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Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe
– Jewish Responses to Persecution: The Case of France
Translation: D07 French article on the occupation of Poland by Germany

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FRATERNITY

A Publication of the National Movement Against Racist Barbarism
(The formerly unoccupied zone)

IN HEROIC POLAND

According to the account of a laborer who recently escaped from Poland, we gleaned the following information:

Warsaw, the country's capital, is in a spectacular state of ruin and desolation. The city is divided into three quarters. In the quarter where the wealthy once lived, the German military and civil bureaucracy has set up its offices. One quarter is reserved for non-Jewish Polish citizens; the third quarter, which is squalid and unsanitary, is being used to coop up the few thousand Jews who are still alive in Warsaw.

It is forbidden to go from one quarter to another.

In the ghetto where the Jews are crammed together in slums, poor hygienic conditions, famine and water shortages have lead to numerous epidemics. The worst ravages are caused by typhoid fever, which runs especially rampant during the autumn and winter months.

Given these conditions, it is clear that the mortality level is very high.

And that which illness does not accomplish, the Germans take care of themselves. Under different pretexts, and under no pretext at all, the Jews are taken by the hundreds and executed as hostages.

The Polish people are doing everything that they can to help the Jews. They evade detection by the guards and hand off packages of provisions to those poor people.

Recently, the resistance movement against the invader has grown significantly. The youth who were threatened with deportation to Germany and the farmers who have had their land taken from them have taken over the country's vast forests, which are ideal grounds for the resistance fighters to launch ambushes and fight.

Pitched battles have taken place in the region between the Vistula and the San, in Lublin and Radom etc.

The German repression is of the most savage kind. Any man who is spotted at the edge of the wood is immediately shot and killed. His body is left there to serve as an example to the locals. Entire villages are burned, their inhabitants massacred or deported to Germany.

The farmers respond by slaughtering their cattle, hiding their wheat and taking refuge with their families in the woods.

Day after day, relentless battles continue where Polish citizens at every level of society pay their tribute in blood.

IN POLAND, AS EVERYWHERE ELSE...

The Jews of Krakow have been sent to Auschwitz, a village located a few dozen kilometers from Krakow. Before the evacuation, the Germans shot and killed one thousand Jews. At the Auschwitz camp there are instruments of torture and massacre. Gas chambers for the mass asphyxiation of Jews and high voltage electric chambers.

There is a similar camp near Lodz where the Jews from the entire region have been gathered together.

AFTER THE JEWS, THE NON-JEWS

Per a document drawn up by the Polish government on the regime of atrocities instituted by the Nazis, it appears that there are currently 80 concentration camps in Poland. Since the start of the occupation, four million Polish citizens have been executed, imprisoned or deported. The Polish language is forbidden during religious worship. Thousands of children have been torn from their mothers and sent to Germany under the same conditions as the Jewish children from France.

translated by Nina Fink