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[Jewish central information office]

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

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An Account of Facts.

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The following reports, based upon truthful observations, and trustworthy accounts, by eye-witnesses, provide no more than a cursory view of the German November Pogrom.

What really did happen, is worse by far than anything described in these pages.

Even to this day it has not been possible as yet to write a comprehensive account, giving exact figures, because the Jews of Germany, even those that have already left the country, cannot be moved to speak, for fear of retaliation.

Nor has it been feasible - two months after the Pogrom - to draw up a list even remotely accurate, of the men and women that were slain in the excesses, or, driven by utter despair, chose to destroy themselves.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

An Account of Facts.

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1.

S.A., S.S., and Hitler Youth getting ready for the Pogrom

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

The Socalled Popular Fury.

A trustworthy Jewish business man, who has been lucky enough to escape with a very close shave, tells the following story:

"I live in the Kurfurstendamm district of Berlin. During the night from November 9 to 10, I had as usual the windows open. At the stroke of 3, I was suddenly awakened. There is a Jewish shop in the house: both its shop windows were broken, and the goods destroyed.

I also heard the clashes of shop windows in the neighbourhood. An hour later another onslaught: again a bombshell of stones upon the remnants of the window glass and what of the goods there was still left intact.

I now watched from my window: there was a small car stopping in front of the house: two men, in ordinary dress, stepping out and smashing the rest of the glass.

That could not have been done unless it was thoroughly prepared in advance. Their wrecking work done, the men went back into the car, and did the same thing next door.

About 6 o'clock, a third gang appeared to complete the havoc.

After these observations, I could not doubt that this was an action carefully planned and executed by the S.A., S.S., and Hitler Youth (in mufti).

My impression was even confirmed next day when I overheard a conversation at the barber's. While being shaved, a man was saying: "We have been on the booze till 3 this morning 'cos we had to be there in time. We have not half bumped off the "b-- Jews"."

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

The Dangerous Misunderstanding.

In a city, in Western Germany, the ordered gang, during the night from November 9 to 10, by some sort of mistake, broke into an "Aryan"s" dwelling, instead of into a Jew's.

They smashed up all furniture as well as mirrors, windowglass, pots and cutlery, the kitchen and all.

The Aryan tenants were horrified, did not know what to do, and of course thought they were dealing with madmen.

They at once made off, and have not yet returned to their place. The neighbours state that they are hiding somewhere, fearful of being mercilessly brought to book by some Party official, or other authority, for "having purposely misled "the wreckers", or perhaps being charged with having themselves wrecked the flat.

2.

Arresting men, women, old and young

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938
Reports from Vienna

30.000 Arrests.

The number of arrests in Vienna, in connection with the pogroms, is as yet beyond computation. According to authentic informations, some 25 to 30.000 persons have been taken into custody.

The police "calls" nearly always ended in the young men being abducted at once. Women too have been arrested at Floridsdorf, a Vienna working district, where already after the Anschluss serious outbreaks had occurred.

Where the father was not found at home, no hesitation was shown in arresting, as a "substitute", boys of 14 or 15, also old men aged 70 and more. The men were fetched from their homes on November 9 and all day November 10.

Moreover veritable men traps were laid in the streets, so that Jews could be arrested on the trams, busses, and at the railway stations. In order to remove all these prisoners, private vans, including cattle vans, had to be requisitioned.

The men were massed in narrow, insanitary emergency confinements. In the horse stable of the Vienna Police Barracks, some 5000 people were placed, and compelled to stop there, standing, for 36 hours, without any kind of food. At the same time, they had to do military drill, boxing, were made to slap each other, and even soil, with the filth of the stable, each other's faces. Whenever the officer in charge thought these atrocities not atrocious enough, the guards would join in and ensure the proper degree of cruelty.

Already on being put on the van, the prisoners were brutally maltreated. On grasping the mounting grabs their uncovered fingers were knocked with iron bludgeons, and their denuded heads struck, during the transport, with sticks and bludgeons. Only very few of the prisoners were lucky enough to be released after a few hours; as a rule those only who could prove their impending emigration, or produce a certificate of ill health. The number of those injured in prison is said to be between 1000 and 1500. The results of these unheard of tortures were attempted suicides and mass dispatches to the hospitals which of course are crowded. "Suicide" was also committed by a great number of those people in whose houses the authorities alleged to have found arms.

As a result of these arrests, many Jews and Jewesses are to-day straying in despair about the streets and surroundings of Vienna. Characteristic of the position seems the following passage in a letter from Vienna: "To-day, 15th November, we are

"on the streets still. On Thursday afternoon, 10th, at 4 o'clock we left our house, of course without linen and clothes. Thus we are even to-day without a roof over our heads. We really don't know what to do. Who is to bear this sorf of life?"

The relatives, driven almost to despair, will receive only mutilated information as to the whereabouts of their fathers, sons, or brothers, now nearly three weeks under arrest. One day they were told the men were at Dachau - while that same afternoon, suddenly, some of the missing men came back. This piece of wrong information sent to the unhappy women, only shows that everything is being done to torture these people.

Owing to the inadequate supply of news as regards the whereabouts of the arrested, the families often must rely on their own independent enquiries. Thus in Vienna a regular news service has been established between acquaintances, who will gather somewhere near the police stations and hospitals so as to be able to see their people being admitted. On these occasions men were noticed with bandages on head, hand, arm, and leg, which goes far to reveal the treatment they have been accorded. Relatives will not, as a rule, be admitted to the hospitals.

The relatives of the Jewish prisoners at Dachau and Buchenwald Concentration Camprecently received a multigraphed form, signed by the prisoner, which contained something like the following message:

"I am all right. Owing to the nefarious murder of a Jewish criminal, we are forbidden for one month both to wrote and receive letters. I request you not to bother the Governor with superfluous enquiries, as this might only result in the ban being extended".

This ban probably also applies to those arrested after the pogroms. This would account for the distraught relatives being left in ignorance so far - 3 weeks after the arrest - as to the whereabouts of the arrested.

Jewish young men, under Unemployment Relief, were told at the Labour Exchange, that they would be summoned to labour service at Ganserndorf, on the Northern Railway, 2 hours from Vienna, where barracks are being built for the purpose - it is alleged - of housing the Jews evacuated from Vienna.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M
November, 1938

FRANKFURT: Persecuting women and children

A Christian Swiss, resident of Frankfurt-am-Main, reports as follows:

"In the East End, all Jewish dwellings were demolished and the men arrested. In the West End the men were also arrested though dwellings were, for the most part, left intact. Where the police, despite repeated attempts, failed to find the men, they threatened to arrest the wives and children unless the men came forward. I have knowledge of two cases where this threat was actually carried out. In another case the frightened wife fetched the husband from the coal cellar where he had been in hiding.

I have heard from reliable sources that in the Jewish hospital Gagernstrasse, patients were arrested in their beds. A large number of Frankfurt men is straying near Frankfurt, in the Taunus mountains, without a roof over their heads, haunted by the fear of arrest. A small number is being hid by Jewish and Christian friends in the outskirts..."

3.

Bestial illtreatment

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

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November 1938

One of hundreds.

The former Editor of the Vienna "Neue Freie Presse", Herr Libesny, 48, was arrested on November 10, and kept in custody for a day. He was ill treated, and one blow smashed his glasses. Glass splinters that had come into one eye, were responsible for his losing his left sight. On being released from prison, Herr Libesny went home and shot himself.

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The Old and Ill

Old and ill Jews, on complaining of stomach aches etc. are taken to the patients room, in the Concentration Camp X. There they will be forced to take one to two pints of castor oil. Then they are taken into the open air and told to stand erect. No matter what kind of weather, they will have thus to stand up to 10 or 12 hours. Naturally more than one will faint and collapse.

It has been proved that young slender sports types receive a better kind of treatment, also prisoners that had served in the army. On the other hand, old, corpulent, and on top of it all Jewish looking people are everywhere brutally ill-treated.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

E n t e r S . S .

An unquestionably trustworthy Jewish solicitor from Vienna, now in Paris, reports the following:

"When we were arrested in Vienna, in the night of November 10 - we were about 170 - we were taken into two small rooms. There was no sleeping nor lying down. Most of us had to stand, with the result that the majority got swollen feet. So long as the police were in charge, however, it was not so bad.

"Suddenly it was put about: the S.S. would relieve the police. From that moment, my recollection of the events is only one of blood, blood, and again blood.

