58,000 JEWS EXECUTED BY NAZIS IN KOLOMYJA; THOUSANDS BURNED ALIVE

SOMEBWHERE IN EUROPE, March 5. (JTA)—The story of how the Nazis wiped out 58,000 Jews in Kolomyja, Galicia, setting the local ghetto afire and torturing the president of the Jewish community to a point where he committed suicide in the presence of Gestapo officials, was told today to Jewish organizations here by an eye-witness of the tragedy.

Thousands of the Jewish victims were burned alive by the Nazis and other thousands were taken to neighboring woods and shot. The ghetto was burned to the ground to insure that no a single Jew remained alive in any hideouts there.

"When the German armies entered Kolomyja," the eye-witness recounts, "there were 58,000 Jews in the city. They began mass-executions of Jews by taking 3,400 Jewish men and women to the neighboring forest of Szczebarowice on October 12, 1941 and machine-gunning all of them. About three weeks later, on November 6, they took 500 Jews from the Mokra quarter of the city and shot them all on the pretext that a Jewish family gave shelter to an anti-Nazi agitator.

"After that," the testimony continues, "Jews were executed as hostages practically every day. By September, 1942 only 8,000 Jews were left in the ghetto. The other 50,000 Jews had all been massacred in various pretexts and most of the time without any pretext at all.

Thousands of Naked Jews Herded Into Trucks

"On September 7, 1942 the Nazis assembled all the 8,000 Jews at once place. After permitting 1,700 of them to return to their homes, they ordered the remainder to completely undress and to hand their clothes and shoes to Gestapo guards. They were then herded into trucks, naked, and taken to the city of Rawa-Russka where they were all burned alive.

"Meanwhile, the Nazis continued to drive into the ghetto of Kolomyja hundreds of Jews from neighboring townships. When the population in the ghetto again reached 6,000, the Nazis rounded up 5,700 of them on October 4 and transported them in trucks to Rawa-Russka where they were also burned alive.

Many of the Jews from the nearby towns, realizing that the Kolomyja ghetto was only an assembly center from where they were to be led to their death, attempted to hide themselves. In order to unearth these Jews, the chief of the local Gestapo on November 5 summoned the president of the Kolomyja Jewish Council, Dr. Horowitz, and using torture attempted to secure from him the location of the hideouts. To "prove" that he was determined to locate the hiding places, the Gestapo chief personally shot 150 Jews in front of Dr. Horowitz. Unable to stand the torture any longer, the president of the Jewish Council committed suicide in the Gestapo office.

"Taking revenge for the defiance shown by Dr. Horowitz, the Gestapo chief arrested 1,600 Jews in the ghetto that day and executed them in the Szczebarowice woods. A few hundred Jews, however, remained in their ghetto hideouts. In order to make certain that not a single one of them would remain alive, the chief of the Gestapo ordered the ghetto burnt down to the ground, thus finishing the process of making Kolomyja "completely judenrein."
JAPANESE POLICE INTENSIFY ANTI-JEWS MEASURES IN SHANGHAI

LONDON, March 5. (JTA)-- The Japanese-controlled Chinese puppet government in Nanking has introduced stringent anti-Jewish regulations in Shanghai, as a result of pressure by Gestapo agents for a Japanese manifestation of solidarity with the Axis, it was reliably reported here today.

The Japanese police have shut down all Jewish cafes, restaurants and cabarets in Shanghai on the pretext that they were centers of Allied propaganda and were demoralizing Japanese troops, the report says. Tsang Li, director of the propaganda department of the Nanking government, recently broadcast denouncing the Jewish refugees in the city as enemies of Japan and of the Axis. He demanded their "total elimination from civil life."

The Nazi agents are believed to have succeeded in persuading the Japanese to confine all stateless Jews in Shanghai in a ghetto, the report adds.

