

# 2,000,000 Jews in Poland Herded Into Ghettos

(By JOSEPH W. GRIGG JR.)

**Berlin, Feb. 20 (UP).—**A wave of anti-Semitism following close behind the victorious German armies has swept over the countries of Europe.

It struck with the greatest violence against Poland, which before start of the war—with an estimated 3,000,000 Jews—had the largest Jewish population of any country in Europe. Only a slight ripple was caused in Norway and Denmark, which together barely had 8,000 Jews.

Poland today is a closed country barred in principle to neutral correspondents. Information on the country therefore only can be second-hand and incomplete. Official German statements made it clear, however, that Jews—totalling perhaps 2,000,000—in the Polish rump known as the "Government General" have been driven back into a ghetto of the middle ages.

The largest ghetto is in Warsaw where, according to German estimates, there are approximately 500,000 Jews. Other big ghettos or "Jewish city districts," as the Germans prefer to call them, are at Lublin and Cracow.

## Herded Into Warsaw.

The Germans set about creating Warsaw's ghetto immediately after Poland capitulated. Jews were evicted from their homes throughout the city and herded into the ghetto.

The eviction at Cracow was carried out in what was described as "voluntary migration" under which up to September, 1940, more than 32,000 Jews left to settle in the Warsaw and Lublin ghettos.

The Warsaw ghetto was completed Nov. 16, 1940. It is entirely isolated from the remainder of the city by a barbed wire fence. All the gates are guarded by German, Polish and Jewish police. No one can enter or leave without a special permit signed by German authorities.

Throughout the "Government General" and other parts of former Poland annexed outright to the Reich, all Jews must wear yellow arm bands with the Star of David.

Each ghetto is governed internally by a Jewish Council of Elders, which, naturally, is under strict German supervision. Policing of the ghetto is carried out by Jewish constabulary recruited from the former Jewish officers and non-commissioned officers from the Polish and Austro-Hungarian Armies. Raids by German Gestapo police, however, occur frequently.

Since January, 1940, all male Jews between the ages of 14 and 60 have been compelled to work for German authorities in the Jewish labor service.

Throughout former Poland the public German policy is to treat the Jews as inferiors, a "low quality" race. Under German rule they

have no place in the general community. They are isolated and quarantined.

In occupied France the anti-Jewish campaign flared immediately after the German invasion.

Following short anti-Semitic editorials in the German-controlled Paris press, the German military government in France on Oct. 2 issued a decree compelling all Jews to register their business and themselves. Jewish stores had to carry yellow and black signs: "Jewish enterprise." Three weeks later followed another decree authorizing Aryans to take over the Jewish businesses. A third decree ordered immediate closure of all Jewish businesses on arrival of a German appointed Aryan administrator to conduct inventory.

According to Paris police estimates there are 3,000 Jewish stores and 150,000 Jews in Greater Paris.

## Hard Hit in Belgium.

The anti-Semitic campaign began in Belgium soon after the invasion. Under various German decrees Jewish lawyers no longer are permitted to practice. Jews are not permitted to hold jobs as teachers, professors, managers, directors or editors of newspapers. Jewish refugees are not permitted to return to Belgium. All Jews must register with a full inventory. All towns with less than 5,000 inhabitants must keep a register of Jewish inhabitants. All hotels, restaurants, cafes and bars owned by Jews must display this notice: "Jewish enterprise." It must be in the German, French and Flemish languages.

In the occupied Netherlands the situation is much the same. A small anti-Semitic outburst occurred a few months ago with the smashing of windows in some Jewish stores, but German authorities ordered a cessation of the activities.

The only occupied countries where there is very little anti-Semitism are Norway and Denmark. Nazi Parties in both these countries have indulged in some anti-Jewish propaganda, but the movements gained no headway—probably because there are so few Jews in Scandinavia. Denmark has only 6,000 Jews, Norway only about 1,500.

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