

The Jewish Society in wartime Shanghai as reported in *Tairiku Shinpo*

(Part IV: On the unreleased movie 'Driven People')

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Abstract

This series of papers is based on a thorough search of articles in *Tairiku Shinpo* identifying those that mention Jewish residents in Shanghai under the Japanese military control. The present forth part addresses the unreleased and as yet undiscovered movie on Jewish immigrants in Shanghai: 'Driven People'. The film production was headed by the German refugee of half Jewish origin, Gertrud Neumann-Wolfson, and technically supported by China Movie Company under the supervision of the Japanese film producer and importer Nagamasa Kawakita.

Tairiku Shinpo on 16 December 1939 reported the start of shooting of the movie and the local German paper *Gelbe Post*, run by A. J. Storfer, announced its forthcoming release in March 1940. Nevertheless, the movie would never be screened and the whereabouts of its reel or uncompleted footage remain unknown up to the present time.

As for the motives underlying this ban of screening, historians have tended to refer to the Tripartite Pact signed between Germany, Italy and Japan on 27 September 1940. Further insight into the contemporaneous articles of *Tairiku Shinpo*, however, seems to reveal another unfavorable condition for the film release: in the end of February 1940, Victor Sassoon's anti-Japanese speeches aroused a storm of controversy, which presumably interfered with the post-production work by Wolfson and Kawakita. This controversy will constitute the subject of the following fifth part of the present series of archival research.