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50,000 JEWISH WAR REFUGEES REPORTED IN KIEV; MANY EVACUATED TO VOLGA REGION

STOCKHOLM, July 15, (JTA)-- Not less than 50,000 Jewish war refugees from towns in Soviet Ukraine devastated by the German air and land forces have fled to Kiev to seek shelter there, it was reported here today. The Soviet authorities are taking measures now to transport the refugees to the Volga region, primarily to the Samara and Kazan districts.

Reports reaching here from Germany reveal that many synagogues in Nazi-held Poland have been converted into field hospitals for German soldiers wounded on the Russian front. In Przemysl, the Nazi authorities converted the synagogue building into an electric station.

Fierce fighting is still reported around Rogatchev and Zhlobin, two cities in the Ukraine where the population is almost entirely Jewish. Both cities are said to be passing from hand to hand. The report states that the inhabitants of these two cities had been evacuated by the Soviet authorities into the interior several days before the German troops made their first entrance. There were 15,000 in Rogatchev, the city of the famous Rogatchever Gaon, who died several years ago in Latvia.

The Goniec Krakowski, Nazi newspaper published in Cracow in the Polish language, reports that the latest census of the population in Warsaw has been completed. There are today in Warsaw 1,355,328 people of whom 401,808 are Jews isolated in the ghetto. Nazi newspapers also report that more than 4,000 Jews have been arrested in Slovakia since the outbreak of the German-Russian war. The majority of them have been sent to do forced labor, the newspapers say.

600,000 Interned By Russia, Poles State

LONDON, July 15, (JTA)-- The Polish Government today officially estimated that 600,000 Poles, Jews and Ukrainians were interned in Russia, of whom 200,000 were prisoners of war.

Following the occupation of Eastern Poland, it was stated, the Soviet forces captured 250,000 prisoners, of whom 50,000 were released, mainly those born in Soviet-occupied Poland. Civilians deported from the Vilna and Volhynia areas were said to have been better treated than those from Central Poland. The majority were exiled to Kazan, Kazakstan and Siberia.

SYRIAN JEWS NOT AFFECTED BY WAR

JERUSALEM, July 15, (JTA)-- None of the approximately fifty thousand Jews of Syria suffered during the Anglo-French hostilities, it was established here today when contact between Palestine and Syria was reestablished.

Jewish and non-Jewish refugees from Poland who were given temporary refuge in Cyprus will soon proceed to Rhodesia, it was stated here today. The group which consists of several hundred people, includes a number of Jewish journalists.

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FASCIST ORGAN OPPOSES PROJECTED MODIFICATION OF RACIAL LAWS IN ITALY

ROME, July 15, (JTA)-- With some pressure evidently being exerted to obtain a modification of the racial laws in Italy, the Ill Tevere, notorious anti-Semitic organ came out today with a warning indicating that some groups in the Fascist party are opposed to any relaxation of the existing anti-Jewish restrictions.

"The reason why the Jewish question has never been solved in the past, is because there has invariably appeared a reef in the racial laws to which shipwrecked Jews have clung tenaciously until saved", the Fascist organ writes. "The trouble with the racial laws lies in the fact that they always allow for exceptions in their enforcement. These exceptions have in turn become as much a part of the law as the anti-Semitic measures themselves. That has been the case for centuries. It is because of these failures of the racial laws in the past that we have the war today".

A modification of the racial laws in Italy, although it may be a retreat in comparison with the anti-Jewish persecutions in Germany, would not come as a surprise. Some form of modification has long been expected as a result of the Vatican's persistent efforts. The Pope is especially interested in the mitigation of the plight of mixed marriages and converted Jews.

It is believed here that Jews married to non-Jews will be permitted to "aryanize" themselves. Little leniency is however expected for converted Jews. Nevertheless, a considerable number of Italian Jews are now embracing Catholicism with the hope of profiting by the Pope's intervention. Mussolini himself is known to have little sympathy for Jews embracing Catholicism to better their position.

JEWISH OFFICER HEADS FRENCH LIST OF WAR HEROES

VICHY, July 15, (JTA)-- A Jewish officer, Captain Samuel Meyer, of the 152nd Infantry Regiment, tops the list of officers and soldiers cited by General Huntziger for the Legion of Honor and other military awards, which was published today.

Captain Meyer is described in the citation as "a calm, energetic and cold blooded commander". The citation goes on to say that "on May 20, 1940, despite violent bloody firings of the enemy artillery, firing at sight on French columns, Captain Meyer, during the counter attack led with mastery and courage the march of his unit. He was very seriously injured while at the head of his troops giving the order to the chiefs of the sections".

PARIS SOIR URGES BARRING JEWS FROM SWIMMING POOLS

VICHY, July 15, (JTA)-- The Paris Soir, French daily published in Paris expresses irritation at the presence of Jews in the Paris swimming pools during the hot weather.

The paper recalls in an editorial the recent anti-Jewish ordinance forbidding Jews and non-Jews to come in contact in the business world, and demands that the same measure be applied also to personal contacts in public places.

BIALIK MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD IN LONDON

LONDON, July 15, (JTA)-- The seventh anniversary of the death of Chaim Nachmen Bialik, famous Hebrew poet, was marked here by memorial services, which drew a large audience. Many leaders of Jewish life and letters were present.

