

NEWS

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SYRIA LOST £1,000,000 PALESTINE TRADE BY OPENING BASES TO NAZIS, LONDON ASSERTS

LONDON, May 27. (JTA) -- A French-language broadcast on the British radio said today an economic agreement between Syria and Palestine, providing for exchange of commodities valued at about one million pounds annually, had been concluded two weeks ago when the British learned that Syrian airdromes had been handed over to the Germans.

The broadcast said: "The departure of French consuls from Palestine, following upon the departure of British consuls from Syria, brings to an end difficult negotiations which had been conducted to restore the commercial relations between Syria and Palestine, that is to say between Syria and a great part of the outside world.

"An agreement had been concluded two weeks ago which was to go into force as soon as it had been put on paper. The agreement provided for an exchange of commodities to the value of about one million pounds annually. At the moment when this agreement was to go into force, the Syrian airdromes were handed over to the Germans. Consequently the frontier between Syria and Palestine is now closed."

Appeals for Unity in Palestine Voiced

JERUSALEM, May 27. (JTA) -- A country-wide E'nai B'rith conference in Haifa yesterday decided to build a new colony for middle-class settlers. It also appealed to the Jewish community for unity and to Jewish youth for enlistment in the British forces.

Leaders of the Agudath Israel appealed for unity in the Jewish community, participation of the Agudah in political and reconstruction work and acceptance of responsibilities within the limits of the orthodox organization's principles.

The leaders, Isaac-Mayer Levin, Dr. Breuer and Rabbi Moshe Blau, at a press conference, said the Agudah was willing to share in any work in the political, economic and immigration fields. They complained that the Jewish Agency Executive had not ratified a verbal agreement reached 17 months ago between the Agudah and the Agency and Vaad Leumi executives.

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5/28/41.

Noted Refugee Lawyer Killed in Desert

JERUSALEM, May 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Max Polka, noted refugee lawyer who last year won an award from an American university for his book, "My Life in Germany Before and After Hitler's Accession," has been killed during a Nazi bombardment in the western desert, where he was serving as a volunteer with the British forces, it was disclosed today.

Dr. Polka, who was 45 years old, left a widow and three children. He had enlisted in the army last year. In Germany he had been a member of the Breslau Jewish community board.

Meanwhile, the Tel Aviv Municipal Council made the first awards of the Dov Hoz Aviation Prizes. Recipients were Benjamin Rosenthal and Tuvia Sinai. Eleven Dizengoff art prizes were also awarded.

GHETTO LAWS EXTENDED TO POLISH INDUSTRIAL CITY

LONDON, May 27. (JTA) -- The ghetto laws in Nazi-held Poland have been extended to the industrial city of Piotrkow, according to information received in Polish circles here today. Jews in Piotrkow are henceforth forbidden to appear in the main streets of the city.

In Lublin, the authorities issued an order prohibiting non-Jewish drivers from conveying Jewish passengers, on pain of heavy fine and withdrawal of licenses. Jewish drivers must wear six-pointed stars in their hats.

In Kielce, the confinement of Jews in the ghetto was completed last week. All Jewish business enterprises and workshops have been transferred to the ghetto. The last non-Jews are leaving the ghetto shortly. Jews employed outside the ghetto are not allowed to leave the ghetto individually, but are led to places of work in groups, under the command of Nazi policemen.

Inhabitants of the two Radom ghettos are not permitted to leave, even to take up work. New curfews have been proclaimed in the Lash district, from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. for Poles and from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. for Jews.

ROMANIA INTENSIFIES OUSTING OF JEWS FROM BUSINESS

ZURICH, May 27. (JTA) -- A credit institute has been established in Rumania to assist Rumanians in taking over Jewish enterprises, the Bucharest radio announced today. At a recent Cabinet meeting, Prof. Mihail Antonescu outlined measures to finance the "Rumanization" of trade and industry.

REFUGEE SCHOLAR SUICIDE IN DENMARK

LONDON, May 27. (JTA) -- Prof. Walter Berendsohn, German Jewish scholar, has committed suicide in Denmark, where he lived as a refugee, it was learned here today. He was a leading authority on modern Scandinavian literature and had lectured at London and Cambridge and broadcast over the BBC.

EXPAND EDUCATION FACILITIES FOR EVACUATED JEWISH CHILDREN IN BRITAIN

LONDON, May 27. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews today took action to raise increased funds for education of Jewish children evacuated from London and other cities.

