

## SUMMARY

### **Excerpts from the Diary of A. H. Kaplan**

A.H. Kaplan was a well-known Hebrew educator and publicist in Warsaw, even before World War I. After a prolonged illness he began to keep a diary in 1936. While the first entries were of a rather personal and intimate nature, his notes since 1939 concern more and more with public affairs, depicting in great detail Jewish life in Warsaw Ghetto under the Nazis.

The extracts in this issue are dated 1942, only a short time before the author's death, and are a strong indictment of the Jurenrat's faulty leadership

### **The Story of Naliboki — by Penina Shlossberg**

It deals with the tragedy of the township of Naliboki in Eastern Poland. An eye-witness tells about the adventure of a group of Jewish refugees, who wandering about in the woods, survive owing to the self-sacrificing generosity of peasants belonging to the Baptist sect, until they eventually are able to join the partisans.

### **Five Attempts of Escape from Auschwitz — Eric Kuika, (Prague).**

The Therezin concentration camp served as a camouflage to the Nazi plan of the "Final Solution". From this camp Jews were transported regularly to Auschwitz where they were asked to send post-cards, informing their families that they are alive and busily engaged in the construction of a new "work camp" at Birkenau near Neubrunen.

The prisoners soon discovered, however, that they were to be taken to the gas-chamber and that the camp was set up only to offset the truth about Auschwitz, permitting the Nazis to send undisturbed their regular transports from the Ghettos.

A group of Jewish prisoners decided to organize an escape, in order to inform the world of what was happening. There were 280 such attempts of escape from Auschwitz of which, only 80 were successful.

The author of this article tells about five such dramatic attempts. Thus, they succeeded to reach Therezin to get in touch with Jewish communities; they also met a Papal representative warning them and demanding action. Their request that the Allied Command should bomb Auschwitz remained unheeded "for technical reasons". Nor did the Jews believe that extermination, as reported by those who escaped was actually taking place.

### **An Underground Group of German Jewish Communists — Eliyahu Maoz**

The writer concentrates on the activities of the "Baum Group", a

Jewish underground group, during the first years of the war. Its members originally were from Zionist and Communist youth movements. From the data of the "publicity trials" which tried the members of this group, after their unsuccessful attempt to burn down the anti-Communist exhibition in Berlin, we learn of the bravery of Jewish youth in Germany who attempted to maintain an underground unit in the lion's den inside, out of the conviction that fascism was doomed to defeat and their faith in another socialist Germany.

**German Jewry's Representation under the Third Reich —  
Abraham Margalioth**

The "National Representation of German Jewry" was established about half a year after Hitler came to power. The author analyzes this institution's position by its first public statement, also appearing in facsimile in this issue.

This "Representative Committee" based its hopes of German Jewry's chance to exist under Nazi rule, on "its vitality, cohesion and especially, its usefulness as a creative economic factor", that would be recognized as such by the new rulers of the Reich.

This belief, in addition to the assumption that the new regime wouldn't last, led them to advocate withdrawal from public life as a means of alleviating their conditions. For this reason, the committee did not consider emigration of Jews from Germany a positive solution.

**The Wehrmacht and the Opposition Movement in Nazi Germany —  
Israel Gutman**

We witness attempts in Western Germany to prove that there existed at the time a broad opposition to Hitler. These try to exaggerate the importance of the attempt to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944. However, the truth is that all true progressive opposition in Germany was eradicated in the early days of the Nazi rule. Only the Wehrmacht and other conservative groups enjoyed a limited amount of freedom as well as a certain position of power. But these groups for the most part, supported Hitler as long as he was successful. The desire to remove him came only with his defeats and in no small part was directed at clearing the scene to permit negotiations with the Western Powers.

The attack of July 20th was a failure and it is difficult to determine if this was due to an unfortunate set of circumstances or the cause was basically more qualitative.

