

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 45

Tuesday, February 24, 1942

RUMANIA IS ONE HUGE CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR JEWS, EYE-WITNESSES REPORT

ISTANBUL, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- Eye-witness reports of the massacres and persecutions of Jews in Rumania were given here today to the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by the Rumanian Jews who succeeded in reaching Turkish shores on the sinking freighter Strume after escaping from Bukovina and other parts of Rumania.

Rumania today is one huge concentration camp for Jews, the refugees stated. No Jew is protected by law, thus Jewish life and property can be taken by anybody without fear of punishment. Jews are prohibited from travelling on railroads, while a Jew undertaking a trip on the high roads by horse-and-wagon risks his life. All Jewish industrial enterprises and buildings have been expropriated. Small stores are still open, but they have nothing to sell since wholesalers are forbidden to deal with Jewish retailers.

In Moldavia all Jewish enterprises were expropriated by Rumanians whom the government brought in from the province of Dobrudja. All Jewish banking accounts are blocked. All Jews aged from 18 to 60, including the outstanding Jewish leaders, are forced to do compulsory labor, digging trenches and performing the dirtiest kind of work under the most cruel circumstances.

No Food for Jews; 8,000 Killed in Jassy; All Deported from Dorna-Vatra

Hardly any food is available for Jews, and clothing is not sold to Jews. Thousands are dying of starvation and from the cold. The general atmosphere in the country is sharply anti-Jewish. Jewish women and children in provincial townships whose husbands and fathers have been sent to forced labor, are in constant fear of their lives since they remain unprotected and can easily be attacked by local anti-Semitic bands.

In Dorna-Vatra, Bukovina, the entire Jewish population has been expelled to Transnistria, which is the part of the Soviet Ukraine occupied jointly by Rumanian and German armies. The fate of these deportees remains unknown, but it is believed that they all perished from hunger and cold. Mass-expulsion of Jews to Transnistria are constantly taking place in other Rumanian cities accompanied by terror and massacres.

Several pogroms occurred in Jassy but the most terrible of them was carried out five weeks ago when 8,000 Jewish men and women were slaughtered by Rumanian soldiers in house-to-house plundering and killing. After the pogrom hundreds of Jews were herded into cattle trains, without food and water, for transportation to Transnistria. The majority of them, however, died from hunger and cold before reaching their destination. They were buried in a collective grave in the township of Tirgu-Frumas.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CONFISCATES GOLD AND SILVER OBJECTS FROM SYNAGOGUES

BERNE, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- The Italian government has ordered the requisitioning of all gold, silver, copper or other metal articles in the possession of synagogues and Jewish institutions, it was reported here today.

JEWISH REFUGEES IN UNOCCUPIED FRANCE HELD IN CAMPS UNDER GESTAPO SUPERVISION

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- Tens of thousands of disabled, unemployable Jewish refugees from Germany are confined under the most horrible conditions in Nazi prison camps in the department of Ariège in unoccupied France, near the Spanish border, it was revealed here today by Isaac Mendes-France, former member of the Blum cabinet, who reached London recently after successfully escaping from a military prison hospital in unoccupied France.

Jews interned in the Ariège camps are directly under the control of Gestapo officers, the former French deputy disclosed. The French press has been forbidden to even mention the existence of these camps and people speaking of conditions there are liable to be arrested for "spreading alarm and despondency," Mendes-France stated.

Corroborating recent reports of the French people's dislike of the Vichy anti-Jewish measures, Mendes-France said that the people are aware that anti-Semitism is "merely a device to distract from Vichy's own political and economic failure" and are confident that all discrimination against Jews will disappear when France is once again free.

He reported that the majority of the administrators who have been placed over Jewish property are incompetent and dishonest, and are using their positions to enrich themselves. In some cases the administrators are unable to conduct the businesses without the help of Jews and are forced to retain the Jews in positions where they actually run the enterprise although they are prevented from coming into contact with the public.

EDWARD M.M. WARBURG ENLISTS AS PRIVATE IN U.S. ARMY

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- Edward M. M. Warburg, son of the late Felix Warburg and Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, joined the army last week as a private, despite the fact that he is married and has a 6-months-old son, it was learned here today.

A member of Company B, 518th Military Police Battalion, Private Warburg is in training at Governors Island, home station of the unit. Army headquarters, in disclosing Mr. Warburg's enlistment, emphasized that the battalion was a field unit subject to call to active service. Warburg himself declined to comment on his enlistment.

NEW COLONIAL SECRETARY IS NO APPEASER, LONDON ZIONISTS DECLARE

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- Official Zionist quarters here were reluctant today to express an opinion as to whether any practical changes in the policy of the British Government towards Palestine can be expected as a result of the appointment yesterday of Viscount Cranborne to the post of Colonial Secretary.

"The situation should be viewed in the light of the fact that Cranborne is known as an opponent of any appeasement policy," a Zionist spokesman said. London Jewish circles believe that under Cranborne the Jewish grievances with regard to Palestine may receive a more favorable hearing than under his predecessor Lord Moyne.

The new Colonial Secretary is known for his liberal views and for his pro-Jewish sympathies. His appointment to this post at the present time indicates that the British Cabinet intends to make revisions in its colonial policy and no doubt exists here that these revisions will also affect Palestine.

PALESTINE WILL BE WELL PROVIDED WITH FOOD, HIGH COMMISSIONER DECLARES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- The Palestine government has taken steps to bring into the country sufficient quantities of various foods to meet the needs of the population, it was disclosed here today by the High Commissioner for Palestine receiving a joint Arab-Jewish delegation.

