

# JTA

## DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX. NO. 176

Sunday, August 2, 1942

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Immediately after the normal day's work is completed the Jewish workers gather at the training fields where experienced Red Army instructors drill them in the tactics of defensive and offensive warfare. Those tactics which have met with great success in fighting at the front are studied carefully and practiced by the trainees. They are being hardened to meet all eventualities that might be encountered when they arrive at the front. As one instructor put it, they are "being trained not only to be good soldiers but to perform heroic exploits."

The terrain of Biro-Bidjan furnishes many advantages for the training of soldiers. There are vast expanses of level fields, hilly country, steep mountain trails and many rivers. Outside the limits of the capital city of Biro-Bidjan, itself, hundreds of young Jews can be seen drilling daily in the open ground and marshes along the Taiga river.

The double responsibility that faces the Jews of Biro-Bidjan - as citizens of a nation at war with Germany and as Jews upon whom the Nazis have visited their worst atrocities - was emphasized in an address delivered to the trainees by Col. Boris Heyman, one of the officers in command.

### 8,000 POLISH JEWS ASSIGNED TO DRAINING LUBLIN SWAMPS; LWOW GHETTO ENLARGED

LONDON, July 31. (JTA)-- A new Jewish forced-labor camp in which 8,000 Polish Jews are confined, has been set up near Lublin by the German authorities, Polish circles here report today.

The Jews concentrated at this camp, which is called "Swamp," are being used to drain and reclaim a huge stretch of marsh in the Lublin area, according to the report. The Nazi authorities in charge have announced that 8,000 acres of marshes must be drained and ready for cultivation by the end of the summer.

Other reports reaching the Polish Government today disclose that the 17,000 Jews in Lwow who are still living outside the ghetto confines have been ordered to move inside before September 20, according to a Nazi order issued this week. At the same time the occupation officials announced that the ghetto boundaries would be enlarged in order to include several additional streets. About 15,000 Poles living on these streets will be forced to move before September 20. Any Jew who fails to comply with these instructions will be liable to the death penalty, while Poles violating the order will be punished by heavy fines, the Germans warned.

SLOVAK LUTHERAN BISHOPS OPPOSE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF JEWS

ZURICH, July 31. (JTA)-- The anti-Jewish policy of the Nazi puppet-state of Slovakia was assailed in a joint pastoral letter issued recently by the country's two Lutheran bishops, it was learned here today.

In the letter, which brands the Nazi-Fascist political ideology as founded on false premises, the bishops reserve the right to baptize Jews, an issue which has brought both the Catholic and Lutheran churches into conflict with the government. The bishops who issued the letter are Dr. Vladimir Cibrda, of Presov, and Dr. Stefan S. Osusky, of Bratislava. The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, as the Lutheran church is known, has an estimated 500,000 members and 519 parishes in Slovakia.

GERMAN RADIO CONFIRMS BESSARABIA "JUDENREIN"; HAILS "GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT" OF ANTONESCU

BERNE, July 31. (JTA)-- The German radio today, quoting the Rumanian newspaper "Bessarabia," published in Kishinev, confirms previous Rumanian claims that the entire province of Bessarabia has been made "Judenrein." According to reports reaching here during the past few months, the Jews living in the province have all been deported to Transnistria, the Rumanian-occupied section of the Soviet Ukraine.

The Nazi broadcaster hailed the expulsion of the Jews as "one of the greatest accomplishments of Premier Antonescu's regime."

FRENCH-JEWISH INVENTOR OF SECRET WEAPON TORTURED TO DEATH BY NAZIS

LONDON, July 31. (JTA)-- A French-Jewish professor who had perfected an invention of great military value was tortured to death by the Germans in a vain attempt to extort the secret from him, it was disclosed today by Paul Simon, a former Catholic deputy in the French parliament, speaking at Norwich.

The professor, whom Mr. Simon did not name, was first tortured by having his hands roasted over a slow fire, and when this failed his skull was crushed by slow pressure. He died, however, without divulging any information to the Nazis.

PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER LAUDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ZIONIST PIONEERS

JERUSALEM, July 31. (JTA)-- In the presence of several survivors of the Bilu, the organization of Zionist pioneers who came from Russia to Palestine sixty years ago, the sixtieth anniversary of the settlement of the village of Rishon Lezion, founded in 1882, was marked here yesterday.

A message from Sir Harold MacMichael, Palestine High Commissioner, lauded the "remarkable work that has been achieved in spite of every difficulty during a long period of existence, due above all to the indefatigable industry and enthusiasm of its members."

BELGIAN FASCIST PAPER DEMANDS USE OF ARYAN NAMES IN TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

STOCKHOLM, July 31. (JTA)-- The Belgian Nazi paper Volk en Staat, received here today, protests the fact that Jewish names are still used by the telephone company in giving instructions in its directories on the correct use of the telephone. "Instead of saying 'A as in Adam, D as in David, etc.' when spelling out names on the telephone, Aryan names should be used," the Nazi paper demands.

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### 3,000 POLISH JEWS ASSIGNED TO DRAINING LUBLIN SWAMPS; Lwow GHETTO ENLARGED

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REVEAL DETAILS OF EXECUTION IN PORTABLE GAS CHAMBERS OF THOUSANDS OF POLISH JEWS

NEW YORK, July 31. (JTA)-- Details of the execution in portable gas chambers of thousands of Polish Jews in the woods between the cities of Kolo and Chelmno, in the western part of Poland, were revealed here today by the American Representation of the General Workers Union of Poland.

