

JTA

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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

VOL. IX, NO. 279

Friday, December 4, 1942

JEWS IN POLAND BATTLE NAZI POLICE IN BARRICADED GHETTOS

LONDON, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- Jews in a number of Polish towns erected barricades around the Jewish quarters and battled Nazi police units and the Gestapo officials who came to deport them, it is reported in a message received here today from the Jewish underground movement in Poland by Samuel Zygelboim, Jewish member of the Polish National Council.

Armed resistance was particularly furious in the city of Nieswiez where a pitched battle took place lasting for several hours, the message stated. The Nazi armed forces crushed Jewish resistance in all towns and massacred every Jew within the area. In some towns leaders of the Jewish underground movement advised the Jews not to offer any resistance since it would only lead to the destruction of the entire Jewish population by the superior Nazi units.

The message reveals that the Nazis broke into the Vladimir Madem Sanatorium which is well known in America as the foremost children's sanatorium in Poland, and massacred 250 Jewish children. The majority of the personnel, consisting of teachers, doctors and nurses, were also murdered when they refused to leave the children. The sanatorium, located fifteen kilometers from Warsaw, was one of the Jewish institutions in Poland supported by American Jewish organizations. The message confirms that no more than one million Jews were still alive in Poland on September 1 and that the bodies of Jews are being used by the Nazis for industrial purposes.

PALESTINE CONCLUDES WEEK OF MOURNING WITH BURNING OF SWASTIKA AND HITLER EFFIGY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- The week of mourning for the Jewish victims massacred by the Nazis in occupied Europe concluded in Palestine last night with a huge demonstration in Tel Aviv culminating in a bonfire on Habimah Square at which a crowd of more than 100,000 persons burnt the Nazi swastika and an effigy of Hitler.

In Jerusalem thousands of Jewish children marched to the Wailing Wall while their parents crowded the synagogues and recited prayers for the Jews of Europe. Work stopped in all Jewish establishments except those engaged in manufacturing war materials. Black candles were lit in the old Bukharian synagogue, while aged Kabbalists gathered in their house of prayer in the old city and proclaimed anathemas upon Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Himmler and other Nazi leaders.

In Safed, Jews donned yellow Mogen David badges. Jewish women in Safed and Tiberias marched in spontaneous demonstrations to holy graves there and lit candles on the tombstones. Similar mourning demonstrations are reported from all over the country.

The huge demonstration in Tel Aviv started when the crowds left the synagogues after all-day prayers. Rabbis carrying the Holy Scrolls led the procession to

Habimah Square, followed by Jews carrying banners reading "Where are the Democratic Governments?". The demonstration was addressed by Mayor Rokach of Tel Aviv and by leading rabbis. A vow was taken by the crowd "not to remain silent and not to allow Jewish blood to be silenced." Many Jews enlisted in the armed forces on the spot, hoping to be able to personally avange the dead Jews.

The High Commissioner for Palestine today informed the Jewish National Council here that he has transmitted to the British Government all the demands voiced by the Jews of Palestine during the week of mourning. The Czechoslovak Consul General, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Palestine, similarly informed the Council that the diplomatic representatives have transmitted the Jewish resolutions to their respective governments. On behalf of the consuls of the United Nations he expressed "deep sympathies and compassion" in a message addressed to Isaac Ben-Zvi, president of the Council.

Day of Mourning for Jews of Europe Widely Observed in Latin-America

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- Reports reaching here today indicate that the day of mourning for the massacred Jews of Nazi-Europe was widely observed yesterday throughout Latin-America.

In Buenos Aires Jewish businesses were closed for the entire day and hundreds of people crowded the synagogues. The period of fasting was almost universally observed. The Argentine press carried strong editorials deprecating the executions of the hundreds of thousands of European Jews. In Cuba, the House of Representatives unanimously approved a motion protesting the Nazi persecution of Jews and urging the Allied Governments to act to prevent Hitler from carrying out his threat to exterminate all the Jews of Europe by the end of the year. Earlier a procession of several thousand Jews marched to the National Capital and presented petitions to Congress and President Batista asking the Cuban Government to join in the protest. Jewish business establishments were closed all day.

In Curacao, in the Netherlands West Indies, special services were held in the old synagogue in the capital city of Willemstad. Many Dutch officials, including the Acting Governor, attended. All the newspapers published editorials condemning Hitler's threat to wipe out the Jews. In Caracas, Venezuela, about 2,000 Jews filled the synagogues as Jewish-owned stores and factories closed for the day. The leaders of the Jewish community appealed to the United Nations to threaten the immediate bombing of German villages if the mass-murder of the Jews does not cease. In Managua, Nicaragua, and in San Jose, Costa Rica, similar observances were held with Jewish firms closing and prayers being recited in the synagogues.

Christian Children in Canadian Schools Observe Day of Mourning

TORONTO, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- The Day of Mourning was observed yesterday throughout Canada with Jewish stores in Toronto, Montreal and other cities closed and with memorial services in the synagogues attended by thousands of Jews. In some of the public schools the Christian pupils, at the suggestion of their teachers, observed a short period of silence. The general press and radio featured the day of mourning and many of the newspapers published editorials expressing sympathy for the Jews.

Rep. Dickstein Appeals to Vatican to Halt Nazi Decimation of Jews

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- Speaking on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday, on the occasion of the world-wide day of mourning for the martyred Jews of Europe, Rep. Samuel Dickstein, New York City Democrat, appealed to the Vatican to "stop this madness that is consuming millions of human beings."