In view of the larger scale of evacuations, it was decided to increase the appeal, originally set at £54,000, and ask the Joint Emergency Committee for Jewish Education to make a new estimate to cover the needs of the additional evacuees. According to private estimates, it will be necessary to raise the emergency fund to £70,000.

The deputies adopted a resolution expressing sympathy with congregations which have suffered loss of their synagogues and other buildings through enemy action. It expressed hope that in the future these buildings would be replaced by even finer edifices.

Meanwhile, the Friendly Aliens Protection Committee, headed by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, decided to approach the Home Secretary with a request for revision of the legal status of Class C aliens.

The committee is calling a meeting of representatives of all refugee organizations to submit to the Home Secretary a joint memorandum asking that persons who are opponents or victims of the Nazi and Fascist regimes and cannot safely return to their countries should be registered as "protected aliens" and given appropriate identity papers.

PLAN ADDED RELIEF FOR 3,500 POLISH JEWS IN PALESTINE

LONDON, May 27. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the Polish Jewish Refugee Fund today granted an additional £1,000 for relief of the 3,500 Polish Jewish refugees in Palestine and decided to raise a further £10,000.

The action followed receipt of an urgent appeal which said the refugees were in desperate straits. Cabled messages from Isaac Guenbaum and others described the precarious position of refugees continuing to flow into Palestine from the Balkan countries.

Since the outbreak of the war 28,000 Jews have arrived in Palestine, most of them from Poland, it was said. Recent arrivals include totally destitute persons from Lithuania and the Balkans, coming via Turkey and Siberia. The Jewish community is doing its utmost to help, but the burden is too heavy for the Palestine Jews' means, it was stated.

The Polish Jewish Refugee Fund expended over £40,000 for relief in various countries since the outbreak of the war, assisting many refugees to reach Palestine and providing medical and legal aid and clothing for Polish and stateless refugees in England.

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5/28/41.

1,000 ITALIAN JEWS INTERNED; TAXI DRIVERS LOSE LICENSES

ROME, May 27. (JTA) -- Approximately 1,000 Italian-born Jews have been taken into "protective custody" and interned in special camps as result of intensified anti-Jewish policy of the Italian authorities, it was disclosed today. The authorities are willing to permit most of them to leave the country whenever they have a possibility to do so.

In addition to the interned Italian-born Jews, 2,600 alien Jews are held in various concentration camps in Italy. Another 1,200 foreign Jews, mostly women and children, are still at liberty in Rome, Milan and Trieste.

Police authorities in Italy have withdrawn the licenses from all Jewish taxicab drivers. There were only 25 Jews in Italy engaged in this occupation.

The Italian press reports that a non-Jewish motion picture actor was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for defrauding an Italian Jew of 17,500 lire (approximately \$900). According to the Italian newspapers, the Jew paid the actor 13,500 lire to employ influence with Italian officials to have his son released from a concentration camp and another 4,000 lire to use the same influence towards enabling the Jew to retain his "Aryan" servant. The actor, it turned out, did not have the pretended influence and a charge of fraud was therefore filed against him.

5 GET HONORARY DEGREES AT JEWISH COLLEGES

CINCINNATI, May 27. (JTA) -- Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland received the honorary degree, Doctor of Hebrew Letters, at the 58th graduation exercises of Hebrew Union College on Saturday. Dr. Samuel Krauss, former rector of the Israelitische Theologische Lehranstalt in Vienna, was awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity. Thirteen rabbis were ordained and received the degree, Master of Hebrew Literature, from Dr. Julian Morgenstern, president of the college.

PHILADELPHIA, May 27. (JTA) -- The honorary degree, Doctor of Hebrew Letters, was conferred on Prof. Louis Ginsberg of the Jewish Theological Seminary at Founder's Day exercises of Dropsie College Sunday night, marking the close of the institution's 33rd year. Dr. Abraham Neuman, president of the college, paid tribute to him as "the peerless rabbinic scholar of our century." Ph.D. degrees were awarded to the Rev. Charles Muhlenberg Cooper, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mt. Airy, Pa., and Louis Schoffman, tutor in Hebrew at Brooklyn College.

BONNIER, NOTED SWEDISH PUBLISHER, DEAD

STOCKHOLM, May 27. (JTA) -- Karl Otto Bonnier, Sweden's leading book and magazine publisher, died yesterday at the age of 85. He had been the head of the Bonnier firm since 1900, when he succeeded his father, Albert Bonnier, founder of the company. He was also a former president of the Swedish Book Publishers' Association. In 1937, the 100th anniversary of the firm, he set up a fund of a million kroner (\$250,000) to aid authors, journalists and book illustrators.

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