

Peretz Opoczynski's Diary

- 1 -

הספר המקום
 ז'אוסופ'סקי, פולין
 ספטמבר 1942.
 ד'תש"ב י"ג טבת ה'תשמ"ב

3 בספטמבר

כפי שנודע, נלקחו אתמול בערב במקומה=עבודה גרמניים קרוב לאל-
 פיים וחמש מאות יהודים. על פי ידיעה מתחנת=הטראנספורט⁽¹⁾, נהאספו בשלו-
 שת הימים האחרונים ונמצאו שם ב-3 לחודש זה ³⁷⁷ ¹⁴⁰⁰ יהודים. קשה
 לדעת בדיוק איזה מספר הוא הנכון, אך סברה היא, שהראשון הוא הנכון,
 מכיוון שמספר היהודים שנחטפו במקומה העבודה הוא, כנראה, גדול למדי,
 כפי שאנו שומעים מכאן ומכאן.

שוב היה היום הזה קשה מאוד, והזכיר את הימים הקשים, כשהיתה ה-
 "הקציה"⁽²⁾ במלוא תנופתה. כפי שנודע, הוכנו כבעוד בוקר חמישים קרו-
 נות, ועל כן היה הכרח להביא אלפי יהודים, כדי לכלוא אותם. פעולות
 הסגר נמשכו כל היום. מהמפעל א.ה.ג.⁽³⁾ נלקחו כשש-מאות פועלים, וכ-
 הוספת הוסל המפעל לגמרי. מעשה אושייני הוא, שלפני הצהריים בהקבלה
 במפעל ידיעה, כי נקבעה לו מיכסה של אלף פועלים, ועל כן מייעצנים להם
 לחלק מיד בספרים לאלה, שהמפעל כנור כי עליהם להישאר בעבודה. אבל
 כלבור שעה קלה כבר היה שם הסגר. כל הפועלים הועמדו פשוט בשורה, והם
 לקחו כל אדם שמצא חן בעיניהם, עד שש-מאות איש. מה כנפם לשאר, לא
 קשה לשער.

הסגר היה גם בנוריה "אומט דוישקה", בגובה 30, ובה נלקחו 70

(1) הכוונה לאומטלאגפלאך.

(2) הקציה של הגירוש, שהתחילה ב-22 ביולי 1942.

(3) ~~המפעל של א.ה.ג.~~

Proof & corrected from the Yiddish w. H. Howitt April 1988

SW 9/3/88

CHRONICLE OF WARSAW GHETTO - OCTOBER - November 1942

October 26

(a)

Yesterday afternoon a bomb was thrown into the "Caviar Club" ^{which is} (on the ^{ARYAN} other side) at the end of Yerusalimsky and the new world. A few persons were killed in the explosion and according to rumours these were ^{four} German officers. ~~Four German officers~~ The identity of the persons who directed the attack is now known. [There is a similar lack of information concerning another explosion at the main railroad - at any rate, there is no certainty of information.]

(a)

(c)

There is a report today that the British have commenced an offensive in the West. Although the two incidents are obviously unrelated, [nonetheless Jews see in them a sign that something is in the offing.] In community circles belief had been expressed that some sort of change will take place in the Ghetto in a few days. [However, nothing has been said as to the direction the change will take.]

(d)

(e)

Following the twenty-second day of the month a new arrangement will be introduced in the ^{shops} shadows. Each worker at the shop will be required to contribute 10 ^{2.50 TLIM} guilders per day purportedly for the cost of ^{HIS SUPPORT} (the appropriation,) but the contribution is really to cover the bread and lunch for which separate payment is required. However, in other shops no payment has to be made, ^{AS IN SHULTZ SHOP} for protection. Yesterday, the Germans walked through the streets on the ^{Other} wall sides, ^{ARYAN} (wiping out) ^{ERASED} the revolutionary inscriptions written on the walls.

(e)

October 27

^{ACCORDING TO THE DETAILS OF THE REPORT OF YESTERDAY'S ATTACK} Our report of yesterday's attack stated that four officers were killed and that about ^{25 CIVILIANS} 72 were wounded. (A second version states that about 23 civilians were wounded.)

(f)

^{BECAUSE OF THE ATTACKS,} (In connection with the attack) an order has been issued ^{ON THE ARYAN SIDE THAT} [shortening the ^{ADVANCEING} hours of policing to 8 ^{P.M.} hours in the evening (it had been ^{FROM} 11 hours).]

