

# JTA

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### NAZIS EXECUTE 16,000 JEWS IN PONIEWIESCH. KILL ALL JEWS IN SHAVLI, LITHUANIA

KUIBYSHEV, June 24. (JTA)-- More than 16,000 Jews were massacred by the Nazis in a three-day pogrom which took place in Poniewiesch, Nazi-occupied Lithuania, according to a report brought here by a Russian military commander who succeeded in escaping from the Germans.

The Russian commander also brought photos which he found in the pocket of a dead German officer showing the mass-execution of Jews in the large Schanzer garage in Keunas. In the city of Shavli, Lithuania, the entire Jewish population was exterminated, he said.

Tales of Jewish mothers covering their children with their bodies in order to protect them from being machine-gunned by low-flying Nazi airplanes swooping down upon roads filled with evacuated Jewish families were told today by the well-known Russian writer Vladimir Lidin, giving an eye-witness account of the evacuation of Jews from Nazi-threatened Russian towns.

Thousands of Jewish dead are buried on roads and in fields in Russia as a result of Nazi machine-gunning of streams of Jewish refugees bound for the interior, Mr. Lidin writes in an article in "Einikeit," organ of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. "I shall never forget the horrible scenes which I witnessed when German fliers returned three times to machine-gun innocent Jewish women, children and old men who were moving from their home towns to safety in the East," he says.

### BRITAIN TRANSFERS ARMIES FROM PALESTINE AND SYRIA TO EGYPT, NAZI RADIO REPORTS

BERNE, June 24. (JTA)-- The Nazi radio in Berlin today reported that British military forces in Palestine and Syria are being transferred to Egypt in anticipation of hostilities on Egyptian soil.

At the same time, the Rome radio reported today that with the arrival of the Axis Libyan armies at the Egyptian frontier, anti-British demonstrations have broken out in Cairo, Alexandria and even in Syria where pro-Axis Arab elements are gaining influence among the local Arab population.

The Berlin and Rome radio stations boast that there are many Axis followers among the Arabs in Egypt, Syria and Palestine. Their broadcasts contain the usual anti-British and anti-Jewish propaganda.

### Britain Has Failed to Harness Jewish Goodwill, Parliament Told

LONDON, June 24. (JTA)-- Harold MacMillan, British Under-Secretary for Colonies, declared in Parliament today that "we have failed to harness for ourselves Jewish goodwill." He made this statement in presenting a report on the financial status of the colonies to the House of Commons. He cited the Jewish investments in Palestine as one of the important factors in the development of the country and said that the Jews in Palestine have proven themselves an experienced colonial people.

AGENCY DISPUTES RIGHT OF ALLIED NATIONAL ARMIES TO MOBILIZE JEWISH REFUGEES IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, June 24. (JTA)-- The Jewish Agency for Palestine today issued a forthright statement disputing the claims of the various Allied national armies based in Palestine - such as the Poles, Czechs and Greeks - that Jewish refugees here who are citizens of these countries should join their respective armies.

This controversy, which has been brewing for some months, came to a head today when Meshe Shertok, chief of the political department of the Agency, speaking at a press conference here stated definitely that "the Jewish Agency considers every Jewish immigrant an integral part of the Jewish national body engaged in establishing a national home in Palestine. The Jewish Agency believes that those nations who in the past demanded and assisted Jewish immigration to Palestine must share the view that their respective citizens in Palestine are now integrated in the Jewish national community, and participation by these Jews, organized in purely Jewish units, in the common struggle should be considered by the Allied nations as directly assisting their own efforts."

Although Shertok did not specifically mention the armies of the Poles, Czechs and Greeks, which already include a large number of Jews, it was obvious that it was these groups to which he referred. He revealed that the number of Palestinians in the British forces has reached a new high. There are now 15,500 Palestine Jewish men and women serving with the British in the Middle East, he said. This is far from sufficient, however, Shertok pointed out, especially in view of the threatening situation in Libya and other sections of the Middle East.

