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SEVERAL HUNDRED CHRISTIANS SLAIN TRYING TO DEFEND JEWS IN BUCHAREST POGROM

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of uncensored eyewitness stories of the Iron Guard horror in Rumania, the first such account to reach the outside world. The first article, filed after the correspondent reached Sofia from Bucharest, told how from 9,000 to 12,000 persons, about 2,000 of them Jews, were killed by Guardists amid scenes of fiendish brutality.)

SOFIA, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Several hundred Christians were killed by Iron Guardists when they sought to defend Jews during the anti-Jewish pogrom carried out by the rebels in Bucharest last week.

Storming through the Jewish quarter in a mad orgy of killing and destruction, armed Guardist gangs killed or beat up every person they saw who appeared to be Jewish, this correspondent learned before he left the Rumanian capital. The test seems to have been merely whether persons encountered by the frenzied gangs were willing to participate in the massacre. If they were willing they were considered "Aryans" and not attacked, if otherwise, they were instantly killed.

The pogrom, which cost the lives of at least 1,000 Jews in Bucharest, was not accidental but an integral part of the Guardist insurrection and had been prepared long in advance. It was designed, in case things went wrong, to deflect the attention of the populace and convert the uprising into a wholesale massacre of Jews. It was a massacre of Jews but instead of infecting the populace the action caused revulsion among the people and several hundred Christians lost their lives vainly seeking to protect the Jews from the Guardists.

On Wednesday afternoon when it became apparent that the insurrection could not be carried out with anticipated ease, the Guardist "general staff" ordered the destruction of the Bucharest Jewish quarter and the murder of its inhabitants.

The pogrom lasted continuously until Thursday midnight--approximately 36 hours. In this brief period the Greenshirt gangs devastated the entire Jewish quarter, destroying nine out of every 10 shops, many of which were not Jewish-owned. An eyewitness whose word

(Continued on reverse side)

cannot be doubted, told this correspondent that dozens of Jews were burned alive or tortured in other fashions before being dispatched by the Guardist killers.

The "general staff" which ordered the massacre consisted of Vice-Premier Horia Sima, chief of the Greenshirt Legion, Dimitry Groza, boss of the "Legionary Workers Corps," composed of "Lumpenproletariat" and completely lacking in skilled or organized workers; and Viorel Trifa, leader of the frenetic Greenshirt "student movement."

One in every twenty buildings in the Jewish quarter was set afire and destroyed by the Guardists, who used great quantities of gasoline stolen from neighborhood filling stations. It was a significant point in Greenshirt psychology, however, that the Guardists never set fire to any building without first removing everything of value and hauling it away to Legionary hideouts in stolen military trucks mobilized for this purpose.

Equally significant was the fact that there was little looting by bystanders. Most of those involved in such incidents were gypsies.

Though the Guardists in their hurry dropped or left behind many items stolen from Jewish shops the bystanders were so revolted by the Guardist actions that they let them lie, feeling that evil would befall them if they picked them up.

The following typical reaction of the public was reported verbatim by a trustworthy eyewitness:

Two old charwomen were watching the Guardists looting a shoe store. Many pairs of shoes were scattered over the street where they had fallen from a truck in which the store's contents had been hurriedly loaded. The two old women, although very badly shod, turned on their heels and walked away, one of them muttering, "I would never have a quiet conscience if I touched such accursed things."

The witness, who, it is needless to say, was a Christian, remained in the locality for about half an hour to study the reactions of other passersby. He reported that in every case but one the people avoided the shoes as if they bore a curse. Many crossed themselves and muttered prayers. The only person who took anything was a gypsy girl, almost barefoot despite the snow on the street, who took a pair of bedroom slippers and fled.

Although many German army units were billeted in the Jewish quarter they made no effort to stop the pogrom. They confined their activity to defending the buildings in which they were installed. Even so they were responsible for saving the lives of many Jews who were either owners or tenants of the buildings occupied by the Germans.

German soldiers billeted in the Ciocanul Trade School, operated by the Jewish community, refused to allow Guardists to molest 50 Jewish apprentice-students still living in the school and operating a machine shop in spite of the fact that the building had been taken over by the Germans. The German soldiers shared their rations with the boys during the three days they were virtually besieged within the structure.

The German-requisitioned institutions and houses in the area between the Caleas Vacaresti and Dudesti were the only buildings not destroyed or damaged by the Greenshirt marauders. Synagogues were the special targets of Guardist fury. Only a choral temple and several others used as barracks by German troops escaped destruction.

What happened to the Spanish temple was typical of what happened to three other synagogues destroyed by flames - the Emigratului, Atena and Amare synagogues.

In the attack on the Spanish temple, a mob of several hundred Greenshirts, mostly under 25, stormed the building with clubs and stones. After smashing windows and breaking down the doors, the Guardists went inside and systematically destroyed all but certain items of furniture. Everything of real intrinsic value was piled outside and hauled away to Legionary warehouses. All the ritual objects, altar vestments and books were gathered in another pile which was soaked in gasoline and put to the torch. While some went inside to sprinkle gasoline over the synagogue's floor, preparatory to firing the building, others outside formed a circle and capered in an "Indian dance" around a bonfire fed by Torahs (Holy Scrolls), Talmuds (commentary on the Bible), altar benches and tapestries. Still others fired guns into the air or shot any stray passersby, whether Jewish or not, who happened to come within range.

