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Table of Contents

PRESS RELEASE

THE TRIAL OF THE JEWISH SOLDIERS OF THE
POLISH ARMY

ARMED RESISTANCE

DEATH REIGNS IN POLAND

INSIDE DETAILS OF THE MASS SLAUGHTER IN
OSWIECIM

REVOLT OF THE JEWS IN SOBIBORZ

JEWISH CEMETERIES DESTROYED

NAZIS STEAL JEWISH MUSEUM

BRITISH LABOR MOVEMENT MARKS ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF WARSAW GHETTO

JEWISH SOLDIERS IN ITALY REWARDED FOR
GALLANTRY

JAN STANCYK CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM

GERMANS HELP JEWS

AN UNUSUAL DOCUMENT

VICTOR ALTER'S LAST WORDS

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use of this release, please
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Issued by the AMERICAN REPRESENTATION of the GENERAL JEWISH WORKERS' UNION of POLAND

Address: THE GHETTO SPEAKS, 175 East Broadway, Room 401, New York City - Phone: ORchard 4-1587

The Trial of the Jewish Soldiers of the Polish Army

Herewith we present some documents pertaining to the trial of the Polish soldiers of Jewish extraction, recently conducted by the Polish Government-in-Exile. The trial attracted public attention and aroused widespread indignation against the reactionary elements in the Polish Army, who, undisturbed, had for years preached anti-Semitic propaganda.

(Doc. 1)

Statement of the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers Union of Poland

The American Representation of the Underground Jewish Labor Movement of Poland protests against the trial and the verdict conducted by the Polish government against the thirty Polish soldiers of Jewish extraction, and declares:

1) During the present war, the "Bund" often called on the Jewish masses of Poland to join the Polish Army, in order to defend their country against the Nazi enemy. The first appeal of the "Bund" has been made public in 1939, immediately after the outbreak of the present war. Following the advice of the "Bund," the Jewish working masses participated in the heroic defense of Warsaw. In 1941, the leaders and martyrs of the "Bund"—Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter—requested again the Jewish refugees from Poland, in Soviet Russia, to join the Polish Army, that was formed there, in order to help the armies of the United Nations to defeat the common enemy.

2) The thirty Jewish soldiers, defendants in this case, are victims of anti-Semitism, which the reactionary elements in the Polish Army have been preaching, undisturbed, for years. Polish reactionary forces, as well as the Polish Government, that tolerates the activities of these reactionary forces, are responsible for the venomous anti-Semitic atmosphere in the Polish Army, which should serve the entire Polish nation, instead of becoming a tool in the hands of reactionary groups.

3) Just as it is the duty of Jewish soldiers, citizens of Poland, to remain in the Polish Army, it was the duty of the Polish Government to sentence, first of all, those anti-Semitic criminals, that demoralize,

with their propaganda, the entire Polish Army at a time, when the soil of Poland is soaked with the blood of Jewish martyrs and fighters, with the blood of tortured Polish masses, when the single purpose of the Army is to fight Hitler-Germany unto death.

4) The trial of the Jewish soldiers, as well as the way it was conducted, can only serve to encourage reactionary elements to establish a new vantage point for their plans and prospects regarding the future of Poland. We, therefore, appeal to the Socialist and Democratic forces of Poland, to their representatives in the Polish Government, to all, who have, for many years, struggled along with the Jewish Labor Movement against reaction and anti-Semitism, that, they should, together with us, demand the abolition of the sentence, and that a trial be conducted immediately against the anti-Semitic baiters, traitorous and dangerous to Poland.

5) In view of the events revealed at the trial and its whole atmosphere, we renew most urgently our demand that the Polish National Council should pass a law, brand marking anti-Semitic propaganda as a criminal offense.

6) We insist upon our demand, stated in our former declarations, that both the Polish Government in London and the Polish military leadership should remove from their midst reactionary elements. Post-war Poland can be truly free and independent only if built on principles of economic equality and political freedom, when it will guarantee true equality for all its minorities, when it will put into effect the principles of liberatarian Socialism. These principles should now, during the war, come to the fore in all of Poland's foreign and domestic policies. Polish reactionary elements are only a hindrance on the path to such a Poland.

New York, April 18, 1944.

