

# JTA

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### UNPRECEDENTED MASS-EXTERMINATION OF POLISH JEWS; ONLY 40,000 LEFT IN WARSAW GHETTO

LONDON, Nov. 24, (JTA)-- The Polish Government-in-Exile today made public a report stating that at least 1,000,000 Jews have already been annihilated by the Nazis in Poland and that Heinrich Himmler, chief of the Gestapo, has ordered the extermination of one-half of the entire Jewish population in occupied Polish territory by the end of this year.

Declaring that 250,000 Jews were massacred by the Nazis in Poland during the month of September, the report says that in the Warsaw ghetto there are only 40,000 Jews left of the approximately 500,000 who were confined there since the establishment of the ghetto. More than 250,000 Jews have been deported from Warsaw since July in addition to tens of thousands deported during the previous months. Of the latest 250,000 victims, only 4,000 were actually sent to forced labor at the Russian front, the remainder were all exterminated, including women with babies, in arms, the statement of the Polish Government declares.

Describing the mass-expulsion of the Jews from the ghettos, the Polish Government states that the victims were herded into cattle cars. The cars, which had a normal capacity of forty, carried 150 persons each. The Nazis covered the floors of the cars with lime which was sprinkled with chlorinated water shortly before the departure of the train. When the trains arrived at their destinations, half of the passengers were dead from suffocation. The survivors were taken to special "exterminating camps" near the townships of Treblinka, Belzec, and Sobibor where they were murdered in wholesale massacres.

### Many Jews Electrocuted; Excavating Machine Digs Mass-Graves

Many Jews were electrocuted in a number of cities, the Polish report continues. The victims were ordered to remove all their clothes and were then driven into small electrified metal-floored cells in groups of twenty to fifty persons, dying almost immediately.

In the camp near Treblinka the Nazis used excavating machines to dig mass graves for the massacred Jews. In a number of cases Poles were forced to witness the executions. In Warsaw the director of the Jewish orphanage, Janusz Korczak, was given permission to remain in the ghetto, but he voluntarily joined the children of the orphanage and died with them.

### Ghettos in Number of Towns Liquidated as Jews are Exterminated

The ghettos in the towns of Palencia, Radcortow, Nowy-Dwor, Kaluszyn, Minsk-Mazowieck were "liquidated" by the local Nazi authorities as the entire Jewish population there was either killed or deported to the "exterminating camps." In the cities of Vilna, Lwow, Stanislawow, Tarnopol, Stryj only a small number of Jews remain. In Warsaw, 6,000 Jews were assembled on a square and driven to a cemetery where they were shot as "punishment" for the suicide of Adam Czerniakow, the head

of the ghetto council, who took his life when faced with the alternative of delivering 10,000 Jews daily to the Nazi authorities for deportation and extermination.

While in September the Nazis printed 130,000 ration cards for distribution among the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, there were only 40,000 issued in October, the Polish report states. "According to information leaking out from the German Labor Office, only 40,000 Jews were to remain in the Warsaw ghetto, all of whom were to be thoroughly skilled workers, to be employed in German war industries," the statement of the Polish Government said. It added that illegal pamphlets circulated among the Polish population strongly protested the large-scale executions of the Jews.

#### HITLER HAS ORDERED ANNIHILATION OF ALL JEWS BY END OF 1942, WASHINGTON HEARS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24. (JTA)-- Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, after a conference today with Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles and other high officials of the State Department, declared that Hitler has ordered the annihilation of all Jews in Europe by the end of this year.

"This news is substantiated in documents furnished to me by the State Department this afternoon," Dr. Wise said. "It is one of the last mad acts of destruction which Hitler will perpetrate before he is called to judgment."

Declaring that a representative of President Roosevelt, who returned a short time ago from a mission abroad, told him that "the worst fears about the fate of the Jews under Hitler are true," Dr. Wise estimated that "one-half of the five million Jews in the territories occupied by the Nazis have already been destroyed."

Dr. Wise said that he has been receiving reports for three months indicating that Hitler has been extremely wrathful because the extermination of the Jews has not proceeded more quickly. "The Nazis," he declared, "have used various means of killing off large portions of the Jewish population, including poison and asphyxiation, but have now found that the most efficient method is for a doctor to inject an air bubble into the victims' veins. In this way a single doctor can kill 100 persons in an hour." He added that the Nazis have set a value of fifty marks, about ten dollars at pre-war rate of exchange, for each corpse, and are reclaiming them for soap fats and fertilizer. Corpses are also being exhumed for this purpose, he said.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT WARNS AGAINST RANSOM FOR REFUGEES IN NAZI-HELD COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24. (JTA)-- The State Department warned today that attempts to ransom refugees out of Nazi-occupied countries result only in additional persecution and the acquiring by the Germans of much-needed foreign exchange. The warning denounced the purchase and sale of exit permits as an organized business and reminded neutral intermediaries of the blacklist. Would-be ransomers here face fines of \$10,000 and 10-year jail sentences under the trading with the enemy act.

Describing the system of extortion used by the Nazis, the State Department quoted a report from one of the U.S. missions abroad, saying: "The ransom system as practiced at present seems to be an extension of the practice instituted by the Nazi Government whereunder emigrants were permitted to leave Germany if the state were compensated on their departure by all of their visible wealth, with the exception of a small percentage, usually reduced in effect to 10 or 12 percent. It is very apparently designed to provide foreign exchange for the furtherance of the German war effort - though there may be reason for suspicion that individual members of the Nazi party may personally profit by it."

GOV. LEHMAN SAYS FLIGHT OF JEWS AFTER THE WAR WILL BE DESPERATE

NEW YORK, Nov. 24. (JTA)— Governor Lehman, newly appointed United States Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation, declared today in a statement in the 1942 Yearbook of the United Palestine Appeal that the plight of the Jewish people will be so desperate after the war ends that "the survival of large numbers will hinge on the opportunity to find healing and home in Palestine."

