

BRITISH CONSULATE

ALEPPO

THE 12th FEBRUARY 1910

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR GERARD A. LOWTHER, K.C.M.G., C.B.
H.B.M. AMBASSADOR

Constantinople.

SIR,

In obedience to the instructions contained in Your Excellency's despatch of the 26 of February 1909, I have the honour to submit the following report upon the claims to British protection of the various Jewish and Maltese families registered at this Consulate in 1908 and 1909.

Under these conditions I have found very great difficulty in tracing, with precision, the near ancestry of the various Jewish families registered as British Subjects in 1908 and 1909. About 130 persons bearing the name of Douek received Certificates of Registration from this Consulate at various dates during the period dating from 1861 to 1905. And the task of tracing the genealogies of the 19 Doueks registered in 1908 has been bewildering. Those genealogies traced and drawn up to the best of my ability, are separately set forth in the annex to this report. There seems little doubt that the near ancestors of the Doueks last referred to (father, grandfather and great grandfather) emigrated to Aleppo from India, being natives of Bengal or Calcutta, and that, upon those grounds, they were granted Certificates of Registration.

The following are the names and the number of the

Members of the various Jewish families registered at this Consulate in the ^{YEAR} 1908.

Shalun	5	Members.
Pieah	1	"
Sassoun	4	"
Gul'ai	14	"
Levy	2	"
Douek	19	"

Douek

The Genealogies of the various Doueks registered at this Consulate during 1908 is appended to this report. An index of the names registered, showing the corresponding Nos. of the Pages in Vols. of Registration for 1908 referred to in the respective Genealogies is attached thereto.

In conclusion I would add that I am awaiting instructions from Your Excellency before issuing Certificates of Registration for this year.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

SIR,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

Humble Servant.

Raphael A. Fontana

Part of letter dated 12/2/1910 from the British Consul in Aleppo to the British Ambassador in Constantinople, Sir Gerard A. Lowther, pages 59/65, obtained from the Public Records Office, London.

קטע מחכתב מ-12/2/1910 מחקוטסול בריטי ביאלוב לשרירי הבריטי
באשטאט סייר ברוד א. לויטר.

Ezra Dwek, "Abu-Faraj," had two sons, Faraj and "Joe" (they had English nationality); very wealthy. "Joe's" daughter Rachél was his right hand in helping orphans; her father had helped Signor Raphaël Silvera to establish *Kittab-il-yetomeem*, the Orphans' school. "Joe" Dwek was called Father to the Orphans - *Ab Yetomeem*. Isaac Shalom in New York, used to arrange charity payments to Signor Raphaël, for whom he had worked as a bookkeeper while in Aleppo. Rachél, (who died in

Jerusalem), had married Raïful ibn 'Aboud H'wehren (Horn). Her father would think to give a poor man a *mejiddi* [25 cents]. "No, father," she would tell him, "you must give him a *mejiddi* and a half - he has a large family." She was a saint. She had lived in São Paulo - her two sons are builders there; the oldest son is Obadia, a younger one is Elia.

from "EARLY ALEPPO" 1895 , 1929