

# JTA

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### JEWISH SURVIVORS OF NAZI MASS-MURDER IN ESTONIA SEEK RELATIVES THROUGH JTA

TALLINN, Estonia, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- Only about 85 men and women of the thousands of Vilna Jews who were sent by the Germans to slave labor in Klooga, Estonia, succeeded in escaping the massacre carried out by the Nazis on Sept. 19, two days before the retreat of the German army from Estonia, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent established upon his arrival here today.

The majority of the surviving Jews are doctors, lawyers and dentists. Most of them have relatives in the United States, Palestine or Argentina. Some of them poured out their stories of horror to the JTA correspondent, relating how they were deported in September, 1943, from Vilna and assigned to slave labor building fortifications to be used against the Russians.

They remained in barracks at the Klooga camp, 35 miles from Tallinn, until two days before the German retreat when several thousand slave laborers, most of them Jews, were either burned alive or machine-gunned and their bodies burned.

Some of the bodies seen by the correspondent at the place where the mass-murder occurred were only partly burned. There were headless trunks lying fully clothed with Mogen David insignias on their arms. There were also human bodies burned black, charred like logs of wood and heaps of ashes from bodies which had been consumed completely.

### Mass-Executions Lasted for 12 Hours; Names of Surviving Jews

The mass-murder lasted for twelve hours, the surviving Jews testified. They told how German doctors killed all Jewish new-born babies calmly and systematically under instructions from Berlin and how some babies were simply thrown into boilers. They consider it a miracle that they succeeded in escaping on the day when the mass-murder started, when the air around the Klooga camp was filled with horrible shrieks of the victims suffering their last agonies.

The following survivors asked the JTA correspondent to help them contact their relatives abroad. Bela Aronowicz, whose relatives are David Oger in Tel Aviv, and Sam Feinstein in Brooklyn. Raia Axelrod, who is related to John Judel of New York City. Her husband Moses was among the massacred. Abram Aronson, whose relative is Meyer Berman in Tel Aviv. Lasar Oserski and Falk Chasanowich of Vilna, whose relatives are Wesim Kasen of Pittsburgh or Chicago, Dr. Lasar Kasen of Tel Aviv, Joseph and Malka Luski of Palestine, and Solomon Mendel Froyel of Tel Aviv. Benjamin Weintraub, whose two brothers and mother and father were killed in the Vilna ghetto, is a relative of Samuel Ambursky of New York, who, Weintraub said, worked for the Federal Food Corporation there.

Jeremiah Ratner has relatives named Gubecki in Brooklyn. Isak Ratner, an engineer, is related to Tanchum Rajetzki and Nachman Dryswietzki of Buenos Aires and

Dora Bespreswana of Palestine. Adela and Tole Greenholtz and Nisen Anolik have a relative named Rajches Schwel in New York. Dora Besprowana has two uncles, William and Abraham Gallin, living in New York. Abraham Schuster has an uncle, S. Feldman living in San Francisco. Gina Chana Sher is related to B. Miller, living at 314 Regeware Road in Los Angeles, and to Jaffe Sher in Petach Tikvah, Palestine. Motla Gansel Swerdlin, whose husband Julian, a physician, has not been heard of since June, is a friend of Rabbi Ber and Tonya Solowietchik of Boston. Mrs. Swerdlin was a student, at one time, of Dr. Jacob Shulman of New York.

#### POLISH COMMANDER LAUDS JEWISH HEROISM IN WARSAW BATTLE; 500 JEWS BELIEVED KILLED

LONDON, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- At least 500 Jews are believed to have been killed in the abortive revolt in Warsaw which ended with the surrender of the Polish forces this week, it is learned here.

According to information reaching Jewish circles today 200 were killed in the first weeks of the battle. Separate Jewish units were formed of survivors of the Warsaw ghetto and fugitive Jews who returned from the provinces in answer to Gen. Ber's appeal. Ber paid tribute to the gallantry of the Jewish fighters in a message to the Polish Government-in-Exile here sent prior to his capitulation.

Several of the Jewish partisans were decorated for bravery and one Jewish unit played an important part in the capture of Napoleon Square, in the center of the city, where many German prisoners were taken. Jewish contingents also participated in other actions.

#### JEWISH STATE BASED ON PARTITION OF PALESTINE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO JEWISH AGENCY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is opposed to any partition scheme for Palestine, even if it should provide for the establishment of a Jewish State in part of the country, David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Agency executive, stated today addressing the Small Zionist Actions Committee.

Ben-Gurion announced that the Agency has decided to convoke a meeting of the Large Zionist Actions Committee, with the participation of Zionist representatives from many countries, to discuss pressing post-war problems.

Today's session of the committee was also addressed by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, a member of the Agency executive, who reported on the activities of American Zionist groups. The American Government and public, Dr. Goldmann said, are sympathetic to Zionist aims.

#### PALESTINE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTING TO IMPORT BUILDING MATERIALS TO PROVIDE HOUSING

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- The Palestine Government is endeavoring to import materials to construct buildings containing at least 27,000 rooms in order to partially alleviate the acute housing shortage, it was announced today by Acting High Commissioner J. V. M. Shaw.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Shaw also said that he was personally dealing with the problem of using the homes of interned Palestine Germans to house new immigrants. A suggestion by the Tel Aviv municipality that this be done was rejected by the district commissioner this week.

