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Thursday, October 1, 1942

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Reporting that "fifty thousand Jews are crammed into an area where only ten thousand could live under any condition approaching normal," the Swiss correspondent declares that thousands of Jews are housed in veritable catacombs without access to air and in almost total darkness.

"The misery and filth in which the Jews are compelled to live is beyond human imagination," the neutral journalist writes. "Never have I felt such deep pity overcome me as here at the sight of the deep misery concentrated in that small portion of the earth. The houses are small and dilapidated and some carry signs at the entrances warning of the presence of infectious diseases."

"Standing in the street and watching a Jewish peddler selling half-rotten food, I heard a moaning voice from a low cellar window begging me to move on because I was shutting out the one ray of light coming through the window into the cellar. I entered the house and found in the dark, damp cellar, a family of four. The furniture consisted of two small chairs, a rickety bench, two mattresses on the bare floor, and a few cooking utensils. To my astonishment I found another family living in a basement under the cellar without any daylight at all."

The Swiss correspondent estimates that the Jewish population in the Lublin ghetto will be increased by 10,000 since more Jews are being sent in from various parts of Poland as well as from Germany.

FRENCH AUTHORITIES IMPOSE 1,000,000 FRANCS FINE UPON JEWISH COMMUNITY IN NICE

LISBON, Sept. 30.(JTA)-- A collective fine of 1,000,000 francs has been imposed upon the Jews of Nice, unoccupied France, according to information reaching here today.

The fine was ordered following the seizure of the Grand Synagogue in Nice by members of Fetain's body guard units known as Service d'Ordre de la Legion. Under the pretext that "communist literature" was discovered in the synagogue, Fetain's legionnaires desecrated and devastated the interior of the building and demanded the payment by the Jewish community of a collective fine within twenty-four hours. The soldiers did not leave the synagogue premises until the fine was paid.

Similar incidents are reported to have taken place in other cities of unoccupied France. In all instances, members of Marshal Fetain's body-guard detachment were involved.

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GERMANY MOVES TO CONFISCATE PROPERTY OF AMERICAN JEWS IN FRANCE

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.(JTA)-- The first step towards confiscation of the property of American Jews in France has been taken by the Nazi authorities in Paris, according to a report published in the New York Post today. The move is directed against American Jews with funds or securities on deposit at American banking houses in occupied France.

Letters from American banking firms in Paris to their clients in America contain a document asking the individuals to report whether they are Jewish and whether they have Jewish grandparents, placing them within the Nazi definition of "Jewish." These letters, dated from Paris but mailed from unoccupied France, disclose that the demand for information from Americans on their descent is motivated by the fact that German military administration in France has imposed special restrictions on the bank accounts of members of the Jewish faith. It is believed that the Nazis propose to confiscate Jewish assets in France along lines similar to those in Germany. Paris branches of American banking houses are now under German administrators since the outbreak of the war between the United States and Germany.

BILL RECOMMENDS ALIENS IN ARMY SHOULD BECOME CITIZENS WITHOUT PROVING LEGAL ENTRY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.(JTA)-- A bill to permit aliens serving in the armed forces to obtain American citizenship without showing that they were legally admitted to the United States was introduced yesterday by Representative Dickstein of New York, chairman of the Immigration and Naturalization Committee.

Under present law, Mr. Dickstein explained, aliens are not permitted to volunteer for the armed forces, and although between 60,000 and 70,000 have been drafted they are not eligible for citizenship unless they can show that they were legally admitted. His bill would strike out this requirement and substitute a provision permitting any alien who was in the United States when it entered the war to be naturalized if he had been accepted by the military forces.

Owing to changes of names by aliens and congestion in the Federal courts, Mr. Dickstein said, more than 30,000 of the aliens now in uniform cannot prove their legal admission to this country and are therefore without any citizenship. Should one of them be captured by the enemy he would be liable to punishment as a spy.

DR. HERMAN VOGELSTEIN, SCHOLAR AND FORMER RABBI OF BRESLAW, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.(JTA)-- Funeral services were held here today for Dr. Herman Vogelstein, Hebrew scholar and former chief rabbi of the Liberal Synagogue in Breslau, Germany, who died here on Monday night at the age of 72. He was buried in the Beth El cemetery.

Dr. Vogelstein, who came to this country in 1939, has been an active member of the New York Board of Jewish Ministers and the Association of Reformed Rabbis of New York. In 1940, the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati made him a Doctor of Divinity. He was also a trustee of the Temple Emanu-El in New York.

Born in Filsen, Czechoslovakia, Dr. Vogelstein received his higher education at the Universities of Berlin and Breslau. He was rabbi in the Liberal Synagogue in Koenigsberg, Germany, for twenty-three years, from 1917 to 1920, when he assumed the post at Breslau. There, during the anti-Semitic outburst of 1936, he saw his synagogue dynamited and in flames. He left Germany the same year with the permission of the Nazi authorities.

HUNDREDS OF BELGIANS CROWD STATION TO BID FAREWELL TO DEPORTED JEWS

LONDON, Sept. 30.(JTA)-- Hundreds of non-Jews in the Belgian city of Saint Trond crowded the station to bid farewell to Jews deported by the Nazis to Eastern territory, the Belgian Government-in-Exile reported here today. As the train pulled out, a monk who was one of the crowd shouted: "Farewell my friends. Have courage." The Nazis made a gesture at insulting him, but retreated when the crowd evidenced a readiness to defend him.

