

FIRST BROADCAST OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS SERVICE FROM NAZI GERMANY

AUSPICES OF

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

National Broadcasting Company
9:30 - 9:45 A.M. (EWT)

SUNDAY
October 29, 1944

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT: The National Broadcasting Company, in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee, brings you now a special broadcast of historic significance with the first Jewish religious service broadcast from Germany since the advent of Hitler.

We turn you over now to James Cassidy, NBC war reporter in the Aachen area.

JAMES CASSIDY: This is James Cassidy with the American First Army, speaking from Germany. Today the National Broadcasting Company brings its listeners a program of historic moment, the first direct broadcast of a Jewish religious service from German soil since Adolf Hitler and his Nazis began the destruction not only of the Jewish religion but of all religions, more than a decade ago.

JAMES CASSIDY
(CONT'D)

We are speaking from somewhere near Aachen. This brief service is being held in the open air. The sound of artillery guns may interfere during our service because the French line is not far from where we are now.

During the service we shall hear from Chaplain Sidney Lefkowitz, of Richmond, Virginia, and a choir of more than fifty American soldiers who profess the Jewish religion.

In the minds of many of us who stand here at this moment is the memory of countless thousands of Jewish men, women and children who have died here in Germany because they also professed this faith.

Also to be heard today at the conclusion of the service are some Protestant and Catholic chaplains of the United States Army.

CHAPLAIN SIDNEY
LEFKOWITZ:

Profound with me is this service which we celebrate today. It is not the first which we hold in Germany but it is the first we broadcast to the world. With the prophet we say, "How sweet upon the mountain are the feet of the messenger of good tidings!"

....The light of religious freedom has pierced through the darkness of Nazi persecution that freedom of conscience again exists in the land which had been denying men that. That eternal truth has lived through and will outlive the fanatical power which fought to destroy it. Again there is demonstrated these eternal truths that man cannot forever in the face of heaven, put himself in the place of God divinely given spirit in slavery and bondage.

CHAPLAIN SIDNEY
LEFKOWITZ:

Even as we sadly observe the ruins amid we stand and consider the loss of lives with which this victory has been purchased, we are solaced with the thought, though the cost must be high, of the lasting memorial which consecrates the sacrifice, and upon it is written in letters that glow like burning coals, "The spirit of man cannot be conquered.

Not for us, O Lord, not for us, but through Thy Name has been given. Not forever does He remain silent and permit the children of men to exist in a state of fear and dread....

But we observe this, then, is not merely a Jewish religious service, however important that in itself is. It is far more than that. It is a proclamation that the days of darkness are passing, that the bastions from which they have moved forward into the malice have been besieged and soon will be destroyed, that worship of God is again restored in part of this world, although it had been proscribed.

May it please God's will that the time is near when tyranny shall be entirely routed, that his children everywhere, in truth and in peace, may serve Him.

May the Lord bless thee and keep thee.

May the Lord cause the light of His countenance to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

May the Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.
Amen.

(...Singing, during which gunfire could be heard...)

JAMES CASSIDY: That concludes the service. And now speaking on behalf of the Catholic faith on this occasion is Chaplain Edward J. Waters, of Rochester, New York.

CHAPLAIN EDWARD
WATERS:

The only spot in the foreign lines where your son, husband or brother can get home is during those sacred moments when he is before the altar of his faith adoring almighty God according to the dictates of his conscience.

The right of all men to love and serve God in the faith of their choosing is so much a part of American life that we find it difficult even to comprehend the diabolical persecution of the Jewish race practised by the Nazis. I know of the terrible physical and mental strain, the sobs and groans, the pain and suffering which the Germans have inflicted on the Jews.

Amid this Nazi slaughter, Catholics have stood against Nazi barbarism and, at the price of their lives, made a glorious record.

A great number of Jews are alive today in France and Belgium because Catholics at the risk of their lives hid them, fed them from their own meager rations, and protected them from Nazi villainy. Here is one example. A priest in a large Belgian city sheltered in his own home for four years the Rabbi of the synagogue of that community. In another city, liberated not long ago, Catholics of every strata of society cleansed and purged a synagogue which had been defiled by the Germans so that their Jewish neighbors might for the first

CHAPLAIN EDWARD

WATERS (CONT'D): time since Nazi occupation celebrate their high holy days in their own synagogue.

One of the great fruits born of this war is religious freedom of all men.

JAMES CASSIDY: And now speaking on behalf of the Protestants is Lieutenant Colonel Bernard F. Henry, of Chambersbridge, Pennsylvania.

LT. COLONEL HENRY: Actually it is not so strange that such a service as this is being held on German soil. Nazism was never really able to crush the heart of man and remove his longing for God. The tortures and death imposed upon the Jews of Germany and the enslaved of Europe have failed miserably in their real purpose. In all their suffering I believe these people have become more keenly aware of God's eternal promises that He is with them to comfort and sustain them.

Many services of worship and also holyday celebrations have been conducted for American soldiers since we entered Germany. As conditions permit, I am confident that the Jews everywhere in Europe shall soon again have the opportunity to enter their houses of worship and chant their canticles of praise. That is definitely one of the things we are fighting for and are resolved to preserve.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT:

You have just heard a special broadcast of historic significance presented by the National Broadcasting Company in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee, marking the first Jewish religious service broadcast from Germany since the advent of Hitler. The

program originated in the area of Aachen, Germany, and symbolized the triumph of religious forces over Nazism.

The religious service was under the direction of Chaplain Sidney Lefkowitz of the United States First Army, and the entire broadcast was arranged by James Cassidy, NBC War Reporter in Germany.

Complete copies of this historic broadcast may be secured free of charge by writing directly to the American Jewish Committee, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N.Y.

American Jewish Committee

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