Discussing measures for demobilized soldiers, Mr. Shaw said that the manpower commissioner is presently working on plans to provide employment for veterans and convert industry to peace time production. He reiterated that the government is extending aid to orange growers and plans to continue this assistance.

JEWS WAR VETERANS CONDEMN INJECTION OF RELIGIOUS ISSUES INTO ELECTION CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- Opposition to divisive forces who are attempting to inject racial or religious issues into the election campaign was voiced here today in a resolution adopted by the 48th annual encampment of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States at the Hotel Commodore. The resolution stressed the "desperate need for national unity" in carrying out war and post-war tasks.

New York State Secretary of State Thomas J. Curran told the delegates that intolerance and prejudice have no place in America as we know it today - and in the America we hope we will have in the future. He paid tribute to the heroic resistance of the Jews in occupied Europe, particularly Warsaw, and to the many Jews in the armed forces who have distinguished themselves on the various fighting fronts. Mr. Curran pointed out that although only three percent of the population of the United States are Jews, eight percent of those who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in this war are of the Jewish faith.

Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, addressing the encampment, emphasized that "we still have a long way to go to translate into reality the great American principle of equality for all people. When we do it at home," he continued, "then we can preach to the world. We must, by example, show that the people of all great racial and religious groups can live together in peace and harmony."

In another resolution adopted today, the veterans went on record favoring the establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practice Commission and urging full and equal employment opportunities for persons of all races, religions and colors.

JEWS GROUPS URGE CONGRESS COMMITTEES TO PASS BILL FOR FEDERAL FAIR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

NEW YORK, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- Support of legislation to create a permanent federal Fair Employment Practice Commission was voiced today in behalf of all leading Jewish organizations by David Sher, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. The council is composed of representatives of the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and eighteen local Jewish organizations in Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Louis, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other cities.

In letters addressed to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and to the House Committee on Labor, Mr. Sher pointed out that the Jewish groups affiliated with his organization are of the opinion that "the experience of the present Fair Employment Practice Committee in barring discrimination in war industries has proved to be an important factor in achieving non-discriminatory practices in employment."

Stressing the need for immediate consideration by the Congress of the pending legislation, which provides for the establishment of a federal agency vested with sufficient power to bar racial bias from employment, Mr. Sher stated: "Daily the rate of war contract cancellations and production cutbacks increases. Decreases in the number of persons employed in war plants makes possible discrimination in discharges. Moreover, the curtailment in war production places many firms outside the jurisdiction of the present FEPC which is restricted to war industries. For these reasons legislation establishing a permanent and strong FEPC should be passed without delay."

10/8/44

HEBREW UNIVERSITY SEEKS TO RECOVER JEWISH CULTURAL TREASURES PLUNDERED BY NAZIS

NEW YORK, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- The Hebrew University has initiated steps to recover for the Jewish people the cultural and art treasures of European Jewry that were stolen by the Nazis and transferred to Germany, it was announced here today by the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

The Germans, the announcement said, have stored in Munich large Jewish libraries as well as considerable booty consisting of Jewish art treasures and archives which they had plundered from occupied Europe. The Hebrew University is negotiating with the appropriate institutions of the United Nations in London with a view to securing these treasures after the war and transferring them to the Jewish National University Library and the University Museum of Jewish Antiquities.

It was also reported here today that the Hebrew University shipped within one month 25,000 cc of anti-typhus vaccine to Russia. The serum, prepared by the university's Department of Bacteriology, was flown from Jerusalem to Moscow by way of Iran.

REFUGEES AT OSWEGO SHELTER PERMITTED TO HAVE ADDITIONAL INCOME FROM LABOR

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- The refugees at the Emergency Refugee Shelter at Oswego, N. Y., will be able to supplement the small grants given them by the U. S. Government by working in farms and orchards in the vicinity, Edward Marks, officer of the War Relocation Authority, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. They have been given permission to help pick the local pear and apple crops at the prevailing wage, Marks revealed.

In addition, the Government instituted at the beginning of this month a policy of setting up a certain number of paid refugee positions to be compensated at the rate of \$18 per month. Others in the group employed in furthering the cultural activities of the camp as religious workers or teachers may be paid by private organizations wishing to do so at a rate not exceeding the monthly \$18. Private welfare agencies are about to set up vocational training schools and plan to sponsor a program of English training at the Shelter, according to Marks.

SIR SAMUEL JOSEPH, FORMER LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, DEAD; FIRST JEW TO HOLD POST IN 40 YEARS

LONDON, Oct. 6. (JTA) -- Sir Samuel George Joseph, Lord Mayor of London for 1942-1943, died here yesterday. He was 56. A veteran of World War I, in which he served as a captain in the Royal Irish Regiment, Sir Samuel was active in many Jewish and non-Jewish humanitarian causes. Prior to his election as Lord Mayor he was Sheriff of the City of London and a member of the Board of Aldermen. He was made a Baron by King George in November, 1943, when he retired as Lord Mayor.

Sir Samuel, who was the first Jew to be named Lord Mayor of London in 40 years, evinced great interest in Jewish communal affairs and during his term as Lord Mayor participated in the re-dedication of the destroyed Great Synagogue of London and issued an appeal to British Jews to uphold the fine reputation they had won. Last year he sent a message to American Jews lauding the cooperation between the Jewish communities of Britain and the United States in maintaining "the ideals for which Judaism stands."