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Some day this home will be historic. For from its kitchen, a ladder leads down a kind of well, and gives entry to the catacombs of Odessa. Out in the quarry there are other small and half-hidden entrances to the catacombs, through which a man or woman could pass if crouching low. But the entrance through the workman's kitchen was a secret one, and remained a secret until two days before the Germans evacuated Odessa. One could use this entrance if he knew the password: "I am a friend of Harry." The Axis garrison of Odessa knew about the catacombs, knew, too, about the entrances in the quarry. They stationed guards there in the daytime, but so many guards were killed at night they gave up trying to maintain night sentries.

During the Axis occupation, the catacombs of Odessa were themselves a besieged city beneath an occupied city. For the two and a half years the men and women of the catacombs held out. And then, in the days when Odessa's liberation loomed up as a possibility, the small band of refugees was organized into a Partisan guerilla army to write one of the most romantic chapters of the war.

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It was our work that prevented the Germans from blowing up the city. "We collected money and started a store of food in the catacombs," he said. "We got a small mill for flour, and a sausage maker. We set up a printing press and renovated the artesian wells inside the caves. We installed a radio, and even had connections with the Russian front. The print shop turned out pamphlets instructing the citizens about their dangers. When the Red Army started approaching Nikolaev, we went underground. By night we came out, and killed German patrols and the police. It was our work that prevented the Germans from blowing up the city. We cut the wires to the mines under the opera house, and to each of the piers, from number one to number thirty. For two weeks before the Germans left, we became the rulers of the city by night. Had it not been for us, the Germans would have blown up the water and sewer systems. We saved the telephone exchange by planting smoke bombs inside it so the Germans thought it already was burning, and did not put it to the torch."

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Here is a film scenario with a happy ending. Another film scenario with different ending has come to light, the story of the revolt of the Warsaw ghetto, whose first anniversary falls today. This is a story of even greater heroism since it could end only in tragedy and defeat. The population of the ghetto a year ago had already been reduced by massacre to 40,000. Arms for about three thousand of them had been smuggled in by the Polish underground. About 3,000 of the Jews had had military training. The Poles had obtained the arms by buying them from the Germans, just as
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On April 19th the Jews were summoned to meet in the main square. They knew it meant either another massacre or that they were going into forced labor in German industries. They decided not to meet. That brought out the German police in force, and the Jews started to resist. It had not been so planned. The decision to fight back was spontaneous. The Jews lay with rifles, machine-guns and grenades on rooftops, in windows and on balconies. For one day, two days, three days, they fought back every German attack. They killed and wounded 200 Germans. Finally the Germans had to call out their crack Elite Guard. They shelled the ghetto. They came up with armored cars, tanks and flame throwers. Some of these were knocked out with "flying cocktails". The battle raged for nine days before the Germans could even break into the ghetto, and it took them till June to clean it out. The greater number of the Jews were killed, some were taken into servitude, some fewer escaped.

It is estimated that five to six hundred thousand Jews are still living in Poland, of the three and a half million who lived there before the war. Thousands of them are living in the woods or are being hidden by Polish friends or are fighting with the Partisans. The Germans now running Hungary have given orders to establish a ghetto there. Some Jews of the eight or nine hundred thousand in Roumania now have a last chance to escape. The most energetic efforts are being made to aid these Jews to reach safety, and the American War Refugee Board has done substantial service in this respect.

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RAYMOND GRAM SWING

Wednesday
April 19, 1944

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From the start of the Axis occupation, the catacombs came into use by small bands of guerrillas. But in January of this year, when the German retreat began, a real organization was put through. It was under the command of a chemical engineer, Major Anatole Loschenko, an angular, sandy-haired Ukrainian. His own story was told to correspondents who were taken into the subterranean city. "We collected money and started a store of food in the catacombs," he said. "We got a small mill for flour, and a sausage maker. We set up a printing press and renovated the artesian wells inside the caves. We installed a radio, and even had connections with the Russian front. The print shop turned out pamphlets instructing the citizens about their dangers. When the Red Army started approaching Nikolaev, we went underground. By night we came out, and killed German patrols and the police. It was our work that prevented the Germans from blowing up the city. We cut the wires to the mines under the opera house, and to each of the piers, from number one to number thirty. For two weeks before the Germans left, we became the rulers of the city by night. Had it not been for us, the Germans would have blown up the water and sewer systems. We saved the telephone exchange by planting smoke bombs inside it so the Germans thought it already was burning, and did not put it to the torch."