(g)

^{FOR THE PUNISHMENT WAS} The reason given in the announcement, ^{THAT OF REPEATED} was the continuance of recent attacks on police in the form of hand grenades or sulphuric acid ^{BEING} thrown at them.

Yesterday, a great disturbance (was heard emanating from) the other side. [In the afternoon and also in the evening, ^{PREVAILED ON} shots were heard.] ^{ARYAN} Shots were likewise heard in Pavick. ^{FREQUENT} ^{IT IS CONCLUDED FROM THIS THAT} To avenge this, the Germans killed a few politically ^{PRISONERS,} (arrested persons.) ^{IN REVENGE,}

October 28

Tonight, a powerful explosion was heard in the Ghetto. Whether or not this was an attack, ^{IT IS NOT KNOWN} is ^{not} known. According to rumours, Turkey has finally entered the war.

In the cabinet-maker shop a requirement of a daily payment of 5 guilders was introduced. ^{THE OBLIGATION OF PAYMENT WAS ON} This covered about 150 ^{ONLY} additional workers. ^{W#D} The others were unable to pay and were, therefore, excused.

October 30

In the night of October 29, an air attack took place over Warsaw. In the after noon, the Jewish police commander, Leikin, was shot. He was the representative of Shereskin (who, regardless of reports and denials, was still alive). His assistant, Chaplinsky, was wounded. It is assumed that this was a Jewish attack. Leikin ^{WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR} had to his ^{W#D} guilt the killing of thousands of Jews. He had served the Germans with great zeal and had served as their right hand in their murderous activities.

A rumour spread today that three reserve organizations for Jews in Lodz, Lublin and Bialistok are being created. According to this, 3000 tailors, men and women whose work was needed by the Germans, will soon be sent to Lublin from the Warsaw Ghetto. The remaining Jews in Warsaw ^{WOULD} (could very well be destined to) be destroyed. In this connection, a conflict has arisen among the tailors, as to ^{say}

(i) (who) of them would be chosen among these 3000. *who would be the lucky ones to be chosen in the draw*

October 31

FAV Again they say that the S.S.Germans have left Warsaw. Tomorrow it may turn out not to be true. We live as in a prison. [Not only ^{THAT} we cannot talk to one another by telephone,] but we cannot budge from our

EVEN WHEN IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE RUMOUR, IT IS BOTHERS

places. Thus, we ^{ARE SUSTAINED BY} depend on rumours and reports. (Even a rumour) is ingested and chewed over and over again, and no one (is in a position) to check (to see) whether there is any foundation for these rumours and reports. Moreover, when the rumour is an evil one, it is still treated with a morbid satisfaction bordering upon self-infliction] sadism.

ransa

glicked

med (K)

alive

[From "Umschlag Platz" (transfer locations), (children up to 14 years of age are finally freed) but those from 14 years of age up to 40 are sent to shops for work if deemed capable. The ^{VACATED} emptied dwellings are ^{TO BE TURNED} turned into laundries ^{OPERATED} worked by women.

It is not known what will be done with those not capable of work. ^{SOME SAY THAT} They will be left ^{ALIVE} alone and will later be freed from "Umschlag Platz" Homeless children will be taken ^{ADOPTED BY} care of by the community.

A report has been received from Cracow that half of the 12000 ^{HAD REMAINED AFTER THE GREAT EXPULSION} Jews who had been expelled, have been shipped out. Likewise, a report has come from Maidani Tatansky by telephone that the 1000 Jews who were sent there last week are expecting the same fate. Many Jews are expecting death in the future. (*DEATH HOVERS BEFORE THEM*)

Yesterday the first group of children was actually freed from "Umschlag Platz". ^{ALL SEEN THIS A GOOD SIGN} This shows, that in the end they will permit the few Jews ^{REMAINING} left in Warsaw, to remain alive. (Still great is) the fear of those who understand the policy of the S.S. people, ^{IS GREAT} trusting them. ^{ONE CANNOT} The enemy is blind and one hand cannot know what the other hand does. ^{HATED OF THE ENEMY IS SUCH THAT ONE CANNOT KNOW WHAT THE ENEMY IS OF SUCH BLIND HATRED THAT}

(C)

After the release of the homeless children, the ^{DREADEFUL} horrifying director of ^{THE} expulsion, Brandt, came to the community and gave a talk that showed the well-known cynicism of his party. Among other subjects, he spoke of the children ^{who} (that) are the future of the people, and advised the Jews to take care of them. Yes, the heart of Jews does not tremble for nothing. They know that when murderers of children say that children are the future of a nation, such statement is actually a warning.

