

A Week in Barnet 75 years ago

November 19th 1938



This week a Scroll of Law is rescued from the burned out shell of a German Synagogue and brought to The North Western Synagogue in Alyth Gardens Temple Fortune

This week from the *Hendon Times* November 21st 1938. Following the destruction of Jewish properties, shops, and synagogues in Germany during what has become known as Kristallnacht, a Sepher Torah is brought to safety in Temple fortune.

FROM A BURNED SYNAGOGUE.

German Scroll of the Law Presented to Reform Jews.

Rescued from one of the synagogues which have been destroyed in Germany, a scroll of the law, one of the most valued possessions of the Jewish community. was brought to Golders Green on Saturday and placed in the ark at the North-West London Reform Synagogue, Alyth-gardens.

As it was carried in a red velvet case through the Crowded congregation the

sight of it moved many women in the gathering to tears.

In the procession were a number of ex-Service Jews from Germany wearing the Iron Cross and other war



Outside North Western Synagogue on the 19th November 1938 Courtesy of the North Western Synagogue

decorations. Member of the London Jewish ex-Servicemen's Legion provided an escort.

The scroll was received on behalf of the synagogue congregation by the Rabbi (the Rev. M. L. Perizweig), who read the story of the sacrifice of Isaac in Hebrew and English from the parchment.

Accepting the gift, the Rabbi said "We pledge ourselves before God and man that we shall be faithful to the faith and fellowship of Israel. We shall guard the gift against the day, which shall surely come, when freedom and justice shall reign again in the land of your birth and you shall take back with you this symbol of the abiding faithfulness of Israel."

In his sermon, the Rev, M. L. Perizweig said: "We think of what has been wantonly destroyed by a cruel, bloodstained tyranny. If all the world forget this agony of our brethren in Germany, we shall not."

"We shall not go down in this struggle. We shall astonish the world by the sacrifice we shall bring, not in the cause of the Jew alone, but in the cause of human freedom.



Rabbi Rev. M. L. Perizweig courtesy of the North Western Synagogue

"We shall answer the challenge by taking up the battle for right. We have

lived as a people for three-and-a-half thousand years and have passed through every experience known to human history. Through that experience we have learned one thing more deeply than another — that mankind is one, that liberty is indivisible, that if liberty go down there, so it will go down here and if the Jew go down, the Christian, 'Protestant, Catholic, democracy and freemen will go down.

"The fight will be won for the soul of the world and not merely for the salvation of Israel. That is our answer to the cruelty. We are not deceived by what has taken place. Weeks ago the Jews of Germany were compelled to register all they possess. The estimates were ludicrously exaggerated and there has been wholesale robbery of the community. The Jewish community in Germany is being reduced to the lowest poverty any community has ever known. As

though that is not enough, a new burden has been wantonly imposed on them. They are being held as hostages settle some colossal fine is paid, not by the Jews of Germany, but of the world.

"Let me say to these blackmailers that the Jewish people will not be bludgeoned into paying this fine. I have reason to believe there are statesmen in Europe in whom something of the old fire of self-respect still burns who will see to it that this way of bringing foreign money into Germany is not successful.

"It is my faith that this scroll we have received has not come for ever from the spot whence it came. The day

will come when the people of Germany will cast out the tyranny which oppresses them and the law of God will come back to reign."

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