

RADIO: RAYMOND GRAM SWING

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RAYMOND GRAM SWING
Wednesday
April 19, 1944

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Blue Network

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Today nearly 2,000 American bombers and fighters attacked a fighter plant at Kassel, and 5 aircraft parks in the Ruhr. The weather was clear and the bombing was accurate. But German resistance was light. These operations cost 5 bombers and 2 fighters. 500 or more planes made the now routine attack on the French invasion coast. The record for 30 hours is that perhaps 9,500 tons of bombs were dropped on the Axis fortress by 6,500 planes. And this leaves out of account a Russian air attack on Lvov in Poland where a concentration of troop and freight trains was smashed and set afire.

From the Burma front comes the news that the defenders of Kohima have been relieved, by an advance guard which is being followed by tanks and artillery reinforcements. The English garrison had been surrounded for a week in the ruins of the village and had beaten back almost continual attacks. As the heaviest force of the Japanese campaign had been shifted to this sector, and as Imphal itself is now considered out of danger, the crisis of the invasion of India appears to be over.

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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.

The catacombs of Odessa have a history that goes back 150 years, when Catherine the Great ordered the city to be built on the site of an old Russian trading post. Limestone was quarried out of the ground below the site, to erect the regal city. The quarrying left sizeable chambers below the city and also innumerable passages. Later, smugglers extended the passage to join the center of the city with the waterfront. In the 1917 revolution, the catacombs were used by the Bolsheviki. Later the Soviet government mined the passages to prevent their being infested by thieves and smugglers. In 1941 the catacombs became air raid shelters. Then, when the Germans and Roumanians closed in on Odessa in that year, the Russians hid weapons in the underground caves to be there for the eventual day of the uprising.

From the start of the Axis occupation, the catacombs came into use by small bands of guerillas. But in January of this year, when the German

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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."

One night these partisans touched off a bitter all-night battle between two German military police battalions, each believing the other to be a partisan force. During the day partisan women circulated through the city, and bought food, and still more important, arms. They could buy weapons from the Germans themselves in the open market, for the Germans were even greater speculators than the Roumanians. They sold their rifles for from twelve to forty dollars, pistols for sixty to eighty dollars, and tommy-guns with cartridges for a hundred dollars. A loaf of bread would pay for a grenade. The market place for weapons was quite out in the open, near the cathedral.

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One of the prisoners had been a pretty woman who had sought admission to the catacombs as a Russian parachutist. She was admitted and then plied with liquor, and under its influence confessed that she had been sent by the Roumanian secret police. The Roumanians had imprisoned her and her mother, and promised them liberty if she would spy on the partisans.

Two days before the Axis gave up Odessa the Germans learned of the secret entrance in the workman's kitchen. They sent 200 soldiers to attack the district with rifle and machine-gun fire. The Partisans came up out of the ground and gave battle. The Germans set fire to houses near the opening, but they never attempted to enter. For 10 days before the Red Army reached the city on April 10th, confusion reigned as innumerable German stragglers fled through. One band of 50 Slovaks with machine-guns, mortars and ammunition joined the partisans, along with some Frenchmen from Lorraine. The chapter reached its climax in the final two days when the Partisans fought openly in the streets and killed at least 500 Germans and themselves suffered only 30 casualties.

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.

The question of safe asylum now confronts the Allies. Under present British regulations, fewer than 30,000 can be admitted into Palestine. A proposal is under discussion for the United States to make a generous gesture which will stimulate similar generosity by other countries. It is to bring some of these refugees into the United States, not as immigrants, but as fugitives from Hitlerism. Here they could be accommodated in camps,

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MAR 30 1944

Dear Mr. Swing:

Thank you very much for this morning's generous
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Sincerely,

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

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

IMWeinstein:als 3/30/44

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RAYMOND GRAM SWING
Tuesday
April 4, 1944

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WMAL
Blue Network

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

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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 territory. 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, friction 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 Panielov and Travniki. 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.

And now a friendly message to wartime America.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Handwritten signature
DATE April 6, 1944

TO Mr. J. W. Pehle

FROM I. M. Weinstein

FROM BROADCAST BY RAYMOND GRAM SWING -- BLUE NETWORK - TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1944.

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700265

April 6, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle

I. E. Weinstein

FROM BROADCAST BY RAYMOND GRAM SWING -- 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 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 Faniatov and Travniki. 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.

000266

April 6, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle

I. E. Weinstein

FROM BUREAU COPY BY RAYMOND GRAY BEING -- 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 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 Faniatov and Travniki. 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.

100267

April 6, 1944

Mr. J. W. Pehle

I. H. Weinstein

FR'S MESSAGE BY RAYMOND GRAY BEING -- BLUE NETWORK - THURSDAY, 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 270 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 Peniatow and Travniki. 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.

700258

April 6, 1944

Mr. J. S. Pehle

I. M. Weinstein

TEXT BROADCAST BY RAYMOND BRUCE SMITH -- BLUE NETWORK - THURSDAY, 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 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. More 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 Lublin, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Pustowka 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.

100219

April 6, 1944

Mr. J. S. Pehin

I. K. Weinstein

FROM BUREAU OF BY AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT -- NEW YORK -- THURSDAY, 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 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. More 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 Lublin, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Panslaw and Trebniki. 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.

000071

April 6, 1944

Mr. J. W. Mohr

I. M. Weinstein

RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI - WASHINGTON - APRIL 8, 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 20,000 inhabitants, and transferred those who were not executed 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. More 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 Lublin, and hundreds of Jews escaped to the woods. Armed rebellions also were staged in Zamosc and Tarnobrzeg. 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.

1000272

FROM: MR. SCHWARZ'S OFFICE

TO: MR. PEHLE

288

gA
free
press

Raymond Gram Swing, 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.

000273