

VOL. VIII. NO. 162

Monday, June 23, 1941.

5,000,000 JEWS IN PATH OF NAZI FORCES INVADING RUSSIA

LONDON, June 22. (JTA)-- Approximately 5,000,000 Jews are in the direct path of the German armed forces driving into Soviet Russia from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

The largest group, numbering some 5,000,000, are in the Ukraine, primary objective of the Nazi invasion, and the Crimea. The bulk of these are engaged in industrial work, while some 200,000 are settled in the Jewish colonies of the Ukraine and Crimea. Some of these colonies have existed for more than 100 years, some were founded by the Jewish Colonization Association (ICA) and some were created with funds advanced by the American organization AGRO-JOINT.

The second-largest group, numbering some 1,500,000, are in Soviet-occupied Poland. These include thousands who fled from the Nazi-held areas of Poland, where they faced persecution, confinement to ghettos and slow starvation.

Other large groups in the path of the invading Nazi legions include some 350,000 in the Baltic states, approximately 200,000 of whom live in Lithuania, and 200,000 in Bessarabia and northern Bukovina.

In an address announcing the Nazi invasion to the Russian people, Foreign Affairs Commissar Molotoff said that some 200 persons had been killed or wounded in Nazi air raids on the cities of Zhitomir, Kiev, and Kaunas, all cities having large Jewish populations.

The imminent danger threatening the Jewish masses in the Russo-German border districts was stressed by Prof. Selig Brodetsky, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in presenting the report of the joint Foreign Committee at today's Board meeting.

Referring to the "further extension of the war in the last few hours," Brodetsky declared: "Of course it is not for me or anybody speaking in the name of the Board to express an opinion on the great international issues involved, but I am afraid that none of us can forget and, I hope, will forget that once again millions of Jews are involved in the route taken by the armies and that millions of Jews are involved in danger over the possibility of being overtaken by the Nazi heel. I can only express the hope that our brethren in the western part of Soviet Russia will escape the danger which seems to threaten them."

Hitler Again Puts Blame on Jews

BERNE, June 22. (JTA)-- Hitler's record of never failing to point the finger of blame at Jews whenever making a pronouncement of major importance or embarking on a new adventure of aggression remained intact today with his proclamation on the invasion of Russia.

Referring to his offer of peace to the Allied Powers after the conquest of Poland, Hitler said that it was refused because of the "efforts of the international and Jewish warmongers."

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Earlier in his proclamation, when referring to Germany's guarantees to Rumania, Hitler said they had been given "with a heavy heart . . . for if Germany gives guarantees, she will fulfill them. We are neither Englishmen nor Jews."

CLOSING OF U.S. CONSULATES TRAPS THOUSANDS WITH AMERICAN KIN

LISEON, June 22. (JTA)-- One effect of the closing of United States consulates in Germany, Italy and occupied countries is to create a final barrier to the escape of thousands of relatives of American citizens, who are no longer able to obtain visas.

About 1,000 persons who already possess visas and are awaiting transportation will be the last to be rescued from Europe, according to a survey made by refugee-aid organizations here. It is considered improbable that the consulates, which must be liquidated by July 15, will be able to handle the hundreds of pending cases in which visas have been accorded but not yet issued. There will be no possibility, consequently, of these unlucky people receiving visas to join their families in America.

This does not mean complete stoppage of emigration of refugees from Europe since limited outlets still exist in other overseas countries, to which a few hundred monthly may emigrate, but it means thousands will be deprived of their last chance to join their families, which must now remain broken up for years, at least until after the war.

Emigration of refugees now in unoccupied France, and a small number in neutral countries, may still continue, if they are able to comply with Washington's new regulations barring entry of aliens with close relatives remaining in German territory. Refugee groups here have been inundated in the last few days by pleas from the world over for aid to relatives in Europe while this is still possible.

The 1,000 already holding visas include 400 in Germany, 100 in Vienna, 200 booked for early July sailing but not yet supplied with transit visas and 300 scheduled to sail today from Barcelona on the steamship Villa de Madrid.

152 CHILD REFUGEES ARRIVE SINGING 'STAR SPANGLED BANNER'

NEW YORK, June 22. (JTA)-- The refugee rescue ship Mousinho arrived here from Lisbon yesterday with 734 passengers, including 152 children, one of whom was born aboard the ship.

The children, who wore identification tags around their necks and carried American and Portuguese flags, sang the "Star Spangled Banner" as they disembarked at Staten Island. They had been taught the anthem by missionaries returning from their abortive voyage aboard the Zagan. Many of the ship's officers kissed children good-bye as they left.

The children were cared for in Portugal by the Joint Distribution Committee, operating through the OSE, and here they will be under the supervision of the American Committee for Care of European Children.

The baby born on shipboard--on Friday, the 15th--is Henryk Kaston, son of a Polish Jewish violinist, who served in the French army on the Maginot Line, was captured by the Germans, but managed to escape by a ruse and finally reached Lisbon to rejoin his wife.

One of the prominent passengers was Chief Rabbi Robert Serebrenik of Luxemburg, who related how he put the Nazis in the position of being obliged to continue his Government salary as Chief Rabbi after the occupation. When ordered discharged, the rabbi advised the authorities that under Nazi regulations an "Aryan" had to be appointed to replace

every Jewish official removed from his post. Since this obviously could not be done in his case, Dr. Serebrenik was allowed to continue in his post, with salary. "I was the only Jew in all Nazi-occupied Europe on the official German payroll," he said.

