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JTA CORRESPONDENT FINDS 3,000 JEWS IN WARSAW; ALL JEWISH BUILDINGS IN CITY RAZED

WARSAW, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- About 3,000 Jews are among the 30,000 surviving men and women of Warsaw, the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency established today upon his arrival in this battered city.

The plight of these Jews baffles description, and their number is increasing as Jewish survivors arrive from neighboring townships. A local Jewish committee is functioning, and is doing its best to provide food for the needy Jews from the 124 soup kitchens which have been established to feed the hungry population. Most of these kitchens are located in the Praga section of Warsaw.

Escorted by Colonel A. Finkelstein of the Polish Army on a tour through the debris of Warsaw, the JTA correspondent found all houses in the ghetto leveled to the ground. Not a single synagogue remains in the city which had dozens before the outbreak of the war. No trace is left of any of the streets which were thickly populated with Jews in pre-war times and which the Germans made into a ghetto soon after the occupation of the city.

While all buildings in the ghetto are a mass of ruins, the brick wall of the ghetto—ten feet high and surmounted by barbed wire—strangely enough remained intact. The surviving Jews live in basements beneath the ruins, as does the non-Jewish population. They do not even have candles for light. The food which they get from the free kitchens is only black bread and a plate of soup. No sugar or milk is available in Warsaw.

Despite their dire need and incredible hardships, all the surviving Jews are happy at the fact that they again are free people. Some of them told the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that funds sent by Jewish organizations from the United States and England to the Jewish underground reached here and proved invaluable not only in the work of securing food for starving Jews, but also in purchasing false identity documents from corrupt German officials.

The Warsaw Jewish Committee, formed immediately after the liberation of the city by the Russian Army, is now headed by Dr. M. Beck, Poland's leading gynecologist who lived secretly in Warsaw all during the German occupation.

Only 800 Jews Survive in Lodz; 70,000 Killed by Germans since Russian Offensive

LODZ, Poland, Feb. 4. (Delayed) (JTA) -- Of the 250,000 Jews who resided in Lodz before the war, and the tens of thousands who were sent here from all parts of occupied Europe, only 800 survive, the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency found upon arriving in this industrial center today.

From survivors, the correspondent learned that the Germans had sent almost 70,000 Jews from Lodz to the death camp of Oswiecim since last August, when the Red Army broke through to the Vistula River. When deportations were no longer possible, the Gestapo murdered Jews in the ghetto itself. As late as January 16, when

passion tanks were already breaking into the outskirts of the city, the last batch of victims were machinegunned in the Jewish cemetery after being forced to dig their own graves.

As this correspondent walked through the vast barbed-wire enclosed slum area which constituted the ghetto he found many empty houses in which tables were set for dinner, with the food untouched. The inhabitants had been dragged to their death in the last minute frenzied massacres that preceded the fall of the city.

Special Coins for Jews Introduced by Germans in Lodz Ghetto

On one of the tables were two zinc coins, one of five, and the other of ten marks denomination, which the Germans had coined for circulation in the ghetto. On one side was a Mogen David, with the word "Ghetto" stamped at its base, while on the other side was the inscription "Der Aelteste der Juden in Litzmannstadt," (The Jewish Elders of Lodz).

The JTA correspondent spoke with Dr. Albert Mazur, a Jewish eye-ear-and-nose specialist, who disclosed details of the five-year martyrdom suffered by the Jews of Lodz. The doctor is the only Jewish physician alive in Lodz. Aside from the deportations and massacres, which resulted in the death of more than a quarter of a million Jews during the Nazi occupation, about 70,000 died from tuberculosis induced by malnutrition, inadequate shelter and clothing and mistreatment, he revealed.

Dr. Mazur, who visited the United States in 1926 and who has relatives in New York, told the JTA correspondent that "in my five years in the ghetto, I never heard a single kind word from any German, whether a Gestapo man, a member of the S.S. or ordinary soldiers." The chief of the ghetto administration, he said, was a Herr Bibow, "an out-and-out sadist" who took special delight in stripping and torturing young Jewish girls. The Gestapo chief in Lodz, who supervised the deportations, was named Bradfish.

German Settlers Who Mistreated Jews Now Seek Jewish Protection

The Lodz Jews were also subjected to mistreatment and humiliation by the new German settlers who came here after the city was occupied in 1939, Dr. Mazur said. Many of these are still here, having been abandoned by the retreating Wehrmacht. They spend their time frantically making the rounds of such men as Dr. Mazur and non-Jewish Poles imploring them to sign affidavits attesting to their good-nature and the fact that they did not illtreat anybody.

