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COURT MARTIAL OF POLISH JEWS SEEKING TRANSFER TO BRITISH ARMY OPENS TODAY

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- Jewish soldiers who left the Polish Army because of anti-Semitic mistreatment and came to London to request a transfer to the British armed forces will be placed on trial tomorrow before a Polish court martial, it was announced here today.

The number of the Jews to be tried is not disclosed, but it is assumed that the accused are the group arrested early this month in London, which was estimated by members of Parliament to number "between thirty and fifty." About 200 Jews serving in the Polish Army in England were accepted by British units after it had been established that life was being made unbearable for them by their Polish officers. Approximately another 670 Jewish soldiers are now seeking to transfer from the Polish to the British forces as a result of the anti-Jewish manifestations in the Polish units.

The Representation of Polish Jews in England today stated that it will soon publish a summary of the anti-Semitic incidents in the Polish Army. It emphasized that a detailed report of these incidents has been submitted to the Polish authorities. The contents of this report will not be made public while the court martial proceedings are going on, since the leaders of the Representation of Polish Jews are bound to secrecy.

Testimony from Jewish Soldiers Reveals Mistreatment

Tom Driberg, independent member of Parliament, disclosed that he has received from Jewish soldiers in the Polish Army numerous written complaints of mistreatment. "I have a whole drawerful of personal testimonies to the kind of thing they are experiencing, written out laboriously in Polish, or, pathetically, in broken English," he said. He expressed the belief that the orders-of-the-day of the Polish military command directed against anti-Semitism "have not only not had the the desired effect, but they even have aggravated the situation."

"I have talked with Jews who left their units some time after the orders-of-the-day against anti-Semitism were issued," he declared, "and they said that these orders-of-the-day had made very little difference, except perhaps that it was not done so noisily. Man after man said: 'Now they say, these bullying Polish sergeants or non-commissioned officers, we cannot do anything in this country, because Churchill, as we all know, is in the pay of the Jews; but you wait until we get you on the continent of Europe; the moment we get you there, at the second front, then every Pole has two bullets - the first for a Jew and the second for a German.' I have been told that more of that sort of thing has been said to the Jewish soldiers by the non-commissioned officers and others since the Polish orders-of-the-day condemning anti-Semitism have appeared."

Polish Soldiers Gloat over Jewish Sufferings under Nazis

One of the Jewish soldiers who left the Polish Army and came to London to seek a transfer testified that he joined the Polish forces in March, 1942 and had been constantly mistreated. He said that the whole unit in which he served ridiculed the Jews. The common remark that was heard among the Polish soldiers was that "Hitler is

the savior of Europe, because he exterminates the Jews." On one occasion, in the mess hall, in the presence of 200 soldiers, a newspaper was read reporting the slaughter of Jews in the Warsaw ghetto. The soldiers, gathered around the reader, laughed merrily and applauded the report, the Jewish soldier stated.

"Desertions" from Polish Army Sanctioned by British War Office

Members of Parliament pointed out today that the court martial of the thirty or fifty Jewish soldiers on charges of "desertion" is not justified since the Polish Government itself permitted 200 Jewish soldiers to leave the Polish ranks because of anti-Semitism and to join the British forces. Why is the situation of the accused men not precisely the same as that of the 200, they asked. Mr. Driberg stressed that "this act of 'desertion' was endorsed or condoned by the action of the War Office and of the Foreign Office in accepting these men."

Another member of Parliament, William Gallacher, summarized the feelings of many of his colleagues by stating: "Supposing the Washington Government gave a bunch of Englishmen power over a mixed bunch of Englishmen and Scotsmen, and the Englishmen started ill-treating the Scotsmen, would not the Scotsmen be entitled to go to Washington and say 'You have given the power to the wrong people?'"

British Press Asks Full Publicity on Court Martial Verdict

London newspapers today demand that Foreign Minister Anthony Eden ask the Polish Government for full details on the sentences which the Polish court martial will impose, or may have imposed, on Jews who left the Polish Army to join the British forces. The papers also demand that the verdicts be published in the official proceedings of Parliament.

The discrimination against Jews in the Polish Army is the subject of editorial comment today in numerous provincial newspapers, including the Yorkshire Post which is considered the organ of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and the widely-read Birmingham Gazette.

"It is clear," the Gazette writes, "that not only Germany will have to be re-educated after the war, but we may be faced with an anti-Semitic Poland almost as urgently in need of re-education as Germany itself. If after four years of fighting side by side with our own people, a considerable section of the Polish Army learned nothing and is still fighting not for freedom, but for a conception of nationalism as narrow and as arrogant as the German, then the process of re-educating Poland is evidently likely to be long and difficult."