"When this group had taken over, the following happened: we were made to do "exercises" from midnight until the early morning. We had, for example, to stand erect, with the face to the wall. On the minutest movement, there would be a shower of boxing blows till the blood would run. Other "exercises" were worse still.

"Distinctly Jewish looking prisoners were fetched from the ranks, and had marks cut into their hair. Next morning to the examination. The S.S. formed double rows between which the prisoners had to pass. It was running the gauntlet. The prisoners were driven forward with boxing blows. Some were pushed down, and when they dropped, told among fresh severe blows: "Jew swine, cannot you look out?"

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BERLIN: Severe Maltreatment

A Scandinavian Christian doctor who had just now been to Berlin on a professional call, reports as follows:

"On riding in a car through Fasanenstrasse, Berlin W., a Jew was suddenly set upon by a gang of youths, and in a few minutes severely beaten up. A Police motor cycle then appeared, the man being thrown into the side-car and driven away. An onlooker who showed signs of indignation was also attacked, and was just lucky enough to escape the fury of hooligans. It seems worth noting that the thing was perpetrated not only by the common mob but also by men wearing the badge of the Nazi Party. The Police was looking on in composure.

I have heard sporadic condemnations - but only in secret - of the pogrom. Especially workers seemed shocked by these disgraceful outrages. Many of them were fearful, moreover, lest the tremendous loss of goods and property would eventually have to be borne by them in the way of new taxes and increased privation. It was said, even in National Socialist circles, that there had been no such devastation in Berlin even in the days of the Communist uprising in 1919. One or two Nazis were overheard expressing regrets at having to keep quiet, for nearly every one of them was dependent for his living on the Party."

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MUNICH: Aryanisation through Violence

A Dutch Christian Gentleman who had been at Munich during the pogrom, reports as follows:

"I happened to be with two business men who had received orders for "compulsory Aryanisation" of their business, and were to be induced, under irresistible compulsion, to recognise that Aryanisation. A business man in that same house who refused to sign the relevant document, was knocked down with a stick before my very eyes and in the presence of yet other people. I am prepared to repeat this statement under oath.

I heard the sermon of a National Socialist clergyman in a Munich Church, on the subject: "Thy Will be done". It was written, he said, that the blood of Christ was to come over the Jews. It was not said when. The time had arrived now. It was God's will that the Jews should be treated in the way it was now being done."

THE GERMAN POGROM
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DÜSSELDORF: One dead (so far), several dangerously injured.

Herr Z. of Düsseldorf, Rhineland, reports as follows:

"Opposite Frau Löwisohn's flat, there is a restaurant Karema, proprietor Marcus. Frau Marcus has had her forehead injured during the pogrom and received two shots into the abdomen. She was taken to Dr. Löwenberg, the doctor on the other side of the street, who applied bandages. Herr Marcus who had not been at home, on hearing of his wife's injuries, ran across to Dr. Löwenberg, and in doing so was shot dead at once."

"Herr Y., 80 years old, director of Messrs. Z. was set about by a gang and with nothing on except the shirt in which he slept, chased into the street where even the shirt was torn off him. One of the man's sons received serious injuries from knife - stabbing, and is now in hospital. Another man is in hospital with a broken scalp."

4.

Two suicides - out of a thousand

THE GERMAN POGROM
November 1938

Suicide of Dr. Paul WALLICH

In the trail of the Pogrom, the well-known Berlin banker Dr. Paul W a l l i c h has committed suicide, by throwing himself into the Rhine, near Cologne.

Dr. P. Wallich was joint director of the banking firm of Messrs. J. Dreyfuss & Co., Berlin and Frankfurt-am-Main. He was the son of Hermann Wallich one of the joint founders of the Deutsche Bank, Berlin. Having been at first employed at the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft, he in 1919 joined Messrs. J. Dreyfuss & Co., as joint director. Herr Wallich has also been on the Board of Control of several other important companies.

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Dr. Paul von Schwabach's Suicide

Among the victims of the German pogrom must also be counted Dr. Paul Hermann v. S c h w a b a c h , the well-known Berlin banker, who, according to reliable reports, has committed suicide.

Dr. Paul von Schwabach's father was joint director of the Banking firm known far beyond Germany's frontiers : Messrs. S. Bleichröder, founded in 1803 by Samuel Bleichröder. The founder's son and old Schwabach's cousin, Herr Gerson von Bleichröder, was the trusted friend of Prince Bismarck and the Prussian Government.

Herr von Schwabach, who was created a baronet by the Kaiser in 1907, played a leading part in Berlin society. His son-in-law is the former German ambassador to Brussels, Dr. HORSTMANN.

5.

Burning Synagogues

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938
Reports from Vienna

60 Synagogues Destroyed.

Jewish communal life in Vienna has been blotted out. Some 60 synagogues have been rendered unfit for use as a result of dynamite attempts, fire and demolition. Consequently no more Jewish services are held in Vienna, not even in the small places of worship which were, for the most part, established in private houses.

Blown up altogether were the following synagogues: the Hietzinger Temple, the most recent and most modern temple in Vienna; the Siebenbrunnengasse Temple, in the 5th District; the Turk Temple, Zirkusgasse, in the Second District, one of the oldest and most beautiful synagogues of the Spanish Jews all over the world.

Widespread fires were raging in the Great Leopoldstaedter Temple, Tempelgasse, the largest Viennese synagogue, where already on Yom Kippur Eve an attempt had been made to set fire; also in the Pazmaniten Temple, in the Second District, an orthodox synagogue, in the Schiffschul, the temple of the strictly orthodox Jewish congregation, which had also been tampered with in October.

The Seitenstaetten Temple, the oldest House of Worship at Vienna, adjoining the communal offices of the Vienna Kultusgemeinde, has been totally demolished and plundered. On that occasion many Jews had the rent Thora scrolls tied on their backs, were clothed in the ritual garments and barrets robbed from the temple, and were then, a lulav in their hands, chased through the streets of the City.

In some districts of Vienna, especially in the Leopoldstadt, the "Jew district", the ritual utensils and prayer books were publicly burnt, and the crowd burst into exultant jubilation when this medieval display was enacted. The dwelling of the Vienna Chief Rabbi, in the building of the Leopoldstaedter Temple, had been completely wrecked. The wife of a Chasan (reader) whose flat had been stormed, has gone mad over the fright. A number of Vienna Communal Leaders were seriously injured during the raids on their dwellings, and are even now confined to bed.

The chapels on the Simmering Cemetery have been partly demolished. Visitors to the cemetery will now only be admitted up to 1 o'clock.

The former President of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Vienna, Dr. Friedmann, is still in prison. A 70 years old rabbi and his wife were driven from their home. The speech of Reich Commissioner Buerckel at Steyr suggests that all synagogues are going to disappear; those not burnt down will be used as store houses.

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November 1938

Mother's Grave

A thoroughly trustworthy Austrian Jew, in a letter from a safe place, writes to a relative in Copenhagen:

"I was going to visit mother's grave
"the other day; she is buried on the Baden
"cemetery, near Vienna. Can you imagine my
"feelings when I did not find the grave any more?
"The ground had been pulled up everywhere.
"This is how it had happened: the mortuary
"on the cemetery had been blown up during the
"pogrom days, and as a result of the explosion,
"the graves round the mortuary were completely
"turned up. So I was unable to trace mother's
"grave at all".

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Devastations in Halberstadt, Central Germany.

Although the ground work of the synagogue still stands, the ancient interior, of considerable artistic value, has been smashed to bits. It seems probable that the chandeliers too, a 17th century piece of work, have been destroyed. The Holy Ark in the synagogue was covered with a curtain, overlaid with precious embroideries, dated about 1650: this too has probably gone.

As in the case of so many cities, even the mortuary, built in 1895, was blown up.

THE GERMAN POGROMS
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Robbing Ritual Silver Implements

According to eye-witness reports, the synagogues fires at Frankfurt-an-Main were marked by a very special savagery. At the Friedberger Anlage Synagogue, the fire was rekindled, the first attempt at arson being thought inadequate. Large quantities of benzine were used for that purpose. On the day of the first act of arson, the safe containing the silver ritual implements was unwelded, and its contents stolen. Afterwards the police proceeded to accuse the Jews of having laid the fire, and actually brought a formal charge against them.

THE GERMAN POGROMS
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Defiling Prayer Books and Scrolls of the Law

Reports from various parts of the Reich, more especially from Vienna, tend to confirm that more than usual savagery was applied to objects of ritual use. On the other hand, certain stray reports received also state that such objects had been put to safety, not indeed by the S.A. but by policemen who still had a spark of religious sentiment. But these are rare exceptions.

