

# JTA

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY  
106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

VOL. VIII. NO. 511

Wednesday, December 24, 1941

### INTENSE COLD, HUNGER, TYPHUS KILLING THOUSANDS IN POLAND AND BALTIC AREA

GENEVA, Dec. 25. (JTA)-- Intense winter cold, hunger, and the unchecked typhus epidemic which is raging throughout Poland, Nazi-occupied Russia and the Baltic area is killing off hundreds of Jews daily in these sections, according to reports reaching here today.

More than 300 deaths daily take place in the Warsaw ghetto from typhus, the reports disclose; and because of the lack of serum anti-typhus inoculations have been stopped. In a Nazi prison camp in Eastern Galicia where thousands of Soviet soldiers are confined the epidemic has also broken out, the Krakowski Wisti reports, adding that the disease has spread to the local population. In Lwow and Przemysl the hospitals are overflowing with typhus victims and the mortality rate is staggering. Indications of the effects of starvation, Nazi brutality and the typhus epidemic in Lwow can be noted in the official German figures received here. In the month of November there were 1,387 deaths in the city, of which 405 were Jews. Of this total 956 were men, of which 205 were Jews.

In Lithuania, the typhus plague is reported to be spreading like wildfire. Many localities have been completely isolated under orders from Commissar Von Rintelen and motor cars passing through are not permitted to stop. Other reports reaching here today state that the epidemic is approaching Berlin and that women in labor camps in the Brandenburg forest, near Berlin, have stopped working for local farmers because of the typhus epidemic in neighboring villages.

### HELSINKI NEWSPAPER ASKS INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN FINLAND

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 25. (JTA)-- A demand that Finland introduce anti-Jewish legislation is made today by the Helsinki newspaper, Ajan Suunta.

Declaring that the "Jewish question is now coming to the fore as the real dawn breaks on the history of the Finnish nation," the newspaper stresses "the good results" achieved in solving the "Jewish problem" in France, Holland, Rumania and Hungary. It expresses regret that no action against Jews has yet been taken in Finland, and declares that "the country has followed too long in the wake of Jewish controller states." It suggests "that now is the time to make a change."

While admitting that Jews have little political influence in Finland (there are 1,755 Jews in all of Finland according to the latest figures) the Finnish publication asserts that the Jews are indirectly harmful because frequently they hold leading positions in factories and other undertakings. "If positions are taken under Jews," it adds, "we will lose our national spirit and unity." The editorial concludes by demanding that the task of rebuilding Finnish racial purity be tackled immediately, since the "new order must not be incomplete."

LEBANON PRESIDENT PLEDGES FULL JEWISH RIGHTS IN GOVERNMENT

BEIRUT, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- President Alfred Naccache, of the Republic of Lebanon, today paid a formal visit to the Great Synagogue in this city, where expressions of loyalty to the government were delivered by the Chief Rabbi and members of the community council.

Congratulations on the attainment of Lebanese independence and special prayers for the well-being of the new government and its ministers were offered before the open Holy Ark. President Naccache replied, stressing the fruitful work of Jews throughout Lebanon in ancient and modern times. He paid tribute to the "democratic Jewish nation whose tenets of freedom and liberty are manifested in the Holy Bible, its religion and its customs."

The President added that the Lebanon government expects the full cooperation of its Jewish citizens who will be given a full share in the responsibilities of government. Previous to their visit to the Great Synagogue, the presidential party visited the B'nai B'rith hall here where prayers were offered for an Allied victory. The ancient ties between the Lebanese and the Jews, from the time the materials of Lebanon were used to build the first Temple, was stressed in several addresses.

F.D.R.-CHURCHILL MEETING SHOULD GIVE IMPETUS TO JEWISH UNITY, ZIONIST ORGAN STATES

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- The present Roosevelt-Churchill negotiations in Washington should be used as a starting point for Jews in all countries to arrive at an agreement concerning the main Jewish demands at the post-war peace conference, it is stated in the leading editorial in tomorrow's Zionist Review.

Discussing what effect the Washington meeting will have on post-war settlement plans, the Review stresses the need for a united Jewish representation to present Jewish proposals.

MISSOURI EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DISCONTINUES REFERENCE TO RELIGION ON APPLICATION CARDS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- The Missouri State Employment Service has discontinued the reference to the religious affiliation of workers seeking employment through its service, it was made known today by the Commission on Economic Problems of the American Jewish Congress. This action followed recent negotiations with the Missouri State Employment Service by the officers of the St. Louis Council of the Congress.

Information concerning this new regulation, which is designed to make merit rather than race or creed the basis of employment, was sent to M.J. Slonim, President of the St. Louis Council, American Jewish Congress, by Elmer John Keitel, Sr., Chairman of the Unemployment Compensation Commission of Missouri, of which the Missouri State Employment Service is a part.

LAZARUS GOLDSCHMIDT, GERMAN REFUGEE TALMUDIST, HONORED ON HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- Messages from the Semitics departments of Harvard University, Hebrew Union College, Dropsie College and from the rector of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem were read here today at the reception tendered by the Royal Society in honor of the seventieth birthday of Lazarus Goldschmidt, German refugee scholar who translated the Talmud. Dr. Goldschmidt now resides here. A joint tribute from twenty prominent non-Jewish Hebraists in Britain was also read at the reception.

