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JEWS IN HOLLAND, THEMSELVES IN DANGER, RESCUED HUNDREDS OF ALLIED FLIERS FROM GESTAPO

MAASTRICHT, Holland, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- Three-fourths of the 140,000 Jews who resided in Holland before the German occupation were deported to "unknown destinations" by the Gestapo, a correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency arriving here today established. About 80,000 of them had resided in the Netherlands for generations.

Although in great danger, Jews in Holland actively participated in hiding Allied airmen, securing false identity documents for them and helping them to cross into Belgium en route to England, the correspondent was told. Some of the airmen were sheltered in places which served as hideouts for Jews evading deportation from Holland. In this way hundreds of Allied airmen were saved from the Gestapo.

The Jews in Holland received a much rougher deal from the Nazis than even the Jews of Belgium or France. Only the fact that the Gestapo men accepted bribes saved some of them. The Germans even provided "Aryan" identity documents for Jews who were in a position to pay well for them.

The hunt for Jews in Holland was intensified last year. Twice each week cattle cars crowded with Jews left for Poland from the Westerbork camp where they were held for deportation. The Germans first took all the property of the interned Jews, including jewelry and insurance policies. They then informed them that only those who would agree to be sterilized would be exempted from deportation. Only a few elderly men agreed.

Of the five hundred Jews who lived in Maastricht before the war, the correspondent found only six families who escaped deportation, due to the fact that they were safely hidden by non-Jewish neighbors. The 180-year-old local synagogue was used by the Germans as a warehouse. The Holy Scrolls were all saved, however, having been hidden in the vault of a local bank.

MEMBERS OF JEWISH BODY IN BELGIUM ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF COLLABORATION WITH NAZIS

LIEGE, Belgium, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- Jewish members of the Association of Jews in Belgium formed by the Germans during the occupation and headed by the Chief Rabbi are now being arrested by leaders of the Independence Front and the Maquis movement and held for investigation, a correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today upon his arrival here. Some of them are charged with collaborating with the German occupation authorities.

It was estimated here today that at least 35,000 Jews were deported from Belgium. Among them were members of the Association of Jews in Belgium. The Chief Rabbi, who was the head of the organization, was arrested and had his beard cut off by the Gestapo in the concentration camp where he was held. The guards also forced him to wash the latrines. He was freed by the arrival of the Allied troops.

The cantor of the Liege synagogue was hidden for two years by a local Catholic priest who also secreted six other Jews, giving up his own bed. The cantor's wife and child were hidden in a convent. Nearly every Belgian clergyman helped to hide Jews, the JTA correspondent was told.

LAST WARSAW BROADCAST URGES JEWS IN OCCUPIED POLAND TO REMAIN COURAGEOUS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- A last-minute appeal to Jews in the still-occupied part of Poland urging them not to lose faith "because the day of liberation is near" was broadcast from Warsaw before the patriots in the city were forced to surrender yesterday to the Germans after sixty-three days of fighting.

The appeal, made by a Polish announcer in behalf of the Jews who were fighting in the ranks of the patriots, warned Polish traitors against handing over Jews to the Gestapo. "Those betraying our Jewish citizens are Poland's Enemy No. 1," he declared. The broadcast concluded with the prayer of "Iskor" offered for the fallen Jews in Hebrew by a member of the Jewish underground movement. It was heard in Tel Aviv by the Hebrew newspaper Davar.

JEWS IN BULGARIA IN DESPERATE NEED; FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RE-ENTER ECONOMIC LIFE

SOFIA, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- Despite the restoration of rights to Jews in Bulgaria, their situation is desperate as a result of the \_\_\_\_\_ at they were uprooted and eliminated from economic life for a long time, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent here established.

At present, Jews in Sofia are deprived of practically all means of existence. The stream of Jews returning to their homes in Sofia is increasing daily, but the majority of them do not even have money to pay their fare. They are oppressed by the fact that they have no place to live and find it difficult to start a new existence.

Health conditions among the Jews present a grave problem. Many of them are suffering from malaria and tuberculosis. The Jewish hospital in Sofia was destroyed and it is difficult to find a Jewish doctor.

A Russian soldier who escaped from a prison camp in Serbia and reached Sofia today reported that in the city of Nish he saw several thousand Hungarian Jews doing slave labor in the mines.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO HOUSE HOMELESS JEWS IN HOUSES OF GERMAN INTERNEES

TEL AVIV, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government has notified the municipality of Tel Aviv that it is not inclined to convert houses of Palestine Germans interned as enemy aliens into homes for homeless Jewish immigrants, the Arab press reports today.

The suggestion that the Jewish refugees be housed in homes of interned German residents came from the municipality of Tel Aviv, the report says. It concerned chiefly the German settlement of Sarona which is situated on the outskirts of Tel Aviv. However, the interned Germans of Sarona notified the Palestine Government that they were opposed to having their dwellings used as homes for refugees.

Upon receiving the protest of the internees, the District Commissioner informed Mayor Rokach of its contents, adding that "the Palestine Government will not consider robbing the houses of the Sarona Germans" since it expects them to return to their homes after the war, the leading Arab newspaper Adifa states.

WHOLESALE ARREST OF ALL JEWS IN SLOVAKIA ORDERED BY GERMAN MILITARY COMMANDER

LONDON, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- The wholesale arrest of all Jews remaining in the German-occupied part of Slovakia has been ordered by the commander of the German troops there, it was learned here today by the Czechoslovak Government.