For the first time since the Catholic Church in France began its campaign against Laval's delivery of Jews to the Nazis, the Berlin radio today deemed it necessary to comment on the Catholic action. The Jewish question, the Nazi radio stated, affords a "comfortable pretext for sabotage" to those who do not dare to attack Marshal Petain directly.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES MADE BY PALESTINE SCIENTISTS REPORTED AT CHEMISTS CONFERENCE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30.(JTA)-- The contributions in the field of scientific discoveries which Jewish chemists in Palestine have made during the war and which are being kept secret because of their importance to the war effort, were the theme of the opening session here today of the sixth annual conference of the Palestine Chemists Association.

Declaring that the nature of many of these discoveries cannot be made public for obvious reasons, Professor Boptelsky, in his opening address appealed to the more than a hundred delegates to maintain throughout the war the high standards of science upheld by the Chemistry Department of the Hebrew University.

JEWISH PLAYS, TABOOED FOR MANY YEARS IN RUSSIA, IN GOOD FAVOR NOW

TASHKENT, U.S.S.R., Sept. 30.(JTA)-- Many Jewish plays which for years were virtually forbidden in Soviet Russia because of their melodramatic nature, have been revived and are now being played in Alma-Ata and other major cities in the Kazakstan Soviet Republic where hundreds of thousands of Jews from Poland and evacuated Jews from the Ukraine have found their temporary homes.

The plays, performed in Yiddish by the members of the Jewish State Theatre, which the Russian administration established in Lwow, capital of Eastern Galicia, prior to the occupation of that city by the Nazis, are being produced under the direction of Ida Kaminskaya, famous Polish Jewish actress. Wounded Russian soldiers, recuperating in Middle Asia as well as members of the military forces undergoing training there, make up much of the audiences. Especially successful are the plays "Mirele Efros" and "Chasie the Orphan" by Jacob Gordin which had not been staged in Russia since the establishment of the Soviet regime, though very popular in pre-revolutionary Russia, as well as in America.

MAGNES DENIES HE WANTS JEWS TO REMAIN PERMANENT MINORITY IN PALESTINE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30.(JTA)-- Dr. J. L. Magnes, head of the Hebrew University and leader of the Ichud Party, today issued a statement denying a report published in the press here that he allegedly agrees that the Jews in Palestine should permanently remain a forty-percent minority. "I hope to soon publish my views on the Palestine immigration problem," the statement says.

RELIEF WORKER REPORTS NAZI ATROCITIES AGAINST JEWS IN MOSCOW DISTRICT

MOSCOW, Sept. 30. (JTA)-- Chana Landberg, a Moscow social worker who returned here today after a relief tour of the devastated areas in the Moscow region recaptured from the Nazis related harrowing details of the German atrocities in the area.

In the village of Glinka a Nazi soldier, pretending to aid a Jewish woman who was carrying her sick child to a hospital, took the child from her arms with the words: "I'll help you," and then flung the infant onto the point of a bayonet. In the same village Meyer Ginsburg, 60, was shot by a Nazi soldier when he refused to interrupt his prayers to remove his overshoes which the Nazi wanted. In all the villages, Mrs. Landberg reported, she saw husbands whose wives had been violated and children killed before their eyes.

The Germans were particularly brutal in their treatment of children, Mrs. Landberg continued. In the village of Ivliany, in the Volokolamsk region, a sleeping Nazi soldier, disturbed by the crying of a three-year-old Jewish child, arose and kicked the boy in the head, blinding him. On her tour Mrs. Landberg saw many children who roved the ruins pointing out where their parents had been shot. Efraim Ejdel is one of these. When the village in which he lived was recaptured, the Red Army men found him in the cellar where he had lain wounded for twenty hours, and where he had witnessed the violation and murder of his mother.

The Moscow press today cites the heroism of a Jewish naval surgeon, Zavel Levin, who saw service on the besieged cities of Odessa and Sevastopol, and is now on an undisclosed front. His skill and tirelessness has won him such wide-spread fame among the Red Army men, according to the Moscow press, that they comfort wounded with the assurance that "once you get into Levin's hands you are sure to come out alive."

On the production front the Soviet press today lauds Israel Okman, a metal worker in one of the large industrial towns along the Volga, who has speeded up production in his plant by two hundred percent, although he never saw the inside of a steel foundry before he was forced to leave the Ukrainian town of Vinitza with his wife and family to escape capture by the Nazis. Although Okman recently lost two fingers when his hand was caught in his machine, he is back at work, continuing the same Stakhanovite rate of production, the article states. His factory now ranks among the leaders in the All Union Socialist competition.

MONTREAL CONCLUDES HALF-MILLION DOLLAR COMBINED JEWISH CAMPAIGN

MONTREAL, Sept. 30. (JTA)-- The Combined Jewish Appeal, which amalgamated five important causes in one campaign, was to-day successfully concluded. The sum of \$564,000 was raised, more than \$8,000 above the original quota.

This is the first time that Montreal Jewry has oversubscribed a campaign with a quota of over half a million dollars.

SIR DAVID HARRIS, RETIRED JEWISH MEMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT, DIES

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 30. (JTA)-- Funeral services were held here yesterday for Sir David Harris, 90, who was the oldest member of the South African Parliament at the time of his retirement in 1929. Obituaries in the local press laud him as an eminent soldier and public servant. He was active in Jewish affairs.