As a rule, the scrolls were torn up, or subjected to even worse blasphemy which, from consideration of readers' religious feelings, we do not propose to describe in detail. It is known, for example, that in front of the Pestalozzi Strasse Synagogue, Berlin, which together with the adjoining Middle Class Kitchen has been smashed to atoms, scrolls, altar cloth, and prayer books have been lying in the street for hours, befouled and defiled. Nor is this sort of thing known from Berlin only: it has happened in other cities in even grosser form.

6.

Demolishing and looting Jewish businesses and dwellings

THE GERMAN POGROMS
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The Tremendous Material Damage.

The material damage wrought through the planned demolition of dwellings, businesses, offices, etc. is prodigious, and of so vast an extent that no estimate, of any kind, of the values destroyed is as yet feasible.

Nor was the wrecking campaign conducted upon a uniform procedure. Whereas in some places scarcely one dwelling was destroyed, in Nuremberg nearly every single Jewish dwelling and office was smashed to bits; all solicitors' offices were wrecked. The number of the dwelling thus affected in Nuremberg is put at something between 750 and 800.

On the other hand, looting in Nuremberg was rather the exception, whereas in Dusseldorf, Rhineland, for example, many cases of theft and plunder are known.

The havoc was terrifying also in the Aachen district. There the ordered demolition gangs were equipped with axes and hammers.

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938
Reports from Vienna

The dwellings to be evacuated within a few hours' notice.

November 10, 1938 meant the eruption of "popular fury". It was, like everything in the Third Reich, by order - no further proof being required since the facts in themselves are plain enough evidence.

The Police, S.S., and S.A. appear to have been under instructions to arrest all Jewish men between 18 and 60. They would "call" at Jewish dwellings, more often than not under the pretext of searching for arms. In cases without number the Jewish tenants were forced to surrender the keys.

Within a few hours the Jews were induced to evacuate their dwellings. What clothes, linen, etc., were still left them would then have to be packed up at once, and a ridiculously low "valuation price" would be paid for the relinquished furniture. In one particular case, the whole outfit of an expensive 3 rooms flat was actually purchased at the resounding price of RM 270 (= £ 19/10/0)

The dwellings thus appropriated were then sealed, and the tenants compelled to seek quarters with Jews in the neighbourhood; else they would have had to stray about the streets, or the surroundings, and even run the risk of arrest. In the language of National Socialism - cf. the leading article in the "Neues Wiener Tagblatt", of November 19, 1938, entitled "Judenrein Economy" - this is explained as follows: "Where Jewish families move after the severance of the habitation community, is left to the discretion of the Jews themselves".

More "harmless" were those other "calls" where the unwelcome guests confined themselves to appropriating valuables and money, also wedding rings. Nor was it a rare occurrence that these "calls" were repeated several times. Often too the linen and the clothes were "confiscated".

In the Hietzing district of the Vienna West End, the school children, aged 12 to 14, were given leave for the express purpose of smashing window glasses of Jewish dwellings. Nor was that action confined to window glass; in many cases the dwellings themselves were completely wrecked.

Ever since November 10 Jewish businesses are closed. An attempt to open them again was at once suppressed by the police. Provisions that might be of use to the Winter Relief, were removed. The future of these businesses is as yet uncertain. Looting was forbidden in the case of those shops only which might lend themselves to "Aryanisation".

At the entrance to every house a decree by the Nazi Party, of November 13, was posted, forbidding the Jews to sell their furniture.

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Raid on an eighty years old woman's flat

This is how a Dutch lady describes the circumstances in which she found her 80 years old mother in Germany:

"I am Dutch and my mother and family are living in some small place in Northern Germany. On the very day when the gruesome events happened in Germany, I went there to see mother. I arrived in the evening, after dusk, and at once made for mother's house. As there was no light, I went on to my sister's shop. There, in horror and consternation, I beheld what once had been a shop - now ruins, splintered, sacked, burnt, a devastating sight. A Christian neighbour came up to me and in tears told me of the awful raid.

As mother was not with my sister, I hurried back home - anticipating trouble. I was shocked however beyond anticipation when I got there and found the doors wide open: in the flat not a piece of furniture had been left intact. There were broken and smashed remnants everywhere. In one of the back rooms at last I found poor mother, sitting on some mutilated furniture. There was no chair for the old woman: they had all been smashed up. She was petrified. For some 20 minutes she would in no way react to my worried questions; evidently she was wholly unaware of what was happening around her. Gradually only she began to recognise me, her daughter. Tottering and trembling all over her body, she told of the hords that had broken into the house: how they had wrought their fearful destruction and snatched from her hands the bag containing the last money."

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Died from "heart attack"

A young doctor, now in New York, writes in a letter to London which has recently been received :

"In a rather confused air mail letter of November 13, Mother wrote that our shop in Wilmersdorf, Berlin, had been completely destroyed. Her brother and a number of relatives had been taken to the Concentration Camp. Another cousin of ours, who already 2 months ago, had been taken to the Sachsenhausen Camp, has a few weeks ago, had a " heart attack" there which caused his death."

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Economic Consequences of the Arrests and Demolitions.

As a result of the smashing up of the businesses and the destruction of workrooms and offices, there is of course no prospect whatever, for the time being, of the Jews in Germany engaging in any trade, or indeed in any activity likely to secure their bare living.

The businesses, being demolished, obviously have no chance of selling. Consequently the surviving families are suffering from a very acute dearth of means of living.

There is no question of any money being withdrawn from the banks as the accounts are barred. We learn that steps are being taken now to remedy this very precarious state of affairs.

--7.--

The Pogrom in the Rhineland, in Northern Germany, and in Silesia

THE GERMAN POGROMS
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An Eye-Witness in East Friesland.

The following is a report from a Belgian non-Jewish business man who went to see friends in East Friesland, on November 14, and on hearing of the pogroms, decided to visit various smaller places in that part of the country, so as to get a first hand impression of what actually had happened:

"I arrived at Weener, East Friesland, on November 14. The Synagogue was burnt out. Somewhere nearby I noticed, in big letters, the inscription: "Revenge to Jewry". I was told that the adjoining house was the Jewish teacher's: it had all windows broken, the curtains flying from the panes.

A butcher had both his big shop windows and all the provisions smashed. Two drapery shops had been completely emptied. A non-Jew, from the neighbourhood, told me he had seen the goods being removed, on Thursday, in a van.

I was told the following by a SA man who happened to engage in a conversation with me at the local Post Office, and who evidently was much shocked by the pogrom:

Some time about 5 o'clock in the morning, on November 10, all Jewish men, women and children were dragged from their beds and locked up in some small room. There was among them a deaf woman, aged about 90. Some of the old men, later women too, were released after examination.

The men, including some 80 years old, were put in a cattle van, and taken to a place called Leer; there they were left in the slaughter house. Some of them, especially the old, were then released.

In Weener Jewish homes were searched and cash was confiscated. In Leer I found the beautiful synagogue, and the Jewish Minister's house, burnt out. It is thought that previous to the fire, all precious objects appertaining to the cult were removed.

I was told more details by a Christian business friend: he was sure, he said, that Jews had been led away without socks or pants, even with nothing on except a night shirt. Needless to say that nearly all dwellings and shops were smashed to bits. There was hardly anything left intact. Water jugs, for example, had been thrown into mirrors, so as to break both."

THE GERMAN POGROMS
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THE POGROM IN THE RHINELAND

There is now an ever growing number of eye-witness reports available on the occurrences in the big cities. The eye-witnesses include many non-Jews who, during the relevant time, had been engaged in Germany in business, or otherwise, and now, filled with indignation and shame, tell their tale of what human bestiality is capable. Out of the mass of reports of that kind - there are hundreds of them - the following is quoted, giving a description of the pogrom in a big city in the Rhineland:

"Not only men but also women and even children were manhandled by the pogromists, and hounded, in their shirts, into the streets during that terrible night. Anything at all subject to damage in the dwellings, was destroyed. Linen, suits, and dresses were torn up with daggers. Wall washing stands, even wall Majolika baths, were demolished with hammers. Even wall cloth and linoleum floor cloth was destroyed.