(M)

That night, probably because of reports made to them by Jewish informers, the S.S. people searched a row of dwellings at 25, Nitzke Street and the neighbouring houses. Bundles of new knitted merchandise, such as sweaters and the like were, naturally, confiscated.

It is said that Brandt in his talk to the community - one [that] will remain historic because of its classic meanness - stated that he was permitting Jews to organize minyans for prayer, but that this will not be allowed in synagogues, since this would be too (evident). However, this worship may take place in various corners. He also ordered the organization in the Ghetto of a cinema, stores and warehouses. The abundance of goodwill emanating suddenly from the S.S. is nevertheless (scarce) for (them) AROUSES DREAD IN THE GHETTO.

November 3

It is believed that the order for a cinema ^{THE OPENING OF} will come today tomorrow was not an ordinary thing. One should be dressed well in a movie theatre, ^{IN CLEAN CLOTHES} including also sick people. ^{never be well dressed} There is also no problem of obtaining permits ^{much talk about permission to open stores, shops} for the operation of stores, shops and childrens' homes. Jews suspect, that the S.S. plan to use these activities as "provocations" for later S.S. actions against us, ^{that hidden in this was}

(9) Socially CONSCIOUS informed Jews believe that they ^{should} [would] not walk around in the streets in their leisure time and we should remain out of view and also that we should not agree with the Germans to operate public places.

Yesterday in the afternoon Brandt stopped a wagon at the cemetery. It was loaded with merchandise worth a hundred thousand guilders and was on its way to be smuggled ^{by non-Jews} into the Ghetto. It was seized ^{CONFISCATED}.

(R) It is reported that in addition to all the benefits which the S.S. have granted to the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, ^{THEY WILL NO LONGER HAVE TO} [they also have not to live any more in the barracks next to the shops,] and that they may henceforth live wherever they wish. Lidke, The high commissioner for housing in the Ghetto, has also decided that rent is to be paid. The Jews say that all these benefits are connected with the arrival of an international committee in the Ghetto ^{WIDE SPREAD} [(a rumour which arrived (much) prior to the subsequent slaughter)] This is the reason that these apparent "liberties" - in the language of Brandt - are given. ^{IT IS EVEN POSSIBLE FOR THIS REASON} It is also the reason that the 25.000 Jews who have not as yet been slaughtered ^{IN THE PYRE} at Treblinka, will be returned to Warsaw.

November 4

IN CONTRADICTION TO

Lthat Contradicting rumours of relief of the Warsaw Ghetto, is an eye witness report from Tuzuznia about an expulsion ^{which} had been planned there. However, the Jews there had learned from what had happened in Warsaw, where the Jews had not waited [till] they would be expelled, and three quarters of them, together with all Jewish council-men and police, escaped ^{IN TIME}. The remaining Jews- those who were ^{not} successful in fleeing, were slaughtered there *on the spot*.

The new expulsion from Cracow, as it ^{BECAME KNOWN TO DAY} was learned to-night, took place At night (^{AS} like in Lublin). Also the slaughter in Tuzuzmir, ^{CERTAINLY} took place at night.

November 5

Yesterday individuals walking in the street were seized for enforced labor, but not those who had been in groups. That was ^{also} done today ~~also~~. They said that several hundred people were required for some work (some said a few thousand), and this will ^{WITHOUT PAUSE} continue until the required number will be reached. ^{ALL ARE FEARFUL} It is feasible that in the end ^{THE GERMANS} they will come to the shops and residence blocks to get people, since they will not get enough people off the streets for the work. ^{AS THERE IS VERY LITTLE MOVEMENT ON THE STREET} Reliable sources report that the Germans ^{ABOUT} need 700 people at one point and that they would prefer to receive volunteers for the work.

This evening appeared placards in the street referring to this sort of work

November 6

From the Lublin region comes a report that all Jews were driven from the city of Apala in the direction of Belzshitz or ^{To} some other (similar) place for slaughter. Lately little is heard of expulsion and slaughter in the province, and this results from the fact that the villages of the province are almost emptied of Jews. Secondly, the post does not arrive here. The wicked make sure that our captivity should remain deaf and dumb like a wall.

November 7

A fence is set up around the shops of Schultz and Tebenset, ^{making}

this place every worker in a

~~then~~ a prison within a prison. This information spread quickly throughout the ghetto and cast a great fear; [it is said that] they want to starve us to death.

