

93 CHOOSE SUICIDE BEFORE NAZI SHAME

**Jewish Teacher and Students
in Warsaw School Foil Plan
to Force Prostitution**

LETTER DESCRIBES ORDEAL

**Women Provide Themselves
With Poison and Pray as They
Await Germans' Arrival**

Ninety-three Jewish girls and young Jewish women, the pupils and the teacher of a Beth Jacob School of Warsaw, Poland, chose mass suicide to escape being forced into prostitution by German soldiers, according to a letter from the teacher, made public yesterday by Rabbi Leo Jung of the Jewish Center of New York City.

Declaring "it is good to live for God, but it is also good to die for Him," the writer said, "All of us have poison. When the soldiers come we shall drink it." She added, "We have no fear."

The letter, dated Aug. 11, 1942, was received Tuesday by an official of the American Beth Jacob Committee, Inc., 131 West Eighty-sixth Street. The Beth Jacob Committee maintained religious schools for Jewish girls and young women in Central and Eastern Europe before the German occupation and now has transferred its work to Palestine.

According to Rabbi Jung, the letter was forwarded through Zurich, Switzerland, by a supporter of the Beth Jacob movement.

The letter, translated from the Yiddish, by Rabbi Jung, follows:

Dear Friend Mr. X in New York:

I do not know whether this letter will reach you. Do you still remember who I am? We met in the house of [the late] Mrs. [Sarah] Schenirer [founder of the Beth Jacob movement] and afterward again in Marienbad. When this letter will come into your hands, I shall not live any more. Give our regards to Mr. [Jacob] Rosenheim [head of the world Beth Jacob movement] and our friend [Harry A.] Goodman [an English benefactor of the Beth Jacob movement], both in England. We all met in Warsaw at our friend's. Y—— and Y——'s son was also there.

We had four rooms. On July 27 we were taken out and thrown into a dark room, have only water. We studied the sacred works and got courage. In age we are from 14 to 22; the younger ones are afraid. I try to recall Mother Sarah's [Mrs. Schenirer's] teaching of the Torah. It is good to live for God, but it is also good to die for Him.

Yesterday and the day before we were given hot baths and we were told that German soldiers would come tonight to visit us. We yesterday swore to ourselves that we shall die together. Yesterday one sent us to a big house with bright rooms and nice beds. The Germans do not know that our last bath is our purification before death. Today everything was taken away from us, and we were each given one nightgown. All of us have poison. When the soldiers will come we shall drink it. Today we are together and all day we are saying our last confession. We have no fear.

We thank you, good friend, for everything. We have one request: Say Kaddish [the Jewish prayer for the dead] for us, your 93 children. Soon we shall be with Mother Sarah.

Regards from.....of Krakow.

Rabbi Jung said no further word had been received from teacher or pupils.

The name of the teacher is withheld and other names are represented by false initials lest relatives of these persons be subjected to reprisals.