of a Statement made by Alexander Guttmann, 19, to supplement the Information supplied by his Sister, Ester Guttmann.

Ghetto:
The ghetto of BENDZIN was located in the small suburb of Kamionka, into which 20,000 Jews were squeezed in the space formerly occupied by 6,000 inhabitants. Life and work in the ghetto was well organized by the Jews themselves; recognition is due to Monek Merin for his achievements in this field. The life of the Jewish communities of Palestine served as a model. Agricultural work was organized for the benefit of the inmates, and juvenile labour was drawn upon by the introduction of a shift system. When all had been set going, life was quite bearable in the ghetto, though overcrowding was inevitable. There was even an adequate sewage system. The ghetto of SOSNOWIEC was located at ŚRODULA, a little suburb. People generally were satisfied with living conditions, and were hoping to survive the War somehow in this way. Unfortunately, this ghetto period was of short duration.

Youth in the Resistance Movement:
When the young people realized that the Jewish community council was, and always had been, a tool in the hands of the Gestapo, as became evident as early as 1940 when forced labour was introduced, their best elements combined to fight for the preservation of their people's existence in an organized manner. This organization took some time to develop, though, and went through the following stages:

1. The spirit of resistance expressed itself first in the general desire to cooperate with all enemies of the Germans, notably the partisan organization of Sikorski; the results were negative and most discouraging.

2. Leaflets against the Germans and their instrument, the community council, were printed, in which Jewish national Honour was asserted and extolled as a fighting slogan. These leaflets fell into the hands of the Gestapo who with the help of a confidant found out in which factory they were being distributed. Every tenth man was arrested and detained in the orphan asylum.

3. When the deportations began, rescue and defence work was first properly organized. In spite of the difficulty of intercommunication, there was a fairly close collaboration between the three major cities of Polish Upper Silesia, SOSNOWIEC, DOMBROWA, and BENDZIN. To test and enhance the capability of the members for underground work, illegal warfare organizations /TOB, Tajna Organizacja Bojowa/ were created by all youth groups. Systematic mental preparation for this kind of work was carried on uninterruptedly since then, and in 1942 a permanent central Council of Resistance was set up by all youth groups together, in which each was represented by a delegate. This central organ was aided financially and morally by certain older Zionists, the so-called "sympathizers", who were convinced of the necessity and significance of this work. Each resistance group organized itself independently from the rest.
After the following pattern:

At the top is the leader of the group /L/, who is at the head of an Executive of four members, A, B, C, D, who are in charge of 8 sections, of which A manages 3 male sections, B - 2 male sections, and C - 2 female sections, while D is in charge of a special section of 7 members, called "sekcja wyborowa" or select section = suicide squad. This section was singled out for the most dangerous tasks; it also had the function of supervising and policing the whole group. The section 1 - 7 each consisted of 4 cells or shock groups consisting of three members.

Independently of this organizational structure, the towns were divided physically into blocks to make possible quick and rational decisions in cases of emergency. Each street is divided into two blocks which are known to none but the members of the executive, who come from different sections. The blocks are in charge of wardens who keep lists of all members, separately of those who know each other and who do not; they also list reliable non-members.

What was termed "rescue work" comprised the following functions:

1. Procuring personal documents and identity cards, by stealing, buying, or forging; this involved the counterfeiting of forms and rubber stamps.
2. Constructing strongpoints, which are the concern of the block organization, and are known only to the block warden and his closest collaborators.
3. Aryanization
   a/ in the mountains
   b/ in the town
4. Smuggling members into the Polish forced labour groups with the aid of false Polish-Aryan papers.

What was termed "defence work" comprised the following activities:

1. Mental training for resistance
2. Procuring arms by purchase, theft, or assaults
3. Execution of Jewish collaborators and appeasers
4. Procuring money by assaults, like e.g. one made on a notorious gambling den
5. Assaults against German functionaries during deportations. This part of the work was not well organized, unfortunately, and cost
the organization 12 dead in BENDZIN alone.