(W) The political news regarding the [conquest] ^{VICTORY} of the United English-American soldiers in Africa had a great effect among the Ghetto slaves,] because the Jews had despaired of any possibility of freedom. [It] ^{HE} is *strong* ^{FORMULATION} threatening] strong like iron - such was the manifestation of their despair.

The language of the official German communication regarding the situation in ^{AFRICA} Africa, however, is so clear that there is no doubt that the Germans have sustained a serious blow.

November 8

It is said among us that an expulsion of Jews in Hungary ^{BEGAN} will take place in the same manner as in Poland. Everywhere, the murderers use the same device to trick the Jews into the net as was used in Warsaw. ~~They force~~ the Jewish leaders to issue a promise and public assurance that those expelled will be sent to settle in the eastern areas. This is likewise done in France, Belgium, Holland and all other countries occupied by them.

Thus did Dr. Yablonsky read a card that came from Paris to a relative in Warsaw in which he informs with joy that his sisters, brothers, parents are being sent to....colonize in....Treblinka. Could French Jews have a notion that Treblinka is the name of a mass-slaughter location ?

November 9

STONES There is a rumour that 20.000 Jews from the province villages are being sent into the Warsaw Ghetto. The rumour is derived from an official order that 14 Ghettos will be set up in Poland. *The political implication of this order is very uncertain; apparently it is intended to mislead foreign countries, or else simply provoke in order to catch Jews in a trap*

(+) The regime in ^{the} Ghetto has become less restrictive during the last 8 - 10 days. [It is not particularly concerned with] whether people walk in the streets in groups or singly.

..!
* Just as they forced the Judenrat in Warsaw to publish a denial of all rumors & to publicly declare that deportees are being resettled, so here - THEY FORCE - - -

On Sunday when the work in the shops terminates at mid-day, a large movement goes on in the streets, People go to visit relatives or acquaintances or take care of other matters which could not be attended to during the week.

A rumour has been spread that the community is also distributing food to those not officially registered, mostly the wives and children of the shop workers. Still the mood of the people is depressed because it is not clear what is to be expected. Most of the people are not firmly based and fear is always present.

Today snow fell for the first time. Usually this is an enjoyable and refreshing occurrence. But in our situation it brings more terror. Today we learned that the American army has captured Algiers.

It is learned that a train of 50 wagons loaded with Jews of the province passed through the principal railroad station, and then continued forward.

November 10

At the departure station there are again many men and women. To be released from there costs about 3.500 guilders. (About a week or two earlier, as known, it [costed] about 6.000 guilders per head.)
The men go to work at ^{COLLECTING THE EFFECTS OF THE JEWS WHO HAD ABANDONED THEIR HOMES} emptying the vacated Jewish Homes. The women, however, are not admitted there at all. ^{TO WORK.}

In the shops Schultz-9 they distribute now not more than a little bread per head [and a bit of] ^{AN EIGHT OF 2 OF DIENT} bad soup. On the other hand, the shoemakers and tailors are able to earn from private work, done in secret at the shops. Officially, the work there lasts from 7 in the morning to 6 in the evening, and the [regime] is ^{MOST DIFFICULT.} a hard one.

The life in the ghetto is getting more and more difficult. From the beginning of the expulsion to the present most Jews were able to exist by selling objects collected in the abandoned residences or by selling their own. Now it turns out they are reduced to ^{pick-up} picking up ^{HOLES} things in the streets and they search out all recesses and ^{attics} roof-tops. All this can not last much longer and hunger is already making its appearance in all dwellings. The approach of winter brings on the terror of stomach typhus which is spreading in the ghetto. It is feared that the typhus will be followed by tuberculosis,

as it did in Lodz. Today it became known that about 500 policemen had come into the ghetto. - some say: 1000. Why were so many policemen needed? It might be to renew the expulsion. Some say these policemen are here in force for fear of the Poles or, ~~to~~ to-morrow's festival of November 11, but this seems unlikely.

It becomes known that the rooms of the departure station are cleared out. It is said that shoemakers and tailors will be sent from there to Lublin.

Today, the Jewish police ^{PHONED BY THE P.O.W. INQUIRING} telephoned to the A.B.W. with inquiries as to how many ^{FACTORY} branches they had, where they were located, where the dwellings blocks of the workers were located, the street addresses of the buildings etc. It is understood that the inquiries are not related to any increase in the shop, ^{PERHAPS THEY PLAN TO DISBAND THE SHOPS} and people are ^{CAUSE FEAR} ~~uneasy~~ ^{FEARFUL}.

