

## SUMMARY

### **INSIDE THE GHETTO — From an autobiographical work by Clara Asscher-Pinkhof**

This issue opens with an excerpt from an autobiographical work by Mrs. C. Asscher-Pinkhof, about to be published. Mrs. Asscher-Pinkhof, the daughter of a practising Jewish family in Amsterdam, is well-known in Holland as an author of children's and adolescents' books. She had been active in teaching and education while her husband — the Rabbi of a Dutch town — was alive and after his death devoted herself wholly to her educational and literary work. Having been widowed young, she brought up her six children by means of her own efforts. A number of her books were translated into Hebrew, the best-known among them being "Children of the Stars", published by "Am Oved" in 1963. It describes the life of Jewish children, huddled together at transit stations in Holland, about to be transported to extermination camps.

The chapter published here tells of the segregation, the abductions and the deportation in stages which were the lot of the Jewish community in Holland. The personal story goes hand in hand with a universally human point of view and a great sensitivity. Thanks to the sensitive and discriminating observation on the part of the author, we are able to discern the uniquely characteristic response of Dutch Jewry to the great terror; we become acquainted with the Dutch environment and its reaction to the Jewish tragedy.

Mrs. C. Asscher-Pinkhof lives in Israel now and the book was written in Hebrew.

### **FROM VILNA, ACROSS JAPAN, TO THE FREE WORLD — by Baruch Oren**

Baruch Oren — now director of the "Yad Lebanim" Memorial Institute in Petah-Tikvah — surveys the escape routes of Jewish refugees, mainly from Poland, who happened to arrive in Lithuania towns at the beginning of World War II. The survey is based on personal memories, reinforced by a great deal of documentation. Seeking ways out, these refugees found the Dutch Consul prepared to issue entrance-permits for Dutch Territories overseas and the Japanese Consul ready to provide the necessary transit-visas through Japan. A series of complicated transactions were necessary in order to realize these opportunities; temporary Polish passports had to be obtained; transit-visas, immigration-permits for Palestine from the British Consul and Dutch entrance-permits had to be arranged for in precarious circumstances. A few thousand Jews received permission, on the strength of these rather doubtful, papers, to cross the U.S.S.R. and ultimately arrived in China and Japan. A few managed to reach Palestine via India and Egypt.

This particular affair points to the unforeseen opportunities which were available to people of sufficient initiative and daring.

The appendix brings an excerpt from a book by Professor Kutsuai — a Japanese scholar who came across Jewish refugees in Koba, Japan, and aided them greatly during their sojourn in his country.

### **THOUGHTS ON THE JEWISH UNDERGROUND IN THE LODZ GHETTO — by Fivel Pudah**

The author is a survivor of the Lodz ghetto and used to be active in the underground movement there. He tries to present the specific internal and external circumstances which shaped the character of the ghetto and the regime inside its boundaries. The latter, plus a hostile and impenetrable environment, shackled the

activities of the underground movement in this particular ghetto. According to the author this was the reason for the lack of an armed fighting movement and of acts of armed revolt.

**DAYS OF BLOOD — BUCHAREST 1941 — by Rabbi Tsvi Gutman**

Rabbi Gutman, a veteran teacher and spiritual leader from Rumania, tells of the pogrom, held by the Rumanian Fascists in Bucharest in 1941. The Rabbi was jailed at the time, together with others, and both his sons were murdered.

**REBELLIONS AND ESCAPES IN AUSCHWITZ — by Herman Langbein**

H. Langbein, an Austrian, was a political prisoner during the Nazi regime. He was detained in Auschwitz for some time and was among the founders and leaders of the international underground inside the camp. He has been active in the hunt for Nazi criminals and in various ex-prisoner's organisations since the end of the war.

In the article given here (an excerpt from a book not yet published) H. Langbein describes the methods of the underground movement. We become acquainted with the formation of cells, forms of mutual aid, preparations for armed revolt and the organisation of escapes. The paper is based on personal memories, previous publications and numerous pieces of evidence.

**DOCUMENTATION**

We present in this issue a rare document from the Ringelblum Archives. It records the evidence of a Polish woman whose name is unknown but whose style and ways of expression indicate intelligence and a thorough grasp of the matters at hand. She related the attitudes of sectors of the Polish population to the inhabitants of the ghettos and to the wholesale extermination of Jews.

The evidence was taken down by Samuel Braslav, one of the leaders of the Hashomer Hatsair Underground and the Jewish Resistance Organisation in the Warsaw ghetto at the time of the Holocaust.

The document is accompanied by an introduction and annotations by Dr. Joseph Kermish, who is engaged in research on the Holocaust period.

**RESEARCH**

**1. EVALUATION OF THE "JUDENRAT" — by Aharon Weiss**

We publish a lecture by Aharon Weiss in our Research column. The author attempts to analyse the character of the "Judenrat" institution in Poland, to show the differences between the various "Raete" in different places, owing to the individuals they comprised, the stages of their activity. He makes it clear that any generalisation concerning the character and attitude of the Judenrat is misleading. Serious examination shows up the differences in various places and periods.

**2. JEWS IN THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTIONS — by Shlomo Ytschaki**

Sh. Ytschaki surveys the contribution to the Hungarian revolutions at the end of World War I: The Caroly and the Bela Kun revolutions. He bases his paper on a great amount of documentary and descriptive material. At the same time we learn of the attitudes adopted by Jewish and Gentile historiography to the participation of Jews in these revolutions.

The current issue of "Yalkut" brings the first part of the paper. Part II will appear in issue No. 12.

**PATTERNS IN THE EXTERMINATION OF THE ESTONIAN JEWRY — by Dr. Marc Dworzecki**

Dr. M. D., of the Chair of Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University, relates the ways used for the extermination of the Estonian Jews during the Nazi era.

There were 4,500 Jews living in Estonia on the eve of the war. At the outbreak of "Operation Barbarossa" part of them escaped in the wake of the retreating Soviet armies. The remainder — a few thousands — perished or were murdered by the "Sonderkommando A-1" under Dr. Martin Sandberger within a couple of months.

About 3,000 Jews from Theresienstadt, Berlin and Frankfurt were transported to Estonia after the local Jewry had been taken care of (September — October 1942). 90% of these were murdered in Kalevi Liiva. Approximately 20,000 Jews from the Vilna ghetto were brought to Estonia — in four transports — during the months of August — September 1943. About 2,800 Jews from the Kovno ghetto were transported there at the end of October 1944, and 500 women from Bistritz (?) in Transsylvania arrived in July 1944. Only few hundred of all these survived the war.

**GENERAL GIRAUD AND THE JEWS — by André Kaspi**

Dr. A. Kaspi describes General Giraud's attitude to the Jews in Algiers from January to July 1943. The General and his regime, which was established under the auspices of the Allied Armies following their invasion of North-Africa, were in no hurry to cancel the discriminating legislation introduced by the Petain government. Actually, the author proves that Giraud and his minions tried to preserve the restrictions inflicted upon the Jewish community, at least partly. The change of this policy was forced by external pressure, Jewish and Gentile World Opinion and the American Press.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Dr. Isaiah Yelinek brings a detailed bibliography from the study of the Holocaust in Slovakia.

I. Gutman reviews two documentaries, dealing with the Warsaw ghetto, which were published recently: **Rabbi Huberland** — Kiddush Hashem; **Abraham Levin** — From the Notebook of the Teacher in "Yehudiah".

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