

Jewish Agency for the Jews of Occupied Europe

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War Refugee Bd (Trans)

NO. 1477

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American Consulate General
Jerusalem, Palestine
October 31, 1944

UNRESTRICTED

Subject: Transmitting Bulletin Concerning Jews in
Occupied Europe.

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The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith as of possible interest to the Department and to the War Refugee Board, copies of the September Bulletin issued by the Jewish Agency Committee for the Jews of Occupied Europe.

Respectfully yours,

L. C. Pinkerton
American Consul General

Enclosure:

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Cons. G., Jerusalem, 10-31-44

AGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE JEWS OF OCCUPIED EUROPE

BULLETIN

Jerusalem, September 1944
No. b.

The following reports on the Jewish situation in countries under the rule of the Nazis and their satellites are based on information recently received from various sources:

1. Extracts from a letter by Dr. S. G. of the Underground Jewish National Council in Warsaw, to Dr. Schwarzbart.

Warsaw, May 17, 1944,
Dear Dr. Schwarzbart,

It is reported that Dr. L. S. is supposed to be working in a factory for enamel dishes, where about 2,000 people are engaged. H., J. and T. are in a punitive camp near Plasow, covering the area of the new Jewish cemetery. I wrote to them but regret that I have received no reply. It is very hard to write from there. The camp is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence and electrically wired. The guards consists of the most blackguardly Ukrainians who behave with bestial cruelty. They are headed by Baron Gett (from Vienna), a cruel sadist, who murders people on the spot with his own hands for the slightest breach of camp laws. In spite of this we succeed in helping the people who are to be found there, and even have proofs that our help reaches them...

My wife and I have been here for two and a half years. I am working at our place. You can certainly imagine how difficult and dangerous the work is. The people in hiding, who never leave their places of concealment at all, are in constant danger; and far more so those who have to go out and about, who have to see one another, to hold meetings and so on. But that is enough about private affairs.

...Very few of us are left, maybe 200,000 in all including those in the punitive camps and in Lodz, which together account for about 150,000. The remaining 50,000 roughly, are in hiding among the Aryans under very dreadful conditions. A camp means starvation, forced labour, torture, suffering, sickness and murder.

We were very sorry to hear that you support the activities of Dr. Weichert in Cracow. In fact we have already requested you to stop sending help to his enterprise which, truth to tell, is useful only to the oppressors, while on the other hand creating an impression in the world that the Germans do not oppose Jewish self-help measures.

Only today I received information from a man who has succeeded in escaping from the Plasow camp. The information confirms the fact that nothing whatsoever reaches the camp, since the Germans steal for themselves what has been sent for the Jewish prisoners. From time to time Dr. Weichert sends the hospital some medicines, such as

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aspirin and so on. These medicines do not include disinfectants, insulin, etc. In addition food-stuffs are not supplied because the camp regulations prohibit the supply of any kind of food to the detainees. My informant told me regarding Dr. W. himself that he is a regular guest of the camp commandant, Baron Gett, as well as of the S. S. and Police fuhrer, who is stationed at Oleandrym. In the opinion of the people incarcerated at the camp he is guilty of co-operation, plain and simple, with those devils.

The only help to reach the camp-- and then with great difficulty-- is our own. Naturally we get our help through "illegally", and Dr. W. would never make use of such channels. We learn from you that America has decided to make large allocations, which were to be sent through Cracow. If that is true, then it is a pity for every farthing wasted, since the Germans will undoubtedly confiscate everything for themselves.

2. THE NEW DECLARATION BY DR. SUNDERMANN.

Dr. Sundermann, Goebbel's assistant as Chief of the Press, made a fresh statement in Berlin to foreign correspondents as regards the state of the war which is being conducted between Germany and her allies on the one hand, and World Jewry on the other. Sundermann is of the opinion that Germany and her allies have full grounds to declare that the present war is that of the Jews against the Reich and all Europe. This is demonstrated by the statement of the Jewish leader, ~~Wim~~ Weizmann, published at the beginning of September 1939, when Britain declared war on Germany, which demonstrated that the Jews of the world were glad of the outbreak of the war. Weizmann then wrote to Chamberlain and informed him that the Jews were prepared to place all their spiritual and financial resources at his disposal. He was referring not to the Jews of Britain alone, but to the whole of World Jewry.

Until Autumn 1939 Jews were permitted to emigrate from Germany. The Jewish badge was introduced only in 1941, and the segregation of the Jews began only after that. This was absolutely necessary in view of Jewish animosity towards the Third Reich, which had a bad influence on the conduct of the war against Jewish Bolshevism. The Jews were introduced into the circle of European work, and work was demanded from them in accordance with their professional and vocational training. Where it was impossible to get individuals to work on a voluntary basis, they were put to work through organisations such as that of Todt in Germany, etc. The Jews were also sent to work in agriculture. The Jews were placed in concentration camps and were treated in the same way as workers. When the Jews are conscripted for work all supervision of them by the Gestapo ceases. Old people or those in possession of special privileges are not conscripted for work, but are sent to the Jewish community centre at Theresienstadt, where the Jews govern themselves and there

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is no forced labour.

3. P O L A N D.

a) At Oswiecim and elsewhere.

A Pole who was imprisoned at Oswiecim and was afterwards sent on forced labour to Norway, from which he succeeded in escaping to Sweden, relates the following:

The Germans used to poison the Jews in section 18. First they would take their victims to the bath. Next they would separate the fat ones from the lean, and place them in the gas cells. Then the Jews realised that they were being conducted to slaughter, but they seemed to be dazed and made no response; except that the children began wailing. The Poles had to remove the bodies. The Germans used to manufacture soap and fats from the bodies, in a factory situated on the spot. In May 1943 about 2,000 people were killed. Under the regulations of the camp anybody helping a Jew is put to death.

The following are the names of the murderers at Oswiecim: Franz Wileiczik, who used to beat Jews senseless; Sub-lieutenant Wilhelm Retschke who ordered people to be sent to the crematorium alive; Michael Juratschko, a Ukrainian officer, who murdered a Jew for smoking a cigarette.

The same Pole reports that there are still Jewish specialists, living under dreadful conditions at Kattowice and working for the Germans.

Another Pole from the Kielce district, who also fled from Norway to Sweden reports: There are Jews incarcerated in camps at Atarawice. They number about 2,000 in all. They are employed on forced labour under terrible conditions. They had to work in the river in the most dreadful cold with the water up to their chests; while they were absolutely naked. The number of victims is countless. Although the camps are kept under strict guard, the workers and intellectuals throw them bread or other food. The Jews look like wild beasts, and the entire population are sorry for them.

This Pole relates the following regarding Warsaw: many Jews still live there in secret. Those in hiding have money. They are not given sufficient help; not on account of Antisemitism, however, but because of the difficulties involved. There is no mutual aid among the Poles either, and each one lives his own life for himself.

The "Arbeiter Zeitung" of 20/7/44 publishes a report on the Oswiecim camp as follows, based on the evidence of two Jews from Slovakia:

As soon as we arrived at Oswiecim we were sent to a huge barn-

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like building where we had to take our clothes off. In another building we were disinfected with Lysol after our hair was shaved off. Each of us was given a number, beginning at 28.000. For greater security the number was branded on the left side of the chest. We were given convict clothes and clogs. That same afternoon the clothes were taken away from us and we were given old Russian uniforms, worn and torn. We were then taken to the Birkenau camp, which is under the orders of the Oswiencim camp commandant. The prisoners receive serial numbers according to their time of arrival in the camp. At the time we escaped, in April 1944, the number had reached 180.000. The numbers were tattooed on the left leg.

Within the perimeter area of the Oswiencim camp there are workshops for the German armament firms Krupp and Siemens, as well as the storehouse of a large factory for the manufacture of "buna" (synthetic rubber) which is still under construction.

When we reached Birkenau we found a kitchen for the feeding of fifteen thousand men with two buildings and a third under construction. Three days after my arrival I was sent together with 200 Jews from Slovakia to work at the Oswiencim workshops; and we continued to live at Birkenau. We received food twice a day; a litre of beetroot soup at noon and 300 grammes of poor-quality bread in the evening. Working conditions were indescribably bad. Most of the men could not work on account of the poor food. The mortality in our group amounted to 30-40 per day. Many were killed by the "Kapus" (camp guards) during work. The dead were replaced by others, who were still left in Birkenau. When the second transport arrived fourteen days later, there were only 150 left alive out of 650. When we returned to Oswiencim I was put in charge of the hospital building, to which those incapable of work were brought. About 150 people a day used to die. Their bodies were burnt in the Oswiencim crematorium.

The camp inmates were numbered every Monday and Thursday, when the Head Physician would decide as to the number of people to be destroyed and afterwards burnt. Those selected were taken to a birch-wood. Those who reached it alive were taken and killed by gas and afterwards their bodies were burnt in a pit. In the hospital known as Block 7, about 2.000 died a week; about 800 as a result of this inspection.

The "Sonderkommando" or Special Command carried out the extermination by gas and cremation of the bodies. They worked day and night in two shifts. The members of the Sonderkommando lived away from the rest, for it was impossible to remain near them on account of the stench emanating from them. They are filthy, savage and degraded beyond all imagining.

In February, 1943, the Crematorium and Gas-chambers constructed at Birkenau were opened. Four Crematoria are now in operation at that spot. They are composed of three parts: 1. the incinerators;

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2. a bath-hall; 3. the gas-chambers. Nine ovens with four apertures are placed round a tall chimney. Each aperture can take three normal bodies, which are burnt in about an hour and a half. The capacity of the incinerators is two thousand people a day. Nearby is a large hall constructed in the fashion of a bath-house, into which about 2,000 people can be introduced. (It is possible that more large halls can be found below.) From there a door and several steps lead to a long narrow gas-chamber slanting downwards. On the wall of the gas-chamber there are douching apparatuses of a kind, and the chamber gives the impression of a bath-house. In the flat roof of the chamber is a window which can be hermetically sealed by three screws. Rails pass through the hall from the gas chamber to the oven. The victims are taken to the hall and told that they are going to the bath, whereas in reality they are introduced in the gas-chambers. After the doors are closed the S. S. men throw into the chambers a kind of powder from tin boxes through the windows. On the boxes is written: "Zikalon for fighting posts". These boxes bear the mark of a factory in Hamburg. It appears that this is a substance containing cyanide of Potassium, which becomes a gas at certain temperatures. The victims are choked by the gas within three minutes. The members of the Sondercommando afterwards remove the bodies to the incinerators. Six thousand bodies a day are burnt in the four Crematoria in operation.

Important guests came from Berlin for the inauguration of the first Crematorium in March, 1943, when 8,000 Cracow Jews were exterminated in honour of the occasion. The guests were exceedingly satisfied when they saw the destructive machinery in operation, and spent a long time peering into the gas-chambers.

On 7. 9. 1943, when transports of entire families arrived from Theresienstadt, the serial numbers of the Camp were 148,000-152,000. The members of this transport were distinguished by the mark: "Special order. Transport of Czech Jews for confinement for a period of six months. For a period of half a year they were treated well. Upon the expiration of that period they were all destroyed. The young people marched to death singing. Eleven pairs of twins were kept alive for biological experiments which were carried out at Oswiecim. A week before these Jews were killed, they were ordered to write letters to their relatives and ask for parcels of food.

D) EXTERMINATION OF THE JEWS IN THE POLISH FRONTIER REGIONS. 17

(From the Report of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Russia.)

When Grodno was captured by the Nazis it contained 20,000 Jews, including several thousands from neighbouring towns and villages. By Spring, 1943, only eleven Jews were left, who were engaged on building activities for the Gestapo. Most of the Grodno Jews were sent to Kalb-senki, a village in the vicinity, where they were murdered or died of

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sickness and starvation. Part of them were expelled to the Treblinka Death -Camp.

At Baranowicze there were 12,000 Jews before the War. On March the 4 th, 1942, 2000 Jews were murdered, and on September 22nd of the same year 15,000. A further 3,000 were murdered during 1943. The remainder were sent to the death camps. A few succeeded in escaping and joined the Guerilla forces.

At Lida there were 6,700 Jews before the War. All of them were shot at Katrow, a small village in the neighbourhood. Soon after this the Germans also murdered the Jews of Waranowa, Skidal and Dziatel.

At the outbreak of the War, 1,600 Jews lived in Smorgon. They were sequestered in the Ghetto, and at the beginning of 1943 they were all murdered. At Nemenczyn 700 Jews were concentrated in the school-building, where they were left for some time without food and were afterwards all taken to a forest in the vicinity. About 100 people succeeded in escaping on the way, while the remaining 600 were murdered by the Nazis. At Molodeczna 2,000 Jews were murdered, and at the entry to the town a notice was put up: "No Jews here- the place is clear of Jews."

About 17,000 Jews were murdered at Glubokie. Every day Jews were taken from there to the outlying parts of the town and were put to death. At the beginning of the present year ten families succeeded in escaping. They wandered through the forests and joined the Jewish Guerilla groups in Lithuania.

Reports are arriving on the fate of the Jews expelled from Western to Eastern Europe. According to the Report from Lithuania, thousands of Jews were brought from Holland, Belgium and Northern France to Kovno. Many of them were shot in the Kovno Fortress, as well as in Wilna. 20,000 West-European Jews were concentrated in the Wilna Ghetto.

Many Jews succeeded in escaping from various Ghettos and joining the partisan groups. It is hoped that these include Jews from Western Europe.

The journal "Baltiska Niheter" of 3.7. 1944 reports: The ghetto at Dauganopils (Dvinsk) in Latvia, to which 11,000 Jews were sent from Central Europe, has been liquidated and the residents sent away from it.

According to this organ there is no clear news as to what has happened to the unfortunate victims; but it is rumoured that they have been taken to Eastern Poland and murdered there.

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4. LITHUANIA.

The Lithuanian Ickis writes in the Swedish paper "Allehanda" of 13.4. 1944 that as long as the Lithuanians were in control Jewish life was not in danger; but after six weeks, that is on August 5th 1941, the Government had to resign and was replaced by the German civil administration. The Germans established ghettos in the large towns and imprisoned the Jews in them. Those who were suspected of sympathy with Communism were marked with the death cross. Those with powerful bodies who were not suspected of Communism were marked with the Shield of David and conscripted for hard labour such as street cleaning, road building, construction of fortifications at the front, etc. When the workers began to lose their strength as a result of the exhausting labour and the bad food, they were also marked with the death cross. Old people, sick and children were marked for extermination. All the Jewish property, which the Lithuanian Government had returned to its owners, was again confiscated by the Germans and transferred to the Gestapo. Nobody was entitled to hold more than a hundred reichsmarks.

The Germans endeavoured to compel the Lithuanian police, which had been supplemented by fresh security sections, to carry out the executions. The Lithuanian reaction against the persecutions then reached its peak. Priests protested from their pulpits, and the bishop sent their protests to the German General Commissioner. When the Lithuanian police refused to participate in the work of extermination they were replaced by Ukrainians who were prepared to carry out all German orders. During the winter of 1942/43 the number of Ukrainian groups was increased by the introduction of several battalions of General Vlassov's troops.

When the front approached the borders of Lithuania in Autumn 1943, the Germans concentrated even more on their extermination activities, and also set out to obliterate all traces of those activities. The Lithuanian underground journal "Inlaispa" gave details of the manner in which the liquidation of the ghetto was carried out: (The name of the ghetto is not given, but it may be assumed to have been the one at Kovno or Kaunas.) The ghetto was surrounded by military and police. The Germans themselves endeavoured to enter the houses, but since the latter were closed, locked and bolted from within, the Germans began to use explosives and blew up an entire quarter.

Many Jews endeavoured to escape through the sewers. The Germans already knew of this method of escape from past experience, and therefore flooded all the sewers and gave the Jews no opportunity of escaping. Of the total of 14,000 inhabitants of the ghetto, 10,000 were expelled to Dvinsk. Two thousand people were killed in explosions or by drowning. Children and old people who were still alive were permitted to remain on the spot.

The underground paper "Laispes Kavataiat" reported on 5.12.1943

that the Germans had begun to dig up graves near the ninth fortification north-west of Kovno.

Gigantic boilers transformed the bodies to dust. This dreadful work was carried out by the Jews themselves.

A similar account is found in the "Nepriklausva Lietuva" of 20.12. 1943 regarding the digging up of graves in the large sand-field at Varena by the Germans. The spot is situated some miles from Vilna, and was the scene of the murder of Jews for two years.

The underground Lithuanian press gives dreadful supplementary details. It is thought that of the 23,000 Jews in Vilna only about 12,000 are left alive.

5. HUNGARY.

a) Confiscation of Jewish Property.

The "Deutsches Volksblatt" reports that the authorities estimate the ready money found in the possession of the Jews of the capital, and to be requisitioned at about a million pengoe.

The "Magyar Ujsag" reports that the Hungarian Police have resolved to confiscate from the Jews all their gold, jewellery, precious stones and art possessions. It is estimated that the value of all this amounts to three milliard pengoe.

The "Estertas" which is the organ of the Hungarian Nazis, estimates the Jewish property about to be requisitioned at some thirty milliard pengoe. In order to gain some idea of the amount of property confiscated, it should be noted that the Hungarian national debt at the end of 1942 amounted to less than five milliard pengoe.

The "Donauzeitung" of 23. 7. 1944 reports that in the town of Grosswardein 2004 Christians were arrested on suspicion of concealing Jewish property worth 40 million pengoe. Those arrested include persons of high rank. According to the "Pester Lloyd" of 21.7. 1944, a fine has been levied on 21 residents of Szombathely, who are also suspected of concealing Jewish property.

b) The arrests in Budapest.

The Swedish paper "Stockholm Tidningen" of 25.4.1944, gives the following report of the first steps of the German after their entry into Budapest:

During the three days, when Budapest was cut off from the outer world, the Germans arrested a large number of Jews both by night and by day. The sight of young S. S. men taking Jews out of trams became a familiar occurrence in the streets of Budapest. It is rumoured

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that during the first ten days following the occupation, 25,000 Jews were expelled to Dachau. A large number of Jews were expelled to Poland. Many were kidnapped and nobody knows where they are. In view of this persecution many Hungarian anti-Semites changed their attitude in respect of the Jews. Many Jews concealed themselves in various places, including farm-houses. The Catholic and Protestant churches lent their aid to the Jews. The wealthy Jew Franz Horin fled to the famous Benedictine Monastery and concealed himself there for several days. During his stay at the Monastery he learnt that his daughter, who had remained in Budapest, had fallen sick. He communicated with her by telephone and was arrested on the following day.

The "Aften Tidningen" of 26.4. 1944 quotes the words of Francisca Wilson which were published in the "Economist". The writer visited Hungary in 1939/40 and observes: It is possible that the Polish refugees in Hungary enjoy favourable treatment, but the innocent Jewish refugees from Poland are imprisoned in Budapest prisons on the charge of Communism, and the attitude towards them is shameful.

c) The Mass Conversions in Hungary.

The mass conversions in Hungary serve as an important issue in the Hungarian press. The "Magyar Kourier", the organ of the Church in Budapest reports, that in view of the large queues of Jews lining up in front of churches to be baptized, they could not immediately achieve their desire, but would have to wait for about three months. Those who approached the Church after the date of 23.6.1944, would not be accepted for the present. Preparation for conversion by private individuals and not by an authorized priest would not be taken into account, with the exception of urgent cases like sickness, etc.

An evangelical paper published in Budapest prints a warning not to accept Jews under the protection of the Christian faith. The paper remarks that the behaviour of the converts disturbs the order of prayers and affects the sanctity of the church.

The "Magyar Kourier" publishes instructions to the clergy to exercise considerable care in admitting Jews to the bosom of the church. In such cases it is necessary, in addition to the religious knowledge of the candidate, also to ascertain his spiritual tendency and honest aspirations. The Christians must endeavour to accept only those who truly and whole heartedly desire to be accepted into the Christian faith, and not those who merely wish to possess a baptism certificate.

Bela Kapi, the Bishop of the Trans-Danubian Evangelical district, publishes a declaration to the effect that the large number of those wishing to become Christians raises doubts regarding their honesty of purpose. He therefore advises that it is necessary to wait for about

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half a year and to clarify the situation. If necessary this period should also be extended.

The "Magyar Kourier" publishes a warning to private people who give religious instruction to candidates for conversion, and who even take payment for such instruction. Since the authorities know that courses of this kind are held in Budapest, they wish to inform the public that this is done without the approval of the ecclesiastical authorities, and those who attend these course and pay fees to participate are the victims of fraud. The Protestant Bishop Zoltan Szufasti has published a declaration on the attitude of the church towards the Jewish problem and the Mass Conversion movement among the Jews of Hungary, to the following effect: "The protection of the Church cannot be withheld from those who desire it; but on the other hand care must be taken that this should not be purely a matter of convenience. Anybody wishing to change his religion, and possessing a single Christian in his family who does not belong to the Evangelical Church, should be sent to the Church to which the member of his family belongs. All the others have to pass a period of trial and study lasting a full year. This arrangement will prevent the introduction of those who are only interested to their own personal advantage.

Until the middle of August the Hungarian press had not published even a reference to the declaration of the Red Cross regarding the improvement in the situation of Hungarian Jewry. Meanwhile there has been a crisis in the Cabinet, and a few Jews have succeeded in leaving Hungary with the aid of the Gestapo. According to the news received it is clear that the Jewish problem has nothing to do with the Cabinet changes or the internal crisis in Hungary. It is correct that the Jewish problem serves to create tension; but this does mean that the tension in question has caused the resignation of the three ministers or the sickness of Styay. Even in German circles there are differences of opinion regarding the "final solution" of the Jewish problem in Hungary.

The journal "l'Action" of 28.7. 1944, which is published in Lausanne, gives the rates charged by the Gestapo for the "rescue" of the Jews of Hungary, i.e. for their expulsion to a neutral country. An old Jew costs 40.000 Frs. The rate for children runs on a sliding scale. From 5-10.000 Frs. or over, according to weight and category. Instead of sending such Jews to Oswiecim, the Germans take them to the German-Swiss frontier, after their representative has received an advance payment of 10.000 Frs. in Switzerland or Portugal. This advance payment is never returned under any conditions. The balance of the account is placed at the disposal of a Gestapo official, whose duty it is to deliver the "consignment" at the German-Swiss frontier. It is also possible to order a journey to Basel or to Lisbon by aeroplane, but in such cases the rates are exceedingly high. For an "important consignment" such as was recently sent to Portugal there are also

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deductions. This kind of trade flourishes, although it meets with certain difficulties on the part of the Hungarian Authorities, because the money disappears from the clearing agreement and serves only as a source of livelihood for private people.

6. B U L G A R I A .

Jews who left Bulgaria in July, 1944, report that the resignation of Stomonyakow, the former Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, was the result of differences of opinion between him and Professor Staneshev, Minister for the Interior. Stomonyakow is known to have resolved not to introduce any changes either for better or worse in the Jewish legislation. Now that the state of mind in Bulgaria has changed, he was called upon to abolish that part of the Jewish legislation which does not accord with the present general attitude. As Stomonyakow refused, he was dismissed by the Minister of the Interior.

Reports that the Government proposes to abolish the obligation of wearing the Jewish badge have been confirmed. The Jewish lawyer Calny was invited to Sofia for an interview with the authorities. When he arrived, his Jewish badge was taken away from him. The Bulgarian Jews are no longer particular about the wearing of the badge, but no official order in this connection has yet been published.