The workers are escaping from Hoffmann's tailor shop because they fear expulsion. They believe that Lublin is merely a pretext and that actually the Germans have Treblinka in mind. It is also said ~~that 5.000 people will be taken from Schultz at his request. It appears that he spent 3.000.000 guilders on very (meager) amounts of food and now wants to get rid of this number of workers. He now has 8.000 workers, but their production does not exceed that of the previous number of 2.500 people. For this reason he requires that every shop worker must pay ten guilders per day for each piece of bread and some soup, in order not to add money out of his own pocket. The sum should however only be paid by those workers who arrived after July 22 (the start of the expulsion). It is said that all the Jews of the small ghetto should transfer themselves to the large ghetto.~~ ^{IS IN DEBT FOR EXPANDED FOR MEAGER} ~~that he spent 3.000.000 guilders on very (meager) amounts of food and now wants to get rid of this number of workers. He now has 8.000 workers, but their production does not exceed that of the previous number of 2.500 people. For this reason he requires that every shop worker must pay ten guilders per day for each piece of bread and some soup, in order not to add money out of his own pocket. The sum should however only be paid by those workers who arrived after July 22 (the start of the expulsion). It is said that all the Jews of the small ghetto should transfer themselves to the large ghetto.~~ ^{WILL HAVE TO}

Today about 9.00 in the morning it became known that a ^{CLOSING} [blockade] of Hoffmann's shop took place and that they took away women and children, ^{FIRST OF ALL} [preferably] the illegal ones.

Later it was reported that ^{CLOSINGS} [blockades] also occurred at Tebensman and Ochsman. They are looking for tailors to be sent to Lublin. They gathered about 1.000 people. All ^{the three} those, Tebent, Hoffmann and Attmann had wanted for some time to get rid of some workers, and now they are satisfied.

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*in chief for Dept of the from the chief of the section
has a plan (should be) to Warsaw
Conclusion*

November 11

AGITATION spread through

Immediately in the morning a great restlessness [agitated] the ghetto. It became known that the ^{RAIDS} blockades ^{CLOSURES} are to be repeated today. The restlessness had, first of all, brought about an increase in the price of bread. Partly, this had been caused by fear ^{RESULTING FROM} as a result of Hitler's speech. People have, as usual, twisted his speech, and each one has interpreted it in his own way. Thus, they said that Hitler had threatened that by January 1 not one Jew will remain in Europe. The fright lasted a whole day. In the afternoon some S.S. Officers came to A.B.V. When they were seen entering the courtyard, a fearful panic came about. The workers grabbed their bags and began to flee by back exits... Later it turned out that they only came to seize some machines which might be available.

RAID

Concerning yesterday's blockade at Hoffmann, the following details became known: the S.S. people came there to take 600 tailors to Lublin. Of the previous 1000 workers they found that only 42 had remained. This enraged them, and they decided on their own ^{WITHOUT REACHING} to reach an understanding with "Krul Palace" to ^{TAKE} enact revenge ^{ON THE JEWS} and, therefore, they took out women and children.

According to another version, they seized people because the productivity of the work there had fallen.

Today, from Kurt Redin's textile shop on Smatche they seized about 60 people. It became known that at yesterday's blockade at Aschman, the S.S. leader Vitashek told the workers to enroll voluntarily to go to Lublin for work, otherwise they would perish from hunger here, while there they would eat plentifully. Besides that, by December not one Jew will remain in Warsaw.

November 12

RAIDS

Today, no blockades took place. They say that the "action" has been interrupted for two weeks. It is still not believed that the slaughter will have been discontinued. It is believed that they intend to annihilate completely all Jews of Warsaw, ~~till the last one.~~

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PH/2-3-3

P. Opatowski

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WARSAW GHETTO CHRONICLE.

DECEMBER, 1942.

SEXUAL DESIRE IN THE GHETTO.

10 December.

Already, many months ago, before the beginning of the expulsion, a remarkable phenomenon was apparent: sexual uniformity, impotence resulting from starvation. Epidemic disease on the one hand - especially spotted typhus, and starvation on the other - threw ^{tens of} thousands of young people of both sexes - males and females - into a complete sexual apathy, almost as though desire had been erased and the fires of love ^{in their eyes} had been extinguished ~~in their eyes~~. It is almost incredible that young men and women of the ages of twenty to twenty-five could meet in the street or in a house and converse so coolly, soberly, and without warmth, that one could imagine that they had finished their part of life in which suffering rages in the person and

Patak 112

A phenomenon is driven by his sexual desires at every step. Yet not only married men and women, parents of children, even grown ones, were already going around with the appearance of age on their faces, and were constantly reminding themselves and others with every word: "Oh, we are already too old, grandfathers, grandmothers ... although these "grandfathers" and "grandmothers" were often barely past the thirties.

