

Sir,

As the founder of the Jewish Regiment for service in Palestine I take the liberty to beg the favour of your attention in a matter of importance.

No mention was made in the official communiques of the participation of a Jewish contingent in the recent offensive. I regret to say that this omission did us considerable harm. It was well known in Palestine, Egypt, and evrywhere abroad, that at least twø of the Jewish battalions are already in the field. The official silence about them - confronted with explicite mentions of Irish, Welsh or French troops - could not fail to create a painful impression. Our friends are afraid the silence means failure and perhaps disgrace. Our enemies, especially those among Arabs, openly rejoice and spread the most humiliating commentaries. There can be no doubt, unfortunately, that the same impression prevails in Europe and America. You know what efforts were made, especially in the U.S., to recruit volunteers for these battalions, and as a matter of fact 350 of these Americans took part the operations in the Jordan Valley. The official silence is bound to bring consternation in the ranks of those who worked for this movement; it is bound to give food and fuel to Antisemites who will gladly seize the opportunity to say that Jews have proved a failure even when given a chance to fight for Palestine.

You personally know, Sir, how undeserved this impression is. You know that we were given a responsible sector of the line and did our

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duty. It was a result of your victory, but certainly not our fault, if the Turks retreated before we~~s~~ were ordered to attack. We had casualties and medals. We have had no chance to perform anything striking, but there was nothing like weakness or failure on our side. But the silence in the official communiques will be interpreted by friend and foe as evidence of our weakness and failure.

Sir, it is not a question of two battalions - it is a question of one of the nationalities which have honestly collaborated in your offensive. The British Government have recognised Jews as a nation. The Government have formed Jewish battalions and sent them to Palestine. It was done with the explicit aim to preclude for ever the recurrence of the reproach that Palestine was liberated by strangers without Jewish participation. And we did participate. Why is this fact not acknowledged officially? Is it fair to omit mentioning just us of all the nationalities represented in the offensive?

I am sure, Sir, there is no intention to harm or humiliate us. I do entreat you, therefore, to repair, in a fair-minded and generous way, the harm unwillingly done, by causing an official notice to be published in Palestine and abroad acknowledging the participation of a Jewish contingent in the recent operations.

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,