

JTA*Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

IRGUN BLASTS MILITARY HEADQUARTERS IN JERUSALEM'S "SEALED AREA"; ONE BRITON KILLED

JERUSALEM, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- British military headquarters in the "sealed area" of Jerusalem was heavily damaged in an Irgun attack early this morning in which one British officer was killed and eight wounded, three seriously. The building housed Brig. Gen. Edmund Davies, commander of the area, and his staff.

At about 4:20 a.m., a large hole was blasted in a wall surrounding the building, which was once a Syrian orphanage. Under covering fire of automatic weapons and small arms, a number of raiders placed four charges of explosives against the walls of the building itself. The explosions rocked the building and brought most of it crashing down. None of the raiders was apprehended, although large troop forces were rushed to the area and flares lit up the night skies.

A short while after the attack correspondents received telephone calls informing them that the Irgun had carried out the attacks and that "all our soldiers returned safely to their bases." The Irgun, however, has announced that it was not responsible for the attacks in Tel Aviv Saturday night.

A new curfew was clamped on the Jewish area of Jerusalem later in the day. It will be in effect from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was also put into effect in the North Palestine coastal area.

Several other attacks occurred during the night in various parts of the country, it was officially reported today. A military camp at Karku, near Hadera, was attacked at midnight by a small group of men using rifles, pistols and hand grenades. There were no casualties and no arrests. Near Tulkarm, southeast of Hadera, two military vehicles were fired upon. One soldier was wounded. Another was seriously injured when a jeep was blown up near the police camp at Sarona, on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

A Jewish girl, Esther Tobi, 19, was seriously wounded last night by a soldier in the downtown section of Jerusalem. The soldier opened fire with a submachine gun on a crowd of people who had gathered to listen to a dispute between him, another soldier and a Jewish bus driver. The hail of bullets also struck a man, wounding him less seriously than the girl. Both soldiers have been arrested pending a military inquiry.

The Palestine Supreme Court today rejected an application for an order nisi to show cause why imposition of martial law in Tel Aviv should not be set aside and why courts there should not reopen. The petition was brought about by R. Turjeman, secretary of the Sephardic Community of Tel Aviv.

It was reliably learned here today that the military authorities are planning to extend and tighten their restrictions should the attacks on military installations continue. The situation will be discussed in detail at the plenary session of the Jewish Agency executive which opens here tomorrow.

3/13/44

HOESS TESTIFIES HIMMLER ORDERED HIM TO EXTERMINATE 6,000,000 EUROPEAN JEWS

WARSAW, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- Rudolf Hoess, former commandant of the Oswiecim death camp, today testified at his trial before the highest Polish court that Heinrich Himmler, Gestapo chief, had ordered him to exterminate 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 Jews, but that he was unable to carry out this order because the crematory ovens could only reduce to ashes 10,000 persons a day. Hoess is charged with responsibility for the murder of 4,000,000, at least 75 percent of whom were Jews.

He stated that Oswiecim had been constructed specifically to destroy all the Jews in Europe and that plans for routing and handling millions of human beings were drawn up by Adolph Eichmann, Himmler's "expert" on Jewish affairs. He said Eichmann was the only man in the world who had exact figures on the number of Jews murdered by the Nazis.

Hoess reported that the gas chambers and ovens operated twenty-four hours a day until October, 1943, when, he said, Himmler ordered him to cease because negotiations were being carried on in Turkey and Switzerland with Jewish representatives. He declared that Himmler hoped to exchange Jews for arms to continue the war against the Allies.

Hoess' testimony had a terrifying effect on the audience. Speaking calmly and quietly, the man who has been described as "the greatest mass murderer in history" recounted tales of burned bodies as though he was listing an inventory of merchandise in a shop.

When the prosecutor asked him whether he had a "bad conscience" concerning the murders, he replied: "Gestapo men have no human feelings; Gestapo men were trained at a special school in Dachau where all human feelings were stamped out of them. For showing pity to a prisoner, a Gestapo man was liquidated."

The only time he attempted to refute a charge against him was when the prosecutor declared that he would call two witnesses to prove that Jewish children were tossed into the ovens while still alive. This Hoess denied, insisting that they were all dead before being consigned to the flames.

1,100 JEWISH REFUGEES IN ITALY CALL OFF HUNGER STRIKE AFTER EIGHTY HOURS

ROME, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- The hunger strike of 1,100 Jewish refugees at Camp Adriatico was called off today after UNRRA officials complied with the Jews' request for improved conditions. The strike lasted 80 hours.