ITALIAN PUPPET GOVERNMENT DECREES CONFISCATION OF ALL PROPERTY STILL HELD BY JEWS

ZURICH, April 17. (JTA) -- All property, movable and otherwise, still in the possession of Jews in northern Italy must be surrendered immediately to the newly-created Office for Business Administration and Liquidation, which is in charge of liquidating "enemy-owned" enterprises, according to a decree appearing in the Official Gazette of the Italian puppet government. The decree is quoted in Milan newspapers reaching here today.

The alleged "luke-warm application" of the anti-Jewish laws in occupied Italy is assailed by the semi-official Repubblica Fascista which charges that "Jews are continuing their intrigues against the Republic under the protection of Italian friends, business partners and anti-Fascists, while hiding in monasteries and houses of non-Jews."

GERMANS REMOVING TRACES OF EXECUTED JEWS IN LITHUANIA; 120,000 STILL REPORTED ALIVE

STOCKHOLM, April 17. (JTA) -- With the Russian Army on the borders of Lithuania, German authorities there are reported by the Swedish press to be "feverishly" wiping out all traces of the mass-executions of Jews which they have carried out in various Lithuanian towns since the occupation, apparently in order to escape retribution.

The Nya Dagligt Allehanda, quoting Lithuanian underground publications, estimates that of the 230,000 Jews of Lithuania, including those of Vilna, there are still about 120,000 alive. One clandestine newspaper, Neprilausoma Lietuva, points out, however, that "it is doubtful whether the remnants of the Jews will be allowed by the Germans to live much longer." At the same time, it reports that the Germans are exhuming the bodies of Vilna Jews from the mass-graves in the Varena sandfields and are burning the corpses "in an attempt to remove the traces of their crimes and avoid the consequences."

Another underground newspaper, Laive Kotovas, also reports that the Germans are exhuming Jewish corpses from mass-graves near Kaunas. The paper says that Lithuanian policemen refused to participate in the mass-executions of Jews, and were replaced by pro-Nazi Ukrainians and Russians and by members of the battalions led by the Russian commander Vlassov who deserted the Red Army and joined the Nazi forces.

HUNGARY DISSOLVES ZIONIST ORGANIZATION, OTHER JEWISH GROUPS; SUICIDES MOUNT

ZURICH, April 17. (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of Hungary and various other Jewish groups have been dissolved by order of the Ministry of the Interior of the pro-Nazi puppet government, the German radio announced today. Their dissolution follows by several days the establishment by the authorities of a government-controlled "Central Jewish Council," which will be responsible for all Jewish affairs. Other reports reaching here today disclose that suicides are mounting among Hungarian Jews faced with arrest, deportation, and, at very least, loss of livelihood.

Meanwhile, the section of the Interior Ministry charged with ousting Jews from the professions has already secured the removal of hundreds of persons and additional dismissals are expected, according to Budapest newspapers received here today. One paper reports that the municipal authorities have postponed announcing appointments of teachers and administrative personnel, which are normally posted in April, "in view of the new stricter racial laws which will result in the elimination of many teachers and other municipal employees."

Another paper discloses that 130 Jews have been expelled from the Hungarian Press Chamber, while the cases of 166 suspected "non-Aryans" are under examination. This paper carries an editorial demanding that measures be taken to purge the legal profession of Jews and also the medical profession. At present doctors are not subject to the anti-Jewish restrictions.

An indication that the new anti-Jewish measures may not be meeting with wholehearted support from the Hungarian people is seen in an appeal issued by Under-Secretary of the Interior Baky for assistance in uncovering Jews evading the regulations. Baky stressed that it was the "duty" of every Hungarian to denounce Jews who are violating the laws. The Voelkischer Beobachter, official Nazi organ, publishes an attack on "pro-Semitic" Hungarian courtiers, who, it charges, are designing new clothes in shades of yellow which will make it difficult to discern yellow stars on them, thus assisting Jews to avoid being conspicuous in public.

THOUSANDS OF WARSAW JEWS STILL ALIVE, ESCAPED POLISH OFFICER REPORTS

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- Thousands of Warsaw Jews who participated in the heroic battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, which started a year ago this week, are still alive in Warsaw and are being sheltered there by Polish friends, according to a Polish lieutenant who escaped from occupied Poland two weeks ago. Addressing a press conference here today, the lieutenant, who has assumed the name of Jerzy Jur, said that he had met seven of his Jewish classmates in Warsaw shortly before he made his escape.

"Many Jewish men and women," he said, "are hiding in the woods. They are being aided even by Poles who were anti-Semitic before the outbreak of the war. A large number of Jews are in the guerilla units. Stories are circulating in Warsaw that armed Jewish groups are still hiding in cellars within the ghetto, necessitating continuous German guard around the ghetto walls."

