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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

1560 BROADWAY, N. Y. C.

VOL. VII. NO. 130.

Monday, September 9, 1940.

JEWS HARD-HIT BY LONDON AIR RAIDS

LONDON, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Many Jewish families were homeless today and scores of Jewish merchants were ruined after Hitler's most violent air attacks on London last night, the brunt of which was felt by London's eastern and southern districts.

A considerable proportion of the air raid casualties, estimated at 400 killed, and more than 1,000 seriously wounded, were residents of London's largest Jewish district, in the East End, which received several high explosives and hundreds of incendiary bombs.

In one section of the Jewish district almost every other street has been roped off due to damage done to buildings. Demolition squads were busy today roping off weakened buildings and removing debris. Numerous Jewish families, carrying all the belongings they could salvage, trudged off in search of new shelter.

Household possessions were piled near dwellings which were deemed unsafe, guarded by sad-eyed Jewish residents.

The district's usual Sunday activity was absent today with the traditional Sunday markets sparsely attended.

Virtually the only activity was that of workmen clearing up the damage, making temporary repairs and checking up on casualties. Most of the Jewish families were obliged to eat cold luncheons today, due to temporary interruption of gas service.

Many were badly shaken by last night's experience. A large number filled a shelter in a disused warehouse early this afternoon, bringing food, blankets and other supplies with them.

Air Raid Precautions officials and police commented on the absence of panic, even at the height of the attack when spectacular fires lit up the entire district. When electricity failed temporarily, plunging the shelters into darkness, the occupants cheered each other by singing songs.

A tour through the district today revealed an unforgettable scene. Possibly 500 incendiary bombs had been dropped at random into the district, many of which found their

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The Jewish community contributed 25,000 pengoes (\$5,000) for 500 blankets, and 500 shoes. Railway authorities however, refused to transport these supplies to the nearest terminus. The Jews were obliged to hire trucks to carry the supplies direct to camp.

In many camps, the wealthier Jews took up collections to buy clothing for their poorer comrades. When Budapest Jews applied for permission to take up a public collection, however, the authorities refused on the grounds it would give a bad impression if the Jews were better clad than Gentiles. According to circles close to the Government the Jews will be kept in camps as long as mild weather lasts and outdoor work is possible. Later in the autumn when it is too cold to work the Jews will be discharged but will be called upon again in the Spring to build roads, bridges and railways in the new Transylvania territory, where the Government is unable to pay for private construction work.

It was reported that Jews recently were drafted for labor in quarries and in salt mines where there is labor shortage as a result of constant mobilization. When authorities received protests against employing lawyers, bank executives and other professional men for such types of work, they replied it would create bad blood if Jews were not mobilized at a time when a million Gentiles were in the army.

The policy of segregating Jews in labor camps is not popular among certain sections of officialdom as well as the Jews themselves. It was reported that Count Stephen Bethlen, former premier and leader of the Conservative bloc, advised Premier Paul Teleki in a three-hour conference on Friday against the policy on the grounds it would ultimately wreck Hungary's economy.

It was understood that Bethlen repeated the warning yesterday in an audience with Regent Nicholas Horthy at Gogollo.

The main objection of Jewish circles to the labor mobilization is that it is contrary to the Rearguard Defense Act of last May. According to this law, in time of war or "imminent danger" every person from 14 to 70 years, without regard to sex, must "perform work for the defense of the realm in accordance with his or her mental and physical capacities." The law further requires that in every type of work, persons must be selected as far as possible on the basis of their training and experience. In the opinion of the Jewish community, the mobilization of businessmen and professionals, most of whom are old men, for physical labor is contrary to the spirit of these two provisos.

AXIS PLANS SEIZURE OF IRAQ AND IRAN, STRABOLGI WARNS

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Strabolgi pointed out that Palestine is the main bastion in the path for such an eastward drive. Col. Josiah Wedgwood, laborite M.P., also paid tribute to the late Jewish leader.

WARSAW GHETTO EXPANDED BY NAZIS

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mark in poor working class homes and small shops, gutting them thoroughly and leaving only trembling brick walls surrounding heaps of rubble.

High explosives also were dropped in the district with amazing results. Walking up one street the JTA correspondent passed a row of brick, two-story houses which seemed to have escaped damage. The doors were firmly closed, the windows were not shattered and even a milk bottle placed on a doorstep remained. Turning the corner this correspondent saw that a bomb had completely pulverized the houses, except for the front walls which had become nothing more than screens for heaps of smacking debris.

In another street, many houses were untouched except for one with its front blown out and the upper floors sagging crazily. One of the most pathetic sights was that of bearded traders fumbling dazedly among rubble trying to salvage something from the small shops which represented their livelihood.

HUNGARY MOBILIZES MORE THAN 135,000 JEWS FOR LABOR CAMPS

BUDAPEST, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- From 135,000 to 150,000 Jews have been mobilized in the last six weeks by Hungarian authorities for service in special labor camps, it was revealed today by a reliable source close to the Government.

Though Hungary's 1,000,000-man army has been slowly demobilizing since the Vienna arbitration, Jews have been called up for labor service at a constantly accelerated rate. It was estimated that 50,000 were called within the last 10 days. Cases even were reported of young Jews who were sent to labor camps 24 hours after their release from the regular army.

So many Jews have been sent away from Budapest, that the capital's business life has been disrupted. An estimated 35,000--one-third of the city's male Jewish population--are now working on bridge and road-building projects throughout the country.

