

# THE GHETTO

## *speaks*

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## PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL ISSUE DEDICATED TO  
THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BATTLE OF THE GHETTO  
OF WARSAW

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## *First Anniversary of the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw*

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April 19, 1944, marks the first anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto — the first act of armed resistance waged by the entire Jewish community of Poland under the Nazis.

This heroic spirit of a people, that voluntarily chose a soldier's death rather than be slaughtered as slaves, that took up arms against the mightiest military machine of our time in order to maintain its human dignity, shall remain as an outstanding phenomenon in the annals of mankind.

Thousands of the heroic defenders of the Warsaw Ghetto paid with their lives for their daring. Tens of thousands of those who remained — men, women and children — were slaughtered by the Nazis in cold blood when the armed resistance was broken. The Jewish ghetto was set on fire and obliterated. The Jewish community of Warsaw has ceased to exist. Thus, April marks the first anniversary of a Nazi crime that congeals our blood.

"Ghetto Speaks," which is published by the American Representation of the Jewish Underground Labor Movement of Poland, and voices the thoughts and sentiments of the Jews locked within the ghetto of occupied Poland and throughout subjugated Europe, deems it a duty to dedicate its April issue to the anniversary of the heroic resistance and to the memory of the fallen heroes.

The armed resistance of the Warsaw Ghetto was led by a special Underground Committee comprising representatives of the Jewish Labor "Bund" and the Jewish National Committee — an equal number from each organization. The fallen heroes were adherents of various Jewish political organizations of Poland. They are now united in death. They will remain united in glory.

Many leading personalities of the United States and Great Britain have paid tribute to the memory of those who died fighting for our common cause in the Battle of the Ghetto of Warsaw, by sending special

messages to us. Those messages, that have not as yet reached us, will be published in the next issue of "Ghetto Speaks," together with other material already prepared for print.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all those who helped make this special issue of "Ghetto Speaks" a true expression of the prevailing sentiments among leading Americans and Britons.

All messages with the exception of the first three, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Governor Dewey and Mayor La Guardia appear in alphabetical order.

### **"TO THE MADNESS OF THE BRAVE — GLORY"**

The armed uprising of the Jewish people in the Warsaw Ghetto, in Nazi-held Poland, which began April 19, 1943, and was not totally suppressed until late in May, was a phenomenon in contemporary history, **unique, revealing** and richly **instructive**.

One of many extraordinary, heroic manifestations of the undying spirit of humanity, at grips with the Nazi barbarity and super-armed power, the Warsaw rebellion is **unique** for the circumstances which attended its initiation and course. There was a people — a mere shadow of its former self. Of the over three millions of the race living in Poland, a half had been slaughtered in cold blood by the Nazi-power working with characteristic German thoroughness and efficiency. The able-bodied among those who had been "spared" were put to forced, hard war work for the Nazi Juggernaut and allowed to feed, again under a carefully calculated "plan," just about enough to keep body and soul together, no more, no less. What remained beyond that, represented physical depravity, starved, sickened, haunted humanity, deprived of visible open ways of contact with the world outside, all but dead in body.

But the Jewish people were not dead in spirit. Led on by the Underground Resistance organization

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which, miraculously indeed, found ways of setting up connections with the world beyond the ghetto and the Nazi hell itself, the living shadows organized for defense and armed resistance, and for something that sounds astounding, unbelievable under the circumstances, for an armed uprising. They set a date, made detailed plans for the uprising and secured and amassed arms in quantity. These were distributed under the greatest secrecy conceivable and were kept well hidden until the day of reckoning came. And, on the date and hour set, the uprising went off.

It took the Wehrmacht, the world's greatest fighting machine, more than a month to achieve "victory" and it cost the Nazis thousands of dead and wounded and a loss of much war munitions. The "invincibles" had to resort to more than armed police and machine-gunning soldiery; they had to fall back on tanks and planes to fight and to defeat the Jews fighting back from the dark, dank, unbearably congested, disease-infested spaces of the ghetto in Warsaw. Later, spurred by the inspiring Warsaw example, similar uprisings occurred in other cities.

