

CABLE FROM LONDON

APRIL 24, 1944

"So much is being said lately about the anti-semitism in the Polish Army that PAT's air correspondent, Wladyslaw Leny, thought he would see how things looked in the Polish Airforce. He asked several officers and men about the anti-semitism in the Airforces and was told to go and find out for himself. This is what the correspondent tells: "Of course it was impossible to interview each Jew separately, but I met several of them. They were all intelligent boys, brave and eager to go into action. I shall start by telling you about those who lost their lives in operations: there was a young navigator, Sergeant I. Posner, who after leaving Warsaw travelled through Lithuania, Sweden, Russia, Japan and the U.S. A. to join the Polish Airforce. He was killed flying a Mosquito in air battles over the Biscay Bay. He was a member of the Lwow Squadron. Then there was Sergeant M. Glass, navigator of the Mazowiecki Squadron who lost his life during the raid on Ruhr. Perhaps Sergeant X was luckier - I cannot reveal his full name because he maybe a war prisoner now. This young sergeant was considered an excellent navigator in his squadron and had many operational flights behind him. He had also several German fighters to his credit. He baled out when his plane was hit. Flight Sergeant St. Birnholt, navigator in the Mazowiecki Squadron has 15 operational flights behind him. Radio operator, Flight Sgt. S. Rapaport of the same squadron has just completed his operational tour and is to receive a high Polish decoration. One of the young Jewish volunteers from America is Sergeant L. Szoszkies known as an exceptionally brave pilot and excellent navigator. Last but not least I came across Flight Sgt. R. Bychowski, navigator in the Pol. Lancaster Squadron. He also went through many European countries to join the Polish airforce and finished training in Canada. He was just about to finish his operations tour when his plane crashed and he had to be taken to the hospital. But this accident did not seem to dampen down his enthusiasm for flying. As soon as he



was fit to fly again, he joined the Lancaster Squadron. I spoke to him just before he took off on the first Polish Lancaster raid and asked him what he thought of anti-Semitism in the Polish Airforce. His reply was short but to the point: "There are some men both among Poles and Jews who have not as yet understood the meaning of the word - freedom.

These words are inscribed on crosses in the Polish Airforce cemetery in Newark. Those who fly seem to have become broader-minded and have a clearer view of the world. They are not shut in a ghetto, they are not isolated from the great changes the war causes. I've come here to fight side by side with the allies because I feel there should not be a corner in this world where people are slaves irrespective of their race, creed or religion. I've come to fight the common enemy - Germany - and for the freedom of my homeland - Poland. Freedom - if only more people would understand the meaning of this world." Others seemed to share his views.

I did not notice any tension between the Poles and Jews in messes, crew-rooms and COs of various Squadrons always seem to have a good word to say about their Jewish crews. There is no narrowminded chauvinism in the Airforce. Men of many different nationalities take part in dangerous expeditions in which mutual understanding and cooperation are essential."