Indicative of their experiences in German concentration camps and French internment centers, the children shrank back from questioners until their confidence could be gained. In general the children said they were happy to have reached America, but their joy was tempered with sorrow at leaving their parents behind. One girl said, "this is like a dream, but I am only half happy."

Ten of the children were from the Baron Rothschild home in Paris and had been brought here through the HIAS under the care of Isaac Chomski. There were two brothers, Martin Beer, 10, and Albert, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$. Martin had won a contest during the 11-day voyage for having done the best job of washing behind his ears.

PALESTINE ENJOYING BOOM: DOLES DROPPED, FARM JOBS UP

JERUSALEM, June 22. (JTA)-- Despite its proximity to the theater of war, Palestine enjoys comparative prosperity.

Unemployment in agricultural settlements has been liquidated. Doles ceased three months ago and unemployment in cities has been halved. Haifa is seeking laborers. Tel Aviv still has 3,000 unemployed and Jerusalem approximately 1,000.

Agricultural production has increased many-fold. For example, potatoes increased 250 per cent, the area under cultivation reaching 500,000 dunams. Because of loans from the Government and Jewish Agency, 1,000 new working families have been absorbed in agriculture.

Palestine industry now numbers 1,800 enterprises employing 55,000 workers, many of whom are assisting the war effort, and annual production has reached more than L15,000,000.

BLAMEY VISITS TEL AVIV FOR DEFENSE TALK; 5 PRAYER DAYS PROCLAIMED

JERUSALEM, June 22. (JTA)-- General Blamey, commander of the British forces in Palestine, today visited Tel Aviv and conferred at length with Mayor Israel Rokach.

Although it was not officially stated what the purpose of the visit was, it was believed to be connected with defense problems of the city, which has recently undergone several Nazi air raids.

The Chief Rabbinate today proclaimed a three-day period of prayers and supplications which will culminate with a dawn-to-dusk fast. The shofar will be sounded at morning services and psalms will be recited in the afternoon.

The management of the invalids' home in Bilu Street, which was the chief victim of the air raid on June 12, has announced its decision to start a new home and has appealed to the Jews in Palestine and abroad for funds. The management has approached the High Commissioner with a request for a house in neighboring Sarona, the German colony.

In Haifa, the authorities have distributed special uniforms and steel helmets to the Chevra Kadisha (burial society) for use during air-raids.

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New Zealand Premier Hails Heroism of Palestinians

LONDON, June 22. (JTA)-- Prime Minister Peter Fraser of New Zealand, who visited the Near East en route to London, today praised the performance of Palestinian troops, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"The Palestinians fought splendidly in Greece and Crete, shoulder to shoulder with the New Zealanders and Australians," he said. "They shared the trials and tribulations unflinchingly, bound by the bonds of the Empire."

He expressed gratitude for the welcome the Anzac troops received when they arrived in Palestine. "When I landed at Lydda to visit Anzac camps, troops rushed forward to greet me, carrying armfuls of oranges. The people of the whole countryside sent word to our commanders that the orange groves constituted open house for our troops, who could enter at any time of the day or night and help themselves to as many oranges as they cared to eat. The hospitality to these boys, far from their homes, who had seen the fiercest fighting, has been wonderfully touching."

CENSUS OF JEWS IN RHONE AREA ORDERED ENDED IN 2 DAYS

LONDON, June 22. (JTA)-- A census of Jews in the Rhone Department of France has been ordered, to be completed within 48 hours, it was reported here today.

BRITH SHOLOM PLEDGES AID TO PALESTINE, SEEN MORE VITAL NOW

ATLANTIC CITY, June 22. (JTA)-- Aid to Palestine will continue to be one of the cardinal policies of the independent Order Brith Sholom, especially now, when "Palestine has become a vital link in the military chain holding off the Nazi forces," Grand Master Louis Levine declared in his message today at the opening session of the order's 36th annual three-day convention here.

The convention, attended by 1,000 delegates and guests representing more than 40,000 members, is expected to pass a number of resolutions concerning Jewish life in the United States and Europe. One of the features of the convention will be presentation of the third mobile kitchen under the orders "aid-to-Britain" program

In his message, Grand Master Levine recommended that each member be taxed 35 cents for the Relief and Philanthropy Fund which the order maintains. He emphasized that Brith Sholom "did pioneer work in the strengthening of Palestine when it purchased 25,000 dunams of land for the Jewish National Home" and praised the Joint Distribution Committee for its relief activities for victims of the Nazi regime in Europe.

Speaking on the order's aid-to-Britain campaign, Levine urged members to forget grievances they may have against Britain for not fulfilling her obligations to establish a Jewish National Home in Palestine. "These controversies with Britain dwindle into insignificance in view of Britain's present struggle to preserve civilization," he stated.

The Rev. Maurice L. Perlzweig, British Zionist leader and member of the Executive of the World Jewish Congress, was the guest speaker at the afternoon session; stressing the present necessity for Jewish unity in thought and action. Senator James M. Mead, who was scheduled to speak, was forced by international developments to remain in Washington.

EUGENE BENJAMIN, DIRECTOR OF BARON DE HIRSCH FUND, DEAD AT 79

NEW YORK, June 22. (JTA)-- The death of Eugene Simeon Benjamin, managing director of the Baron de Hirsch Fund, vice-president of the Jewish Agricultural Society and for many years associated with Jewish philanthropic enterprises, was announced here today. He was 79.