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And now a friendly message to wartime America.
Dear Mr. Swing:

Thank you very much for this morning's generous gift of your time.

Sincerely,

I. M. Weinstein
Special Assistant to the Executive Director.

Mr. Raymond Gram Swing
1613 - 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.
MAR. 30 1944

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IMWeinstein:als 3/30/44
The war has produced a novelty, a commander who has finished his assignment, and so has worked himself out of a job. This commander is Admiral Halsey. A dispatch from his headquarters today says that since he took command of the South Pacific force during the lowest period of the Guadalcanal campaign in the autumn of 1942, his command has done more to cripple and defeat Japan than all other Pacific commands combined. It is stated to have sunk more warships, destroyed more planes, killed or neutralized more troops and gained possession of bases which are vital to the success of the remainder of the Pacific war. It is from these bases that Truk now is being subjected to relentless air attack, and possibly can be neutralized so far as effective service to the Japanese is concerned.

With the virtual conquest of the Solomons, Admiral Halsey's work is finished, though he still might be given the job of mopping up isolated Japanese forces in the northern Solomons and the Bismarck peninsula.

The dispatch, however, suggests two other possibilities. One is the reallocation of geographical areas among Admiral Nimitz, General MacArthur and Admiral Halsey, or the breaking up of the entire command, and allocating most South Pacific forces to MacArthur and Nimitz. This would leave Admiral Halsey free for some new assignment, to which his record obviously entitles him. The nature of some new assignment appears to be under consideration. Admiral Halsey, in permitting such a dispatch to leave his headquarters, is not publicising a contest in which he wants power now being given someone else. This really is a case in which a highly successful officer has finished his job. Naturally he hopes to get a new one of the same importance. His task came to an end—save for the mopping up—when marines occupied Emirau Island on March 10th. That effectively completed the blockade and isolation of perhaps 100,000 Japanese, and brought the Allies within bombing reach of Truk. According
to this dispatch, the Pacific war is ahead of its long-range schedule and expectations. The Japanese apparently have withdrawn or are preparing to withdraw inside a defense line based on the Marianas, Palau and Halmahera, with a salient jutting out to Truk. Halmahera is southeast of the Philippines, at about the same distance as Palau.

With the attack on Palau and the persistent bombing of Truk, a new phase of the Pacific war has begun. The Japanese are strong on Palau, and reducing it promises to be a still tougher problem than Truk. The attack on Truk was breath-taking for its audacity. But Truk had been advertised as the chief enemy base in the southwest Pacific. It turned out to be less important in the Japanese defense scheme than the public had expected. It was not a Japanese Singapore. But Palau promises to be much of what the public had expected from Truk. So the great naval and air attack on Palau last week must count as one of the great prophetic lunges of the Pacific war.

Final news of what happened in that three day attack has not come through. Without waiting for a navy communique, Secretary Knox today gave out the preliminary news that every enemy ship anchored there, also at Yap and Woleai was sunk. He said the cost to us was an initial loss of 27 planes, 11 bombers, 8 torpedo bombers and 8 fighters. Tokyo has given its own version of the attack, claiming to have sunk two cruisers, heavily damaged or set afire two battleships, an aircraft carrier and other vessels, and downing 80 American planes. But for Tokyo this was a relatively mild splurge in statistics, and the communique admitted some Japanese damage. Secretary Knox, giving the figure of 27 lost planes, said: "That's all that happened to us." Full details of the damage to the Japanese, and the number of ships sunk at their three bases will not be available until the full task force breaks radio silence.