(Doc. 2)

Dr. Emanuel Scherer Discusses The Case With Polish Prime Minister

Dr. Emanuel Scherer, Bundist representative on the Polish National Council, has discussed the matter

T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

of Jewish soldiers in the Polish Forces with M. Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, the Polish Prime Minister.

Dr. Scherer expressed the view that Polish Jewish soldiers should continue to serve in the Polish Army. He also opposed the demand for the creation of special Jewish units within the Polish Forces, pointing out that this would make the fight against anti-Semitism only more difficult and would rather strengthen than decrease bad feelings among both groups. Urging that strong measures be taken against those spreading anti-Semitism in the Army, Dr. Scherer demanded the early trial by court-martial of all those guilty of anti-Semitic offenses. He further demanded that the sentences passed on the Jewish soldiers who are victims of anti-Semitic persecution be annulled, pointing out that this is possible under the provisions of the Polish military penal code. Everything should be done to clear the atmosphere in the Army, so as to make the Jews feel that they are really comrades of their Polish fellow-soldiers.

Dr. Scherer pointed that this is purely a matter of eliminating harmful reactionary influences. "I do not blame the Polish people, nor the Army as much," he said. "The fight is not directed against the Polish people or the Polish Army, but only against the reactionary groups among them." The Polish and Jewish Labor Movement, the peasants and other democratic elements, fighting for free, independent and truly democratic Poland can and shall eradicate reaction and anti-Semitism from our community.

M. Mikolajczyk discussed the points raised by Dr. Scherer in the most friendly spirit, and promised to give sympathetic consideration to all his proposals and suggestions.

Other matters of Jewish interest were also discussed.

London, April, 1944.

(Doc. 3)

Committee to Investigate Anti-Semitism in the Polish Army

The Polish National Council passed unanimously the following resolution on May 2, 1944:

"The Polish National Council chooses from its midst a special Commission for the examination of all reasons for which a group of Jewish soldiers were leaving the Polish Army. The commission will consist of six members and six deputies. The Polish-Jewish representatives from the Polish National Council are also included in the commission. The Polish National Council authorizes the commission also to inquire into matters regarding Ukrainians and White Ruthenians.

"The Polish National Council asks the Polish Government to make accessible all documents regarding the matter of desertion as well as the results of all legal investigations during the court-martial and furthermore securing the commission with unlimited freedom effective in carrying out its own investigations. Evidence given before the commission should be guaranteed as fully confidential and those giving evidence assured of complete personal security.

"The following are the members elected to the commission: Messrs. Adam Ciolkosz, Wladyslaw Kulerski, Dr. Bronislaw Kusnierz, Dr. Czeslaw Meissner, Dr. Ignacy Szwarzbart and Dr. Emanuel Scherer."

London, May, 1944.

(Doc. 4)

E. Scherer's Cable to the American Representation of the General Jewish Workers Union of Poland

LONDON, MAY 13, 1944

POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL HEARD
MINISTER KUKIEL'S REPORT ON JEWISH
SOLDIERS TRIAL STOP DISCUSSION
STARTED CIOLKOSZ STOP HE SPOKE
STRONGLY AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM AND
STRESSED THE ROLE, THE POSITION AND
THE INFLUENCE OF THE JEWISH WORKERS
UNION AMONG THE POLISH JEWS STOP AT
THE END CIOLKOSZ READ COMMON DECLARA-
TION OF POLISH SOCIALISTS AND BUND
STOP THE DECLARATION OF OUR TWO
PARTIES CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM,
DEMANDS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHIEF
POLISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND
STATED THAT JEWISH SOLDIERS SHOULD

T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

REMAIN POLISH ARMY STOP I HAVE
SPOKEN AFTER CIOLKOSZ STOP READ OUR
MEMORANDUM TO THE GENERALS SOSNKOWSKI,
KUKIEL AND STRESSED RESPONSIBILITY
OF BOTH STOP BOTH OF THEM MUST SUFFER
ALL CONSEQUENCES STOP MEETING AD-
JOURNED SATURDAY.