"Nearly all men were arrested. No regard was had to age. First into prison, then the prisoners were taken away, apparently to Dachau, near Munich. It must be born in mind that this is a distance of some 600 kilometers, so probably a journey by rail of at least 12 hours. As late as mid-November, a fortnight after the arrests, the women were yet without any news as to the whereabouts of the men. The mental condition of the unhappy women beggars description. The immediate consequence was nervous break-downs and fits of depression, which, for all we know, may last for the rest of their lives.

"Having gradually been deprived, during the last few years, of their income and business, the Jews have now had most of their very last possessions destroyed: house or room, clothes, linen. There are many in our city that will sink into hopeless debt as money must be found for the officially enforced repairs of the window panes, fire places, water pipes, etc - under pain of new reprisals. Those engaged in professions, as far as that was still at all possible, had their entire library destroyed upon which in many cases they must depend for their work".

THE GERMAN POGROMS
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Eastern Germany, Upper Silesia.

The following is an information received from a Christian lady, in every respect worthy of credence, who had been to Silesia, Eastern Germany, during the days of the pogrom:

"In Breslau all synagogues were set on fire. Wherever there was danger of fire to adjacent buildings, the synagogue was altogether blown up. All Jewish shops, without exception, were smashed to bits and the goods and provisions, for the most part, stolen. No distinction was drawn between retail traders and wholesale establishments. In the big stores, the work of destruction went actually up as high as the third floor. A few flats and private houses were also destroyed in Breslau.

"The campaign took on a more savage form in Upper Silesia. There was a widespread wreckage of dwellings; women were for one day kept in prison. Although the Liegnitz district seems to have shown some measure of restraint, yet both synagogues and shops were systematically demolished.

"In Breslau about 90 % of the Jewish men are under arrest and have been taken away; in the province of Silesia their number is about 100. In many cases it is still unknown where the men are. The women's misery is indescribable. War-disabled men and those over 65 were either not arrested, or released later on.

"The Christian people with whom I have come into contact, more especially the educated class, is thoroughly ashamed of the gruesome occurrences. The mass is indifferent, especially as they are wholly unaware of what exactly has happened. In Breslau, e.g., they would only know that the synagogue was set on fire and a few dwellings - so they believe - demolished. Of the events outside Breslau, indeed all over the Reich, of the mass arrests and maltreatments, they have scarcely as much as an inkling. At any rate, there is not the slightest indication that these atrocities were an outburst of "popular fury". There is not a trace of it.

8.

Reports from Concentration Camps

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

Note:

There are still available a number of profoundly distressing reports - supplied by trustworthy correspondents - on the occurrences in the Concentration Camps. No publication however can be contemplated in those cases as, on the one hand, some kind of reprisal must be feared for the thousands that are still in German concentration camps, and on the other hand, the informations are in themselves so appalling that German Jews, with their relatives still in the camps, would almost certainly be disastrously affected.

The extracts given below, not by any means the very worst yet of their kind, are reproduced here with the very earnest request not to forward them to German Jews.

The informations are confidential. No publication can be authorised.

From "Hell"

"On our arrival at the camp we were received by a large number of S.S. who at once began to kick us and manhandle us with bludgeons and rifle butts - so much so that the Police, up to now in charge of us, stood dumbfounded, and then speedily made off. We were then lined up, and made to march, or rather run. This physical exertion, lasting for 15 minutes, and the continuous kicking and beating by the S.S. resulted in two men fainting and dropping. I got the impression that they were dead, but as I could not verify it, I would not insist."

"The most terrible thing was - though negligible when compared with the severe physical ill-treatment - that we were forced to remain standing in the camp for more than 15 hours. When a man broke down, kicks and rifle butts were applied to him. Another had to carry about the camp a poster, bearing an offensive inscription, for 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, with his arms stretched out all the time. The S.S. men, the oldest of whom was hardly 25 yet, made a point of going for Jewish looking prisoners. But those belonging to a higher class, such as professionals, teachers, etc., were also put to severe suffering. Younger people, especially of a sports type, met with some clemency."

"Everything in the camp had to be done running. Work and all. We had to carry sand and cement bags. For carrying the sand the prisoners had to take off their coats, and put them on again the other way round. The coat was then filled with sand, so far down as room would permit. This heavy load would then have to be carried about for 5 minutes. Worse still were the cement bags. Heavy weights - I would put some of them at a hundredweight - were indiscriminately thrust upon the necks of men aged 60 or even 65. Sometimes the sand was carried on a so-called stretcher. The wood then would cut deep into the hands, and cause injuries.

One morning we were forced to stand for 12 hours in the pouring rain, without any cover on our heads. The following day, for 4 hours, without food and without being allowed the natural convenience."

.....

Certain sections in the Concentration Camps, now gorged with thousands, form an exception, however rare, in that the inmates there are accorded a reasonably tolerable treatment.

Note:

This report is, as far as possible, sent to organisations and such individuals only as, we assume, have no relations in German concentration camps. We would therefore ask you not to hand this report to any German Jew, so as not to add to the distress already caused.

For this reason the present report must not be published under any circumstances. There is, however, no objection to bringing it to the notice of trustworthy friends.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

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November 1938

In the Concentration Camp

Mr.Y., of Z., reports :

"I was arrested on November 11th, and taken to a transit camp, a disused prison. The old officials that carried out the arrests, told me that all Jews were going to be arrested. We were then consigned by rail to somewhere in the vicinity of the concentration camp. We were forced to cover the distance to the camp running.

"There were many elderly people amongst us. Some of them dropped, and the men in charge of us, young storm troopers were kicking them with the gun butts.

"In the camp, first of all, our names were called out and taken down; we had to stand in the courtyard, for about 9 hours, from early morning till afternoon. Anyone moving was kicked and slapped in the face. Requests to go to the lavatory were refused and answered by the guards with the foulest insults. At midday, at last, an officer gave permission to take the lot of us to the lavatory. Not until 24 hours after our arrest, were we given, for the first time, something to eat.

"We were obliged to give up our clothes, and received in exchange some rugs, such as worn soldiers' clothes, ticking etc. All our money was taken from us. Jews are, on principle, forbidden to smoke. They may not pay for their board, nor are they allowed to buy anything at the canteen.

"Next day we were called up for the drill. For us young people, mostly ex-servicemen, it was endurable. The elder people, unable to get up from the ground, were

kicked, knocked with gun butts, boxed on their ears, and slapped with fists in their faces - all this to the accompaniment of the worst and foulest insults. Mr.X., a business man from ... over 70 years of age, and the former also over 70, were both in my detachment. Both were ill-treated in the said manner. During the drill, prisoners returning to the ranks after individual exercises, were tripped up so that they fell heavily on the ground. The nail-shod guards then trampled on their back and bottom.

"On one occasion, the camp governor was inspecting the ranks. He stopped from time to time, abusing filthily this or that prisoner. He said to one of my neighbours, without any reason whatsoever: "I now must take off my gloves only because of ^{you} Jewish swine". Having done so in composure, he struck the poor man, with his utmost strength, several times across the face, and below the chin too.

"One day the prisoners were called out only to witness the punishment inflicted on a man that had tried to escape. The man was tied to a block, and 2 storm troopers who had volunteered for that job, lashed him with heavy thongs until he fell unconscious. The wretch was to count aloud every blow after the 25th, until he had lost his consciousness, and fell dumb, but the brutes would not even then leave off beating. We were informed by an official that as soon as the victim had recovered, another 25 blows were to be administered to him.

"Suicides occur every day. In my group an aged man, being unobserved, opened his veins. Sometimes the guards will lure the prisoners towards the enclosures, and there shoot them dead off-hand. The electrical barbed wires round the camp are discharged at times, as prisoners in their despair are running against them, thus trying to end their lives.

"I was released from the camp after a few days, my emigration papers having arrived. When I was leaving, I was given the usual "farewell speech": any "Greuelpropaganda" (atrocities stories), based on experiences in the camp, would be punished even abroad. The Nazi foreign centres were so well organised that they would be able to deal with those abroad.

"On the day of Herr vom Rath's funeral, the prisoners were ordered to remain standing in ranks from the early morning; also they were to be denied food during the whole of the day".

9.

Children Straying

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

Men, Women, and Lonely Children Straying About the Frontier.

It is learnt from various, undoubtedly reliable sources that along the German-Dutch frontier, in the woods and shrubs, men as well as women still wander aimlessly, afraid of returning home as that would mean almost certainly immediate arrest and confinement in a Concentration Camp.