2,700 JEWS "DISAPPEARED" IN BENGHAZI UNDER AXIS OCCUPATION; 300 LEFT THERE

JERUSALEM, March 5. (JTA) -- Only 300 of the Jewish population of 3,000 that lived in Benghazi were in that Libyan city when it was captured by the British troops, it is reported here today. What disposition was made of the other 2,700 by the Italian administration is not known.

Jewish units stationed with the British occupying forces have organized schools for the Jewish children in Benghazi, who had been barred from all institutions of learning for the past two years, the report said. Prof. F. Reisenberg of the Hebrew University is supervising the schools.

POLISH JEWS CONSCRIPTED BY NAZIS FOR MILITARY SERVICE CAPTURED BY ENGLISH

JERUSALEM, March 5. (JTA) -- Four Polish Jews from Upper Silesia are now being held as war prisoners "somewhere in the Middle East" it was learned here today. They were conscripted by the Nazis for military service in a group of Poles from Upper Silesia whom the German military command sent to the Libyan front.

(Polish citizens residing in the Western provinces of Poland, which have been incorporated into the Reich, are now being drafted for service with the German army, the Polish Information Center in New York reported today. It stated that in Upper Silesia, the first group of draftees consisted of 8,000 men born between 1907 and 1914.)

RABBIS PROTEST THE SETTLING OF REFUGEE CHILDREN IN NON-RELIGIOUS COLONY

JERUSALEM, March 5. (JTA) -- A delegation of rabbis representing the Orthodox Mizrachi Organization and the Agudas Israel today visited Miss Henrietta Szold, head of the Youth Aliyah, and protested the housing of the Jewish refugee children from Poland, who recently arrived here from Teheran, in the non-religious settlement of Nahalal where, the rabbis charged, "they will not be given a religious training."

Members of the women's organization of the Agudas Israel in Tel Aviv today lit 93 candles which will remain burning permanently to commemorate the 93 students of the Jewish orthodox school for girls in Warsaw who committed suicide when dragged to a Nazi brothel. Ninety-three fellowships will be established by the Agudah women in an educational institution in Tel Aviv in memory of the 93 Jewish girls who died a martyr's death in Warsaw.
DANGER TO PALESTINE HAS NOT YET BEEN REMOVED, LEADING PAPER SAYS

TEL AVIV, March 5. (JTA)-- Declaring that the danger to Palestine "has not yet been removed" Davar, largest Jewish daily newspaper, came out today with an editorial asking for increased Jewish enlistment.

At the same time the central committee of the Jewish Labor Party in Palestine voiced a demand for the immediate mobilization for agricultural work of all Jewish youth of pre-military age as well as of all Jews who are not in military categories. This measure is necessitated by the fact that there is a dangerous shortage of field hands in the Jewish agricultural settlements, the Labor Party statement points out.

In urging a large Jewish enlistment in the British military forces, Davar also emphasizes that "nobody knows what will come after the war is over." The editorial concludes: "Let us not be deceived by the fact that the enemy has been pushed off our southern border. The danger, though now farther, has not been removed. It may be opened from any side. Let us also not be deceived by the approaching end of the war. Nobody knows when the war will be over and what we are to expect at its conclusion."

SOVIET EMBASSY PUBLISHES AFFIDAVIT ON NAZI MASSACRE OF JEWS IN NALCHIK

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA)-- The Soviet Embassy here today made public an affidavit signed by a number of Jews in the re-occupied city of Nalchik describing the Nazi atrocities against the Jewish population and the mass-murder of aged Jewish persons and children.

"After daily pillage and murder of Jews which went on for 20 days, the Germans inaugurated the wholesale shooting of Jews still surviving in the city," the affidavit reads. "They took over 90 families outside the city and shot them. On January 5, 1943, after the liberation of Nalchik by the Red Army, we found in an anti-tank trench and in other trenches, about 6 kilometers from the city, over 900 corpses of brutally murdered people who had been previously subjected to the most savage tortures. Many dead bodies had bashed-in skulls, arms cut off. Among the bodies were found many nursing infants who apparently died of cold and exposure, having been left alive by the Hitlerites to freeze near the dead bodies of their parents. We attest to the foregoing as being a true statement."