EMANUEL SCHERER

ARMED RESISTANCE

On May 10, 1944, we received the following cable from our representative, Dr. Emanuel Scherer, member of the Polish National Council in London:

EMANUEL NOWGRODSKY
175 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY

REPORT I RECEIVED THROUGH POLISH
UNDERGROUND GOVERNMENT CHANNELS
CONTENTS MANY NEWS ABOUT JEWISH
TRAGEDY AND ARMED RESISTANCE IN POLAND
STOP CABLING YOU FEW POINTS STOP
SMALL NUMBER JEWS STILL ALIVE WARSAW
GHETTO OFTEN EXECUTIONS AMONG THESE
REMNANTS STOP WILNO LEFT FEW HUNDRED
JEWS STOP LWOW DURING ACTION JEWS
RESISTED BULLETS GRENADES FROM
PREPARED FORTS STOP TENS OF GERMANS
KILLED GERMANS MURDERED 6000 JEWS
PART ESCAPED STOP REPORT PROVES
NEWS BIALYSTOK RESISTANCE STRESSING
WAS VERY STRONG STOP CAMP PONIATOW
RESISTED THREE DAYS STOP FIGHTING
JEWS BURNT ALIVE IN THEIR FORTIFICA-
TIONS STOP 15000 JEWS KILLED STOP
HORRIBLE MASSACRE VARIOUS CAMPS
LUBLIN 18000 JEWS STOP PULLAWAY 600.

EMANUEL SCHERER

MEMBER POLISH NATIONAL COUNCIL

DEATH REIGNS IN POLAND

The remnants of Polish Jewry still alive, after the mass-slaughters executed by the Nazis, are imprisoned in special concentration camps scattered throughout the Polish land. As it is, they are doomed to die, due to the appalling living conditions which the Nazi rulers have prescribed for their victims. However, the rock-eting mortality rate of the Jews in the death camps, apparently did not satisfy the Nazis. They resolved

to speed up liquidation of the Jews in the concentra-
tion camps. An order had been given and the Nazi
hangmen commenced, systematically, coldbloodedly,
to murder the Jewish camp inhabitants. The slaughter
began sometime in October, 1943. In our possession,
at this time, are a number of authentic reports, as to
the manner in which the Jewish camp prisoners were
annihilated. Much as we should like to spare our read-
ers the horrifying details thereof, we cannot refrain
from revealing them.

Excerpts from these reports follow:

"Trawniki Concentration Camp

"On November 13, 1943, powerful detach-
ments of Nazi police and S. S. men arrived
"here. They immediately ordered all male in-
"habitants of the Trawniki concentration camp
"to gather at a designated spot, allegedly to dig
"air-raid shelters. Two hours later, the Jews
"were surrounded by machine guns and shot to
"death on the spot, while 50 huge trucks arrived
"in Trawniki. All wives and children of the
"murdered Jews were piled onto vehicles and
"dispatched to the same execution place. There,
"the Nazi beasts stripped them of their clothing
"and personal effects, before mowing them
"down with the selfsame machine guns. The
"number of murdered Jews totalled about
"8,000. The victims had not anticipated their
"death. A day or two previous to the execu-
"tion, the Nazis' attitude toward the Jews im-
"proved, and, accordingly, the spirits of the
"Jews were brighter than usual. However, the
"Nazis' behavior was but a pretense, in order
"to avert resistance. The murderers preferred
"to perform their mission undisturbed. Pre-
"vious to the execution, the Nazis became
"drunk. During the slaughter, the Nazis played
"dance music, transmitted by megaphones.
"Only a small number of Jews, former soldiers
"of the Polish Army, who had been captured
"during the military campaign, remained alive.
"These Jewish prisoners of war are being em-
"ployed as slave workers in our concentration
"camps. Instead of the slaughtered Polish
"Jews, the Nazi brought to Trawniki 3,000 Jews
"from Italy."

"Camp Poniatowa

"Alarming word reached us recently from the
"concentration camp, in Poniatowa, near Kaz-

T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

"imierz. Apparently, an appalling massacre of the imprisoned Jews occurred there, also. However, we have not as yet received any details concerning this."

"Lublin"

"On November 5, the Germans murdered 2,000 Jewish inhabitants of the Lublin concentration camp, located on Lipowa Street."

"Oswiecim"

"During the second half of November, 1943, the Nazis murdered, by suffocation, in gas chambers, 30,000 Jewish prisoners in the Oswiecim concentration camp."

"Majdan near Lublin"

"The Jews in the Majdan concentration camp, near Lublin, are being systematically murdered. The Nazis indulged in merciless mass slaughter. The horrible slaughter defies description. Some Nazi soldiers faint at the mere sight of the scene."

