

MAR 21 1945

# Lad Writes Grim Story Of Life Under Germans

Montreal, March 20 (CP).—The short but extraordinary autobiography of a 15-year-old Jewish boy, Paul Hodess of Lodz, Poland, who passed through some of the worst German concentration camps and lost his parents and a brother at the hands of the Nazis, was made public here today by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The Congress said the original document, handwritten by the boy in Yiddish on cheap German book-keeping forms, had reached it through one of its relief workers in Germany—Philip Stuchen of Ottawa.

## Locked in Ghetto

At the age of nine, young Hodess wrote, he was locked in the ghetto with his family.

"We suffered hunger and need," he related. "People became swollen and died. In 1943, the Germans grabbed all children of 10 years of age. I had a younger brother of seven. We lay with him in the attic without food or water."

A week later, "the German S.S. began to search out the weak and the thin people in the houses." He had lain in hiding with his family and had counted the shots.

"As a child, I could not then understand the full meaning of a family, of being with father and

mother," he said. "Today I can really speak of it now that I am left alone without anybody."

In the summer of 1944, the family had been sent to Oswiecim, where the four were separated and where young Paul had gone with his father.

"I got in the line-up with him (his father) and we came to the German officer who picked out the strong men and sent the others with the children to be burned," the boy recounted. "I was horribly red from crying and roughly dressed, and the officer liked me. I told him I was 17. He looked at me and sent me away with my father, after two days in Oswiecim, to the labor camp at Kaufbaurn."

There had been 600 in the group, which was sent out to work in the forest. Two days later, Paul's father had contracted pneumonia and had died the following week.

The 125 survivors of the group had subsequently been sent to Dachau, with 40 men dying on the train.

Paul wrote that he was admitted to hospital at Dachau, where the doctor was a Frenchman who took pity on him and gave him light work after he recovered. When the Germans gathered all the Jews April 25, 1945, to be taken to the Tyrol, the doctor had risked his own life and that of Paul by writing another diagnosis for him and putting him to bed though well. Three days later, the Americans had entered the camp.

From Dachau, young Paul went to a camp for Jews at Feldafing, where the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee "helped us in every way."

"Soon after I went to Heidelberg," he wrote. "The representative of the J.D.C. put me in a school for Jewish children."

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