Documents remaining show that the organizers of the uprising did not intend to bring the war to an immediate end, but to continue it against the Soviet Union. They wanted a Greater Germany that would include



parts of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria. At any rate, we should not make any connection between this uprising and the opposition movements in the occupied countries or even that in Fascist Italy.

#### **An Unknown Document about the Pogroms in Constantine by Joseph Ariel**

About 30 years ago in August 1934, the world was deeply shocked to hear the news that in the city of Constantine in what was then the French dependency of Algeria, pogroms broke out, lasting for three days, on the day following the pogroms, the writer of this article, whose name was then Joseph Fisher, was sent to investigate the incidents on behalf of the "Committee of Jewish Delegations" (a body preceding the "Jewish Congress").

The report revealed the part played by the French Right in instigating the pogroms. It was exactly for this reason that the report was suppressed, since one to satisfy of the prominent members of the "Committee of Jewish Delegations" condemned it as anti-French. One of the two copies left is published here.

#### **Leaders of Jewry during the Holocaust — Zev Levy**

The writer reviews the anthology published by the Council of Jews from Germany dealing with the activities of the leaders of German Jewry in reply to Hannah Arendt's critique which places the blame for their destruction on the Jews themselves and their leadership. This reply, too, tends to exaggerate, by apologizing in certain respects when relating to the action of those leaders of the German Jewry.

#### **Jup Westervil**

Twenty years have passed since the death of Jup Westervil, a member of the Dutch underground movement who jeopardized his life for the sake of saving the lives of Jews. Passages from diaries, which were published in Holland after the war and dedicated to his memory and the memory of his comrades, are reproduced here.

#### **The Munich Pact and Czechoslovakian Jewry in 1938 — Otto Dov Kulka.**

The Munich Pact was not only an important event in the history of international affairs. It was also the first thrust in the direction of what was later to be called the Final Solution of the Jewish Question in Nazi-occupied Europe. Germany's prime condition to any form of Czechoslovakia's existence was the curtailment of Jewish influence and a policy of persecution in accordance with the Nuerenberg laws public opinion in Czechoslovakia soon complied with these demands; Jews, however, refused to give in. Although assimilationist circles —

Czechs of Mosaic persuasion — considered anti-Jewish activities as a demonstration of the people against non-assimilated Jews. Zionist groups saw the events realistically; proof that antisemitism is inherent in Diaspora existence.

#### **Holocaust Research Problems — Leni Yachil**

How shall we attain objectivity in the study and research of the Holocaust? The author attempts to answer this question. There is an abundance of material in the form of documents, personal testimonies and periodicals, of which only a small fraction has been classified and examined.

It is not only a problem of the use of documents, but also one of critical study and coordination, which takes into consideration all factors: time, local conditions and human relations. Only a synthetic approach may bring us nearer to a really scientific inquiry.

#### **Letters from Prison — Lilit Neuman.**

Lilit Neuman, a member of "Hashomer Hatzair" in Yugoslavia joined the partisans and was later imprisoned in Perugia, Italy. Some of her letters to her mother appear in this issue.

#### **Neo-Nazi and Nationalist Movements in Argentina — Judah Adin**

The author is a Jewish journalist and a former editor of the progressive Buenos Aires Jewish periodical "Nuevo Zion". Surveying the origins of antisemitism in Argentina he mentions some of the factors, those being: activities of a large German community, sympathetic to Nazi ideology; anti-imperialist and nationalist movements, that combine their struggle against Anglo-American influence with antisemitic propaganda; socio-economic instability, the ground for fascist anti-Jewish demagoguery, thus diverting the masses from the real causes of their unhappy situation; influence of Arab League propaganda.

#### **"Who is the Guilty One" — S. Marcus**

A review of books appearing in Germany which attempt to clear the name of Germany from guilt for causing the outbreak of the war.

#### **Statute of Limitations — by E. Brand**

As is well known it has been lately announced by the German Government that it is not willing to prolong the accountability of Nazi criminals for their crimes. The writer deals with the circumstances and views taken by public opinion in Germany from which this decision has originated, along with the measures to be taken in order to overcome them.