

"DEMOCRACY MARCHES" By D OROTHY MACARDLE.

THURS/FRI: JULY 3rd/4th. 1941.
0200 GMT. 0400 DBST.

Censored J.W. MacAlpine.

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Miss Cooper

~~Censor~~

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THURS. / FRI. JULY 3RD/4TH. 1941.

0200 GITT

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DBST

General in C.O. "DEMOCRACY MARCHES"
Copenhagen noted
Ht.

by

Dorothy Macardle

North American
Service.
02.00-02.15
4.7.41
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excites

In London you meet ~~quite~~ everywhere, fugitives from Hitler's "New Order". You see the young growing desperate and the old apathetic, and those of middle age becoming bitterly, or ironically, resigned. And now and then you meet one who is neither resigned nor desperate, but has found a way to live in the midst of calamity, riding the storm, - Dr. Judith is one of these.

She is a small, slight woman, very dark, very vivideand quick, with serious eyes, and lips set rather sternly. It startles you when her eyes dance ^{lips} and part in a brilliant smile.

I thought, when I heard her story, that the inter-national anarchy and crazy race prejudice of our demented Europe were epitomised in it. I am going to tell you some of her experiences, as factually as is possible without endangering her, - but the war rages round her still.

Judith was born in the Polish Ukraine while it was under Austrian rule. She was born in a room so low that her father could not stand upright in it, and so small that the chairs had to be piled on the table at night before the family of five could lie down. But she has no memory of that home.

~~Some~~

Her early memories are of a little house by a river and of ^{being turned away from} leaving it suddenly, one summer day, when a ~~thunder~~ booming noise was shaking the air. She remembers her brother carrying the spoons and candlesticks away to hide them, ~~while~~ while her mother, ~~weeping~~, thrust clothes and bread into sacks; remembers her father locking the doors behind them; her mother ^{weeping and} kissing the walls. She remembers crowds; panic; the terror of knowing that you must hurry, ^{hurry} hurry; the ~~dreadful~~ waiting for trains. She was hungry and ill; she grew too weak to carry her share of the luggage and cried with shame.

That was 1914.

They lived as refugees in Bohemia. When they came home they found their house plundered, ^{the} doors broken down.

Now, Judith went to school. Eager infriendship and avid for knowledge, she would have been happy, but she was a Jew. Her friend, Janina, was jeered at for playing with her, but played with her, all the same. Judith heard ^{used} ugly words and saw horrible things. She saw an old Jew ill-~~treated~~ in the street, and ran home with trembling knees.

Things became dangerous. The family ~~shut~~ ^{ran in} themselves up in the house. One night her aunt Esther ~~came~~ to them, frightened. Some men had broken into her shop, smashed

cupboards and ripped up mattresses, saying they were searching for arms.

Esther stayed, They dragged mattresses down to the cellar and lived there like mice. One night someone called her father away. He came back angry and bitter. His brother had been shot on his own door-step and was dying.

For weeks they lived down there, in the dark. When Judith came up again to the sunlight the world dazzled her with its beauty; it was Spring. She told herself, passionately, that she was going to escape from hatred and fear, and live in the daylight, and be free; That everybody must be free. Knowledge was the key to freedom. She would learn and learn. She would become a doctor. But presently Judith was thirteen and her education was supposed to come to an end. She must have to do errands and help in the shop.

Jews might not study at the Gymnasium --- the secondary school, but they could enter for the examinations. Her friend, Blume, was taking lessons and doing this. Blume lent Judith books. Secretly, Judith studied. When her father caught her reading, his words were like blows, but she stole the candle-ends after the Sabbath and read at night. She had strange

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shifts for keeping herself awake. She grew so thin that they called her "little frog". She ^{she} sold a dress, borrowed money from Blume, ^{and sold a dress} paid the entrance fee and sat for the first exam. She came out at the head of the list and her father heard of it. He was proud, yet his opposition did not cease. "You will do yourself no good with it" he said.

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Judith studied with ardour. She thought that a new life was coming for Jews. The Balfour Declaration had set the youth of Polish Jewry on fire. Judith led a little Zionist group which read and discussed social ideals. She ^{resolved} ~~would~~ go to Palestine. ^{No more} Doctors were ~~not~~ wanted there, well, ^{so manual work} she would be a gardener. She would help in the building of the Jewish national home, a great, free, enlightened, civilized ^{Jews and Arabs living together in harmony, an example to the world.} state. She went to a Zionist camp in the Carpathians and laboured ~~there~~ in the saw-mills and prepared. Her permit was in order and her name on the quota to go.

That was the year nineteen twenty nine.

// In Palestine, the Arabs clashed with the Jews; the British government ^{temporarily} suspended Jewish immigration and pass-ports were cancelled. Judith, like others, had hoped ^{for} too much.

th She fought off despair and determined to ~~She would not waste time; she would be a doctor.~~ She ~~was~~ would find some way. It was difficult for Jews to enter

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Polish Universities: useless for her to try. But there was Prague. She went home for a year, gave lessons, saved a little money, and arrived in Prague one morning early in March. The city was full of flags and music. It was the birthday of President Masaryk.

