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The 'Six Million' Figure Began Over 100 Yrs Ago

By Dr. Frederick Toben

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Most people think that the figure "six million" emerged during World War II, when it was claimed that Germany killed that many Jews in the "Holocaust."* But the magic six-million figure dates back to 1900. Here a distinguished educator and historical investigator from Australia shows how this number first appeared in its current mystical configuration, as he presents sequentially items gleaned from articles published in The New York Times between 1900 and 1920.

May 7, 1920: "Jewish war sufferers in Central and Eastern Europe, where six million face horrifying conditions of famine, disease and death."

May 5, 1920: "[T]o save six million men and women in Eastern Europe from extermination by hunger and disease."

May 5, 1920: "Six million starving, fever-stricken sufferers in war-torn Europe appeal to us.

May 3, 1920: "Your help is needed to save the lives of six million people in Eastern and Central Europe.

May 2, 1920: ". . . Six million human beings, without food, shelter, clothing or medical treatment."

May 1, 1920: "But the lives of six million human beings are waiting for an answer."

Nov. 12, 1919: ". . . tragically unbelievable poverty, starvation and disease about six million souls, or half the Jewish population of

the Earth . . . a million children and five million parents and elders."
 Sept. 29, 1919: " . . . tragically unbelievable poverty, starvation and
 disease . . . about six million souls, or half the Jewish population
 of the Earth."

Aug. 10, 1917: "Germans Let Jews Die. Women and Children in
 Warsaw Starving to Death . . . Jewish mothers, mothers of mercy,
 feel happy to see their nursing babies die; at least they are through
 with their suffering."

Jan. 14, 1915: "In the world today there are about 13 million Jews,
 of whom more than six million are in the heart of the war zone;
 Jews, whose lives are at stake and who today are subjected to
 every manner of suffering and sorrow . . . "

But to go one step further back in time. In 1900, Rabbi Stephen Wise made
 the following
 statement for Jewish welfare organizations in the United States: "There
 are six million living,
 bleeding, suffering argu- ments in favor of Zionism." [Editor's italics]

And now you know the reason for the six-million figure.

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* The figure was re-introduced in 1944 by Ilya Ehrenburg, Stalin's rabid
 anti-German hate propagandist.

Dr. Fredrick Töben is an educator in Australia and founder of the Adelaide
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MainPage

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