With women, the lack of desire was associated with the loss of menstruation, not only by married women, but even by eighteen-year old girls. These women often had pale faces, blue rings under the eyes, and extinguished glances. Privation and the harsh laws, the constant fear of death

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cont.

forced everyone, even that portion of the Jews, the unusual ones who still retained normal sexual drives, to prevent births, and new-born babies at that time in Greater Warsaw, could practically be counted on one's fingers. There were practically no weddings and no circumcisions. The scythe of death, which constantly hovered over Jewish heads, spoiled the idea of procreation, and everyone said to himself: What? to bring an unfortunate soul into the world? Aren't there enough hated Jews? If only our great-great-grandfathers had converted, we would have been rid of our troubles today...

The degree to which sex life was diminished can also be shown by the fact that regardless of the great need, prostitution declined severely. At the beginning of the war, Jewish women indeed went into the streets to sell their bodies for a bit of bread, but later, in the period before the expulsion, practically no Jewish prostitute could be seen walking the streets. There was no demand.

Today, while these lines are being written, several months after the bloody expulsion, a quite different experience can be noted, which from a psychological ^{point of} view can easily be understood: those who have a little better-fod, who gathered from the ruins of Jewish homes enough things to sell and to make a living from them, whether only dealers, or smugglers or ordinary doers, want to live, to seize whatever they can while they are alive, to get drunk, to stuff themselves, because tomorrow is not ours, Treblinka winks from a distance with hollowed-out eye-holes. The German victimizes ... you, who are condemned to death - you must seize what you can, -tomorrow may be too late...

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On the other hand again, one does not relive the lamentations...

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(Cont.)

and fearful tremblings of the blockade days. It is ^{comparatively} ~~about~~ quiet; one wants to forget, to forget the captured parents, the sisters and wives and ... one lives.

Women whose husbands have been taken away, and men whose wives have been captured, meet each other, quickly reach an understanding and live together and live ... Have the women in the course of a quarter of a year forgotten their husbands? Have the men no further thought ^{of} their children and the mothers of their children; whose blood has not yet cooled in the earth, are their minds so calm that they can lightheartedly choose new wives? One does not think of this. It is a psychological reaction. One wants to drown in the rage of suffering, the misery of blood, the destruction - the darkness and one drinks with ^a thirsty yearning from the bittersweet cup of life.

At the gates of the houses, in the entrances, one meets lovers in the evenings, in the corners, others become engaged, seeking their fated ones, all in the few hours of the evening when one is free of the shop and can risk going alone in the street, even though this is forbidden, and not a few pay for this with their heads.

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The aroused sex, the desire, also gave rise to prostitution, and this, which during the entire time of the war was not found among the Jews of Greater Warsaw group, which had at certain times numbered close to a half-million Jews, now showed itself in the oppressed Jewish Ghetto after the expulsion: venereal diseases ... it is reported that in the Christa Hospital, which is now located in the bit of Gensha Street which is now left for Jews, more than five sufferers of venereal disease have been listed.

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cont.

This is doubtless a great outbreak, and in the minds of the masses, a leap into the deep or possibly the bottomless pit. In any case, life has lost its sunshine. Bewilderment, loss of faith in mankind, and devaluation of his moral aspect - degeneration - this is the style of the gruesome Hitlerian prospect...

11 December.

It is reported that in Brisk, Lithuania, and in many towns in that region, there have been recent recurrences of expulsion.

According to Reuter's report, President Roosevelt spoke about the Jews of Europe and about our frightful cutting off in Poland. Does the world know yet about Treblinka, or do the murderers still make it a secret, hidden even from their own people, who read their speeches about "rooting out the Jews" and accept them as political rhetoric?

Roosevelt is supposed to have said that he knows "everything" that the S.S. inhuman beasts have done to the Jews in Poland and elsewhere, and he will finally be forced to make severe reprisals against the Germans in America (?).

However, we have serious doubts whether the report is at all true and if so, whether Roosevelt was indeed able to do it.

