



A former college professor as an officer in a Jewish transport unit.

STORM SIGNAL

By **PIERRE VAN PAASSEN**
Author of "The Forgotten Ally"

THE defenders of the indefensible policy of snuffing the breath out of the program for Palestine reconstruction cannot find any legitimate means of justifying the emasculation of Jewish rights which was only a short time ago advanced to avoid a "grave crisis" in the Arab world. Since no arguments can now be brought forward in support of the White Paper, the only alternative is to attempt to demonstrate that Palestine Jewry deserves nothing better. Therefore, the gun-running trials, therefore the dastardly charge that Jews have rushed to join the British army not out of a passionate desire to preserve democracy, but out of a diabolical intent to train a large body of men for revolt against British administration. Every effort is being made to provoke some element in the Jewish community to an act of violence in order to supply the Palestine Administration with the excuse to dissolve Jewish authority and supervision over the program of Jewish development.

It is no accident that much of the fire of the colonial officials is being concentrated on the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The Jewish Agency is the main target,

the chief objective, for it is the internationally recognized Jewish body entrusted with the task of administering the Jewish homeland and it would be a major victory if the Jewish Agency were discredited and the defenders of the White Paper policy could point to the fact that the Jews could not be trusted with the important job of building a homeland, much less their own commonwealth in Palestine.

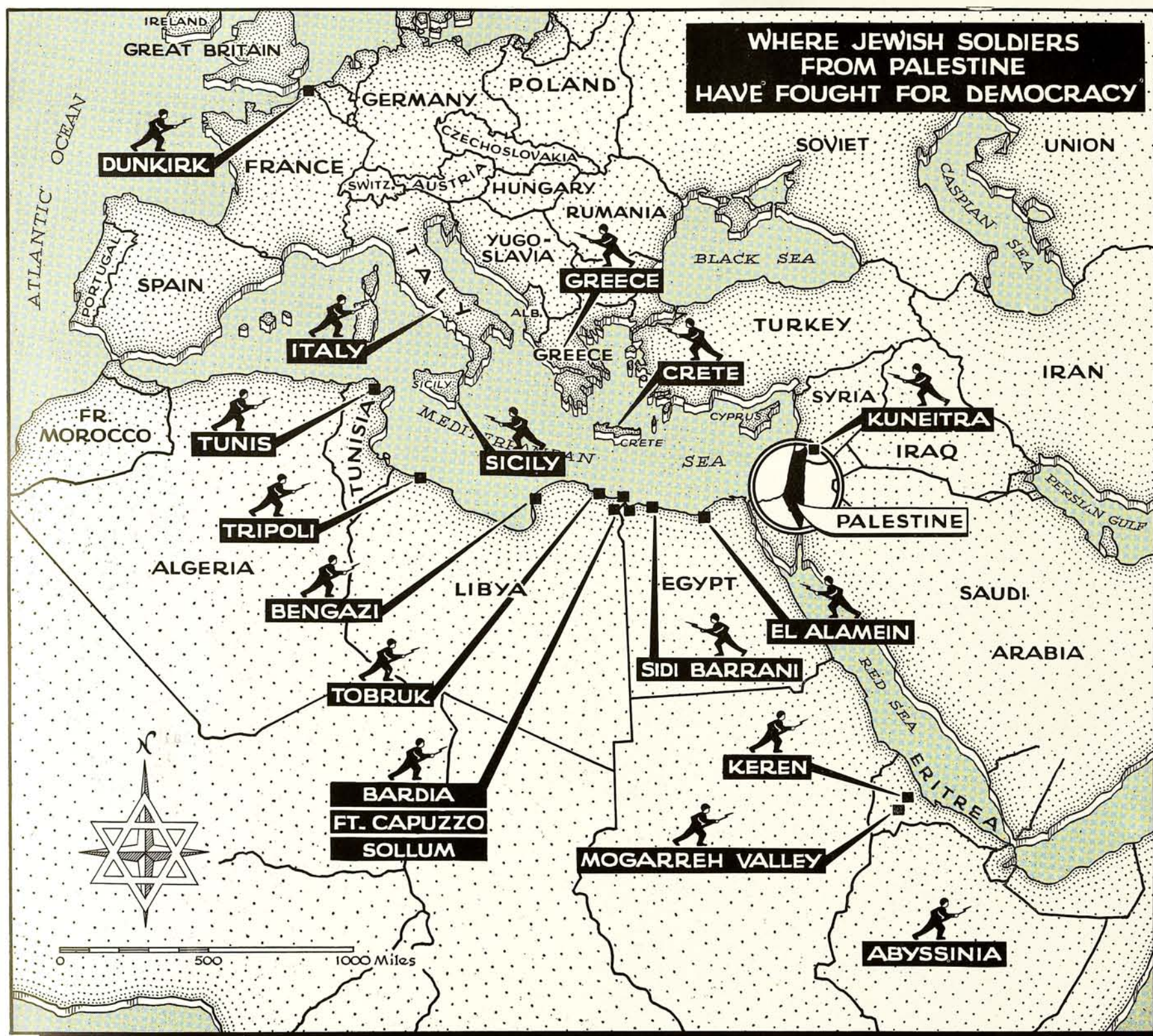
And while puny British officials are trying to deliver this heinous "stab in the back," the Jews are being warned not to protest, not to voice any criticism lest they aggravate a highly delicate situation. When the betrayers of Jewish Palestine find themselves at a loss for arguments, they repeat the magic formula—"it will injure the cause of the United Nations." It's high time that this type of below-the-belt attack were definitely and completely stopped. It is a crime against the elementary principles of democracy, it is a shameful violation of the very ideals we are fighting for, to attempt to silence legitimate and free expression by that subterfuge. As a matter of fact, only through frank and open discussion and not through inhibition or intimidation can we really serve the cause of the United Nations.