SWEDISH BISHOPS ISSUE MANIFESTO SCORING PERSECUTION AND DEPORTATION OF NORWEGIAN JEWS

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 3. (JTA)-- The Swedish press and radio today prominently feature a message issued last night by the Bishops of Sweden strongly assailing the persecution of Jews in Norway. The message, signed by all Swedish bishops headed by Archbishop Erling Kiden and prepared in Upsala on the occasion of "Advent Sunday" - this past Sunday - declared:

"It is with dread and horror that we have recently learned how an un-Christian racial hatred, which, like a death-bringing plague, has scourged many lands on earth, is now expressing itself in revolting deeds of terror here, close to us, in our Scandinavian Peninsula. Stirred immensely, we hearkened to the candid Christian words of exhortation addressed to the wielders of power in Norway by our oppressed Norwegian sister church.

"The Jewish people have had to undergo the heaviest suffering, not for any misdeeds they have committed - they have not legally been accused of any misdeeds - but solely because of their racial origin. It is our duty as Christians and human beings to do everything in our power to help these poor victims of hatred. Even if we are not able to do much to assist these unhappy beings, we can and should keep them and their suffering in our hearts.

"We bishops of the Swedish Church call upon you, our Christian brethren in Sweden, in God's name, to include these, our tortured brothers of Israel's tribe, in your faithful and persistent prayers."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FEDERATIONS AND WELFARE FUNDS WILL MEET IN JANUARY IN CLEVELAND

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA)-- The 1943 General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds will be held at the Hotel Statler in Cleveland on January 16-17, rounding out a decade of Council service to local Jewish communities in the United States and Canada, it was announced here today.

In line with the policy adopted last year in Chicago, the 1943 General Assembly will consist of working sessions, with attendance limited to accredited delegates from the Council's 224 member agencies in 187 cities. National and overseas agencies will designate representatives to attend the Assembly as consultants. This kind of Assembly will permit a thorough discussion of the major problems facing Jewish federations and welfare funds.

"The 1943 Assembly looms as the most important meeting in the ten-year history of the Council; Jewish federations and welfare funds are today confronted on the one hand, with the need of assuming additional war-time local, national and overseas obligations, and on the other, with raising sufficient funds to meet their new needs in the face of the largest tax program in the history of the country," the announcement said.

James Marshall of New York has been named chairman of the Assembly's Program Committee. Other Committee members include: Max Block, Seattle; Sel Brachman, Fort Worth; Jerome N. Curtis, Cleveland; Dr. M. J. Karpi, Los Angeles; Albert H. Lieberman, Philadelphia; Julius Livingston, Tulsa; George Z. Medalie, New York; Donald Oberdorfer, Atlanta; Charles Rosenbloom, Pittsburgh; William Rosenwald, Greenwich, and Ben M. Selokman, Boston.

NATURALIZED AMERICANS WILL BEAR GREAT SHARE IN DEFEATING HITLER, U.S. OFFICIAL SAYS

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- The U.S. Government will send special representatives to various theatres of war to confer citizenship on soldiers in the American armed forces who were born in other countries, regardless of their nationality or race, it was announced last night by Earl G. Harrison, Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

Speaking at a dinner in the Roosevelt Hotel which marked the tenth anniversary of the Neue Volkszeitung, oldest anti-Nazi publication in the German language in this country, Mr. Harrison said that "a substantial share in the 'inevitable defeat' of Nazism and Fascism will be borne by Americans born in the countries where once those freedom-crushing forces appeared to flourish." He added that the concept of the old "melting pot" here has been scrapped through gradual realization of its fallacies. The principal speakers at the dinner included Mrs. Roosevelt and Constantino Poulos, chief of the foreign language press section of the Office of War Information.

LOOTING, RAPE, MURDER METED OUT TO JEWS OF BORISOV BY NAZIS

KUIBYSHEV, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- Harrowing details of the looting, murder and rape perpetrated by the Nazis upon the Jewish population of the city of Borisov in occupied White Russia, which is on the road from Smolensk to the former borders of Poland, were reported here today by Eugene Kulik, who recently succeeded in fleeing the city.

"German military cars could be seen coursing through the streets of Borisov every day piled high with all sorts of wearing apparel and other articles seized from the ghetto into which all the Jewish inhabitants of the city had been herded," Kulik stated. "The plundering of the ghetto was carried on systematically. The Nazis got drunk every night and then, armed with guns, broke into Jewish homes and stole the last few rags the Jews had and ravaged any young women they could find.

"One day, shortly before I succeeded in escaping from the city, the Nazis assigned several of the able-bodied Jews in the ghetto to dig several deep ditches near the local military airrome. When the trenches had been dug, thousands of Jewish families - men, women, children - were taken there on trucks, stripped of all their clothing and ordered to lie down in the pits. When the ditches were completely filled, the Nazi soldiers turned machine guns on the Jews. Residents of nearby buildings fled their homes, unable to bear the sound of the shrieks and cries of the dying Jews. When time came to bury the victims, the Nazis did not differentiate between dead or wounded. All were buried, whether they breathed or not. Only those Jews who succeeded in reaching guerrilla bands escaped with their lives."

WIDOW OF SHOLOM ALEICHEM DIES IN NEW YORK AT THE AGE OF 77

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.(JTA)-- Funeral services were held here today for Mrs. Olga Rabinowitz, widow of the famous Jewish writer who wrote under the pen-name of Sholom Aleichem and who was known as "the Jewish Mark Twain." Mrs. Rabinowitz died yesterday in her home here at the age of 77. She was buried today near her husband at the cemetery of the Jewish Workmen's Circle.

Born in Russia, she came to this country in 1914 together with her husband. She was one of the first women dentists in Russia and practiced there for more than ten years. She visited Russia in 1935 as a guest of the Soviet Government on the occasion of the celebration there of the eightieth anniversary of her husband's birth.