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106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.PRAGUE JEWS REVIVE THEIR COMMUNITY, ALL SYNAGOGUES REMAINED INTACT; FEW SURVIVORS LEFT

PRAGUE, June 8. (JTA) -- The surviving Jews of Prague today formed a committee to work out a plan for the revival of the Jewish community in this city, one of the oldest Jewish settlements in Europe. Very few of the 40,000 Jews who lived in Prague before the Germans occupied the city have survived. The committee which was formed today is headed by Dr. Ernst Frischer, Jewish member of the Czechoslovakian National Council in London, who returned from England to Prague together with the government.

The Jewish community in Brno, largest in Moravia, resumed functioning last week. In Bratislava, a city of ancient Jewish tradition and the birthplace of the Chasidic movement, no Jewish institutions exist, since most of the Jews there and all Jewish institutions were wiped out by the pro-Nazi Slovakian government. The only historic monument of Jewish life in Bratislava that remains is a library of the Jewish community, containing 75,000 volumes.

The ancient synagogue in Prague, where, according to legend, Der Hohe Rabbi created the Golem in the 16th century, remains intact even though German troops made their last-ditch stand around the synagogue premises. A few windows of the synagogue building are broken and many bullet marks chipped the centuries-old gray walls. All other synagogues in Prague are intact. They were used by the Nazis as warehouses for confiscated Jewish furniture and have now been cleaned out and restored. Only the Vinogrady Synagogue is largely destroyed.

A large number of the surviving Jews in Prague are changing their names and dropping their religion in an attempt to assimilate themselves with the non-Jewish population. On the other hand, a number of Jews who had no interest in Jewish affairs before the war, are now strengthening their ties with nationalist Jews, in the hope that they may eventually be able to proceed to Palestine.

Jewish Property Being Restored in Prague, but Not in Slovakia

The problem of restoration of Jewish property is gradually being solved in Prague, but is causing great difficulties in Slovakia. This is due to the fact that while in Bohemia-Moravia all Jewish property was confiscated by Germans who have now lost their rights and are in the process of being expelled from the country, in Slovakia the Jewish property was taken over by Slovaks who now, with the exception of pro-Nazi collaborators, remain citizens and refuse to part with the property.

The two political parties in Slovakia are both dodging the issue of enforcing the restoration of confiscated Jewish property to the rightful owners. Out of opportunism, neither of these two groups dares to approach the problem vigorously before the forthcoming elections. Formally, the anti-Jewish laws have been repealed in Slovakia, but the Jews there complain that the repeal is "only on paper" and the only benefit that Jews have derived so far is that they can move about freely.

## NAZI-FOSTERED ANTI-SEMITISM IN LUXEMBOURG MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT FOR RETURNING JEWS

LUXEMBOURG, June 8. (JTA) -- Although the government of this duchy is friendly to Jews, Nazi-fostered anti-Semitism is flourishing here and making life difficult for the few hundred Jews who have returned, according to Capt. Henry Cerf, a Luxembourgish who recently returned here as a member of the British Army, attached to the SHAEP mission.

About 400 Jews have returned to Luxembourg, mostly from France, Capt. Cerf told a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent, and, of these, many are returning to France or going to Belgium, having found Luxembourg an unhappy home. Although the upper government circles are friendly, the administrative personnel, he said, is largely the same as under the Nazis. Capt. Cerf quoted one official as declaring openly that he "didn't care what happened to the bloody Jews."

Returning Jews are finding it very difficult to secure dwellings, since their homes, having been taken over by the Germans, are now classified as enemy property, and are being used by the military. Practically all of the Luxembourg Jews were professionals or small businessmen, and their businesses and shops have been sequestered by the government, pending hearings on restitutions. Meanwhile, the Jews are without funds.

An additional problem is posed by the presence of 50 Jews who are not Luxembourg nationals, and who are dependent on the Jewish community for assistance. An attempt is being made to reorganize the community. There is no synagogue and not even a Torah for use if a synagogue could be improvised.

