

IN THIS ISSUE

Sources and Evidence

- A horrifying episode, one of many, concerning atrocities which the Germans committed to the Jews in the death camps at Bergen Belsen, is described in evidence by **Mandy Gur**, a member of Kibbutz Dahlia. Gur was born in Transylvania. This area came under Hungarian rule during the Second World War. He was amongst the deportees in the first transport of Hungarian Jews shipped off to Bergen Belsen and was cruelly tormented while on the death march. Only very few have lived to relate their experiences. After this terrible ordeal, he was returned to the concentration camp and managed to remain there until the entry of the British Army tanks. Terrible acts were committed by the Nazis even after the arrival of the first British tank.
- **Raphael Kochavi**, a member of Kibbutz Doroth, was one of the 480 young pioneers aboard the illegal immigrants vessel "Dora", which was under the command of Zvi Spector and Amiram Shochat (Both perished with the group of 23 who died off the coast of Lebanon). This is the last illegal immigrant ship that reached Palestine before the outbreak of the War. The old vessel succeeded to overcome all technical, political and physical obstacles. It crossed the Atlantic, passed through the Straits of Gibraltar and sailed through the Mediterranean Sea to reach the Coast of Palestine and unloaded its cargo of illegal immigrants before they could be detected by the British.

Articles

- **Yisrael Gutman**, of the Institute for Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, has researched studies of writers who dealt with the subject of the Nazi Concentration Camps. He endeavors to define the character of these camps, which played a special role in implementing the racial Nazi ideology. Through an analysis of the facts and figures he contends that the death camps went through different stages towards fulfilling the role assigned to them. It was a systematic imposition of Nazi domination. He explains the ideology with regards to absorbing the different peoples, who were inmates. The phenomena of holding millions of persons in prisons, for years, requires an intensive research, that would depict the means of governing and exploiting the unique German concentration camp system.

- The future of surviving remnants of the Jewish communities at the end of World War II, and their involvement in the struggles for Zionist realization, occupies both the heads of the Jewish Community in Palestine and the Zionist Movement. For a reflection of this surviving remnant, as seen by the leadership, based on authentic source documentation from those days, a chapter of a comprehensive study by **Yehiam Weitz** of the Yad Vashem Authority is included.
- The late **Johanan Ginat** (Hans Gertner), the head of the Youth Aliya Offices in Europe in 1946–48, presents a treatise that discusses Jewish Education in Germany in the 1930's, with the rise of the Nazis to power and the implementation of the racial decrees. A result was the expulsion of the Jews from the formal educational system. While the Jewish community, which was involved and rooted in the German educational framework, it quickly overcame its awe and adjusted itself to the reality. A result of this was the return to their Jewish origins.
- **Avraham Kalban**, an immigrant from the USSR, introduces facts from Soviet sources concerning demographic issues. With their assistance he offers some chapters from Jewish history in Soviet Asia during the Second World War.
- **Avraham Margalio**, of the Institute for Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, presents here a treatise that discusses the trade and professional changes and productivization process as a base for discussions among German Jews, with the rise of the Nazis to power. The eviction of the Jews, who were amongst the cultural economic elite, from their businesses and economic classes, created a rising interest in emigration and professional revisions. This piece of research accumulates the facts from different sources and contributes to an understanding of this facet of Jewish life.

Documentation

- **Sarah Bikel** arrived in June 1944 with her 8 year old daughter, Chana, to the Slovakian town of Zilina, after they succeeded to escape from the railway station at Auschwitz, where they had come to, together with a despatch of Jews from Munkatch. The evidences of the mother and daughter have been received separately, without one knowing of the evidence of the second, and they complement each other. **Zvi Erez** edited and verified the evidences and added some clarifying comments.
- Jews who were in the Terezienstadt Concentration Camp were transported in 1943 to Auschwitz. Not as usual, they did not get processed either for selection or destruction — but were interned in a special camp. This was a phenomena that raised some surprise. **O. D. Kulka**, of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has done some research into the RSHA Documents which were made available for this purpose and with their help he has attempted to interpret the motives that led to the establishment by the Nazis of this special camp.

Research

- **Asher Cohen**, of the University of Haifa, devotes his research to the Committee for Aid and Rescue which was active in Budapest in 1943. Especially does he concern himself with evaluating the system of inner relations within the important Committee and its ways of functioning and its relations with various factors.
- **Zvi Bachrach**, of Bar Ilan University, researches the cultural and antisemitic foundations within the outlook of the noted German composer Richard Wagner who is considered rightfully as one of the important originators of the Nazi ideology.
- **Esther-Judith Thidor-Baumel**, of Bar Ilan University, attempts to understand the religious life of the Warsaw Ghetto. This is done through research and investigation of the book "Holy Fire", which includes the sermons that were delivered by Rabbi Kalmish Shapira, the Rabbi of Piaszyna, which was found, almost miraculously, within a pitcher that was buried in the soil of Warsaw.

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