HIDDEN JEWISH CHILDREN BEING REUNITED WITH PARENTS IN FRANCE; MANY OTHERS ORPHANED

PARIS, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- One of the bravest episodes of the war and the German occupation is being revealed in Paris as the first of thousands of hidden Jewish children are being reunited with the parents from whom they were separated in order to save them from deportation.

The details of the greatest human rescue set-up since the American underground railway of pre-Civil War days are just now coming to light. Catholic priests and Protestants aided Jews in placing half of the Jewish children in Paris in the countryside with friendly Frenchmen or spiriting them out of the country.

After July, 1942, when the Germans suddenly swooped down on the Jewish quarter of Paris and arrested 20,000 women and children, the remaining Jews began the underground task of hiding youngsters. While many families managed, individually, to place their children with French families, three organizations undertook mass placement. They were the OSE - the Jewish Health Society - the Federation of Jewish Societies and the Zionist Youth Organization.

Dr. Eugene Minkowski, president of the OSE, directed much of this risky campaign. In two years the OSE hid 600 children in northern France and 2,500 in the southern part of the country. A similar job was undertaken by Mme. Rebecca Youchnovsky, who was in charge of the Paris office of the Federation of Jewish Societies, while her husband, Dr. Aaron Youchnovsky conducted a dispensary there. The Federation placed 700 children.

Jewish Women Toured Country Secretly Checking on Care of Children

Together with the OSE it carried on a never-ending detailed check-up which would do honor to the most elaborate New York social service agency. Yet every thing was done in enforced secrecy, every contact was carried on through intermediaries. The records of the children, with their false names and the key to their identities was kept secret in the home of Mme. Paulette Karnovsky, whose husband Alex was killed during the battle for Paris. Mme. Karnovsky and a group of women - including non-Jews - travelled throughout the country for a monthly check-up on the condition of the children. The committee even managed to send toys to the youngsters.

The foster families were paid in advance, monthly, for caring for the child. The average payment ranged around 900 francs, and was made through devious channels. The money was often hidden in the bottom of a shopping basket or carried by a third party. Several women were arrested while doing this work, but everything was carried out to the last painstaking detail. Several young women members of the Zionist youth group were captured and executed by the Gestapo while engaged in guiding groups of children to safety.

In addition to those hidden by the OSE and the Federation, about 800 were placed in French homes through the efforts of Mme. Juliette Stern, who worked in the Union Generale de Juifs de France, a German-organized agency. Frequently the Gestapo deported adults leaving the children behind to be placed in institutions. With the cooperation of women leaders of Catholic and Protestant organizations, Mme. Stern was able to spirit the 800 children out of the German institutions using various devices.

Two Catholic priests named Father Cheilant and Father Du Vaux were also very active in this work. Du Vaux, himself, placed 400 children and secured medical aid

for many expectant mothers. He secured funds from bankers and other wealthy Frenchmen. Of the 400 children about 60 have already been reunited with their parents.

Dr. Minkowski told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent that he believes that about half the hidden children will eventually be returned to their families, but that provision will have to be made for the others. Many of these are children who were so young when their parents were deported that they have no knowledge of them, while most have been orphaned.

Minkowski said that the children without families will require considerable assistance and appealed for aid from abroad. At the same time, he paid tribute to the Joint Distribution Committee, whose funds, he said, had financed ninety percent of the child rescue work.

#### INTERFAITH INSTITUTES ON JUDAISM PLANNED BY UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

CINCINNATI, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- Christian religious leaders and teachers soon will be in position to obtain authentic knowledge about Judaism through attendance at Interfaith Institutes on Judaism, arranged by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in cooperation with the Central Conference of American Rabbis, it was announced here today by Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, director of the UAHC.

The Institutes will have the following purposes: 1. To spread authentic knowledge of Jewish beliefs and practices; 2. To replace lack of information and misinformation concerning Judaism by facts and authoritative history; 3. To foster sympathetic understanding based on knowledge and appreciation of the Jewish faith and people; 4. To emphasize the common origins and ideals inherent in both Judaism and Christianity.

#### ZOA HEAD URGES ALLIED STATEMENT SUPPORTING JEWISH COMMONWEALTH IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- A declaration by the Allied powers endorsing the proposal for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth was urged today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Zionist Organization of America. With victory for the United Nations assured, now is the proper time for issuance of such a statement, Dr. Goldstein declared.

Speaking at a press conference devoted to the forthcoming annual conference of the ZOA, which will open on Oct. 11 at the St. Charles Hotel in Atlantic City, Dr. Goldstein stressed the necessity for American Jews to give economic assistance to the Jewish community of Palestine since "political guarantees alone will not build Palestine." He announced that the ZOA plans to raise \$1,000,000 within the next three years for the establishment in Palestine of a colony bearing its name.

#### JUDGE PROSKAUER PAYS TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR SMITH AS "BEST OF CITIZENS"

NEW YORK, Oct. 4. (JTA) -- Alfred E. Smith was hailed today as the "truest of friends and the best of citizens" in a statement issued on the occasion of his death by Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, and long-time friend and associate of the former Governor.

Judge Proskauer said: "Governor Smith was the best and wisest man I ever knew. In all my years of close association with him I never knew him to act except from the highest of motives. That is why he was the truest of friends and the greatest of citizens.