INSIDE DETAILS OF THE MASS SLAUGHTER IN OSWIECIM

We recently received certain inside information on the horrible crimes committed by the Nazis in the Oswiecim camp. Some of these details we present here.

From October, 1942, until June, 1943, the number of Jews brought to Oswiecim from all over Europe, and Athens60,000

was composed as follows:

From Greece, chiefly from Salonica	
From Slovakia and Czechslovakia.....	50,000
From Holland, Belgium and France.....	60,000
From Nice	870
From Berlin	200
From Endesburg	1,600

In order to dispose of the large number of Jewish corpses, the Germans built in Brezezinka, near Oswiecim, three crematoriums, capable of incinerating ten thousand corpses daily. These crematoriums operate ceaselessly, so that the local population calls it the "eternal fire."

On August, 1, 1942, the Germans introduced what they termed three delousing days. In reality, this meant that every weak person—man, woman or child—was taken from the camp and killed or suffocated by gas. If the SS man disliked a face of a prisoner, he was doomed.

The German criminals and sadists in charge of Oswiecim are:

Hoass, commandant of Oswiecim camp
Schwartz, his assistant
Aumier, supervisor
Sell, chief hangman
Schoppe, in charge of the Jews
Mueller, in charge of the gas chambers
Stibitz, his assistant
Grabler, notorious for brutality
Kirschne, notorious for brutality
Boger, notorious for brutality
Lachner, notorious for brutality
Woznita, notorious for brutality

Among these German sadists at Oswiecim, are also two German women: Drexler and Mandel. The two women jailers beat and tortured the prisoners for the slightest offense. They ordered that the victim receive twenty-five strokes with a rod. Anyone submitted to such punishment is not only crippled, but very often fatally injured.

REVOLT OF THE JEWS IN SOBIBORZ

During the second half of October, 1943, the Sobiborz death camp became the scene of a successful uprising of the Jews. The several hundred Jews imprisoned there, killed all the Nazi jailers, policemen and SS men of the camp. After setting fire to the camp, the prisoners escaped, leaving behind a few score of Nazi corpses.

JEWISH CEMETERIES DESTROYED

Jewish cemeteries throughout Poland are now being desecrated by the Germans. For some unknown reason, the territory between the Bug and Vistula Rivers attracted the special attention of the Nazis. Hardly a cemetery escaped their savagry. They dug out the corpses, to destroy them. They carted away tombs and grave-plates, for use in pavements and for other construction purposes. According to some high Nazi officials, this new madness is a result of a recent order issued by the Fuehrer.

NAZIS STEAL JEWISH MUSEUM

The following information was recently received here, through underground channels:

"The rarities, books, documents and all the other museum pieces on Jewish life in Poland, which the Jewish Community Council at Grzybowska 26, and the Jewish Community Library, at Tlomacka 6, have been collecting for generations, vanished without a trace. Among them were many precious and unique items essential for future scientific work."

BRITISH LABOR MOVEMENT MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF WARSAW GHETTO

On May 15, 1944, the British Labor Party convoked a public meeting in London, to commemorate the heroic uprising of the Jews in Warsaw and to pay tribute to the memory of Szmul Zygielbojm, who took his life so that he might focus world attention to the plight of the Jews under the Nazi heel.

*Speakers at the meeting included Dr. Emanuel Scher-
er and Adam Ciolkosz, on behalf of the Polish Socialists.*

A.F.L. President Wm. Green, I.L.G.W.U. President David Dubinsky, and Jewish Labor Committee Chairman Adolph Held cabled the following messages in the names of their respective organizations:

WILLIAM GREEN:

THE HEROIC COURAGE SHOWN BY THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO ENGAGED IN THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO WILL BE RECORDED IN HISTORY AS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING INCIDENTS OF THE CRUEL WAR STOP WE WERE ALL SHOCKED AT THE LOSS OF LIFE WHICH OCCURRED AND AMAZED AT THE DEVOTED STAND IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY WHICH THOSE MADE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BATTLE STOP NO ACT OF SELF-SACRIFICE WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE WAR HAS TOUCHED US MORE DEEPLY THAN THAT MADE BY THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE BATTLE OF THE WARSAW GHETTO STOP THE WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MUST SEE TO IT THAT THIS SACRIFICE WAS NOT MADE IN VAIN STOP WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE

WAR IS WON, THAT RACE DISCRIMINATION MUST CEASE, THAT THE ATLANTIC CHARTER IS MADE REAL AND VITAL, THAT THE TYRANTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXISTING CRUEL WAR ARE EQUALLY PUNISHED AND THAT A NEW INTERNATIONALISM WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR SECURITY AND THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR OR NATIONALITY TO LIVE UNMOLESTED FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION AND TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO PURSUE THE PATHWAY OF PEACE, SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.