With regard to the expulsion of the Jews there is a written treaty between the Bulgarian Government and Germany. The Bulgarian signatory is Belew, while the German one is Dannenberg. Belew made a mistake in estimating the Jewish population in the territories annexed by Bulgaria under German protection. He thought that 22,000 Jews lived there, and wished to hand over this number to the Germans. In actual fact the number of Jews was less, so that those expelled amounted only to 14,000. Dannenberg demanded that Belew should make up the missing quantity, and the latter proposed to send part of the Jews of Old Bulgaria; but meanwhile there have been changes in Bulgarian policy, Belew has been dismissed and the whole issue has been liquidated. The Bulgarian Government paid the German Treasury 50 Million Lewa of Jewish money in return for the transport facilities placed at their disposal by the Germans for the expulsion of the Jews.

7. THE CZECH PROTECTORATE.

A man who left Prague on 12.7. 1944, reports that there are still 4,000 Jews there, who wear the Jewish badge. Part of them work as experts in factories, while part were employed in the former "Auswanderungsstelle" (Emigration Centre) which now engages in the supervision of Jewish property. A small number of Jews work in the liberal professions, particularly as physicians. Jews may not enter certain parts of the town. They may not leave their homes after 8 p.m. nor may

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they talk to Aryans, Jews must wear the Jewish badge and may travel only in the trailers of trams. Jews are not subject to Czech Courts but only to special German Courts. In general, however, the attitude towards these Jews is easier than it was two years ago.

The greater part of Jewish property in the area of the Protectorate was not confiscated for the State Treasury. The Germans appointed trustees over this property, including Jews. As German officials began to be taken to Germany on account of total mobilisation they were replaced by many Jews and also by Czechs.

Jews are also still to be found in Bruenn, where the Jewish "Mitteilungsblatt" continues to appear.

8. The STORY OF DUTCH JEWRY.

The course of events in Holland.

Following the German conquest of Holland in May 1940, a wave of suicides began among the Jews. However, life continued its normal course and nobody took any steps against them. The head of the Germans promised Chief Rabbi Slonin that no evil would befall the Jews of Holland. (Note: the same thing happened in Warsaw as well. On October 3rd, 1939, the Mayor Starzynsky published a statement on behalf of the German General Commanding von Neumann-Neurode, that no special laws would be issued against the Jews. However, a few days later the Nuerenberg laws were introduced. It appears to be the method of the Germans to calm the Jews and quieten them down.)

In June, 1940, Dutch Jews were removed from anti-aircraft defence works, and in November of the same year all the officials undertook to give a statement of origin. If the Aryan officials had refused to give any such statement, they would have prevented the Germans from dismissing the Jewish officials; but the few who had the courage to do this found themselves without a post. On the basis of these declarations all the Jewish officials were dismissed in January and February, 1941, including Professor Mayer, the famous authority on International Law at Leyden. Professor Clevering, an Aryan who protested strongly against this, was arrested. A strike broke out among the students, and also in certain secondary schools from which the Jewish pupils were expelled. As a result of this the Leyden University and those schools were closed.

In February, 1941, gangs of Dutch Nazis began to attack Jewish houses in the Amsterdam Ghetto. These attacks, which seemed to have been planned in advance, called forth a unanimous reaction on the part of Dutch workers. In one of the resultant affrays on February 16 th,

Hendrik Koet, a Dutch Nazi, was seriously wounded. That evening the Ghetto was surrounded by the Police, and searches and arrests were conducted there. The Jews were ordered to hand over the arms in their possession within 24 hours, but nobody fulfilled the order.

On the evening of February 22nd, the Germans conducted their first large-scale Jew-hunt. 700 men aged between 18 and 35 were arrested, beaten and afterwards sent to the Concentration Camp at Schoorl. Soon after the Jewish Council learnt of cases of death among these prisoners. By the end of 1941, not one of them remained alive. The Dutch population demonstrated its anger at this hunt, and those that followed, by a general strike at Amsterdam, Hilversum, Zaanen and Haarlem. In response the Germans dismissed the Mayors of these towns, appointed Dutch Nazis in their places, and also imposed collective fines. (The fine on Amsterdam amounted to 15 million florins.)

At the end of March 1941 a census was carried out among the Jewish inhabitants of Holland. For the greater part Jews did not evade this census, thinking that they would afterwards be left alone. They never dreamt of destroying the records, archives and lists of the Jewish Community, and thus escaping. In August 1941 special cards were issued bearing the letter "J". It was then found that there were 140,000 Jews in Holland, and 6,000 Jewish partners in mixed marriages; and that these included 25,000 foreign subjects. In Amsterdam itself there were 100,000 Jews.

The removal of the Jews from their positions in economic life began in October and November 1941. The methods employed were the same as had already been utilised in Poland, e.g., the freezing of Jewish accounts in banks, the prohibition against holding any amount exceeding 1,000 florins, the duty of depositing at the banks any sums exceeding 250 florins per month; and likewise the prohibition of removals from place to place and of journeys, the liquidation of Jewish enterprises and the like. This was followed by the expulsion of the Jews to labour camps at Osvizy, Drente, and elsewhere. In March and April 1942 medical examinations were conducted of men aged from 16 to 55. Jewish physicians, who immediately understood that the purpose of the examinations was to send all fit men to labour camps, refused to participate in them. As against this, Aryan physicians made a vast amount of money by issuing certificates of poor health to their Jewish patients. Those found to be healthy were sent to labour camps.

In May and June 1942 fresh examinations were held. All those examined were found to be healthy and were sent to labour camps, where the nutrition was inadequate. On 2.10.42 all the labour camps were closed and the inmates were transferred to Westerbouck. 150 Jews who were sent from the Hague and Utrecht to the "Jerusalem" camp (near

Ellcom) at the beginning of August were beaten with whips while waiting at the station; and were treated in so cruel a fashion that most of them died within three months. The remainder, who were afterwards transferred to Westerbork, included sick and exhausted people who had to undergo hospital treatment. They were all skin and bones and had scurvy sores all over their bodies.

The Jewish badge was introduced in May 1941, and in addition Jews were forbidden to appear in public places and the Nuremberg laws came into force. The Jews were excluded from many occupations. Physicians, pharmacists and lawyers were permitted to practise their professions only among the Jews. Jewish children were expelled from general schools.

In April 1943 Himmler paid a visit to Holland, and soon after the mass expulsions to Poland began. An order was published that all Jews had to remain at home from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m., and to wait for their departure. The younger people, aged from 16 to 30 irrespective of sex, were summoned by name to the Central Committee for Jewish Migration. After registration, which was accompanied by gross mishandling, they were sent to Westerbork for physical examination. At first only foreign subjects were called, and most of them reported. When Dutch Jews began to be summoned, however, the number of those who kept away began to increase. They preferred to hide, and not to report of their own free will. Many Jews fled to Switzerland. At that time no steps were taken as yet against the Jews employed at the Jewish Council or the schools, which were under the supervision of the Rabbinate.

Which brings us to the conclusion: 10,000-15,000 Jews remained on the spot, 2-3000 ran away and escaped. Many of those who ran away were arrested at the Belgian frontier.

On October 1 and 2, 1942, 12,000 Jews were brought to the Westerbork camp from various towns in Holland. There was no food for them, nor place to sleep or stay. There were cases of death from starvation. The Dutch police endeavoured to extend their aid, but the Germans prevented this.

At the Ellegern Labour Camp Jews were used for all kinds of examinations. They were buried up to the neck or given one plate of soup a day. After the examinations they were transferred to the Westerbork Hospital, where various parts of their bodies were amputated.

Twice a week transports of nearly a thousand Jews were sent from Westerbork to Oswiecim. Those expelled were immediately replaced by other victims, who had been newly caught or arrested. Old Age Homes and Hospitals were transferred to Westerbork for this purpose. Lunatics from Appeldorf were loaded up like cattle and shipped out of the country. Among those expelled to Poland was an old woman aged 99. Many Jews were also concentrated in a camp at Vught. From

this camp, three thousand sick children were expelled to Poland in good trucks. The children had become sick as a result of the conditions at this camp. 50% of the children at the camp had already died previously. Apart from these, there are also certain camps for persons enjoying special privileges, such as converts to Christianity or persons who have rendered special services to Holland, etc. These camps are at Doetruchen and Berneveld.

On September 25 1943 the last "action" was carried out. All the Jews were arrested and sent to Westerbork, including the members of the Judenrat. Only a few partners in mixed marriages were left. These had been sterilised. Holland is now officially without Jews.

9. B E L G I U M.

Before the war, 100,000 Jews used to live in Belgium. After May 10th, the overwhelming majority of them fled. Following the Armistice, however, many of them returned. At the end of 1940 there were 55,000 Jews in Belgium. Until 1941 the Germans took no steps against the Jews, and only at the commencement of 1941 did they order all Jews to register and wear the Jewish badge. 43,000 Jews satisfied these requirements, including 5,000 Belgian subjects.

The German authorities handed over the conduct of Jewish affairs to the "Organisation of Belgian Jews", the O.J. B. In July 1941 the Germans issued a call to young Jews to report for work. Those who reported as required were concentrated in a camp at Malines, and were afterwards sent to an unknown destination. By October 1942 150,000 Jews had been arrested and expelled as a result of street arrests and domiciliary searches. The arrests continued until 1943, and accounted for 27,000 people.

In Belgium there are Jewish underground organisations which are united in a common defence committee. Their purpose is to extend aid to the Jews in hiding from the Gestapo. The Belgian authorities and Belgian institutions have also helped the Jews.

The arrested Jews are concentrated in a camp at Malines. Until the end of 1943 27 transports had left this camp, each of about 1,000 people. Of late they have ceased to expel people over the age of 60 as well as children. These are placed under the care of the "Organisation of Jews of Belgium".

Many Jews succeeded in escaping during the journey. During Passover 1943 the Belgian and Jewish partisans stopped a transport of Jews; and during the ensuing skirmish with the guards 500-600 Jews succeeded in escaping.

Letters are received from Jews expelled to Upper-Silesia, but there is no news from those sent to Poland. Those in Silesia complain of poor and inadequate food, no medical help and exhausting physical labour. Those who grow weak are sent to Poland and destruction.

There are 15,000 -18,000 Jews left in Belgium, 5,000 legally there (including 600 at the Malines camp, 200 sick in two Jewish hospitals, 600-800 old people in the O. J. H. institutions; and the remainder children and officials of the O.J. B. and its institutions. Twelve thousand Jews, including 2,000 children, are in hiding in various places, and the Gestapo is ceaselessly endeavouring to trace them.

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Jerusalem, Palestine,
June 30, 1944.

Unrestricted.

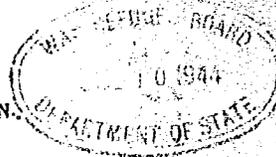
SUBJECT: Transmitting reports on the Jewish
1-1103 Situation in Europe.

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THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.



SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, as of possible interest to the War Refugee Board, copies of two Bulletins issued by the Jewish Agency Committee for the Jews of Occupied Europe.

Respectfully yours,

L. C. Pinkerton
American Consul General

Enclosure: ✓
Copies of two Bulletins.

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JEWISH AGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE JEWS OF OCCUPIED EUROPE

BULLETIN

Jerusalem, May 1944.

The following reports on the Jewish situation in countries under the rule of the Nazis and their satellites are based on information recently received from various sources:

THE GENERAL SITUATION.

1. One hundred thousand victims a month.

Dr. Hugo Valentin, Lecturer of the University of Upsala in Sweden, makes an attempt, in an article published in the "Dagens Nyheter" on 28th, 1943, to give an estimate of the number of Jews massacred in Poland. He bases himself on the figures of Friedburg and Pehle, and on the work of Professor Brodetsky published in the April issue of the "New Commonwealth Quarterly". Dr. Valentin remarks with regard to Friedburg and Pehle that their attitude towards Nazism was doubtful and hesitant to begin with, for which reason it is impossible to claim that they will be prepared ab initio to accept every "atrocity story" as to what has befallen the Jews of Poland and the roughly 700,000 Jews who have been expelled to Poland from Western Europe. Dr. Valentin quoted Professor Brodetsky's conclusion that of the 8 million Jews who fell into the hands of Hitler and his satellites about two million have been executed, while another half a million have died of starvation and disease, i.e. have been killed indirectly, because they have been deprived of, even the minimal needs of existence. (These 8 million Jews, it should be remembered, constituted half of the total number of Jews in the world.) The fact should also be borne in mind that according to official figures the Jews in Poland received only a quarter of the feed received by the corresponding number of Germans, and that Jewish children have been given no milk whatsoever for a period of five years. The number of those who have preferred to commit suicide doubtless amounts to thousands. Of 3,500,000 Jews in Poland no more than about 400,000 fled; all of them to Russia. Of the five million Jews in Russia, the Baltic countries, the Bukowina and Bessarabia a considerable number fell into Nazi hand during the early months of the Russo-German war, which commenced in Summer 1941. About a million of those who escaped are now to be found in Turkestan. These are the figures of Brodetsky. The figures of Pehle raise the total of Jews who have so far been liquidated in Europe to 4,335,000. There is no actual discrepancy between Pehle and Brodetsky. To begin with, Pehle also includes as liquidated those who have been imprisoned in ghettos and those expelled

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who have not yet been massacred. Secondly, Pehle's period of time is more extensive, coming down until October, 1943. Dr. Valentin therefore reaches the conclusion that Professor Brodetsky's average of 100,000 victims per month is correct.

2. P O L A N D.

a) Information from the Jewish National Council in Warsaw; Losses of the Jewish Underground in the Ghetto Battle.

Dependable circles in London have received a letter from the Jewish National Council in Warsaw, dated 15th October, 1943, with responsible signatures, as well as letters also bearing the proper signature have likewise been received by various organisations of Zionist workers. Among other information, these letters estimate the number of Jews left in Poland at 200,000, and also give the names of 233 people who fell in the battles of the Warsaw ghetto. With the exception of a few Bundists they were all members of various Zionist groups. (The list has been published in the local Hebrew press.) According to this source there was armed assistance in Warsaw, Bialystok, Tremblinka, Sobibor, Czenstochowa, Bendin, Vilno, Tarnow and a number of other places. In Poland there is an underground Jewish Relief Committee, as well as a Co-ordination Committee between the Jewish National Council and the Bund. The Secretary of this Committee is a Zionist.

b) The Germans misinform their own Public.

The "Illustrierter Beobachter", the illustrated organ of the Nazi Party, has published "Photographs from the Ghetto" across two pages of its issue of January 13th, 1944. The text accompanying the pictures proves that an attempt is being made to persuade the reader of the continued existence of the ghetto. The pictures "prove" that there is "regular traffic" in the streets of the ghetto. "Even trams", says one of the accompanying captions, "are to be found in the ghetto". Other photographs show various Jewish types in Poland, "from the student of the Talmud to the White Slave trafficker", and pictures of Jewish chaffering "which the Jewish police is endeavouring to combat. These pictures leave the clear impression that it is thought advisable to persuade the Germans themselves that ghettos in which Jews still live are in existence, and that the Jews in them include those who have been expelled from the Reich; further, that conditions in these ghettos are not too bad. The photographs do not give the names of the places where they were taken, and there is good reason to assume that they date from the period when the Warsaw ghetto was still in existence.

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This would seem to indicate that the German masses are beginning to feel uneasy in respect of the Nazis' treatment of the Jews. The Nazis are known to have made every effort to prevent news of their methods and effective extermination of the Jews from reaching the Reich. They have not been entirely successful in this; and apparently the ordinary Germans, who are beginning to fear the future, also start to think of what has been done to the Jews and demand an explanation. The Nazis presumably wish to mislead public opinion, in so far as it already exists or is coming into existence within the Reich itself.

c) Proclamation of the Jewish Underground in Warsaw.

During the Jewish defence of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jewish War Organisation issued a proclamation to the inhabitants of Warsaw. This proclamation was signed by the Central Committee of the Jewish Labour Movement in Poland and reads as follows: "Residents of Warsaw! We know that the underground Polish Labour Movement honours the Ghetto Fighters; but only the United Nations can bring us prompt and effective help. In the name of the millions of Jews who have been massacred, in the name of millions who were tortured, slaughtered and burnt alive, in the name of those who still continue to fight although they know that they must die, we cry out aloud for the whole of the world to hearken to our cry. Let the Allies avenge our sufferings and our death; let even the foe, who no longer possesses any vestige of humanity, may recognize the iniquity for which avenging hands bring punishment upon him. Let the Allies understand at length the historical responsibility which weighs upon those who stand by indifferently in sight of the Nazi wickedness towards an entire nation; in face of massacre of which the last struggle is now taking place. The desperate heroism of the inhabitants of the ghetto must rouse the world, and lead it to retaliation on an equal scale."

d) Jewish Relief Institutions in Cracow.

(A report which was sent from Poland on September 1, 1943, we learn the following:

"The ghetto of Cracow still exists. Thousands of Jews have been deported and sent to extermination-centres from Cracow, as from other cities and towns of Poland. But there are still about 2,000 Jews in the capital city of the General Government Cracow. Of all Jewish organisations, only the Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle is still active in that city. It is directed by Mr. Michael Weichert and Hilfstein (probably Dr. Chaim Hilfstein). Its work is confined to the labour camps since the German authorities have banned all assistance to Jews outside of the camps. The help which the Unterstützungsstelle is able to send to the camps is mostly

limited to medical supplies which it received from Jewish relief organisations abroad. The Jüdische Unterstützungsstelle is the central Jewish relief organisation for all the Jews still left in the labour-camps scattered throughout Poland. It cares for our people and remembers our brothers in their agony".

e) Reports from the Polish Underground Movement on the Liquidation of the Jewish Population.

The Polish Underground Newspaper "Ncwe Drogi" of April 20th, 1943, reports that on March 29th, 1943, the Gestapo sent all the Jewish citizens of the United States to be executed. (America: this appear to refer to those in possession of papers issued by South American Republics.) On April 30th, 1943, German gendarmes with the aid of local robbers killed all the remained Jewish inhabitants of the small town Wengrow. In return for their participation in the massacre, the robbers received permission to take away the clothes of the people killed and to take the gold fillings out of their mouths.

3. S L O V A K I A.

a) The Expulsion of the Slovakian Jews.

A Slovakian Jew who has reached Istanbul reports that Kassa, a Department Head in the Slovakian Ministerial Presidency; went to Upper Silesia at the end of 1941 in order to study the arrangement to be found for Jews in the labour camps. When he returned he delivered an enthusiastic report on the regulation of the Jewish problem under German rule in Poland. He began to prepare plans for "class-levelling" in Slovakian Jewry. For this purpose it was necessary to make use of the camps at Sarat and Novaki as model institutions. Kassa went so far as to notify the leaders of Slovakian Jewry of his intentions, and endeavoured to persuade them to accept the plan of concentrating the Jews in labour camps of their own free will.

Opinions were divided among the Jewish leaders. Some advised that the measure should be accepted, in the belief that it would serve as a safeguard against expulsion. But there were others who understood that this was no more than a trap aiming at facilitating the work of expulsion on the part of the authorities.

Meanwhile the authorities began to engage in "class levelling" activities, but met with open and secret sabotage on the part of the Jews. The latter received information regarding preparations for expulsions as well as of an agreement to this

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effect between Germany and Slovakia which had been reached on March 3rd or 4th, 1942, by the above-mentioned Kassa. In accordance with this agreement Germany was to receive 500 Marks per head for 60,000 Jews of Slovakia, which it would accept in Poland. (Another source, it will be remembered, speaks of 3,000 Slovakian Crowns, but there is no great difference between these sums. At the end of 1942 the Slovakian Government entered in its clearing-account to Germany the amount owing according to this agreement.

Recently letters have been received from a number of Jewish girls from Bratislava, who are at present in the Birkenau Camp. These girls were among the first to go when an expulsion of the Jews of Slovakia was carried out in March, 1942. The number of single girls aged 16 and upwards who were then expelled amounted to about 2,000. Since their expulsion no news had been received from them, and various rumours were current as to their fate. Among others it was said that they had been sent to brothels at the front. Letters have been received only from a small proportion of the girls.

At the vote in the Slovakian Parliament on the expulsion of the Jews Esterhazy, representative of the Hungarian minority, was the only one to vote against. The Slovaks remember this crime of his, and attach it to the list of general charges made against the Hungarian Minority in Slovakia. Apart from Esterhazy a certain Lutheran clergyman once permitted himself to speak out against the treatment of Jews. He was kept under arrest for about two months. Since his release he has been perfectly silent and no longer dares to protest against the authorities on account of their behaviour to the Jews. With the exception of these two no Christians have intervened.

b) Further Concentration in Labour Camps.

Reports from Slovakia state that the concentration of Jews in the existent labour camps still continues, though not on any vast scale. The Jews are again faced by the dilemma whether concentration in camps within the country itself will serve to safeguard them against expulsion from Czechoslovakia; or whether, on the contrary, the purpose of the concentration is to facilitate expulsion activities in general. Hitherto experience has shown that, with the exception of a single case at the very beginning of the expulsion, Jews who have been concentrated in labour camps have not been expelled. Therefore the few Jews who are still left in Slovakia wish to believe that those who are taken to labour-camps will again be left untouched. However, they have learnt something from the experience of the Jews of Poland, and stand tensely on the watch.

The Dr. Kassa mentioned above has now been dismissed from his office as chief of the Home Secretariat by the Slovakian Minister of the Interior, and has been replaced by Dr. J. Kossovitz.

The "Donauzeitung" of January 28th reports a Police order of Bratislava, requiring the Jews of Slovakia to report to the Police with all their papers. This registration is demanded of children and converted Jews as well.

4. H U N G A R Y. Murderers of Jews to be Tried?

A Slovakian Jew who reached Istanbul reports that when he was at the Debreczyn railway station on January 1st, 1944, the local Jews pointed out to him a number of goods waggons standing on the sidings. These waggons contained Jews who were apparently being transported to Poland. The waggons were closed and sealed, and the Debreczyn Jews stated that they had heard voices from them. They were not permitted to approach, but nevertheless in ascertaining that the waggons themselves came from Italy. Hence the Jews concluded that they must contain Italian Jews or Jewish unfortunates who had fallen into the hands of the Nazis when they seized the Dalmatian coast from the Italians. The latter also seems probable because the direct way from Italy to Poland would not pass through Debreczyn.

A few days later, the informant states, it became known that a number of similar waggons had also been held up at the Budapest Station. Cries for help and knocks upon the walls had been heard. The guards were Germans and nobody was permitted to approach the waggons. Antal, Secretary of the Ministerial Presidency of the Hungarian Government, is claimed to have tried to influence the Germans to liberate the unfortunate Jews, whom the Hungarian Government finally agreed to accept. But the Nazis refused, and would not even permit food and water to be given to them.

Information from a very reliable source speaks of the intention of the Hungarian Government to bring to trial those responsible for the pogroms against Serbians and Jews at Novisad (Oidiwok) immediately after power had been seized there by the Hungarians. On December 13th, 1943, the Hungarian authorities proceeded to the arrest of those responsible, including generals and officers of high rank. The report states that Bardaszi, who was then head of the Ministers, together with the Minister of War in his Cabinet, would appear before the Special Court that is to deal with the matter. It is thought that several months would be required to prepare the charges. A later report, though not from the same source, states that three generals succeeded in leaving

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for Germany when they learnt of the impending trial.

The report does not make any statement regarding the political implications. It may be supposed that this is one link in the chain of activities conducted by the Hungarian Government in order to appease the Serbs; and that the Jewish aspects is of secondary importance. It is also known that the Hungarians used to explain their behaviour at Novisad as directed against the Serbians; while according to their account the Jews who suffered did so as Serbs. This report is additional evidence of the vacillations of Hungarian politics between two extremes.

