

Die Endlösung

The title of my paper is, of course, in German and, as I can't speak German, I shall not try to pronounce it. The translation means "Final Solution." Did I know the final solution? The premise of this paper is that I did not know, and for my own satisfaction I attempted to ascertain if this was correct.

The idea for this paper originated when I read a review of the book by Walter Lacqueur, The Terrible Secret. I had thought of presenting such a paper two years ago but, because of my inability to obtain a copy of the book, had to use another topic. As it turned out this was probably for the best as in February 1961 I saw a two-hour T. V. documentary which instilled a greater desire to pursue the subject.

The documentary detailed a young Jewish girl and her mother's experiences in a concentration camp. They, having been taken prisoners, were sent to the notorious Auschwitz on the border of western Galicia and upper Silesia. There were really Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II (also know as Birkenau). These extensive camps were further subdivided into a total of eleven camps consisting of both labor and extermination areas. The vastness and complexity of these camps led to confusion when reports of their existence began to leak out.

The Jewish girl, who was never to hear what happened to the rest of her family, was, with her mother, assigned to a work camp. The young girl managed, by devious methods and many sacrifices of herself, to keep her mother alive until very near the end of World War II hostilities. The mother finally succumbed to the filth, degradation, hunger, disease, and brutality of their environment.

As the fall of the Nazis became apparent, some prisoners,

including our Jewish girl, were taken to a camp in ^{Salzwedel}Salzfeld, a town 150 kilometers west northwest of Berlin. They were confined there until, in the final days of World War II, one morning they discovered their camp guards were missing and the gates were unlocked. Rushing free into the streets they soon met American troops advancing through Germany. Their joy was unbounded.

At this point in watching the documentary my curiosity was nearly unbridled. I could hardly wait for the end of the program to dash up and look at a map to see where the town of ^{Salzwedel}Salzfeld was located. For in the waning days of Nazi Germany, I was an American soldier assigned to a reconnaissance squadron of the Seventh Armored Division making a mad dash across Germany to link up with the Russians northwest of Berlin. I cannot recall all the names of the towns we passed through, but locating those towns I do remember, and checking the map, it is almost certain we did pass through ~~Salzfeld~~ ^{Salzwedel}.

Also, on the day of this thrust of the Recon outfit, we went through a town where many people in strange, tattered, striped clothing were clogging the streets. I, at the time, was ignorant of the garb, but presumed it was some form of prison uniform. These people were delirious with happiness at seeing us, literally dragging us from our vehicles with hugs and kisses. We were deluged with dried apricots, prunes and apples, also sugar lumps, evidently liberated from some German warehouse. Later we were to see many of these prisoners butchering horses killed by shrapnel along the sides of the roads. We Americans entered into the unfettered joys of the freed prisoners' hugging, kissing, and crying for only a few brief moments until we had to move on.

(Picture)

Because the location, time, and description of this Jewish girl coincides with my presumption of where the Recon outfit was at this time, it is with near certainty they were one and the same.

After our encounter with the camp inmates the Recon unit proceeded immediately northeast to the Elbe River which was the dividing line between what was to be Allied occupied and Russian occupied territory, now East and West Germany. That afternoon we, some fifty men, were asked to cross the Elbe and go through enemy occupied territory in an attempt to contact the Russians who were presumed to be some fifty to one hundred miles further east. Going forth with the bluff, daring, and boldness of our young lieutenant leader, plus a fantastic amount of luck, we were able to contact the Russians two days later. In the interim, some ~~275~~²⁵⁰,000 German soldiers surrendered to us. The whole German 12th Army?

But now the 'Final Solution' did I know?

As time transpired, after meeting with the strange garbed liberated former German prisoners, I began to wonder who they were and why they were prisoners. In talking with fellow soldiers I found out they were as perplexed as I. But later, through reading, talking with Germans and prisoners, and discussions with a broader base of American servicemen, we found out they were Jews who had been in concentration camps. And again, little by little, we began to realize just what a concentration camp meant. It was years before the full impact of the concentration camp sank into my inner conscience.