WILLIAM GREEN, PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

DAVID DUBINSKY:

COMRADES OF THE BRITISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT:

THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION OF U. S. SENDS YOU ITS FLAMING GREETINGS UPON THE OCCASION OF YOUR MEMORIAL MEETING COMMEMORATING THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE JEWISH UPRISING IN WARSAW. THE HEROIC REVOLT OF UNARMED JEWS AGAINST THE MIGHTY NAZI MURDER MACHINE, HAS INSCRIBED ITSELF IN FIRE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF ALL LIBERTY-LOVING HUMANITY. THE ORGANIZED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, WHICH HAS EVER STOOD IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BLOODY NAZISM, AND ALL OF THE PERSECUTION AND HATRED FOR WHICH IT STANDS, SANCTIFIES THE MEMORY OF THE HEROES OF THE WARSAW GHETTO. THEY HAVE GIVEN MANKIND AN EXAMPLE OF HEROISM UNPARALLELED IN HISTORY.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF ARTHUR ZYGIELBOJM, WHO VOLUNTARILY SACRIFICED HIS YOUNG, FRUITFUL LIFE, IN ORDER TO AWAKEN THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY, WITH REGARDS TO THE HORRIBLE NAZI SLAUGHTER OF A DEFENSELESS PEOPLE, HAS ILLUMINATED, WITH A SACRED GLOW, THE SELF-SACRIFICING SPIRIT OF THE ORGANIZED JEWISH LABOR MOVEMENT OF POLAND, WHOSE SPOKESMAN HE WAS.

IN THIS CRUCIAL HOUR, AS THE ARMIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS STAND AT THE

T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

GATES OF NAZI-OCCUPIED EUROPE, READY TO LIBERATE THE TORTURED PEOPLES OF THE CONTINENT, THE SACRED MEMORY OF THE HEROES OF THE BATTLE OF WARSAW BOUYS US AND SPURS US FORWARD TO GREATER DETERMINATION IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BEASTS WHO HAVE ENGULFED THE WORLD IN BLOOD. THAT MEMORY LIGHTS OUR WAY TO VICTORY. IT STIMULATES US TO BUILD UPON THE RUINS OF A SHATTERED WORLD, A NEW AND MORE JUST ORDER, IN WHICH LIBERTY AND EQUALITY SHALL PREVAIL FOR ALL.

AT YOUR MEETING COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GHETTO UPRISING, PLEASE ACCEPT THE HEARTY PARTICIPATION OF THE MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND LADIES GARMENT WORKERS IN AMERICA, ORGANIZED IN THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

DAVID DUBINSKY, PRESIDENT

ADOLPH HELD:

TO THE MAY FIFTEENTH LONDON LABOR PARTY MEETING. IN THE NAME OF THE FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND AMERICAN WORKERS AFFILIATED WITH THE JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE WE SEND YOU FRATERNAL GREETINGS. WE ARE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY WITH YOU IN YOUR COMMEMORATION OF THE HEROIC WARSAW GHETTO REVOLT AND IN YOUR PAYING TRIBUTE TO SZMUL ZYGIELBOJM. WE ARE DETERMINED, AS WE KNOW YOU ARE, TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESCUE THOSE WHO AS YET REMAIN ALIVE. WE HERE ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN A VIGOROUS DRIVE TO RESCUE AND AID THE VICTIMS OF NAZI SAVAGERY. WE TAKE THIS OCCASION TO PLEDGE OURSELVES TO STRUGGLE UNCEASINGLY AGAINST THE HITLER HORDES UNTIL VICTORY COMES AS COME IT MUST. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOUR MEETING WILL RISE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE AND WILL ADVANCE THE TASK OF SAVING THE MILLIONS IN HITLER TORTURED EUROPE.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE,

ADOLPH HELD, DAVID DUBINSKY,

JOSEPH BASKIN, JACOB PAT

JEWISH SOLDIERS IN ITALY REWARDED FOR GALLANTRY

Four Jewish soldiers of the Polish Army, which is now fighting in Italy, along with the British and American forces, were recently distinguished for bravery in action.

