

utive, to reopen the Yeshiva there. The government's arrest, in August last, of 13 terrorists who threw a bomb into a Vichy synagogue clearly showed that it seems determined to stamp out individual anti-Semitic acts.

Refugees

Of the 70,000 Jewish refugees in "unoccupied" France, 12,000 are still held in concentration camps* while 3,000 have been placed in forced labor battalions, according to a recent announcement by the American Joint Distribution Committee. Unfortunately, conditions in the camps have not improved since last year. Food purchases made last fall with funds supplied by the Joint Distribution Committee somewhat improved the situation in most centers. However, during the following winter months the internees faced starvation in view of the general food shortage in France.

One of the worst internment centers, it was revealed in February 1942, is the Nazi prison camp, under direct Gestapo surveillance, in the department of Ariège near the Spanish border. The London *Jewish Chronicle* of February 20 reported that the Vichy government was permitting German commissions to visit concentration camps in the Pyrenees and to transport large numbers of Jewish internees for forced labor in occupied France, chiefly to clear the debris caused by British raids in Brest and other cities. A tragic story about the fate of many Jewish refugees was told by a Portuguese non-Jew who returned from French Morocco in November 1941. He related that thousands of Jewish internees had been shipped from France to work on the French trans-Sahara railway linking Dakar with French North Africa. These unfortunates, he said, faced death from starvation, thirst, epidemics and tremendous heat, for medications and medical attention are virtually non-existent and no help can be given since these deportees are forbidden to communicate with any relief agencies.

Early in July 1941, the French, thinking that emigration to the United States had been virtually stopped, began a drive to rid the cities of foreign Jews who had hitherto been

*Most of these were subsequently deported to Eastern Europe in the mass expulsions which took place in the summer of 1942.

permitted to remain at liberty pending emigration. Consequently, many of them were ordered by the police to distant villages for forced residence. It was also learned in December 1941 that internees in Gurs, notorious as the "hell camp" in the Pyrenees, were refused permission to appear before the American Consulate where they had been invited for examination. Today, there is little doubt that none of these internees will escape France before the end of the war.

Colonies and Territories

In order to prepare for the eventual introduction of the Vichy anti-Jewish legislation in the North African colonies, Xavier Vallat, then Commissar for Jewish Affairs, was sent to Algeria, Morocco and Tunis in the summer of 1941 to persuade official circles to comply with the wishes of the home government. The tour proved to be successful, for Vallat reported upon his return that a complete agreement had been reached with General Weygand and the French Governors of Tunis and Algeria with regard to the "elimination of Jewish influence in the economic and political life in North Africa." The services of Nazi agents who had been sent to these colonies during the year before to create unrest and make propaganda against the Jews were no longer needed.

Algeria

On July 30, 1941, as the first step toward the confiscation of Jewish possessions, the Pétain government extended to this colony the census of Jews and Jewish-owned property, which had been concluded in France on the previous April 30. The next step was to oust Jews from their positions. Thus, by December 15, only 469 of the more than 3,000 Jews formerly employed by the Algerian administration were still holding their jobs. Two weeks later came the news that the authorities had revoked the trading licenses of all foreign Jews who were asked to submit their residential permits at the police headquarters not later than January 15, 1942.

It was also announced in March that all Jewish and partly Jewish-owned firms were placed under temporary adminis-