Stressing the need for unlimited manpower, Shertok reported that negotiations are now being conducted with the Colonial Office in London looking towards enlarging the scope of the activities of the supernumeraries and their utilization for active defense of vital strategic points.

PALESTINE HOME GUARD OF 40,000 JEWS DEMANDED IN LONDON

LONDON, June 24. (JTA)-- Creation of a Jewish home guard in Palestine, consisting of 40,000 to 50,000 men, was demanded here today in view of the imminent danger to Palestine as a result of British reverses in Libya.

This demand was voiced by the Jewish Fighting Force Committee, which is headed by Lord Wedgwood and Victor Gollancz, M.P., and includes many parliamentarians among its membership. At the same time, the committee reiterated its request that Britain form a Jewish military force in Palestine, using the 15,000 Jews already serving with the British forces in the Middle East as a nucleus. The group pointed out that 20,000 additional Jewish men are available for such an army, not including 6,000 supernumeraries who could easily be trained for military service.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, today, discussing the question of Palestine, decided that in the future the Palestine problem will be treated as part of the entire post-war reconstruction plans. The recent appeal issued to the Jews of the world by Russian Jewry was discussed by the Deputies. Sir Robert Wellesley Cohen pointed out that the Board had responded sympathetically to the appeal.

TORAH CAPTURED FROM AXIS FORCES IN LIBYA TURNED OVER TO TEL AVIV RABBIS

TEL AVIV, June 24. (JTA)-- A Torah captured by the British forces when they were attacking Derna in Libya several months ago has been turned over to the Tel Aviv rabbinate, it was announced here today.

The Torah, which had originally reposed in the Derna synagogue, was found among German and Italian stores seized by the British.

70,000 ROMANIAN JEWS INTERNED IN OCCUPIED RUSSIA ARE STARVING: 25% REPORTED DEAD

LISBON, June 24. (JTA)-- Approximately twenty-five percent of the 70,000 Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina interned in the Mohilev area of Axis-occupied Russian territory have died, according to an uncensored appeal from the city of Mohilev which reached here today.

"The problem of the remaining Jews will be solved easily if no help is forthcoming soon, the appeal says. "We shall all die of hunger. But this is apparently what our oppressors wish." In addition to the tens of thousands of Rumanian Jews confined in concentration camps in the Mohilev area, thousands of Jews from Bessarabia and Bukovina are also held in camps in the Tiraspol district, which, together with the Mohilev region, is incorporated in the Transnistria province set up by Rumania in occupied Russian territory along the Dniester river, the appeal discloses.

Epidemics have taken a high toll among the Jewish internees in the Mohilev and Tiraspol sections, the appeal reports. The city of Mohilev has suffered badly from bombardment and from a flood. Food is scarce. Bread is a luxury sold at 200 lei a loaf. One single potato costs 20 lei. The local non-Jewish population lives mostly by bartering, but the Jews have nothing to barter since all their belongings were taken from them by Rumanian soldiers when they were driven into exile.

NINE EXECUTED BY NAZIS IN POLAND FOR FEEDING STARVING JEWS

LONDON, June 24. (JTA)-- Nine Poles and Jews were executed by the Nazis in Poland for giving food to starving Jews, according to information received here today by the Polish Government-in-Exile.

Of the nine victims, three were hanged in the town of Kutno and three in the town of Wloclawek for allegedly belonging to "a Polish-Jewish organization which smuggled food into the Jewish ghettos." The execution of the other three, consisting of a father, a son and a 16-year-old grandson - all Jews - took place in Turbin, a small rural town in the Lublin area. The latter were accused of distributing milk to hungry Jewish children without a permit from the Nazi officials. Under a Nazi decree, Jewish children are not allowed to have milk.

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC BREAKS OUT IN VILNA; SPREADS TO LATVIA

LONDON, June 24. (JTA)-- A cholera epidemic has broken out in the city of Vilna, where the Nazis are reported to have slaughtered 60,000 Jews last month, according to information reaching Polish official quarters here today.