Or is this true? Was I truly so ignorant and naive? As a question that has perplexed me for nearly forty years, I am using this paper as a means to delve into my past. So you see, the presentation is as much for my own enlightenment as it is for this audience.

The first serious discussion I had of the Hitler and Jewish question, other than with servicemen, was with a young German girl, Gisela Gmelin. This followed the end of World War II by about six months. Gisela was the daughter of the publisher of the largest newspaper in Stuttgart, Germany. As I knew very little German, our exchange was in English, in which she had a limited command. The

father had been a member of the Nazi party who, she claimed, had died of starvation in an American prisoner of war camp. This last statement I did not believe until years later it officially was revealed that, indeed, for a short period near the end of the war, a few German prisoners had died of starvation because of the logistics of getting food to the front line prisons. The Nazi party membership was explained as a necessity for retaining his job or being demoted to physical labor, even though the father did not believe Naziism was the salvation.

Gisela defended Hitler, saying he brought the German people out of joblessness, starvation, unparalleled inflation, and the indignity of a World War I loss, into a unified people of Germany. As for Hitler's destruction of other countries, her propagandized ignorance would only admit it was excessive. On the Jewish question, her family discussions had revealed rumors in the community which the people wished to ignore. She suspected her father had extensive knowledge with which he chose not to burden the family.

Over the years since then much has been revealed in the news media about the Jews under Naziism. Other than this I have relied heavily on two books, the aforementioned Laquer's The Terrible Secret and John Toland's Adolf Hitler in formulating my opinion of what was known before embarking on my self-investigation.

First I should like to give my conception of a couple of terms that will be used.

The 'Final Solution' refers to Adolf Hitler's over-all plan to eliminate Jews from Europe. The German word for eliminate in itself was confusing, as, early on, most peoples of the world, including Germans as well as Jews themselves, believed it meant resettlement. This was encouraged by such German propaganda that Jews were to be concentrated in a new area. Madagascar was actually contemplated by high Nazi officials until they comprehended Hitler's true belief that

all Jews should die. The idea and method of implementation of the 'Final Solution' was probably Hitler's alone with only the details to be carried out by subordinates.

'Einsatzgruppen' refers to the small, less than 3000, group of men especially trained to kill Jews. By early May, 1941, the nucleus had been formed in central Germany primarily for the extermination of Jews, and occasionally others, in German-occupied Russia. As their numbers were small, they were helped by various other units--auxiliary police, field security, local (Ukrainian and Baltic) volunteers. The primary method of murder was by shooting. As it became apparent that the magnitude in sheer numbers of Jews would dictate a more efficient method, they were disbanded. This was the advent of the death by gas in concentration camps.

'Holocaust' was originally defined as a sacrificial offering burnt whole or wholly consumed: hence the complete sacrifice or surrender of anything as an act of atonement or consecration to God. As it was not the intent of the Nazis to make a sacrifice of this kind, and certainly the Jews did not elect to be ritual victims, hence the added meaning: the wholesale slaughter and destruction by fire and sword as in war.

News of the 'Final Solution' had been received all over Europe in 1942, even though all the details were not known.

Hitler's decision to kill all Jews was made soon after he made up his mind to invade Russia. The highest party circles knew in March, 1941, that the Jews were to be exterminated. This fact became known outside Germany only in July, 1942, in a distorted form. Witnesses claim to have seen such a written order, but no factual evidence has ever been found.

The practical consequences of the deaths of millions of people meant that details about the 'Final Solution' seeped out virtually as soon as the mass slaughter started. The systematic

massacres of the Einsatzgruppen became known in Germany almost immediately. The German Foreign Ministry was officially informed about details of the massacre. The Soviet Government must have known of the massacres within a few days and, after a few weeks, the Western capitals knew, also. Later on, there was more secrecy about the extermination camps. But still the first extermination camp was opened December 8, 1941, and the news was received in Warsaw within four weeks and published in the underground press. The existence and the function of Belzec and Treblinka were known in Warsaw among Jews and non-Jews within two weeks after the gas chambers had started operating. The deportations from Warsaw were known in London in four days. The true character of Auschwitz was not known for several months as it was such a huge operation of eleven different camps, some labor and some extermination, that it belied true comprehension.