The rebellion was not successful, of course. The fighters counted on no victory. They knew they were doomed. But they wanted to exact from the enemy the highest possible price for the victory which was certain to be his. That they did. And they also wanted that out of the self-invited inevitable destruction some participants of the uprising would be enabled to emerge safe, to escape so that they would "bear witness before the conscience of mankind and the record of history" to what took place in the nether depths of humanity's living cemetery. They accomplished that, too. The record is here. And when it will be possible to tell how that was done and how things happened there another song will be sung "another song to the glory of the madness of the brave." Morally, the armed rebellion was successful.

The insurrection of the Jews in Warsaw against the Nazi regime was a revealing phenomenon in that it exposed to light the treasure of untapped resources of uncompromising humanity and the basic beauty that lie in the hearts of the so-called average men and women. The crust and accumulation of drab day-to-dayness, of petty concern with the small and the inconsequential details of living, may obstruct that humanity and beauty from the unarmed eye, but they can be depended on to come forth in a major crisis.

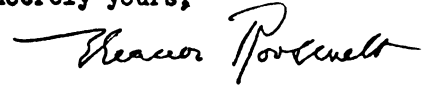
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

My dear Mr. Nowogrodsky:

I am glad to send you the following message for publication in the March issue of "Ghetto Speaks":

It is a common experience when every day horror is piled upon horror until the senses weary, to wonder if we have lost our power to feel. Our greatest inspiration and our strongest faith is drawn from the brave and pitiful people whose spirit is all they have. The Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto were such people. It is trite, perhaps, to say what is true, that they died for all of us, that we must live for them. But it is the kind of truth that is too soon forgotten. Only truths that ask little of us are easy to remember. My message to you, therefore, is what I tell myself, "Let us not forget".

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Emanuel Nowogrodsky,  
American Representation of the  
General Jewish Workers'  
Union of Poland,  
175 East Broadway,  
New York, New York.

**HON. THOMAS E. DEWEY**

*Governor of the State of New York*

I am happy to send you a message to be published in the special issue of "Ghetto Speaks," and to convey to you my warm sympathy for your aims and with the work you are doing.

The world will never forget the heroic resistance of the entire Jewish community in Poland to the inhuman aggression of the Nazis.

Although the Jewish community of Warsaw has tragically ceased to exist, the lesson of its valiant defense will be long in the memory of mankind.

The consolation for the Jewish people in this age of their greatest trial will come from the character of the people — a character noble and indestructible.

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The people of the United States should feel proud today that this free Republic has been able to give not merely shelter and strength to a large and sturdy body of Jewry but that it has been so greatly enriched by their contribution as to be a beacon of hope to the whole world in a democratic living.

*Thomas E. Dewey*

## HON. FIORELLO H. LaGUARDIA

*Mayor of the City of New York*

I have read carefully your letter of January 25, 1944. I firmly believe that a message should be conveyed to those thousands of heroic defenders of Warsaw that they are not fighting alone now. Those men and women have been reinforced by millions upon millions of free men and women. These millions, in all their determination, strength and might, have been girded for battle equipped with the best weapons of modern warfare. They are led by leaders of indomitable will. They make up armies and navies of civilization that will not fail to reach their ultimate destinations — Berlin and Tokyo. These armies are rolling forward hourly.

Pass on the word to the Polish underground to keep up their good work. They have not been forgotten and the sun is rising on a new day. They who have been ground for so long under the heel of that unmentionable Nazi creature and his fellow creatures have not much longer to suffer.

*F. H. LaGuardia*  
*Mayor*

## ANGELICA BALABANOFF

*Internationally Prominent Socialist Leader and Writer*

History will record and remember, that the first and most efficient "They will not pass," the first irreparable defeat was inflicted on the then almighty Hitlerites by the Jewish proletarian Ghetto. Persecuted, insulted, tortured, starving and without arms, without any kind of lend-lease or other help or encouragement, those men and women proved to the fascist murderers, that there is a limit to sadistic arrogance. When human dignity and class consciousness raise their voice, fascism has to retreat.

The Ghetto spoke. Comrades Erlich and Alter's teachings and example triumphed. They, the fascists, did not pass.