The official Hungarian Telegraphic Agency reports the plight of three leading officers of the Hungarian army who were responsible for the excesses of that army at Baczka in January, 1942. These are Lieutenant Field Marshal Fekethari, Major-General Grassi, Colonel Daik and ~~Rittmeister Dr. Zeldel of the Gendarmie.~~ It was found that the military authorities were officially informed that these officers were being sought on account of financial defalcations; but it seems that the press merely reports the fact that they are being sought without giving any details. The Jews suppose that the officers are being looked for on account of the murders they conducted, but it is possible that this reason is given of set purpose to the Jews by the Hungarian authorities, in order to exploit the fact to Hungary's advantage in case Germany loses the war. For the Hungarians are anxious to improve their reputation in the eyes of the Democratic world.

There are now about 12,000 Jewish refugees from Slovakia in Hungary, about 3,500 from Poland, about 250 from Croatia and a few dozen from Roumania. All these refugees are given permission to stay in the country only in connection with possibilities of immigration to Palestine.

Note: These reports were received before the German entry into Hungary. Naturally the situation now is quite different. Field Marshal Fekethari, who fled in connection with the trial above mentioned, has been appointed Commander in Chief of the Hungarian Forces by the Germans.

5. B U L G A R I A: Fresh Repressions.

On January 14th, 1944, following the air raid of Sofia, a Bulgarian paper issued at Plovdiv published an Order by the Commissar for Jewish Affairs in this region, according to which:

a) Until further notice the Jews are permitted to leave their houses only for two hours a day, between 8 and 10 a.m. During these two hours they may provide themselves with what they required; b) The Jews are forbidden to gather together or stand about in cafes; c) The Jews are permitted to make their purchases only within the district in which they live; d) All Jews working in shops or enterprises must be dismissed from their duties within 24 hours. The inhabitants are also called to inform the police of every case in which this order is infringed. In Plovdiv there are now about 200 families who belong to the poorest Jewish circles of Sofia; as well as a number of young men from the fresh districts annexed to Bulgaria whose parents were expelled to Poland. Plovdiv now contains the largest Jewish community in Bulgaria.

6. R O U M A N I A.

a) The Situation in Transdnestria.

The International Red Cross gives the following figures on Jews in Roumania and in Transdnestria:

In Bucharest and its vicinity there are about 100,000 Jews. They are free, and go about without any sign. Physicians work without interference; and in most cases they treat the sick in the Foreign Colony of the capital. The businessmen continue to conduct their businesses through Christians, who have been registered as owners of the firms. The Jewish clerical staff are compelled to make their living in all kinds of ways. Former officials are in many cases living from their savings. The Jews of Bucharest are very much concerned at the fate of the Jews in Transdnestria, but relief activities are restricted on account of lack of resources; and particularly in view of the contribution of four million lei which the Government has levied on the Jews of the capital.

Those Jews who used to live along the coast have almost all been killed. Apart from Jews who lived regularly in those districts, many have been brought here from other places by the Occupation Authorities. During the winter of 1941-42 almost half of the Jews expelled died of starvation. The state of those who have remained alive has improved slightly of late, because they receive parcels, clothes and food. But most of the parcels are lost on the way.

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According to official Roumanian statistics there are 82,098 Jews in Transdnistria, deriving in part from Russia and in part from Roumania. All these are in mortal danger now that the front is beginning to approach. The following are the latest statistical data regarding the Jews of Transdnistria. (Now that so many places in Transdnistria have been taken by the Russian figures, naturally, no longer bear any relation to the real situation.)

Ananiev	506;	Mehilov	44,557;
Balta	20,895;	Oczakow	153;
Brezkova	296;	Odessa	62;
Dubossari	230;	Tiraspol	28;
Golta	3,063;	Tulozin	4,242.
Yugostre	6,892;		

The Jews in Transdnistria live in Jewish quarters where they can move about freely. They may leave those quarters only by special permission. This applies particularly to Jewish managers and workmen who are employed outside the Jewish quarters. In 1941 and 1942 the mortality was gigantic. Thousands of people died every day of typhoid and dysentery. Today these plagues have almost ceased and, which is more important, the number of births which had previously fallen to nil increased exceedingly during 1943. Transdnistria was an autonomous Roumanian province headed by a Governor who was dependent on the central authorities at Bucharest. Roumanian currency is not used there but marks are. The Roumanian Government is prepared to permit 6,500 Jews to return to Bucharest from this region. These include widows of soldiers and a large number of orphans. (According to information received before the conquest of Transdnistria by the Soviet forces, 2,400 Roumanian Jews had been transferred from Transdnistria to the interior.) There were about 320,000 Jews within the former boundaries of Bessarabia. Only 12,000 of these were left alive; and they have been sent to Transdnistria.

b) Agreement Regarding the Return of the Transdnistria Exiles.

"After Tidningen" of 13.1.44 reports an agreement signed by the Roumanian Government and the Jews of Roumania regarding the return of the Jews from Transdnistria. The dreadful suffering of these exiles caused certain Roumanian circles to request the authorities to ameliorate their conditions. It is said that the wives of well-known Roumanian statesmen joined in this plea. More than anything else, however, the approach of the Russian army caused the Roumanian Government to enter into negotiations in this respect. The agreement contains the following clauses:

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- a) The Government places at the disposal of the Jewish exiles in Transdnistria ten cars daily to restore them to their former habitations (from which it follows that the agreement refers to Roumanian Jews who had been expelled to Transdnistria, and not to Jews of other countries). The Jewish Community pays for special trains at third-class rates plus a special charge according to the tariff.
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- b) Every Jew/returns to his former place of residence must purchase an identity card at the Public Labour Office. The charge for this card will be fixed in accordance with each individual's financial position, the minimum rate being 70,000 lei and the maximum 800,000 lei. The Jewish Community is paying the sums required for these cards in advance.
- c) The Jewish Community undertakes to provide decent clothing for each individual who returns. The paper adds that by this clause the Roumanian Government aimed at preventing any reproaches which might be to the prosperous Roumanian State if people were to be seen dressed in cement sacks tied round with ropes.
- d) The Government is responsible for the safety of the exiles while on their way back home. "Aften Tidningen" adds that this clause was necessary because otherwise there was good reason to fear that the S.S. men might liquidate the transports en route.
- e) The Jewish Community undertakes to pay four milliard lei before the end of 1943, and immediately thereafter to deposit 4 1/2 milliard lei for 1944.

The paper writes that the Jewish Community agreed to these harsh conditions in order to bring back their suffering correligionists into the country, where they will at least be sure of remaining alive. Nobody knows how many people have perished of starvation, cold, overwork or inhuman treatment. It is not known how many of them will still be alive by the time that this humane action is put into effect.

NOTE: "Aften Tidningen" does not give the sources from which it has received this information. It will be remembered that the plan of repatriating Jews from Transdnistria was never carried out.

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c) Bringing Back the Exiles.

About 6,400 people including 400 children have already reached Roumania from their places of exile in Dorohoj. In addition 218 political suspects, who were sent to Transdnistria from various places in Roumania, have also returned. A further 280 in the same category are also to be brought back. It is reported that the question of bringing back the orphans from Transdnistria has again been taken up, but it is not known whether conditions will permit their evacuation. For the present the Jewish centre and the Jewish Community in Bucharest are covering the cost of bringing back the exiles.

d) Parcels to Jews in Transdnistrian Labour-Groups.

The Roumanian paper "Curantul" of January 22nd published a Notification by the Roumanian Military Post to Military Post Offices Nos. 974, 986, 575, 514, 661, according to which they are permitted to receive parcels and letters for Jews working in labour contingents in Transdnistria. The parcels must not contain anything more than clothing and medicines. Foodstuffs are absolutely prohibited. The transmission of more than 3,000 lei per month in ready money is prohibited. The parcels and money will be distributed by the officers commanding the labour camps. (It appears that the order applies exclusively to the Military labour squads and does not extend to the expelled Jews.)

e) Confiscation of Jewish Property.

A new law regulates the use to be made of receipts from rent paid in Jewish houses. Half of these receipts belong to the Ministry of Finance, and half to the Ministry for Roumanisation. Part of the latter monies are to be allocated to the establishment of a Settlement Fund in connection with the activities of the National Settlement Office. The same law also provides credits for all necessary repairs of the houses in question. The sum total for the year 1943-44 is 167,000,000 lei.

This law exempts from confiscation the property of Jewish citizens of foreign states which have the requisite agreements with Roumania. It is expressly stated that this is exceptional, and that no distinction is made between the Jews of Roumania and those of other countries.

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7. G R E C E.

Letters from Izmir describe the terrible suffering of the Jews of Athens. They are all in hiding and long to make their way to Turkey and to proceed from thence to Palestine. When a Jew dies in Athens he is buried in the Christian cemetery with Christian rites, for obvious reasons. If a Jew is caught in hiding he is tortured so that he should reveal the hiding-places of other Jews. Those who cannot bear the torture give away names. There are vast difficulties in the way to escape to Turkey. German aeroplanes constantly traverse the route. Nevertheless there is a constant stream of escaping Jews, hundreds of whom have already been saved.

8. H O L L A N D. Liquidation of Dutch Jewry.

The "Essen Nationalzeitung" of 23.1.1943 reports the measures taken by the German against the Dutch Underground Movement and stresses the part played by Dutch Jews in resistance to the conqueror. Among active Jewish members of the underground mention is made of the names of the Jewish physician Dr. Kastein, of Katan and of Friede, all of whom have been caught by the police.

In the Broadcast of the Dutch Government in London it was stated: The German ~~approaching its end~~. After the action of 26.5.1943 and 20.6.1943 there were still 16,000 Jews in the Westbrooke Camps. In a barrack capable of holding 400 people, 11,000(?) persons were introduced. In July 9,000 people of all ages were sent to Poland from this camp. Each truck contained sixty people, sent under dreadful sanitary conditions. During September the last Jews of Amsterdam were sent to the camp. There are no longer any free Jews on Dutch soil.

9. F R A N C E. Repatriation of Turkish Citizens from France.

In the West of France 300 people daily are being arrested including many Jews. Civilian residents on the coast are being evacuated to a depth of 20 kilometres from the coast, but the Jews are being arrested and set to a camp. In the eastern part of France, within the former occupied area, 30,000 Jewish properties have been confiscated. Up to the present 11,000 properties have been liquidated, to a value of 485 million francs. In Paris itself 3,000 houses with Jewish owners have been confiscated.

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On 17.2.1944 a transport of Turkish Jewish citizens arrived in Turkey from France, from which country they had been sent back by the Turkish Consulate. They include some whose citizenship is in some doubt. The Germans detained the transport for some time at Nish in Serbia, but finally they were allowed to proceed.

10. I T A L Y. Confiscation of Jewish Property.

The authorities have confiscated all the archives of Jewish synagogues and communities. Jewish property in Italy is regarded as enemy property. The "gazetta Officiale" has published a fresh Order on the confiscation of Jewish property and of property belonging to citizens of enemy countries. The "Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of 5.2.1944 reports that the authorities discovered a secret radio transmitting set at the Synagogue in Fiume. All the Jewish residents of the town were immediately arrested.

MINUTES AND REPORTS.

1. Liquidation of Polish Jewry.

A Polish Jew who has passed through the entire Nazi Inferno and has finally reached Stockholm, writes:

I have escaped from Poland, where three million Jews and several hundred thousands more from other countries have been massacred, I left Warsaw on 17.8.1943. Officially speaking there are no longer any Jews in Poland, with the exception of a few in a handful of small ghettos and a few scores of thousands in labour camps, where nothing but massacre awaits them. In August there were still about 120,000 Jews in hiding, but their number is steadily diminishing. In Warsaw itself 20 or 30 used to be caught every day. The Nazis used to take them to the ruins of the ghetto, and after torturing them for some weeks would kill them. Most of those in hiding are to be found in Warsaw, where there are about 20,000 in all. In Cracow there are 10,000, in Lwow about 6,000 and in Lodz about 10,000.

The state of a person hiding in a large town is not to be compared to that of a person hiding in the provinces. It is actually safer in the provinces, but it is very hard to stay there for any length of time, as the local residents soon begin to notice the new face. On the other hand, it is hard to find a hiding-place in the big towns but since such a hiding-place is found it is far safer. The actual expression "in hiding" is not

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correct as it is impossible to hide for any length of time, in case the neighbours become suspicious. There were cases where those who concealed Jews afterwards handed them over to the authorities, either because they were afraid of the death penalty or because they did not receive the payment they demanded. 30% of the Jews still left alive are in constant danger, and their nerves are on edge. The fear of torture is even worse. Many of those who hide themselves commit suicide.

Extermination activities. The actions began in summer 1942. Lwow had already lost large numbers in the pogroms which the Gestapo organised immediately following its entry into this town. In August, 1941, the Ukrainians carried out a pogrom against the Jews of Lwow on the anniversary of Petlura's death. 15,000 Jews were taken out of the town and shot.

When the Nazis first published their Order for the establishment of the ghetto, which was afterwards cancelled, about 6,000 people were shot. Most of them were old folk killed, while many Jews were setting out for fresh quarters within the ghetto. These actions were in the nature of pogroms rather than of systematic extermination. In March, 1942, the Germans ordered the expulsion of a section of Lwow Jewry, using the excuse that there were too many Jews there and that 15,000 had to be removed.

The Nazis promised that these Jews would be settled in special places and that contact might be maintained with them. The Jewish Community participated in this transfer. Orders were given to carry out the expulsion, and this was done by the Jewish militia. Only those who did not work in German factories were expelled, and the expulsion took place at night. Young people were sent to labour camps. Some individuals managed to escape by means of bribery.

For a long time no news at all was received from the people who had been expelled, and only after a considerable time did it become known that they had been taken to Belzec, a small town about 100 km. from Lwow. There the Nazis had established a large camp surrounded by a barbed-wire fence charged with a high-tension current. This was a very mysterious spot, and the local population frequently heard shots coming from there. Travellers who passed the station by train could smell the scent of decay and corruption.

After a while it was learnt that the persons expelled had been killed in gas-cells in this camp. At the Jewish punitive camp situated in the Yanowska street in Lwow they used to use a yellow soap which had a bad smell. It was thought that this soap

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In summer, 1942, the Jews of Lwow found themselves in a state of alarm. In July the Gestapo has issued identity cards, signed by the chief of District Police, to Jews who worked in German factories. Then rumours were heard of large-scale massacre in the Warsaw ghetto. The Jews of Lwow lost all hope of those Jews who had been expelled some time earlier. It became known that many of the latter had been shot by the Lithuanian ~~Szullisa~~. A rumour began to be heard in the town that an action would soon begin.

On 12.8.1942 I left my house at 9 a.m. and saw three women being taken away by two Ukrainians. I understood that the action had begun, and hurried back to my home because my identity card had not been stamped by the police. My family went down to the cellar while I stood next to the window. The first groups of Jews, with endless despair written in their faces, began to appear in the streets. Only a few of them, ~~made any noise~~. A well-dressed A well-dressed Gestapo officer walked beside them, with a stick in his hand. They were conducted by Ukrainian police.

Everything was quiet. But sometimes a shot or a woman screaming could be heard in the distance. There was an old woman who could not walk as fast as the others. A Ukrainian policeman began to beat her with his fist; and when that did not help he called a Jewish girl and ordered her to hoist the woman on to her shoulders. The girl fell down under the load before she had walked more than a few paces. The men of the group helped her up, but she fell down again to the laughter of the Ukrainians and the amusement of the Gestapo officer. I saw small groups passing through the street all that day and the next. The Ukrainians and the Gestapo searched for those who were in hiding. There were 150 people hiding near my house, and a bad smell came out of the window of the cellar. A policeman noticed this and called the Nazis to the spot. They opened the cellar, threw a hand-grenade which killed part of those in hiding, and took the rest away.

In those days there were cases when women in hiding poisoned their children. There was no food for them and their weeping endangered all those who were in hiding, so that the unhappy mothers were compelled to poison their little ones with their own hands in order that they should not endanger the rest. Adults also poisoned themselves. One doctor, who heard the Nazis beating at his door, gave his wife and himself morphine injection before the Nazis succeeded in breaking into their hiding place. There were cases when people went mad when they returned home and found that their families were dead.

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My brother was in the punitive camp for Jews in the Yanovska street where they brought those who were being sent to Belzec. He was a first class trumpeter, so they made him the trumpeter of the camp and gave him permission to go in and out as he liked. By chance he had an identity card, stamped by the police, which a German factory had sent to a certain Jew who worked for them; but that Jew had already been taken away from his home during the action. My brother brought me the card. I changed the photograph and became a free man.

My mother concealed herself with acquaintances. After a week had passed the Nazis announced that anybody who hid a Jew or helped a Jew to escape would be executed. The Nazis had already been behaving this way even earlier, but the announcement terrified many people, so that a large number of Jews had to leave their hiding-places. My mother was among them.

Armed with my identity card I went to fetch my mother in order to take her back to our cellar. I went in advance in order to warn her in case of danger. At a street corner I found two Ukrainians. I waved as a signal to her to clear off, while I myself walked on with my identity card in my hand. The Ukrainians dragged me off to the entry of a neighbouring house. It seemed that the factory which had issued the card had had no right to do so. At the spot I found a number of people with their faces to the wall and their hands raised. One Ukrainian patrolled round them, a rifle in one hand and a strap in the other. He hit me with the rifle and dragged me to the wall, saying: "You'll see, if you try to run away I'll shot you in the ear". He went on marching hither and thither, from time to time hitting those detained.

They brought along a woman whose identity card was not in order. Her husband, who had not been detained, came after her. He went on his knees and entreated the exterminators to liberate his wife, while blow after blow fell upon him. Finally the Ukrainians ordered him to hand over his card which they tore up; and they set him too against the wall.

A man whose identity card was in order went from one policeman to the other and begged them to let him go. One policeman pushed him into a narrow entry, and said that he was ready to release him if he got two hundred zloty. When he received them he brought the Jew back and reported that the latter had endeavoured to bribe him. The leader entered this on the card, and thus destroyed the man's last hope of being saved.

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Late at night they loaded us on a tram car, and jammed and packed together we were brought under guard to the Yanovska camp. In the distance the camp looked like a sports ground. It was a large field lit up with searchlights, surrounded by barbed wire and with guards at its four corners. From afar the crowd seemed to be very happy, but at closed quarters they turned out to be broken and hopeless. At the moment we arrived they were taking out a woman who had been choked and a man who had poisoned himself.

When the newcomers came, the camp commandant held a review. I was told off for work in the camp. A middle-aged man did his best to make himself look like a strong young fellow in order to enjoy a few weeks more of life in the camp. He was unsuccessful. The guards thrust him aside among those who were to be expelled.

My brother took me to his barracks, where conditions were better. Lice and typhoid used to make an end of those who were not killed by the Germans. In the evening they came to call my brother. He took his trumpet and decided to take me along as well. We went to the Gestapo barracks. In the distance we heard drunkards singing. The Gestapo men hailed my brother, gave him a glass of beer, and ordered him to play while I accompanied him on the piano.

At 5.30 in the morning we were waken up. Within five minutes about 6,000 people collected in the open space. The Gestapo men with their rifles walked about among the crows. From time to time they would turn to a man who showed signs of sickness, shot him and fling his body aside. Very frequently the guards would arrange a race, and those who did not have the strength to keep up were shot on the spot. There were also lucky groups who were sent to work in the town, where they could beg for food or pick up cigarettes stubs. At the camp the prisoners used to receive coffee in the mornings, soup in the evenings and 200 grams of bread. Before the groups used to go to town they had to pass in front of four gallows which stood in the corner. There three victims who had been sentenced to slow death for infringement of camp orders were always left hanging. They were chained by hands and feet and hung up, and would sometimes live for two or three days. Little by little their eyes would start out of their sockets, their tongue would swell and their hair would grow over the protruding ears. Anybody who saw it felt sick and terrified.

It is hard to describe the state of terror to be found in the camp. The Commandant, for example, would order a Jew to prostrate himself on the ground; and the latter would comply with the order without a sign, though he knew that in another moment

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the murderer would stamp on his throat and choke him. With his fingernails, to be sure, he would scratch for a moment at the high boots of the Gestapo man, and his heels would drum on the ground. The day after I came to the camp two Jews were murdered on the charge that they had not saluted the Commandant, when they were busy at their work and could not have seen him.

My squad worked in the cemetery; over an area of several square kilometres we shifted the gravestones, broke them up and made roads. The Commandant walked about among the workers with a rifle in his hand. At frequent intervals he would select a Jew as target at a distance of about fifty metres, and would shoot at him. If he succeeded in killing the man he would jump with joy. But sometimes he merely wounded him, and then he would murder him with a blow from the rifle butt. The bodies of the murdered men were immediately removed by the camp service, which was trained and headed by a Jewish doctor. During a single morning the Commandant selected five men and turned his rifle on them. The doctor went up to him and requested him to postpone the execution for a few moments. He assented. The doctor went up to the victims, asked the name of each one and wrote it down on a list.

People had become savages and treated death with indifference for it had become a normal thing. Nevertheless the flame of hope would still flare up occasionally, when news was received of victories in the battle field. In spite of the unparalleled difficulties, people gained possession of arms and collected them in the camp for purposes of defence at a decisive moment, or in order to help in escaping. Those who were murdered left more room for fresh victims, so that the number of prisoners in the camp was kept stable. I afterwards heard that in June, 1943, the Germans took the prisoners out of the camp; and when they reached a certain place outside the town they shot them all. This was done because the Germans were afraid that they might decide to revolt.

The murders in the town continued. On the fourth day following my arrest, my brother took me with him because a few men were required somewhere. Fresh persons had been arrested and it was proposed to expel them. We were ordered to collect the money and jewelry of these unfortunates. With absolute indifference each one of them threw valuables, sometimes extremely expensive, into the vessels we carried with us. When the vessels were full we handed them to the supervisor and went to the entrance. My brother dipped a band on my arm, and we walked out of the gate together and hurried to our house. My brother changed his clothes, put a wig on his shaven head, took

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the false papers which had already been prepared for him and went off to the station with his wife. He hurried because he was certain that they would notice his absence and would search for him. I had no grounds for fear, so I remained. My brother and his wife prepared to go to the neighbouring town where a friend had promised him work. At the railway station he was attacked by a Ukrainian who recognised him, and robbed him of all the money and valuables which he had.

The action continued for another two days, and more than 55,000 Jews were expelled. They were taken in groups of 150 and loaded in trucks which would carry forty. For some days received neither water nor food. Through the tiny windows the people used to beg for something to be given to them. The bodies of those who endeavoured to escape were scattered along the railway lines. There were cases, to be sure, of people who succeeded in escaping; and these wandered through the forests either in groups or alone. Many of them went mad. Only a few succeeded in returning to Lwow with the aid of the local population.

At that time the second order regarding the ghetto was published. The Germans put up posters announcing that the Jews had to transfer to the ghetto within a week. Dwelling conditions were dreadful. There were usually ten people living together in rooms ten metres square in tumble-down houses. The Jews saw quite clearly that the ghetto was a temporary device and would not last long, and that their fate had already been decided. Those who had a little money of jewellery or, which was more important, had a face that seemed Aryan and spoke a good Polish, provided themselves with forged documents and prepared to escape. This became known to the police, and thenceforward there was open war between the German and the Jews.

