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BRITISH MILITARY OFFICIAL IN PALESTINE ARMS TRIAL CHALLENGED BY JEWISH AGENCY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13.(JTA)-- Delayed)-- Major Richard B. Verdin, counsel for the defense in the trial of the two British soldiers who were sentenced last week by a military tribunal here to fifteen years each for selling arms to a Jewish organization, was challenged today by David Ben-Gurion to substantiate his anti-Jewish allegations "before any independent board of enquiry" where representatives of the Jewish Agency may be able to face him on equal terms.

The demand was made by Mr. Ben-Gurion as chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency in a letter to Major General D.F. McConnell, Commander of the British Military Forces in Palestine. In his letter, Ben-Gurion wrote:

"At the trial of the two British soldiers, Private Charles A. Stoner and Christopher R. Harris, before a military tribunal in Jerusalem, Major R.B. Verdin, abusing his privilege as defending counsel, made a slanderous attack against the Jewish people, against the Jews of Palestine, against Jewish soldiers serving in His Majesty's forces in the Middle East, against the Jewish Agency for Palestine and against myself as chairman of the Agency's executive committee.

"I am advised that there is no legal remedy against this slanderous attack. From a purely formal viewpoint, this officer may be able to claim the privilege by reason of the function which he exercised. The only course open for me it to address you as his superior officer. As a representative of the Jewish people which was maliciously attacked and as a person who was directly insulted, I desire to declare that Major Verdin acted in this matter without any regard for the truth or decency and in manner characteristic of the lowest type of anti-Semitism. I challenge him to substantiate his allegations before any independent board of enquiry where I may be able to face him on equal terms."

RUMANIA DEPORTS JEWS FROM TRANSYLVANIA TO CONCENTRATION CAMP; ARRESTS IN BUCHAREST

GENEVA, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- More than 8,000 Jews in the Rumanian part of Transylvania living in small towns and villages have been sent to the Hatzeg internment camp, a report reaching here today from Bucharest states.

The deportees have been deprived of all their belongings and in many cases left even without clothes. They are forced to provide their own food. About 500 Bucharest Jews were also interned last week by the Rumanian authorities in Camp Jeustendil, while sixty Jewish families from Germany who had been residing in Rumania for several years have been deported to Transnistria, the report says.

The Nazi newspaper Donau Zeitung reaching here today reports that the Jews in Rumania met the payment of 400,000,000 lei demanded by the Rumanian authorities as second installment of the four billion lei "special Jewish tax" imposed upon the Jewish population. The Rumanian government notified the Jewish leaders in Bucharest that if this second installment was not paid by August 12, all Jewish tax-payers and their families would be deported to Transnistria.

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JEWISH FIGHTERS IN WARSAW GHETTO WERE DRESSED IN GERMAN UNIFORMS TO CONFUSE NAZIS

LONDON, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- A detailed report disclosing that the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto used German guns and were dressed in German military uniforms and helmets when they waged their heroic resistance against the Nazi "liquidation" of the ghetto, is published in the clandestine Polish publication "Polska" which reached here today. The German equipment, the paper says, was obtained by the Jews when they captured Nazi factories in the ghetto at which Jewish workers were employed in compulsory labor.

The Jewish fighters, the underground paper reports, were assisted by firemen, air-raid wardens and nurses. Prior to the beginning of the battle, all Jewish women, children and aged men were secreted in underground shelters in the ghetto which were reinforced by cement and secretly interconnected, the publication states.

"The fight began when several Jews who were deported by the Nazis from the Warsaw ghetto to an unknown destination escaped en route and made their way back to the ghetto," the underground paper declares. They revealed the terrible truth that the Jewish deportees were being massacred on the road. This led to Jewish defiance of a new Nazi order to assemble another 5,000 Jews for deportation. Gestapo units, entering the ghetto to enforce this order, were met with showers of bullets from the roofs and were forced to retreat. Whereupon the Germans brought up four tanks firing chaotically into houses, but the tanks too were forced to withdraw. Incendiary bombs were then dropped by the Nazis from planes. The Jews replied by setting on fire the ghetto workshops where German war material was produced."