They are: Benjamin Kagan and Henryk Jedwab (both of whom are serving with the Polish commandos and who received the Warriors' Cross); Fiszel Krygier and Abraham Szpiro (who received the Bronze Cross of Merit).

JAN STANCYK CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM

In a statement released at a press conference in Philadelphia on Thursday, May 11, 1944, Jan Stanczyk, Polish Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, said:

"I regard anti-Semitism as a crime against humanity. During the horrible years of the Nazi occupation of Poland, all citizens of my country, Jews as well as gentiles, have become brothers in suffering and in their common fight for liberation. These new ties are stronger than any of the old prejudices still latent in a few fanatics. The Polish masses never have been, nor will they ever be, anti-Semitic. We are united on the principles of full equality for all men, regardless of their race or creed."

GERMANS HELP JEWS

On March 30, 1944, the Special Court at Freiburg, Germany, sentenced the following people to several years of penal servitude for smuggling Jews from Berlin over the German-Swiss frontier:

Franz Heckendorf, painter, from Berlin—	10 years penal servitude
Wilhelm Martin, innkeeper, from Altenberg—	8 years penal servitude
Nikolaus Leben, decorator, from Berlin—	6 years penal servitude
Otto Altenburger, cook, from Berlin—	6 years penal servitude

AN UNUSUAL DOCUMENT

It is difficult to find, in Nazi Gestapo annals, an example of a public dispute with an Underground

T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

Movement, such as that which had flared up in Occupied Poland's capital, previous to the start of the famous battle of the Warsaw ghetto. In a special poster which he issued, Gestapo Chief Walter C. Toebbens asked the Jewish workers to disregard their underground comrades' appeals to resist the new deportation ordered by the Nazis. Generously employing all kinds of promises and lies, he sought to prevent the armed uprising of the Warsaw Jewish population.

Here is the authentic text of this unique poster:

"To the Jewish war production workers of the Jewish District of Warsaw: The Staff of the Jewish Resistance Organization, on the night of March 15th (1943—ed), issued a poster to which I wish to reply. I insist categorically that:

"1. We are not planning any new deportations whatsoever.

"2. No one armed with a pistol, had ordered Mr. Szulz, nor myself, to execute a new deportation.

"3. I insist categorically that the people of the previous transport did not vanish without a trace.

"I regret that Mr. Szulz's war production workers did not accept his well-meant advice. That is why I was compelled, against my own wishes, to intervene and to replace one of the work shops, in order to utilize existing transportation facilities. An order has been issued to make an immediate check-up of the names of those workers who arrived in Travniki (concentration camp—ed) and to turn over their belongings to them.

"To insist, under such circumstances, that the escort of the second transport, which started from Prosta Street toward Poniatow (concentration camp—ed), did not know what had happened to the folk of this transport, is nothing but an ordinary lie and a vicious attempt to arouse the war production workers. The guardians of the transport in question are still here; they escorted the folk on the train, and returned several times in big trucks, along with certain workers who had already reached their destination at Poniatow, in order to check up on the belongings, etc. True enough, the workers' luggage has not yet arrived from Prosta Street. But it is under the supervision of a Jew engineer, Lipszyc, who is perfectly willing to inform anybody, at any time, regarding it. The luggage will be sent to Poniatow, along with the next transport. At Travniki, as well as at Poniatow, every worker has secured his personal belongings and is entitled to take care of them. Jewish war production workers: disregard your Underground Organization's warnings. Do not

"believe them. The instigators will cause tragic, unavoidable events.

"There is no security in your shelters, and living there, as well as in the Aryan district shelters, is impossible. Uncertainty and idleness will bring about your moral collapse. Look at those wealthy Jews, from the Aryan district, who voluntarily approach me, pleading that I employ them. They have sufficient funds to live in the Aryan district without having to work. However, they could no longer endure their idleness.

"My deepest conviction impels me to advise you: Move out of the Warsaw ghetto—into Travniki, into Poniatow, because there you will be able to live and remain until the end of the War. The staff of your Resistance Organization will be unable to aid you; its promises are nothing but hollow words. It is selling you places in its shelters for tidy sums, but afterward it will drive you out of them and leave you helpless as you are, on the street.