Why, if so much was known so quickly among the Jews of Eastern Europe, was it not believed? At first Russian and Polish Jewry were genuinely unprepared: Soviet Jews had been kept uninformed about Nazi intentions and practices: Polish Jews believed that the massacres would be limited to former Soviet territories. Also, communication between ghettos was sporadic. Most Polish Jews believed or wanted to believe that Jews were being transferred farther east where the Nazis needed a large labor force for the war economy. Into 1943, for the few Polish Jews left, it seems impossible to understand their reluctance to recognize the certainties of the final solution except that wishful thinking seemed to offer the only antidote to utter despair.

Of all the other European Jewish communities, only the Slovaks seem to have realized at an early date some of the dangers facing them. Even they failed to realize until late 1943 that the Nazis aimed at killing all Jews. The German, Dutch, Danish, and French Jews seemed to live in near ignorance almost to the very end.

The communities were isolated and far removed from the death camps with out limited information. Yet most Jews in Europe and many nonJews heard at least rumors which were either not believed or they assumed it couldn't happen to them. This is proved by the fact that only a relatively small minority tried to hide or escape. (Spoken Note: As you will remember Gene's paper two weeks ago mentioned the Dutch help for escaping Jews.)

The majority of Jewish leaders in Britain, America, and Palestine found it exceedingly difficult to accept the ample evidence about the 'Final Solution' and did so with considerable delay. They, too, thought in terms of persecution rather than extermination by misjudging the murderous nature of Nazism and holding forth false optimism. Another factor in disbelief was the feeling of impotency. As the worst fears were confirmed, there was confusion among the leaders as to what course of action to choose. This was true in the United States and caused further delay in making the news public.

The Polish underground played a key role in transmission of the news to the west. It had a fairly good intelligence-gathering network and a means of conveying this information abroad. The Poles had few illusions about intentions of the Nazis and their reports gave an accurate picture of the situation. They have been accused of playing down the Jewish catastrophe in order to not distract from the suffering of the Polish people, and at times of temporarily discontinuing transmission of news of Jewish deaths. Basically, this is not true except for one period of time in July, August, and September of 1942, when the London Government-in-exile, either on its own initiative or following the advice of the British Foreign Office, did not immediately publicize the news received from Warsaw. The Polish Government was the first to alarm the Allied governments and world public opinion, but it was accused of exaggeration, as were the Jews at a later date. From this time up to the end of the

war the number of victims given in the official declarations of the Allied governments was consistently too low. Even after it had been accepted in London and Washington that the information about the mass slaughter was correct, the British and United States governments showed much concern that it should not be given too much publicity.

Millions of Germans knew by 1942 that the Jews had disappeared. Rumors about their fate reached Germany mainly through officers and soldiers returning from the eastern front, but also through other channels. The speeches of the Nazi leaders indicated that something more drastic than resettlement had happened. Knowledge about the exact manner in which they were killed was restricted to a very few. It is, in fact, quite likely that while many Germans thought the Jews were no longer alive, they did not necessarily believe that they were dead. Such belief, needless to say, is logically inconsistent, but a great many logical inconsistencies are accepted in war time. As very few people had an interest in the fate of the Jews, they faced their more important personal problems. It was an unpleasant topic, speculations were indecisive, discussions of the fate of the Jews were discouraged. In essence the question was pushed aside and blotted out for the duration.

