

ALSO BY LEO W. SCHWARZ

Three Translations
The Jewish Caravan
A Golden Treasury of Jewish Literature
Where Hope Lies
Memoirs of My People
The Root and the Bough

The Redeemers

A SAGA OF THE YEARS

1945-1952

By Leo W. Schwarz

FARRAR, STRAUS AND YOUNG
NEW YORK

CHAPTER I

St. Ottilien: Theme for An Overture

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1945—a rare Bavarian spring day, bright with glowing sunshine and cooled by gentle winds. The roof of St. Ottilien, peeking above the surrounding wall, gleamed in a golden cascade, but within life wore another aspect. Formerly a German lazeret, the monastery of St. Ottilien had been transformed in the past three weeks into a refuge for some four hundred Jews, liberated by the American troops at nearby Schwabenhausen and surrounding camps. On this sunny spring day, however, the routine of healing was interrupted by preparations for an afternoon concert and assembly. Some of the musicians—survivors of the famed ghetto orchestra of Kovno, Lithuania—had already arrived from Bad Toelz and mingled with the patients, greeting old friends with heartfelt embraces. Joyous anticipation momentarily dissolved the gloom and spread a saner outlook. All were loud in praise of their friend, Dr. Zalman Grinberg of Kovno, through whose initiative the hospital had been established, and who now arranged this first gala occasion.

II

Zalman Grinberg, aged thirty-three, a man of medium build with deep-set eyes and mobile features set off by smooth black hair—his head a veritable replica of ancestral portraits graven on ancient Egyptian monuments—was at his desk in the office of the Chief Physician. Though the vicissitudes of the war years had furrowed his very being, his personality remained a bright spark. Reared in a pious, cultured home, where reverence for Hebraic traditions was blended with a love of Zion, he had strong religious feelings and was conscientiously observant. Moreover, as a graduate of the University of Basel, he had acquired a solid background of Western culture as well as a sound medical training. He could express himself forcefully, and the necessity of assuming leadership at this time soon revealed a talent for political organization.

Looking over the notes for his address, it occurred to him that he