Beware of those who tell you that victory will bring the solution to all problems including the Jewish problem. If the Jews fail to participate in the framing and planning of that solution, what assurances can they have that the solution made for them will not in effect be a dissolution of their hopes and their rights?

THE Jews of Palestine are not waiting passively for victory to bring the dawn of a golden day. From the very first day of this war they have been fighting in the front line, making more than their share of sacrifices for democracy. And Britain has been repaying their loyalty and their heroic exploits on the field of battle with a deliberate plan to hide this shining record from



Jewish women in the A.T.S. march briskly on parade.



public view. No one has more aptly described the strange attitude of the British authorities than David Ben Gurion, who said that when Jewish volunteers died in battle they were described as "Palestinians," but when the aim was calumny, they were spoken of as "Jews".

How strangely silent have been the typewriters in the British Information Services on the turning-point contribution of the Jewish soldiers from Palestine to the great victory at El Alamein, on the remarkable achievements of the Jewish transport units under Brigadier Kisch who guided General Montgomery's supply lines successfully to the very gates of Tunis. Could that gun-running prosecutor make his charges of Jewish intrigue in the war in the presence of the great Jewish general who died a hero's death at Bizerte? Could he repeat those charges to the Jewish soldiers who were left behind in Greece and Crete to fight a delaying action to cover the retreat of other British forces? Could he recite them

to the Palestinian Jews who fought so brilliantly at St. Malo during the evacuation of Dunkirk? Could he repeat them to the valorous band of Jewish units which triumphantly marched with the British Eighth Army from El Alamein to Tunisia, who withstood months of siege at Tobruk and other points in the Libyan campaign and who are now pushing doggedly up the mainland of Italy to free the conquered peoples of Europe?

Perhaps the secret has been kept so well that even the prosecutor in the court martial has not heard how a group of Jewish volunteers were put into German uniforms and actually mixed with the soldiers of the German Afrika Korps when General Montgomery wanted to find out Rommel's dispositions at El Alamein. Or that a Jewish battalion landed at Tobruk and drove the Germans out of that town and then struck at Rommel's rear when he still stood poised victoriously in Hefaya Pass. Or that a mixed unit of Jews (Continued on page 84)



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Storm Signal

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and Australians went to the aid of the hard-pressed General Leclerc who had marched up from Lake Tschad to Ghadames, and saved the famous French column from annihilation.

