

# JEWISH WAR VETERAN

OCTOBER



1932



O Lord  
Give to the  
United States  
Two more men  
Like these--  
and soon--  
Because we  
Need them.  
Amen

# THE HISTORY OF THE J. W. V.

THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES was born in 1894 of a desire on the part of Jewish Veterans who had served in the Civil War, and who desired to combat anti-Semitism and to dispel unfounded and discriminatory propaganda. Later, the Jews who fought in the Spanish-American War considered it a vital necessity to organize a Jewish organization of ex-service men, which they named the Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain. After the World War, similar discrimination and anti-Semitism appeared, and the need of Jewish veteran organization appeared. Several such organizations sprang up in various sections of the United States. The consolidation of the existing Jewish veteran bodies into one national group came to function in 1923 at a general convention held in City of New York. At this convention the late Nathani Straus gave encouragement to the movement and provided the name "Jewish War Veterans of the United States." The Constitution and By-Laws fairly well illustrate the aims and objects of the organization.

1. To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America; to encourage honor and purity in public affairs; to combat whatever tends to impair the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions; and to encourage the doctrine of universal liberty, equal rights and full justice to all men.

2. To combat the powers of bigotry and darkness, wherever originating and whatever their target; to uphold the fair name of the Jew and fight his battles wherever unjustly assailed.

3. To inculcate and keep alive the spirit of comradeship among the men of our race who fought in the various wars of the Republic.

4. To assist such comrades and their families as may stand in need of help, encouragement or protection.

5. To gather and preserve the records of patriotic service performed by men of our race.

6. To honor the memory and shield from neglect the graves of our heroic dead.

In every exigency involving patriotism—the necessity to sacrifice, history finds gloriously inscribed the names and deeds of the American Jew—from the Revolutionary to the World War. A quarter of a million Jews served the United States in the World War. Statistics show that although the Jews formed but 3 per cent of the population, they gave 5 per cent of their number to the fighting forces of the nation. About 25 per cent of the entire Jewish contingent were volunteers. Patriotism has always been the Jews' greatest virtue—examples of their heroism and sacrifice are spread over every page of the military and naval annals of the nation. Since its consolidation, the history of our organization has been one of accomplishment—whether in teaching Americanization to foreign born Jews—in fostering purely veteran relief work—inculcating the spirit of allegiance and patriotism in our brethren and their children—in resenting slurs against the Jewish race, whether in the United States or abroad—in purely charitable work—in shielding from neglect the graves of our buried comrades and holding periodical services for them—and last, but not least, in combating the powers of bigotry and anti-Semitism, as instanced in the past year by our effective objection to the Army and Navy Register slur against the patriotism of the Jew and the more recent injunction preventing the publication and distribution of the "American Guard," which had for its object the revival of the forged "Ford Protocols." The effect of these accomplishments is mirrored in the recent growth of our organization. New posts are being created in all Jewish centers of the country, and spider-like, the connecting links are developing a web that will ultimately cover the face of our beloved country.

# THE JEWISH WAR VETERAN

## JEWISH WAR VETERAN Published by Jewish War Veterans of United States

Editorial Offices:  
591 SUMMIT AVENUE  
JERSEY CITY, N. J.

Vol. 1                      October, 1932                      No. 1

Copies 2,500

### OUR "COMING OUT"

After having been editorially bed-ridden for about a year, the "Jewish Veteran" has now fully recovered and with this issue makes its formal bow once more as the spokesman of the Jewish War Veteran. Henceforth the "Jewish Veteran" will appear monthly and hopes to be an inspiration to comrades and sisters as well to those not yet in our ranks but who are eligible to join with us in the realization of our aims and objects.

Faced with major problems such as the relief of unemployed comrades, the assistance of hospitalized comrades, watchfulness of the rights of Jews and growing calls for aid of every kind, as well as the care of the graves of our fallen comrades, we require the strength of numbers and solidarity to accomplish our purposes. All that we have to do can be done if we pull together locally and nationally.