Most of the Jews are thinking about emigrating. More than 200 Luxembourgers are in the United States and nearly every Jew here has a relative in New York. One man stated that "if any Jew comes back here, he is making a mistake; if he comes back with children, he is committing a crime."

## 400 JEWISH WAR PRISONERS RETURN TO PALESTINE; JOINED BRITISH FORCES EARLY IN WAR

JERUSALEM, June 8. (JTA) -- More than 400 Jewish volunteers who joined the British armed forces in the early months of the war and were taken prisoner by the Germans in Crete returned to Palestine today.

They were met by representatives of the Jewish Agency and other Jewish national groups. They all had stories of hardships to tell, describing how they were driven more than 1,000 kilometers on foot by whip-wielding German troops when the Allied armies closed in on Germany. During their long trek, they received hardly any food.

## ROMANIAN JEWS BEING REPATRIATED FROM GERMAN CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN POLAND

MOSCOW, June 8. (JTA) -- A delegation of the International Assistance Organization for Former Political Prisoners has arrived in Cracow to repatriate Romanian Jews found in concentration camps in Poland liberated by the Red Army, the Lublin radio reported today. The broadcast said that seven hundred Jews have already returned to Rumania and another two hundred are in the process of leaving.

## 1,070 JEWISH WOMEN DISCOVERED IN A CAMP IN GERMANY; ALL NEED FOOD AND CLOTHING

LONDON, June 8. (JTA) -- A report received here from Germany states that 1,070 Jewish women, between fifteen and thirty years of age, are at present in Camp Lingen, near Wilhelmshaven. They all lack food and clothing, the report emphasized.

## POLISH JEWS IN AUSTRIA OFFERED CHOICE OF ALLEGIANCE TO WARSAW OR LONDON GOVERNMENTS

PARIS, June 8. (JTA) — The plight of 1,700 Polish Jews in the notorious Mathausen camp in Austria, who have not yet been contacted by any Jewish organization, was told here by Simon Roth, a Jewish engineer from Warsaw who arrived in Paris today from Mathausen.

These Jews are being offered a choice between declaring their allegiance to the Polish Government in Lublin and being repatriated to Poland, or adhering to the Polish Government-in-Exile in London with the possibility of eventually being drafted into the Polish Army, Mr. Roth reported. He added that what the liberated Jews actually want is to emigrate to Palestine.

(The Jewish Chronicle in London today carries an interview with John Parker, a British parliamentarian who was a member of an official delegation which recently visited Russia, declaring that the Polish Government in Lublin does not desire the return of the Jews who fled from Poland to Russia after the German invasion. Mr. Parker adds that Polish Jews in Russia would prefer to join their relatives in the United States, rather than remain in the USSR or return to Poland.)

## CATHOLIC SAVES TORAH IN GERMAN TOWN, KEEPS IT HIDDEN TILL LIBERATION BY U. S. ARMY

WITH THE 6TH ARMY GROUP, June 8. (JTA) — One of the few synagogues still standing in Germany was used by Jewish soldiers of the 63rd Infantry Division for a thanksgiving-memorial service in Bad Mergentheim, situated midway between Nuremberg and Heidelberg, headquarters of General Jacob L. Devers' 6th Army Group.

Although all of the 308 Jews who lived in the city in 1933 have been killed or dispersed to other lands, their ancient Holy Scrolls and other articles of worship were handed over to Chaplain Aaron Kahan, of Brooklyn by a Catholic member of the community who had hidden them in his warehouse until the day when Jews might return to Bad Mergentheim.

To Chaplain Kahan, the new Bürgermeister, Gerhardt Hetz, addressed the following letter: "As mayor of the municipality of Bad Mergentheim, I have the honor to present to you the keys of the synagogue of the former Jewish Community. By chance, this synagogue was prevented from being demolished like all the others in Germany, because setting this building on fire would have endangered the whole town.