As a last act in the hideous ceremony--before the synagogue was set afire--20 to 30 Jews were rounded up and made to dance to the tune of bullets fired by the Guardists, after which they were shot and killed or beaten into insensibility. Gasoline was poured over several of the latter and they were roasted alive. Meanwhile, the synagogue went up in flames, creating a pillar of fire and smoke visible from all points in the city. Most of the marauders then went away, leaving a few of their number behind to keep watch.

The purpose of these guards became obvious a short while later when fire engines arrived to extinguish the blaze. The armed Greenshirts refused to permit the firemen to put out the conflagration and forced them at pistol point to return to the way they came.

First List of Slain Jewish Leaders

SOFIA, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The first list of 12 of the Jewish leaders killed during the pogrom in Bucharest last week was obtained here today. An official list has not yet been issued in the Rumanian capital and death notices in newspapers are limited to 30 daily.

The fatalities include Moise Oreschowsky, director of the Palestine Office; Leon Plimes, of the Palestine Office; Joseph Weissman, a leading industrialist; Miso Goldschlager-Costin, brother of the Zionist-Revisionist leader, Jean, who is now in Palestine; Jean Jacques Adlersberg, engineer; Baruch Kauffman, textile manufacturer, and his son Jacques; Sigmund Collin, treasurer of the Jewish Community; Isidore Goldstein, a director of the community; Oscar Andrei, director of the Buhusi textile works; Milo Beiller, prominent lawyer, and Mariasis Marin, law professor.

Meanwhile, it was learned today that 87-year-old Mihaitza Marin and his wife, were accused of having killed, during Marin's term as Iron Guardist "mayor" of the Bucharest suburb of Sherban Voda, Jewish shopkeepers and businessmen who refused to surrender their property to the Guardist political boss.

The Rumanian Government announced that Marin, his wife and four henchmen would be tried not only for murder, but for forcing three Jewish firms to sign over their property to the Guardist for "ridiculously low" sums. The only Bucharest paper not condemning Marin is the Italophile Curentul, which excuses the murders on the ground that the victims were "persons who proved undesirable"--Jews.

HITLER THREATENS REPRISALS AGAINST EUROPEAN JEWS IF U.S. ENTERS WAR

ZURICH, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- An implied threat of reprisals against the Jews of Europe if the United States enters the war was made by Fuehrer Adolf Hitler in his broadcast speech from Berlin today marking the eighth anniversary of the founding of the Third Reich.

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Hitler said: "...I also want to point out something which I mentioned in my speech in September, 1939, in the German Reichstag, namely that if the other world should really be dragged into a general war by Jewry, Jewry in Europe will be through.

"The coming years will show that here, too, I prophesied correctly. But even today we can see how our racial ideology is taken over by nation after nation, and I hope that the nations which today are still inimical to us will recognize one day their greater internal enemy and that then they will at last join a common front with us: the front of an Aryan human mankind against international Jewish exploitation and deprivation of the people..."

The speech contained the usual anti-Semitic phrases. He blamed "a certain Jewish international capitalistic clique" for the failure of disarmament efforts and referred to "the coalition of capitalistic interests, Jewish hate instincts and revenge ideas of certain emigrants."

"If the war goes on," he said, "it will be a great tragedy for England, because the British will take over our program. It is this social-minded Germany which is hated most by the clique of Jews and their financiers over there."

INTERNED REFUGEES TO WORK IN PIONEER CORPS ONLY

LONDON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Home Secretary Herbert Morrison, replying to a question by Col. Josiah Wedgwood in Commons, said today that interned refugees were ineligible for the labor training scheme in munitions factories, announced yesterday, except individual internees physically unfit for the Pioneer Corps.

Replying to Geoffrey Mander's charge of a "disgraceful state of affairs" in one internment camp, where a small number of anti-Nazis had suffered pressure and intimidation from the Nazis, Morrison said that the only mixed camp was one where 204 internees returned from Canada had been temporarily confined, and "I hope the anti-Nazis have enough vigor and energy not to conduct themselves as though afraid of the Nazis."

JEWS IN PRAGUE FORBIDDEN TO DRIVE AUTOS

ZURICH, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Jews in Prague must surrender their auto driving licenses within a fortnight and driving schools are henceforth forbidden to give instruction to Jews, according to the Neuer Tag, Nazi organ in Prague.

LABOR GROUP HERE TO BUY CANTEENS FOR BRITISH WAR RELIEF

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A drive to raise funds for the purchase of mobile canteens and medical supplies to aid Great Britain was launched today by the Jewish National Workers' Alliance, Labor Zionist fraternal organization.

At a special session of the General Executive Board of the organization, it was decided to issue a call for this purpose by telegrams to the more than 250 branches located in more than 100 cities throughout the United States.