Italian Foreign Minister Carlo Sforza today received Jacob Trobe, director of the Joint Distribution Committee in Italy, and assured him that the 26,000 refugees in this country need not fear loss of their rights of asylum as a result of a census of foreigners which is now being conducted.

The census, the Minister said, is not directed against Jewish refugees. He pointed out that Italy's acceptance of 400 Jewish orphans from Poland demonstrates the goodwill of the Italian Government and that the country is free of anti-Semitism. Mr. Trobe thanked the Minister in behalf of the refugees and assured him that they appreciate the hospitality afforded them by Italy.

VIENNA THEATRE THREATENED WITH BOMBING FOR SHOWING FILM ON NAZI BRUTALITY AGAINST JEWS

VIENNA, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- The municipal authorities today assigned police to guard the Apollo Theatre here following the receipt by the manager of an anonymous note threatening to blow up the building unless he halted showings of "The Last Chance," a Swiss film portraying Nazi brutality against the Jews.

JEWISH CONGRESS DEMANDS HEARING AT MOSCOW CONFERENCE ON PEACE TREATY WITH GERMANY

WASHINGTON, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress has demanded that the Conference of Foreign Ministers which is now taking place in Moscow, hold a formal hearing on Jewish demands on the German peace treaty before negotiations on the pact are concluded, it was reported at a press conference here today by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, head of the political department of the organization.

"Such a hearing," he said, "would help to re-establish the confidence of the Jewish people in the process of democratic justice." The Congress' request has been forwarded to the governments of France, Britain, Russia and the United States, he said, together with a number of recommendations for clauses to be embodied in the treaty, which include:

1. Judicial decisions made by German civil or criminal courts between Jan. 31, 1933 and May 8, 1945, and based solely or predominantly on racial, political or religious grounds, should be recognized as contestable by any person injured by such a decision or by the spouse or the descendants of such a person. The contesting party should have the right in such an action to claim compensation for damage inequitably suffered.

2. The Peace Treaty should oblige Germany to enact legislation making it a criminal offense to foment racial or religious hatred. It should also contain special provisions for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the surviving Jews in Germany, with efficient and effective instruments for their implementation and enforcement.

3. DE's compelled to remain in Germany should not be subject to German jurisdiction, but should be under the exclusive authority of the occupying forces or an appropriate agency of the United Nations.

Another clause proposed for inclusion would incorporate into the treaty and guarantee by the signatories the basic right of German Jews to restitution of their property, regardless of any laws which may have been put into effect by provincial German officials under the authority of occupying powers. The memorandum also demands that Germany be required to surrender heirless Jewish property to representative Jewish agencies for rehabilitation of the survivors.

Also urged is guarantee of the right of emigration of German Jews still in the country, exemption of the property of German Jews outside of the country from being seized for German reparations and exemption of Jews within Germany from taxation for the payment of German reparations or war damages claims against the country. Finally, the Congress memorandum requests that Germany be forced to pay reparations to "an authorized agency of the Jewish people" for the massacre and uprooting of millions of European Jews.

POLISH GOVERNMENT FIXES DEC. 31 AS DEADLINE FOR FILING PROPERTY CLAIMS

NEW YORK, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- Under a decree promulgated by the Polish Government all persons who have property in Poland are required to register their claims to such property on or before Dec. 31, 1947, it was disclosed here today.

The decree, which deals with former German and abandoned property, provides that after the filing period indicated the Polish Government will take over as its own all abandoned property.

LEADERS OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS ASK ADMISSION OF JEWS TO PALESTINE, UNITED STATES

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Mar. 12. (JTA) -- Action on the admission of Jewish refugees to Palestine, the United States and other countries, on the present critical situation in Palestine, the development of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, coordination of fund-raising activities, and meeting overseas Jewish needs, highlighted discussions conducted by the Western States Regional Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds which concluded its three-day session here.

Over 250 leaders of communities in the ten state area comprising Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Western Canada, unanimously elected Max H. Block of Seattle, president of the region; Judge Jacob Weinberger of Los Angeles and Marcel Hirsch of San Francisco, vice-presidents, and Irving Schneider of Long Beach, treasurer.