Geoffrey Walsh, economic advisor of the Government, addressing a conference of members of the Jewish Industrial Association, today declared that the Palestine government appreciates the cooperation which has been shown by Jewish industry in Palestine and is proud of its achievements. Walsh had particular praise for the leather industry whose boots have been exported to Turkey where, he reported, they are known as "Churchill's Boots." Walsh promised that careful consideration would be given the Association's request for an increase in the import quotas for raw material needed for the war effort.

NAZIS RECALL JEWISH SCIENTISTS FROM GHETTO TO DEVELOP ANTI-TYPHUS VACCINE

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- Several Jewish scientists, specialists in the development of anti-typhus vaccines, have been taken from the Polish ghettos to work in the famous laboratories of Dr. Rudolph Stefan Weigl, at Lwow University, which have been reopened under Nazi supervision, it was learned here today. The Jewish biologists worked under Dr. Weigl, who was the developer of an effective anti-typhus serum, before the Nazi invasion of Poland.

The extent to which living conditions in the Warsaw ghetto have weakened the resistance of its Jewish residents is indicated in statistics on the spread of spotted typhus published in the Goniec Krakowski, reaching here today. The Nazi paper, published in Cracow, reports that there were 17,600 cases of typhus in Warsaw during 1941, of which 15,749 were Jewish.

The Lemberg Zeitung, which the Nazis publish in Lwow, reports that Chaim Silberman, a Jewish butcher, has been sentenced to death for selling kosher meat to his Jewish customers.

Other reports reaching here today from Warsaw state that the Jewish theatre "Leazazel" has been reopened in the ghetto there. The theatre is under the management of the well known Jewish actor Sendler.

CZECH JEWS SENT TO FORCED LABOR IN COAL MINES; BRATISLAVA STREETS MADE "JUDENREIN"

ZURICH, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- A large number of Jews have been sent to forced labor in Czechoslovakian coal mines, it was learned here today. The mines at Kladno have started operations with a first shift consisting wholly of Jews.

In Bratislava, anti-Jewish activities continue unabated, the reports disclose. All Jews have been ordered to evacuate certain streets by March 31. Failure to do so will be punishable by fines and imprisonment, the Gardista, Hlinka Guard organ, writes.

MOSCOW PRESS PROUDLY REPORTS BRITISH AWARD TO SOVIET SCIENTIST

MOSCOW, Feb. 23. (JTA)-- The entire Moscow press today proudly features the news that Prof. Peter Kapitza, the Soviet Jewish scientist, who together with other Jewish intellectuals issued a call last August to the Jews of the world to combat Nazism, has been awarded the Faraday Medal by Britain for his distinguished achievements in the field of physics.

NAVY SAYS DEATHERAGE IS "UNDESIRABLE PERSON;" ORDERS HIS DISMISSAL FROM NAVY WORK

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25. (JTA)-- George E. Deatherage, notorious anti-Semite, organizer and leader of the Knights of the White Camellia, was today declared by the Navy to be a person "undesirable to have access to the work of the Navy Department" and his discharge from employment as chief engineer for private contractors on a \$30,000,000 expansion project at the Norfolk Naval Base was ordered.

The Dies Committee, after investigations, reported Deatherage's visits to the German embassy to discuss anti-Semitism and Nazi fund-raising techniques. The Dies Committee also held that the spreading of anti-Semitism was a principal objective of the Knights. It classified the Knights with the Christian Front, the Christian Mobilizers, the Silver Shirts and other Fascist organizations which, it reported, worked with the German-American Bund.

The statement issued by the Navy today reads as follows: "After an investigation of the activities of George E. Deatherage, employed by Doyle & Russell, contractors on construction work at the naval operating base, Norfolk, Va., the Secretary of the Navy has invoked the provisions of Article 27 (C) of the contract, which requires that the contractors shall discharge from employment and exclude from the site of the work any person designated by the Secretary of the Navy as undesirable to have access to the work and/or materials of the Navy Dept.

"Based on competent investigation, the Secretary of the Navy has found that Mr. Deatherage is an undesirable person within the meaning of the contract, and as such will be excluded from the site of navy work."

NAZI AGENTS ACTIVE IN SPREADING RACIAL PROPAGANDA IN WASHINGTON, OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25. (JTA)-- The revelation that Washington is "honeycombed with Nazi agents" who following direct orders from Berlin are spreading anti-Jewish and anti-Negro propaganda in the capital with a view of stirring up race riots, was made here today by a government official.

The Berlin orders, the official said, are received by short wave radio and the government knows about them. They call upon the Nazi agents in Washington to provoke fights with Jews and to spread racial propaganda among the lower classes of the population. The circle in which the Nazi agents operate has been nicknamed by government officials "The Coffee Pot Set" because the Nazis conduct their anti-Jewish whispering campaigns mostly among taxi drivers and workers in the cheap restaurants, rooming houses and coffee pot establishments.

These agents, composed of people who wish America to lose the war, are conducting their propaganda chiefly under the argument that "Hitler himself is bad, but what he does to the Jews is right." According to the government official, this propaganda impresses many low-paid workers, taxi drivers and ignorant women. In stirring up racial antagonism among the lower class of the population, Nazi agents are at present concentrating their activities in Washington more than in any other city in the United States, the government official estimated.

JEWISH FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL RAISE \$91,000 FOR RUSSIAN WAR RELIEF

NEW YORK, Feb. 25. (JTA)-- The Council of Jewish Fraternal and Benevolent Organizations contributed \$14,000 in cash and pledged \$77,000 more to Russian War Relief at a meeting yesterday in the Hotel Commodore. About 2,000 delegates from 683 organizations attended the meeting.

Messages to the council were received from Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Halifax, Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Ambassador Litvinov, Secretary Ickes, Joseph E. Davies, and Prof. Albert Einstein, honorary chairman of the council.