Dr. Mazur described the last days of the ghetto, when the Germans were getting ready to abandon the city. When the present Red Army offensive began, he said, the few remaining Jews made preparations to avoid being murdered at the last minute. Women and children moved to dugouts secretly prepared in advance and stocked with food and water. Some of these hiding places were located in the Jewish cemetery, which was within the ghetto confines. German panic and demoralization facilitated the work.

NUMBER OF JEWISH SURVIVORS IN POLAND GREATER THAN EXPECTED, SOMMERSTEIN REPORTS

LONDON, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- "More Jews have survived in Poland than we dared hope a month ago, but the number of survivors remains tragically small," Dr. Emil Sommerstein, president of the Central Polish Jewish Committee at Lublin, stated yesterday in a cable received by a conference on relief for Jews in liberated areas called by the Federation of Jewish Relief Organizations and the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK PUNISHMENT OF GERMANS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEPORTATION OF JEWS

PARIS, Feb. 5 (JTA) — France will punish the authors of war crimes against her nationals and those under her protection, regardless where these crimes were actually committed, Rene Cassin, chief of the juridical committee for the presidency, told the correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

Nazi officials responsible for atrocities or for maltreatment of French prisoners and deportees, will be sought out for punishment, just as though the crimes were committed on French soil, Cassin said. The same procedure, he added, will be followed with regard to foreigners forcibly removed from French territory to Nazi camps in Germany and Poland, since as residents of France they are deemed under French protection.

These deportees from France include fully 70,000 Jews of foreign nationality, who either immigrated to France before the war or sought refuge here after the fighting began. Cassin made it clear that France proposes to avenge the crimes against these people. The French agency for the investigation of war crimes has already indicted Nazi officials held responsible for the deportation of Spanish Republican refugees from France to Spain, and officials here have asked the United Nations War Crimes Commission for their punishment. Similar charges are expected to be preferred against those responsible for the deportation of Jews and others.

The government, however, has not yet publicly stated its policy with respect to the punishment of Nazi officials for crimes committed against Axis nationals, including Jews. Such crimes, according to the general opinion here, do not come within the original charter of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, but the commission has asked France, as well as other participating governments, for definite instructions on this issue.

Authorities Refuse Permission to Foreign Jews to Return to France

The Central Service for Deported Jews announced today it had been authorized by the French Repatriation Mission to recruit Jews of French citizenship to serve in the work of repatriating deported Jews. The mission is an official agency, and its representatives wear uniforms and work in close cooperation with the military authorities in the reception and care of repatriates.

French prisoners who escaped from Nazi prison camps in recent months have reported the presence of numerous French Jewish prisoners in labor camps, and it is hoped here that a number of Jewish deportees may eventually return. But there is no definite information whether any of the foreign Jews deported from France have survived. Nor has the government disclosed its policy with regard to this class of prisoners, if any do survive and try to reach their old homes here.

After four years of enemy occupation and intensive Nazi propaganda, France doesn't feel overly friendly toward foreigners, particularly Jews. There is also a strong sentiment here that foreigners would take jobs and positions which should go to French prisoners and deportees.

So far, there are two conflicting precedents in this issue. The first is the fact that the government has given assurances that children of foreign nationality, who were formerly residents of France but were sent to Switzerland for safety, will be permitted to return. The families of many of these children were deported, and hundreds of them are now orphaned. The second precedent concerns the number of Jews of foreign nationality, who were legally domiciled here before the war and many of them with children serving in the French army, who escaped from France to North Africa at the time of this country's collapse. Despite numerous interventions, the authorities so far have refused them permission to return.

PROSKAUER APPEALS FOR JEWISH UNITY; URGES ZIONISTS, NON-ZIONISTS SUBMERGE DIFFERENCES

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Emphasizing that unity among Jewish groups "can be achieved and that it is our solemn duty to achieve it," Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the American Jewish Committee, yesterday appealed to all American Jews, asking for "calm deliberation and judgement" in the solutions of problems besetting Jewry.

The appeal was made in the course of his annual address to the meeting of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee. Except for a small minority of extremists, there is an overpowering demand by American Jews for "Jewish unity of action," he said.

In the part of his appeal addressed to "Zionist friends", Judge Proskauer said, "We may not join in your ultimate objective, but we love Eretz Yisroel, the land of Israel, no less than you do; we are prepared to work with you in getting the answer to all these difficult questions. Why, then, must you have conflict with us because we say it is inexpedient, unwise and dangerous to the safety of Palestine itself presently to go to the extreme of your demands? Why must you submerge all these practical questions, and, in the middle of a great World War, cast everything upon the board of the urging of your ultimate political position, which from any point of view is at the present time academic?"

