The instantaneous and life-giving assistance rendered by the Joint Distribution Committee to 15,000 Polish Jews who were expelled from Germany over the German-Polish border three weeks ago is described in an eye-witness report just received by the J.D.C. office in New York. Additional funds are needed at once, the J.D.C. has been advised by cable from its European director, to meet the daily requirements of food and medical supplies which are being provided by the Joint Distribution Committee, the Polish Red Cross and the local Jewish organizations at a cost in some communities of $2,000 a day.

The eye-witness report, dated November 10th, describes a visit to one border town, Zbaszyn, which harbors from 6,000 - 7,000 of the deportees. It reads in part:

"Zbaszyn is a village of 5,000 people of which there are seven Jewish families. When the director of the Warsaw office of the Joint Distribution Committee came to Zbaszyn he saw thousands of the deportees lying on the streets. The first problem was what should be done with these people. The Polish Government put at their disposal a stable formerly used by the Polish army. After the stable had been lined with straw, it was able to harbor from 1,500 to 2,000 people. Another 2,000 - 2,500 refugees were cared for in private homes. Small barracks formerly used for prisoners were made available, each housing from 15 to 20 people. A clubhouse belonging to the Rifle Corps, and a building which had housed a Jewish mill, were also occupied by refugees. In this manner some form of shelter was provided for these luckless people who were out on the street in a torrential autumn rain.

"The Joint Distribution Committee instantly opened an office where every one of the refugees was required to register. The office contains a bureau for the distribution of clothes and another where food is parcelled out. It is amazing how quickly all of this was organized and made to function. A hospital was established where 100 sick people are
being cared for. Among them are from 25 to 30 critically ill persons, some of them with serious heart conditions and other major diseases. It is heart-rending to see these sick people lying there. Naturally, there is an acute shortage of equipment, pillows and bed-linens. Doctors were called and nurses were found. Despite the fact that these sick people find themselves in most primitive conditions, they nevertheless regard their present state as a paradise compared to what they had lived through. There are several old men over 80 years of age and a separate division for women.

"Another accomplishment of the Joint Distribution Committee was the establishment of a nursery in what was formerly a gymnasium. This is really a remarkable thing. From 300 - 500 children are cared for, kept clean and nourished. They sing and play and forget the misery they have just gone through and in which, in fact, they still find themselves.

"All this is due to the remarkably rapid action taken by the Joint.

"The Polish-Jewish community cooperated splendidly. As soon as they heard of the tragedy they sent trucks from Posen and from other cities, such as Lodz, Krakow, etc., bearing food and warm clothing. However, there is a serious lack of money. Polish Jews furnished from £5,000 to 30,000 zlotys but this represents only one-third of the total funds expended. The balance was supplied by the Joint. The J.D.C. also organized a corps of 300 young people from the refugees themselves who are assisting in the work of caring for their fellow-sufferers.

"Between Zbassyn, which is in Poland and New Zbaszyn, which is across the border in Germany, there are still about 50 people in a sort of No-Man's Land. No one is allowed to go to them and no one knows what is to become of them.

"There are a number of dangers inherent in the situation. Should an epidemic break out, the results are unthinkable, because all of these thousands are crowded together and it would be impossible to isolate the sick in sufficient time to stop the epidemic. Should a fire occur in the mill, for instance, the inhabitants would be lost; rescue would be impossible as there is only one small exit."