Axis Journalists Find Ghetto Littered with Bodies of Jews and Germans

The Polish underground paper declares that soon after the Nazis succeeded in "liquidating" the ghetto, they brought to Warsaw a group of Axis journalists protected by a unit of Nazi elite guards. "Smoke was still rising from the burning buildings when the journalists entered the ghetto," the paper reports. The streets were littered with rotting bodies of Jews and of Germans and it was difficult to identify among the killed Jew or German, since the Jews were wearing the captured Nazi uniforms to confuse the German soldiers.

"The representative of the Nazi propaganda department who escorted the journalists admitted that every Jewish house had been turned into a fortress, making the siege for the Germans very difficult," the Polish organ continues. Although the police were ordered to guard the sewers leading to the ghetto, the Jews in the ghetto nevertheless succeeded in getting food and arms through secret channels. "The Jewish battle in the ghetto gave much encouragement to the Polish population," the paper concludes.

Brutal Extermination of Jewish Children by Nazis Cited in Polish Manifesto

LONDON, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- The merciless mass-extinction by the Nazis of Jewish children in occupied Poland is graphically portrayed in a manifesto issued by Polish groups here today in preparation for a Day of Protest Against the Persecution of Polish Children which will be held under the auspices of the Polish Children Rescue Fund.

The manifesto declares that "thousands of Jewish children perished in Poland side by side with grown-up Jews during the so-called liquidation of the Jewish ghettos." It cites a number of the especially brutal incidents, including the case of the Jewish orphan home in Warsaw where all the children were "deported" to death together with their teachers and the director, Janusz Korczak.

JEWISH ENGINEERS EXEMPTED FROM ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN RUMANIA

ZURICH, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- The Hungarian press received here today carries a report from Bucharest stating that the Rumanian Government has issued a decree exempting from the anti-Jewish laws all Jews who hold diplomas as engineers and architects. There is an acute shortage in these professions. The decree also exempts from the anti-Jewish laws all Jewish bookkeepers serving in official institutions. All these exempted classes may be employed in public works as executive officers whenever this is in the interest of the state, the decree says.

The Bucharest newspaper Timpul reaching here today reveals that Jewish youngsters in Rumania between 15 and 18 years of age have been ordered to register for forced labor. The Hungarian official news agency today reported that the Supreme Court in Rumania ruled that property confiscated from Jewish women who are married to Rumanian citizens is to be restored to the owners.

ZIONISTS IN RHODESIA HOLD THREE-DAY CONFERENCE; ENDORSE BILTMORE DECLARATION

BULAWAYO, Rhodesia, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- For the first time in forty-five years an all-Rhodesian Zionist conference took place here with delegates from the remotest parts of the country participating.

The conference, which concluded today after three days of deliberations, adopted a resolution endorsing the Biltmore Declaration which asks that Palestine be proclaimed a Jewish Commonwealth. Another resolution protested against the British White Paper and demands its annulment and for the opening of Palestine to Jewish immigration. The conference was attended by the Minister of Justice, Captain H. Bertin and by members of the Rhodesian parliament. The mayor of Bulawayo, in addressing the gathering, lauded the Jewish war record both in Rhodesia and in Palestine.

JEWISH COMMUNITY ORGAN IN TUNISIA RESUMED; ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLICATIONS DISCONTINUED

LONDON, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- The Revue Juive, Jewish community paper in Tunisia, resumed publication in Sfax last week, it was reported here today. The report added that a number of Arab anti-Jewish papers in Tunisia have ceased publication.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY GETS COLLECTION OF RARE JEWISH-ITALIAN MANUSCRIPTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- A collection of 220 Jewish marriage contracts from Italy, dating from the beginning of the 16th to the middle of the 19th centuries has been presented to the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem by Dr. Ephraim Chamitzer, of Haifa. All the manuscripts are written on parchment and beautifully illuminated.

This is Dr. Chamitzer's second gift to the Library. The first, made some ten years ago, consisted of a rare collection of Hebraica and Orientalia, which included some very rare works. Both collections came from the library of the donor's father, the late Dr. Mordechai Ben-David Chamitzer, a noted Jewish scholar and Orientalist of Leipzig.

JEWISH PHILOSOPHER KILLED IN ACTION ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT

LONDON, Aug. 15.(JTA)-- Dr. Boris Markhatsh, well-known Russian-Jewish philosopher and bibliographer, was killed in action on the Russian front, it was reported here today. He joined the Russian Army as a volunteer and distinguished himself as a gunner in an artillery unit.