There is a report of a strange conference which is supposed to have taken place in Berlin between the German Minister of Labor and the Minister of Agriculture concerning Jews. The Agriculture Minister pointed out that Germany, in the fourth year of the war already had no bread and for that reason he demanded that the remainder of the Jews should be cleared out of Poland, to "liquidate" them in order to save bread... and the Labor Minister, on the contrary, indicated that now, at the time of the great

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(cont.)

offensives in Africa and Russia, Germany needed young Jewish workers, and therefore it must delay carrying out the "liquidation" operation against the Jews. The conference is supposed to have ended with a compromise; that is, the Labor Minister's premise triumphed permanently, but the Agriculture Minister, too, did not leave empty-handed: namely, Jews would be "permitted" to continue to work strenuously for the German war industry, but their bread rations would be further reduced by half... according to the famous adage: the wolf would be satisfied and the lamb would remain whole.

12 December.

Yesterday, in the community, a suspicious young man was arrested and was in the process of being taken to the S.S. men.

On the way, on Smocha St., the unknown man pulled two Brownings from his pocket and began to shoot in all directions and in the surprise and confusion, he managed to escape. Who this person is, whether Jew or Gentile, it has not yet been established. Later, the gendarmes were stationed ^{practically} in front of every gate on Smocha near the corner of Gensha, but did not catch the suspect.

According to another version, the suspect was not arrested in the community, but through the health division on Kurza (Kupiecka), where he was circulating and attracting attention by his strange behavior. A third version says that this person entered a house on Nalewki and requested permission to stay overnight. This was granted. While he was out of the house for a short time, the residents noticed a Browning lying on the table. They threw it away in the house. When the unknown person returned, he realized what had happened to his weapon, and wanted to flee, but then

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the people informed the Jewish police about this, and what happened, happened. It is believed that the unknown person wanted to carry out an attack on the life of one of the leaders of the community.
14 December.

A rumor is again circulating that in all the Aryan factories on the other side, all Polish workers between the ages of 16^{and} 30 would be taken out and sent to work in Prussia. Their place in Warsaw, on the other hand, would be taken by Jews. Similarly, it is reported that the Germans have been ordered to make use of all possible small metal factories which were owned by Jews, to let them continue in operation with Jewish workers.

It is also said that in the ranks of German forced laborers, they are beginning to take Jews to work, although for a long time the list was closed there. All this together would indicate that the situation, or more simply, our life, is secured for a few months.

Today, a political rumor was received, that Italy had received a promise from the Allies in return of a loan of two million pounds and in addition would get half of Abyssinia if it would agree to a separate peace.

As we know, among the 14 Ghettos which were recently designated for Jews in Poland, were included the towns of Shedlec and Kalushin. Now we know a fearful thing: Until 30 November, Jews from the surrounding villages were free to go into these Ghettos. (so-called in the order). It is not known how many Jews gathered there, but the day following that date, when those Ghettos were closed, S.S. men came in and "liquidated" them. They were not taken, we are assured, directly

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to Treblinka, but on the spot, in those woods, they found their final home. Are we in Warsaw not being fooled in the same way?
15 December.

The rumor is again stubbornly repeated that Lodz has again suffered a terrible expulsion.

Last evening, when people were going home from the shop, a Yunk together with a Jewish secret agent came to Mila. 55-61, where there was a hidden little store of foodstuffs and took away all the merchandise and also cash money. Evidently, we are dealing here with an informer, and it has been determined that it was a sister of the ^{wife of the} store owner ~~owner~~, who had been ousted as a partner.

It is told that in Gorwalin, the Gentiles receive bread and butter from the Germans for turning in a Jew, and for turning in a hidden Russian, ^{an} additional suit or a pair of boots. Also, it is rumored in Warsaw that the Gentiles on the other side were promised rewards for turning in hidden Jews to the Germans. They would receive fifteen hundred guilders for each Jewish head...

The report was received today that the gendarmes who had arrived here only a few weeks ago are already leaving. To replace them, SS. people are coming. Since the same thing happened also before the terrible expulsion, this is seen as a bad sign. So change the rumors and reports about our tomorrows from day to day, if not from hour to hour, and there is no one in the Ghetto, not even one person, who is able to give information. The wisest of us are fooled, because no one believes the Germans and we know that everything they say has no value whatever. They are full of lies, gross and shameless - vulgar as ~~are~~ the prostitutes.

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16 December.