The signatories to the affidavit are: Benjamin Leviev, 90 years of age; Ivil Ifraimov, 74; Levi Ashurov, 70; Pesakh Shabayev, 69; Marie Moiseyeva, 81; Bibi Davidova, 80; Isaac Libman, 82; Pesakh Ifraimov, 75. Also Mikhail Shalumov, Menashe Ifraimov, Shabtay Davidov, Debarion Leviev, Shaul Davidov, and Bertha Gribowa.

DUTCH JEW, WHO ESCAPED FROM NAZIS, DECORATED BY QUEEN FOR ANTI-NAZI SABOTAGE

MONTREAL, March 5. (JTA)-- For gathering valuable information and performing acts of sabotage against the Nazis in occupied Holland, Serg. Harry Wertheim, a Dutch Jew now convalescing in a sanatorium near here, was today awarded by Queen Wilhelmina the Kruijs van Verdienste which is the equivalent of the Distinguished Service Cross.

The news of the award reached Serg. Wertheim in the form of a telegram he received today from the Queen. In the Netherlands Army when the Nazis invaded Holland Serg. Wertheim was sent to slave labor for the Germans. Several times he tried to escape from occupied Holland but was captured by the Nazis. Finally, last November he managed to flee from Holland to Spain and then to the United States. He is now recuperating from the effects of Nazi brutality suffered during his attempts to esc
WASHINGTON REPORTS NEW METHOD FOR CHECKING FOOD PRICES TESTED IN PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA) -- A method for controlling prices of imported merchandise by selecting an individual trader as the only authorized importer of specified products is being tested in Palestine, the Department of Commerce reported today.

The imported merchandise may be distributed by the Food Controller at fixed prices who may authorize the trader to contract with wholesalers and retailers for the distribution of the merchandise. Distribution contracts must provide a margin of profit of not less than 15 percent for retailers. Fish in brine and cheese are being imported under tender and tenders for other products have been invited. This control is expected to eliminate speculation and assure adequate control over prices of imported merchandise, the Department of Commerce believes.

HIAS CONVENTION OPENS IN NEW YORK TODAY; 2,500 DELEGATES ATTENDING

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- A vivid picture of the desperate efforts that were made during 1942 to rescue through emigration as many Jews as possible from Nazi Europe will be presented to the 56th annual convention of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society on Sunday at the Hotel Astor here. 2,500 delegates representing 1,000 religious, labor, fraternal and benevolent organizations will participate in the deliberations of the convention.

Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of Hias, in his report for 1942 states that the Hias-Isa Emigration Association in Lisbon was instrumental in organizing and aiding the emigration of 4,750 refugees and that of this number 50 percent proceeded to the United States, 35 percent to Central America, 10 percent to South America and 5 percent to Palestine and other countries. Describing the deportations of Jews to unknown destinations from Southern France, in the summer of 1942, the report reveals that 2,000 refugees in unoccupied France for whom the State Department in Washington had already granted advisory approval for the issuance of U. S. immigration visas, were unable to depart because of the sudden decision of the Vichy authorities to cancel all exit visas.

The report shows that American Jews, during 1942, deposited with Hias $1,158,653 to be applied to covering the cost of transportation for their kin abroad; that Hias expended $820,786 for the maintenance of its services at home and abroad; that 309 steamers carrying Jewish passengers were met by the Hias pier service in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Norfolk and New Orleans during the year, and that 342,726 inquiries from American relatives and friends were directed to Hias in matters affecting immigration and naturalization. Of the 12,900 Jewish aliens who arrived in the United States during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 1942, the federation immigration authorities discharged 2,735 immigrants into the care of Hias, the report states.