JEWISH Palestine was one of the imponderables that turned the tide against Hitler at the moment when he and almost the whole world least expected it.

The prosecutor spoke glibly of the cause of the United Nations. Had it occurred to him that Palestine is their most loyal and strongest ally in the entire Near and Middle East? Besides the many thousands of Jews who were incorporated into the British Eighth Army, Jewish industries and Jewish agriculture in Palestine supplied General Montgomery with bandages, pharmaceutical articles, precision instruments (the Carl Zeiss works of Jena having been transferred to the Holy Land a few years previously), shoes, tobacco, fruit, vegetables, wheat, wine, X-ray apparatus, cement, soap, chocolate, spare parts for automobiles and trucks, sandbags, timber, tents, linen, uniforms, trucks and buses (taken from the Palestinian transportation system), laboratory equipment, electric appliances, meat, photographic materials, water pipes, stationery, typewriters, glassware and crockery, bedding, mattresses, maps, sheet metal, parachutes, disinfectants, shovels, water pails, cutlery, hammers, saws, nails, screws, saddles, camels, mules, horses, railway equipment and steel.

All that material and equipment, as necessary to an army as bullets and bread, did not need to be transported through submarine-infested oceans. It was there on the spot at the moment it was needed most.

As its reward Jewish Palestine's war effort was blue-pencilled out of the war dispatches and new efforts were made to perpetuate the White Paper.

The pieces of the plot fit together all too well. Jewish Palestine must be discredited at any cost. Why is so concerted an effort being made at this time to strangle the future of Jewish Palestine? Can it be that the Jewish pioneers and settlers built too well, that what they have created is of such great force that it must be stopped, regardless of the ruthlessness of the methods to be used, lest they "contaminate" the

(Continued on page 86)



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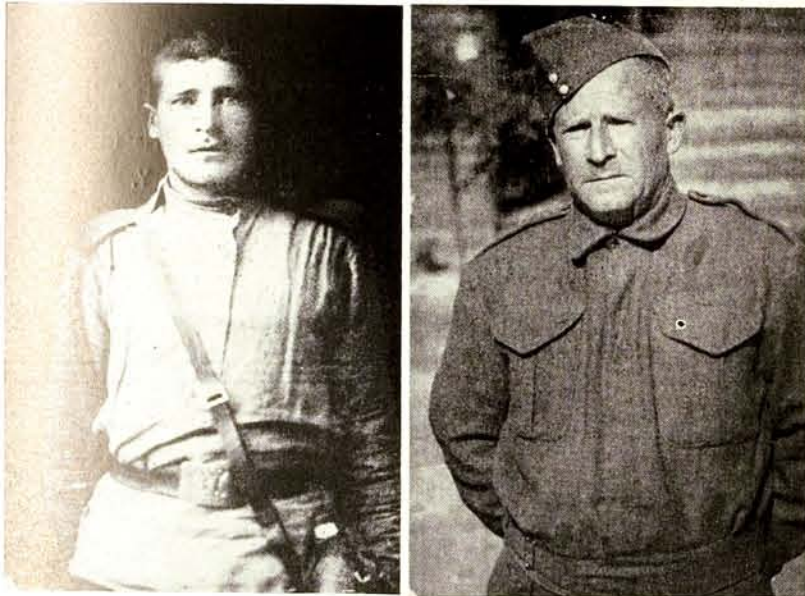
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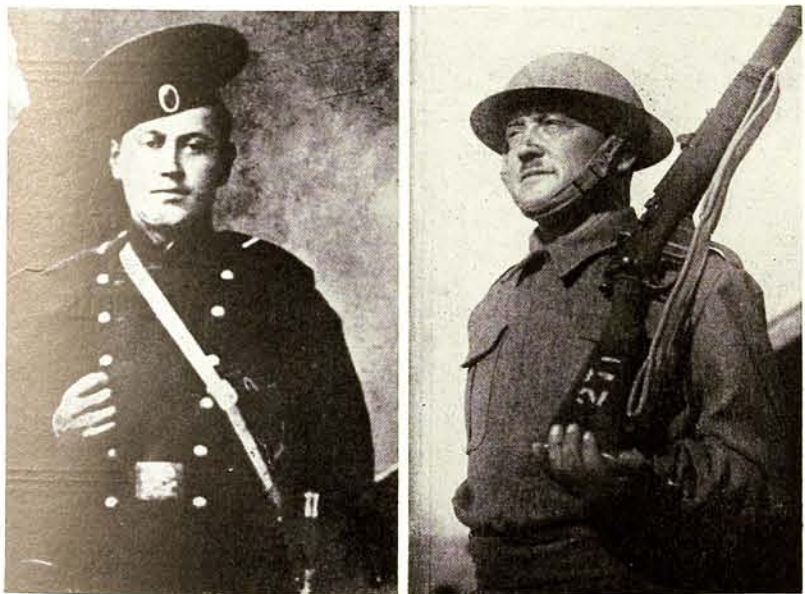
FIGHTERS IN TWO WORLD WARS