Here was freedom and here Judith was happy. She ~~found~~ ^{had} ~~a share in a minute~~ a bed in a tiny, crowded room, lived on less food than she had believed possible, gave lessons on Sundays, made scores of ~~firm~~ ^{planned} friends. Somehow she went to the exciting new theatres; somehow, heard music; and she passed her examinations with high ~~places~~ ^{term after term}. In nineteen thirty six she received her medical degree.

Now, as a foreign student, she was obliged to leave Czechoslovakia, and she was excluded from medical ~~practice~~ ^{practice} in Poland because she had not qualified there. Some of her friends, to secure the nationality, made nominal marriages with ~~the~~ ^{Czechs} ~~Czechs~~. This Judith would not do. X

Her decision was quickly made. ~~A great war against~~ ^{at war} ~~fascism was coming; it had begun already in Spain.~~ The Spanish people were ~~fighting already for freedom~~, and they needed doctors. Judith went to Spain.

She went with a medical unit of the International Brigade.

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There was a great deal to do. She worked in base hospitals with beautiful equipment, and in hospitals improvised near the front line, where the patients lay on the floor and operations were performed on trestle tables by ^{Lantern} ~~candle~~ light. There were times when her chief and her colleagues made every thing easy, and times when she was ~~left~~ left to bear heavy responsibility alone. She found that she could do it. She could help. This was her ~~place~~ ~~work~~ work and her place. Her heart felt too small to contain the happiness of those days.

And There was Ernst — a refugee, a good doctor and a very good friend. Before the International Brigade disbanded they were married. Then the men and the women were sent to different camps.

It was during the retreat to the French frontier that Judith knew ~~that~~ she was going to have a child. She was glad.

The retreat was a nightmare. On the French side there were wounded for whom nothing could be done.

Months in a French internment camp followed — Ernst interned too, in the Pyrenees. He was released first and came to England, a refugee. Judith's release followed just in time for her son to be born in ~~England~~ London, a British subject, — just in time for the outbreak of war.

Rudi was a tiny, exquisite child.

Aliens were not permitted to practice medicine in England, but the people of China, waging their share of the great war for freedom, needed doctors. Judith and Ernst volunteered. A passage was offered at last, but for the man only. He arranged to sail.

Just then, with the fall of ^{Holland} ~~France~~ ^{Norway} ~~Belgium~~, there came over England a wave of apprehension about alien refugees, and the sweeping order for their internment. The policeman who came to the Hostel to take Ernst was reasonable; "All right" he said "since you're sailing for China, I'll come back in a couple of days, ~~and hope you'll be gone~~ ^{to check me up — and be sure that you've gone}".

5 Ernst sailed. His wife and ~~many~~ child were promised a berth in the first available ship. Judith waited with patience: she had her baby. Rudi's parents were not doctors for nothing: Child of war though he was, he was growing strong. ^{He was the darling of the Hostel & suffered from too much love.} ~~A more loved and lovable baby was never seen.~~

11 When the Blitz began over London, and, night after night, the house swayed from the percussion of guns and the blast of bombs, Judith made a bed for herself and Rudi on the stone floor of the basement passage. They were there when the bomb that demolished the hostel fell; she ran out with the child

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through the choking dust and tumbling plaster, before the walls crumpled. ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{No one} ~~Not one~~ ^{refugee} was hurt.

After a few peaceful weeks in a ~~Berkshire~~ ^{Shrop} village, Rudi ceased to scream at sudden noises, and to be frightened of aeroplanes. Soon he was playing joyously with the other children on the village green. Ernst wrote from China: he was working hard ~~and wanted his wife~~ there and wanted his wife's help.

Now, Judith, waiting all the winter for a ship, began to look desperate. It was more unendurable than any hardships or danger — this cageing of energy, losing of skill, wasting of time and life. At last, at brief notice, they sailed.

There were three sunlit days at sea and then a German plane bombed the ship. People were killed. The life-boat in which Judith and Rudi drifted was sighted after five hours.

A few days later her friends in the village saw her standing in the road, ghost-like, with the child in her arms.

Presently, permission was given to alien doctors to practice in England. Applications, interviews, disappointments: slow weeks ~~passed~~ passed. June came, and a letter. It was from Judith's parents and it bore a Russian stamp. Their home was under the Soviet Government now. Her brothers had work, her niece was studying at the university. "Come home" they wrote, and told her that she, and her husband, too, could be ~~certain~~ ^{sure} of posts.

Hope ~~and eagerness~~ flared in her; her decision was made instantly,

Though I feel *that*
Though, reluctant to damp ~~her~~ ^{her} ardour, I asked her to wait, saying "Russia may be involved in war", and the Ukraine..."

"That" she replied "is a reason for me to go".

I went to her ~~ask~~ that Sunday, when the Germans marched against the Ukraine, ~~and~~ ^{the} the Baltic, the Black Sea, and all the Russian and Finnish waters were declared to be danger zones.

She was making a canvas cover for her suit-case.

"You can't go now", I protested. She answered "I will find some way", and laughed at my doubtful face. Then, to reconcile me, she said quietly, "I know it is dangerous, and I am a little worried about Rudi, but I think his father would ~~with~~ us to go. For myself, it doesn't matter. It would be sad to die if you had never known what happiness ~~was~~ is, but I do; I have been happy. It has been a lovely life".

Censored 3/7/42
J. W. Macalpin