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NAZIS ANNOUNCE NEW DECREE LISTING FURTHER OFFENSES FOR WHICH JEWS WILL BE EXECUTED

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- A new and more rigid decree in connection with the application of the German penal code to Jews and Poles in the sections of Poland annexed to the Reich was announced today by the official German news agency.

Under this decree the death sentence will be pronounced on Jews and Poles for the following offenses:

1. For any act of violence committed against Germans - members of the armed forces, the police and the auxiliary police, civil servants, members of the Nazi party and of affiliated organizations, such as the Arbeitsdeinst.
2. For any anti-German activities.
3. For sabotage of the German work of reconstruction."

At the same time in Lodz, the Nazis have been forced to order the 8,000 Jewish textile workers there, to take off their yellow Mogen David bands when they enter the factories and to replace them only when they leave, it is reported here today in Polish circles.

The reason for this order, according to the Polish sources, is that as a result of constant Nazi anti-Semitic propaganda among the German population in Lodz, a small German minority within the factories has been baiting the Jews and seriously interfering with production. The Nazi officials issued a decree that "within the factories there is a distinction only between good and bad craftsmen."

Commenting on the provisions of the new penal decree the official Polish circles declared that "the German authorities during the two years of occupation have never shown any hesitation in passing the death sentence upon Jews and Poles. When, now, the German government finds it necessary to issue a special decree reminding judges of the character of the offenses for which Jews and Poles are liable to be sentenced to death, it proves the strong resistance of the population of Poland against the German invaders who are feeling increasingly uneasy in Polish territories remaining so hostile to them."

ANTI-SEMITIC AND ANTI-AMERICAN ELEMENTS ACTIVE IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- Entry of the United States into the war has spurred Nazi and Japanese agents in Mexico to intensified anti-American and anti-Jewish activity, it is reported today.

Anonymous stickers and pamphlets bearing the usual derogatory anti-Semitic Nazi slogans are to be found on walls and sidewalks. The newspaper Hombre Libre attacks "Roosevelt's Jewish conscience." Other pro-Fascist papers accuse America of having precipitated the war with Japan and claim that the United States is attempting to drag Mexico into the war.

Meanwhile, 27 Jewish refugee doctors here communicated with President Avila Camacho, offering their services in any capacity "in return for the hospitality that has been shown us."

RUMANIAN JEWS WILL BE CONFINED IN GHETTOS IN GIURGIU AND CONSTANZA

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- Jews in the Rumanian Danube town of Giurgiu and in the seaport of Constanza will be confined in ghettos before February 1, it was announced today by the Paris radio.

SYNAGOGUE DESECRATED BY ANTI-SEMITES FOR THIRD TIME IN THREE MONTHS

NEW HYDE PARK, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- The Jewish center in this suburban town has suffered its third attack at the hands of anti-Semitic vandals within the past three months, it was revealed here today by Rabbi Julian Shapo.

A swastika was left behind in the Hebrew school of the congregation which was ransacked. In addition most of the religious books in the synagogue were damaged and a fire was set in a kitchen in the building. Three weeks ago a bottle was hurled through a window during a night class in Hebrew. Although the students were showered with flying glass nobody was hurt. Eleven windows were broken three months ago by vandals during a night foray.

YOUNGEST RABBI IN CANADA JOINS ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

TORONTO, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- The youngest rabbi in Canada has exchanged the pulpit for a seat in a Royal Canadian Air Force bomber.

Rabbi Philip Berger, 25 years old, the son of Rabbi Meyer Berger, of the local Achdut Israel Synagogue and a graduate of a New York theological College, has enlisted in the R.C.A.F. "Being in the Air Force will help me to be a better rabbi when this is all over," Berger said when he enlisted.

CZECH MACCABIS ISSUE BOOKLET RECOUNTING NAZI TERROR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- The broadcast last September 18 by Hubert Ripka, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the Czech government-in-exile, in which he urged Czechs to maintain their solidarity with their Jewish fellow citizens, appears today in booklet form under the auspices of the Czechoslovakian Maccabi here. Entitled "We Think of You," the booklet contains a summary of anti-Jewish legislation and persecution in Czechoslovakia under the Nazis. It appeals to Jews all over the world to support the Czech cause which is "also the fight of Czechoslovak Jewry."

SUPPORT FOR JEWISH ARMY CAMPAIGN PLEDGED BY ANGLO-PALESTINE GROUP

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- Full support to the Jewish Agency in its further efforts to obtain a Jewish fighting force, and to secure the organization of Jews serving with the British forces in Palestine as a Jewish unit with its own flags and symbols, was pledged today in a resolution adopted at an extraordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Palestine club here.

Referring to Dr. Weizmann's recent statements on the question of a Jewish army, the resolution expressed "deep regret that the Government has not implemented its decision to give the Jewish people an opportunity to fight the Nazi menace with in a Jewish force."

JEWISH FIRE-FIGHTER RECEIVES BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL FOR BRAVERY

LONDON, Dec. 23. (JTA)-- Section Officer Noel Landau, vice-president of the Zionist Central Council of Liverpool, was awarded the British Empire Medal today, for bravery while serving with the Liverpool fire-fighting service during the severe Nazi bombings of the city.