

# WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

## Yad Vashem Honors Swiss Man Who Never Told of WWII Heroism

GENEVA (JTA) — The Yad Vashem's "Medal of the Just" has been conferred posthumously in Jerusalem on Friedrich Born of Switzerland, who died in 1963. A delegate of the International Red Cross in Budapest during World War II, Born worked with Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg to rescue Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps.

Unlike Wallenberg, whose deeds have been honored by Jews and non-Jews the world over, Born's activities remained a secret, even to his family, for more than 40 years.

Born worked in close collaboration with Wallenberg and in consultation with the Swiss Consul in Budapest, Carl Luntz. Wallenberg saved Jews by sheltering them in the Swedish Embassy and providing Swedish documents. Born recruited 4,000 Jews as employees of the Red Cross, issuing them ICRC papers. He pressured Hungarian government officials and confiscated hospitals and homes where he hid many Jews under the Red Cross flag.

## Study of Destruction of Grodno's Jewry Presented to Yad Vashem

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A five-volume documented study of the destruction of the Jewish community of Grodno, a city in northeast Poland, was presented to the Yad Vashem Archives by Nazi-hunters Serge and Beate Klarsfeld.

The study includes trial and pre-trial documents from war crimes proceedings conducted in West Germany which the German authorities had refused to release until now. The Klarsfelds said they are "the most important collection on the Holocaust ever put together."

## Portugal Awards One of Its Highest Honors to Aristides de Sousa Mendes

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese consul general who disobeyed his country by issuing thousands of visas to Jews fleeing Nazi-occupied France, was posthumously awarded one of Portugal's highest honors, the Order of Freedom. The award caps a longtime effort by de Sousa Mendes' family and U.S. Congressmen to pay tribute to the man who died penniless after his efforts cost him his career.

De Sousa Mendes held the post of Portuguese consul general in Bordeaux in 1940 when thousands of refugees were trying to flee France. He was instructed by his government, ruled by the dictator Antonio Salazar, a friend of Hitler, not to issue visas. He disobeyed the instructions and issued some 30,000 visas with about a third going to Jews, before being stripped of his power and sent back to Lisbon. He was ousted from the diplomatic corps and not allowed to practice his profession of law.

## German Institution Fires Scholar Who Claimed Hitler Created Israel

BONN (JTA) — A West German scholar in charge of editing a government-sponsored scientific edition of the letters and diaries of Theodore Herzl has been dismissed because of his recently published thesis that Hitler "created the State of Israel."

Nolte maintained that the Jews would eventually come to appreciate Hitler as the individual who contributed more than anyone else to the creation of the State of Israel. He also wrote that Americans would appreciate Hitler as the man who brought their country to the status of a superpower.

The Deutsche Forschungs-

meinschaft (DFG), the government-backed institution managing the project, has engaged another scholar to complete it.

Frans Josef Strauss, leader of the conservative Christian Social Union Party in Bavaria, told the Catholic Students Association in Munich that the time has come for Germans to "lay to rest the ghosts of the past." A people cannot live with what he called "a criminalized history." The Germans, he said, have "the same right to normality as other people."

## East German Leader Orders Rebuilding of Jewish Cemetery

BONN (JTA) — The Adass Israel cemetery in East Berlin, almost completely destroyed by the Nazis, will be rebuilt at the direct orders of East German leader Eric Honecker.

More than 100 persons, including survivors of the original Adass Israel congregation, attended ceremonies recently rededicating the burial ground. They were told by Klaus Gist, the minister in charge of religious affairs, that his government is committed to perpetuating the memory of Jewish life in Germany.

## Germany Probes 81 for Nazi Crimes

BONN (JTA) — Preliminary investigations are pending in the cases of 81 individuals suspected of Nazi atrocities during World War II, and more than 1,000 cases have come to court this year or were turned over to state prosecutors, the Federal Office for the prosecution of Nazi Criminals in Ludwigsburg reported.

But according to legal experts, only a small percentage of the suspects will be tried and even fewer are likely to be sentenced. That is because as time passes it has become more difficult to prove an individual's involvement in Nazi atrocities, the experts said.

## Anti-Semitism in Spain

*The Jerusalem Post* (Letter to the Editor) — Sir,—The great show of friendship between Spain and Israel, put on at the recent trade show in Tel Aviv has prompted me to write.

We recently spent a month in Spain. In Madrid, we saw the odd swastika—isolated we thought. We took a tour bus to Toledo and there were told by our guide that "15th century Jews were expelled from Spain because they had all the money and not very many were expelled." He then added: "And they still have all the money!" An elderly German couple on the tour with us (not Jewish) were appalled and disgusted.

Spray-painted on a wall near the entrance to the old Jewish quarter in Cordoba we read: "No a Israel" (No to Israel).

We saw many swastikas spray-painted on road signs along the Costa del Sol.

## Barbie Trial Prompted Rash of French Anti-Semitic Graffiti

PARIS (JTS) — The trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie has produced a flood of anti-Semitic graffiti and pamphleteering all over France, much of it aimed at high school students in the Paris area.

The most frequent claim is that the Holocaust was a Jewish hoax. A synagogue in Nantes, a city of 223,000 in northwestern France, had its walls daubed with the words "Free Barbie" and "Hitler will live for 1,000 years."

Elsewhere, anonymous tracts have appeared stating that "No Jews were killed by the Germans who deported them to Eastern Europe because the

Jews were the enemy of Germany."

## Life Sentence Given to French Neo-Nazi Killer

PARIS (JTA) — A self-avowed neo-Nazi was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a 75-year-old woman whose only "crime" according to the killer was that "she was Jewish." The Nice Criminal Court found no extenuating circumstances in the case of Raynald Liekens, 23.

Liekens told police and repeated in court that he stabbed Henriette Cerf to death in the summer of 1984 because she was Jewish and I had to "prove to myself my Nazi convictions."

The defense claimed that Liekens had been influenced by the "racist climate" which exists in France and by the anti-Semitic propaganda to which he had been exposed.

## Holocaust Memorial Vandalized

NEW YORK (JTA) — One day after a suburban Chicago Holocaust memorial was dedicated, it was defaced with spray-painted swastikas and defamatory phrases. Police in the suburb, Skokie, focus of a confrontation between Holocaust survivors and neo-Nazis in 1978, are investigating the crime.

A \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible was offered by the American Jewish Committee, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago and the Church Federation of Greater Chicago. The three groups released a joint statement say-

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