The Germans kept watch on such Jews, caught them and ascertained their Jewish origin. The Jews improved their methods and the Gestapo fought all the more fiercely. The percentage of Jews in hiding did not amount even to 3% of the total. I began to prepare false documents for myself and family. When no action was being taken in the town it was easier to leave the ghetto.

A Jewish policeman tried to escape and was caught. On the same day four cars containing people in civilian clothes came up to the Jewish Communal Offices in Lwow. The police got out of the cars and began shooting at the crowd, who were waiting to have dwellings allocated to them. After this they dragged twelve members of the Jewish Police, headed by Dr. Landsberg, out

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of the building, and hung them on the balconies. The bodies were left hanging for several days. A total of 250 people altogether were shot on this occasion. The Jews used to sell everything that was theirs in order to gain possession of identity papers. They risked their lives in doing so, but there was no alternative.

At the same trains with Jews from Belgium and Holland passed through Lwow. The Germans deceived them, reporting in their announcement that they had been expelled to Belzec "area of Jewish settlement". They were provided with comfortable railway carriages and travelled with ample luggage to the place where their tragic fate awaited them. When they learnt the truth from Jewish workers at the Lwow railway station, a few of them succeeded in escaping to the ghetto. But most of them refused to believe what they were told. It was at that time I fled from the ghetto. I reached a small town just when the local Jews were being expelled to the Lwow ghetto. Ukrainian peasants, who were helped by the police, murdered wealthy Jewish families and looted their property. Of 1200 Jews who lived in that town there were only 3 families left. These were families of the physicians, the chemist and the dentist, who were the only persons following their professions within a range of twenty kilometres. A few young fellows provided themselves with arms and fled to the forest. In Lwow itself the action still continued, and in it about 20,000 out of the 40,000 left after the previous actions were destroyed. All the hospitals with their staffs were emptied. In January 1943, there was another action, even more dreadful and cruel than those which had preceded it. Women and children were burnt alive. The men were tortured for a whole day and were afterwards taken to be killed. Many were flung alive into swamps and marshes, where they perished.

In May, 1943, the Germans ordered the conscription for work behind the lines of all men born between 1917 and 1925. Exception was granted only to those who had volunteered for the Ukrainian division of the S.S. army. I decided to run away to Warsaw. On the way my train had to pass through the Lwow station. At 6 a.m. I passed the gates of the ghetto. Men and women marched out to work in files, half of them with shaven heads. A handful of Gestapo men and Ukrainian police marched in front of them. The police used to pick out those people whose looks they did not like and dragged them off to a hut.

While I was there they caught hold of the fellow whose head was not properly shaven, threw him to the ground and began beating him. In spite of my own grave danger I remained standing where I was, struck with amazement and unable to take my eyes away.

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It was exceedingly dangerous for a Jew to travel by train, as searches were always conducted. Every suspect person was stopped, and if a man he was physically inspected. It seems that the number of women who have remained alive must be greater than the number of men, since it is hard to find proofs of origin in their case.

I reached Warsaw when the action there was almost reaching its end. Sometimes it was still possible to hear shots, but in general the opposition had been broken. The Germans lost about 2,000 killed, and about 6,000 wounded. These tanks were set on fire and destroyed. During the action German planes flew over the ghetto and dropped incendiary bombs. Before the liquidation the Poles had supplied the Jews with arms. When I left Warsaw on 17.8. 1943 the Germans still mounted guard over the walls of the ghetto. From the outside nothing more could be seen than the skeleton of buildings with bullet marks all over them. Patrols marched through the ghetto, as well as detectives listening for any suspicious movement. I heard from a Jew that in the ghetto there were ~~was~~ still Jews concealed in shelters deep underground, which had been prepared during a whole year. It was known that these endeavoured to escape from there through the sewage system. Immediately after my arrival I saw with my own eyes a pool of blood beside a man-hole. Men standing by told me that a Jew had tried to come out through the man-hole, and had been shot by a policeman.

My mother, who had gone to Warsaw ahead, told me that during the defence of the ghetto she had sometimes crossed the Kraszynski square near the ghetto wall. On that square stood the Luna Park, an amusement centre. During the period of the Battle of the Ghetto clouds of smoke had covered this square. The rattle of machine-guns could be heard every day, while in the amusement centre a band could be heard playing, and laughter came through the eddying smoke.

During the first night following my arrival in Warsaw, I slept in a shop where my relation was employed. At 11. a.m. (in Warsaw there is a curfew from 9 p.m.) I heard footsteps outside and the sound of shots. A body fell against the window of a shot. People ran to the spot and again there came a shot. Then came the sound of clothes being unbelted. One asked the other, "A Jew? - "Yes, correct, a Jew", was the reply. In the morning we learnt that a man had shot at two policemen who were chasing him. He missed and was wounded and afterwards the police murdered him.

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The Germans pursued the Jews ceaselessly. Patrols marched round the streets. Persons passing through the streets were stopped and made raise their hands. Plain-clothed policemen prowled round searching in houses and streets, in cafés, cinemas, etc. Every day that passed without trouble used to exhaust all one's strength. Jews with American passports were detained at the Royal Hotel in the Chmielna street. At the end of May, 1943, they were taken away from there together with their luggage, and were told that they would be exchanged against German citizens. Some of them were transferred to the Pawiak Prison in Warsaw and were murdered there. All trace of the rest has been lost. The same thing happened in Lwow, where citizens of Brazil, Chili, Ecuador and other American republics were taken out of the pensions in which they lived. All trace of them has also been lost. At the pension where I lived I shared a room with a Pole whom I did not know at all. I was lucky, for nobody suspected me, so that I was able to live there for a long time. At that time I learnt that it was possible to remove the mark of circumcision by means of an operation. A surgeon performed the operation on me. It was exceedingly painful, and if I had known it in advance I would not have had it done though it would have cost me my life.

Ten days after the operation, before the wound was properly healed, the Criminal Police came to my room. Four ruffians came in with their guns pointing at me. They turned to the Pole and called him by name. It seems that he had been denounced. During the search out-of-date documents were found. He confessed that he was a Jew. I was astonished, as his appearance had not shown it in the least. When talking with me he had abused the Jews, and I would never have believed him to be one.

They also examined me, although not too strictly. In spite of the fact that they found nothing suspicious about me, they arrested me into the bargain. We were taken to the Gestapo headquarters in the Szucha street. We were taken through the building and imprisoned in a cellar. About fifty people were lying on the floor. A number of them had already been questioned, for the signs of questioning could be seen in their swollen faces and injuries. All of them were accused of being of Jewish origin. From time to time Aryans who had a Jewish cast of countenance were brought in. If they were unlucky they never saw the outer world again. If they were lucky their questioning would end with nothing more than a severe beating. I stayed there two days before the investigation, lying on the stone floor the whole time, hungry and lousy. Before my eyes passed the unfortunate prisoners who were returning from investigation, beaten to senselessness. I was prepared to poison myself with the morphine which I had sown into

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my clothes, but I overcame the temptation. On the third day I was summoned to investigation. In the corridor I saw a strange sight. One Jewish prisoner was doing the exercises of knees bending and standing up. One Gestapo man watched him with the whip in his hand, while the prisoner became steadily weaker. This is the method practised in investigation.

In the questioning room sat two Gestapo men in civilian clothes, One of them, apparently a Volksdeutsche, spoke Polish. After a physical examination which roused no suspicion I was questioned regarding various prayers and religious ritual. The Gestapo men were not familiar with documents and could not distinguish between correct and false papers. After the investigation had ended they decided to communicate by telephone with the firm in Galicia by which I was employed, according to my forged papers. Luckily for me they did not get the connection and decided not to trouble. A policeman in uniform was called and ordered to hold my hands behind the while he hit me a few times. Since I did not confess that I was a Jew even after this, they reached the conclusion that I was innocent. A second ruffian handed me my documents and pushed me out. As I went out I was passed by a car, taking prisoners to the ghetto to be killed.

When my mother saw me she fainted because she had not hoped to see me alive anymore. At that time I learnt of the liquidation of the ghetto in Lwow and of the Jewish resistance there.

2. Times of Liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Until 1940 there were about 433,000 Jews in Warsaw. On November 15th, 1940, the ghetto was established and the German authorities announced that anybody who tried to escape from it would be killed. On July 22nd, 1942, the Germans resolved to remove an average of 4,500 persons daily. Within two months 266,000 Jews had been expelled and 6,000 were killed on the spot. After this about 161,000 Jews were left. In spite of this the German authorities issued only 40,000 foodcards in October 1942.

On January 18, 1943, the German authorities resolved to liquidate the Warsaw ghetto entirely. German S.S. units and police entered the ghetto. An unorganised Jewish defence began. Somehow or other the Jews had gained possession of machine-guns and bullets, and they shot at the Germans from behind barricades and buildings. On the fifth day of the defence the German tanks entered the defence places. A few of the houses were burnt and about a thousand Jews were murdered. The first struggle had ended.

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In March, 1943, the German authorities announced the impending transfer of the residents of the ghetto to other places in Poland. Part of the Jews were employed in was factories of German factories. The young people, who were the overwhelming majority of the remaining Jews, preferred passive and active defence to transfer elsewhere. During the second week of April, the Germans issued one of their routine notices that a large part of the ghetto inhabitants would be transferred to the Trawniki concentration camp. In accordance with the orders of the Germans themselves only a few hundred Jews were sent to Trawniki.

The battle of the ghetto began on the evening of April 18th. The German state police and the S.S., equipped with machine-guns and tanks, surrounded the ghetto, supported by units of Ukrainians, Esthonians and Letts. They all entered the ghetto. The Jews began to fight. This was not a mere skirmish, it was a battle in the fullest sense of the world, in the course of which several hundred Germans were killed. On April 21st the Germans had recoured to fresh methods. They threw incendiary bombs and hand grenades and set fire to many houses out of which Jews were shooting at them. During the day the Germans invaded the ghetto. At night they withdrew and left only patrols behind. More than once the Jews left their posts and attacked the Germans, and even compelled them to retreat. But the Jewish ammunition began to give out, and on April 23rd the Nazis occupied the exterior and central parts of the ghetto.

The battle moved on to the northern section. On April 28th, 6,000 Germans participated, aided by observation aerop planes and machine-guns. On April 29th, 5,000 Jews out of the 40,000 still left in the ghetto were killed. Between the 2nd and the 5th of May the Germans employed their favourite pincers movement. They penetrated to the triangle made by three streets, and here began the Battle of the Small Ghetto. After five weeks of unbroken fighting 20,000 Jews were captured and exiled to the East. The thousands who remained, boys and girls, old and middle-aged men, and women, very few of whom knew anything about modern warfare, continued their struggle. Ten streets of the Warsaw ghetto were entirely gutted by fire. The rest were destroyed only in part. For days afterwards the sky above Warsaw was black with the smoke slowly mounting above the streets. The ghetto was filled with piles of ashes and scorched bodies. (Details of the defence, apparently from a report received in London from the Jewish National Council, have been published in the press.)

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The extermination of the Jews, which usually goes by the name of "action", was partly carried out unofficially and partly officially, i.e. following notice being given to the Jewish Council. It may be stated that far more Jews fell in the unofficial actions than in the official ones.

a) The first action began on March 13th, 1942, before the boundaries of the ghetto were fixed, and continued for about three weeks. This action was participated in by the Gestapo and the S.S., aided by the Ukrainian militia and the Jewish police. The Germans notified the Jewish Council that they had to deliver 33% of the Jewish population in the ghetto for transfer to labour camps in various places. At the Sobieski school there was a German Committee in which Dr. Jaffe, Messrs. Hader and Seidenfrau participated on behalf of the Jewish Council. Many Jews, particularly those who had labour certificates, were exempted from expulsion and a total of 18,000 were expelled. In order to encourage them to believe that they were being sent to labour camps, each was permitted to take with him the things that he required most. Of the sum of 100,000 Zloty which the authorities allocated as a monthly budget for the Jewish Council the latter was permitted to expend certain sums on food parcels for those expelled. Even before the people reached the railway station, however, the S.S. men began to attack them and robbed them of everything they possessed.

Rumours were already beginning to spread that these transports were being sent not to labour camps but to Belzec for extermination. Many Jews committed suicide on the spot at the railway station. The fact that the bodies of those who committed suicide and those who were shot while attempting to escape were placed in the trucks together with the living people made the aim of the Germans clear. It was afterwards found that the Germans did not wish the dead bodies to be wasted, but wanted to utilise their fat. The stories of railway workers who accompanied the transport, and the stories of isolated Jews who succeeded in jumping out of the train, escaping and returning to Lwow, made it clear beyond any shadow of doubt that the transportees were sent to Belzec to be killed.

b) In May, 1942, the authorities established an extermination brigade which came to Lwow. Here in Lwow, on a single Wednesday from 2 p.m. until the next morning, about 10,000 Jews were killed. Some of them were killed in their homes (the sick ones in their beds) and some at the camp in the Yanovska street,

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while music was played by the German bands and the German soldiers applauded. On August 10th the third official action began and continued until the 22nd of that month. The S.S., the Gestapo and the Ukrainian police dragged off about 50,000 Jews, old and young and women and children, to the concentration camp in the Yanovska street, from which they were sent by train to Belzec where they were killed in the usual way. On this occasion as well the bodies of those who had committed suicide or had been shot were also taken in the trains. Only a few succeeded in escaping. All these three actions were carried out before the ghetto was established. Apparently the Germans wished to reduce as far as possible the number of Jews who would have to enter the ghetto.

Ten days after the third action the ghetto was established and its gates were closed. The Jewish Council was also transferred there. One day soon after, when the Jewish Council was engaged in its work, Gestapo men suddenly entered the building and began to beat all the Jews who were there at the time, not permitting anybody to leave the building. The S.S. officer demanded that all the sick people who were there should be gathered in one place in order that they should not be beaten. When his instructions were carried out, all the sick Jews were killed by order of Commandant Wellhausen, who, together with the two officers Racketa and Ingwar, carried out all this action. This Wellhausen then selected twelve young Jews belonging to the Jewish police and ordered one of them to fetch Dr. Henryk Landsberg, the head of the Jewish Council, from the detention in which he had been kept for some days. When the latter arrived this Wellhausen ordered the hanging of all these twelve Jewish policemen, and took upon himself the honour of hanging Dr. Landsberg from the balcony with his own hands. When the rope tore and Dr. Landsberg fell from the balcony onto the pavement in the street below, Wellhausen ordered him to be brought back and again hung his victim, this time successfully. After this "heroic" deed Wellhausen sent for his wife and another twelve German ladies to see the magnificent sight.

This Wellhausen always walked about the streets armed with an automatic rifle and used to shoot at passers-by. At the same time they attacked the Jewish orphanage, killing the staff and the children. They beat out the brains of some of the children against the wall, while they put other orphans into sacks and threw them out through the windows.

c) On 18th November, 1942, there commenced another action, in which about 10,000 Jews were massacred in three days.

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d) On the 5th of January, 1943, another action began and lasted for several days. Since information about this action had been received several days in advance, people were careful and took their little children to work with them, thinking that in this way they would succeed in saving them from death. The action began, however, with murder at the gates of the ghetto which had to be passed by Jews who were going to work. The children were forcibly taken from their mothers and killed on the spot. The same thing happened in the ghetto itself. In this way from 10-12,000 Jews were killed, including about 5,000 who wore a work-band as evidence that they were employed.

On the 5th day of the action the staff and members of the Jewish Council were called to Kleparow together with their families, in order to make sure that they should not be killed during the action. Trusting the words of the Germans, about 2,000 people went there and were killed on the spot. They did not miss a single house. All those in the houses were taken out and killed. If they could not find anybody actually there, they threw a bomb into the house in order to kill those who were in hiding. These murderers took peculiar pleasure in finding Jewish children and flinging them into the flames. The smell of burnt flesh could be noticed for weeks afterwards. In this way the ghetto was reduced and whole streets were closed. The houses were burnt and those who succeeded in escaping from the fire were killed on the spot or taken to the Yanovska camp and shot there. The unofficial actions continued for several weeks. Every day the military band used to play in the streets of the town, while Jews had to march in time with it to be beaten, tortured and murdered.

e) On May 21, 1943, another official action began. This time about 5,000 Jews were taken to the camp at the Yanovska street. They were stripped naked, loaded on railway trucks and transported to Belzec to be killed. Their clothes were taken from them in order to save time at the death camp itself. A young Jewess refused to take off her clothes and begged to be killed on the spot. This favour was not done to her. Apart from the 5,000 Jews sent to Belzec, 4,000 strong young Jews were taken from the labour camp in the Yanovska street and were killed on the spot.

f) On 2nd June, 1943, a further action was carried out and led to the entire liquidation of the ghetto, which was set on fire. Thousands of Jews were taken to the Yanovska street and killed, some of them on the spot and some at the Jewish cemetery. Their bodies were burnt. This time no transport was sent to Belzec. As early as May 1943 the whole extermination institution at Belzec was destroyed, and the ground was levelled in order that not a single sign should be left. For this reason no more Jews were sent to Belzec, but they were killed and burnt on the spot.

There is no longer a ghetto in Lwow, but 3-4,000 Jews may still be found in the Yanovska labour camp. A few may have succeeded in escaping to the Aryan quarter and may be in hiding there.

Many transports of Jews from Western Europe were also brought to Belzec for extermination. Apparently the Jews in the West were informed that they were being sent to a Jewish colony at Belzec. They were permitted to take luggage with them and made the journey in Pullman cars. These facts and many others misled them to believe that they were really being sent to a colony. When they arrived they were killed like their brethren in the East.

4. More of the Destruction of the Jewish Community at Lwow.

A young girl from Lwow, who succeeded in leaving the town before the ghetto was established, gives the following eye-witness report.

A few days after the Germans entered Lwow the Jews were ordered to bring their radio sets to the Municipality. The girl brought her radio set. She was admitted to the court and placed by the wall, where there were other people of various ages. A German soldier of the S.S. army began shooting at them with a machine gun and did not even trouble to see whether his victims were still alive. Fresh people came and replaced those who were killed. This action continued for several hours. Luckily for the girl she was ~~not~~ not injured. She lay flat on the ground and when the slaughter has finished she crawled out of the pile of bodies and slipped away.

When workers were being led from the Jewish labour camp in the Yanovska street to the bath house in the Kozlovska street, the Nazis used to shoot at them from the houses for fun. One day about 200 workers who had broken down under the harsh labour were taken from the camp to the Burial Society Building in the Jewish cemetery. They were kept there for some days without food or water, while the Nazis stood guard over them and enjoyed the sight of people dying of starvation. The state of these men was indescribable. Jewish communal workers begged the Gestapo to shoot them, but that favour was not done to them. Thanks to a heavy bribe they were permitted to bring a little soup down to them once in three days. By this the Nazis aimed at prolonging their period of suffering. The girl who reports this received permission to give them injections, but she was carefully watched to make sure that they were not poisoned. Dead bodies were taken out of the building every day until the end came.

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Another notorious place in Lwow was the Loncky street prison. Nobody who entered it came out alive except a single Jew, who was liberated in accordance with the instructions of the Central Government at Cracow.

Apparently Kantner, head of the Gestapo, was responsible for all the murders in Lwow. Once the girl was standing in the hall of the Jewish Communal building. Kantner came out of the office of the Head of the Community, loaded down with furs which he had received as a gift. He noticed the girl who looked like an Aryan, and asked her if she was a Jewess. When she responded in the affirmative he repeated his question. She again repeated her words and added that she would remain a Jewess as long as she lived. When Kantner heard this he hit her in the face with his whip, shouting, "Here you are if you are so proud of being a Jew."

According to the girl the members of the regular German army did not participate in the actions, and there were individuals among them who helped the Jews to escape,

5. The Destruction of the Jewish Community at Kutu.
(Report received from there)

Kutu is a small town on the border of Poland and Roumania. The Germans entered it at the end of July, 1941, and left a squad of frontier and customs guards there. The first order given by the Nazis was that the Jews should wear the Jewish badge. This applied to every Jew and Jewess over the age of twelve, and those who did not do so were killed. After this the Jews were ordered to hand over their silver and gold, ornaments and jewellery within three days on pain of death. Then forced labour was introduced, even before the Arbeitsamt (Labour Office) began to function locally. A temporary Judenrat headed by Dr. Mandel was established. A little later instructions were received from the "Kreishauptmannschaft" (District Headquarters) to reorganise the Judenrat; and Hurwitz, the president of the Kreis Judenrat, the Judenrat had to organise a Jewish police and supply the Germans with the materials and goods which they demanded.

The first order of the district captain was that all Jewish property belonged to the Judenrat. The soldiers of the customs forces conducted searches on their own account in Jewish houses and confiscated whatever they liked, while dealing out blows to right and left. The Judenrat was the intermediary and negotiate with the "Kreis Hauptmannschaft", the Gestapo, the general police, the gendarmerie, the customs and frontier squad, the Municipality and the Ukrainian police.

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On the evening of October 15th the Jews of Kutny learnt that an action had been carried out in Kossow, the neighbouring town. The Kutny Jews did not know the meaning of this terrible word. A Jewish witness who had escaped from Kossow informed them that more than 2,000 Jews had been killed there in the course of this action; but they did not believe him. Eight days afterwards a report was received in Kutny that during the action in Kossow 2,464 people had been killed. They had been collected near a hill two kilometres from the town, had been compelled to dig a common grave with their own hands and were then shot and thrown into it, many of them being buried alive. The Jews of Kutny became panic-stricken and many secretly fled to Kossow, since they believed that they would be safer in a place where an action had already been carried out.

After this a collective fine of 5,000 dollars was imposed upon the Jews of Kutny, and was paid in full. The Jewish Council obeyed the instructions of the District Jewish Council, and was careful not to become involved in any disputes with the authorities. When a labour office was opened in Kossow the Judenrat came under its jurisdiction. The Jews in Kutny lived by the sale of whatever things ~~had~~ they had left. The Jewish Mutual Aid at Cracow sent 2,000 zloty to Kutny and a public kitchen was opened with the money. That was the situation until April 7th, 1942, when the representative of the Jewish Council was called to Kossow. The District Jewish Council informed him that it was almost certain that the Germans would evacuate the towns of Kossow, Kutny, Zablotow and Sniatyn, and that all the Jews would be transferred to the ghetto at Kolomyja. And sure enough at 8.50 a.m. on April 9 the Gestapo came with special cars. A Gestapo man named Huber handed the chairman of the Jewish Council an order to report immediately to the Gestapo Commissioner. The latter ordered him to deliver, within twenty minutes, the bodies of the people who had been killed when the cars had entered the town. After this the Jews were collected from their houses, and about 600 people were sent to Kolomyja. The Jewish houses were set on fire and the people who hid in them were burnt alive. A young fellow called Vogel fought one of the customs guards, who also participated in the action. The customs guard had no bullets in his revolver, so he stabbed Vogel with a knife. Only twenty-five families were permitted to remain in Kutny. All the other Jewish residents of the town were killed or taken to Kolomyja.

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6. Liquidation of the Jews in the Frontier Towns of Poland and Slovakia.

Before the war, there were 3,700 Jews in Kossow Huculski - 60% of the whole population. Of the remainder, 25% were Ukrainians and 15% Poles.

The Ukrainians, even before the Russian occupation, terrorized the Jews, but when the Russian Army abandoned Kossow on June 30, 1941, and the Ukrainian militia took it over, the situation of the Jews became worse. The militia, under the leadership of Wolanski, searched and looted the homes and attacked the persons of the Jews. The Ukrainian-Winnicki, the leader Koszak and the militia-commandant Kajaczuk, tolerated all brutalities perpetrated against the Jews. The Hungarian forces took possession of the entire district. The Civilian Administration of Internal Affairs was left to the Ukrainians. The City Administration demanded that the Jews provide 9,000 kilograms of grain for the Army of Occupation.