**Actions and Events during Deportation:**

This work went on in two parts, one concerned with the people hidden in the mountains, the other concerned with the ghetto.

**Ghetto:** The organization issued the order for all members to save themselves either through aryanization in the town — later in the mountains — or by incorporation to the liquidation camp.

**Guards:** Sentries were posted to warn the population of impending actions and enable them to get to the strongpoints in time. During the last deportation, one female comrade who knew all strongpoints accompanied the head of the OD, Romek Goldmünz, who had declared himself ready to save the members and conduct them to the labour camp, i.e. the liquidation camp where sewing work was done. Goldmünz, who had previously been on the list of those to be executed by the organization, thus helped to save the lives of about a hundred members.

**Resistance:** Resistance was offered only if there was immediate danger of a strongpoint being discovered. This happened in the case of the central accommodation shelter called Kibbuz, which had two strongpoints, one in the laundry, and another in the former Nahsharah.

**Individual Actions:** J.Z. shot a German in an encounter during which he lost his life. A.G. was shot in a skirmish when trying to escape. After the deportation, S., B.K. and L.B. were intercepted by Germans, shot one of them, and escaped. L.B. fled to KATOWICE where he maintained continuous contact with the organization. B.K. was later lost sight of. J.K. and B.R. were shot during an attempt to rescue the community funds, which had been seized by the Germans.

After the deportations, only the Executive still had a defence organization, as the other groups had been dispersed with the sole exception of the strongpoint of the Hash.Hazair group /Fela Katz/. The group called Hanoar pursued the following activities:

1. Aryanization, in the charge of L.B. and C.T.
2. Mountain Department, in the charge of S.M.
3. Polish Labour Service work, headed by J.S’s wife F., who was arrested together with M.B.L. on a journey to Cracow. They are now in Oświęcim /Auschwitz in German/ as Poles.
4. Transit to Slovakia, managed by J.R. and S.I.

47 persons have found refuge in the Polish forced labour service.

The transit service to Slovakia arose quite fortuitously. A woman living at BENDZIN who had a brother in Slovakia was asked by him in a letter to come across to him. She happened to ask members of the organization for assistance, which was granted under the condition that her brother would aid the organization from Slovakia. The woman was later deported before she could escape to Slovakia, but the Slovakian address remained, and comrade J.S. was sent to contact the man with the help of a member, J.R., who was staying in the role of an Aryan holiday-maker at ZWARDÓW near the Slovakian border, and was acquainted with frontier guides. The Slovakian helped J.S. to contact the Jewish centre of ZILINA and notified the organization that the route was feasible. C.T. and the author
of this protocol, Olek Guttmann went to test the route. Guttmann remained at ZILINA, while C.T. returned to KATOWICE to continue the preparations for this escape route. Unfortunately, he was caught by the Germans and shot. Thus it happened that so far only the Upper Silesian group could be rescued, members of the organization as well as their relations; altogether 35 people. Among them are the following members:

- Ester Herzberg née Guttmann from BENDZIN
- Halina Kuttner
- Mina Kuttner
- Gela Milchmann
- Olek Guttmann
- Pinek Treumann from SOSNOWIEC
- Kuba Greizer
- Samek Diamant
- Maria Greizer
- Abraham Weinreb from ZAWIERCIN /German: Wartenau/
- Fela Jachedsohn

Later arrivals were Leon Blatt, Jankow Rosenberg, and Scheva Ingster.

From the Hashomer Hadati group there have escaped:

- Berek Abramczyk from Miechów
- Jaakob Liebermensch from Zawiercin

Other escaped members are

- Schlinger from Sosnowiec, belonging to the organization Poalej Zion
- Josef Plotek
- Alexander Greizer
- Wolek Shetana and his wife, all three belonging to "Klal" of Sosnowiec.