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JEWISH POPULATION IN GALICIA REDUCED BY 750,000; NAZI MASSACRES CONTINUE

GENEVA, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Only one-fourth of the million Jews who resided in Eastern Galicia before the outbreak of the war were alive on September 15, 1943, official German statistics reaching here today reveal.

The data was compiled before the intensified mass-executions of Jews in Galicia during recent weeks. It arrived here together with another call from occupied Poland, pleading for urgent action to rescue as many Jews as possible from Galicia and other parts of Poland before the extermination of all Polish Jews is completed by the Nazis. "If nothing is done for us immediately, there will not be a single Jew left alive in Poland by the end of April," the plea says.

In revealing the figures on the number of Jews in Eastern Galicia, the Nazi authorities stated that on September 15, 1942 there were only 278,132 Jewish men, women and children left in that territory. These included 29,000 in the Czortkow district; 29,612 in the district of Tarnopol; 31,988 in the district of Lwow; about 50,000 in the city of Lwow; 26,399 in the district of Stryj; 27,089 in the district of Zloczew; 10,455 in the district of Sambor and 6,119 in the Stanislawow district.

"Hurry, Otherwise Complete Extermination!", Polish Jews Appeal

The number of Jews remaining in Eastern Galicia has undoubtedly been greatly reduced through mass-deportations, starvation and executions in the five months since the Nazi report was compiled. Not a day passes without a plea for rescue reaching here from Jews in Poland through various sources. The messages are brief, but they indicate that the process of "liquidation" of the Jews has been accelerated.

"Hurry, otherwise our complete extermination is unavoidable!", one of the S.O.S. messages received here reads. Similar messages reaching here in the course of the last few days indicate that unprecedented deportations of Jews from the larger ghettos in Poland are taking place and that the remaining Jewish population is losing its last hope of survival.

Swiss Catholic and Protestant Churches Intervene for Jews

Leaders of the Catholic and Protestant Churches in Switzerland, moved by the continued appeals reaching here from Jews in Poland, today issued an appeal asking for the "immediate intervention" of neutral governments to save Jews in the occupied countries "from death and starvation."

At the same time police authorities in Switzerland took measures today to strengthen the frontier patrols in order to prevent increased illegal entry into the country from Nazi-controlled territories, especially from occupied France.

FIGHTING FRENCH DEMAND MORE RIGHTS FOR JEWS READMITTED TO FRENCH ARMY

LONDON, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- Dissatisfaction with the provisions of Gen. Giraud's order re-admitting Jewish officers and men to service with the French armed forces, is expressed today in the DeGaulist newspaper "France," which points out that the order does not actually restore full military rights to the Jews.

"It must be noted," the paper writes, "that the re-admitted Jews are restored to their full army ranks in specific cases only. This does not conform with the ideals of the French and the Allies." The article also emphasizes that the provision admitting Jews only to such fighting forces which do not include Moslems "shows that racial legislation is being upheld by Gen. Giraud in principle" and is being relaxed with great reluctance.

BALKAN RULERS "PERMITTED" TO RELAX ANTI-JEWISH LAWS, NAZI PROPAGANDISTS SAY

ZURICH, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- Nazi propagandists here are spreading reports that Hitler has indicated to Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria that he would not be opposed to easing of the anti-Jewish measures in those countries.

This new propaganda line of the Nazis is puzzling neutral observers here, especially in the light of underground reports from Poland indicating that the extermination of Jews by the Nazis is assuming even larger proportions than hitherto. It is obvious that both the Nazi propaganda activities here and the intensified Nazi executions of Jews in occupied Poland are closely linked to the reverses which the German armies are suffering on the Russian front.

Independent Reports Show Increase in Anti-Jewish Activities

Independent reports reaching here from Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria reveal, however, that the Nazi-controlled governments of these countries are far from even considering any relaxation of their anti-Jewish regulations. In Hungary the pro-Nazi Arrow Cross organization is pressing the municipality of Budapest to eject all Jews from their dwellings and to turn over the Jewish homes to "homeless Aryans." The campaign is being conducted on the pretext that "the housing shortage can be solved only by ejecting Jews from their residences."

Further anti-Jewish measures are also being demanded by the press in Rumania. The newspaper Argus, leading financial organ published in Bucharest, alleges that "the Jews are still represented in Rumania's textile industry." Expressing indignation at the fact that Jews are still engaged in certain industrial enterprises because of their experience and commercial connections in neutral countries, this government-controlled organ insists that "complete Rumanization" be achieved in every field of commerce and industry in the country and that not a single Jew be allowed to remain.

From Bulgaria the Nazi Transocean news agency reported today that a new order has been issued in Sofia forbidding Jewish children to attend schools. The order instructs school principals to expell all Jewish pupils no matter how long they have been attending the institution.

PALESTINE WILL OBSERVE DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYERS FOR JEWS IN EUROPE ON MONDAY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- A day of fasting and prayers for the martyred Jews of Europe has been called for next Monday in a joint proclamation issued today by the Chief Rabbinate of Palestine and the Agudas Israel Organization.

UKRAINIANS SAVING JEWS FROM EXTERMINATION BY RETREATING NAZI ARMIES

MOSCOW, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- Convicted that a complete Nazi rout in the Ukraine is in the making as a result of the re-occupation of Kharkov by the Russian Army, the non-Jewish residents in the section of the Ukraine still held by the Nazis are, now more than ever before, risking their lives to hide as many Jews as possible in order to save them from extermination until the territory is liberated by the Soviet armies.