10-15 Jews were herded together daily and subjected to brutal beatings. All efforts to alleviate this condition were of no avail. After a while, the Germans took possession of the entire district and the atrocities were intensified. The district Administration issued a decree on July 29, 1941, signed by Engineer Hnatiuk, ordering all Jewish men and women over 12 years of age to wear a yellow badge on their right arms.

The Jewish Council, headed by Dr. Hirsh and Zisha Schlosberg, which was formed at this time, was subjected to great humiliation. Their efforts to stamp out the organized attacks against the Jews by the Ukrainian Youth were without effect. Various gangs would capture Jews, assault and murder them. On the Thursday, 900 Jews were shot. During the attacks, which lasted all day, the Jews went into hiding. That night, the Gestapo set fire to the big synagogue. The hill where the Jews were shot and buried, was named "The Jewish Hill" by the Germans. It was Saturday morning when we saw the terrifying spectacle. 2,083 Jews were shot. This included 149 of the 175 Hungarian refugees. Men lost their wives, women their husbands and children, children their families. Whole families were wiped out. Jewish homes were sacked by Winnicki, and household possessions were carted away. On Wednesday, October 15 there was a joint-session of the Gestapo and the City Administration at which the plan of attack against the Jews was worked out. During the bloody massacre, the Gestapo singled-out 150 artisans and members of the Jewish Council, arrested, and later shot them. The Ukrainians assisted the Gestapo in their barbarous assaults against the Jewish population. They disclosed the

hiding places of the Jews and forcibly ejected them from their homes. Entire families were trapped and murdered. 500 Jews were turned over to Poncak, an Ukrainian. There were a great number of informers, such as Dymitry Babluk who revealed the whereabouts of the family of Moshe Fleisher. Mrs. Bartfeld, well-known in Jewish circles, was shot because a Ukrainian neighbour pointed her out. The Rosenrauch and Karpel families were apprehended during the night. Dr. Simcha's wife gave Pilus, the Postmaster General, a large sum of money on condition that he shield her and her child, but he treacherously delivered them over to the Germans. The Josef Fuks family, consisting of 22 people, was betrayed by the Ukrainian, Petro Bowicz.

The attitude of a part of the Polish population towards the Jews was not always as it should be. Many Poles were instrumental in trapping the Jews. Filip Ninkiewicz divulged the whereabouts of all his Jewish neighbours. Hirsch Hellman was fortunate enough to escape after paying a big bribe. The photographer Kowalski and his two sons drove out many Jews from their hiding places, stripping them of their possessions. They emptied the Roznower and Tarnower streets completely of Jews. Dr. Marjan Karpinski, an old lawyer, whose clientele consisted mostly of Jews and who had several times been elected mayor by them, betrayed an old Jewish neighbour of his, Anshel Buler. Five Jews met their death, when they were thrown into a burning synagogue which had been ignited by the Germans. The leaders of these acts of terror were Ukrainian volunteers, Germans, who were members of the Gestapo and the Sonderdienst. Their leaders were: Oberstarm Fuhrer Goja, Chief of the Sonderdienst in Kolomyja, Gesel, and the leaders Huber and Tuerer.

There were also a number of Ukrainians who saved Jewish lives. S... gave shelter to the families Mendel Marmorash, Hasenfrac, Hupenberg, Sojfer, Frenkiel, Spirer and resisted the Ukrainians who wanted to loot their homes. S... spread the news throughout the town that the Jews remain in hiding. Many Jews were concealed by brave Ukrainians, 10 in the cellar of Dr. B., 9 at the home of Ms. H. Another brave Ukrainian who hid his Jewish neighbours was AS. The Ukrainian girl R. warned the Jews, before the terroristic acts began, to keep to their hiding places.

The Gestapo carried out its sadistic designs against the Jews by robbing them of all their possessions and then driving them up the hill to be shot. They stripped Jewish women publicly, searched their bodies, including their sexual organs.

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The murdered Jews were thrown into open graves and covered with earth. Some Jews escaped death by a miracle. They crept out of the graves and tried to escape. Three Jews were successful in this attempt. Many were caught by the Ukrainians and thrown back into the graves where they were stoned to death.

At the same time the Gestapo carried out a bloody massacre against the Jews in Delatyn where 1,950 out of 2,200 were shot. The towns of Mikulicz, Tatrow, Jaremoze and Worochta were "purged" of Jews.

The Gestapo which operated in Tatarow was notorious for its viciousness. Their leader indulged his bestiality to the utmost. He travelled throughout the district rounding up 15-20 Jews at a time and murdered them ruthlessly. His inhumanity was such, that when there were no longer any Jews on whom he could wreak his malice, the population was forced to supply him with 20 cats and dogs to be killed. He could not live without shedding blood. The Jewish plight was shocking. The atmosphere was charged with hysteria and nervous tension. When the bloody purge was over, the Jews turned their attention to the unfortunate orphans left behind. In the cities which were controlled by the Ukrainians, Jewish children were not allotted any milk, although it was available to non-Jewish children. The intervention of Ukrainian priests on behalf of the Jews brought no results.

In November 1941, the Ukrainians slaughtered all the Jews in the towns Ryczka and Jabloniec. On the 25th of December, between 1200-2500 Jews were shot in Zablotow.

The majority of the Jews voluntarily submitted to confinement in the ghetto. The remaining Jews were later driven there. A few families found a hiding place outside the ghettos but the Ukrainian bandits found them and handed them over to the Gestapo. Abraham Minster and his wife and daughter were caught in this way by a Ukrainian neighbour who disclosed their whereabouts. His only son was shot in Kossow. His son-in-law Abram Szyrding with his wife and children were also caught.

Eventually, the Gestapo crowded the remaining Jews into 2 rooms - the men in one, and the women in the other. Although each room was meant to hold 20 people, 100 were crowded into each. The next morning 80 corpses were removed as a result of suffocation. This act of brutality was carried out under the leadership of the well-known Sturmfuehrer Weissmann whose deeds caused the Jews much agony. He was especially brutal to women, forcing them to undress in his presence and slashing them with an axe.

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The Jews chiefly dwelt in the Unoccupied Area of France, particularly in the large cities such as Toulouse, Marseilles and Lyons. In October, 1940, the first Antisemitic measures were taken against Jews who lived there. Jews who were Foreign Subjects were indiscriminately arrested and sent to a concentration camp, which already contained Jewish citizens of former enemy countries. The behaviour of the French authorities at that time was dreadful. Jews without distinction of age or sex, profession or state of health, were arrested in the street, flung into lorries and sent into concentration camps. No consideration was paid to those foreign Jews who had volunteered and had fought for France. Nevertheless some of the Jews succeeded in escaping from this man-hunt to other towns.

This fresh migration of the Jewish masses was possible thanks to the confusion which followed the Armistice. In Summer 1941 an order was issued according to which all Jews had to notify the French authorities their origin, in accordance with the French definitions. The chief measures taken against the Jews were economic, such as blocking of bank accounts, and appointment of commissioners to liquidate commercial enterprises.

It was feared that in the near future steps would be taken to deprive the Jews of their security and freedom. Meanwhile the Germans began to arrest Jews in the Occupied Area in order to send them to the Drancy concentration camp, near Paris, which had gained a bad reputation. It may be said that nobody came out of this camp alive. Either they died there or left it in such a state that they died soon after. Transports were usually sent from this camp to Poland. In addition this all the Jews were compelled to wear an armband.

In the French Unoccupied Area the Jews fearfully awaited their fate. Their treatment took the following course: categories of Jews classified by citizenship and length of stay in France were conscripted for labour camps. In those labour camps the situation was better, comparatively speaking, than in the concentration camps; for the Jews enjoyed relative freedom and better food there. That was the state of affairs until Unoccupied France fell into the hands of the Germans, when the problem of crossing the frontier became exceedingly urgent. Any legal departure from France was impossible because the French authorities had prohibited it a long time earlier. In 1940 the Jews learnt how to conceal themselves and travel in trains without permits. But before very long this became impossible.

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After what occurred in Paris in July, 1942, the Jews began to cross the frontier illegally into Switzerland. This refugee stream increased so much that at the end of September the Swiss authorities began to take steps against frontier-crossing. But until the end of December it was still possible to enter Switzerland.

How did the French behave towards the Jews at this time? In general it may be said that never in history were the Jews so bitterly surprised as on this occasion. It is impossible to declare that the behaviour was absolutely anti-Semitic; but it was not proper attitude if the traditions of the French people are taken into considerations. French Jews were treated in the same way as Frenchmen. But this did not apply to foreign Jews, not even to those who have fought for France, nor to scholars, artists, etc. The French officials behaved in a very brutal way towards such people.

The behaviour was entirely different in the Occupied Area, where the French themselves were under the yoke of the oppressor and could therefore understand the Jewish position. Catholic clerics began to protect the Jews in Summer, 1942, when incessant persecution began. They alone, with a few individual Frenchmen, reminded us of the earlier France. That was the situation until November, 1942, when the Allies invaded North Africa, and the Germans occupied the whole of France.

Happily we passed through the first months of the total occupation of France without any great difficulties. The Jews placed their hopes in the Italians and began to escape to those districts which the Italians had occupied. Thanks to the Italians many Jews were saved. In November the previously unoccupied part of France was divided into two sections, one under German control and the other under Italian. The Italian section was smaller than that of the Germans, and comprised the area between the Italian frontier and the river Rhône containing the two towns Nice and Grenoble. The French administration was ostensibly left in place, yet in actual fact German influence could immediately be felt in the German area, while the Italian influence could not be noticed at all in their Occupied Territory. The work of the Alliance Israélite Universelle was prohibited in the German areas, the Gestapo arrested the Alliance officials at Boulogne and Marseilles and expelled them to an unknown destination. This became known to the French authorities some time later, but all the efforts they made to learn the fate of these officials proved unsuccessful. Jews were arrested from time to time, while the expulsion of Jews became a daily event.

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At the same time the Italian authorities began to use their influence in the French administration in their Occupied Area, and prevented the carrying out of the orders of the French authorities. The Italian authorities showed a singular and genuine friendliness towards the Jews. When the Jewish badge was introduced in France in January, 1943, the Italian authorities did not permit it to be introduced at Nice. They prohibited the expulsion of Jews and permitted refugees to remain in the Italian occupied area if they could produce legal documents. Instructions were also issued to the Italian military authorities not to permit the Gestapo to arrest Jews.

After the Germans invaded Unoccupied France the French began to escape to Spain, and it was learnt that Spain did not send them back. Jews also tried to escape to Spain; but whereas the French were supported by their organisations Jews could not expect aid from any quarter whatsoever. For this reason the only Jews tried to escape were those with adequate financial resources, or those who were in danger of immediate expulsion. But after a while the Germans set up a closed area along the Pyrenean frontier, entry to which was prohibited to all except those holding special permits.

The oppression and trouble brought the Jews closer to one another. Many Jews who had never previously regarded themselves as such began to feel and to be Jews; and like the Jews of Eastern Europe, they also began to think of Zionism as a goal for their own lives.

9. Reactions of the Polish Underground Press to the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto.

On March 20th, 1943, the Polish underground organ, "Nowe Drogi" wrote in an essay entitled "On the Ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto": The German resolve to raze the Warsaw ghetto to its foundations derives from rage at the fact that the defence of the inhabitants of the ghetto has shamed the German authorities and turned them into a laughing stock. At the end of the fourth year of the German conquest, the like of which has never been seen in human history, the German were compelled to bring a regular army armed from head to foot into action against a few hundred Jews. How much irony there is in the German victory on the Nalewki and Muranow (North streets in the Jewish quarter in Warsaw) front compared with their defeats on all the fronts of the world!

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Yet there is a political and moral aspect to the events of the great week in Warsaw, as well as to any future defence measures; and it is far from an ironical meaning. They raised the Polish flag on the walls of the Fighting Warsaw ghetto, and when the enemy tore it to tatters it appeared afresh. The Jews continued the Defence of the Capital which began in September, 1939; and this defence was a proud battle of the Polish Republic. The national minority produced soldiers who of their own free will resolved to do battle with the common foe. For this reason their blood has not been shed in vain. For they paid for those who in 1939 forgot that they were Polish citizens.

Note: It is regrettable that at this hour, which is so decisive for Poland, the Polish underground press cannot refrain from expressing Antisemitic sentiment and accuses the Jewish public of activities in which they have never participated. In view of the difficult situation in which Poland is now placed, we do not propose to commence a debate with the Polish underground press in order to demonstrate the real fighters for the liberation of Poland as against those who are responsible for the calamity which has befallen that country.

B U L L E T I N

Jerusalem, February 1944.

A number of reports are given below on the situation of the Jews in countries under the rule of the Nazis or their satellites, on the basis of information received from various sources.

THE GENERAL SITUATION.

1. Approximate figures regarding Jewish victims of the war.

The pamphlet "Ten Years of Hitler's War against the Jews", Published by the "American Jewish Congress Institute of Jewish Affairs", reports that by the end of four years of war 5,021,500 Jews were missing. According to this report there were 8,324,500 Jews in Europe in 1933, and in 1943 only 3,303,000 were left. The pamphlet gives the following statistics:

Country	No. killed	Organised Murder	Death in transit	death by starvation & disease	died in battle.
Germany	110,000	15,000	75,000	20,000	
Poland	1,600,000	1,000,000		500,000	100,000
Russia	650,000	375,000		150,000	125,000
Lithuania	105,000	100,000		5,000	
Latvia	65,000	62,000		3,000	
Austria	19,000	1,500	10,000	7,500	
Rumania	227,500	125,000	92,500	10,000	
Yugoslavia	35,000	15,000	12,000	5,000	3,000
Greece	18,500	2,000	85,000	6,000	2,000
Belgium	30,000		25,000	5,000	
Holland	45,000		40,000	5,000	
France	56,000	2,000	34,000	15,000	5,000
Czech protectorate	27,000	2,000	15,000	10,000	
Slovakia	375,000		32,000	5,000	
Danzig	250		250		
Estonia	3,000	3,000			
Norway	800	600	200		
Total:	3,367,050	1,703,100	345,950	746,700	235,000

11. Number of Jews in various countries:

Other sources report that 2,500,000 Jews are left alive, this number being arrived at as follows:

a. Poland. Of 3,500,000 Jews before the war, a total of 1,800,000 remained in the "General Government", after many had been exiled to Russia. During the war about 600,000 Jews were expelled from Germany, France, Holland, etc. to Poland. The dreadful slaughter and liquidation of the Gettos wrought havoc on the largest Jewish population of Europe, and only a few have been left here and there. According to all reports received directly or indirectly from the underground, it may be assumed that the number of Jews left alive is 500,000 to 600,000, some of whom are kept in forced labour camps in a dreadful state of starvation and distress.

b. Rumania. At the beginning of the war there were 800,000 Jews in this country. The number has been dreadfully reduced through: 1) mass slaughter of the Jews of Besarabia and Bukowina; 2) Flight to Russia from Bukowina with the retreating army; 3) Annexation of the districts of Transylvania, etc., by Hungary and Bulgaria. Most of the Jews of Besarabia and Bukowina, amounting to about 180,000, were expelled to Transdnestria, and about 65,000 are still alive. About 120,000 died or were killed on the way or upon arrival. The number of Jews in Rumania at present is:

Old Rumania:	Bucharest	100,000
	Galatz	25,000
	Jassy	25,000
Other towns		<u>25,000</u>
		175,000
	Bukowina	16,000
	Transdnestria	<u>75,000</u>
		266,000

The Jews in Transdnestria live under terrible conditions. They are imprisoned in 50 camps with three different classifications; a) "Free", i.e. Jews from the Bukowina who are permitted to work; b) Ghettos in Mohilev and elsewhere; c) Concentration camps for hard labour.

They are now in an exceedingly dangerous situation in view of the approach of Soviet forces to the occupied territory. They run the risk of slaughter by the retreating Roumanian army.

c. Yugoslavia. The Jewish population amounting to 75,000 persons, who used to live peacefully in Yugoslavia, have now disappeared. There are 2,000 people left in concentration camps near Zagreb. About 12,000 Yugoslavian Jews fled to Italy, where the war has now caught up with them. It should be added that a number of Yugoslavian refugees fled to Hungary, where they live together with the other Jewish refugees from Poland, Slovakia, etc.

d. Greece. The Jewish population was largely concentrated in Salonika, where they numbered about 60,000. Some 10,000 - 12,000 lived in Athens, Crete, etc. Early in March 1943 the Germans expelled all the Salonika Jews to Poland within a fortnight more or less. A total of some Salonika Jews, 3,000 in all succeeded in escaping to Athens, and a similar number fled to the islands where they are living secretly and without any means of existence. About 60 families possessing Turkish citizenship have emigrated with the aid of the Turkish Legation. Another group of 380 Spanish citizens were given the protection of the Spanish Legation. Efforts are being made to transfer them to Spain, from which it is assumed that they will proceed to Palestine.

e. Germany and Western Europe, France, etc.

The process of destruction and expulsion to the "East" has continued for two years in the western countries, and has brought about the virtual annihilation of the Jewish communities in the countries of Germany, Austria, Czechia, etc. The number of Jews left alive who have not been exiled to Poland is estimated at:

Germany	5,000
Austria	800
Czechia	2,000
Slovakia	20,000 (about 8,000 "hidden")
France	100,000
Holland	20,000

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Mention should be made of the "old people's camp" at Theresienstadt, containing about 50,000 Jews, mostly old people who have been expelled from towns in Germany, Czechia, France, etc. They include many of the Jewish leaders of those countries.

f. Hungary. The situation in Hungary is better than in the other satellite countries of the Axis. The "anti-Jewish law" introduced in this country is being put into effect only in economic life. Land is being confiscated, various orders are being enacted, etc., but these have not affected the Jewish nerve-centers and have not found expression in slaughter and murder, as has been the case in other countries.

g. Italy. The Jews in Italy, numbering about 50,000, and also the 30,000 refugees from Yugoslavia, where in the most satisfactory situation of all throughout the war period, but the collapse of Italy and the German invasion of the northern centers of the country has gravely affected those Jews who were unable to move to the south of the country or to escape to Switzerland.

The figures given above resemble those published in the pamphlet "Ten Years of Hitler's War against the Jews", taking into account the fact that they do not include Russia or the Baltic countries.

III. Poland.

a) In the Ghettos.

The latest information describes additional acts of terrorism in many Polish towns and villages. About 30,000 Jews have been expelled from Grodno, where the members of the local Communal Council and notables Jewish residents and intellectuals were shot by the Nazis.

The ghettos in Bialystok and Luck have been entirely liquidated by the Germans.

The Tarnow ghetto has only about 5,000 Jews left. They are compelled to work for the German war effort.

There are no longer any Jews at all in the following towns, where ghettos were established at the end of 1942: Szydlowice, Wloszczowa; Szczevze (Lwow), Radomsk, Ujazd, Sokolow. The Jews of Siedlec and Kaluszyn were sent to the Treblinka death camp. All the Jews in the Stanislawow ghetto were expelled to an unknown destination.

In the vicinity of Siedlec the Germans killed 150 Jews who had hidden themselves. 5,000 Jews from Cracow were sent to the concentration and death camp at Oswiecim, and more than a thousand old people, and children and sick were shot on the spot.

b) Jews in Lwow in September 1942.

The Polish underground newspaper, "Biuletyn Informacyjny", which has recently arrived from Poland, provides informative statistics on the number of Poles, Ukrainians, Jews and Germans who lived in Lwow in September 1942:

	<u>1938</u>	<u>September 1941</u>	<u>September 1942</u>
Poles	175,000 (56%)	151,000	150,000 (59%)
Ukrainians	30,000 (11.2%)	63,000	65,000 (26%)
Jews	100,000 (32%)	119,000	35,000 (14%)
Germans	2,000 (0.8%)	1,300	
Others	1,100	2,200	1,400
Total	318,000	336,500	251,400

c) Destruction of Jews in the Eastern districts of Poland.
The Polish underground paper "Doroni" of September 24, 1942, reports:
"After practically all the Jews in Central Poland had been liquidated, the Germans began to exterminate the Jews in Polissia. At Barania Gora, Drohiczyn and Bzesc, the Germans and the Ukrainians engaged in dreadful bloodshed among the Jews, who were flung into graves which they were compelled to dig for themselves.

d) Warsaw in November 1942. In one of the organs of the Polish Underground Movement which recently reached London, we find the following account of Jewish life in Warsaw:

In accordance with the order of October 28, 1942, regarding the provision of special districts for the Jews, groups of Jews from other towns have been brought to the Warsaw ghetto.

All in all there are now (November 1942) 34,969 Jews registered in the Warsaw ghetto and occupying 457 houses. Contact with the outer world is allowed only by means of a permit of the S.S. Polic. During the month of October, food to a value of 2,941,000 zloti was brought to the ghetto; during the month of November the value was 2,929,000 zloti.

During the month of October 89 Jews were permitted to leave the ghetto and 2,671 Aryans were permitted to enter it.

There are 3721 beds in the hospitals, but it is impossible to bring all the sick Jews to them. The sanitary conditions are really dreadful.

c) Liquidation of the Jews of Kolomyja.

An article in the "Koelnische Zeitung" reports that Kolomyja is inhabited only by Poles and Ukrainians. This confirms the report of the destruction of the Jews in that town. There are now 8000 Poles and 7000 Ukrainians there. Before the war there were 45,000 residents in Kolomyja, the majority being Jews.

f) The Nazi journal "Danziger Vorposten" states that Jewish and Polish partisans established special units in order to carry out acts of sabotage against the Germans, as well as to attack Nazi officials in the General Government. The paper states that during the month of June the Jewish partisans attacked and killed 58 Germans in Warsaw, Cracow, Lodz, Czenstochovo and other towns in Poland. The same paper reports that the "Partisan murderer" Harry Blumenfrucht, a Jew aged 21, had been caught while attacking Germans in Bendin together with his Polish associates.

g) Liquidation of Concentration Camps in the Lublin District.
The "Biuletyn Informacyjny" of November 19th, 1943, reports that at the end of October 1943, there were about 40,000 Jews at Majdanek; Travniki, etc., Concentration Camps in the Lublin-district. During the last week of October, 15,000 physically unfitted for labour were killed. The remainder, amounting to about 25,000, were transferred by the Germans to Cracow, where it is reported that a large number of barracks are being built. News has reached one of the neutral countries from Cracow that 1500 huts are being constructed there. It is to be assumed that these are the persons transferred from the Lublin district. It is further stated that they are employed on armament manufacture, and have been transferred in connection with the situation at the Front.

h) Jews entirely outside the pale of the law.

On July the 2nd 1943, the "Reichsgesetzblatt" published order No.13 according to which Jews will no longer be judged in the authorised legal courts for Poles, but by the Police (§ 1-1-2). According to this order every Jewish inheritance is transferred to the State Treasury (§ 2-1)

I. Jews still in Sosnowiec.

A letter has arrived in a neutral country from Sosnowiec. It was posted on November the 1st, 1943 by Miss S., a Jewess. The letter reports that Miss S. is still living in her former home, and it is her opinion that the Jews of Sosnowiec can be saved from the grave dangers awaiting them.

k) Diminution of anti-Semitism in Poland.

According to the Swedish paper "Dagen Nyheter" of August 20th, 1943, a Polish scholar who has arrived from Poland states that a decisive improvement of the anti-Semitic atmosphere previously current in Poland had set in. The Poles have put themselves in danger to help the Jews, have hidden them and share with them the meagre bread ration granted to the Poles, besides smuggling arms into the Ghettoes.

l) 1,079,600 to the death camps.