Reports have it that besides Kalushin and Shedletz, pogroms have just taken place in Lemberg, Mezric, Novidvar, Skozhisk and in a number of other places in the Cracow district. Evidently they want to finish off the remainder of the survivors of the Jews in Poland. Enough - and to this horrible slaughter, which truly has nothing like it in human history, to destroy millions - if the world has not said a single word. Does it really not know, this great world, about the crimes of Treblinka?

17 December.

An escapee from the Jewish labor-camp behind Treblinka reports that every Jew who becomes ill in the camp is immediately taken out to a certain place and shot. This is the "new" German art of healing, with which the Germans want to favor Europe, the new "morality".

18 December.

This morning, four ^{homeless} Jewish boys, who used to come by ^{the market} from ^{the market} Gensher cemetery, were shot. As is known, this market was recent liquidated. It was forbidden for the Toporol company to send work there to maintain the graves, but the children would steal in various ways and sell things to the Gentiles. Last evening the Germans caught four of these children while they were carrying out things from the destroyed Jewish houses, which are now outside the Ghetto. They were arrested and this morning they were shot.

p. 69 It is reported that in Kovrin and in two other cities on Poleshia, Jews, at the time of expulsion set up a resistance and killed many of their murderers.

These reports of Jewish resistance have been repeated so often recently

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that one really gets the impression that they are nothing more than the products of ^{the} sick minds of the Warsaw Jews, who let themselves be led to the slaughter like calves. They must have it as a responsibility, and here they comfort themselves with the dream of Jewish resistance, now in Lublin, now in Kобрin and tomorrow again in other places, for if not for this, where does it come from after the frightful expulsion, after the ugly readiness of the Jewish policemen who so diligently learned the trade of murder and drove to their deaths tens of thousands of Jews. How can it be that nothing is tried even now to organize the resistance, regardless of the fact that everyone keeps saying that, now, now, he will finish with us?

19 December.

The Polish Government organ on emigration, "Information Bulletin", reports on the entire public impression in Europe and the diplomatic world regarding the terrible slaughter in Treblinka, from the received account which the Polish Government obtained from Poland, and it informs us of the wider publicity. The Polish National Council in London has selected a special commission for the study of the Treblinka murders, and the Polish Government has, on the basis of the received materials, appealed to the Allies now to speed its help, for soon it may be too late.

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It is also reported that the Pope may have communicated with Hitler on this matter. Roosevelt may have approached Italy with an ultimatum to expel the Duce, or else its fate would be like that of Turin, which was recently so terribly bombed.

It is reported that Poles are being driven out of several districts in the Lublin area. This is also happening in the Lemberg area. On the

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other side, Poles are regularly being caught for labor in Prussia. By April the Polish labor contingent may reach 300,000. Similarly, a silent mobilization of Poles is being considered, to be consolidated with the German army for various support labor behind the front.

A report states that the Germans now again need tailors, shoe-makers and also physical laborers, and very soon a portion of them will be taken from the ~~shops~~ shops in Tebenses.

In the Brill Palace a conference may have taken place today on the future fate of the Ghetto Jews.

The master furniture-maker Shepsel, who was working this week in the Sejm building, tells that a German officer informed him that he himself had ^{had} in his hand a paper with an order to expel all the Jews from Warsaw by 30 December, but the order was cancelled. If this information is correct, we must assume that this happened after the storm which aroused the world when it learned the story of Treblinka. Also, the well-known denial of the expulsion, which the Community, on a hint from above, issued again a few weeks ago, is testimony that now they will be particularly careful to do everything quietly.

The same information about the order for expulsion on 30 December is reported by the Community circles in the name of the Community head Lichtenbeim.

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21 December.

It is reported in the name of the S.S. men that the Warsaw Ghetto would be secured by 30 March.

Today there was talk of a great raid which the coalition was preparing on Tripoli with a detachment of 130 ships.

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An arrival from Skazhisk reports that many Poles sent out of Grodno are arriving there.

A curious rumor was spread today that the gates of the Ghetto in Cracow were removed, that Jews don't wear the armbands with the Star of David ^{on their sleeves} any more, and the same will very soon happen in Warsaw.

It is hard to say where this extraordinary rumor came from; whether from the burning desire for release, which sees in every victory of the bound the beginning of redemption, or whether these rumors were simply spread for a certain purpose through the Gestapo or the S.S.

The Gestapo agents and their Jewish assistants and the S.S. men circulate every Sunday on Miła Street, where the stall-keepers buy things from the traders, and with piercing eyes follow every movement which one makes. These suspicious rogues show that the enemy is ever alert, watches our every step and is accurately informed about our feelings and actions.