In World War I he was an Austrian soldier. Today he defends Palestine. In private life he operates a serological institute.



In Russia this young man served under the Czar. Now he serves under the British flag in protecting Palestine as a bastion of democracy.



A dapper soldier in the Russian army in 1917, a Garrison Buff in 1943.

After a Quarter of a Century

Included among the Garrison Buffs in Palestine are many Jewish settlers who are seeing service in a world war for the second time in their lives. As young men twenty-six years ago they fought in the Russian and Austrian armies. Today they stand guard over the cities and villages they have built as pioneers in the Jewish homeland.

if
loneliness
were
the only
enemy . . .



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(Continued from page 84)

entire Middle East with the germ of progress and social improvement?

WHEN the Balfour Declaration was issued the Jews accepted Great Britain's pledge in good faith and they proceeded to lay the foundations for a Jewish National Home. Apparently the Mandatory Government was not fully prepared for the notable progress which the Jews made in the short span of a quarter of a century. For in this crucial period when on the basis of the great strides of achievement of the Jews, greater opportunities should be provided for the absorption of millions of homeless Jewish war victims, there is grave danger that the original pledge may be whittled down to splinter size and strength. The Jews have only begun to build, but the British Administration, through the White Paper, would have the world believe that the job is done, that the work of the Jews, in whatever state of progress, must be considered finished.

Those who value justice cannot accept a policy so flagrantly dictated by expediency and so palpably violative of the fundamental rights bound up in the program for the establishment of a Jewish National Home. We cannot accept that policy because it will bar Jews from the one country in the world that is ready to receive not a handful of refugees, but millions of the harassed and the hunted. This would be a doubly cruel blow, for the defenders of the plan for the stoppage of Jewish immigration into Palestine have not offered any alternate place of haven for the masses of Jews who are desperately seeking to reach the Jewish homeland.

BRITAIN A TRUSTEE

GREAT BRITAIN has acted unilaterally on so many occasions that the erroneous impression has arisen that Palestine is a British colony and not a mandated territory. It is a grievous mistake to believe that the British Government is free to determine the Jewish homeland's fate in any way it sees fit. We must not overlook the elementary but all-important fact that Great Britain is the trustee for all of the countries in the League of Nations and the United States by means of the special treaty known as the American-British Convention of 1924. The Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations has consistently challenged the legality of the