A Polish source reports that on the basis of figures published by the Railways Administration of the General Government it appears that from April 1st, 1942 until April 1st, 1943 a total of 1,079,600 Jews were carried in railway trucks to Treblinka and Belzec. These figures do not include the death camps at Sobibor, Palkinia (?), Majdanek and others, nor the periods preceding 1st April, 1942 and following 1st April, 1943.

IV. H u n g a r y.

It is reported that members of the Government party in Parliament submitted a memorandum to the Premier before the opening of the parliamentary session, in which they demanded an absolute change of policy towards national minorities, including the Jews. In particular they demand the suspension of the policy of confiscating Jewish estates for soldiers who have fought at the front, and the introduction of Government supervision over Jewish property which has already been confiscated, instead of its continued grant to Christian soldiers. The Swedish journal "Goeteborgs Handels och Seefahrts Tidningen" published a series of articles on Hungary in July, 1943. One of these articles stated that with the exception of the neutral countries the position of the Jews in Hungary was relatively speaking better than anywhere else in Europe. In response to this a reader wrote an open letter to the same journal, claiming that this statement was entirely unfounded and could only serve the interests of the group dominating Hungary. The reader in question showed that Hungary had been the first country in Europe to introduce Antisemitism and persecution of the Jews as far back as 1919. He mentioned the various governments, from Goemboes to Kellay, during

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whose periods of office there had been anti-Jewish pogroms and anti-Jewish laws were published. The situation had been slightly different only under the rule of Bethlen, as the Hungarians then needed the Jews both at home and abroad, in order to industrialise their country. The writer admits that the leaders of the church in Hungary opposed the persecution, but did not succeed in suppressing the anti-Jewish incitements of the lower clergy. In the present war, the writer went on, a systematic attempt was being made to destroy the Jewish population in the villages as well as the Jewish intellectuals. The Jews were sent to the Front as workers without arms and equipment; that is, to death and captivity. In the districts conquered by the Hungarians, Jews were slaughtered just as they were in those occupied by the Germans. The writer of the letter closed as follows: Does Professor Gesta Hagenquist (the author of the series which had formerly enjoyed together with other faiths.

Jewish refugees from Poland who are now in Hungary complain that assimilationist Jewish circles in that country refrain from all contact with them, and do not offer them any help whatsoever.

V Y u g o s l a v i a .

The Swedish journal, "Aftentidningen", published an article on the position of the Jews in Slovakia and Slovenia in connection with the withdrawal of Italian troops from those terrorists. As a result of this withdrawal the Jews have been left to an unknown fate. The journal quotes an extract from a Nazi correspondent in the "West-deutscher Beobachter" of Cologne regarding the town Mostar: For the first time after a long period, says this journal, Jews are seen walking freely in the streets. It is true that they carry the Jewish mark "Z", but they do not appear to regret this and their situation is satisfactory. On the other hand, the Jews have entirely disappeared from Agram, Slovenia and Bosnia. The Swedish journal writes on the basis of information received from a Yugoslavian, who fled from Norway to Sweden, that the Ustashi and S.S. men savagely killed all the Jews whom they found in independent Croatia. Half-Jews and converts were still in concentration camps not long ago, but according to former supporters of Pavelic who had fled to Stockholm, these had also been liquidated. When the Italians conquered Dalmatia, Croatia and Herzegovina, Italian officers saved thousands of Jews who had hidden themselves in the forests. The Italians permitted the refugee Jews and Serbians to settle in Italian-occupied territory. According to the paper heavy taxes were imposed on the Jews, and they were forbidden to engage in many professions. All the Jews affected were of Sephardic stock, and had arrived there from Spain 400 years ago. They were the last of 56,000 Balkan Jews who had saved themselves. Now that the Italian garrison has left and has been replaced by the Ustashi and the SS., not a single Jew will be left within 48 hours.

The Croatian paper, "Nova Horovacki", published an article on the activities of the Jew, Moshe Pejade, the partisan leader, and

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on the "incitement" of Dr. Isaac Alkali, who is in America on behalf of General Michaelovitz. Peiade is known in local Croat circles, where he is highly esteemed.

VI. Roumania.

Circles in close touch with the United Nations receive information from various sources of a change in Roumania, which appears to have come about with reference to the position of the Jews in the army. According to this, the young Jews of the last years of conscription have been taken direct to the army and not to forced labour. It is stated that they are sent to Ackerman, where they are trained to use the most up-to-date weapon. According to this information, Jewish officers are about to be regarded to their former ranks. It appears that this information comes from Roumanian circles within Roumania itself, who are interested in the publication of such news as evidence of a change which, they claim, is about to take place in the internal and external foreign policy of Roumania. Hitherto it has been impossible to find out whether this information is correct. No confirmation has yet been received from any Jewish source in Roumania. The circles from which the news has been received appear to be creditable, however, even though they are also interested in exaggerating to some degree.

The Official Journal No. 250 of October 25, 1943, publishes a number of orders for the confiscation of the estates of Jews and Jewish communities in the districts of Little Kakeln, Great Kakeln, Piatranamen and Constanza, on behalf of the head office for Roumanization.

News has been received from Turkey that the Roumanian authorities propose to liquidate the camps in Transdnjestroa and to permit the Jews imprisoned there to return to their former domiciles in Roumania. This would appear to mean that Jews of other countries who have been expelled to Transdnjestria will not benefit from such repatriation. The liquidation of these ghettos and camps was due to begin in December 1943 and to continue for a month and a half. The transport and feeding of the returning refugees requires vast sums, which the Roumanians are imposing on the Jews.

The Turkish press reports that the Transdnjestrian authorities working constantly with the Germans, and there is reason to fear that this may exert a bad influence on the fate of the Jews imprisoned in this region. Individual Jews escape from Transdnjestria to Bucharest and remain there. For the present the Roumanian authorities do not put any difficulties in their way. In spite of this the conclusion may be drawn, from the latest reports from Transdnjestria, that the German authorities have interfered with the execution of the repatriation project; and there is reason to fear that it will not be carried out.

VII. Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian press reports the declaration made by Christoff, the Minister of the Interior, to journalists at Sofia, when he explained that the latest instructions of the authorities with regard to the Jews might give rise to misapprehensions. It might be supposed from the permission to sell goods, etc., out of the dwelling of Jews expelled from Sofia, Petori, etc., that the Jews were to be treated more gently. Christoff promised that there had not really been any change in the attitude of the authorities toward the Jews, and that all anti-Jewish legislation would be carried out to the letter.

Before the war there were about 60,000 Jews in Bulgaria. This number has now been reduced by many thousands. In spring 1943
anti-Jewish.

Jewish legislation was introduced, and in April 1943 the Jews were expelled from Sofia. About 22,000 Bulgarian Jewish citizens were sent to various small towns and villages where they live under hard conditions, frequently in synagogues, public buildings, etc. About 14,000 Jews, who did not possess Bulgarian citizenship although born in Bulgaria, were sent to Poland and their fate is unknown. There are now about 40,000 Jews left in Bulgaria, who are waiting for help. The "Donauzeitung" of the 9th of November, 1943, reports that in a debate between the Commissar for Jewish Affairs and the Slavonic Orthodox priesthood, the latter proved victorious, and of late those Jews who were converted before January 23, 1941, or who married Bulgarian men or women before September 1, 1940, and children born of such marriages, are not required to wear the Jewish badge.

VIII. G r e e c e.

The Order for the registration of the Jews of Athens was published in the Greek press on October 3, 1943, in accordance with the instructions of the authorities. Under this order Jews were not permitted to leave the dwellings in which they were resident on August 1, 1943. A period of five days was given for registration at the Jewish Religious Communal Council in Athens, and for recording the correct address. In the provinces registration had to take place at the municipal or Greek committees. Foreign Jews were required to report at the municipal offices at 8 a.m. on October 18, 1943, bringing their papers with them. Those not complying would be shot on the spot. The order also recognised the Jewish Religious Communal Council as the authorised Jewish institution in Greece. A "Council of Elders" was to be established by it, and would receive instructions directly from the authorities. A curfew from 5 p.m. till 7 a.m. was proclaimed for Jews. Greeks who might help Jews to escape or hide would be sent to concentration camps with the exception of cases where the law provided a graver punishment. The Greek police were ordered to arrest all those who contravened the order, whether Jews or non-Jews. The term "non-Jew" was applied to all the offspring of three generations of non-Jews. After publication of this order by the Germans, many Jews hid with their Greek acquaintances. It should be remarked that the inhabitants of Athens adopted a human attitude towards the unfortunates. The residents of Salonika also helped the Jews. In view of the help of the Christians there is reason to hope that a large number of Jews have been saved from the Nazis. The organisation chose a number of English speaking Jews and sent them to the High Command. Others, chiefly youngsters, went to the hills in order to join the "Free Greece" movement. Leaflets were distributed among the inhabitants of Athens, requesting them to assist and hide the Jews, in order to inform the Greeks where Jewish refugees were found, ship owners took only Jews on their ships. In this way it was easy for the Greek inhabitants to find Jewish refugees, to help them and to transport them to places where they would be more secure.

In the course of the five days following the publication of the Order by the Germans, only 50 to 60 Jews were registered, these being people who had not found any hiding-place or were afraid to make use of Greek aid. For this reason the Germans purposely extended the period of registration. Some people registered even after the close of the extended period and were not punished. The Germans gave a white card to those registered, containing all data affecting them. In one case a sick Jew was given a period of four days in which to register. Jewish partners in mixed marriages were given brown cards. At first it was thought that in view of the animosity of the Greek population the Germans would not use severe measures for those hiding among the Christians. Until Wednesday, October 20th, not a single Jewish shop was looted except those of the firm "Ahadef", whose stores and warehouses were robbed immediately after the entry of the Italian troops; and also the firm of the

Jew, Eliezer Solomon, at No. 6 Kipsali Street. On the other hand the Nazis took furniture out of most of the Jewish houses.

The Greek Archbishop appealed to the Greeks in church to aid the Jews, and interceded with the German authorities, requesting that children up to the age of 14, as well as Jews married to Greeks, should be exempted from the anti-Jewish laws. Apparently intervention proved successful to some degree.

IX. Czechoslovakia. The "Sued-Ost Ekonomist" which is published at Budapest reports, that the Jewish property confiscated in Slovakia covers an area of 163,346 yuch. By the end of October 1943 an area amounting to 105,000 yuch deriving from this source had been handed over to Slovaks, while the rest was still in the hands of the Government treasury.

Since the beginning of November 1943 there has been no contact between Theresienstadt and Switzerland. The Swiss press expresses its alarm regarding the fate of those incarcerated in this ghetto, in the light of the anti-Jewish declaration of Dr. Sundermann, Goebbels's assistant.

X. France. Mass arrests are continuing in Paris among Jews, including the members of the Relief Committee. The prisoners are expelled to labour camps. There is no longer any difference between former French occupied territory and former French unoccupied territory, and the identical anti-Jewish attitude is found in both. Travelling committees of the Gestapo for kidnapping Jews are active in the provincial towns. In Upper Savoy whole Jewish families flee to the mountains. The Jews who lived in the areas which were formerly occupied by the Italians fled from there upon the withdrawal of the Italian army. On the way the Germans take them out of the railway carriages, particularly at the Avignon railway station. They seek Alsatian Jews with particular savagery. The Jews of France are making every possible effort to save at least their children.

XI. Holland. Before the war there were 160,000 Jews in Holland. The great majority have been expelled and no trace of them has yet been found. According to the latest reports, the situation of the Jews can be summed up in the words "absolute liquidation". It is thought that Himmler himself was in Holland in order to give final instructions for this liquidation. Van der Pinten, the Gestapo head in Holland, who was hitherto responsible for carrying out the plan of destruction, has been sent to northern Italy in order to direct the expulsion of Italian and foreign Jews imprisoned in that country.

The expulsions from the notorious "Pouget camp", where about 15,000 Jews are imprisoned, are continuing systematically. The Berenwald camp was regarded as possessing special privileges and contained about 150 former Reich officials and "Dutchmen with special rights". All Dutch residents have now been sent to Central Germany after having been sterilized.

The overwhelming majority of about 25,000 mixed marriages have been sterilized during recent weeks; always the Jewish partner of the marriage. Sterilization is carried out at the Amsterdam hospital by German military physicians, who use Röntgen rays for the purpose. It is now carried out by the most up-to-date method, without any pain or operation (particularly in the case of men). "Treatment" continues at the hospital for a week, after which the patients are liberated and are no longer required to wear the yellow badge. Those who prefer to be sent to Poland

rather than be sterilized may state their preference, and in almost all cases the Nazis agree.

According to the German estimate, there are now about 15,000 Jews hidden in various places in Holland. Many of them have been discovered in recent weeks. Men who could no longer bear the prolonged man-hunt have given themselves up to the Germans.

Not so long ago the Jewish Council consisted of 170 members. It has now been dissolved, and the members have been exiled to Central Germany.

XII. I t a l y. "Trans-press" reports from German-occupied Italy that all Jews have been arrested and their property confiscated for the benefit of Italians, who are suffering from the murderous bombings of the United Nations.

XIII. A u s t r i a. According to reports from Hungary there are still about 2,000 Jews in Vienna, part of whom are Polish refugees.

XIV. Jewish refugees in Cuba. The German press regrets the fact that according to the latest population census in Cuba it appears that about 15,000 Jews have arrived there since the war. The entire population of Cuba amounts to 5,000,000 people. It may be assumed that almost all the Jews who have arrived in Cuba during the war are refugees from countries which were in danger of German invasion.

XV. Mass slaughter. The Polish underground journal, "Nove Drogi", of April 30, 1943, reports that the German gendarmic has cooperated with local robbers in murdering all the Jews of Wengrow. On June 5, 1943, 6,000 Jews were murdered in the Vilna district. The underground organ "Rzecz Pospolita" reports that Jan Adamczyk of the small town Mszana Dolna, was executed by the Germans after a Jew, Oscar Schwartzman, who had been tortured by the Nazis, confessed that Adamczyk had given him food. The leaders of the underground movement report that on August 26, 1943, in accordance with the sentence of a special court in Warsaw, the agent Boris Pilniak was shot for giving away the Jews who had hidden themselves. In a report from the Polish underground at Oswiecim it is stated that between September 1942 and June 1943 the Nazis brought 60,000 Jews there from Greece, 50,000 from the Protectorate and from Slovakia, and 80,000 from France. The latter number also includes Jews from Belgium and Holland. During the same period the Nazis brought to Oswiecim 6,000 Jews from Chrzanov and Zywiec and 5,000 Jews from the neighbourhood. On July 10th, 1943, only 2% of them all were still alive. The remainder had been killed by gas.

Early in August 1943, 15 trains containing about 15,000 Jews arrived at Oswiecim from Bondzin and Sosnowiec. The Nazis set up three new crematoriums in the village of Bizezinka, near Oswiecim. On one day the Nazis burned 39,000 Jews, Poles, Czechs and gypsies there. A Polish source reports that on October 27, 1943, 13 women and children were executed in the Pawiak prison in Warsaw on suspicion of being of Jewish origin.

REPORTS AND MINUTES.

1. (Not for Publication).

Abstract from Minutes of a conversation held during November 1943 in a neutral country inside Europe with the German manager of a factory in Poland.

"... We spoke about supply difficulties, but after a little hesitation started on the main theme. Mr. X gave a report on the scale of the tragedy, speaking of it openly and without excitement. He said, "It is not part of the art of war to trample the heads of infants under your jackboots. In general, the reason for the difficulties with which the Germans are now meeting has derived from political errors of that kind."

"How many Jews are still alive in Poland?"

"He made a brief calculation.

"There are still about 17 camps. Between 220,000 and 250,000 Jews may still be alive in them. These are legal. Apart from them, there are about the same number of illegal ones hiding in caves, or with Aryans, or with false Aryan papers, living as half-Jews or as partisans."

"Please be good enough to explain to us: Was a general order given for the extermination of all the Jews of Poland? If so, why have half a million or so been left alive? If not, why have millions been killed?"

"I believe", he replied, "that a general order was issued. I have the feeling that every S.S. commander wished to surpass the rest in the number of those killed. Not a single one of them wished to endanger his career. But the initiative did not come from them. It seems as though they were given an order from higher up to exterminate dangerous or useless Jews. They carried out this order with the cruelty to which they were already accustomed at home. These S.S. leaders are coarse people with the instincts of brutes. Many of them had previously served in concentration camps at Dachau and elsewhere."

We interrupted him. "In that case, was it a general instruction or not? It is difficult to assume that low-ranking officers would take the responsibility for such murderous acts unless they were protected from above."

"Naturally there was someone up above who ordered the extermination; but I do not believe that they really aimed at any general extermination."

"Then what do you believe? Are there any prospects that the rest will remain alive until the end of the war? Will they be able to keep alive during the chaos that must follow?"

"Mr. X. replied with unexpected assurance. 'Yes, I am certain that they will remain alive. A few weeks ago Himmler issued an order to that effect. The purpose is quite clear. They wish to preserve the remaining Jewish workers. During the last two months the little camps have been liquidated and Jews from the provinces who are capable of working are now all concentrated in the industrial centres.'

"Is this order being obeyed?"

"Almost entirely, came the honest answer. 'You must understand that these S.S. leaders find it hard to drop the habit of shooting a few dozen or a few hundred Jews a day. But the position of the Jews who are working in war enterprises is different from that of the Jews concentrated in the ghettos. The former are

largely under the protection of the military inspectors of those factories; and the army has not identified itself with S.S. methods. I know of many cases in which German soldiers saved the lives of Jews. The Army did not wish to submit to an order demanding that Jewish prisoners from the Red Army were to be killed. They said that prisoners of war were prisoners of war. After much effort the S.S. succeeded in arranging that the Jewish prisoners should be handed over to them. They examined them and if they were circumcised, they shot them. The same thing applied to the civilian residents of the occupied areas in the East.'

"How many Jews, by your estimate, have been murdered since the outbreak of the war?"

"It is hard to give any figure', said he, 'I can only speak of the figures given by the S.S. leaders. They speak of four to four and a half millions. But I reckon that that number is exaggerated. They pride themselves on such numbers. One of them claims that during a single afternoon he deprived 18,000 Jews of their lives. The second has to go further and claims a still higher number. It is hard to make anywhere near an approximate estimate."

"Are there still children in Poland?"

"Children? Very few. They have been virtually exterminated. I believe that 90% of the children up to the age of 14 were shot or gassed. Children have only remained alive by accident. Six weeks ago there were still two children's camps. Some had their lives spared as a result of special intercession, and in addition there were the children of the Jewish Security Police. I know, for instance, that a Jew who was recommended by an economic inspector got his two children out of one of these camps by claiming that they were the children of a policeman. The only children in Jewish camps are the children of the Jewish police. The old folk have suffered the same fate. Not a single person over the age of 50 has remained alive. Those unfortunate fellows did all they could to appear younger. Men dyed their hair and painted their faces. But the overwhelming majority of those who have remained alive are aged between 14 and 50.'

"Where are they to be found, for the greater part?"

"I believe that most of them are to be found at Oswiecim. I estimate the number to be found there at about 80,000. But it is impossible to know how many have remained alive out of all the hundreds of thousands who were expelled there. They are working together with French, Polish and Russian prisoners of war.'

"We have heard that Oswiecim is a death-camp.'

"That may be the case as far as children and old people are concerned. I have also heard that Jews were burnt and gassed there. A scientific method of extermination was developed there, in order, to prevent a repetition of such occurrences as happened at Katyn.'

"What do you think in general of the position of persons detained in concentration camps and labour camps? Have they any money hidden away? Can they help themselves in any other way?"

"They had a lot of money concealed. A little while ago we had an individual search at our place, where people were threatened with death. The same thing was done several months ago. Six large

white boxes were found filled with gold, dollars, jewels, gold watches, zloti, etc. The S.S. officers take this money home without any questions and without giving any receipts. Part of it, say a third, certainly disappears. The rest goes to S.S. funds. After all, certain expenditures occur at the camps and have to be covered.'

"What do you know about the fighting in the Warsaw ghetto?"

"I heard something about it. A Jewish self-defence organization was established there. They took trucks filled with cement off the rails, built themselves caves and dugouts, bought arms from German and Italian soldiers, and liquidated Jews whom they suspected might betray them. There were still about 120,000 to 150,000 Jews in the Warsaw ghetto when the fighting started. It lasted from two to three weeks, and was the heroic chapter of Polish Jewry. In their despair they wished to save the honour of Polish Jewry after everything else was lost. During the battle about 50,000 Jews escaped from the ghetto through the Vistula sewers. I do not know what happened to them afterwards. The remainder fought. Jewish girls fought against tanks with pistols. They fell by tens of thousands. The ghetto was set on fire and a tremendous amount of property was destroyed. When the International Commission passed through Warsaw to Katyn the members saw the ghetto still burning and heard shots being fired."

2. Summary of a report by the Polish Underground Movement on the state of the Jews in Poland.

A Pole who fled from Poland in 1943 brought the following report from the Polish underground on the situation of the Jews in Poland:

"While I was in Poland I visited the Warsaw ghetto twice. The first time was in October 1942, and the second was in January 1943. I also had opportunities of seeing the concentration camp for Jews 12 miles beyond Belzec, in the vicinity of Lublin.

"The Germans planned a particularly cruel method of destroying both Jews and Poles alike. This was the method of terrorism and starvation. The principle of collective responsibility was applied to every case in which Germans were killed, and then one out of 50 or 100 Jews or Poles would be executed at random. In 1942, 200 Jews were killed in revenge for a single German.

"The food ration for Poles was: 250 grammes of bread every other day, 150 grammes of jam (made of peas or carrots) once in 10 days, 50 kgs. of potatoes and 50 kilos of coal per year. In 1942 no coal was provided at all. Theoretically the Jews should have received the same ration. In actual fact, however, they received only 150 grammes of bread every other day. The rations for the ghetto inhabitants exist only theoretically, not in reality. In 80% to 90% of the cases the Jews had to subsist by dint of their own efforts, and by manufacturing substitutes for foods. Jews employed in labour camps receive the minimum of food necessary to enable them to continue working. Under such circumstances the Jews in the labour camps are doomed to die of starvation or of nervous strain in 4 to 5 months.

"The Germans guarded the entrance to the ghetto in order to prevent the smuggling of food, which they confiscated for their

own requirements. A Jew who was caught smuggling foodstuffs or valuables into or out of the ghetto was shot on the spot.

"In general the aim of the Germans is to destroy the Jews as a nation, and to destroy each separate Jew as an individual. Their ultimate objective is to destroy them systematically and entirely without exception. The slaughter of the Jews has no precedent in human history.

"The ghettos in Lodz, Warsaw and Lublin were established in 1940. To begin with the Jews, particularly in the provincial towns, were not required to live in ghettos. They had a certain amount of freedom of movement, and in many cases were permitted to live outside the ghetto. Until 1941 no steps were taken against the Jews in the areas that were annexed to the Reich. At the beginning of 1941 the Germans compelled the Jews to move into the ghettos, and it was then that the man-hunt began in large and small towns. At the end of June 1941, after war began between Russia and Germany, the Nazis began to treat all Jews living in former Russian-occupied territory as communists. A series of mass massacres began, particularly in the vicinity of Pinsk, Stanislawow and Vilna. The method of massacre varies from town to town. From September, 1941 we were witnesses of a mass slaughter which began in the provincial towns and went on to the ghettos in the large towns. There were cases when the Germans established ghettos in order to liquidate them at once. Thousands of Jews were killed in these massacres, or died as a result of starvation and disease.