Palau is 460 miles from the Philippines, and 1,000 miles beyond Truk. Those two facts tell their own story of how the Pacific war is
progressing. That is not to say that the new phase now being entered will not prove the most costly of the Pacific war so far. But it will be breaking into Japan's inner defenses, where big rewards are within grasp.

The bombing of the Japanese air base at Hollandia, in northern New Guinea has contributed to both the Palau and Truk attacks, by preventing the Japanese from using their planes based there for defense. One of the heaviest raids ever made in the southwest Pacific hit Hollandia Sunday with more than 400 tons of bombs. In a week's time more than 280 of Hollandia's planes have been destroyed or irreparably damaged. This is one of the most severe blows to Japanese air power delivered in this theater.

The Japanese radio reporting to the home front about the Palau attack describes the great American naval force as consisting of more than a dozen aircraft carriers and battleships with numerous cruisers and destroyers. It is explained that naval operations are much swifter than land operations. "In addition" the broadcast says verbally, "the enemy is carrying out a task operation which has an air force as its nucleus. So the speed of the operation is more drastically rapid than we had been accustomed to think. And we must expect that an operation at such a high speed will expand."

In Algiers today, General Giraud, once the American nominee for leadership of French resistance, was pushed still further into the background. General De Gaulle became supreme commander of the French armed forces. Only a few months ago, General Giraud ceased to be joint president of the French committee, under De Gaullist pressure, the reason then given being that it was not suitable to have military and political leadership vested in the same person. Today, disregarding this logic, the French Committee voted a law making General De Gaulle chief of the armies, and giving him the final word on the composition, organization
and employment of the armed forces. It empowered him to appoint a new
general staff of national defense to coordinate existing general staffs,
a function heretofore performed by General Giraud. What is left for
Giraud is not specified, but whatever it is, it will be a big step-down
from his present position, which was a step-down from his joint presidency
of the national committee, and which in turn was a step-down from the sole
French leadership which Robert Murphy on behalf of the American government
once held out to him. Those were in the days when General Giraud expected
to be commander in chief of the Allied expeditionary force in Africa, as
well as of an invasion of France proper. Great changes have been effected
since then. De Gaulle has swept all opposition aside, including that on
the highest British and American level. And the French Committee itself
has changed. Today it completed one of its biggest alterations in taking
in two communist members along with a radical socialist, which rounds
out its transformation into an organ of real national union. No Allied
interference is to be expected in the matter of De Gaulle's assumption
of supreme military command.

The troubles of the Polish government in exile have been laid once
more before the British and American governments. It is in the form of
a request that they give their aid to prevent incidents between the
Polish underground and the Russian armies now inside former Polish terri-
tory. The Polish government emphasized that instructions have been
issued to the underground to cooperate with the Russian armies, and
that these have been carried out. In one or two localities, it is stated,
fraction has developed, and this makes concerted action against the
Germans impossible. In 14 districts members of the underground have
revealed themselves to the Russians. "Messages from Poland" says the
official statement, "confirm that Soviet commanders receive assistance
everywhere, and praise the fighting spirit and leadership of the Polish
underground."
Not enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Bialystok, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 30,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp. At Treblinka, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered, a revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed and ammunition was seized. Here 200 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on in Sabiber, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Paniatov and Travnik.

The resistance of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.

The Allied Mediterranean air force today left its destructive calling cards on Bukarest, after having visited Budapest, and made frequent calls on Sofia. All these recent visits are concerted efforts to give aid to the Russian armies advancing in Bessarabia and Roumania. Several hundred heavy bombers were over Bukarest, and attacked in particular the extended freight yards on which supply of the hard-pressed Nazi troops depends. Last night big bombers of the same force were over Budapest for a second time, concentrating on the Mannfred Weiss steel works. Losses in the Monday raid on Budapest were announced as 15 bombers and 9 fighters, as against 26 Nazi planes shot down. Sunday's raid on Steyr cost the Nazis a hundred and fifteen planes, of which bombers accounted for 82 and fighters 33. This is the largest number of enemy
planes destroyed in a single day by the Mediterranean-based air force.

