

SUMMARY

1. The story of a Hungarian Jew — M. Berner.

Dr. M. Berner is a physician who was an eyewitness to the deportation of his community — the Jews of Washeli, Transylvania — to Auschwitz, in the spring of 1944, when Nazi forces occupied Hungary.

Dr. Berner and his family were among the deportees in May 1944. He alone survived the extermination. His family perished there.

In 1947, Dr. Berner published in Hungarian, his book "We, the Chosen People". He was also a witness at the Auschwitz trials.

2. Treblinka, the extermination camp and the Rebellion — Shmuel Wilenberg.

Shmuel Wilenberg was born in Czystachowa, Poland (1923). In 1942 he was among the deportees to Treblinka, where he soon became active in the underground that initiated the rebellion. Although wounded in action, he managed to escape into the woods and thus to reach Warsaw. He later took part in the general Polish rebellion and fought with the partisans in the Kampinowska forest regions.

After the liberation of Poland he served as a captain in the army until 1947. In 1958 he settled in Israel.

The excerpts in this issue are from his memoirs ("Shadow with a Yellow Badge") written in 1945 in Lodz, and now in the archives of "Moreshet".

These pages bear testimony to the courage and valiant struggle of Jews in the shadow of death. The author tells in detail of group and individual resistance at Treblinka, and of the underground activity that engineered the rebellion and mass escape from the camp. It is a dramatic story of courage and daring, from the first shot fired through the actual burning of the barracks and the fight with the guards, to the final escape from the camp of death.

3. Revolt in Treblinka (excerpts from a testimony) — Tanhum Greenberg.

Tanhum Greenberg, now in Israel, was born in Poland (1913). He was an active participant in the rebellion within the Treblinka extermination camp and later fought together with the partisans.

The excerpts here are taken from his detailed testimony presented in Warsaw (December 1945) and now in the archives of Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. He describes the preparation for the rebellion as well as the course of action, thus supplementing the Wilenberg testimony that follows.

4. Partisans in Bielorussia Forests — David Plotnik.

**David Plotnik — The way of the Partisans
(from the Urals to White Russia)**

The witness participated in the partisan struggle against the Germans as a professional.

The majority of Jewish partisans left the Ghetto for the forest originally came from the Jewish settlements which existed prior to the Ghetto was set up, or before it was burnt.

There were Jews within the Soviet Union who volunteered for this partisan struggle. These persons were trained in a special course and crossed the front lines on hidden paths which led behind the enemy lines, to a fight guided by the vengeance in their hearts.

The witness, David Plotnik, was one of those who set out from the Ural region for one of the partisan training schools in the Novoshino station (Gorki Region).

It should be pointed out that the highest percentage of Jews were in this training school (10%).

Plotnik passed through the front lines with a group of partisans along winding dangerous paths and arrive in the Western Byelorussia area — the combat area to which they were assigned.

On arrival in the forest area adjacent to regions inhabited by Jews in White Russia, he meets a group of Jews, worn out and distressed, and is horrified to hear their reports, about the German abuse of the Jews; that those same "Soviet Citizens" being destroyed by the Germans who were being spoken of and heard about on the other side of the lines, were mainly Jews.

Continuing his testimony — a practical description of how the Jewish partisans together with the Russian partisans carried out acts of sabotage against German trains and other German army installations.

5. Emil Knieza — The Final Stages of the Revolt.

The author, a Slovak-Jewish writer, relates his experiences with a partisan detachment in the last stages of the Slovak national uprising and during the retreat into the western Slovakia forests and hill country for the continuation of the partisan struggle against the Germans and their Slovak fascist stooges. The confused fighting for the Blatnica valley goes on until the very end of the uprising. The fighters, a high proportion of them Jews, under Soviet partisan command, go through the harrowing experiences of death and loss culminating in a cruel end. After that, retreat from the war into a new area is accompanied by signs of demoralization and the units grow smaller as more and more people defect and return to their native villages and towns. The Jews among them have no such alternative, and they are amongst those who carry on. Signs of antisemitism show themselves, and the author relates two such incidents.

The two chapters we publish here are part of a larger book published in the Slovak language.

A short statistical and factual summing up of the part played by the Jews in the Uprising. The first partisan group in Slovakia was composed of 25 members, of whom 18 were Jews. Other groups and individuals are mentioned, especially the Nováky unit who participated in the Uprising. The author estimates that there were 2,500 Jews among the 60,000 participants in the Uprising, out of the 20,000 Jews still alive in Slovakia at the time.

6. The State Prosecution accuses

Summing up the role of the Jews in the Slovak revolt, enclosed is a translation of this document "the Parshov State prosecution brings forward a charge of guilt" dated 22.6.1943.

In this document the names of members of the Slovak partisan group are presented together with their personal qualifications and details of the guilt brought against each of them as brought to trial by the Slovak State prosecutor.

In 1942, during the spring months an opposition group was organized, actually one of the first groups of partisans ever to be formed though it was not yet the custom in Slovakia and as such does not appear in this charge of guilt.

This group numbered 25 people which included 18 Jews.

The document quoted is to be found in the archives of the Parshov Law Courts and a copy in the Moreshet Archives.

Studies.

7. The Jewish Parasite (a study in Semantics of the Jewish Problem) —
A Bein.

The Jewish Parasite : Notes on the Semantic of the Jewish Problem.

A. Bein,

The part played by language in shaping the image of the Jew held by his persecutors, in the character of the persecution of Jews in general, as well as the effect of language on the techniques of extermination and its methodical cruelty during the recent holocaust have not yet been sufficiently investigated.

Language not only mirrors our concepts and thought. Without it no thinking is possible ; language directs our concepts and molds our images. A semantic approach to research into the Jewish problem may therefore assist us in recognizing the factors which were and continue to be at work in determining the attitude of non-Jews towards Jews.

European languages, especially German, underwent important changes at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the current century, incorporating terms from the realms of biology, technology, and myths.

Most important for our purpose are the first and third influences which interpret society and culture as purely biological phenomena not subject to any other laws. Myth sanctifies these notions, elevating them to the level of incontrovertible laws.

The word "parasite" (and similar terms) was first used in a comparative sense, but as biological and mythical locutions gained greater currency, it increasingly assumed naturalistic and mythical connotations. Thus, it merged with earlier notions of the Jew as Satan as a blood-sucker, vampire, and devil. For many people, the Jew thus lost his character as a human being and was reduced to the status of a sub-human creature, to a phenomenon of corruption. As early as 1887, Paul de Lagarde compared the Jews to bacilli not to be reasoned with but to be destroyed. This metaphorical expression was transformed in the biological and technological atmosphere of our times into a naturalistic-realistic concept giving rise to the conclusion that "Jewish parasites" should be destroyed by the same technical means used in exterminating vermin, i.e., poison gas.

BOOKS

The Jews of Rumania during the Holocaust. Eliahu Feldman.
Eliahu Feldman's article is a critical study of T. Lavee's book
"Rumanian Jewry in its Struggle for Survival"

YALKUT MORESHET

PERIODICAL

April 1966

EDITED BY M. AMITAY, Y. BAUER, SH. CHOLOVSKY,
I. GUTMAN, R. KORCHAK, A. KOVNER

YALKUT
MORESHET
P E R I O D I C A L

Vol. 3, No. 5, April 1966