"Haven't you had enough experience with all kinds of unreliable and false pledges? Have faith in the German managers of the work shops, who, along with you, wish to carry on production in Poniatow and Travniki. Don't forget to take your wives and children along, since we are prepared to take care of them, also, at Poniatow and Travniki.

"Warsaw, March 20, 1943.

"WALTER C. TOBBENS, Transportation Chief of the production shops in the Jewish district of Warsaw."

VICTOR ALTER'S LAST WORDS

We recently received an important document pertaining to the execution, by the Russian Government, of the two prominent international Socialists and anti-Fascists, leaders of the Jewish Labor Movement of Poland, H. Ehrlich and V. Alter. It is a certified statement by a Pole, Mr. W. Gabicki, who presently serves as an officer of the Polish Army in England. In December, 1940, at the time of the imprisonment of the two executed Socialists, he was a cell mate of Victor Alter somewhere in a Russian prison. There, for the first time in his life, he contacted Victor Alter. In his testimony, written in Polish, Lt. W. Gabicki relates:

"Victor Alter

"I don't know when and where he was born. The years of his childhood and youth are also unknown to me. Likewise strange to me are the particulars of his political activity. Previous to the war, he lived in Warsaw. I was never acquainted with him personally. At that time, I merely heard that he was an outstanding figure in the international Socialist Movement, a leader of the Jewish workers of Poland, and an alderman of Warsaw. Under normal circumstances, my meager knowledge of him would have hardly entitled me to draw even a sketchy picture of a man whom I had known too little and had met for such a short time.

"However, there are some rare moments in everyone's life, which, regardless of the speed with which they elapse, remain forever in one's memory. The day of my meeting with Victor Alter, unquestionably belongs to such rare events. It happened in Moscow, under very bizarre circumstances. V. Alter was spirited away to Moscow at a time when the triumph of Nazi Germany was at its height, when it seemed that he was doomed to vanish spiritually and physically. Despite the tragic plight of Europe at that time, and despite Alter's personal bleak and tragic prospects, he nevertheless never lost his faith in man and in humanity's everlasting truths. During our conversations, in the rare moments free from the inquests which usually lasted days and nights at a stretch, Alter, sensing his tragic end, would cite, time and again, an excerpt from Roman Rolland:

"'One does not live to be happy. One lives to defend his rights, to die for them, but to remain ever a man.'

"Victor Alter's spiritual attitude helped to ignite, in his comrades imprisoned with him, a new spark of hope for a better life in a new world. As to those who did not belong to his Socialist camp, this great European always attracted their attention and aroused their respect for his personality, as well as for the ideals he so gallantly championed, despite appalling circumstances. Throughout the time I

spent with him, he fought relentlessly for human dignity and for the rights and freedom of his jail mates. He fought for each of them, negligent of his own health and future.

"While in prison, Alter wrote a scientific work, in which he sought to fuse the mechanical laws of Newton with the new wave theory of modern physics. His only concern was that the manuscript reach its destination. He was never certain that it would.

"Victor Alter's last words, a few minutes before we were brutally compelled to say good-bye, were:

" 'Should you ever meet my wife or my son, please tell them—no blow can ever swerve my loyalty toward the ideals for which my life stands. I should like them to follow in my footsteps, continue my fight, and not to lose courage because of my personal misfortune. The truth is on our side, and therefore ultimate victory will be ours.'

"I do not know the whereabouts of his kin, just as he did not know. I wonder whether the path of my life will ever cross theirs. That is why I decided to pen this testimony, in order to keep my promise to him. The circumstances of his subsequent execution, emphasized the truth of his last words. Victor Alter didn't wear a uniform of a soldier of any of the United Nations; however, he died as a soldier on duty for democracy. He never hesitated to sacrifice his life in defense of democracy. He never bowed his head, in order to utilize petty political opportunities to his advantage. That is why his grave has become a symbol. His tragic death has but emphasized his immense value as a warrior of a combatant democracy, and the danger which his life holds for all real enemies of freedom. His Unknown Tomb, as well as the graves of many other unknown defenders of democracy, is a milestone on the road which leads toward ultimate Victory of those ideals for which Victor Alter fought and stood throughout his life."

Lt. W. GABICKI

London, March 12, 1944.