As for the Vatican, it probably knew at an early stage, if not the whole truth, at least enough to understand that few, if any, Jews would survive the war. The Vatican had an unrivaled net of informants all over Europe. It did try to intervene on behalf of many Jews, but had no desire for publicity. For this would have exposed it to German attacks on one hand and pressure to do more from the Jews and Allies.¹ Jews, after all, are not Catholic and the Holy See thought it could do little for faithful Poles and even less for Jews. The position of the International Red Cross was similar to the Catholics, but, of course, they had far fewer sources of information. Both groups had let the fear of consequences influence their

whole policy.

Russia showed little interest in the fate of the Jews. From the beginning the Soviet press published much general information about Nazi atrocities in occupied areas, but only rarely revealed that Jews were singled out for extermination. Even today the Soviet Communist Party line has not changed in this respect. As far as the Soviet publications are concerned the government acted correctly. Soviet citizens of Jewish origin did not fair differently from the rest under Nazi rule.

In London and Washington the facts about the 'Final Solution' were known from an early date and it reached the chiefs of intelligence, the secretaries of foreign affairs and defense. But the facts were not considered to be of great interest, and at least some officials either did not believe them or at least thought them to be exaggerated. Yet there seemed to be no deliberate attempt to stop the flow of information on the mass killings. Disbelief can be explained by Anglo-American lack of knowledge of European affairs in general and Nazism in particular. Neither the Luftwaffe, the German navy, nor the Afrika Korps had committed such atrocities, and these were the only sections of the German armed forces which Allied soldiers encountered prior to 1944. The concept of the Gestapo was from not very credible B-grade movies. Who in their right mind would believe that annihilation rather than slave labor was the fate of European Jews?

But even if the realities of the 'Final Solution' had been accepted, it would have been low on the scale of Allied priorities. 1942 was a critical year in the course of the war, bureaucrats were not to be deflected in pursuit of victory by considerations not directly connected to the war effort. Thus, too much publicity about the mass murders seemed undesirable for demands to help the Jews would be detrimental to the war effort. Churchill seemed to

show more interest in the Jewish tragedy than Roosevelt and also more compassion; yet, even he was not willing to devote much thought to the subject. The public in Britain and the United States was kept informed by the press of the 'Final Solution,' but the impact was small or short-lived. People could identify with the fate of a single individual or family, but not the killing of millions. The statistics of murder were either disbelieved or dismissed from consciousness.

In August 1942 a speaker in the House of Commons debating post-war problems of resettlement mentioned that 7 to 9½ million Jews would need homes after the war. But reports were being made that Hitler had already killed or was killing 4 million continental Jews which would leave less than two million surviving. ^{and} ~~Let~~ with every passing month more would be killed.

In 1941 and even 1942 the Palestinian Jewish Press published some alarmist information of what was happening in Nazi-occupied territory, but editorially disassociated itself from such gross exaggerations, believing only that the Jews were being unmercifully persecuted, as they had in generations past, and not eliminated. The Hebrew newspapers of both Davar and Hatzofe put the blame on the unbridled sensationalism of irresponsible journalists on one hand and the competition between various news agencies on the other. Each wanted to kill more Jews than the other. "The irresponsible informants absorb every rumor, they desperately look for every piece of bad news, every enormous figure and present it to the reader in a way which makes the blood curdle in one's veins. Do the informants not feel that the news about tens of thousands of killed, of a quarter million victims does not stir up many emotions because it is not believed in view of the inherent exaggeration? We still remember the dispatches from the days of riots [Palestine 1936 - 39] which were sent out all over the globe and

which were so much exaggerated." }

In retrospect, an explanation for misinterpretation of the news from Europe could, of course, be attributed to various mitigating circumstances. In 1942 Rommel was advancing into Egypt, the Afrika Korps was poised to strike at the Nile Valley, and a German invasion of Palestine seemed imminent. Because the Jewish community in Palestine seemed in immediate danger, it was only natural that other problems take second place.

