

Monday, July 17, 1944

*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

ITALIAN CABINET ESTABLISHES DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH JEWISH CLAIMS IN LIBERATED AREAS

LONDON, July 16. (JTA) -- The Italian cabinet, which is working in cooperation with the Allied Military Government, announced the establishment of a special department for Jewish affairs to deal with problems arising out of the annulled anti-Jewish laws in liberated parts of Italy, it was reported here today.

Dr. Anton Zolli, Chief Rabbi of Rome, and M. Robertani, an Italian Jewish lawyer, have been invited by the cabinet to assist in the work of this department, the report said. Simultaneously, it was reported that Fascist authorities in German-held sections of Italy, especially in the provinces of Modena and Sondrio are continuing the confiscation of Jewish property.

Greek official circles today reported that all Jews in the Greek island of Corfu have been seized by the Germans and their property confiscated. After holding these Jews in an old citadel for several weeks, the German authorities deported them from the island. The population was warned that all Jews who were still at large and who did not surrender within twenty-four hours would be punished by death. The same punishment would be meted out to Greeks hiding Jews or helping them to escape deportation, the warning said.

HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES ATTEMPTING TO EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPORTATION OF JEWS

ZURICH, July 16. (JTA) -- An indication that Allied warnings that the pro-Nazi Hungarian Government will be held accountable after the war for the murder and deportation of Jews are beginning to hit home is given today in a statement by high Hungarian officials to the correspondent of the Swiss Telegraphic Agency.

The correspondent reports that these officials categorically deny that Hungarian authorities have mistreated or killed Jews. Some Jews were deported, they said, in accordance with a recently concluded agreement between Hungary and Germany under which the former is to furnish manpower for German war industries. "The Jewish manpower," they stated, "was placed at the disposal of the Reich in order to meet the wishes of our German ally in the interest of the joint conduct of the war."

The deportation of the Jews, therefore, the Budapest spokesman continued, was merely an orderly transfer of workers, in which the part played by Hungarian authorities was limited to "the technical aspect of recruiting." Accusations in the foreign press, they asserted, are without foundation.

Rumanian newspapers received here today report that two Hungarian Jews who were captured crossing into Rumania have been sentenced to five years at hard labor by a military court. Their names are given as Martin Berkowitz and Erno Pollock. The place where they were apprehended was not disclosed.

GERMAN PRESS OPENS VIOLENT ANTI-JEWISH DRIVE AS RUSSIANS APPROACH REICH TERRITORY

ZURICH, July 16. (JTA) -- As Russian troops drive closer to the borders of Germany, the Reich press has launched a new violent anti-Jewish campaign in an attempt to divert the attention of the German people from the possibility of an imminent invasion of their homeland.

Der Angriff, official organ of Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, carries an article stating that all misfortunes afflicting Germany are the fault of the Jews. Asserting that Germany is not fighting "Slavism" or the "aryan Russian empire," but the "Soviet Jewish state," the article states:

"In this hour of decision all misleading slogans of lesser importance must be firmly pushed aside. The cardinal truth that must always be stressed is - it is the Jew, it is the fault of the Jew."

THREE JEWS FOUND ALIVE IN VILNA BY RUSSIAN TROOPS; HEAPS OF BODIES UNCOVERED

MOSCOW, July 16. (JTA) -- Red Army troops who captured Vilna found only three Jews in that city, which had a pre-war Jewish population of well over 50,000, according to a front-line dispatch appearing in the Moscow press.

"In one of the streets of the city," the dispatch says, "Redarmymen ran into an old bearded Jew. He walked with outstretched hands as if clutching the air. By his side limped a woman and boy. These three were the only survivors of the Jewish population of the city."

At the wayside station of Panersial, not far from Vilna, the report says, the Russian troops found a field which had been used as an execution center by the Nazis. There thousands of Jews, Poles, Lithuanians and Russians had been killed by the Germans. In many other places the troops come across piles of bones and charred bodies, traces of Gestapo executions which the Germans had no time to obliterate before they were forced to quit the Lithuanian capital.