Describing the battle of the ghetto, the Polish officer said that the feeling among the population in Warsaw during the heroic Jewish resistance against superior German forces was one of "helpless anger" because they were unable to join the Jews and start a general revolt against the Germans in the city. The Blue-White flag, as well as the Socialist red flag and Polish banners waved over the ghetto buildings all during the battle, he stated.

"Of the 40,000 Jews who were in the ghetto when the armed revolt against the Germans started, about 3,000 were organized in active combat units," Lieut. Jur said. "The remainder assisted the combatants while others joined them later. Women fought together with men; girls operated machine-guns. All Jews in the ghetto, irrespective of their former party affiliations, fought under a unified command. The German troops were ashamed and bewildered because they were forced to conduct a full-scale battle against those whom they had treated as inferiors."

The Polish officer said that he met with members of the command of the Jewish underground movement who estimated that there are still about 500,000 Jews in Poland today. He added, however, that it is impossible to make an exact estimate of the number of Jews who remain.

NAZIS TRICK DUTCH JEWS INTO SURRENDERING WITH OFFER OF REFUGE IN AMERICA

BERN, April 17. (JTA) -- Thousands of Dutch Jews who for months succeeded in evading deportation to Poland, have been tricked by the Gestapo into surrendering themselves in the belief that they would be sent to the United States in exchange for German war prisoners, it is learned here.

Faced with the almost impossible task of rounding up thousands of Jews who were being hidden by non-Jewish friends, the Germans posted announcements stating that negotiations had been completed with the American Government for the exchange of those Jews who had not yet been deported. Jews reaching the United States, the announcement added, would receive 1,000 guilders from Dutch authorities there to maintain themselves until they could find employment.

Lured from their hiding places by the German "offer," a great many Jews were seized and deported. Some of them were tortured to death, the report says.

IRA HIRSCHMANN, WRB REPRESENTATIVE IN ANKARA, ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON; CONFERS WITH PEHLE

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- Ira A. Hirschmann, War Refugee Board representative in Ankara, arrived here today. He immediately met with John W. Pehle, director of the Board.

HARRY GREENSTEIN RETURNS FROM UNRRA MISSION TO LONDON; MET WITH JEWISH LEADERS

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- Harry Greenstein, Deputy Director of the Welfare Division of UNRRA has returned to the United States after a visit of six weeks to London on a special mission for UNRRA undertaken at the request of Governor Lehman, it was learned here today.

During his stay in England, Mr. Greenstein was asked to meet with the representatives of the Governments-in-Exile and to discuss with them the welfare needs in their respective countries after liberation, and the extent to which they will be calling on UNRRA for assistance. He was also authorized to co-ordinate the activities of the American private agencies and the British voluntary societies furnishing personnel to UNRRA for operations in the Middle East; and to recruit an international staff and to organize the Welfare Division of UNRRA's European Regional Office in London.

While in London, Mr. Greenstein met with John G. Winant, American Ambassador; Sir Herbert Emerson, High Commissioner of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and with leaders of Jewish groups including Dr. Uthman Weizmann, Moshe Shertok, Simon Marks, Israel Sieff, Otto Schiff, Anthony de Rothschild, Leonard Stein and Lord Bearstedt.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES BILL URGING SENDING OF FOOD TO OCCUPIED EUROPE

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- The House of Representatives today unanimously passed a bill urging the United States to cooperate with Great Britain, Sweden, and Switzerland in the "setting up of systematic and definite relief for all stricken and hungry countries where the need is now most acute."

Asked two weeks ago about the possibility of sending relief through the blockade, Secretary of State Cordell Hull said then that this Government has been checking and rechecking but had not reached a definite decision as yet.

In February, after a Senate foreign relations subcommittee held hearings, the Senate approved a similar resolution urging the State Department to take steps to relieve the distress of the peoples of occupied Europe.

ORT OPENS NEW SCHOOLS IN SWITZERLAND TO TRAIN REFUGEES FOR POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

GENEVA, April 17. (JTA) -- Two new ORT schools for the training of Jewish refugee youths in preparation for their return to liberated European countries after the war were opened here today at ceremonies attended by high government officials and representatives of refugee organizations.

The ORT has 14 workshops in Basle and Zurich and eight training schools, besides the two established today, in operation in Switzerland. At these institutions young refugees receive mechanical and agricultural training. Most of the student body is composed of Jews released from Swiss internment camps and many who have fled here from Hungary, Yugoslavia, northern Italy and France.

HASHOMER HAZAIR CONVENTION HERE BACKS STAND OF PARENT ORGANIZATION IN PALESTINE

CHICAGO, April 17. (JTA) -- A resolution supporting the stand of the Hashomer Hazeir, Palestine Socialist League, which opposes the establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth there and favors the creation of a bi-national state, was adopted here at the closing session of the annual convention of the American branch of the party.