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J.D.C. SPENT \$9,000,000 IN SEVENTEEN MONTHS. ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS

NEW YORK, (JTA)-- The expenditure of over \$9,000,000 for assistance to more than 1,000,000 needy Jews in some fifty countries throughout the world is recorded in the annual report of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee which has just been issued, covering the year 1940 and the first five months of 1941. A picture of world wide Jewish distress is given in the report's country-by-country tabulation of the amounts expended by the Joint Distribution Committee for programs of war and emergency relief, emigration, child care, medical aid, vocational training, resettlement and other forms of help to Jewish victims of war and persecution on four continents.

The text of the report contains a "Timetable of Jewish Tragedy", listing the major events affecting overseas Jewish populations from January 1940 through May 1941, and showing their repercussions in the field of Jewish needs. The tabulation indicates that Jewish populations which fell under Nazi domination during the period under review aggregated close to 2,000,000.

Despite war and the complications of overseas travel, 75,000 Jews were able to emigrate from Germany and German-dominated lands during the seventeen months under review, bringing the number of Jewish refugees who have left German territories since 1935 to over 500,000.

The report contains facts and figures concerning the status of Jewish populations in each of the overseas countries where the J.D.C. renders aid.

The report, says Edward M. M. Warburg, chairman of the J.D.C., in an introduction, "is the story of an American organization, led by a group of devoted laymen and a small professional staff, which is carrying out the seemingly impossible task of overseas relief and reconstruction during the most turbulent period of modern times. It is the story of how a philanthropic agency, privately financed and administered, lacking official status but propelled by motives of good will and helpfulness, has hurdled obstacle after obstacle caused by war's chaos in its task of life-giving aid.

Pointing out that the position of the J.D.C. has always been "that none of the funds it expended for humanitarian objectives should be placed where they might benefit the forces of totalitarianism", Mr. Warburg states that the J.D.C. has been able to continue its operations in Germany and German-dominated countries without sending American dollars into those territories, and without violating the British blockade. Clearance arrangements are employed to help the victims of aggression without helping the aggressors.

1100 REFUGEES FROM POLAND LEAVE JAPAN

LONDON, July 15, (JTA)-- Japan has been the stopping point for a total of 2181 Polish refugees, of whom 95 per cent were Jewish, it was reported here by Dr. Ignacy Schwartzbart, Jewish member of the Polish National Council.

The figures do not include the current month of July. Of the total number, some 1100, mostly Jews, have already left Japan for the United States, Canada, the Central American republics, Palestine, and Australia.

Dr. Schwartzbart said he is exerting himself through the medium of the Polish government-in-exile to obtain visas for the over 1000 still remaining in Japan. Dr. Schwartzbart also got in touch with the Jewish community of Kobe which with the help of funds provided by the American Joint Distribution Committee is caring for the refugees.

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PLAN FOR RELIGIOUS COURSES IN CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOLS DROPPED

CHICAGO, July 15, (JTA)-- Because of the strong opposition developing from some religious groups, Superintendent of Schools William Johnson announced today the suspension for the time being of all plans for giving courses of religious instruction in the Chicago high schools.

The plan which had the full support of Catholics as well as a considerable body of Protestants was in general strongly opposed by Jews and the liberal Christian groups. The Jewish rabbis in particular strongly condemned the plan, though a small minority of the younger rabbis favored it. The Board of Education, it was announced, will take up the matter again in September.

B'NAI B'RITH YOUTH ORGANIZATION ADOPTS CIVILIAN DEFENSE PROGRAM

KERVILLE, Texas, July 15, (JTA)-- A five-point civilian defense program calling upon the membership to give all assistance to American Civil Defense and similar state and local agencies was adopted at today's session of the convention of Aleph Zadik Aleph, B'nai B'rith youth organization. The members were urged: 1. To volunteer for service with the Red Cross, United Service Organizations, and other groups ministering to uniformed men. 2. To buy Defense Bonds to the limit of their resources, and to encourage other young men to do likewise. 3. To train themselves for life saving, for first aid and correlated activities. 4. To broaden the scope of the A.Z.A. Youth and Democracy rallies. 5. To implement the program and the resources of the A.Z.A. through a survey aimed to determine the special skills and qualifications of the members. The convention bought \$4,000 of Defense Bonds.

Monsky Eulogizes Golden at Convention

WASHINGTON, July 15, (JTA)-- Tribute to Judge Isidore M. Golden, vice-president of the B'nai B'rith who died last week in San Francisco, Cal., was paid today by Henry Monsky, B'nai B'rith president, at the Seattle District Convention of the B'nai B'rith.

AGUDAH OFFICES IN NEW YORK PICKETED FOR SENDING FOOD TO NAZI-HELD POLAND

NEW YORK, July 15, (JTA)-- The offices of the Agudas Israel of America were picketed here today by the Joint Boycott Council for refusing to submit to the demand of the Council that the Agudas Israel discontinue acting as agent for sending private food packages to relatives in Germany and German-held territories. A letter addressed last week to the Agudas Israel by Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, chairman of the Joint Boycott Council, warned the Jewish orthodox organization that pickets would be stationed at its offices if it failed to comply with the demand of the Council.

A statement issued today by the Agudas Israel urges the Council to accept arbitration. The statement asserts that the Council refused to have the issue settled by an impartial committee. "We shall therefore take the necessary steps to compel the Council to prove that the Agudas Israel is helping 'to feed the Nazis' by sending food packages to relatives of American Jews", the statement says, adding that the sending of food parcels "is approved by leading Jewish religious authorities in America".

The Federation of Polish Jews in America which has been accepting orders from American Jews to deliver food packages to their relatives in Nazi-controlled Poland announced yesterday that it has discontinued doing so. The World Jewish Congress has similarly discontinued sending food packages to people in Nazi-held countries on the ground that "it is against the interests of Britain to indulge in such transactions".