JEWs IN SOUTH AFRICA ASK GOVERNMENT TO AID JEWS IN NAZI-EUROPE

CAPETOWN, South Africa, March 5. (JTA) -- A joint delegation of Jewish members of the South African Parliament and representatives of the Board of Deputies of South African Jews and the Zionist Federation yesterday was received by Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts to whom they presented a memorandum urging that South Africa make representations to the United Nations asking speedy action to rescue the Jews from Nazi-Europe.

The delegation pointed out that Palestine is ready and willing to accept as many of the refugees as can be saved, and asked that the Allied nations be prevailed upon to secure lifting of the immigration restrictions now in force. It stressed that the civilized world is obliged to provide sanctuary for these refugees. The group reported that it had been very sympathetically received by the Prime Minister.
WASHINGTON REPORTS NEW METHOD FOR CHECKING FOOD PRICES TESTED IN PALESTINE

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA)-- A method for controlling prices of imported merchandise by selecting an individual trader as the only authorized importer of specified products is being tested in Palestine, the Department of Commerce reported today.

The imported merchandise may be distributed by the Food Controller at fixed prices who may authorize the trader to contract with wholesalers and retailers for the distribution of the merchandise. Distribution contracts must provide a margin of profit of not less than 15 percent for retailers. Fish in brine and cheese are being imported under tender and tenders for other products have been invited. This control is expected to eliminate speculation and assure adequate control over prices of imported merchandise, the Department of Commerce believes.

HIAS CONVENTION OPENS IN NEW YORK TODAY; 2,500 DELEGATES ATTENDING

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA)-- A vivid picture of the desperate efforts that were made during 1942 to rescue through emigration as many Jews as possible from Nazi Europe will be presented to the 5th annual convention of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society on Sunday at the Hotel Astor here. 2,500 delegates representing 1,000 religious, labor, fraternal and benevolent organizations will participate in the deliberations of the convention.

Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of Hias, in his report for 1942 states that the Hias-Isa Emigration Association in Lisbon was instrumental in organizing and aiding the emigration of 4,750 refugees and that of this number 50 percent proceeded to the United States, 35 percent to Central America, 10 percent to South America and 5 percent to Palestine and other countries. Describing the deportations of Jews "to unknown destinations" from Southern France, in the summer of 1942, the report reveals that 2,000 refugees in unoccupied France for whom the State Department in Washington had already granted advisory approval for the issuance of U. S. immigration visas, were unable to depart because of the sudden decision of the Vichy authorities to cancel all exit visas.

The report shows that American Jews, during 1942, deposited with Hias $1,158,653 to be applied to covering the cost of transportation for their kin abroad; that Hias expended $820,785 for the maintenance of its services at home and abroad; that 309 steamers carrying Jewish passengers were met by the Hias pier service in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Norfolk and New Orleans during the year, and that 342,726 inquiries from American relatives and friends were directed to Hias in matters affecting immigration and naturalization. Of the 12,900 Jewish aliens who arrived in the United States during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 1942, the federation immigration authorities discharged 2,735 immigrants into the care of Hias, the report states.

JEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA ASK GOVERNMENT TO AID JEWS IN NAZI-EUROPE

CAPETOWN, South Africa, March 5. (JTA)-- A joint delegation of Jewish members of the South African Parliament and representatives of the Board of Deputies of South African Jews and the Zionist Federation yesterday was received by Prime Minister Jan Christian Smuts to whom they presented a memorandum urging that South Africa make representations to the United Nations asking speedy action to rescue the Jews from Nazi Europe.

The delegation pointed out that Palestine is ready and willing to accept as many of the refugees as can be saved, and asked that the Allied nations be prevailed upon to secure lifting of the immigration restrictions now in force. It stressed that the civilized world is obliged to provide sanctuary for these refugees. The group reported that it had been very sympathetically received by the Prime Minister.