

Nazi Effort Wiped Out All But Tenth of Jews

Bare Handful of Victims Left in Europe After Most Horrible Chapter in Hard History—Studied and Ruthless Program of Extermination Allowed Few Escapes—Survivors in Horrible Condition

(By Louis M. Lyons)

FELDAFING, Germany, Aug. 23.—(NANA)—How fiendishly thorough was the Nazi effort to wipe out every Jew in Europe you would have realized if you had been with me to-day in one school in this Alpine town and seen nearly a tenth of all the surviving Jews of Germany.

Escaped Extermination

There are 6,000 survivors here of the most horrible of extermination centres. The army displaced persons branch has completed a census of Jews in the American and British zones and finds only 75,000 in all. The number in the Russian zone is unknown, but in the Berlin district, which had nearly half the 800,000 Jews of Germany, only about 6,000 have been found.

The army estimates that not a tenth of all the 6,000,000 Jews of pre-war Europe survived the most savagely complete program of extermination since Herod. Of 110,000 Dutch Jews deported, about 5,000 have returned. Out of 105,000 French Jews, only some 3,000 have been found. Just 350 Greek Jews have been found out of 66,000 deported from Greece. Only 1,300 of the 23,000 Jews deported from Belgium have been returned. Norway has found only 12 of her 734 Jewish deportees. The repatriation of the Jews from the western countries has been completed. The Nazi policy was to deport all Jews from occupied countries and then exterminate them.

"Displaced Persons"

Left in the centres for displaced persons are only the Jews of eastern Europe. Many of them do not wish to return to their former homes, or cannot. In this camp are Polish, Romanian, Hungarian and Lithuanian Jews. The Lithuanians estimate that only 10,000 are left of the former 200,000 Jews of the country. None of the Lithuanian Jews and few of the Poles want to return to their former lands. Of the Romanians and Hungarians, less than half want to go back. The rest fear future pogroms.

Most want to go to Palestine or to England or America, where many have relatives. But the British policy in Palestine prevents any further immigration to that Jewish haven. The Jews who have been here more than three months, impatient for release, hope the new Labour Government in England will change the policy of a closed door to Palestine.

All the Jews remaining in Germany would not add much to any population. They would total less than the population of Quincy, Mass. There are no children under 13 in this centre of 6,000. All were destroyed.

Pregnant women were killed, so no babies were born in the years that the Nazi pall shrouded

Europe. The man who guided men to a view of the camp lost all seven of his children and his wife. The young leader of the workshop where 1,000 are making clothes and other articles for the camp was one of many castrated by the Nazis.

In Shocking Condition

This is the one centre exclusively for Jewish survivors of concentration camps. They all came here emaciated, sick, reduced almost to animal behaviour. They have been restored under nursing and feeding and work training until the Unrra and army directors say they can take their places as normal people wherever they can find a chance to resume their lives.

The first 2,000 in this camp were snatched from death by the 36th Division of the 7th Army, which liberated them on a train to the extermination centre of Auschwitz. They had not eaten for several days and hundreds were near death. Later typhus broke out and the camp had 160 cases. All but seven were saved and altogether only 16 have died. Except for 100 tuberculosis cases, the rest have recovered their health and mental faculties.

Of 400 children, 13 to 18, only 160 still require a special sugar and vitamin diet. The children are all in a school that was formerly a Hitler youth school.

The members of the group now do nearly all the work and carry nearly all the responsibility for operating their own camp. From the first the local Germans here were forced to provide food and medical care. The first order to the local mayor was to put the camp in complete readiness for the Jewish refugees overnight and 800 Germans worked all night to do it.

Forty marriages have taken place in the centre, where 12 rabbis are members of the groups. The rabbis teach Jewish history to the children. A synagogue is being built.

Planned Cruelty

All these people had gone through extermination camps. They describe the process as follows:

A Nazi officer stood in the centre of a room inspecting the line of Jews and he would beckon some to the right, others to the left. Those on the right went direct to the crematory. Those to the left were the stronger, judged useful for work. All were put to heavy construction work on a starvation diet.

This handful are left to remember the most horrible chapter in the hard history of their people.

1949 War: European

1939: Jews