*Angelica Balabanoff*

## ADOLF A. BERLE, Jr.

*Assistant Secretary, Department of State*

In response to your letter of January 18, 1944, I take pleasure in sending you the following message for publication in your issue of "Ghetto Speaks" dedicated to the memory of those who fell in the battle against the Nazis liquidating the Warsaw Ghetto.

I am glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the heroic spirit of the Jewish people on the first anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto. No finer page has been written in the long history of the Jews than that battle waged by unarmed men, women, and children against the brutal Nazi murderers. They have provided an inspiring example to all who, believing in liberty and the dignity of the human soul, prefer an honorable death to slavery.

Their sacrifice shall not have been in vain for the heroic defenders of the Warsaw Ghetto have strengthened the spirit of those free peoples resolved upon the extinction of Nazi tyranny and the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

*Adolf A. Berle, Jr.*

## JULIUS DEUTSCH

*Former Minister in Austria and Member of the Executive Committee of the Austrian Socialist Party*

Out of the darkness of Nazi barbarism, the achievement in Warsaw stands out like a bright torch.

When the world will count its heroes, fallen in the struggle for freedom, the Jews will recollect with pride, and non-Jews with highest esteem, those who died fighting in the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto.

They paid with their lives for the rescue of their people.

We pay tribute and homage to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto.

*Julius Deutsch*

## DAVID DUBINSKY

*President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union*

Out of the stark tragedy that has befallen our people, out of the massacre of millions of innocent Jewish men, women and children by the Nazi demons, a massacre that still continues in every part of Europe under Hitler domination, the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto stands forth as a timeless monument to the des-

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perate courage of thousands who, in the face of hopeless odds, chose to die as men rather than to be slaughtered as cattle by their merciless executioners. The voice of the martyrs who died as heroes in the barricaded houses of the Warsaw Ghetto calls for a reckoning from the fiends who deliberately ordered the extermination of an entire people. The civilized world must not, will not forget this wholesale butchery. We will not forget!

*David Dubinsky*

## PROFESSOR ALBERT EINSTEIN

They fought and died as Jews, in the struggle against the organized German murderers. To us these sacrifices are a strengthening of the bond between us, the Jews of all the countries. We strive to be one in suffering and in the effort to achieve a better human society, that society which our prophets so clearly and forcibly set before us as a goal.

The Germans as an entire people are responsible for these mass-murders and must be punished as a people if there is justice in the world and if the consciousness of collective responsibility of nations is not to perish from the earth entirely. Behind the Nazi Party stands the German people, who elected Hitler after he had, in his book and in his speeches, made his shameful intentions clear beyond the shadow of a doubt. The Germans are the only people who have not made any serious attempt at counter-action, which would lead to the protection of the innocent people who are being persecuted. When they are entirely defeated and begin to lament over their fate, we must not let ourselves be deceived again, but bear in mind that they deliberately utilized the humanity of others to prepare for their last and most grievous crime against humanity.

*Albert Einstein*

## DR. WILHELM ELLENBOGEN

*Former Deputy of the Austrian Parliament and  
Leader of the Austrian Socialist Party*

The deadly fight, that was waged in Warsaw has stirred public opinion throughout the world. This indicates, that neither the most brutal forces nor centuries of persecution can ever destroy the nobility of a human being. It is a sign, that human greatness and human dignity prevail within the people of a nation and can never be expunged. The Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto will remain as a historic symbol, as well

as a solace and hope for a better future for a spiritually and morally matured mankind, that will arise out of the shambles of today to a high sphere of culture and peaceful cooperation.

*Wilhelm Ellenbogen*

## PAUL FROELICH

*Prominent German Socialist Man of Letters*

The Jewish workers of Warsaw, those who chose to take up arms against their hangmen rather than be slaughtered without resistance, those who, confronted with death, carefully organized the armed uprising and executed their daring plan, those nameless heroes wrote a unique page in the history of our struggle for freedom and against Fascism. They told us not only of their preference to die with weapons in hand rather than be slowly suffocated in gas chambers; they remained true to the fighting tradition of the Polish and Jewish workers of Poland. They proclaimed to the persecuted and defenseless victims the world over: We, who are doomed to die in the Ghetto of Warsaw, have not abandoned the thought nor the will of carrying on our fight. We are lighting the torch for the entire world!

