Life between Memory and Hope

*The Survivors of the Holocaust in Occupied Germany*

Zeev W. Mankowitz tells the remarkable story of the 250,000 survivors of the Holocaust who converged on the American Zone of Occupied Germany from 1945 to 1948. They envisaged themselves as the living bridge between destruction and rebirth, the last remnants of a world destroyed and the active agents of its return to life. Much of what has been written to date looks at the Surviving Remnant through the eyes of others and thus has often failed to disclose the tragic complexity of their lives together with their remarkable political and social achievements. Despite the fact that they had lost everyone and everything, they got on with their lives, they married, had children and worked for a better future. They did not surrender to the deformities of suffering and managed to preserve their humanity intact. Using largely inaccessible archival material, Mankowitz gives a moving and sensitive account of this neglected area in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust.

ZEEV W. MANKOWITZ is a senior lecturer at the Melton Centre for Jewish Education, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
In recent years the field of modern history has been enriched by the exploration of two parallel histories. These are the social and cultural history of armed conflict, and the impact of military events on social and cultural history. *Studies in the Social and Cultural History of Modern Warfare* presents the fruits of this growing area of research, reflecting both the colonization of military history by cultural historians and the reciprocal interest of military historians in social and cultural history, to the benefit of both. The series offers the latest scholarship in European and non-European events from the 1850s to the present day.

*For a list of titles in the series, please see end of book.*
Life between Memory and Hope

The Survivors of the Holocaust in Occupied Germany

Zeev W. Mankowitz

Hebrew University of Jerusalem
In loving memory of Gene
and to our children Yonit and Noam,
the light of my life
Contents

Plates viii
Acknowledgments ix
Abbreviations and note on spelling and dates xi

Introduction 1
1 The occupation of Germany and the survivors: an overview 11
2 The formation of She’erith Hapleitah: November 1944 – July 1945 24
3 She’erith Hapleitah enters the international arena: July–October 1945 52
4 Hopes of Zion: September 1945 – January 1946 69
5 In search of a new politics: unity versus division 88
6 The Central Committee of the Liberated Jews in Bavaria 101
7 The politics of education 131
8 Two voices from Landsberg: Rudolf Valsonok and Samuel Gringauz 161
9 Destruction and remembrance 192
10 The survivors confront Germany 226
11 She’erith Hapleitah towards 1947 263
Concluding remarks 285

Bibliography 304
Index 318
Plates

1 The anguish of liberation, Dachau, April 1945  page  15
2 Buchenwald after liberation – the first Sabbath prayers  27
3 A Polish repatriate family in Occupied Germany c. late 1946  107
4 Sarah Robinson feeding her daughter Alice, Zeilsheim  132
5 Mothers and children in Zeilsheim  133
6 Teaching Hebrew to the young  134
7 The Kibbutz Buchenwald Agricultural Training Farm in Geringshof  146
8 Elections for the Camp Committee in Landsberg  171
9 A political protest march  271
10 Learning a new trade, preparing for the future  277
11 Mr. Griebler prepares to set sail for Palestine, 1947  295
Acknowledgments

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My association with the International Center for Advanced Studies at Yad Vashem in 1999 allowed me to reenter the world of research while a Koerner Visiting Fellowship at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies granted me a year of friendly support and productive peace midst the sylvan beauty of Yarnton Manor. The Melton Center for Jewish Education, my academic home in the Hebrew University, is justifiably known for the intellectual ferment and generous collegiality that I have been fortunate enough to share. I owe a special vote of thanks to my friend and mentor Michael Rosenak, to Carmen Sharon, the Administrative Director, whose friendship and concern went far beyond the call of duty, and Vivienne Burstein who graciously granted me academic assistance every step of the way. I should also like to acknowledge the
x  Acknowledgments

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Finally I wish to thank my wife Bella who, when all was dark, gave me the loving care that helped me start anew.
Abbreviations and note on spelling and dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AACI</td>
<td>Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJDC</td>
<td>American Joint Distribution Committee (often shortened to JDC or, simply, the Joint), the charitable arm of American Jews to needy communities overseas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZA</td>
<td>American Zionist Archive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDPX</td>
<td>Combined Displaced Persons Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CZA</td>
<td>Central Zionist Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DP</td>
<td>Displaced person, stateless as a result of the dislocations of the Second World War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLK</td>
<td>Fun Letstn Khurbn (From the Recent Destruction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRUS</td>
<td>Foreign Relations of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHA</td>
<td>Hashomer Hatzair Archive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF</td>
<td>Israel Defence Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMT</td>
<td>International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLT</td>
<td>Landsberger Lager Tsaytung (in the original Polish transliteration ‘Caitung’), the influential weekly of the Landsberg DP camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>National Archives, Washington DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHD</td>
<td>Oral History Department of the Institute for Contemporary Jewry, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSE</td>
<td>L’Œuvre de Secour aux Enfants, a leading French–Jewish philanthropic organization focusing on the health needs of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRO</td>
<td>Public Records Office, London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rec.A-A</td>
<td>Records of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAEF</td>
<td>Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THK</td>
<td>Tsentraler Historisher Komisiye, Central Historical Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNRRA</td>
<td>United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UZO</td>
<td>United Zionist Organization in Bavaria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abbreviations and note on spelling and dates

YIVO The well-known Yiddish Institute for Jewish Research that was transferred from Vilna, Lithuania, to New York in 1939

YSA Yad Vashem Archive

YT Yiddishe Tsaytung that replaced the Landsberger Lager Tsaytung

ZK Zentral komitet fun di bafreite yidn in datyshland – the Central Committee of the Liberated Jews in Germany (later changed to ‘in Bavaria’)

Note on spelling and dates

She’erith Hapleitah – the Surviving Remnant has been variously transliterated and I have retained the variant forms that appear in the diverse sources I have used.

In the second half of the 1940s the accepted plural acronym for Displaced Persons was DP’s which I have retained when quoting. Elsewhere I prefer the contemporary usage – DPs.

I have used the European practice of day/month/year throughout.