GAULLE GOVT. HIT FOR ARTICLE WARNING OF TROUBLE IF PROPERTY RETURNED TO JEWS

LONDON, July 16. (JTA) -- The French Committee of National Liberation is criticized today by the Sunday Dispatch for spreading "via official channels in the United States" an article by Michael Le Troquer, Paris attorney and son of the Commissar-Delegate in the Administration for Liberated Territories appointed by the Committee, in which he said that automatic restoration to French Jews of the industrial, commercial and political positions they held before the war will arouse "resentment" among some circles in France.

The French Press and Information Service in New York, which distributed Troquer's article, published originally in the newspaper L'Algier Republican, is equivalent to the French ministry of information, the Dispatch says, and, therefore, the impression is created that the sentiments expressed in the article have the full approval of the De Gaulle Government.

The diplomatic correspondent of the Dispatch, however, writes that French quarters here have assured him that the Algiers government intends to undo by progressive stages the Vichy work of racial discrimination. Le Troquer's article, they say, expressed his personal opinion and does not voice official policy.

SPECIAL BROADCAST FROM ROME SYNAGOGUE TO VOICE THANKS FOR LIBERATION

NEW YORK, July 16. (JTA) -- A special thanksgiving service from the Temple Israelitic, Rome's famed synagogue, will be beamed to the United States on Sunday, July 23, 1:15 to 1:30 p.m., E.W.T., in a program presented over the National Broadcasting System by the American Jewish Committee in collaboration with the National Broadcasting Company. The program will be the first Jewish broadcast from an Allied-liberated territory.

The Chief Rabbi of Italy, Anton Zolli, will conduct the services. A cantor and a girls' choir will participate. The arrangements for the program were made by Ralph Howard, NBC correspondent attached to the American Fifth Army. Rabbi Zolli, who is 73, had been in hiding, at one time with a Catholic family, during the nine months that the Nazis directly controlled Rome.

The synagogue from which the broadcast will emanate is in the center of the old Roman ghetto, on the banks of the Tiber. A modern structure, it was built at the turn of this century. It stands on the site of an ancient synagogue, for the Jewish community of the Italian capital is one of the oldest in the world. The building of the synagogue came at a time when Jews were enjoying equal rights with all other Italian citizens. One of their co-religionists, Ernesto Nathan, served as Mayor of Rome from 1907 to 1913.

BRITISH PRESS AND RADIO LAUD COURAGE OF GEORGES MANDEL

LONDON, July 16. (JTA) -- The British radio and press today pay tribute to Georges Mandel, former French Minister of the Interior, who, the Vichy radio reported Friday night, was killed while being transferred from an internment camp.

The London Times says that "by the death of Georges Mandel, France loses a true patriot whose farsightedness in peace and courage in adversity will stand as a shining example to generations." It adds that, although doubly menaced because he was a Jew, Mandel refused to leave France although he could have fled to England. The Evening Standard prints an editorial "in tribute to a murdered French patriot, statesman and lawyer." The BBC said that "it would appear from the nature of the announcement that the news of Georges Mandel's death is likely to be true, although previous false announcements of his death have been made by the Germans and the details of this announcement may well be false too."

Mandel, who was 59, was active in French politics from the time he became a protégé of Clemenceau at the age of 18, until the fall of France. As a member of the Lyaudet cabinet he fought vigorously against capitulation to the Germans. He was one of the defendants at the famous "Riom trial."

NATION-WIDE HUNT ON FOR TERRORISTS WHO BLASTED JERUSALEM POLICE HEADQUARTERS

JERUSALEM, July 16. (JTA) -- A country-wide manhunt was on today for terrorists who raided the Jerusalem district police headquarters early Friday morning, and killed one Arab policeman and seriously injured another Arab and a Jewish policeman. Police say that the men planted eleven bombs, all of which exploded before they could be located. They travelled in stolen taxis which they returned after the raid. Police estimate that 20 to 25 men were involved.