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Yizkor 25 Times

by Nathan Ziprin

Current observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Nazis reminds us anew that survival is in struggle, that human dignity is man's most priceless gift in crisis.

The Jews who perished in the Warsaw Ghetto resisting the barbarians well knew it was an unequal fight, that superior power would prevail and that their fate was sealed. Possibly they were hoping for a miracle, but miracles had seemingly run out of Jewish life in the black days, except perhaps for the few who miraculously eluded the hands of the unmentionables.

Tragedy descended upon our people under the Nazis like the primeval cloudburst of biblical days. For a long dark moment it seemed that all Jewish life would perish. There were no Noahs with wisdom for arks, nor ararats on which they could perch until the floods subsided. The flood came suddenly, the wrath with lightning. And the fate of a people hung in the balance.

What were the doomed to do?
Some went to death as sheep, victims of the enemy's cunning.

Others went to their graves with contempt for the axe. Many died lost in the confusion that was purgatory.

The brave men and women of the Warsaw Ghetto--whose memory now is being desecrated by a regime that falsified history -- chose other weapons -- weapons of war, the only weapons the enemy could understand.

The brave fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto inflicted heavy casualties on the Nazis. But that was not their single objective. Their heroic stand humiliated the foe, robbing him of the glamour of invincibility and destroying his legend of superiority. But neither was that alone their primary objective. There was higher meaning to the revolt and the resistance that was written in blood. It was the highest example of human dignity in the annals of history. Here men and women who in all probability regarded themselves as among the last remnants of their people struck out against the enemy not because they hoped to subdue him, but to serve notice on him that the fight will not go to the victor but to the victims even if they all perished in battle.

They knew the fighters in the ghetto that all, or most of them, would perish, but they also knew that the significance of their struggle would be recorded in human history for all time as a monument to human dignity in the very midst of German depravity.

There are the detractors in our own midst, with pens as cold as steel, who have been questioning the behaviour of the victims in catastrophe, in the ghettos, in the concentration camps and in the death traps. These are paper heroes who have braved macabre dialogues with our dead because they have lost touch with reality.

The story of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising will be told before Jewish hearths as long as there are Jewish hearts. When we cease to tell that story we will have told our last tale.

And so, for the twenty-fifth year, let us again say yizkor.

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YOUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED

Warsaw Ghetto Still Lives

by Ben G. Frank

"The Warsaw Ghetto is no more."
That was the title of a report by Juergen Stroop, S.S. Brigadefuehrer and Major General of Police, who proudly reported 25 years ago that he had wiped out the last of the Jewish defenders of the Ghetto who for 42 days and nights inflicted heavy losses on the Germans that April and May of 1943.

Few Jews survived the Ghetto -- most perished. As for Stroop, he was caught after the War; tried in Poland for the slaughter of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto and hanged at the scene of the crime on September 8, 1951.

What survived, of course, was the spirit and tenacity of a group of heroic defenders - of Jewish resistance fighters who would not give up and submit to being liquidated by the Nazis.

What is more, the symbol of the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto lived on after World War II as a concrete example that Jews would fight against overwhelming odds; and that if necessary Jews could and would bear arms. Moreover, there is no doubt that the defenses of the Ghetto would, five years later, provide inspiration to the Yishuv in Palestine as it resisted aggression and an attempt to annihilate it.

But in Warsaw the final outcome could never be in doubt. The defenders knew that and so did the Nazis. In the spring days of 1943, some 60,000 Jews walled up in the Warsaw Ghetto -- all that remained of 400,000 who had been herded into that place like cattle by the Nazis.

The Germans of course had been systematically liquidating the Ghetto by deporting about 6,000 to 10,000 persons from Warsaw each day. After several months of these deportations, the Jews of the Ghetto knew that those being deported were being sent to the gas chambers.

By mid-April, 1943, the surviving Jews began the battle. On April 19, 1943, which happened to fall on the first night of Passover, a detachment of Nazis arrived in the Ghetto to deport a number of Jewish families. They were greeted with pistol shots and hand grenades.

The Germans turned their tanks, artillery, flame throwers and dynamite squads on the Ghetto, an area of about 1,000 by 300 yards. But the Ghetto was honeycombed with sewers, vaults and cellars which the Jews had converted into fortified points. They had few arms: Some pistols and rifles, a dozen or two machine guns that had been smuggled in and homemade grenades.

Their heroic defense can never be adequately described, but the Jews of the Ghetto put up a fierce fight, "the poorly armed defenders giving ground before the tanks, flame throwers and artillery, but keeping up their resistance." Every house, every floor was a battlefield. Women, and children too, fought and even the Nazis said the women "had the habit of firing pistols with both hands and also of unlimbering hand grenades which they concealed in their bloomers."

Toward the end, the Jewish defenders took to the sewers. The Germans had to resort to burning the buildings and it was incomprehensible to them that the Jews preferred to die in the flames, fighting under the flag of Zion rather than to die peacefully in the gas chambers. The Germans, because of the savage house - to - house fighting, had suffered heavy casualties at the hands of the Jews alone.