*Paul Froelich*

## WILLIAM GILLIES

*Secretary of the International Department of the  
British Labor Party*

The sufferings of the Jews, done to death in the gas chambers and the human abattoirs of Poland, sent a wave of compassion round the world. They aroused universal loathing and horror — not unmixed sometimes with disbelief — for those who proclaimed the extermination of the Jews as the national policy of a modern State, with the active complicity or passive acquiescence of the German people.

But our compassion is mingled with a great wonder and admiration as we see these unarmed, defenseless remnants of Israel in Poland hitting back at the German bullies. Without hope of rescue, "weakest of the weak, helpless among the helpless," they resist to death with unquenchable spirit and courage.

The yellow star of David has become a Badge of Honor.

The orgy of extermination still goes on. The practitioners of the creed of hate and violence — the High

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priests of the New European Order — are even intensifying their murderous activities.

But the day of liberation and of reckoning is at hand. The Allied Armies, under the banner of Justice and Freedom, are on the march. There will be no faltering until the scourge of German Nazism and Militarism has been rooted out entirely and forever, and the oppressed peoples of Europe, regardless of race or creed, are free to take their place again as equal citizens of a free world.

*William Gillies*

## LUDWIK GROSFELD

*Polish Minister of Finance (P.P.S.)*

I feel most profoundly affected in joining in this act of homage to the fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto. The armed resistance, organized in the fourth year of the war, and after three years of isolation in the ghetto is proof, that even the most criminal methods of extermination are incapable of breaking the spirit of man. It required not only determination and courage to prepare and carry through that armed resistance, but also historical perspective and a deeply rooted attachment to great moral values. The heroes of the ghetto did not fight for their own lives and the lives of their nearest and dearest. They fought to defend the dignity of man and the honor of the nation. They fought under the banner of the Republic to which they remained faithful unto death. The active assistance given to the fighters by the Polish Underground Movement, the Polish Underground Army and, above all, by the Polish Socialist Movement linked the armed resistance of the Ghetto fighters with the Polish people's ceaseless struggle for freedom and independence. The ideals and aims of the defenders of Warsaw and the fighters of the Warsaw ghetto were identical.

We must believe, that those sacrifices, the heroism and high moral standard will not have been in vain and that mankind will appreciate and help put into practice those ideals for which, side by side with so many other fighters for freedom, the heroic fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto gave their lives.

*Ludwik Grosfeld*

## PROF. EMIL J. GUMBEL

*Internationally Prominent Liberal*

The heroic death of the Jewish population of Warsaw and all the suffering in Europe will have been in

vain if they do not induce us to do our duty, namely, to try everything to eradicate fascism from the face of the earth.

*E. J. Gumbel*

## J. B. S. HARDMAN

*President of the American Labor Press Association*

From behind the ghetto walls in Warsaw, before they went down under Nazi-dynamited walls, in the mass-graves of unceremonialized burial, the Jewish people presented to the world a new, incontrovertible affirmation of the indestructibility of humanity in man. They had themselves slain in combat, so that out of the carnage of war, and the bestiality of Nazidom, and the indignities of "game of empire," confidence in and realization of a better, and a fairer and a more daring humanity might arise. The wonderment and the grateful admiration with which the best men of all races stand at attention on this April 19, 1944, the anniversary day of the beginning of the rise of the Jews against the Nazis in Warsaw is assurance that the sacrificial act was not in vain.

A great legacy is contained in the choice that Poland's sons of the Eternal People have affected by going from defense — through resistance — to attack against the Nazis. The legacy is that silent suffering and inaudible prayer are not the kind of weapons that will redeem a persecuted and prosecuted people or group in a power-driven world. The burning words of the legacy, to oppressed people everywhere are — **fight back, hit hard, fight with no thought of sparing self, if final salvation is the end sought.**

Crying for pity may evoke sympathy, but rarely better than the kind that is mingled with contempt and such will carry no help. The fighting message of the Jewish Workers' Underground Movement, received and made their own by the fighting Polish Labor Resistance to the Nazis in Poland is steadily if slowly becoming the truth of progressive fighting men everywhere. It is that the answer to the "militant" anti-Semitism, which Nazidom has made an instrument of national policy in Europe, and which its emulators are seeking to implant in the social soil of the American continent is: militant, unsparing fight. And what is true about anti-Semitism equally applies to all kinds of racialist and other minority oppressive "movements."