In late November 1942, the subject of the holocaust was to preoccupy the Jewish communities in America, Palestine, and in Britain without interruption. But, even then, the full extent of the disaster had not altogether registered. The Jewish organizations published declarations about Jewish life in the ghettos still going on, about Jewish resistance, and, yes, even about post-war planning. The New York Rescue Committee even sent lists of thousands of Polish Jews to whom parcels should be dispatched; they seemed not to accept that neither the people nor the addresses any longer existed.

On April 15, 1945, the first western reporters were able to see the extent of German atrocity when they entered Bergen-Belsen. Their reports shocked the world into belief; though, ironically, Belsen was not an extermination camp at all, not even a concentration camp, but a sick camp, though admittedly, the only cure offered to patients who entered the camp was death.

Before listing what I could have known of the 'Final Solution,' my background should be given.

I was born on a farm, one half mile from where I presently farm, attended rural one-room schools, and graduated from Grinnell High School. I had also attended Iowa State College for two quarters before going into service. My parents' highest education was through eighth grade and, though avid readers, my father in

particular, the Great Depression and lack of knowledge of libraries limited their scope and mine of reading. I do believe my father read every word, including advertisements, of the material he received.

I have dismissed radio news primarily because, although I listened to the radio, it was not for the news. Secondly, it would have been difficult to verify what went over the air waves at that time.

This brings us to the printed materials. We subscribed to various farm publications: Wallace's Farm Journal, Successful Farmer, and others intermitterly and, although I read them, I do not remember world news being part of their format other than that of a strictly rural orientation. The present issues of these magazines would tend to verify such conclusions. I can remember being fascinated in reading the high school's National Geographic, but current news was not included in their articles. This was verified by the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature listing no article on Jews of this period.

As for the use of the city library to broaden my scope in reading, I was not knowledgeable of its assets. Also, as we lived in a rural area not supporting the library, a fee would have been involved and transportation presented a problem. Basically, I did not use the city library and presumed the college library was for its exclusive use. In the two quarters I attended Iowa State as a freshman in the sciences the prescribed courses left little room for a more liberal education. I read the same material I had read before attending Iowa State.

I shall digress here briefly to show that if I had used the library I might have come into contact with more articles about the Jews. In checking the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature I found numerous such articles, but will only mention two as examples

of what was being written.

In the New Republic of December 7, 1942, in an article "The Massacre of Jews," by Hermann Kauschnig, he reports the Fuhrer as saying that, no matter who won the war, the Jews of Europe would be totally destroyed.

Dr. Wise, chairman of World Jewish Congress, and Dr. Strasburger, Finance Minister of Polish Government, in exile issued a joint news release, "Human slaughter houses have been established in Poland and other countries and at least 1,000,000 Polish Jews have been killed in the last three years. 200,000 have been removed by other means, such as shooting, or the injection of air into the blood stream. The mass deportations of Jews from other western European countries must have a similar purpose." }

It is difficult for Americans to believe such horror stories, but testimony of the State Department, not ordinarily given to atrocity-mongering, supports the statements of Dr. Wise and Dr. Strasburger.

In the Nation of December 19, 1942, in an editorial "Murder of a People": ^{CC} The fate of the European Jews is so appalling that men will shudder for generations; so gargantuan in scope it cannot be comprehended, but must await the perspective of history. It will dwarf into insignificance as the Roman persecution of the early Christians, the massacre of St. Bartholomew's Night, the terror of Jacobin's guillotine, and all the ^{pernicious} ~~programs~~ that have stained the world from the days of the Pharaohs to the advent of Hitler. >>

Because Holocaust has become so recognizable in our present news media presentations, I checked the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and found the first mention of Holocaust literature was in the 1971 volume. It refers to an article in America, November 27, 1971, by H. J. Cargas.

In a two-page article: Holocaust literature is depicted as being one of the most important new types of literature developed since World War II, which is a record of diaries, essays, dramas, and novels which make up the contemporary religious history of Jews.

It's an effort by the Jew to struggle to interpret the meaning of the ovens of Europe for himself; nonJews face the same question. Surprisingly, the over-all tone of holocaust literature is not condemnatory. It is sometimes moralistic, frequently celebratory of the Jewish spirit, always sad, but almost never vengeful. Always there is the spirit of hope.

