

AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

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I had no difficulty again in establishing contact with the military authorities. I came into the officers' casino, and there was no food, and I immediately arranged with the chef and dispatched two or three packages of cocoa, flour, and the next day when I came into the casino to eat the officers ~~asked~~^{rose} and applauded in honor of the American who supplied them with food.

In the meantime rumors came to me that Luck was under siege; the town was being bombarded by the Bolsheviks; the peasants were not bringing in any food and the Jews were absolutely starving. I was left without trucks and supplies of food in Kovel. I began to make inquiries ^{and} ~~if~~ the local inspector of the ARA told me where I could buy a large quantity of white flour. He took me to a distant warehouse, and I had no difficulty in identifying the American flour given by the ARA, which was stolen. I asked no questions and paid the price requested. The next question was to get the flour over. The outskirts of Kovel were littered with trucks and automobiles from the evacuating Polish army. I had no difficulty in obtaining permission to get two trucks. The difficulty was in getting two chauffeurs brave enough to go east when everything was going west. Cigarettes and other things helped to persuade them when I myself volunteered to go with them, and that we would turn back the moment we scented danger.

We loaded two trucks with the white flour and drove towards Luck. We had no difficulty in getting to the outskirts