The Jewish community throughout the world and in Israel has not forgotten the defenders of the Warsaw Ghetto. They did too much. In Israel, there are ceremonies and fitting monuments to the fighters of the Ghetto. Here in America, every year national Jewish organizations join in tribute to the heroic Ghetto fighters and the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. This year the event will be marked in Times Square at 12:30 PM on Thursday, April 25, and the date coincides with the Hebrew date of the 27th of Nisan proclaimed by the Israeli Rabbinate as the Annual Day of Remembrance or the Ghetto fighters and the Six Million.

Last year, despite a heavy downpour and strong winds, several hundred braved the weather to pay tribute to the Ghetto fighters and the Jewish martyrs. Soaked through and through, these people paid a fitting tribute to the memory of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Like in so many other instances, the Nazis were wrong; the Warsaw Ghetto is alive in the hearts and minds of the Jewish people which lives.

LONDON (WNS) Nasser's reluctance to enter into peace talks with Israel has angered many Palestinian Arabs on the occupied West Bank of the Jordan River, according to a report from Jerusalem by Times correspondent Peter Nichols.

NEW YORK (WNS) The United States must do "all that is necessary" to dispel "false" Arab belief "that Israel can be overthrown or conquered," Senator Robert F. Kennedy told an audience of more than 300 Bronx communal and business leaders at a luncheon marking the borough's launching of the 1968 drive on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

In addition, a new tactic has come into practice, wherein the satellite nations are announcing active support for the Arabs by sending troops to participate in a war against Israel. The king of Egypt proclaimed to the world that all the arms and military supplies lost to Israel in the Six-Day war of last June, have been replaced in full by Russia and the Arabs are ready and able to assume the offensive again. From another source we learn that Pakistan has sent a large complement of fighting men, fully equipped, to take part in the invasion of Israel. This is a new Communist angle, and its only the beginning.

It is common knowledge that Russia will go to the furthest extreme in supporting the Arab nations, short of actually sending in USSR fighting troops. But this does not preclude active troop support from other countries behind the Iron Curtain. Following the example set by Pakistan, others like Czechoslovakia, Poland and even Red China will be dispatching regiments to fight.

Ironically, the Arabs need manpower like they need a hole in the head. What the Arabs lack is will power, the will to fight, and for very good reason. The rank and file Arab bears no ill feeling towards the Israelis. Especially Arabs who have come in contact with the Jewish settlers, realize full well the great advancements in medicine, education, housing and general living standards the tiny republic is bringing to that little corner of the world.

Arab leaders, hungry for power and greedy for control of oil interests, are the ones who fear the proximity of a democratic nation at their borders. It is the leaders who made the pacts with the Reds and who are encouraging Communist troops to help wage war against Israel.

We all know what happens once a nation's fighting men are deployed under fire. The first casualty lists will arouse an entire population, and before you know it, each of the countries involved will be declaring total war against little Israel. The ramifications of this concept are beyond comprehension. In addition to total mobilization of many nations' fighting troops, air force bombing attacks will be attempted from numerous points, all within range. Meanwhile Russia, itself, will be securely and smugly at peace, calling the shots.

With all these probabilities in evidence, all that remains is to determine the how and when war will commence. The how is easy. Any of the incidents that are taking place almost hourly could be called the breaking point for provocation. When war will commence is obvious.

The warm month of April marks the start of the tourist season. The Russian - controlled Arab countries, deprived of this enormous source of revenue, will not sit idly by while visitors from all over the world are enjoying the sights in Israel. Especially this year, the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Israel as a nation, specifically on May 14, with groups from all over right this minute making preparation for the trip, are the Arabs and Russians working overtime to get the inevitable holocaust underway. There are other factors.

Russia is impatient over the continued closure of the Suez Canal. It is apparent by now, that only either total peace or control of both shores by one of the two factions will be the means of reopening the canal. Since every effort so far by Russia is against peace with Israel, the alternative is Arab aggression to secure both banks. The Reds need access through the water way for a short shipping route to North Vietnam.

Also, Russia is somewhat skeptical about the duration of the war in Vietnam. They are not certain just when Pres. Johnson's overtures toward peace will bear fruit, and with their scheme for provocation in Korea falling short of bringing on hostilities, the Communists don't want to be caught short without a war to agitate a democracy. That's why they must accellerate against Israel.

Israel, of course, is well aware of all these circumstances and is ready to cope with each new development as it crops up. The big problem from the start was holding at bay the sneaky infiltrations that are causing wanton destruction of innocent lives and civilian property. A proposal years ago to build a wall along the border was rejected on the grounds that too many had already spent too much of their lives behind the walls and barbed wire of concentration camps. Now the Knesset is deliberating the pros and cons of organizing bands to infiltrate into Arab territory. The advantages of this manner of retaliation are questionable because Israelis are decent human beings who fight soldiers, not women and children, and any property destroyed will be instruments of war, not farm houses or school buses.

Lets keep our fingers crossed for the next immediate developments and hope for the best.