After entering the armed services the trauma of basic training left little time for reading. Immediately upon completion of basic I was sent to Europe and into a combat zone. The only material available there were the two service papers: "Yank" and "Stars and Stripes." As I remember, their news consisted chiefly of combat operations and what was going on at home. The Des Moines public library had no way I could look at back issues to see their content.

Of the two magazines I had access to, with pertinent articles I could have read, Reader's Guide lists two articles in each.

Reader's Digest, April, 1945, "Shepherds of the Underground": The article deals with keeping Jewish children out of the hands of the Nazis. Reference is made to 15,000 Jewish children the Germans seized in France and packed off to Germany who were not so fortunate. Nothing was heard from them and there is evidence that many were put to death in the gas chambers in Poland.

Reader's Digest, February, 1943, "Remember Us," by Ben Hecht, author and dramatist, which was condensed from the American Mercury: Jews at this time had no political unity. Their only unity being as a target of the Germans. The Jews who lived in Poland--3,000,000; Rumania--900,000; Germany--900,000; Hungary--750,000; Czechoslovakia--

150,000; France, Holland, and Belgium--400,000 totaled 6,000,000. As this article was written almost one-third had already been massacred by the Germans, Rumanians, and Hungarians and a conservative estimate of at least another one-third would be put to death before war's end. This does not include the 3,000,000 Jews of Russia of whom 700,000 entered the Soviet armies and fought on the battlefields or of other Jews who died in fighting, in Allied bombing raids, suicide, or those who escaped.

Various methods of death were described: shooting, clubbing, dynamiting, burning, hanging, and running over bound women and children with army vehicles. It is curious to note that no mention is made of the concentration camps and mass murder by carbon monoxide and gas.

Saturday Evening Post, March 21, 1942, "The Jews Are Different," by W. Frank (a Jew): The author delves into the prejudices, myths, falsehoods, and lies of nonJews for the Jews and their religion and in this way tries to explain the hate by the Germans and their allies that would allow mass murder. Also it partially explains why Americans didn't have as much sympathy for the Jews as for other people.

Saturday Evening Post, January 20, 1945, in an article, "They Saved the Children": Details how the people of occupied France risked death and torture to keep 8,000 Jewish children out of the hands of the Gestapo and almost certain death. The methods of hiding these children and methods of putting Jews to their death were briefly described.

This probably originated from the same news source as the Reader's Digest article of April, 1945.

In checking the Des Moincs Triouns, not wanting to take the time to research four years of news, I chose three months for a thorough study. Two, July and August, 1942, were chosen because it

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of Soviet Russia, many tanks in oval armor, all equipped with a turret, a weapon which has increased in importance of tanks by the Red army's enemies. These reserves are... of man power now being trained under Russian... program instituted Oct. 1, 1941. Now that Russia... these reserves probably will see action soon. — WIREPHOTO