"But I feel a still greater joy in being able to present to you the Holy of Holies of the Jewish Community which the last Jewish leader here handed over to a faithful Catholic, giving him instructions to hide it until Jews would be again in Bad Mergentheim. Unfortunately the Jews who resided here formerly are scattered in all directions of the world or are dead.

"I hope that many of our Jewish residents might come back and that they, as far as they are still living, might collaborate with us in order to rebuild a free and better Germany, delivered from the Nazi plague and from racial and national hatred."

Chaplain Kahan learned that the Jewish community dwindled from 308 in 1933 to a mere handful by 1942. On August 20, 1942, the last Jews, about 17, were transported to Theresienstadt. In this last group was a merchant named Ferdinand Wursburger. He had saved the Holy Scrolls and prayer books from the synagogue, and just before his arrest he entrusted those items to a Catholic friend, Julian Mulek.

Mulek said he had hesitated to accept them, since if they were found in his possession it would have cost him his life, too, but he took the chance.

HOUSE MEMBERS URGED TO SIGN PETITION TO FORCE FEPC BILL OUT OF RULES COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, June 8. (JTA) -- Moving for the necessary 218 signatures to the discharge petition to bring the FEPC bill before the House of Representatives for debate, Rep. Mary Norton of New Jersey, yesterday appealed to those members of the House "who believe in justice, fair play and the American way of life" to add their names to the 121 who have already signed. Rep. Norton said: "If we are honest, there remains one way to prove it and that is to end discrimination in our own country."

Rep. Clarence Cannon, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, told the House that he had been informed by a member of the Rules Committee, which is refusing to vote out the FEPC bill despite President Truman's request for a favorable vote, that the committee would refuse to vote out the entire War Agencies Appropriation bill if funds for continuation of the wartime FEPC were included. A group of 11 House members, including Reps. Marcantonio and Baldwin of New York, Helen Gahagan Douglas of California and Hugh De Lacy of Washington and others, appeared before the Rules Committee in an unsuccessful attempt to get a special rule permitting the House to vote to restore FEPC funds.

LIBERATED JEWS IN EUROPE HAVE NO SENSE OF SECURITY, FORMER UNRRA OFFICIAL REPORTS

NEW YORK, June 8. (JTA) -- Outlining the significance of the work of the United Jewish Appeal and describing the current needs of the Joint Distribution Committee in the reconstruction of shattered Jewish communal life in Europe, Harry Greenstein, former Deputy Director of the Welfare Division of the UNRRA who recently returned from Europe and Palestine, emphasized that the surviving Jews in liberated Europe do not feel secure.

Speaking before 300 division leaders of the United Jewish Appeal campaign in New York, Greenstein said: "The Jews of Europe have been liberated, but they have no sense of freedom and no sense of security. They want to go to Palestine because it is the one country where they can find a new life. Whatever our ideological differences and whatever developments may occur in the days to come, it is the responsibility of the Jews of the United States to see to it that the doors of Palestine remain open."

Herman L. Weisman, prominent New York attorney, and chairman of the board of directors of the Palestine Foundation Fund, was named, yesterday, acting chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, to direct the activities of the organization in the absence of Rabbi James G. Heller, its national chairman, who is now visiting Palestine.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON STATUS OF OSWEGO REFUGEES POSTPONED FOR TWO WEEKS

WASHINGTON, June 8. (JTA) -- A hearing on the status of the Fort Ontario emergency refugee shelter has been scheduled at Oswego for June 25, instead of June 11, by a sub-committee of the House Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today.

Headed by Rep. Samuel Dickstein of New York, the sub-committee to conduct the hearing includes Reps. Lesinski of Michigan, Fisher of Texas, Arnold of Missouri and Sharp of New York, and for this particular occasion will be enlarged by the addition of Reps. Rees of Kansas and either Doughton of Virginia or Miller of California.