"During Himmler's visit to the Warsaw ghetto in July 1943 there were about 400,000 Jews resident there. At a meeting of the Nazis Himmler declared:

1. Hitler told me personally that it was the Jews who began the war, and therefore they ought to be punished.
2. The Jews are the curse of the world, and therefore they must be made into dust.
3. All the Jews have to die, but first they must suffer the pangs of death.

"Himmler's visit to Warsaw served as a signal for the massacres there. Between October 1942 and January 1943 more than 300,000 Jews were killed. In February there were only 35,000 Jews left in the ghetto. I saw some dreadful scenes with my own eyes. I saw the bodies of Jews lying in the streets covered with newspaper. In most cases the relations left the bodies in the streets in order to save themselves the heavy payment which the Community Council demanded for burial. The passers-by could see Jews lying senseless on the pavement or the roadside and dying. There was a state of dreadful starvation in the ghetto. In many cases people sucked the sap of leaves and grass.

"The expulsion of the Jews from Warsaw was carried out in the following fashion: With their characteristic cruelty the Germans fixed a date for the Jews of Warsaw to depart eastward for forced labour. Old people, the sick and ailing, madmen and in general those unable to work were killed. The Germans declared in cynical fashion that by thus liquidating those unfit for work they were securing larger food rations for the remainder. At first those who remained alive felt that nothing would happen to them. To begin with about 5,000 Jews a day were expelled. Afterwards

the number was increased to 10,000 a day. When the Germans demanded that Mr. Cherniakov should give them 10,000 names for expulsion every day, he committed suicide. Afterwards the Nazis increased the number to 15,000 a day.

The Jews were expelled by categories in the following order:

1. Old people, sick and those unfit for work, if they had not already been killed.

2. Those who had no fixed source of income (hawkers and persons supported by their relations.)

3. Those whose occupations were not of any use to the German war effort (artisans, shoemakers, tailors and small shopkeepers).

4. Those engaged in war industries, Jewish policemen, Jewish communal officials and the staff of Jewish hospitals and other institutions.

"The Jewish Communal Council was compelled to carry out these orders because its members were in danger of death if they refused. The communal Council was required to provide quotas of all classes in the ghetto. Many Jews were caught while trying to escape from the ghettos and climbing over the walls. The expulsion was carried out with German precision and thoroughness. Those expelled were compelled to march in line like soldiers. The slightest disorder in the lines led to the shooting of all those marching. The Jews had to march to the railway station, where they were placed in cattle trucks and sent to the death camps.

"I was a witness of the following horrifying scenes at the death camp 12 kilometres from Belzec, near Lublin.

About 5,000 Jews were brought there. About a quarter of them were lodged in primitive barracks, while the rest had to remain in the open air. The prisoners were permitted to bring with them luggage weighing up to 15 kilograms (food, clothes and valuables). The Germans immediately took away the valuables. The people were compelled to wait about 8 days without receiving any food or even water to drink. Many of them, who had brought no food, perished of hunger. Those who had brought food refused to share it, as they were afraid that there might not be enough for their own children. There were no sanitary arrangements at all in the camp, and it was almost impossible to bear the stench. A few days later I saw the bodies of dead Jews lying in the open. Relations, friends or strangers took away the clothes of the corpses. Women went out of their minds, and walked about tearing their hair. I saw an old Jew sitting naked in petrified silence. Nobody paid any attention to him.

"After 8 days had passed the Jews were sent to a corridor built of wood and surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Afterwards they were placed in cattle trucks. They had to pass in front of a file of Gestapo men, who shot everybody that marched slowly. A number of Gestapo men stood at the doors of the wagons, watching to make sure that no Jew touched the walls of the corridor. If anybody did so, he was shot on the spot. In each truck there was usually room for eight horses or 40 men. But they forced the masses of Jews into them, thrusting at least 130 to 140 people into each truck when there was room for 100 at the most. The last

truck was filled first. When the truck was crammed chock-full, the people who were still outside were compelled literally to climb over the heads of those inside, and to find room for themselves somehow or other. There were about 50 to 60 such trucks. During the "loading" about 300 Jews were shot or murdered. The floors of the trucks were covered with unslaked lime and chloride. When the masses of Jews who were crowded into the carriage attended to their physical requirements there, a chemical reaction was produced in the lime and chloride, and the gases that rose from the floors poisoned the passengers. In this way the Germans "liquidated" about 6000 Jews who were brought from the Warsaw ghetto. When the trucks began to move off, terrifying cries were heard from them. All this lasted about 8 hours. The trucks were sent to some point "north", but I do not know where. After a few days travel the trucks were stopped somewhere in the open field and the "consignment" was liquidated. I have heard that the Germans made use of these bodies for manufacturing artificial fertilizer.

"1,800,000 Jews were killed in Poland through the Nazis, 1,500,000 were murdered and 300,000 died by starvation and disease.

"In Russia there are about 500,000 Jews from Poland. A number of them succeeded in escaping abroad. More than half a million Jews were expelled to Poland from other countries in Europe. In February 1943 there were 2,000,000 Jews in Poland, who were imprisoned in 55 towns and small towns.

"The Poles are beginning to fear that they will suffer the same fate as the Jews. But it should be pointed out that the Germans do not murder the Poles on such a scale as the Jews.

"The armed Nazi youth may enter the ghettos at any moment and murder as many Jews as they like with unparalleled cruelty and without any need to render an account to anybody. Drunken Gestapo men amuse themselves in the ghetto by shooting for sport at the windows of Jewish houses, as a result of which many people are also killed.

"During the second half of August, after the mass slaughter began in Warsaw, the Nazis began to liquidate the Jewish centres in the surrounding small towns. The first victims were the Jews of Otwook, Falencia, Swider, then Rembertov, Kobylka, etc. The process in these towns resembles the mass slaughter in the Warsaw ghetto. In Falencia many people were murdered in the main square, and the rest were sent to an unknown destination. Those who were in the square were compelled to stand for ten hours under the burning sun without food or water. Only a few Jews from Rembertov escaped towards Otwook and many fell on the way. Nazis riding motor bicycles urged the Jews on and shot those who fell behind.

"During August there were mass expulsions in the Dombrova Basin District, where there were open ghettos. In these places the children and old people were separated from the others. Those expelled were compelled to leave their dwellings open, and their destination is unknown.

"It is reported that the liquidation of the ghettos in Kadm and Lwow assumed an exceedingly brutal form. Hundreds of victims fell on the spot. The Germans and Ukrainians seized the property of those expelled.

"On August 24th, 1942, the Nazis could be seen inciting the Polish youth to loot the property of the expelled Jews. It should

be mentioned that in those case the guards, who were composed of Letts, did not shoot the youngsters approaching the barbed wire fence, as they should have done according to their standing instructions. The Germans who were present photographed the people breaking into the houses of the Jews, smashing windows, etc. It is said that the Nazis prepared a film based on conditions in the Warsaw ghetto, showing rich Jews in their houses, the filth in proletarian houses, immoral scenes, smuggling, etc.

"Among the Polish population there were also victims during the massacres of the Jews. A number of Christians in Warsaw were shot while trying to provide food for the ghetto. There were also accidental victims. During the street hunts, many people were caught with legal documents, and many Poles in the streets near the ghetto were killed by shrapnel while the houses of the ghetto were being bombarded. The Poles who entered the ghetto were subjected to a rigorous personal search and were also frequently maltreated. For this reason the Poles, even those who had legal documents, refrained from entering the ghetto as from the beginning of August.

"It is impossible to close this brief sketch without stressing the scale of the massacres which have taken place among the quarter of a million Jews of the Warsaw ghetto from the first of September until now. The facts given here are only examples, and have not been selected of set purpose. They are neither general nor individual in character. They are not isolated instances, because cases such as these occur every day in dozens and hundreds of places. We wish to inform you that from July 22, 1942, several hundred Jews were shot daily in the streets and houses of Warsaw. Those expelled also met their deaths, being murdered en route. The daily quotas expelled, amounting to 6,000, 7,000 or 10,000, included at least 50 or 100 old and weak people taken to the cemeteries, where they were shot and buried. The transports are sent in most cases to Treblinka, four kilometres from Malkinia, where they are murdered and buried in numbers running at least into thousands every day. Giant excavators brought to Treblinka ceaselessly dig graves for the persons condemned to death. The dead bodies can be smelt at a distance of 5 kilometres from the camp, and cause sickness among the residents of the district. Besides Treblinka there are large camps at Belzec, and Solibor. We could not ascertain whether part of those expelled remain alive; we have only heard of massacre.

"If anybody doubts the possibility of killing 5,000, 6,000 or 10,000 people a day, he can ask the thousands of eye-witnesses at Otwook, Rembertov, Siedlce, Minsk, Mozowiecki, Lomza and elsewhere.

"These people saw with their own eyes how thousands of Jews were killed in a single day. This is the language of figures, and the language of cruelty resembles it in all respects. The victims taken to their deaths are also subjected to dreadful sufferings on their way. Trucks meant for 40 men have 100 thrust into them. The floors of the trucks are covered with wuicklime, and the people are frequently ordered to take off their boots, in order to accelerate the chemical reaction of the lime. In addition to all this, the children are taken from their mothers. Orphans are also expelled. Their teachers do not leave the children, but go to their deaths with them. The children are placed in special trucks while the teachers are sent in others.

"Shooting on the spot and throwing people from the sixth floor are regarded as the most humanitarian forms of death. If a Nazi throws a child and its mother through a window, he is regarded as soft-hearted. Such cases occur every day. Here is an example of absolutely unimaginable cruelty. A Jewish woman fled from the ghetto and found refuge in a little house in the Grochow suburb where she gave birth to a child. Poles helped her. A German policeman found her, murdered her and trod the new-born baby underfoot.

"It is hard to keep on describing the horrors. What has been said is enough to show the cruelty. The degree of despair is indicated by the number of suicides. Individuals and frequently whole families have committed suicide by taking cyanide of potassium. The chemist shops in the ghetto were closed to prevent this. There were cases of mass lunacy, and many people begged the Nazis to kill them. But for this the Nazis demanded 100 zloty per person, and frequently refused to oblige the victims after they had been paid.

3. Murder of the Jews in Izabelin.

A young Pole who succeeded in escaping to London early in 1943 gave the following description of the mass murder of Jews at Izabelin, near Warsaw.

"About 1,000 Jews were working at the cutting of peat in the Izabelin forced labour camp near Warsaw. I saw these Jews at work for ten days. The work is exceedingly difficult, particularly when the weather is bad. Conditions are literally dangerous. The Jews were crowded together in wooden huts without windows or the simplest sanitary arrangements. Naturally there was no provision for heating the huts. The food rations were barely sufficient to keep them from dying of starvation. It was impossible to eat the thin, watery soup which the Germans gave once a day. Many became sick from trying to eat it. After a few weeks under such conditions the Jews became entirely unfit for work, and even incapable of thinking. The Germans chose 205 Jews who had become incapable of work and took them to be killed, bringing fresh Jews from Warsaw to replace them. The behaviour of the Germans is beyond all imagination or understanding. It is not murder but the savage ferocity of wild beasts. I spoke to friends who witnessed German sadism towards the Jews, and we reached the conclusion that as far as the Germans are concerned the murder of the Jews is not an end in itself, but that their purpose is to train groups of executioners who are to be capable of murdering millions of people. The Nazis are confident that the outer world will not believe the cries of Polish Jewry, because it is impossible to believe that human beings are capable of such cruelty. But it is our duty to awaken the conscience of the world and to prevail upon the nations to take radical measures in order to stop the murder of Polish Jewry".

4. Liquidation of Polish Jewry.

The "Biuletyn Informacyjny" of February 23, 1943, reports:

"...together with the dreadful news of the cruelty of the conqueror towards the Jewish population who are gradually being liquidated, reports are received of regular cases of self-defence. During the first half of January, 1943, the ghetto in Lwow was liquidated. About 8,000 Jews were expelled as retaliation for

armed Jewish self-defence. The Germans locked women and children into a number of houses and put the houses on fire.

The liquidation of the ghettos at Sandomierz and "Insk-Mazowiecki" also met with the armed resistance of the Jews. In the small town Krinki near Bialystok, 12 German gendarmes were killed under similar conditions. All the young Jews who had been included in a transport which left the Bialystok ghetto ran away, so that only the old people and children arrived.

Recently the liquidation of the Jews has been accelerated in the Zaglemie-Domborowski district. The "action" should also have included Sosnowice, Kazanov, and other places. So far no news has been received from these towns.

In the Warsaw ghetto the Nazis set out to liquidate the "shops", i.e., the workshops in which Jews were employed. The Nazis endeavoured to persuade the Jewish workers to volunteer for work in the Lublin district. Since this action was unsuccessful and there were no volunteers, the Germans began to expel the workers by force. The Jewish workers responded to this by large-scale acts of sabotage, which were carried out in the ghetto. On the night between the 18th and the 19th of this month (February 1943) they set a large furniture warehouse in the ghetto on fire, burning vast quantities of furniture worth several million zlotys, which should have been sent to the Reich.

The Polish newspaper, "Polska", of February 23, 1943, gives the following news:

"Gestapo men tortured with unbelievable cruelty a Jewess aged 18 named A.H., who was suspected of belonging to the underground movement. The Nazis kept her in jail, gave her no food for a long time, beat her mercilessly and finally, after four days of cross-questioning, took off her clothes, tied her legs with a strap and hung her to a beam in the ceiling. Every five minutes they poured cold water over her. After this, trained police dogs began to bite her breasts and pull out her hair. In addition, the Nazis pierced her breasts with white-hot pins. The Nazis liquidated all the Jewish prisoners in the Lublin camp on the 22nd and 23rd of November, 1943. Some of the prisoners were shot on the spot, while the others were transferred to the Majdanek camp after their military uniforms had been taken from them. In order to create the impression that the prisoner of war camp was still in existence, the Nazis brought weak old Jews there and dressed them in military uniforms.

The paper, "Przez Walke Do Zwycienstwa" (Through Fought to Victory) of February 23, 1943, gives the following report:

"On the 18th of January, at 6:30 a.m., powerful groups of fully armed gendarmes and of the S.S. surrounded all the streets of the ghetto and closed off one house after the other. On this occasion the Nazis met not only with passive but also with active opposition. In many houses in the Mila Niska, Moranowska and Zamenhof Streets, the Jews received the murderers with a fusillade of shots and hand-grenades. The gendarmes had to occupy the houses by fierce assault. Some houses were set on fire, while the battle continued for a long time in others. Among the Jews who were being led to a public square in order to be transported to the Treblinka camp, there were some who threw hand-grenades, shot from revolvers, and in the confusion fled from the ranks taking many of the others with them.

The heaviest fighting occurred in the Dzika Street near the square beside the prison, with a large detachment of gendarmes and S.S. men. A large group of fighters came to the aid of those who were being transported, and opened fire when the signal was given. They threw hand-grenades at the Nazis and also shot them from pistols. Finally they began fighting hand to hand. The Nazis were taken by surprise at the sudden and unexpected attack, and made no resistance when the Jewish fighters disarmed them. Many Nazis fell on the spot and the rest fled. A large group of transportees exploited the confusion and fled as well. The Nazis needed considerable reinforcements of S.S. men in order to regain control of the situation.

The following were the results of the battle: About 30 gendarmes and S.S. men were killed and 20 were wounded. Nine Jewish fighters were killed and the Jews captured 3 rifles and 4 pistols.

On January 21, 1943, the conqueror proclaimed a "day of punishment" for the armed resistance. 600 armed gendarmes marched into the ghetto carrying hand-grenades. Two pieces of field artillery were brought in together with Red Cross ambulances. The siege of the buildings began early in the morning. The Nazis threw hand-grenades into the buildings, and mass slaughter began.

The paper "Nasze Ziemié Wschodnie" (Our Eastern Areas) of February 1943 gives the following information:

"The expulsion of the Jewish population from the provinces is continuing. The poorer classes are mostly transferred to the camp at Kielbasin near Grodno, and to the barracks of the tenth cavalry regiment sent to an unknown destination. The rich Jews save themselves with the aid of heavy bribery. In Bialystok, for example, they contributed large quantities of warm underwear to the army".

The paper "Ziemié Wschodnie Rzeczypospolitej" (The Western Area of the Republic) of February 1943 gives the following information:

"Jewish camps. In the area of Great Poland there are many small camps of Jews engaged in agricultural work. At the moment it is impossible to ascertain their exact number. In 1941 there were still about 15,000 Jews in ~~Prizem~~ Posen. There are now between 4,000 and 6,000 left, of whom 2,800 are sick. In Poznan there was also a camp for Jewish women, which was liquidated after the death of three-quarters of those imprisoned there".

The "Biuletyn Informacyjny" of March 1943 reports the following:

"Of the four official ghettos in the Radem district, those in Radomsko and Ujazd have already been liquidated and the Nazis murdered all the Jewish inhabitants. In addition the Sobolew ghetto near Garwolin in the Lublin district has been liquidated and on January 21 all the Jews who were still alive in Radzymin were slaughtered. The slaughter is continuing".

The Newspaper "W.R.N." of April 16, 1943, reports:

"The Nazis began the mass slaughter of Warsaw Jewry on March 21, when about 1400 Jews were murdered on the spot and about 4,000 were expelled to Skawina, where they were shot. In addition, large numbers of Jews were forced into 48 loeries and transported to Oswiecim. The other Jews were placed in a camp of huts in the Jewish cemetery. During the two days following, 235 people were found in cellars and attics and were all shot. On March 29, ~~is~~ all the Jews with American citizenship were summoned to the Gestapo offices in the Pomorska Street. From the Gestapo offices they were transferred to the Jewish cemetery, where they were all murdered.

The "Biuletyn Informacyjny" of April 29 reports:

"On Monday, 19th April, the German police armed with tommy-guns surrounded the Warsaw ghetto. Before dawn several hundred S.S. men in motor cars started out in three directions from the Nalewki and the Stawki Streets. Their purpose was the absolute liquidation of the large ghetto in which there were officially 40,000 Jews, or 50,000 together with those not registered.

The Nazis stopped a train at the railway sidings in the Stawki Street and the S.S. men began to collect Jews for the first transport. Shots and the explosions of hand-grenades were suddenly heard. The Jewish fighting organisation began to defend the ghetto. Individual acts of defence were rapidly transformed into collective defence and assumed the form of organised action. A street battle developed and reached its peak on Monday night. In the fight dozens of Germans were killed, particularly S.S. men, and many Nazis were wounded. Both sides used automatic weapons, rifles, grenades and pistols. The Jews carried out several attacks, as a result of which a number fell outside the walls of the ghetto. At the crossing of the Bonifraterska and Konwiktorska Streets the Jews killed a German patrol consisting of five policemen.

Fighting continued on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The Germans began working far more carefully and brought a few tanks, field guns and anti-tank guns, also making use of aerial reconnaissance. The German police aimed at splitting the Jewish fighters into small isolated groups at scattered defence points. They closed the pipes conducting water to the ghetto. The Jews began to set fire to stocks of raw materials and goods, factories and tanneries. They set on fire a vast amount of German property, which was in the ghetto. The flames and smoke could be seen at a great distance. The ghetto is still burning. On the night of 22nd April groups of Jews tried to escape through the Wolnosc Street. They were prevented from doing so by machine-gun fire. During the battle on the 23rd a number of German tanks were destroyed, according to as yet unverified reports. The number of Nazi slain and wounded has increased considerably. In the evening a bomb was thrown into a German car in Freta Street. A number of S.S. men and three civilians were killed.

On Saturday, April 23, the Germans gained control of the situation. Isolated groups are still defending themselves in the ghetto. The Germans have begun to collect the Jews in the square prior to expulsion.

The sound of shooting gradually diminished on the 25th, 26th and 27th, while the fires have been growing stronger. The defence of the ghetto has weakened".

The underground paper "Szaniec", of May 3 reports:

"The fires in the Warsaw ghetto are continuing, although the Jews are no longer fighting an organised defence. Here and there isolated individuals are still resisting. The Germans are burning or blowing up the buildings. They are flooding the cellars and are using tear gas in order to compel the Jews to leave their hiding-places. Every day transports of Jews are leaving the capital for an unknown destination. Cases of Jewish flight from the ghetto are becoming more rare, and every night shots can be heard at the exit from the ghetto. It seems that the Germans propose to burn the whole of the ghetto. The houses set on fire include those kept for the Polish police, for German institutions, etc. The fire brigades have received exclusive orders not to put out the flames. They are only guarding military points within the ghetto."

The paper "Rzeczpospolita Polska" of May 6 reports:

"At the time of writing these lines, the Jewish defence of the ghetto is continuing. Its scale has decreased but not its obstinacy. Resistance is being maintained in isolated buildings and in blocks of houses. The German are continuing to set the ghetto on fire in order to isolate the houses and to compel the inhabitants to come out. The Germans are burning house after house. Gigantic fires have continued all the week. The Jews are setting fire to all the buildings which have been of any use whatsoever to the Germans, such as Jewish factories or workshops which manufactured goods for the army. In the opinion of experts the fire in the ghetto is the greatest known in the history of Europe.

"Thousands of Jews, who were forced to leave their hiding places through the burning of the houses or the flooding of the cellars, have been taken to the railway station and expelled to the East. Thousands more have been shot by the Nazi murderers or burned alive in the houses. Von Sommeren, head of the S.S. and police in the Warsaw district, has been dismissed and the Police General Strupp has been appointed in his place.

"On the 3rd of this month the Germans surrounded the small ghetto containing Jews working for the Germans. During the last few days the Jews living in wooden barracks near a number of Warsaw factories have also been exterminate all the Jews who have remained alive".

VILNA. Throughout the country the ferocious liquidation of the remaining Jews is continuing. First, more than 100 truck-loads of Jews were brought to Vilna and were all murdered by the Lithuanian police at Ponari near the town. According to reports received from Pruzan all the Jews have been expelled, apparently to the Treblinka camp.

STANISLAWOW. In the second half of April, 1943, the Nazis completely liquidated the ghetto in this town.

5. The situation in Slovakia and Hungary (reports of refugees).

In October 1943 a refugee reached Palestine who had left Slovakia 18 months earlier together with his wife and children, and had reached Hungary on foot a few days later. In November 1943 he reported that until six weeks earlier he had been corresponding with his brother and mother who were still in Slovakia. According to the news he had heard from them there are still 14,000 Jews in Slovakia, out of 90,000 who were there at the outbreak of the war. About 65,000 Jews were expelled to Poland during this period, and about 10,000 had fled to Hungary.

Of these ten thousand refugees in Hungary about 4,000 were detained in camps as aliens while about 6,000 had managed to provide for themselves somehow. Most of them were in Budapest and the rest in the provinces. Almost all were in distress as they could find neither work nor sources of livelihood. The communal council gives them 30 pengoe per person per week. (This is equivalent to about 40 loaves of bread, or a quarter of the cost of a pair of shoes.)

The Hungarian Government have recently ceased persecuting the Jews, both residents and aliens. In the country there are about 30,000 refugees from Poland, including a number of Jews. In Hungary reside the Wonder Rabbis of Belz (who has meanwhile reached Palestine) and Bobow, who are continuing their spiritual and religious activities quite openly.