Similar reports have been received from the Eifel Mountains, near the Belgian frontier, and from the Taunus Mountains, near Frankfurt-am-Main. It is gratifying to hear that some Christian families in Germany, as far as humanly possible, and notwithstanding the grave risk involved, receive the haunted people and feed them.

It is confirmed that single children whose parents are under arrest, or whose homes were otherwise broken up, are now astraying about the frontier. In several cases the Dutch frontier guards have taken the waifs under their care.

In his speech of November 18 to the Second Chamber, the Dutch Minister of Justice also made reference to the fact that children came, on their own, running towards the frontier, and the guards received them.

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbour.

Day after day children are crossing the frontier, haunted from Germany through the pogroms; some even travel by train on their own to some Dutch town.

Thus one of these days, a 13 year old boy arrived, from Aachen, at Amsterdam Central Station. He is half-orphan: mother is dead, and father was arrested during the recent pogrom.

He went up to a Dutch policeman, who somehow took to the child, looked after him, and eventually received him into his own house.

When the Children's Relief, which had meanwhile been organised, claimed the boy as they were going to put him up somewhere, the policeman explained that under no circumstances would he let the boy go.

10.

Letters from Germany

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

A Woman's Letter.

".... As for my own position, surely I need waste no words. There is only one thing I am crying out for: Help me! No matter which country - I must be again with my husband and with my child. My husband who is no longer with me is a skilled artisan. He'll never be a burden to you or for that matter, to anybody else. You know I am willing to do any kind of work.

"To-day, in my distress and despair, I have come to Berlin. Do help me! Leave no stone unturned. There is no need to give me money: only act as quickly as possible. Do not, I beg of you, refuse me, because I fear, should you do that, there will be but one way left for me and the child: the gas tap.

"I can bear it no longer: save me from my distress. Pray act speedily, for I do not bear it"

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES.

From letters received abroad.

1. ".... This is the case of the family X, of Z; 2 children Erich, 17, and Charlotte, 14. These people, already sadly afflicted during previous excesses, forcing them to change their residence, have now had completely destroyed what little there had then been left to them. Christian, still respectable, people tell us that their linen and jewellery has also been stolen. I am asked to apply for the 2 children to be admitted to England"
2. ".... It is a difficult task for me, a mother of a boy of 10 and a girl of 6 to beseech you to-day to consider admission of my children to England. My husband is tailor and of poor health. During the recent events in Germany his sewing machine was thrown out of the window from the second floor, and all patterns were destroyed, so that we can no longer satisfy the children's most pressing needs"
3. ".... Our brother has been in prison ever since November 10. To-day we hear from his wife that he has been informed that he would be released if he leaves Germany within 3 weeks. There are only a few Jews living at their place. They have had everything completely destroyed. Being in business, and owing to the terrible conditions in Germany, he had been out of work and in dire need for the last few years I implore you to help us, to save at least the children. The brother is blameless and is Ex-Serviceman..."
4. ".... We ask for help for 5 children of our relations and friends in Germany. One of them, a girl of 7, had been with her mother. Her father had been leaving the country for some time past.. In the night of the pogrom, the mother has had everything blown to pieces: the furniture, glass, earthenware, all broken: not one thing was left intact in the house. The child used to go to a Jewish school, but cannot go now because the teacher is seriously ill as a result of the maltreatment he has suffered. Besides the school has been set on fire.

The second child is also 7 years of age, and her brother 6. The father had been arrested by the Gestapo some time ago, but nobody knows where he really is.

During the last few months the mother has been with her children at her own mother's home, at Z. In that terrible night the young woman's father was also arrested, and his house demolished.

The other two children are 6 and 8 years of age. Father, mother, and the children have been maltreated, and all their possessions are destroyed.

11.

Legal expropriation of the Jews after the Pogrom

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

" A r y a n i s a t i o n "

After the pogrom days, Jewish-owned wholesale establishments in Berlin are carrying on for the time being. Retail shops, on the other hand, are closed. Owing to the shortage of shop window glass, even to-day many shop windows in the streets of the capital can be seen boarded up. The big Jewish-owned jewellery establishments, Unter Den Linden, have the outer blinds lowered. None of them must be opened again.

Such Berlin wholesale firms as are permitted to carry on - for the purpose of either "Aryanisation" or "Liquidation" - have been placed in the charge of a Commissioner, upon the Viennese model. That Commissioner wields unrestricted power in the business; he opens the mail, controls every transaction, and receives a salary of RM 2.000 per month. The personal banking accounts of the firm owners are, for the most part, stopped.

If a Jewish firm has obtained permission to sell the business to a non-Jew - i.e. to "Aryanise" - it will be compelled first of all to get in touch with the "German Labour Front", so as to arrange for the transfer of the business into Aryan hands.

Supposing the finally conceded price will be 100.000 marks, this will have to bear considerable deductions, for one thing, goods alleged to be out of use or fashion, will have to be disposed of at 25% below price. As a rule most goods are so rated. Besides the owner must pay out the Christmas allowances for the personnel, amounting to a fortnight's salary, also the holiday pay, amounting to a from 3 - 4 weeks' salary. In addition, he is obliged to establish a Social Fund of 5 to 10.000 RM from which to pay compensation to such employees as might have to be given notice after the transfer. Eventually, to comply with the "Beauty of Work", the owner will be compelled to provide, for the benefit of the successor, for complete repairs of the premises. This would require another 5.000 marks.

Also the Jewish owner will be compelled to guarantee the holiday pay and a praemium of 2% for such employees as do not work on the premises. (In the wholesale clothing business, this would concern principally the home workers) The stock will also be taken over at a fraction of its value only. Instead, for example, of RM 15.000, a sum of at the most RM 2.000 will be paid.

L i q u i d a t i o n

In the case of liquidation, the Labour Front will fix the compensation to be paid out to the employees. This compensation is well known to be higher than the total amount of the deductions

The owners of the retail shops, as a result of the forced closing of their establishments, have fallen into the most trying predicament. The "Aryan" employees refer to themselves as "men behind iron bars" - especially as in the closed shops, they are to a large extent kept busy with nothing except clearing and removing jobs.

In spite of the closing, wages and salaries have to be paid as usual. Expenses also are the same. In the case of a sale, the employess must be served notice. Since this notice may not legally take effect until a certain date, the owner must be prepared to pay salaries for yet another six months.

The socalled "indemnity" (imposed after the Paris murder), representing a property tax of 20%, is computed according to the assets of November 12, 1938 - i.e. prior to the destruction of the businesses. This accounts for the widespread despair among Jewish business men, as the majority are at a loss to know how the 20% indemnity is to be defrayed.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

Under the date of December 12th, the Deutsche Nachrichten-
the official German Government News Agency, publishes a
lengthy statement regarding the treatment, now and to come,
of German Jewry, and also concerning the manner of carrying
out their entire emigration.

This official statement calls for the following comment:

1. The German Government deny their intention of establishing for
German Jewry special residential quarters and municipal ghettos.
Whether or no they actually did establish such quarters, seems,
however, entirely immaterial.

Now that in towns without number, savage hords have reduced Jew-
ish dwellings to matchwood,

Now that in a large number of cities Jewish families have had
compulsory notice served to quit on, or shortly after, January
1st,

Now that in various districts of Germany, such Jewish dwellings
as have yet been left intact are crowded with families from
destroyed houses, or refugees from the country,

Now surely it is bordering on hollow mockery for the German
Government to declare that ^{they} were not indeed intent upon establish-
ing any ghettos.

2. The German Government refer to a "strictly lawful elimination
"of the Jews from economic life". This "strictly lawful" elimin-
ation is attested by thousands of Jewish shops and businesses,
also many solicitors offices and surgeries, being demolished,
and even looted during the night of November 9 to 10.

Compulsory "Aryanisation", as had been practised for well over
a year, by means of blackmailing Jewish shop owners into giving
their signatures, and threatening imprisonment to anyone refus-
ing to surrender of his own free will, the tactics of bringing
false charges of all kinds for the sole purpose of dragooming
the Jews into "Aryanisation" - all this had been the forerunner
of the now proclaimed "strictly lawful regulation".

The German Government proclaim that the Jews would be forbidden
to carry on retail trade, etc, as from January 1st; they would
be allowed, however, to make their purchases in all German shops
and take residence in all German hotels.

The f a c t s are that thousands of German business establishments, especially in the provinces, will, in compliance with higher orders, sell nothing to Jews - that in thousands of hotels, even since 1935, no Jew is permitted to stay; those recognised as Jews are chased into the streets like dogs.