Action on Palestine followed the address by Bartley C. Crum, member of the Anglo-American Commission to Palestine, and was unanimous. The assembly called upon the United States Government to use its good offices to open Palestine to Jewish immigration within the limits set by the Jewish Agency; condemned acts of terrorism in Palestine whether by Jews, Arabs or British officials; applauded "the resolute spirit and patience displayed by the Yishuv in face of unconscionable trials;" and condemned the British Government for its policy of penalizing the entire Jewish population of Palestine for acts committed by a few, and for its delaying tactics "which are keeping 250,000 victims of Nazism behind barbed wire enclosures in Germany, Austria, Italy and Cyprus."

State Department Is Urged to Publish Its Files on ex-Mufti

Other resolutions called upon the U.S. State Department to publish its files "relating to the Grand Mufti's partnership with Nazism and his crimes of murder;" requested U.S. intervention to help Jewish immigrants to be admitted to the various countries of the world; and endorsed the program and objectives of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, recommending that it undertake a national study of anti-Semitism in cooperation with its constituent bodies and called upon N.C.R.A.C. to push vigorously all programs of social legislation such as F.E.P.C.

The conference endorsed the 1947 United Jewish Appeal campaign and called for the realization of all its objectives. It commended also the non-Jewish contributions which were made to the 1946 drive and the development of women's and youth's divisions. The Budget Clinic held during the conference urged the national coordination of related fund-raising drives and supported a special study of tuberculosis needs and services by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

The various sessions noted the strengthening of central community organization, national coordination, local and national planning for community relations, fund-raising methods, family welfare and vocational services. The speakers included Henry Epstein of New York, chairman of the N.C.R.A.C.; Philip Bernstein of New York, associate director of the Council; Joseph Beck of New York, executive director of the United Service for New Americans; and Leo Gallin, executive director of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council.

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE WILL SUPPLY MATZOS TO EVERY JEW IN ROMANIA THIS PASSOVER

BUCHAREST, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee in Rumania has swung into action on the greatest Passover campaign ever conducted in this country. The crop failure has cut Rumanian wheat supplies to such an extent that the J.D.C. must supply matzohs to every one of the estimated 430,000 Jews in the country, without any assistance from the government.

The J.D.C. now has on hand sufficient stocks to furnish each Jew with approximately four pounds of matzohs for the eight-day holiday. In the process of being distributed at this time are 330 tons of matzohs, 110 tons of matzoh flour and 730 tons of unmilled wheat, all received from the United States.

The matzohs are being delivered to the Jewish communities with instructions that they be distributed free of charge to the poor, to former DP's and repatriated Jews. Passover supplies will only be sold to those able to pay for them and the funds thus derived will be devoted to local communal needs.

JEWISH MASS MEETING IN MEXICO BACKS JEWS IN PALESTINE; ASKS FREE IMMIGRATION

MEXICO CITY, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- A resolution pledging support of Mexican Jews to the Jews in Palestine in their fight for free immigration and land acquisition was adopted here at a mass meeting marking the opening of a fund-raising campaign for the Histadruth.

Don Pines, special representative of the Histadruth and one of the editors of the Palestine Hebrew labor newspaper, *Pavar*, was the principal speaker at the meeting. He reported on the progress of Jewish work in Palestine in the face of present political difficulties. The resolution adopted at the meeting assured the Palestine Jewish Community that "your fight with enemies outside and with destroyers inside is our fight." It declared that "despite all difficulties we shall see a Jewish state in Palestine."

HEBREW UNIVERSITY'S RECTOR ARRIVES IN UNITED STATES FOR BOARD MEETING

NEW YORK, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- Prof. Michael Fekete, Rector of the Hebrew University and head of its Institute of Mathematics, has arrived here by air to attend the meeting of the University's board of governors which will take place in New York starting March 23rd.

JEWISH COMMITTEES IN WARSAW AND PRAGUE HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR JDC DIRECTORS

WARSAW, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- Memorial services attended by outstanding Jewish and Polish personalities were held here yesterday for David Guzik, hero of the Warsaw Ghetto and former director of Joint Distribution Committee activities in Poland who died one year ago in an airplane crash in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

(The first anniversary of the death of Gertrude Pinsky, of Cincinnati, former director of Joint Distribution Committee activities in the Netherlands, was marked in Prague yesterday at memorial services in the Altsheu synagogue. Miss Pinsky died a year ago in an airplane crash along with David Guzik.)

CLARENCE J. STROUSS, PRESIDENT OF JEWISH FEDERATION OF YOUNGSTOWN, DIES

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Mar. 12. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here for Clarence J. Strauss, late president of the Jewish Federation of Youngstown, who died at the age of 63. Strauss was president and general manager of a leading department store in this city and had led the campaign for a new community center and other civic activities.