

## MASS- INFILTRATION OF POLISH JEWS

The early summer months in 1946 offered a good opportunity for the terrorized Polish Jews to flee their homes. Hundreds of infiltrees came to Berlin daily and so the number here increased. All of these people were interested in the location of their relatives abroad or in Germany. Many of them had not had any contact with friends and relatives since 1939, others had communicated with them before being evacuated by the Soviets to deep Siberia in 1941 and had destroyed their notes when crossing the border. Mothers were looking for their children who left Poland a few weeks earlier with children transports and allegedly lived in a Kibutz in Bavaria. From the other end, people in America, Palestine, England and elsewhere, having learned of the post-war persecution of Jews in Poland and of their mass exodus, contacted our office to inquire as to whether their relatives, who were originally from a small town in Poland, had arrived at Berlin.

From a little more than 2000 Polish infiltrees at the beginning of June 1946 in Berlin, the number grew to 8000 by the end of July 1946. The well known pogrom of Kielce and similar riots gave reason to this mass flight. These infiltrees brought horrible stories from Poland one of which is recorded in this report. (see Appendix III) The brutal murdering by the Polish national groups reminded one of the treatment given by the Ukrainian SS and German Gestapo. By the end of September 1946 10 000 Polish refugees were in Berlin. The army found itself forced to open a second camp and to give the DPs a chance to leave the US sector and enter the US Zone. Transports were arranged by UNRRA. People were sent on a selective basis and first consideration was given to those who already had relatives in the US Zone of Germany.

The search offices in both UNRRA camps were run by several persons who worked in a chaotic manner. Our job was to help them and to file tracing requests for almost every second infiltree. The work was made very difficult because the camp-lists of new arrivals and departures could not be relied upon.



Each Tracing Request is being checked against Previous Registrations

From 100—130 letters were dispatched daily by this office during the month of June and July 1946. These included reports on our investigations and our own inquiries sent to other AJDC and cooperating offices. A close cooperation is maintained with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the South African Board of Deputies, United Jewish Relief Agencies of Canada, and other organizations in practically every country here on the

continent and abroad. These 130 letters a day did not include the additional mimeographed forms which were sent out instructing the inquirer of the proper procedure in filing applications. The total numbers of dispatched letters and inquiries for June and July 1946 alone amounted to 10 466. These letters covered some 25 000 names including persons sought, found, inquiring and represented in our closed and active cases.

Incoming tracing requests at a rate of approximately 90 a day were received from all over the world totalling to some 5300 for June and July 1946 alone. The number of inter-office tracing communications and telephone calls sent with the transmission of mail to Displaced Persons and Berlin Jews here would increase the daily number of tracing requests greatly. Our statistics show that for the month of June and July 1946 the total number of received correspondence items was 6000. This rough figure on incoming communications, of course, represents not only incoming new tracing requests, but also communications on old cases already pending in our files.

Tracing requests filed for infiltrees in our area were dispatched in the usual way directly to our cooperating committees. Before replies were ever received, some of our inquirers were gone and had filed new applications in Belsen, Munich and other DP camps in the Western Zones of Germany. It was our job and still is to search for the inquirer and to transmit the results of our investigations. Would the registration at the time of infiltration be on an organized level and all departures from Berlin within the official UNRRA transportation system, such difficulties could be spared. However, thousands left Berlin because of the unbearable conditions in the Berlin camps at that time without notifying anybody or bothering to give us any hint as to their illegal trip through the Russian Zone.

The large amount of tracing requests from Polish Jews received by our office here in Berlin is a result of the general mass flight out of Poland. Since Berlin was one of the main centers for infiltration, relatives of Polish Jews abroad thought to find their dear ones here, though they may have also checked in Austria and Czechoslovakia.

continent and abroad. These 130 letters a day did not include the additional mimeographed forms which were sent out during the progress of the proper procedure in filing applications. The total number of dispatched letters and packages for June and July 1945 alone amounted to 10,000. These letters covered some 25,000 names including persons sought, found, missing and represented in our stock and active cases.

Increasing tracing requests at a rate of approximately 30 a day were received from all over the world totaling to some 2,500 for June and July 1945 alone. The number of inter-office tracing communications and telephone calls sent with the transmission of staff to displaced persons and Berlin Jews have been massive. The daily number of tracing requests greatly. Our statistics show that for the month of June and July 1945 the total number of received correspondence items was 6,000. This count being on incoming communications of course, represents not only incoming new tracing requests, but also communications on old cases already pending in our files.

Tracing requests filed for holders in our area were dispatched in the usual way directly to our cooperating committees. Before replies were received, some of our inquiries were gone and had filed new applications in Berlin, Munich and other DRG camps in the Western Zones of Germany. It was our job and still is to search for the holder and to transmit the results of our investigation. We could not do this at the time of institution of an organized level and all departures from Berlin within the official U.S. military transportation system, such difficulties could be spared. However, thousands left Berlin because of the unbearable conditions in the Berlin camps at that time without notifying anybody or bothering to give us any hint as to their illegal trip through the Russian Zone.

The large amount of tracing requests from Polish Jews received by our office here in Berlin is a result of the general mass flight out of Poland. Since Berlin was one of the main centers for institution, relatives of Polish Jews abroad thought to find their dear ones here, though they may have also checked in Austria and Czechoslovakia.