If it is lawful - as it is alleged - for a Jew to be in charge of purely Jewish establishments, this has been responsible for two owners of Jewish coffee houses, at Dusseldorf and Nuremberg, to lose their lives in the pogrom during the night of November 9 - 10.

3. What the German Government suppress, however, is the following:

The synagogues, prayer-houses, and many mortuaries, in nearly every congregation of Germany, Austria, and Sudetenland, have been set on fire, or blown up. In many cases the scrolls of the law and the ritual objects were separately burnt, or soiled and defiled.

Some 30.000 Jewish men were, by brutal force, dungeoned in concentration camps, often compelled to do hard labour under degrading circumstances. The suffering entailed by that exertion and ill-treatment, has actually driven many into death. Owing to systematic false reports, it has not yet been possible to ascertain anything even near the actual number of deaths caused by "pneumonia", or "heart failure". That in the course of the pogrom, a number of people died or were killed, is established through the evidence of absolutely reliable sources.

Driven to despair, with no prospect of either work or food, tormented with the likelihood of renewed imprisonment, those released from the concentration camps, and those hitherto yet spared, seek hurriedly to leave the country, with wife and child. Then they are again seized by a merciless legislation that will rob them of nearly everything yet left, by means of taxes, money devaluation, indemnity, and the licence indulged in by some officials. So they are forced, in some other country - if any be still open to them - to begin anew the struggle for life, with 10 marks in their hands, and if they are lucky, with the remnants of a once well furnished household. Suffering and tears are the marks of their progress.

The German Government, in their reference to "strictly lawful "measures", feign that the Jews in Germany have not had a hair touched, and that they will be able to carry on, even without a trade and income. The noted "Neue Zurcher Zeitung" (Zurich), on November 24, writes:

"The 'SCHWARZES KORPS' to-day in a "leading article, foreshadows a new "series of anti-Jewish measures, the "final act being the assassination of "all Jews in Germany, unless foreign "countries provide for their removal "and resettlement. It would be amiss "to regard this threat as a mere dummy "or a manoeuvre which was not meant se- "riously".

In the "Official Journal of German Jurisdiction", "Deutsche "Justiz", published by the Reich Minister of Justice, Dr. F. Gürtner, the Supreme Party Judge of the Nazi Party, Herr Buch, writes: (p.1660, No 42)

"The Jew is not a man . . . "

That in fact he is treated worse than the lowest beast in Germany, has been realised by the civilised world, since 1933 and more especially since the pogrom of November 9 - 10.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

12.000 Jews fell for Germany

12.000 Jewish soldiers laid down their lives for Germany in the Great War. Their names, as far as ascertainable, were inscribed for ever, in 1933, in a Book of Remembrance, entitled "The Jewish Fallen of the German Army, German Navy, and German Forces in the Colonies, 1914-1918". The book was issued by the Reich Union of Jewish Ex-Servicemen.

According to careful computations, about 100.000 German Jews have served in the Army, Navy, and Colonial Forces. 12.000 of them fell. Of those that came back, a large number has repeatedly been sent to the Concentration Camps, and had to endure degrading treatment at the hands of young hooligans. Many of them chose death. In the camps they were at once forbidden to wear their decorations; indeed ever since the advent of National Socialism to power, in 1933, the Jewish ex-Servicemen have had to endure insult over insult, degradation over degradation.

Here are the three prefaces to the Jewish ex-Servicemen's Book of Remembrance:

1. From Dr. Leo Löwenstein, Lt.Col.(ret'd), President of the Reich Union of Jewish ex-Servicemen:

"The noblest German blood is the one spilt by German soldiers for Germany.

"These include the 12.000 fallen of German Jewry, which, through this fact, had again passed the German blood test that is alone worthy of serious note and compelling respect.

"So far as their names could still be ascertained to-day, they are engraved for ever in this book which their returned comrades dedicate to them in faithful and reverent remembrance".

2. From the address delivered on the occasion of the solemn handing over of the book, on November 17, 1932, by Lt.Gen. Ott, Chief of the Defence Department, in Berlin:

"Gentlemen, I have the honour to state here, in this solemn hour, on behalf of the Minister of Defence, that we shall hold this, our Jewish comrades', Book of Remembrance in high honour, in remembrance of these faithful and true sons of our German nation".

12.000 Jews fell for Germany

- 2 -

3. From the Reich President, Herr von Hindenburg. Letter of October 3rd, 1932, addressed to the Reich Union of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and its President Dr. Löwenstein:

"Dear Dr. Löwenstein,

To the Reich Union of Jewish
"Ex-Servicemen, I express my heartfelt thanks for its
"good wishes on the occasion of my 85th birthday, as
"well as for the beautiful flower gift and the book
"of remembrance. In reverent memory of the comrades
"which from your ranks too fell for the Fatherland,
"I accept the book and shall incorporate it in my
"war library.

"With comrades' greetings!

(signed)

von Hindenburg.

"The Reich Union of Jewish Ex-Servicemen,
"Herr Dr. Löwenstein,
"Lt.Col.(ret'd),
"Berlin, W.15.,
"Kurfürstendamm 200.

12.

The opinion of the German people

"God, my God, dry bread all my life rather than play the executioner another night", these are the words screamed by a high police official, in office, in front of people that might have at once brought him to Dachau.

"My brother-in-law has shot himself, you know that, don't you?", a friend says to me by the by, and a little subdued: 'Well, he was a policeman, and one day he could stick it no longer'.

"My friend is in the Gestapo', a young girl tells me; 'he would give everything to get out of it, but the only way out is to the concentration camp.

"We have only this choice left: either no honour, or no bread" - so a high school official tells me.

These are but observations at random.

"At the station another "consignment". Dozens of Jews, and others guilty of making invidious remarks. They jump off the dark luggage vans, run the few yards to the dark railway truck. S.A. and S.S. lining the path, behing them the crowd, many of them with tears in their eyes, and flashes over their faces: "Shame, shame on us!", again and again. No snarling by the police to-day; they say almost gently: "Pass on please, don't stop". I feel like screaming, screaming, screaming - all of us screaming till the world quake in its foundations! Instead we pass on in silence, as the police order us to do, and we suffer hundreds of men and women to be driven into distress, and torture, and ruin. Were it only "into death", it would be mercy, but these are a hundred deaths of body and soul.

"The housewife will be punished for throwing away a cabbage heart or a zinc tube. Fight the waste, all over. But the destruction wrought here in a few hours according to plan, not merely to everything beautiful and useful, no, even to indispensable things, is beyond computation. Not only confectionery and sweetmeat, e.g. in the Rothschild Café, have been smashed to bits and trampled upon, together with broken window glass and the rest of the stock: heaps of flour and eggs are gone. Spades have I seen used in clearing the shops - spades full of food, broken glass, etc. I still hear it clash. I still smell the smoke from the open cellar peep-holes, where the havoc has raged.

"Then all the destroyed shops were boarded up with white planks. That on these unique hoardings, everywhere and over night, the "STURMER" should have posted its pictures, is not really surprising. It is in keeping with the rest. The stage management works well even here. But that on these planks, the distressing background of which is evident to every single passer-by, bills should be posted such as these: "Laughter, and Mirth, and Melodious Review - Why not come and enjoy it too? At the Winter Grand Ball. Tickets sold at the "Popular Education Settlement", well, what is this other than immeasured bestiality? It leaves one horror-struck.

Again someone approaches me, my little cross being like a light. "What are they saying in Switzerland about all these "things? And yet, do you know that the Jews are not the poorest "yet? The poorest are we, the executioners, the despised, they "that have lost all honour".

... I will say no word about hundreds of individual cases which I have seen and heard of: crying children - at night in the parks - seriously ill dragged out of their beds - hunting people like animals - arrests it burns and burns within you, because you are unable to help.

In the evening a child draws me near his little bed, and whispers: "Auntie, they've smashed a baker's shop, and the "bread was in the streets, Auntie, and they've been trampling "on it, on the bread, I've seen it", and the child, overwhelmed, keeps sobbing into his cushions: that bread! that bread!

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

Note: The letter quoted below was published in the well-known Dutch daily "HET VOLK", of November 17. You are of course free to make such use of it as you think fit. At the meeting mentioned, some 25.000 people were present.

Amsterdam, November 15, 1938

To the Chairman of the Mass Meeting held on November 15:

Sir,

On behalf of 26 compulsory members of the German Colony, and no doubt also on behalf of an even larger number of German residents in Holland, I request you to read this letter to the meeting:

The appalling events in Germany which have branded our Fatherland with inextinguishable shame, compel us to clear our conscience by giving expression to our most profound horror at these occurrences.