*J. B. S. Hardman*

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## SIDNEY HILLMAN

*President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers  
of America*

The heroic armed resistance of the Jews against the Nazi onslaught in the Warsaw Ghetto, deeply stirred all who appreciate freedom and justice. The valiant deaths of the Jews in the uneven encounter did not pass unnoticed.

Three years of inhuman torture did not quell the fighting spirit of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto. The "ghetto slaves" turned heroic fighters when given weapons to fight with, however inadequate the weapons were. With their blood and their lives they have written a noble chapter in the story of the present world struggle against Fascism.

I am especially proud that the Jewish workers had taken the initiative and leadership of the people's uprising. Even in the hell of Nazi occupation the Jewish workers have not forgotten their fighting traditions, have not surrendered their human dignity. They preferred death, guns in their hands like fighting men. The aid and sympathy given the Jewish fighters by the Polish underground indicates the unity of men of decency in the determined struggle against Nazism, humanity's meanest enemy.

The battles in the Warsaw Ghetto remind us, too, that this war must result in a world of equality for all, a world where justice, not armed might, must reign supreme. The surviving Jewish people in Europe must be given the opportunity to build anew their shattered lives, their homes, to live in freedom and equality among their neighbors. No less can be done if the debt we all owe the heroic defenders of the ghetto be repaid at all.

*Sidney Hillman*

## SIDNEY HOOK

*Professor of Philosophy, New York University*

The heroic resistance and death of the Jews of Warsaw in their hopeless struggle against overwhelming odds should be a glorious beacon to all Jews, to all lovers of freedom, in their fight against Fascism everywhere. Our descendants will compare the stand of the Jews at Warsaw to the stand of the Greeks at Thermopylae.

*Sidney Hook*

## DR. ALVIN JOHNSON

*Director of the New School for Social Research*

Please accept these few inadequate words of mine

in tribute to the brave men and women of the Warsaw Ghetto, who gave their lives to resist, so long as resistance was possible, the murderous fury of the Nazis. They died, but the Jewish people live on, stronger by the Warsaw record of heroism.

*Alvin Johnson*

## DR. ALFRED KERR

*Prominent German Author*

I think Schiller was too pessimistic when he said: "Against stupidity the Gods themselves struggle in vain."

The struggle is not always "in vain."

As the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto before dying killed several hundred stupid German butchers, they freed humanity from several hundred stupid German butchers. Do you call that "in vain"?

Blessed be their memory!

*Alfred Kerr*

## DR. FRANK KINGDON

*Prominent Radio Commentator*

No single incident of the war contained more of the heroic spirit or has brought more inspiration to fighters for freedom everywhere than the magnificent act of resistance presented by the Jews of Warsaw a year ago.

When events grow most confusing and we are tempted to wonder whether the human spirit can meet the demands of our time, we remember these men who fought against tremendous odds and take courage to continue our own fight against all the forces of Fascism everywhere in the world.

The flame of the human spirit will not die until it has brought the dawn of a free and peaceful world from which the shadows of Nazism have been driven forever.

*Frank Kingdon*

## FREDA KIRCHWEY

*Editor of the Nation*

Thank you for allowing me to add my name to the list of those who are privileged to pay tribute, through your columns, to the heroic defenders of the Warsaw Ghetto. Their contribution to the cause of the United Nations was an episode as noble and as daring as any in this war. The battle of the Ghetto,

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waged against hopeless odds, should serve to inspire men and women fighting the same brutal enemy on all the fronts of a world-wide struggle.

*Freda Kirchwey*

## **PROF. HAROLD J. LASKI**

*Vice-Chairman of the British Labor Party Executive*

Like all Jews, I am indeed proud of the courage and valor displayed by the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto — an achievement which will do honor to the great tradition of the "Bund." I hope that your comrades will use all their influence to claim the fullest human rights for all Jews who will survive in Poland after the war and, that they will insist that the road to peace can be broadened only if there is full understanding between Poland and the Soviet Union. The courage of the "Bund" is twice as admirable, if it is accompanied by a proportionate wisdom.