"The spirit which moved the statesmen of the world to embody the Balfour Declaration in the League of Nations Mandate after the first World War must again assert itself after the present conflict," he wrote, observing that promotion of the upbuilding of Palestine would represent a "distinctive contribution to the winning of the peace."

The yearbook is published in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration, and is devoted to a survey of reconstruction in Palestine. Wendell Willkie, in a statement in the Yearbook, said that "the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine in fulfillment of the promise contained in the Balfour Declaration must find its rightful place in the new world order of tomorrow."

JEWISH GIRL CITED FOR ASSUMING COMMAND OF COSSACK UNIT IN STALINGRAD

KUIBYSHEV, Nov. 24. (JTA)— A young Jewish girl who assumed command of a Cossack infantry battalion in Stalingrad - by means of telephoned instructions - when its commander was critically wounded by enemy artillery fire, is cited in the Soviet press today as having been recommended for a government decoration.

The girl, Gita Schenker, had set up headquarters in a half destroyed building in the streets of Stalingrad and from there she received communication from Capt. Sergei Krushov, commanding the Cossack battalion, and relayed his orders to the various units of his command. Although no more than a dozen houses separated Gita from Capt. Krushov, on one hand, and the different units, on the other, the barrage of fire that poured into the streets made it impossible for a runner to proceed ten yards without being hit.

The Germans in this sector were attacking with thousands of infantrymen and seventy-five tanks. Capt. Krushov's Cossacks were hard put to fight off the Nazi advance and young Gita was kept busy relaying the captain's orders to his men. Through her rapid and accurate work the Soviet troops were able to correct the fire of their trench mortars and thus halt the Nazis. In the midst of a particularly severe assault Gita suddenly found that she was unable to establish contact with the commander. Fearing that he had been hit, the young telephonist issued orders to the different company commanders, instructing one to direct his machine-gun fire to one point, another to order his men to fling their grenades and explosive bottles in a different direction, and the others to carry out similar assignments.

Gita then crept from her shelter and started to crawl on hands and knees to the house where the captain's headquarters were located. Half-way there a German shell crumpled a brick wall above her and she was felled by flying mortar and half-buried by debris, but she crawled out of the ruins and crept on until she reached Krushov's headquarters. There, she found that a German shell had completely destroyed the house and the captain lay seriously wounded, bleeding from many places. Gita first reported that she had ordered the company commanders to continue firing. Then she made the Cossack as comfortable as possible and still on hands and knees half-carried, half-dragged him to a first-aid center.

BRITISH JNF WILL RAISE \$800,000 TO AID JEWS "RELEASED FROM GHETTOS"

LONDON, Nov. 24.(JTA)-- The eighteenth annual conference of the Jewish National Fund of Great Britain, meeting here with 120 delegates in attendance, voted to raise approximately \$800,000 during the coming year "to meet the needs of the Jews who will be released from the ghettos." The convention adopted a resolution expressing "pride in the magnificent war effort of the Yishuv." Last year the British JNF raised about a quarter of a million dollars.

LEADERS OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSE JEWISH BOOK WEEK

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.(JTA)-- Leaders of all walks in Jewish life today endorsed Jewish Book Week in messages addressed to Dr. Mordecai Soltes, chairman of the national committee which arranged the Week, hailing in particular the appearance of the first tri-lingual Jewish Book Week Annual in the history of American Jewry. This volume serves as a guide to individuals and groups in planning programs during Book Week which concludes on November 29, as well as throughout the year.

Among those who sent messages of endorsement are Maurice Wertheim, president of the American Jewish Committee; Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress; Frank L. Weil, president of the Jewish Welfare Board; Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the Synagogue Council of America and leaders of various Jewish religious and cultural organizations.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF UNIVERSAL JEWISH ENCYCLOPEDIA PUBLISHED; CONTAINS 1,200 ARTICLES

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.(JTA)-- The first comprehensive and up-to-date survey of the Jewish communities of the city and state of New York, covering more than thirty pages of text and illustrations, is among the more than 1,200 authoritative articles contained in volume VIII of the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, published here today. Other articles concerning Palestine, Jewish Nationalism, Poles, Pogroms, Nazism, Freedom of Opinion, Numerus Clausus, and hundreds of kindred subjects are also included in the eighth volume, according to an announcement by Rabbi Isaac Landman, editor-in-chief of this ten-volume work in English of which Louis Rittenberg is executive and literary editor.

The remaining two volumes will appear at short intervals. Volume VIII of the Universal Jewish Encyclopedia is dedicated to the "inspiring memory of Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932), practical humanitarian whose modesty matched his merits, whose wise and widespread generosity created new horizons of social and educational progress." More than 150 experts have contributed first hand documented surveys of 128 communities throughout the world and special articles on a wide variety of questions affecting Jewish life everywhere.

HADASSAH OPENS A NATIONWIDE EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN; JUNIOR HADASSAH HOLD CONVENTION

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.(JTA)-- A nationwide educational campaign was opened today by the Hadassah at a reception given at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel honoring the authors of the symposium "The American Jew: A Composite Portrait" prepared by the Hadassah, edited by Dr. Oscar Janowsky, and published by Harper and Brothers. The book will be used as the basis for a study program by more than 1,000 groups in 600 Hadassah chapters throughout the country, it was announced.

The 19th annual convention of Junior Hadassah will open here on Thursday at the Hotel Plaza with 1,000 delegates from thirty-six states attending. The convention, which will last three days, will be addressed by youth speakers representing most of the United Nations.

GEORGE M. FEARNSGIVING THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL APPEAR ON FRIDAY