We very much regret to be compelled to publish our feelings in this manner. Although we live here amongst you who are free to utter your opinions, yet we are nevertheless exposed to the terror that is now swaying Germany.

For were we to give our names, we would presently be denounced as traitors, nor could we then hope to walk in safety even here. Moreover nearly every one of us still has relations in Germany who of course would be the first to fall a prey to the pogromists.

I would assure our horrified Dutch fellow citizens that even inside Germany there are millions feeling utter shame and disgust at this show of barbarism.

May I, in conclusion, to forestall any misinterpretation, state that neither I nor my friends are Jews or emigrants: We have been living in Holland for over 10 years.

13.

The reaction abroad

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

British Ex-Servicemen's Reply

Remarkable evidence of both the far reaching importance attached to, and the profound stir created by, the German Pogrom, may be found in the speech delivered by Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, National President of the British Legion, speaking at Durham, on December 17.

It will be recalled that the British Legion, the British ex-Servicemen's organisation, had been in intimate contact with the German ex-Servicemen during the past two years, and that there had been a frequent exchange of visits. British ex-Servicemen were repeatedly received by Herr Hitler, and leading German personalities, such as the Führer's Deputy, Herr Hess, have repeatedly stated as their solemn conviction, that the best bridges from nation to nation lead over the old combatants. Now the President of the British Legion says:

For some years (he said) they had been doing all in their power to create a good understanding with Germany. Distinguished delegations of German ex-Servicemen had been in this country, where they were received with the utmost friendship and cordiality. Representatives of the British Legion had frequently been in Germany, and all these efforts were having a good effect in both countries. An invitation was extended to German ex-Servicemen to visit this country, and at the time of the crisis there were 800 in London under the leadership of the Duke of Saxe Coburg, and they went back.

It seemed that all their achievements over a period of years in trying to establish real friendship with German ex-Servicemen whom they had come to know intimately, had been lost.

There had been very natural expressions of indignation at the brutal treatment in Germany of the Jews, and those expressions had been answered in Germany by the most violent attacks on British soldiers.

BRITISH LEGION'S REPLY

- 2 -

They were attacks not only on our own men serving under circumstances of exceptional difficulty in Palestine, but they were attacks even on our soldiers who served in the South African War - they were described as beasts.

"Though I do not believe that German ex-Servicemen "we know approve of that kind of thing", said Sir Frederick Maurice, "it is no use our going to Germany on missions "of appeasement and peace when the German Press and towns "are placarded with vilifications of our comrades.

"It is our great hope now that we shall be able to "return to our task of appeasement and recover some of "the ground we have lost".

THEY WHICH ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR RACE AND
THEIR FAITH

Nation-wide Collection in Holland in Aid of the Refugees

A nation-wide collection has been held in Holland in aid of those persecuted "for the sake of their race and their faith". This big collection is to benefit above all the refugees from Germany. The members of all Dutch Youth Associations and numerous other organisations had promised their support of this idealistic action.

The Prime Minister, Dr. H. COLIJN, delivered a broadcast address on December 1st, in support of this collection.

"If there be any doubts, he said, as to whether it is at all necessary to stress our people's good will and readiness to succour those in deepest distress, these doubts are legitimate, for the good will of our people is there. But what might not yet be known to all, is the extent of the distress owing to the large number of people who have been seeking a refuge in this country since the first days of November. On the eve of the collection day, the number of the persons who have been allowed to come to Holland during the last few days, will be nearly 4000. Computing the cost per day and head, for housing, feeding, and clothing, at about hfl 1.50, this would - were these 4000 to live on public expense only - require an amount of some hfl 2.000000 per year... What is needed here is not the alleviation of distress for a few days, or a single act of more or less generous relief: what is needed now is a continuous support for a large number of people during a prolonged period. And in giving our help. We are fulfilling God's Commandment respecting our neighbour, for though there is much distress in our own country requiring help, this is a case where suffering must be alleviated such as cuts far deeper into life than we have ever experienced yet".

The Lord Mayor of Amsterdam, (Dr.W.de Vlugt) has also issued a manifesto in support of the collection.

"Never have I appealed in vain to my fellow citizens when the call was for the alleviation of distress... How could it be otherwise now? I wish to tell my fellow citizens only this one thing: Let the size of your donation square the size of your horror at the fact that a treatment such as countless innocent men have had to endure, should be possible still in these days; let it be in accordance with your sympathy with so many utterly unhappy, and worthy of your pride of living in a country where man is man still".

TEMPLES IN FLAMES.

A propaganda cinema picture in favour of the nation-wide collection bearing the title of "TEMPLES IN FLAMES" has been produced in most of the Dutch cinemas during the last days of November.

Two folded hands appeared. The figure of a man, explaining the pictures was then to be seen. Airships, motor-cars, express trains, all the marvels of modern technique were shown on the screen, but all these wonders which diminish space seem to increase the distance between human beings and do not prevent persecutions and mediaval tortures used even in 1938, these facts having seemed to be impossible in view of civilization's progress.

Houses in flames, crumbling walls, explosions further appear on the screen; desperate people amongs debris, horrible pictures of human misery are seen, whilst the human voice calls to support the victims of persecution.

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The result of the nation-wide collection in Holland has surpassed, following latest information, 400.000 florins.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

The L O R D B A L D W I N F U N D for Refugees

The big British collection in aid of German refugees, begun at the instance of Lord Baldwin, the former Prime Minister, has now reached a total of nearly £ 200.000. The TIMES newspaper is publishing a daily list of contributions.

Moving examples of sympathy with the distress of the refugees have been witnessed. A young bride gave a set of blankets which she had received as a wedding present. A mother who had been buying winter outfits for her two children has ordered the shop to send similar outfits "for a refugee boy and girl". ("THE TIMES", December 20)

The sums received daily in response to the Lord Baldwin Appeal, are at an average of £ 20.000. The donors include representatives of all sections of the population. There are banks and business establishments giving £ 1.000, and, on the other hand, common people giving three shillings, one shilling, and even sixpence.

THE GERMAN POGROM

November 1938

Two Messages from France

Two French authors of world wide fame have published recently messages concerning the German pogrom.

The first comes from M. François MAURIAC, one of the leading Catholic authors of France and member of the French Academy. It runs as follows:

"We might write that there is no comfort among men for the martyrs in Germany and Austria, that no words will avail save those that rise before God and earnestly plead justice.

"Yet there is one thought that might help them not to despair: this time they have not suffered in vain. The abundance of their suffering has awakened the world. The nations of the earth all abandon themselves to a feeling of shame and disgust.

"This time again the cross will prevail. The cry that rises from the hell of Dachau will prevent us from falling asleep again. And a day shall come, a day of joy and atonement, when we shall remember that we, even we Christians of all Churches, had prayed and suffered in communion with the sorrow-stricken of Israel, and that we are mindful of that fraternity which unites us in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, in the "God of clemency and comfort", as Pascal calls Him.

"And we turn to one German who would assuredly also have been driven from Germany to-day, we turn to Beethoven to join all in the Love Hymn of his Ninth Symphony: ALL MEN SHALL BE BROTHERS

The second message, by M. ROMAIN ROLLAND, reproduced in "L'Univers Israélite", Paris, No 13, p.203, contains the following passages:

TWO MESSAGES FROM FRANCE

- 2 -

"O ye great Germany, that I have loved and that I am loving still - I know that your best sons, that thousand unblemished men are under the sway of the terror, that they are crushed by the ignominy of the nefarious deeds of criminals and madmen.

"I doubt not that the proudest and most righteous amid your hosts are deeply humiliated, and stirred, by the indignity of the deeds which are the Government's doing, and which they are made to witness without being free to speak - deeds of a cowardly licence indulged in by ordered mobs, committed against thousands of peaceful and industrious, even defenceless, men, women, and children of Germany.

"They are profoundly stirred by the savage outbursts of brutality on the part of the authorities, against a race though it be struck down, be there never so many of its fighters that spilt their blood for Germany in the Great War, be there never so many of its geniuses that have enhanced the glory of Germany.