*Harold J. Laski*

## **HERBERT H. LEHMAN**

*Director of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration*

I am in receipt of your letter which I have read with great sympathy and understanding.

I wish to commend your organization for taking public recognition of the first anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, a crime of man against man that will never be erased from the pages of history. I am glad of the privilege of paying homage to the memory of those who so gallantly fought the losing fight for life and freedom.

With best wishes I am,

Very sincerely yours,

*Herbert H. Lehman*

## **REV. HENRY SMITH LEIPER**

*Executive Secretary of the Universal Christian Council*

It is hard to find words to express the horror with which decent people everywhere contemplate the record of the Nazis in all their contacts with the people of Israel. Among all the tragic stories of cold-blooded outrage is the story of the destruction of the Ghetto of Warsaw. While we mourn the unspeakably tragic end of Hitler's victims, we must redouble our determination that his evil course shall be cut off and the

menace of his ways made permanently a thing of the past. Condemnations will not be enough. We shall have to have cooperation in the building of a better order so that justice and freedom can be assured to all, regardless of their race or nation.

*Henry Smith Leiper*

## **DAVID LEWIS**

*National Secretary, Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation of Canada*

The democratic people of Canada were deeply moved by the news of the suffering which the people of Poland underwent at the hands of the Nazis. They were even more deeply moved a year ago when they read of the heroic resistance of the ghettos to Nazi brutality. We have always been conscious of the fact that our contribution to the war for freedom, made in safety thousands of miles away from the battlefield, cannot possibly be compared with the sacrifices and the heroism of the underground movement in the Nazi-occupied countries of Europe. Because of this knowledge, the working people of Canada and their political party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, wish to express their humble tribute to the underground fighters of Poland and to the Jewish fighters in the Polish ghettos.

These instances of resistance and revolt are the guarantee not only of military victory over the Axis, but the guarantee also that the people of Europe will not tolerate any attempt by reaction to turn victory into defeat. On the contrary, we have the conviction that the peoples of Europe, led by those now fighting underground, will insist that after the defeat of the Axis a new society free from exploitation, from dictatorship, and from war be built on the ashes of the old. This conviction gives us renewed hopes. The people of Canada and their political party will play their part in this struggle now and after victory.

*David Lewis*

## **ANNE O'HARE McCORMICK**

*Leading American Columnist*

No words could do honor to the heroic soldiers in the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto. All haters of tyranny and race oppression are forever in their debt.

*Anne O'Hare McCormick*



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## KARIN MICHAELIS

*Famous Danish Author and Recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature*

The "Ghetto Speaks" has been in existence less than two years, but even a thousand years hence, those words, with the same meaning, will be remembered the world over. The "Ghetto Speaks" should be printed in blood, instead of ink. It should be read by all human beings, so that they may remember that, which they permitted to happen in the twentieth century. It shall never be forgotten, and it can never be forgiven. We cannot absolve ourselves by saying that we did not know. We did know, and we let life go on, as if everything was as before.

That we could have done something, was proven by my own little fatherland, Denmark, where, in that terrible night, the entire population as one man stood up for the Jews, citizens and non-citizens, sheltered them and so saved their lives, risking their own.

I am also a coward, of course, happy to be here, safe from Hitler's sadistic and murderous claws. However, I wish that I had been in Denmark that night, and I hope, that I would have had courage enough to do my duty, to help save the lives of the Jews, of whom I would have been proud to be one.

That something could have been done was shown by the Jews in the Ghetto of Warsaw when, instead of wailing and crying, they tried to defend themselves. Their attempt was futile, but it helped. It made decent people throughout the world burn with shame for themselves and fill with admiration for the courageous Jews.

I am now old and my life is of very little value. I am therefore not acting heroically when I say — and mean it — that I would gladly give the few years I have left, could I do anything either to help the still living Jews or seek revenge for the murdered.