Until recently, when Jews of all ages were called, men sent to labor camps were 40 to 60 years old, drawn largely from the middle class--such as merchants, bankers, doctors, and lawyers--the majority of whom were not fitted for hard, manual labor. Although many among them are reserve officers and world war veterans, the Jews in labor camps are officered exclusively by Gentiles.

While Gentile officers--especially the older generation--treat their Jewish charges with consideration, this correspondent learned that younger officers bred to the anti-Semitic credo treat them as if they were prisoners in Nazi concentration camps, not soldiers in the Hungarian army. While 100,000 or more Gentiles are serving in labor battalions, too, these men are from the working class and are used on construction for which their training fits them.

The Jews, however, are segregated in special camps and in many cases are forced to build swimming pools, tennis courts or merely dig ditches across fields which they are then ordered to fill up again.

This correspondent was told that Gentiles in labor camps sooner or later were issued shoes, blankets and capes with the insignia "Munka" (labor) printed on their collars. The Jews were given nothing but food and housing and must furnish their own clothing, blankets, and knapsacks. Some of the Jewish camps are high up in the Carpathian mountains where the temperature is below freezing every night. So cold are these camps, that authorities permitted two Jews to return to Budapest to collect shoes and clothing.

The Jewish community contributed 25,000 pengoes (\$5,000) for 500 blankets, and 500 shoes. Railway authorities however, refused to transport these supplies to the nearest terminus. The Jews were obliged to hire trucks to carry the supplies direct to camp.

In many camps, the wealthier Jews took up collections to buy clothing for their poorer comrades. When Budapest Jews applied for permission to take up a public collection, however, the authorities refused on the grounds it would give a bad impression if the Jews were better clad than Gentiles. According to circles close to the Government the Jews will be kept in camps as long as mild weather lasts and outdoor work is possible. Later in the autumn when it is too cold to work the Jews will be discharged but will be called upon again in the Spring to build roads, bridges and railways in the new Transylvan-ia territory, where the Government is unable to pay for private construction work.

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The policy of segregating Jews in labor camps is not popular among certain sections of officialdom as well as the Jews themselves. It was reported that Count Stephen Beth-len, former premier and leader of the Conservative bloc, advised Premier Paul Teleki in a three-hour conference on Friday against the policy on the grounds it would ultimately wreck Hungary's economy.

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The main objection of Jewish circles to the labor mobilization is that it is contrary to the Rearguard Defense Act of last May. According to this law, in time of war or "imminent danger" every person from 14 to 70 years, without regard to sex, must "perform work for the defense of the realm in accordance with his or her mental and physical capacities." The law further requires that in every type of work, persons must be selected as far as possible on the basis of their training and experience. In the opinion of the Jewish community, the mobilization of businessmen and professionals, most of whom are old men, for physical labor is contrary to the spirit of these two provisos.

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HERSCHEL GRYNZSPAN REPORTED IN NAZI HANDS

NEW YORK, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Herschel Grynszpan, who assassinated a German Embassy official in Paris in November, 1938, has been turned over to the German military authorities by the Petain Government, under the terms of the armistice, the United Press reports from Vichy. (The armistice agreement provides that France must turn over any refugees the Reich desires.)

Grynszpan was taken to Germany by automobile, escorted by armed police, it was reported. French authorities said they had no idea of what happened to him in Germany.

(According to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency dispatch Herschel Grynszpan, who was lodged in a Paris jail awaiting trial, was evacuated from Paris in June, before the Nazi entry into the capital, and was in a Toulouse jail in July under a pseudonym. At the end of July he was transferred from Toulouse to an undisclosed point.

(On Nov. 7, 1938, Grynszpan shot and fatally wounded Ernst vom Rath, a secretary of the German Embassy in Paris, in protest against Nazi persecution of Jews, particularly the expulsion of Polish Jews from the Reich. The assassination was used by the Nazis as the pretext for pogroms throughout the Reich and other measures against the Jews.

(Grynszpan was held in a Paris jail pending trial, but the trial was indefinitely postponed when the war broke out. The youth asked the French authorities for permission to join the army and fight against the Germans, but permission was refused.)

JEWS JOIN IN PEACE PRAYERS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations throughout the country joined today in the national prayer for peace proclaimed by President Roosevelt.

Speaking at ceremonies this afternoon in the World's Fair Court of Peace, Rabbi Jonah B. Wise declared that "we do pray for that peace which will save all men from the great deluge of the tyrant's wrath and point to a far-flung horizon of sure safety for us and for all mankind."

Thousands of members of B'nai B'rith, its women's auxiliaries and youth order gathered at the Fair's Temple of Religion tonight for observance of B'nai B'rith day, in response to the President's proclamation. Scheduled speakers included Dr. Harry J. Gidson, president of Brooklyn College, and President Henry Monsky of B'nai B'rith. Monsky later laid a wreath at The Eternal Light in the Jewish Palestine Pavilion.

TEN PROMINENT JEWS DENATIONALIZED BY VICHY GOVERNMENT

VICHY, France, Sept. 8. (JTA) -- Ten prominent members of the French Jewish community, including five members of the famous Rothschild banking family, are among 15 persons deprived of their French citizenship by the Vichy Government for having left France between June 10 and 25. Their belongings will be confiscated.

The decree issued by the government struck at the following Jews: Barons Edouard, Robert, Henri, Philippe and Maurice de Rothschild; David Weill, philanthropist and art patron; Edouard Jonas, art dealer and antiquarian; Maurice and Leon Stern, bankers. Elie J. Bois, former editorial writer of the newspaper Le Petit Parisien.

(The United Press reported from Vichy that France expects to add 825,000,000 francs approximately \$19,640,000--to its refugee relief fund from the sale of property confiscated from these persons.)