"No enemy of Germany could have inflicted upon that country disgrace like this, nor such not to be guessed at harm, as did these wretched adherents of a race doctrine which is dishonoured before the eyes of the world. "

THE GERMAN POGROM

November 1938

Charity in Action:

ENGLISH VILLAGE ADOPTS 2 REFUGEE CHILDREN

The little farming village of Pluckley, Kent, has decided to adopt two refugee boys from Germany. The cost of the maintenance of the two boys, who are said to be between the ages of 10 and 12, will be met by contributions from practically all inhabitants, including the children. The children indeed have offered to give a penny a month towards the maintenance. "We "couldn't sit here and read about the refugee children's plight "and not do something", one of the village women said.

ART DONATIONS OF THE DUTCH ROYAL FAMILY

On December 20 and 21, an auction was held in Amsterdam of valuable pictures and antiques, contributed for that purpose by a number of Christian and Jewish donors. The amount raised by this auction, without any deduction of expenses, is intended for the interdenominational Relief Fund for Refugee Children. The donors include Her Majesty the Queen of Holland, also Crown Princess Juliana and her husband Prince Bernhard.

As a special contribution, a work of art was sent from the Ministry of Education.

Among the members of the Committee were the Dutch Minister of Justice, the Dutch Minister of the Interior, and the Dutch Minister of Education, also a number of well-known Dutch personages of every walk of life.

The total sum raised amounted to £ 6.500 (hfl 55.000, = § 31.000).

THE GERMAN POGROMS
November 1938

"MAY GOD HAVE COMPASSION ON THE POOR REFUGEES"

Throughout Holland, a street collection was held, on December 3rd, in aid of Refugees of all creeds, including the children of refugees.

Moving evidence of readiness to help and gladness of sacrifice has, on that occasion, been evinced, especially on the part of the poorer classes. A woman, herself unemployed, gave the money she had received that week from the local unemployment relief. A Christian policeman gave his week's salary.

A poor woman sent a golden ring and two ear-rings with precious stones; in a letter enclosed, she wrote to the Collection Committee: "This, my gift is the best I can do. May God bless it, and may He have compassion on the poor refugees".

The total yield of the nation-wide Dutch collection on behalf of the refugees is estimated at hfl. 500.000.--, i.e. about £ 55.000, or 10 million French Francs.

14.

Summing up

THE GERMAN POGROM

November 1938

A Total Survey Attempted

Below a survey is ventured of the German pogroms as from November 9 and 10, 1938. It is however exceeding difficult to render the survey correct in every detail, as it has proved almost impossible so far to obtain sufficient evidence for certain important figures. Estimates being unavoidable in most cases, great care has been taken to ascertain the available data through conscientious and responsible enquiries. The results may be assumed to have been put too low rather than too high.

Killed: At least 30, though the figure may be higher.

Deaths: Either as a result of fatal deterioration of an illness contracted in a concentration camp, or as a result of confinement in a concentration camp altogether.

1. At Buchenwald Camp, near Weimar, about 180 deaths;
2. At Sachsenhausen Camp, near Berlin, about 45 deaths;
3. At Dachau, figure below 45, though not yet ascertained.

These deaths mark the stand of December 1st, before the severe cold spell, as a result of which the death roll has probably mounted considerably.

Suicides: Though the exact figure cannot be stated with certainty, it may be said to be running into a few hundreds.

Burnt Synagogues: About 500, not including small prayer rooms and mortuaries. In many cases, the demolition is complete, in others only parts have suffered. Further use of the synagogues is nearly always impossible, and besides forbidden by the police.

According to the latest reports, not only the WORMS synagogue has been destroyed but also the adjacent revered Rashi Chapel with which are bound up many religious and historical reminiscences.

Destroyed Dwellings: No estimate, even approximately correct, has as yet been possible. Nor were dwellings destroyed in all towns. In Nuremberg, at least 700 dwellings may be said to have been demolished, also solicitors' offices and surgeries. The final figure may be assumed to be running into the thousands.

Business Establishments: No reliable estimate possible. The figure is certain to be running into the thousands.

Material Damage

The material damage is so tremendous that it must be described as beyond computation. Estimates from reliable English quarters ("THE TIMES", New Year's supplement, of 2nd January, 1939, p.VI) put the damage in Berlin alone at 13 million marks. Appraising the middle value of a fully furnished dwelling at about 5000 marks, this would yield for Nuremberg alone, with its 700 destroyed dwellings, a material damage of 3.500.000 marks.

The Indemnity

According to the Official Reich Gazette, No 189, of November 14, 1938, the indemnity for the whole of German Jewry is fixed at one milliard marks. Subject to the contribution are also the German Jews living abroad as far as they have registered their property in accordance with the decree of April 26, 1938. There will be no summons for payment. The first 20% of the sum were due on December 15, it being insisted on payment in cash.

Emigration

1. Figures: As a result of the pogroms, the emigration has been accelerated, partly in the form of illegal frontier crossing. The number of these emigrants is estimated at between 5000 and 10.000. The number of the Jews still in Germany is difficult of computation; there may yet be about 400.000. The number of the Jewish children still in Germany is put at 50.000. Up to the present about 3000 children may be said to have emigrated.

2. More Impediments: As a result of new foreign exchange decrees which came into force on 1st January, 1939, the emigrant will not even be free to take with him the luggage he pleases. It will therefore hardly be possible to take with a barely sufficient supply of clothes, underwear, etc, unless the excessive dues are paid, for each item separate. These decrees go so far as to forbid the disposal of any kind of jewellery, not excluding wedding rings. These must be officially sealed in a case, before departure, and in that state taken over the frontier, after payment of the dues. The selection of what jewellery may be taken, is left entirely to the discretion of the authorities.

3. Losses: No affluent person can emigrate to-day without losing all but an insignificant fraction of his fortune. All according to what his assets consist of (cash, business, real estate), the rest actually at his disposal abroad is not likely to amount to more than 4 or 4 1/2 % of the fortune originally in Germany. In a large number of cases, the rate may be lower still.

Buying and Selling

The Jewish shops are closed without exception. In a number of towns, Jews may yet buy in non-Jewish shops, in others they may not. In Kassel, Central Germany, the authorities have already had a first floor shop established where Jews may buy from Jews. This shop must not be marked by any external sign. It would seem that a ruling on some such lines is being prepared for the whole Reich, but nothing definite has as yet been made public. In the meantime, Jewish book-sellers and publishers have also been forbidden to carry on their trade. It is learnt that the Kulturbund (Jewish Cultural Association) is going to open a Jewish book-shop.

Administration

The Reich Representation of the Jews in Germany, with its seat in Berlin, has ceased to exist in its old form. In its stead, the Gestapo has appointed a Committee consisting of six Jews who have to stop in Germany and whose task is, on the one hand, to ensure Jewish emigration, and on the other, provide relief for those left behind. Most offices of the Hilfsverein as well as the Winter Relief have resumed work.

Cultural Activities

Immediately after the pogroms, such practising Kulturbund members as had recently been released from the concentration camps, albeit for this special purpose, were forced to resume work. Thus, for example close upon the pogroms, a review had to be staged, entitled "Gemischtes Kompott", "Mixed Fruit", (see the newly licensed "Jüdisches Nachrichtenblatt", No. 1, of November 23, 1938), while daily women were receiving for burial, the ash urns of their husbands that either died or perished otherwise in the concentration camps. The National Socialist press publishes jubilantly, as evidence of the well-being of German Jewry, the fact that the Kulturbund performances were being continued without interruption.

The Jewish Press

The entire Jewish Press in Germany has been banned for an indefinite period. Reich Commissioner Hinkel has licensed, as from November 23, 1938, a Jewish News Sheet (Jüdisches Nachrichtenblatt), of which so far 9 issues have appeared. It is published twice weekly. Editor is, by order, Herr Leo Kreindler, of Berlin.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

So Far 34 Deaths Ascertained

The names and addresses of 34 Jews who either perished in the concentration camps, or were killed during the pogrom, or committed suicide in the wake of the pogrom, have now been ascertained.

The figure is undoubtedly higher by far. The exact and attested figure will only be known in a few weeks' time.

T H E G E R M A N P O G R O M

November 1938

Up To December 15th, 213 Burnt Houses of Worship Ascertained

According to a list which, in an alphabetical order, gives the localities of the burnt synagogues, and has been borne out, item by item, by trustworthy eye-witnesses or otherwise, so far 213 synagogues, prayer houses, and mortuaries have been set on fire. Most of them are completely burnt out. In some cases, the fire has not destroyed the whole synagogue but only part of it.

This number of synagogue fires is merely a first estimate. The final figure may be assumed to be much higher.