

SUMMARY

Twice in Auschwitz, by Betsalel Mordowicz.

The author of these memoirs is Betsalel Mordowicz, a man who was twice taken into the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, and succeeded in surviving.

In Slovakia, Mordowicz remained for a short time in the underground, among a group of five Jews, all concentration camp escapes. There, they met the Papal Legate, told him the true story about Auschwitz and demanded action by the Free World

By chance, Mordowicz was arrested again, and handed over to the Gestapo by the Slovakian Police. As a Jew, he was sent to Auschwitz, and so, for the second time, he came to the same death camp.

Thanks to the solidarity and help of other veteran prisoners who knew him, Mordowicz succeeded in hiding his identity. He remained in a small camp near Auschwitz until the end of the war.

Two Hard Weeks, by Pinhas Zajonc.

Pinhas Zajonc tells of his life in hiding in a forest, in a short, autobiographical chapter. Zajonc was a young child in Eastern Poland, when his family decided to keep away from gentiles during the war. But, in the forest, too, there were enemies, and the German soldiers found their hiding place in a cave.

Zajonc saw his family killed, and only he and one of his relatives survived.

Three essays are dedicated to the 25-th anniversary of the Bialistok Ghetto Uprising

1. In a summary, Haika Grosman, one of the leaders of the Bialistok underground, relates the development of Jewish fighting organizations in Bialistok. She tells about the difficulties and obstacles in the way of establishing connections with the partisans in the forest.

She also describes the relations between the Jewish fighters and the Polish underground in Bialistok.

2. Dr. Shimon Datner, a historian and former partisan, describes the flight of the first group of Jewish fighters from the Bialistok Ghetto into the forest. Dr. Datner himself was the leader of the group and active in the Bialistok communist underground. Their escape from the Ghetto was accompanied by many troubles and dangerous adventures. The author tells the whole story with talent and detachment.

These memoirs of Dr. Datner were presented to the Moreshet Archives several years ago, and we publish them in our issue for the first time.

3. As a young girl, Bronka Kilwanski was active in the Bialistok Ghetto underground, and was also a close friend of Mordchai Tenenbaum — Tamarof, the commander of the Bialistok Getto Uprising.

The testimony of Bronka Kilwanski brings to life the personality of the commander in his public well as his private life. We publish this article as one in a series of essays dedicated to the major Jewish fighters during the war.

The author also tells about her underground activity as a liaison officer between the partisans and the gentile population of Bialistok.

The Jewish Brigade, by Haim Laskow.

General Haim Laskow, a former Chief of Staff of Zahal, draws an outline of the foundation and aims of the Jewish Brigade, which served as a Jewish unit with the British Army during the Second World War.

The part of the Jews in the general underground in France,

by Lucien Steinberg

Lucien Steinberg, a historian and member of the staff of the Jewish Documentation Center in Paris, attempts to portray the part the Jews played in the French anti-Nazi underground movement.

Steinberg argues that besides Jewish regular soldiers in the French Army, there were also many Jewish volunteers who were immigrants or strangers in France.

The Jews began their anti-Nazi activities even as prisoners in the P.O.W. camps (Stalags). We find many in all the branches of the underground and fighters movement. Most of the Jewish fighters joined the general French units and only a minority among them founded separate Jewish groups. The author describes the activities of these groups and the role played by individual Jews.

A special chapter in the history of Jewish resistance was written by the Algerian Jews who participated widely in the taking over of Algeria from the Vichy forces.

The Nazis' Preparations for annihilation of Communists, Jews and parts of the civilian population close to the attack on the Soviet Union ("Operation Barbarossa") by Dr. Marc Dworzecki.

Dr. Marc Dworzecki, a well-known author and lecturer at Bar-Ilan University, gives an account of the methods the Nazis used to break down and murder communists, Jews and parts of the population (by special units), right from the onset of their invasion of the U.S.S.R.

The German armies operating on the Soviet front were accompanied by special killer units of the S.S. and Police, which were officially subordinated to the field commander, but as a matter of fact, were free in their activities.

The author tells about the machinery of government and destruction for the occupied Soviet territories, prepared before the invasion by the German bureaucracy and Party leaders.

The development of the Political Police in Bavaria in 1933 (II),

by Dr. Shlomo Aharonson.

This is the second and final part of a larger work describing how the Nazis gained power over the Bavarian Police, and the methods used by the S.S. in the process of gaining control over the institutions and internal life of the country.

Dr. Aharonson, lecturer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, based his scholarly work on wide studies. This chapter describes the foundation and management of the Dachau Concentration Camp, and the individual career and actions of Heinrich Miller, the well-known Gestapo chief and war criminal who disappeared after the war and whose fate is unknown to this day.

The Nazi preparations for "Kristall Nacht", by Dr. Ball-Caduri.

Dr. Ball-Caduri continues his research, which deals with the Nazi plans and preparations for "Kristall Nacht", the famous night of anti-Jewish riots in Germany (November, 1938).

The author intends to prove that the preparations for "Kristall Nacht" began a long time before the assassination of Ernst von Rath by Hershel Grinszpan, which was carried out on the 7th of November, 1938. Therefore, the connection between the "spontaneous" riots and the plot was only a very skillful Nazi fabrication.

Book Reviews

In the section assigned to book reviews, Shalom Cholawski presents the newest books about the Jews in the Minsk Ghetto and their combat against the Nazis. Israel Gutman comments on the book by Prof. Jacob Katz, on "**Freemasons and Jews**" — "Real and imaginary connection" (Hebrew).

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