The information was secured from three of the Jewish grave diggers who were assigned by the Nazis to bury the dead in mass-graves as they were carted from the gas chambers. The three Jews succeeded in escaping from the dungeon in Chelmno castle in which they were confined each night after they finished their grisly labors.

"From January 15, of this year, groups of Jews who had been given driven out of the Lodz ghetto began to arrive in Chelmno," they related. "The first group was composed of 750 families, comprising about 3,000 persons. Other contingents followed. When the Jews first arrived in the city they were taken to the Chelmno church where they were divested of all their belongings. Then they were transferred to the Chelmno castle, a one-story remnant of a palace ruined during World War I.

"There the Jews were taken to an underground corridor where one of the group - who later turned out to be an S.S. officer - told them that they would all be returned to the Lodz ghetto where they would get jobs, but first they must bathe at the castle and have their clothes disinfected. Once the Jews had removed all their outer clothing they were taken to a door which they were told led to the 'bath,' but which actually was a platform from which they were loaded onto large grey trucks with hermetically-sealed rear doors.

"Once the group of Jews had been jammed inside, the truck proceeded to the woods about seven kilometers distant, in the direction of Kolo. There it halted at the execution place in a clearing which was surrounded by German police armed with machine guns. In one corner of the clearing was a large pit around which stood S.S. men, police, some civilians and groups of Jewish grave diggers. As soon as the truck arrived at a spot about 100 yards from the pit, the chauffeur, who also served as the executioner, turned on the gas apparatus which he controlled from the front of the auto.

Victims Cry Out in Anguish As Gas Suffocates Them

"As the gas seeped up from vents in the bottom of the body of the truck, anguished cries and poundings could be heard from the interior of the vehicle. After about fifteen minutes, usually, the noise stopped and the driver would go to the cab of the truck and through a window located behind the driver's seat peer in to see if all the Jews were dead. When he had assured himself of that fact, the truck was driven to the foot of the mass-grave and four of the Jewish grave diggers would be forced to drag the bodies out of the gas chamber and throw them down to their comrades waiting in the pit below.

"But before the Jews were buried - the head of one at the feet of another in order to provide more burial space - German civilians examined each corpse, pulling off rings and locketts and extracting metal fillings from teeth. When the bottom of the grave was filled, another layer of victims would be placed on top of those already there."

The three diggers who escaped also revealed that toward the end of last year the Jews living in Konon county and in the towns of Kolo, Dambie-on-Narew, Kiedowa, Ispitz and Bugaj, were taken to unknown destinations, and are believed to have been executed in the same manner as the Jews from Lodz.

JEWISH REFUGEES ON NYASSA STILL ON BOARD PENDING GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS

BALTIMORE, July 31. (JTA)-- Most of the 350 Jewish refugees who arrived here Wednesday night on the Portuguese vessel Nyassa are still being detained on board ship awaiting clearance from the United States naval, military and immigration officials and the F.B.I. Bertha Klein, 60, who was taken off the vessel on a stretcher, was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Marine Hospital here. Authorities said that it might be several days before all investigations are completed and the refugees allowed to land.

THOUSANDS OF ALIENS APPEAL TO FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE COMMITTEE FOLLOWING FDR STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, July 31. (JTA)-- Thousands of additional complaints of job discrimination, many of them from Jewish refugees, have reached the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice in the three weeks since his statement that "persons should not hereafter be refused employment, or persons at present employed discharged, solely on the basis of the fact that they are aliens or that they were formerly nationals of any particular foreign country," it was revealed here today.

Many refugees did not know that employers had no right to discriminate against them, a committee official pointed out, or whom to complain to if they did. The President's statement served to clarify this situation. The new complaints have come from all over the country, the official said, but appeared to center about the great metropolitan industrial areas.

JAN MASARYK, QUENTIN REYNOLDS HELP LAUNCH JNF CAMPAIGN IN LONDON

LONDON, July 31. (JTA)-- Jan Masaryk, Foreign Minister of the Czechoslovakian Government-in-Exile, and Quentin Reynolds, American war correspondent, joined last night in launching the Jewish National Fund's campaign to raise a half-million dollars to redeem one dunam of land for every Palestine Jew serving with the British forces.

Mr. Masaryk denounced anti-Semitism as "a most cowardly, indecent thing which I despise," and stressed the need to build up Palestine as a post-war refuge for Jews. Prof. Samson Wright, president of the JNF of Great Britain, extended greetings to the people of America and to American Jews.

AMERICAN TROOPS ON MIDDLE EASTERN FRONT SHARE HOSPITALITY OF PALESTINE "U.S.O."

NEW YORK, July 31. (JTA)-- American soldiers on the Middle Eastern front are the latest to enjoy the hospitality of Palestine's "Service Clubs," which are the Holy Land's version of the U.S.O., according to a report received here today by the United Palestine Appeal.

The "Service Clubs," whose welcome mats have already been trodden by thousands of British, Fighting French, Polish, Czech, Yugoslav, Dutch and Belgian troops, as well as Palestine's own Jewish fighters in the Allied forces, are subsidized by U.P.A. funds. The clubs furnish information, arrange parties, dances, sightseeing trips, sports, etc., and even provide home-cooked meals at the homes of Jewish families.

POLISH AND JEWISH REFUGEES IN RUSSIA THANK JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTANCE

NEW YORK, July 31. (JTA)-- The Jewish Labor Committee today announced that it has received a cable from a group of Polish and Jewish refugee in Alma Ata, thanking the Committee for the assistance that it has sent to the refugees in Russia.