The Russians today announced that they held most of the city of Tarnopol, and had killed more than three thousand Nazi troops there in the last three days. They also announced the capture of Hotin, on the Dniester, 30 miles northeast of Cernauti, and the annihilation of its garrison. The battle of extermination against the survivors of 15 German divisions encircled in the Skala area on the old Polish frontier also continued. Farther north in Poland, more than thirty localities were captured west of Dubno, which brought the Russians within 20 miles of the Bug river of Poland, which is the frontier of Polish area incorporated in the German Reich. The Red Army also has advanced to within 37 miles of Odessa.

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FROM BROADCAST BY R. VIVIO GRAM SEING -- BLUE NETWORK -- TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1944.

April 6, 1944

Not enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Byalistok, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 30,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp. At Treblinka, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered, a revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed and ammunition was seized. Here 200 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on in Jabiber, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Faniato and Trauniki. The resistance of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.
April 6, 1944

Mr. J. W. Fehle
L. E. Weinstein

FROM FRONT CABLE BY RUTHLESS GERMANY -- BLUE NETWORK -- TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1944.

Not enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Ryjulistok, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 30,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp. At Treblinka, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered, a revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed and ammunition was seized. Here 200 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on in Sabiber, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Sanatorij and Travnik. The resistance of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.
April 6, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle

I. M. Weinstein

FROM NO. 247 BY RADIO FROM SHANGHAI - BLUE WAVE - TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1944.

Not enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Bialystok, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 30,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp. At Treblinka, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered, a revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed and ammunition was seized. Here 210 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on in Sobibor, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Paniatow and Trawniki. The resistance of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.
Mr. J. S. Pehle
I. M. Stein

FARM PRODUCER — AT THE FARMERS' MARKET — BLUE EYES — TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1944.

Not enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Ryaliatok, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 30,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp, at Treblinka, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered, a revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed and ammunition was seized. Some 230 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on at Lublin, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Funiestov and Travnik. The resistance of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.
April 6, 1944

Mr. I. B. Perlch

1. E. Einstein

[Signature]

April 6, 1944

Not enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Kielce, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 30,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp at Treblinka, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered, a revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed and ammunition was seized. Here 200 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on in Cabin, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Panstow and Trevnik. The resistance of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.
Mr. J. J. Pehle
I. W. Steinberg

April 6, 1944

Yet enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Rywal, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 30,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp, in Treblinka, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered. A revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed, and ammunition was seized. More 2,000 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on in Habibow, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Paniatow and Treblinka. The resilience of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.
Mr. J. S. Feinie

I. S. Einstein


Not enough has been heard about another underground in Poland, that of the Jews. Reports just received from Poland show that since the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, the Jews have been responsible for a series of insurrections. A few months ago at Bydgoszcz, the Jews kept up an armed rebellion that lasted a month, and was conducted with great heroism. The Nazis fought back as they had in Warsaw, and finally liquidated the ghetto with its 70,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not casualties or did not escape, to a labor camp. At Trekhlin, where the Nazis maintained a gas chamber where many thousands of Jews have been murdered, a revolt broke out. The Nazi guard was slain, all buildings were set afire, electric communication lines were destroyed and ammunition was seized. Here 230 Jews escaped to the woods, as they have in other regions, and joined the Polish underground. An armed revolt broke out later on in Sobibor, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Paniatow and Trawnik. The resistance of the Jews naturally has not been on a large scale, but it has been well-organized, and it has added substantially to the difficulties of the Nazis.
FROM:  MR. SCHWARZ'S OFFICE

TO:  MR. FERILE

Payment from Stalin said last night that there were 800,000 Jews in Hungary -- that Hungary was a haven for them. If the Nazis occupy Rumania, the greatest part of the Jews face annihilation. He hoped Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill will issue a warning in most emphatic language.

V. H. M.