An immigrant who left Slovakia on November the 4th, 1943, relates that she had been living recently at....., and reports: "In Slovakia there are still, as far as I know, about 20,000 Jews who are classified in three categories: a) Jews who are "necessary" economically to the State (experts, physicians, etc.). These have special papers which exempt them from expulsion; b) Jews concentrated in the labour camps; c) illegal Jews who live either hidden or else with false papers. Naturally Jews of class a) may be transferred at any time to class b) if they are no longer regarded as necessary. In such cases the people are mostly transferred to the labour-camps (class b).

Jews of class a) must wear a small yellow Shield of David. The members of their family wear a large yellow Shield of David. Jews who converted to Christianity before March the 12th, 1939, or Jews with Aryan wives, are not liable to expulsion.

Jewish refugees from Poland still pass through..... on their way to Budapest. There are many in Hungary at present. These refugees state that 40,000 Jews are living in Warsaw now with Catholic papers.

6. Summary of a report on the Jewish situation in France.

"....21st of August, 1943. The situation in France has become much worse. The previous aim of destroying all Jewish relief institutions has now become an objective to which energetic and practical measures are devoted. Expulsions from Paris do not cease. The Police are searching for children everywhere, and aim at collecting the maximum possible number. The parents are in a state of wild alarm. They are prepared to give up their children if the latter can possibly escape. The camp at Drancy is a hell. An order has been published according to which the number of those imprisoned at the camp must be kept at a definite level. The numbers missing on account of expulsion, release, escape or death are always made good. The police seize persons wearing the yellow patch in the streets, in houses, in the underground railway and anywhere else, and send them to Drancy.

On August 23rd all the French Prefectures received telegraphic instructions to arrest all French male Jewish subjects born between January 1912 and 31st December, 1922, also Foreign Jewish males born between 1st January 1893 and 31st December, 1924, and to transport them in groups to Marseilles under police guard in order to give them work in the Todt Organisation. No exceptions were permitted even on account of health, and social standing was also disregarded. In the areas under Italian occupation the authorities took steps in order to interfere with the arrest of the Jews. In certain districts occupied by the Germans the instructions were carried out in a very ferocious fashion and even people who were in peril were arrested; such were Jews from Alsace Lorraine, prisoners of war who had escaped from prisons-of-war camps, etc.

The latest news from France all stresses the tragic situation. It is necessary to revert to the most murky periods of the Middle Ages in order to understand the methods of persecution and expulsion. The crusade of extermination against the French Jews is becoming worse. The cases of arrests of persons suspected to be Jews are becoming steadily more frequent. Such persons are kept in prison for many weeks until the authorities succeed in determining the "purity" of their origin.

Mass arrests are continuing in Paris. Thousands of people are waiting under dreadfully overcrowded conditions in the "Leviathan" shops until the transport to Drancy is arranged for them. Conditions in Drancy and all arrangements have been laid down and organised by Brauners and Brueckner, former commandants of the Dachau camp. In the morning when the "bosses" of the camp leave their office they first enter the buildings in order to secure some physical training by beating the prisoners. Every prisoner must stand to attention in front of an S.S. man. The latter beat them murderously. Razor strops are used here for whipping purposes. The S.S. men slap women in the face for no reason, throw stones at them and sometimes even trample them underfoot.

Every day trains full of prisoners leave the concentration camp. Most of them go East, but those containing the husbands of Christian wives go West. Of late about 300 men of this category have been sent to Cherbourg, Brest and Bordeaux. A special Police has been organised to search for the families of prisoners in the occupied area. These prisoners wait to be rejoined by their families at Drancy.

From 29th July little children, who had previously received food in the sick hall, were compelled to go to the general hall, where cooking is entirely prohibited, and to live together with the adults. Brauner and his companions have made every effort to capture the families of prisoners in the Southern area and in the Italian districts as well. Despite the limited opposition of the Vichy Government the differences between Jews in the former-occupied and un-occupied areas, as well as in the Italian areas, are being gradually liquidated. The registration of Jewish children in childrens' homes or villages is being completed in the Paris district. Many of them have already been sent to Drancy. It is feared that in the very near future steps will be taken against all the children dispersed across the country, whether on their own, in childrens' homes or living with their families. There are more than 10,000 of them. Many families appeal to Jewish organisations and beg them to save their children. Long files of weary mothers carrying their children in their arms can be seen in front of the Jewish institutions.

Flying squads of German police who were formerly active in Holland and Belgium have now reached the Southern district. They suddenly swoop down on a village, a country town or a farm, search for Jews, and immediately expel any they find. For some days quiet is restored and then the same process begins again. The expulsions are accompanied by the confiscation of all personal property such as coins, money, precious stones, watches, maps and even pen-knives. The Nazis search through gardens and courtyards, pour water over the ground and dig it up in order to find valuables that the Jews may have hidden. If they succeed in finding any they vanish with their spoils.

The mass arrests of French Jews, carried out during the past two months with "model" precision, have proved highly profitable to the Germans, giving them loot to a value of over 20 million Francs.

The Nazis celebrated this event. They compelled the Jews to pray and to sing the Jewish Friday hymn Locha dodi, and afterwards beat them savagely with phylactery straps. On August the 6th, Bruner and Brueckner entered the office of the Childrens' Department of the Jewish representation and waited there for several hours until the mothers came with their children. As the number of persons who turned up was too small they arrested 20 whole families and 45 clerks. All of them without exception were sent to Drancy. While flying squads of German Police were conducting searches in villages and country towns, the German army entered the former Italian occupied

area, took over the most important strategic points, and immediately changed the entire atmosphere. Squads of German Police went through every train, compelling the passengers to leave the coaches. Every passenger had to appear before two S.S. commissars who studied their faces very thoroughly. Since the Semitic type is fairly common among the residents of the Mediterranean coast, railway passengers had to bring all their family archives with them in order to prove their origin. Any Jews who were found were sent to Drancy.

Jews and non-Jews live in a state of alarm in the Italian district. The Jews flee to the mountains. Whole families take to the forests, townsfolk run away to the villages, and villagers endeavour to find refuge in the towns.

The families of those imprisoned at Drancy are in danger of arrest at any moment. The German Police make use of the family letters of the prisoners and it often happens that the Gestapo transfers a family letter into an order of arrest.

7. Summary of a report on the liquidation of Lwow.

D.W. testifies:

"... The start of the war between Germany and Russia at two a.m. on June 22nd struck the Soviet officers like a thunderbolt. No more than about 2,000 Jews left the town together with the Soviet troupes, because most of them believed that the situation might still improve. The first Germans reached the town on Monday June the 23rd. I hid myself at the time with my father-in-law. At 4 a.m. the Nazis came in accordance with some instructions to my Jewish neighbour, and took him away together with two other people. We did not see them again. The Jews did not realise the situation and walked about in the streets. In my house I heard that the Jews were being gathered together near the Municipality in order to be sent to work, and that Communists were shot together with members of the Komsomol. But we did not believe this, nor that the Germans spat and blew the mucus from their noses and ordered the Jewish women to wipe this up with their mouths. The Ukrainians looked on and clapped.

The first official pogrom took place on July the 1st. The Jews men, women, children and old folk without exception were ejected from their houses by Ukrainians and were led to the barracks. In front of these buildings on either side stood people from the underworld, armed with iron bars and all kinds of objects that could be used for beating, and trashed the Jews savagely. In the barracks there were Germans who cursed the Jews, tortured them and even killed them. They shouted, "vengeance is sweet, blood, blood!". They ordered the Jews to bury dead bodies, which they claimed were victims of the Russians. All my family were at the barracks then. After three or four hours a German officer came and shouted: "halt, enough!". Many of us were already dead. About 1,000 people were lying in the courtyard and we did not know whether they were dead or only wounded. The officer ordered that the women should go out first and the men should follow. The Ukrainians were waiting for us outside. People were being brought to the barracks all the time.

Doctor Ezekiel Levin, the Chief Rabbi of Lwow, was murdered at that time. We went to the Archbishop in order to beg him to take steps against the pogrom. On the way he was caught by the Nazis and taken to the prison, where he was shot after having been browbeaten and tortured. It is not known whether the Rabbi was murdered before or after the interview with the Archbishop.

The victims were shot by the Germans because the local population did not have arms. Several thousand Jews fell during this pogrom, which lasted for several days. Finally we were sent home.

From the first day after the German entry into Lwow the Jews were included in the Arbeitsdienst. On certain days women were also taken for work, but as a rule the duty was imposed only on men, who had to do the most degrading and hardest work. There were some who returned from the work (?). At that time the Concentration Camp was established at Sokolniki near Lwow, which became a cemetery for myriads of Jews.

On the 15th of July an order was published whereby Jews from the age of ten had to wear a badge with a Shield of David. A Jewish council was established consisting of six or seven members. These were Dr. Joseph Parness, chairman, Engineer Naphtali Landau, Dr. Rothfeld, Dr. Tserbnitzer, Eger of the Artisans Association and Seidenfrau of the Merchants Association. They received an order to pay four million Zloti as an official contribution within ten days. This was then a vast sum. A few days later, on the anniversary of Petlura's death, there was another official pogrom. Among other things, 5,000 men were seized as hostages for the payment of the contribution. Not one of them returned. The form of payment was extended twice until the whole sum was paid.

I lived opposite the synagogue. In spite of the blackout I could see how hand grenades were thrown into the synagogue at night. It began to burn but was promptly extinguished. The same thing was done the following night. On the third night, July 2-6th, this synagogue and the others in the town were burnt. The Jewish men who lived in houses near the synagogues were taken out at night and ordered to jump into the flames. The fire brigade stood by in order to prevent the fire from spreading to the non-Jewish houses in the neighbourhood. Synagogues which were not burnt that night were burnt afterwards.

The provision of Jews for forced labour was officially arranged by the Jewish Council, but unofficially the Ukrainian militia also kidnapped other Jews for work. Men up to the age of forty-five and women without children had to work, but exemption could be purchased for fifteen zloty.

In September or October 1941 the Jewish Community building was surrounded by the Gestapo for the first time. Nearly all the clerks were sent to camps in the small towns. Dr. Parness, chairman of the Community, was kidnapped and apparently murdered. Dr. Rothfeld, a Zionist, was appointed in his place. A week later notices were posted to the effect that a Ghetto would be set up in Lwow beyond the beidge, and that all the Jews would have to move to it within a certain time. The ghetto could be entered only by way of a certain bridge which was guarded by Gestapo men and Ukrainian police. When the Jews began to enter the Ghetto the police separated the old from the young and took away all their valuables. The old people were placed in one courtyard, at the entrance to which stood an old Jew with an iron rod in his hand and an old Jewess with another one and hit every Jew who entered. If they were slack about the beating or did not hit hard enough, they themselves were savagely trashed by the Police. I myself saw this because I was stopped by the Ukrainian police when I crossed the bridge. The removal to the Ghetto and the "action" against the old people continued for about a month. None of the old people did appear any more. After nearly all the Jews had moved, the period for establishing the Ghetto was extended by two months, and people were permitted to return to the town.

Until March, 1942, the Ghetto was relatively quiet, though men up to the age of fifty were transferred to labour camps in Galicia. These were: Lacki, Korowicka, Winniki and others, and particularly the notorious camp in Lwow itself. Thousands of men died every day during the winter in these camps. In March the Jewish Council received an order for the transfer of men to fifteen thousand Jews to small country towns. This was to be carried out with the aid of the Ukrainian police. Men were taken out of their houses day and night for a whole month. They were permitted to take 25 kilograms of food and clothes with them, and 200 Zlotys in money. They were gathered together at the Sobieski school, where a Committee sat on behalf of the German authorities and the Jewish Community. Papers were examined there. The "action" affected old people, and in particular unemployed who were a burden on the community. At the same time the contribution was collected for these men because most of them were poor and could not produce the sum of 200 Zloty.

Within a few days it was found that these men were placed in railway carriages without their luggage, although according to the order they were to be sent to the small country towns. This appeared suspicious to us, and sure enough we did not receive any news from these people afterwards. The "action" was extended to about twelve thousand people.

In April the registration of the Jewish population began again, but was restricted only to the workers who received a special armlet with a Shield of David and a number. Every working man was entitled to keep one person in his home. The numbers for men ran from 1 to 40,000. At that time there were from 80-90,000 Jews in the town, including those who had come from the small towns of the district. They all worked either in war industries, for the Community or else in cooperatives. Some Jews were well-off, but others died of starvation in the streets.

On June 25th between 12 noon and four p.m. they suddenly began to catch all the Jews in the streets, old men, young men, women and children. They were all shot at the camp in the Yanovska street. About two thousand people in all were murdered.

In August, the labour documents of the Jews were stamped, and those whose papers were not stamped were required to leave Lwow. Meanwhile the number of members of the Jewish Council had been increased to ten or twelve. The Community was still independent and employed about five thousand clerks and workers. Only the documents of the members of the Jewish Council were stamped.

The great "action" began in Lwow in August the 16th. Those working for the Community, who together with their families numbered 20,000 persons all told, were particularly afraid of this "action", and did their best to hide themselves. The action lasted for about three weeks, and about 50,000 Jews were expelled, including Jews whose papers had previously been stamped. Some forged the stamps and seals. Many hid themselves. I hid myself, for instance, in a cellar with 30 other people. The 50,000 Jews included several thousand strong young men who went to labour camps. Sometimes old men succeeded in this as well. The remainder was sent in cattle trucks to Belzec. Before the people were put in the trucks their shoes were taken off and their coats taken away. Some time later we learnt that at Belzec the Jews were either burnt in crematoria or else their bodies were used for making soap.

At that time there were workshops for basket making, shoe-making and tailoring in Lwow. My grandfather who was 70 years old went to work in order that they should stamp his papers. Despite the fact that those employed in municipal workshops were the first to have their papers stamped they were also expelled, my grandfather among them; and only a few hundred were left. My grandmother, my uncle, his wife, and almost all my family were expelled to Belze. My father and my 24 years old brother were sent to a camp in the Yanovska street; my sixteen year-old brother was sent to Zborow where he died two months later.

After the action notices were published that a Closed Ghetto would be established beyond the bridge and that all the Jews had to transfer to this Ghetto by September 7th. Following the action on the 27th or 28th of August, a provisional Kehillah was again established, and appointed a Council. The members were almost all officials of the previous Kehillah, who had succeeded in hiding themselves in a safe place. They were required to bring the Jews into the Ghetto, which was so small that as many as twenty people had to live in a single room.

On September 1st important Gestapo officials came to the Community, headed by the Commissioners Elgens and Wobke. They stated that an S.S. man had been shot and two hundred Jews were to be shot in retaliation. Twelve of the auxiliary police were taken from the Communal offices as well as the chairman, Dr. Landsberg. (The previous chairman, Dr. Rothfeld, died a natural death, which was the first case of natural death among chairmen of the Council.) All of these were hung from twelve balconies in the Loketnik Street. On their way to their deaths the Nazis shouted to them, "Great your father Abraham in Heaven". The Chairman of the Council was also hung from a balcony. I hid under a writing desk near the window together with another man, and heard the Chairman asking why they were hanging him. The high officials who carried out the execution with their own hands, answered him, "because you are a Jew".

This "action" took three hours. The bodies were left hanging for a whole day and a night. After this dreadful incident things calmed down for some time. The Germans photographed the hanging bodies and the situation remained quiet until November. A fence was built round the Ghetto and the Jewish Council was confirmed by the Authorities. At that time between four and five hundred officials worked here, and between 30-40,000 Jews lived in the Ghetto. The Jewish Auxiliary Police was in control in the Ghetto, and made all arrangements for forced labour. Apart from the Jewish police there were between ten and fifteen German policemen at a single station in the Ghetto, which might be left on production of labour certificates. Food could be bought. In November those who worked for the Wehrmacht received an armband with the letter W, while those who worked for war industry received an armband with the letter R. Meanwhile 1,000 people who worked for the S.S. were shot; but it was claimed that these were to be the last.

The first "action" in the new Ghetto was carried out on November 19th. Jews who did not wear the letter W or R were expelled, apart from those who succeeded in hiding themselves. It was at that time that they began to build "bunkers" in the Ghettos. For example, cellars were dug underground, covered with boards and the entrances were hidden. Double walls were also made and people hid inside them. Thus my wife and family and I myself spent two days in such a corridor between two walls. My father, who had meanwhile been released from the camp, refused to hide and was expelled together with my mother and my last remaining brother. One of the men who succeeded in jumping from a death truck and who returned to the town told me that my parents were taken to Belzec.

The "action" continued for two days and about 10,000 people were expelled. Some weeks later the area of the Ghetto was again reduced, and a further "action" took place on 5th January, 1943. This was the cruelest action of all, and the whole Community was liquidated. Many Jews were murdered on the spot, and many were shot at the Camp in the Yanovska street. The houses were set on fire and those who endeavoured to escape from the burning buildings were shot there and then. Any Jew found in the street without the letter W or R was murdered on the spot. In this way about 3,000 Jews fell. The victims were no longer taken to Belzec but were led out of the town where they were shot. They had to dig a common grave; then their clothes were taken from them. They were ordered to stand on the edge of the grave and were shot in the back by machine gun fire. Those who fell into the pit or dropped into it out of fear were buried alive together with the slain. At the time I went about unharmed with a forged W armband. People lay on the snow. Passers-by trod on bodies that the snow had covered. I went home to see what had happened to my uncle. He lay dead on the floor. The Nazis had murdered him.

We received an order to gather all the bodies together and bury them within a few days. In the laving-room the bodies of old, young and children lay like many dolls. From that day there was a state of permanent "action" in the Ghetto, which continued until the final liquidation. Those who did not work were put in prison within the Ghetto, and the Jewish auxiliary police were required to bring 500 people there every week. These were officially expelled, but were actually shot outside the town.

At that time I took my six-months old child to a Ukrainian University friend who promised to hide him. All those who could possibly do so endeavoured either to escape from the Ghetto or to provide themselves with Aryan papers. It was stated that it was possible to go to Hungary, to Dniepro-Petrovsk, to Kiev or even to Germany and work there. Such a journey cost 100,000 Zloty, but many were shot en route by the Gestapo and never reached their destination.

Early in February I was sent to the labour camp in the Yanovska Street. It consisted of 15 or 16 wooden huts in each of which lived from two to three hundred men. The workers had to get up at 5 a.m. and before leaving the camp to work received black coffee and a tiny piece of bread. For dinner they received only a thin soup, and black coffee once again for supper. We slept on boards in the huts. Watch was kept by Russian prisoners of War who had gone over to the Germans and were called the "Askaris"; by the Jewish auxiliary police and a few Germans. Every morning a Jewish band played music, to which the workers had to march to their work. During the march the S.S. men called people whom "they did not like" out of the ranks, and ordered them to go to a little square surrounded by barbed wire. All those ~~men~~ who went there were shot. This happened every morning, thirty people being shot on the "best day" and two hundred on the "worst day".

There was a special section for women at the camp. A department was established known as the D.A.W. (Deutsches Ausrüstungs Werkstätte - German Armaments Workshop), in which the women worked. At that time - the situation in the camp was not as bad as it had been, for example, in Summer or October 1942.

On March 18th, the Germans again entered the Ghetto. The excuse was that an S.S. man had been murdered. On March 17th there was a very dreadful "action" while the men were going to work. At five a.m. the Gestapo squads reached the Ghetto gate and took people out of the ranks. Many of them were shot on the spot, and many were "expelled" from the town, where they were murdered. On April 8th there was

another "action". Meanwhile between 50 and 100 people were being shot every day. On April 8th however, several thousand Jews were again expelled. They were placed naked in cattle trucks. We heard this from some ~~xxxx~~ who succeeded in escaping from the death-trucks. At the time I was hiding with my friend, but every three weeks I went to visit my wife, who was working, and my children. Early in May the area of the Ghetto was again reduced and on May 22nd there was a large scale "action" in the camp. About 3,000 men were shot in the camp or ~~w~~ expelled from it. At that time they also liquidated the 200 Jews who made up the camp auxiliary police. Only the Commandant remained alive.

At that time two men who received permission to live outside the Ghetto left it. They told us that the Lwow Ghetto had arms and that these arms had been found during searches. Those who had the arms were "arrested". At that time they did not reach the point of revolt. Most of those who had arms, as for instance of the Jewish auxiliary police, used their arms in order to kill themselves. These auxiliary police were hated by the Jews. One Jew denounced the second and they were all afraid to speak to one another. At the last the Germans arranged kindergartens in the Ghettos, bands played, and people were compelled to walk about and listen to the music. On the last Sunday during which the Ghetto existed, there was even a play performed by Jews themselves, in accordance with German orders.

The following day all the Jews were ordered to go to the camp. Those who did not go were expelled. On the Tuesday night the Ghetto was surrounded and an "action" was again conducted. They did not believe that this was the final liquidation. ~~J~~ Jews found in the street were shot or brought to the camp. Practically all the Jewish auxiliary police were shot, and the rest were brought to the camp. The bodies were thrown into houses where many people were hiding, and which were afterwards set on fire. Ukrainian police were stationed all along the streets in order to catch Jews who might try to escape through the sewers. There were then a few cases in which two or three members of the Ukrainian police were shot by Jews.

I was in Lwow until July 9th, 1943, and was in hiding all the time. Finally I succeeded in escaping with my wife. Leaving our child in Lwow ~~er~~ ~~travelling~~ ~~as~~ ~~far~~ ~~as~~ ~~Cracow~~ ~~from~~ ~~which~~ we continued by foot. It is said that in Poland there are still 30,000 Jews left in the camp, and a few thousand who are in hiding. Some of those in hiding are found every day. In the month of August there was still a Ghetto at Przemysl. In Bochnia there is still an official Ghetto. At first foreign Jews were not touched in Lwow, but afterwards they were treated like the others. There is also a Ghetto in Tarnow. In Cracow there is a camp containing from 8-10,000 Jews, and there are another 2-3,000 in Radom. According to my estimate there are still officially 30-40,000 Jews alive in Poland, and possibly even less. Apart from this about 30,000 are living with Aryan papers. Five or six people leave Cracow for Hungary every day, but only a small part of them reach their destination.

In October, 1942, a fresh transport reached the camp from Belgium and Holland. These were finally sent to Belzec. As they crossed Galicia on trains they talked to the local Jews and told them that they were going to Belzec in order to improve the local industry, which had been destroyed by the Russians. That was what the Germans had told them. The Germans pursued the policy of inciting one Jew against another. There were many Jews who denounced others.

If a Jew was caught with Aryan papers, for example, he was promised that he would be liberated if he gave away others using the same device. If the Jew did give names, he did not help himself but was afterwards shot just the same.

A few girls were in a position to save themselves by going to Germany for work. In general, there was no difference between the fate of men or women.

The German army behaved better. The soldiers did not believe that such dreadful things could be happening in the Ghettoes. I myself purchased arms from a Viennese soldier. He showed me photographs of horrible acts of terrorism, and told me that the day would come when this material would be used against Hitler. In addition a few of the Gestapo men behaved in a more humane fashion to those whom they knew. One Gestapo man, for instance, was me during the "action" on September 1st, 1942, at the Communal building. If the Gestapo men did not receive specific orders, they behaved in a more humane fashion. They all know that Germany has lost the War, and are all afraid of the results of the collapse.

There was a German policeman who was an expert at shooting in the back. His name was Rokatar. If he asked a Jew whether he was sick or tired he usually received a negative reply, because they all knew that a positive reply meant death. Despite the negative reply, however, the policeman would shoot the Jew in the back.

There is no historical parallel to the barbarity with which the Nazis have exterminated Polish Jewry. The Jews who are left in the camps have become robots. Those imprisoned in the camps know that they will not leave them alive, and they therefore pray for a sudden and easy death.