Reports to this effect reached here today from guerilla units in various sections of the Ukraine where the Nazis are reported to be hunting for Jews whom they execute in revenge for their defeats on the Russian front. Ukrainians suspected of hiding Jews in attics, cellars and barns, are being executed.

Similar reports reach here from the Baltic states. A Lithuanian worker named Kisielius from Vilkomir near Kovno, told a Soviet correspondent that in his city the Nazis murdered all the Jews in the latter part of last year. Kisielius estimated that more than 12,000 Jews from Vilkomir and neighboring towns were massacred at Pdvone, a nearby village. Many Lithuanians were also shot for having sheltered Jews in an attempt to save them from death, he said.

SHIP NAMED AFTER JUSTICE BRANDEIS WILL BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW AT BALTIMORE YARDS

BALTIMORE, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- A 10,000-ton Liberty ship named after the late Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis will be launched here on Saturday at the Fairfax yards of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company, it was announced today. Mrs. Susan Brandeis Gilbert, daughter of Justice Brandeis, will perform the launching ceremony.

The ship, the Louis D. Brandeis, was named by President Roosevelt in compliance with a suggestion in a letter from a Bethlehem employe, who proposed that three ships be named for Brandeis, Judah P. Benjamin and Hyam Solomon. Benjamin was a famed supporter of the Confederacy; Solomon was a financial figure of note behind the American Revolution. The writer of the letter described himself as "a Scotchman."

WISE CRITICIZES CHRISTIAN WORLD FOR FAILURE TO RESCUE JEWS IN NAZI EUROPE

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- Failure of the Christian world to take action to save the Jews of Europe from Nazi extermination was severely criticized today by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, in a statement issued by him in connection with the protest demonstration which will be held on March 1 at Madison Square Garden, sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, the C.I.O., the Church Peace Union, the American Jewish Congress and twenty-six other national Jewish organizations.

"A Christian world that will permit millions of Jews to be slain without moving heaven by prayer and earth in every human way to save its Jews has lost its capacity for moral and spiritual survival," Dr. Wise declared. He scored the failure of the United Nations to implement as yet the Declaration issued three months ago, condemning the Nazi massacres of Jews and pledging action to punish the guilty and to rescue those who could be saved.

"If Germany had said," Dr. Wise asserted, "we will exterminate all the Catholics within our reach, the Vatican would move, Catholics would move, Protestant would intervene. No people would be left to extermination without organized, effective intervention except Jews. That is the real tragedy."

RUMANIAN DIPLOMAT SAYS HIS GOVERNMENT MUST BE PUNISHED FOR ANNIHILATING JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- Punishment of the members of the present Rumanian Government for their participation in the mass-annihilation of Jews was demanded here last night by Charles Davilla, former Rumanian Minister to the United States, addressing a gathering of the United Rumanian Jews of America. "The present Rumanian Cabinet and its hirelings cannot escape responsibility for these inhuman acts against the Jews by pleading that they were committed under Hitler's orders," he said.

Referring to Rumania's alleged offer to permit 70,000 Rumanian Jews interned in Transnistria to proceed to Palestine and other countries of refuge, Mr. Davilla declared: "Rumanian Jews have as much right to live in the country of their birth or adoption as any of the other inhabitants of Rumania. The removal of these Jews to Palestine, if accomplished through the action of the United Nations, will be an act of humanity. But the Rumanian Government must understand that this removal cannot and must not be accepted as a precedent for forced emigration of the other Jewish inhabitants of Rumania. For years, Rumanian Jews have lived in peace with their neighbors in that country."

SGT. MEYER LEVIN, HERO OF PACIFIC AERIAL WAR, KILLED OFF NEW GUINEA

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- Sgt. Meyer Levin, the Jewish boy from Brooklyn, who first broke into the headlines as bombardier on the plane piloted by Capt. Colin Kelley which sank the Japanese battleship Haruna, and who then went on to write aerial history in the Pacific skies, is dead, the War Department has notified his family. Levin, the holder of three decorations for gallantry in action, died when his bomber was shot down in the New Guinea region, the official report stated.

The son of Sam and Leah Levin, the young bombardier was the first American Jewish hero of the war. Only a few months ago the Borough of Brooklyn, where he lived, declared a special "Meyer Levin Day" and a large celebration was held outside his home. Prominent political figures paid tribute to his heroism and a plaque listing his exploits was presented to his parents.

Levin, who was only 26, was in the Philippines when the war broke out and fought there until last March when he was evacuated to Australia. His decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star and the Oak Leaf Cluster. He joined the Air Corps in June, 1939.

PORTRAIT OF MARTYRED MAYOR OF WARSAW GHETTO UNVEILED AT CEREMONIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.(JTA)-- The portrait of Adam Czerniakow, late mayor of the Warsaw ghetto who committed suicide when confronted with a request from the Nazis to submit a list of 100,000 Jews to be deported to an "undetermined destination," was unveiled here today at a ceremony in the Waldorf Astoria Hotel at which governments of the United Nations and Jewish organizations were represented.

The picture of the man whose name became the symbol of the martyrdom of the Jews in occupied Poland was drawn by the famous Jewish artist Arthur Szyk and presented by him to the American Federation for Polish Jews and the Association of Jewish Refugees and Immigrants from Poland.