Cholera epidemics were reported today to be raging in the Latgalian province of Nazi-held Latvia. Several villages near Swenciani were set afire by the Nazis in order to stop the spread of cholera to other sections of the Baltic countries, the report said.

NAZIS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO FORCE ANTI-SEMITISM UPON CHURCHES IN CZECH PROTECTORATE

ZURICH, June 24. (JTA)-- Nazi authorities in the Czech Protectorate today started a campaign to force anti-Semitism upon the Czech churches and schools, according to a report reaching here from Berlin.

The report quotes the Nazi-controlled Czech paper "Ceske Slovo" published in Prague as demanding that all reference to Jews, to the Bible, and to "the Jewish God Jehova" be expunged from schools, churches and prayer books. Those who disagree with National Socialist ideas are not reliable supporters of the Czech nation and of the German Reich and must leave their pulpits, the Prague Nazi paper writes.

FDR COMMITTEE PROBING EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION WILL RECEIVE BROADER POWERS

WASHINGTON, June 24. (JTA)-- President Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Fair Employment Practice is to be given the job of cracking down on discrimination against Jews, Negroes or any other minorities in all activities under the Federal Government, it was reliably learned here today.

On July 1, the beginning of the new Government fiscal year, the agency will be shifted from the War Production Board to the Executive Office, where it will function directly under the President. A tentative budget has already been submitted which provides for expanding the staff of the committee from its present twenty-five to two hundred employees and for the establishment of thirteen regional offices in various parts of the country. It will be given broader powers, including the right to investigate alleged unfair treatment of Jews, aliens, Negroes and others in both the military and civilian agencies of the Government as well as discrimination by private firms engaged on war production contracts. At present it has no jurisdiction over the armed forces.

In the past few months, the committee has cited several firms in the New York and Chicago areas for discrimination in hiring employees for work on Government contracts, after holding public hearings in those cities. Under the proposed set-up its permanent staffs in key cities would be constantly checking on complaints. Lawrence W. Cramer, former Governor of the Virgin Islands, is expected to remain as executive secretary of the body.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CO. LIQUIDATES; TURNS OVER ITS MAILING LIST TO COUGHLIN

DETROIT, June 24. (JTA)-- Directors of the Social Justice Publishing Co., Inc., are liquidating the organization and plan to shut their headquarters here by July 1, it was learned today.

A four-page letter sent to all subscribers said that "our mailing list will be turned over to Father Coughlin, since we feel that the vast majority of our subscribers were; and are Father Coughlin's friends, and some, perhaps, may care to keep up correspondence with him. You may be certain that we shall never breach your confidence in us by bartering your name which appears on our mailing list."

RABBI MAURICE BLOOM NAMED CHAPLAIN AT WEST POINT; WILL GIVE GUIDANCE TO 100 JEWISH CADETS

WEST POINT, N.Y., June 24. (JTA)-- Rabbi Maurice J. Bloom of Newburgh, N.Y., has been named Jewish Chaplain of the United States Military Academy by the National Jewish Welfare Board, succeeding Lt. Col. Benjamin A. Tintner, who has been called into active service, it was announced here today by the Academy authorities. He will minister to the spiritual needs of about 100 cadets.

Rabbi Bloom is a graduate of the Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. He has been spiritual leader of Temple Beth Jacob in Newburgh since his ordination in June, 1927. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and attended Hebrew Union College, Columbia University, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and the American School for Oriental Research. He is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

SAMUEL BETTELHEIM REPORTED DEAD IN HUNGARY

NEW YORK, June 24. (JTA)-- The death in Budapest of Samuel Bettelheim, who organized the first national Zionist group in Hungary in 1897 with Dr. Theodore Heral as president, was reported here today from Switzerland. He was born in Pressburg in 1873.

From 1915 to 1917 he lived in the United States lecturing on various aspects of Jewish life in Europe. In 1922 he again came to the United States where he remained until 1927. He organized the Agudath Israel in America and was the founder of the Federation of Hungarian Jews in the United States which elected him its delegate to the American Jewish Committee.