Summing up the problems confronting Jewry today, Judge Proskauer concluded, "All of us -- Zionist and non-Zionist -- must work together for the solution of the problems in the interest of the Yishuv. We have to safeguard the Jews' position in Palestine and foster Jewish immigration for those who wish to go to the Holy Land. We have to meet the subtle poison of bigotry. We have to see to it that in the reconstruction of the new world it be made a place where every man may dwell in safety and in peace and in dignity under his own vine and fig tree."

American Jews Become Target of Anti-Semites Throughout World, Medalie Says

George Z. Medalie, chairman of the overseas committee of the American Jewish Committee, addressing the meeting said that there are three main areas of problems that American Jewry must face,

"1. As the greatest Jewish community in the world, American Jewry now becomes target number one for anti-Semites throughout the world. We must protect ourselves from any and all attempts to create a separatism that would divide American Jews from other Americans.

"2. We must make adequate long-range plans for relief and rehabilitation and we must provide the means necessary for the implementation of these plans.

"3. As an important aspect of the constructive solution of the problems of hundreds of thousands of Jews, we must give careful and unbiased consideration to the place of Palestine as a permanent home for an untold number of Jews. The doors of Palestine must be kept open for immigration and the Jews of the world thus have the necessary obligation of seeing to it that the terms of the Balfour declaration are lived up to, and that the British White Paper of 1939 is abrogated," Mr. Medalie pointed out.

Samuel Leidesdorf, chairman of the domestic defense coordinating Committee, presented a picture of the Committee's defense activities. "We are waging a

vigorous aggressive war against racial and religious bigotry, and an affirmative campaign to present the Jew properly to the American people."

Others who reported on various phases of activities conducted by the American Jewish Committee in combatting anti-Semitism included Ira M. Younker, Frank Altschul and Victor S. Riesenfeld. James Becker and David Sher reported on the local chapters which the Committee organized during the last eight months in a number of cities throughout the United States.

Although the annual elections were not held, and the 1944 officers will hold over until such time as an annual meeting can be held, two new officers and five new members of the executive committee were named to fill vacancies left by resignations during the past year. Mr. Sher was chosen chairman of the administrative committee to succeed Alan M. Strock; Nathan Ohrbach succeeds Mr. Younker as treasurer, the new members of the executive committee are Louis Brodlo, Harold K. Guinzburg, Benjamin B. Lazarus, Jerome Udell, and Max Warburg, all of New York.

STATE DEPT. CONTEMPLATES APPOINTMENT OF COL. HOSKINS TO LEADING POST IN MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- The State Department is contemplating the appointment of Col. Harold Hoskins as Director of American Economic Operations in the Middle East, succeeding James M. Landis, it was disclosed today by Representative Emanuel Celler.

Speaking on the floor of the House, Celler termed Col. Hoskins "an avowed anti-Semite" from whom "the Jews could not possibly obtain a square deal." He also criticized the appointment of Wallace Murray as U.S. Ambassador to Iran saying that Mr. Murray, formerly head of the Near Eastern Division of the State Department, has been consistently opposed to utilization of Palestine as a haven for refugee Jews. In Iran, Celler stated, Murray will undoubtedly cooperate with much enthusiasm with Arab opponents in Palestine, just as he has been in the past few years their most alert friend in the government services in the United States."

HISTADRUTH VOTES FOR UNIFIED HECHALUTZ; ASKS IMMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM LIBERATED LANDS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The six-day conference of the Histadruth, the Palestine Jewish Federation of Labor, closed today after adopting a number of important resolutions, including one which provides for the establishment of a unified Hechalutz movement in the countries outside of Palestine and for the sending of special instructors from Palestine to train the Cholutzim. The Hashomer Hatzair, left wing of the Histadruth, went on record opposing this decision.

Other resolutions demanded the opening of Palestine to unrestricted Jewish immigration, especially of children from liberated Europe; action by the Palestine Government to reduce the high cost of living; increased imports of raw and building materials as well as machinery for Palestine's industry; the opening by the government of the port of Tel Aviv, and a larger proportion of government allocations for Jewish education and public works.

PIERRE VAN PAASEN HONORED BY ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5 (JTA) -- Pierre van Paassen, noted author and lecturer, has been awarded a citation by the Zionist Organization of America in recognition of "his magnificent championship of human justice and particularly his masterful and fearless advocacy of the establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish Commonwealth," it was announced here today.