Had I a long life before me, I would consecrate it to tell the coming generations what their forefathers, in their foolishness and lack of brother-love, permitted to happen. That is too late, but I do hope, that this task will be done while the cries of agony still make the air tremble.

*Karin Michaelis*

## EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER

*Prominent American Journalist*

The Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto — just one year ago — will mark forever in the memory of mankind a heroic battle by a people who died, almost to the last man, rather than give up their human dignity. Henceforth, wherever men stake their lives for their freedom and the freedom of all the oppressed, they will have the Warsaw Jews as hidden allies.

*Edgar Ansel Mowrer*

## PHILIP MURRAY

*President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations*

On the first anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto I should like to renew the pledge of the Congress of Industrial Organizations to support the Jewish people in their fight for survival and freedom. In memory of our valiant brothers who dared defy the terrible Nazi military machine with their small amount of smuggled rifles and their unequalled amount of courage, we should at this time resolve to complete the job they so bravely began, by so eliminating their torturers that none shall ever rise again to mock their heroism. In the name of humanity and common justice we shall restore the dignity of these people who died to preserve freedom and equality by restoring the hallowed ground on which they met their death to freedom and peace.

*Philip Murray*

## OSCAR POLLAK

*London Bureau of the Austrian Socialists*

There have been few instances in history when a greater victory was achieved by the vanquished than the Jewish workers' fight in the Warsaw Ghetto.

The history of the Jewish people is in itself a remarkable feat of endurance against persecution. In the course of this history the Jewish Socialist "Bund" performed the miracle of educating the Jewish worker to resist successfully the threefold oppression by capitalism, anti-Semitism and Jewish clericalism. This was crowned with immortal glory when in the hour of the vilest assault by the most formidable enemy power it was the Jewish working people of Warsaw who fought back.

# T H E G H E T T O S P E A K S

Too little is still known of this heroic climax of Jewish suffering: the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, the true fight of the catacombs. It will be left to history to fill with the distinction it deserves this page in the book of Europe's fight against the forces of darkness.

Speaking not so long ago at a meeting of the Austrian Socialists in London, Comrade E. Scherer drew a parallel between the fight of the Austrian workers in Vienna in February, 1934, and that of the Jewish workers in Warsaw, in 1943. Both fought heroically and without hope — but not in vain.

In Warsaw the odds were even more terrible. In both cities, men died for freedom, defending their homes. They died, not in the name of any nationalism, but under the red flag of liberty and human rights.

That is why they are forever enshrined among the proud memories of the International Labor Movement. That is why, after the liberation of our countries, our two movements will live again and will again be in the forefront of the battle for Socialism, united with other movements in what must at last become a common international front of freedom and democracy.

*Oscar Pollak*

## **WILLIAM L. SHIRER**

*Leading American Radio Commentator*

The heroism of the thousands who fought and died in the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto stands as a symbol of resistance for free men all over the world. Not in words, but only by our determined united action to avenge this mass-slaughter can we properly honor the dead.

*William L. Shirer*

## **DR. FRIEDRICH STAMPFER**

*Former Deputy in the German Parliament, Leader of the German Social Democratic Party*

1943 will be a turning point in Jewish history for, in that year, the old anti-Semitic myth of the cowardice of the Jewish people and their unfitness for military profession was crushed by the heroes of Warsaw. Besides the deed of the three hundred Spartans at the

Thermopylae and the gallant struggle of the Swiss people against Hapsburg, the furious fight of the Warsaw Jews, against a ruthless overwhelming power, will remain in the memory of mankind as a symbol of the ignominy of the conquerors and the glory of the vanquished. They gave, for all generations to come, a noble example that men shall not let themselves be driven into the shambles like dumb cattle, but rather die as fighters for the honor of their people and the dignity of man.

*Friedrich Stampfer*

## **ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER**

*Publisher of the New York Times*

The anniversary of the Battle of Warsaw should point up to us again, if we need any reminder, the ruthlessness and brutality of our common enemy, Nazi Germany. The heroism and tragic sacrifices of the unfortunate inhabitants of Poland, who fought against their oppressors with a desperation that counted no odds, must strengthen the determination of all freedom loving peoples to win this war as soon as possible. We who are free, and would remain free, must bring freedom to all who are now suffering from Nazi domination.