Training NIFF, SNIFF, SNIFF

Kit Donated Here

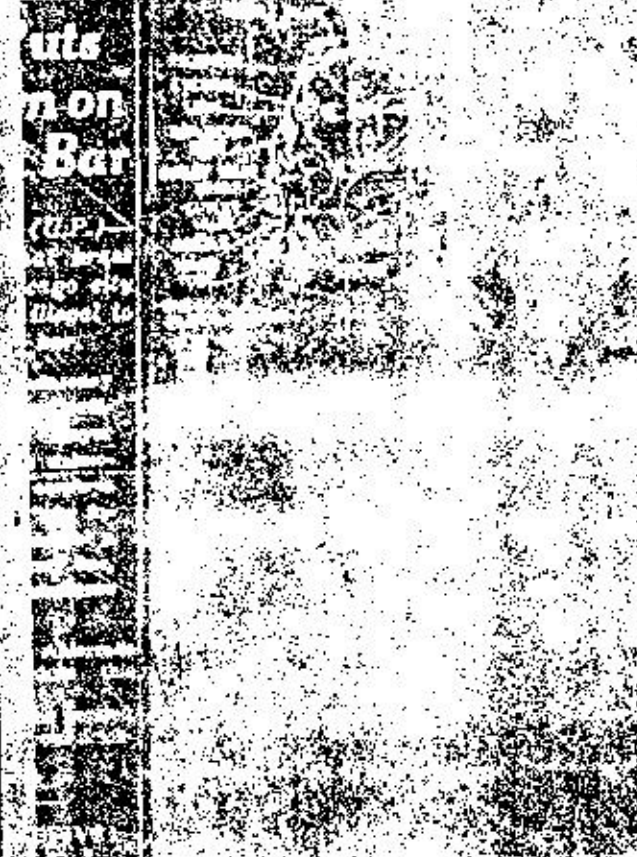
Fred Barry, director of training, explained Wednesday. "They do not contain the actual gas."

To the uninitiated, one of the bottles will smell like sweet almond, another like meat, fat or apple blossoms. The first is the odor of Lewisite gas and the second that of phosgene.

The other three bottles contain the odors of mustard gas, which smells like garlic, horseradish or mustard; chlorophenol, which smells like hypodermic and phenol; and phosgene, which smells like mousy hay or green corn.

"The odors may not remind everyone of the same thing," Durrie added. "The difference is in the individual sense of smell. That is one important reason why everyone should educate himself to associate gases with their different odors."

EXAMINES GAS KIT



Pope Protests to Pe Over Refugee Tr

Asks End to 'Inhuman Arrests'

VICHY, FRANCE (Delayed) (U.P.)—Pope Pius XII, speaking through the papal nuncio at Vichy, has told the heads of the Vichy government that he does not understand the treatment accorded Jewish refugees and entreated them to end "these inhuman arrests of a defenseless people." It was reported by an unimpeachable source Saturday.

(Reports come from Europe Wednesday that the papacy has placed upon the Vichy government the task of releasing Jewish refugees in a new campaign of repression in Paris, including the arrest of Jews and the arrest of French Jews to their deportation to the breaking up of French Jewish families.)

The nuncio, Mgr. Valerio Valeri, placed the problem before Petain with great poise, him as a statesman.

The task turned to the deportation of Jewish Jews who had...

PRIORITIES, SH War Hits Harder Blows on Corner

By Herbert G. O.

The blows of war are pounding on the corner drug store.

Priorities, shortages, shortages, shortage of factories all have struck Druggists Chemicals Division.

General—all are affected parts of the drugstore business and all have been withdrawn from their natural floor.

Nazis Weight Falls on Club

VICHY, FRANCE (U.P.)—France's "Club" has released its rules, because its members are no longer under the weight of... regulations.

Before the war, the club...

was indicated considerable news was coming out of Europe at this time. The third, June, 1943, was chosen at random. Most of the articles were brief and I shall make mention of all I found for these three months. Lecquer in his book mentions Churchill's message to the Jews in Madison Square Garden July 23, 1942. This was not reported in the Tribune issues of either July or August, 1942.

Des Moines Tribune:

July 24, 1942, in a small three-paragraph article. Date-line: London:

Archbishop of York accuses Germans of indescribably horrible treatment of conquered Poland, a brutal cold-blooded policy of murdering a nation which will go down as one of the great crimes of history. No mention was made of Jews.

July 28, 1942:

Small articles about the terrible conditions inside German-occupied Europe, such as the Nazi execution of twenty-eight Frenchmen. Still no mention of Jews.

August 3, 1942:

In an editorial, Dorothy Thompson mentions the fear of Germans: men and women summarily shot for various reasons, hostages massacred.

August 5:

In a front-page article Pope Pious XII complained to the Vichy government of the treatment accorded Jewish refugees. And asked that these inhuman arrests of a defenseless people be stopped.