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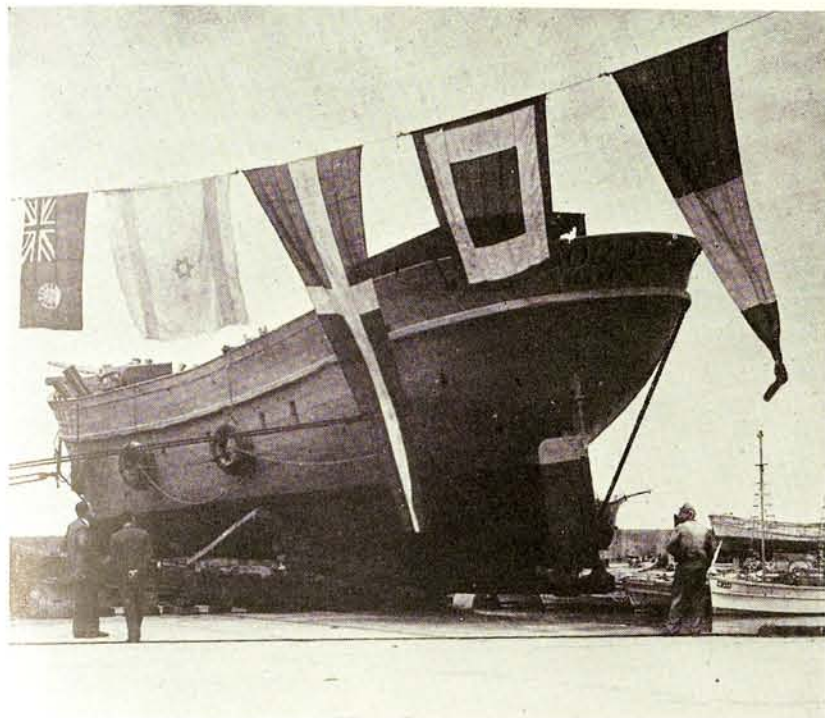
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White Paper and the American Government has never given its endorsement to that policy. Under international law therefore, the White Paper has no validity.

It is difficult to reconcile the Great Britain that issued the Balfour Declaration with the Britain that promulgated the White Paper. The Britain of Balfour's day was full of faith and hope for the future, responsive to the cries for justice for the Jewish people. The Britain of the White Paper was foolishly nursing the delusion that peace could be won without a battle, that solutions could be achieved by injustices committed to satisfy insatiable ap-

petites of conquest and greed. Britain has come a long way out of the maze of compromise and appeasement. But with regard to Palestine she has acted in terms of the forgotten days of feudalism. That is a danger signal not merely for the Jewish people, but for all peoples who are not powerful enough to compel a proper consideration for their rights. In this respect the situation in Palestine is not an isolated example of undemocratic action. It should serve as a storm signal to those whose faith is greater than their vision, whose love of humanity is greater than their sense of realism and vigilance.

Our Human Assets

(Continued from page 15)

garden; how by sweat of brow they have coaxed the shrivelling lands around Gethsemane to bloom and produce.

The Jews of Palestine, both native born and the thousands who have trekked there under the torturous lash of persecution, have taken up residence, irrigated, farmed, studied, maneuvered for the right to dignity, dedicated themselves to the perpetuation of their traditions, in a manner that should be a heartening example to millions at this moment, who are seeking for justice and rehabilitation.

If the Jews of Palestine, laboring under incredible odds, can have carried forward their monumental work of habilitation and rehabilitation, causing to spring out of the desert a garden of production, a culture, and a forward-looking society, mankind need not

fear for its stamina. Here is evidence of its power!

The long and bony hand of war is reaching into Palestine today, threatening once more all that has been created out of anguish past the telling.

These valiant torch bearers of a race will not fail; but these valiant bearers of a spiritual banner, a deathless tradition, are worthy of every ounce of help and encouragement with which we can bulwark their courage.

Confidence in them should inspire self-confidence in the tensile strength of the entire human race.

If the Palestinians can do it—and with our further help they can—the war-racked millions who also need resuscitation, can do it.

By helping these valiant people, and believing in them, we can look inward and dare to believe in ourselves.

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