SUMMARY

In the beginning of this issue we bring original testimony by Abba Kovner and Jitzhak Zuckerman as noted down immediately after liberation. It bears the fresh impression of their encounter with a world that never knew the real meaning of the disaster and the feelings of Jews in the days of suffering and depression. These words have been published before — in part — but to-day only the few are aware of their existence.

We have thought fit to print this testimony at the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the uprising of the ghettos.

We print the essence of the testimony by Shmuel Ron (Rosenzweig) an underground fighter from Zaglembia. This testimony describes in detail the period of growth of the underground in the towns of Zaglembia—Bendin—Sosnovic, the beginnings of the Jewish Fighting Organization in these places and attempts to realize armed resistance.

The chapters describing the underground outside the ghetto, the smuggling of Jews across the Slovakian border and the existence of clandestine Jewish cells, is of special interest. The Zaglembia underground had to operate in territory officially annexed to the German Reich, a fact which still further complicated the relations between Jews and Poles. The document throws light on the background of these relations and depicts many live scenes that give them reality.

In the research column we bring a paper by Helmut Eschwege on the activities of single Jews and of Jewish groups within the German Reich. Eschwege, a German-Jewish research worker, living in East Germany, has collected a wealth of material from German archives; He has used testimony and published written material to produce a substantiated and, as far as possible, broad description of Jewish resistance in Germany. Putting together the many names and activities carried out, we learn that Jews took a fair share in the German resistance movement that, on the whole, did not distinguish itself neither by its scope, its energy or its ability to act.

Eschwege sees fit to stress the anti-Nazi activities of any Jew, without regard to his political affiliation or his motivation.

As Eschwege is writing in East Germany he was able to unearth a great deal of information on Jews in the politically radical camp (Social-democrats and Communists), yet he does not pass over in silence the activities of Zionist parties and of Zionist youth circles.

This description requires additions in order to be complete.

We print a chapter from the research by Yerahmiel Cohen, written as a master's thesis in Jewish history under the guidance of Prof. S. Ettinger. The chapter we publish here deals with the critique of Hannah Arendt's "Eichmann in Jerusalem"; Y.C. takes into account the whole of H.A.'s writings and views on the character of society under totalitarian rule. The subject itself has been discussed widely but most writers took part, one way or other, in the actual controversy around the contents of H.A.'s work. Y.C.'s advantage lies in the fact that he did his work from the angle of some distance in time. He was acquainted both with his subject and with the controversy it aroused both in the U.S. and in Israel.

Mr. Zvi Avital's paper on Anti-semitic behaviour of the Polish government-in-exile in London is a chapter from a broader research work based upon the archives of Dr. Y. Schwarzbart, who represented the Jews on the national council of the Polish government-in-exile.

Mr. Avital points out attitudes of certain currents and personages within the body of Polish exiles to the Jewish question and he hints at the influence of these attitudes on the Polish public in Poland herself.

We print a number of documents submitted by Mr. Erich Kulka. These documents are published here for the first time to this extent and they throw light upon the considerations of the U.S. government with regard to Jewish problems and the ticklish question whether to bomb the installations at the camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The refusal to bomb the camp in spite of the sustained applications of the U.S. administration official in charge of rescue operations was backed by formalistic arguments; yet, behind these one can discern callousness and the lack of the will to take any action involving a departure from routine ways of thought.

Zvi Erez publishes memoirs by Shmuel Stern, the head of the Hungarian Jewish Council at the time of the holocaust. These memoirs, written down immediately after the events, describe the tragedy of his Jewish community as seen by the head of the Jewish institution who had to fulfil the function of the Judenrat. Z.E.'s remarks are helpful for a more balanced understanding and appreciation of the tragic events.

Edited by:

Yehuda Bauer, Shalom Cholavsky, Israel Gutman, Rozka Korczak, Abba Kovner, Yehuda Tubin

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