[Photo Stat]

August 7, 1942, Dateline: Moscow:

In a lengthy article on the colonization of German-occupied Russia mention is made that as of the end of July, as is already known, 60,000 Jews in Amsterdam had been rounded up and sent to the east. Again, no mention of plight of Russian Jews native to this region.

August 20, 1942:

There ~~was~~^{is} an editorial by Ruth Mitchell, describing, and I quote, "a foreign woman," who served with the Yugoslavic underground, was captured by the Gestapo and went through eleven prison camps in Yugoslavia, Austria, and Germany before escaping. She describes the brutality and death in these camps, but does not mention Jews.

June 2, 1943:

In an editorial Dorothy Thompson describes the German imprisonment of 300,000 Warsaw and other Polish Jews in Warsaw's ghetto. They were herded like cattle, to live worse than cattle, without sanitation, or any work save what they could do with a few tools and their own hands, with only supervised communication with the outside world; living crowded and ever more crowded in dark hovels, subject to hunger, filth, and disease.

Such conditions of life, thought the Nazis, would spare them the responsibility of direct massacre. The imprisoned Jews would simply die.

The ghetto Poles fought back and required so much German manpower to contain, it was decided to eliminate the ghetto by direct attack.

As the Grinnell Herald Register was my most thoroughly read news source of the period, I rather completely checked from September 29, 1938 to August, 1942. From September, '38 through the summer of '39, world news consisted of one or two short sentence "Wire Flashes."

September 29, 1938:

Hope for peace.

November 10, 1938:

Germans call halt to violence and burning of Jewish business.

March 16, 1939:

Germans take over Czechia and Slovakia and anti-Semitic laws go into effect.

In late summer of 1939 there were various small articles and editorials about the possibility of war in Europe. This news made headlines on August 24, 25, and 31.

August 6, 1939:

An editorial on the poor health of Germans because so many Jewish doctors had been removed from practice.

After September, 1939, the "Wire flashes" were dropped and articles about World War II made headlines and the front page.

October 30, 1939:

Headlines "Holocaust", but was in reference to a totalitarian war.

During this period there were a lot of war pictures with captions, none mentioning Jews.

In late '39 and into 1940, there was a deluge of articles about the Russian-Finnish war. I've often wondered why I had such an affinity for the Fins, probably indicates how I was influenced by the printed word.

January 4, 1940:

Finnish relief offices in Grinnell to be headed by President Nollen. A Drake-Pioneer benefit basketball game for Finnish relief.

April 11, 1940:

Photo of Jewish elders of Warsaw being marched to a concentration area by Nazis.

For the rest of 1940 and most of 1941 there were many one- and two-paragraph articles of the war's progress on inside pages. The few front page and possible major headline articles were of congressmen's views or Grinnell College conferences concerning the war.

August 28, 1941:

An editorial on a captured German airman who died in an English hospital because he refused a transfusion except for pure Aryan blood.

November 3, 1941:

Conditions in occupied Holland were described by an escapee in a lecture at Grinnell College. No mention was made of Jews. It should be stated that the news article in this and other reports did not mention Jews unless I have indicated as such. Whether the lectures presented did include the Jewish problem I would not have known as I did not attend them.

November 6, 1941:

Editorial on German education. Quotes from a geography book. Teacher: "The United States has a low type of government, a democracy. What is a democracy?" Answer: "A government by rich Jews."

November 6, 1941:

A report that all German Jews would be deported to Holland.

December 8, 1941:

Headlines, "Japanese Attack."

The Herald in 1942 reduced coverage of world war news to one- or two-paragraph articles similar to the aforementioned "Wire Flashes." Its major emphasis was on the draft, civilian defense, rationing, and local boys killed, injured, or on leave. As an example:

April 23, 1942:

Professor W. C. Oelke gives neighborhood talk at Davis School on chemical warfare.

June 15, 1942:

Grinnell College has a one-week International Relations Conference on various aspects of the war. One speaker, an unnamed Austrian Jew, describes life after Nazi occupation. His arrest with