*Arthur Hays Sulzberger*

## **GENEVIEVE TABOUIS**

*Prominent Political Journalist in Pre-war France*

On the occasion of the tragic anniversary of the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, there is one point in particular which I would like to stress.

Now that peace no longer seems far distant, we — who have been working toward the goal of freedom for all — can all the more clearly see what a great contribution — political as well as spiritual — was made to freedom by the heroic resistance of the Jews of Warsaw.

Today, we know what heroism and strength were required to resist the Nazi assault divisions.

Today, we have incontrovertible proof of the barbaric and inhuman treatment of certain groups of the Nazi beasts.

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The courage of the Warsaw Jews has inspired countless thousands to fight on — no matter what their particular fate might be — with the full knowledge that Nazism could and would be defeated by people who believed in freedom and were willing to die for it rather than surrender.

As to the political significance of the gallant struggle of the Warsaw Jews, this will become more and more apparent as the time for drawing up the Peace treaty approaches. For, at that moment, the great leaders who will have the task of punishing the guilty and of building the world of tomorrow — will be obliged to take into consideration the great contribution made to the world by the sacrifices of the Jewish people of Warsaw.

*Genevieve Jabouis*

## **NORMAN THOMAS**

*Prominent American Socialist and Chairman of the Post War World Council*

It is indeed appropriate that you should mark the first anniversary of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto in a special issue of your valuable publication "Ghetto Speaks."

The heroism of the defenders of the Warsaw Ghetto will be a valuable part of the inheritance of future generations in the struggle for liberty. I honestly hope that the victors in the war, remembering the significance of this struggle for liberty, will not subject the remnants of these brave people to some new form of Fascism, even if it's milder, or to a communistic totalitarianism.

*Norman Thomas*

## **DOROTHY THOMPSON**

*Leading American Journalist*

In the heart of Warsaw, the most unmartial of peoples, the most hopeless and lost, had turned their prison into a fortress and were prepared to the last child, to make their tormentors pay dearly for every life. The wailing walls had become stockades! The Jews, by their battle, sent out a call to all men: Endure no longer! Fight! There will be a dawn!

*Dorothy Thompson*

## **WENDELL L. WILLKIE**

The heroic resistance of the Jewish Community in Warsaw will stand out forever in the annals of a

courageous people. It is indeed an honor to salute their memory.

*Wendell L. Willkie*

## **MATTHEW WOLL**

*Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor*

Twice in the last decade the trade unionists of the world have looked on with pride, admiration and reverence while a hard-pressed group of workers made a magnificent and hopeless stand for their own honor and dignity against the overwhelming strength of the enemy. The Jewish workers of the Warsaw Ghetto last year fought a gallant engagement in the worldwide struggle with the armies of Nazism at the same time that they were battling for the right to die — since they knew that death was their portion — as free men rather than as slaves. So, too, the Austrian workers in 1934 were fighting for more than the preservation of the fruits of their democratic labor regime, of the workers' housing projects and other notable achievements of an enlightened era. Theirs was a stubborn and valiant revolt against the trend to appeasement which even then clouded the future, and which has since led so many of Europe's trade unionists into bondage and despair.

The battle of the Warsaw Ghetto is in the magnificent tradition of valor and sacrifice for the sake of conviction which has always characterized the trade union movement. But it is also part of an older tradition. At least once before an insufficiently armed, totally untrained handful of Jews had fought to the death against the mightiest war machine of their time. Two thousand years ago the citizens of Jerusalem, also comparatively unarmed and untrained, held out against the Roman armies of occupation.

Theirs was not the way of appeasement, two thousand years ago, nor one year ago. Theirs was not the way of appeasement even when temporizing seemed logical, or at first glance, honorable, or in any case unlikely to affect their inevitable fate. The heroes of the Warsaw ghetto are our standard bearers for a principle as old as the human race — the principle that the person is expendable, but the ideal must be preserved. And while the principle is kept alive by heroes such as these, we of the trade union movement can be confident of what the future holds for the workers of the entire world.

*Matthew Woll*