtained vocational training through "ORT". They represent more than 15% of all the Refugees in Shanghai.

When Shanghai grew more and more important as a haven for Jewish Refugees from Europe, Mr. Ch. Rozenbes was delegated in 1941 by the Central Board, World ORT Union, to establish here a vocational Training Center. It was he who made us familiar with "ORT" and all that it stands for, and it was the World ORT Union which supported us financially and morally all the time.

It was the good will of our friends here, of the Jewish Institutions and Organizations, of the Members of our local Executive Committee and of our Staff; and on the part of our students, understanding of the importance and necessity to become vocationally trained, these were all factors which made it possible to attain such fine results.

Our training, however, was more than a mere teaching of a trade. Many of our pupils had suffered and undergone great hardships, and often have broken down under this strain. We tried to assist them morally, we tried to give them a new outlook and a new way of thinking, and thus to build up their character and personality.

We believe that only work combined with a right way of thinking can make men content, and give them that happiness for which we all are striving so ardently.

Our task here is now accomplished, and I am about to leave Shanghai for another sphere of activity.

I am under much obligation to the numerous friends of Shanghai-ORT and to its Committee Members. In particular, it is with all my heart that I thank Mr. W. J. Citrin and Mr. A. Levenspiel, our Hon. Treasurer and our Hon. Secretary, respectively, for their invaluable assistance in handling our affairs.

The members of the big "ORT" family—which we have formed here—will always remain in my thought and memory, and I wish to extend to them—wherever they may be—my good wishes for their future.

**M. RECHENBERG,**

*Director,*

*"ORT" Training Centers, Shanghai*

Shanghai, in March 1949.

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