

OBITUARIES

CLYDE SAMUEL EPSTEIN

In June, 1983 Clyde Samuel Epstein, President of the Hobart Hebrew Congregation passed away after a short illness. He had been President of the Congregation since 1959, and thanks to his devoted and hard work, this small Community was kept alive and active. The Funeral was conducted in a most dignified manner by Rabbi A. Sternfein of Melbourne, a longtime friend, and Clyde is buried next to his parents in the Jewish section of the Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart. He was born in Hobart some 80 years ago and his late father, Moses Epstein, was actively concerned with the Synagogue and at one stage was its honorary Reader.

Rev. I. Morris was Minister in Hobart from 1910–1921 and he taught Judaism to the children and he must have been an excellent teacher because Clyde had a thorough knowledge, and that enabled him to conduct Divine Services in the Synagogue. Unfortunately, there has not been a resident Minister in Hobart since 1956, but thanks to Clyde Epstein and some other members of the Congregation the doors of the Synagogue were opened every Sabbath. We hope this will also continue now.

The deceased had graciously represented the Congregation at official functions and he conducted very dignified Services on every Anzac Day, when representatives of the Federal and State Government were present, in the Synagogue.

He was well known and respected in many spheres, in business and tourism circles, having worked as a bookmaker. He was a frequent visitor at Wrest Point and in this way met many visitors to Hobart and induced them to come to the Synagogue and to support the Congregation.

As Vice President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Clyde took a keen interest in all deliberations, although he could not attend the meetings personally, and he supported every Zionist and Israel-oriented endeavour. At all times he was ably supported by his wife Muriel and only daughter June. Messages of sympathy had come to the family from all over Australia.

Hedi Fixel

BENZION PATKIN

Benzion Patkin passed away in Melbourne on 25 April, 1984 at the age of 82. He was active in the Australian Jewish Historical Society, as in so many other communal institutions, until the very end of his long, interesting and worthy life. Born in Tatarsk, Russia, in 1902, he received a traditional *heder* education until the age of nine, after which he attended Russian gymnasia in Kaluga, Mstislavl and Moscow. In 1917 he joined the Zionist youth organisation *Akhdut Utkhiyah*, and was elected to its committee that same year. Later he joined *Hehalutz*, *Gehaver* and *Maccabi*. In 1920, when he was a student at Moscow University, he was elected to *Maccabi's* Moscow committee and in 1922 to its all-Russian executive. This brought him to the notice of the Bolshevik authorities, which in 1922 banned him from Moscow University as well as from the Textile Institute of Technology. Undaunted, Patkin continued his Zionist activities underground.