

FRIDAY, AUG. 4, 1944

REFUGEES SWAP CASH FOR LIVES

Hungarians Given Haven
In Trade for Their
Properties.

By EDWARD P. MORGAN

Times Foreign Correspondent
MADRID, Aug. 4.—Six weeks ago two special German planes flew through Madrid within 24 hours of each other carrying a party of approximately 30 rich Hungarian Jewish industrialists and their wives and children, to exile in Portugal.

Today a competent source here revealed that the price those refugees paid for that mysterious journey and their lives was the forced transfer of assets of approximately 80 per cent of all Hungary's heavy industry to the Hermann Goering Werke—the reichsmarschall's own powerful trust.

(Paul Ghali, Times Bureau correspondent, stated, in his Aug. 3 dispatch, that these lucky families, Hungarian sources had revealed to him, were able to negotiate the deal with the Nazis after a four-week-long conference in Vienna conducted by Chorin and his brother-in-law, Baron Weiss.)

List Passengers

The incident furnishes another important piece of evidence of how top Nazi leaders are attempting to salvage every slice of negotiable wealth possible from the Reich and its territories before the war ends.

The refugee party included Franz Chorin and his family. Chorin controlled most of Hungary's coal mines and was vice president of the Hungarian Commercial bank, which is the nation's largest. With them were a steel man named Bitt and two brothers, Alfonso and Eugene Weiss, executives of the well-known Manfred Weiss Corp., and their families.

The Weiss corporation operates a big airplane factory on the Danube and also manufactures plane parts, ammunition and guns. Since the spring these plants have been hit by Italian-based allied air forces. They are classified as being among the most important manufacturing units of the Luftwaffe in central Europe.

Not Considered "Valid"

This group is now living quietly in Portugal under the watchful eye of the authorities but they hope to rush back to Budapest as soon as hostilities cease in Europe and reclaim their properties whose transfer to the Germans they do not consider quite "valid."

Besides this episode less detailed reports reaching Madrid say that Hungarian Nazis in the German-controlled regime of Premier Doe me Sztojay have been confiscating Jewish property within the nation on an impressive scale and turning it over to German interests or keeping it for themselves.

A London dispatch today says that a number of Hungarian Jewish children may be evacuated to allied countries through the cooperation of the International Red Cross. A Hungarian source here said that the forced transfer of Jewish workers from Hungary to the Reich had now virtually ceased although not until after some 400,000 had been sent.

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