The "Jewish Veteran" is ready to serve as the link between all posts but the posts must do their share by recruiting new members, offering suggestions and submitting material, for this is *your* magazine. It is our hope to make the Jewish War Veterans one of the outstanding Jewish and veterans organizations and we can do it by hard work. The "Jewish Veteran" will do its part and the posts must do theirs.

### BE ON GUARD

In recent months there has been a revival of anti-Semitism in this country. In many cities there have been organized "cells" of the Hitlerite organization which has been making inroads among ignorant and bigoted people. It is the

duty of every Jewish War Veterans post to be on guard for any and all manifestations of racial intolerance and bigotry.

All comrades are urged to keep a sharp lookout for such manifestations of anti-Semitism and to forward immediately to national headquarters any clippings concerning such incidents in their local newspapers. By being eternally on guard we can do much to prevent the spread of race hatred. It is our duty to uproot anti-Semitism wherever it shows itself.

### DO YOU KNOW

by

*Edward M. Rodin*

Liaison Officer Dept. of New York.

THAT: If death results from injury received during the war, a widow or child, or if he leaves a mother or father, either or both dependent upon him for support, will be entitled to monthly compensation as follows:

THAT: If there is a widow but no child—\$30.00

THAT: If there is a widow and one child—\$40.00 with \$6.00 for each additional child

THAT: If there is no widow but one child—\$20.00

THAT: If there is no widow but two children \$30.00

THAT: If there is no widow but three children—\$40.00 with \$5.00 for each additional child

THAT: If there is a dependent mother (or dependent father) \$20.00, or both \$30.00, provided however,

THAT: The status of dependency shall be determined as of the first day of each year, and the director is authorized to require proof of dependency he, in his discretion, may deem necessary.

THAT: The payment of compensation to a widow shall continue until her death or remarriage.

THAT: The terms "World War," "During the period of the war," and "during the World War," mean the period beginning April 6, 1917, and ending July 2, 1921.

## 501 Transactions Handled By Liaison Officer of N. Y. Department In Two Months

From July 6 to August 31, 1932 the liaison officer of the New York State Department handled 501 transactions, according to a report from Liaison Officer Edward M. Rodin to Department Commander Edgar H. Burman. During that time Mr. Rodin's office has also been instrumental in signing 30 new recruits for the New York area.

The activities covered in the report show that the Jewish War Veterans concerns itself not only with members but with non-members and non-Jews as well. According to the report the Department had admitted to Hospital No. 81, Bronx, a number of members and non-members for observation, operation and X-rays and at no expense buried two non-members at the National Cemetery, Cypress Hills, Long Island.

The Department also had Joseph Greenberg, a tuberculosis sufferer, whose plight was called to its attention by Abraham Ada of Manhattan Post No. 1, sent to Seton Hospital. Joseph Chopnick, brother of an incompetent veteran, was committed to the Kings Park State Hospital for the Insane under the government Unit and the Department arranged to have his family receive \$40 monthly under the Disability Allowance Act. Similar action was taken in behalf of Abraham Bender, a non-member, whose wife is receiving \$40 monthly, while he was committed to the Northport Hospital.

Among other achievements of the Department's liaison office were the obtaining of medical aid at the Hospital for Joint Diseases for the daughter of an unemployed member of Manhattan Post No. 1 and the making of application for headstones to the Quartermaster-General's office for the graves of Albert Kravitz, Louis Glick, Samuel Palvedo and Max Wissotsky.

The Department also obtained glasses for Aaron Weiss, a non-member, and intervened successfully for Jacob Kramer, a non-member, who had been seriously

injured, when his wife sought to sue him for non-support at a time when he was incapacitated. During the period covered by the report the Department's liaison office also received three total awards of 100%, three 50% awards and four 25% awards, all on the Disability Allowance Act.

## All Posts Asked To Hold Armistice Day Services; Suggested Program Given

November 11 is Armistice Day, the 14th anniversary of the end of the World War. National Headquarters of the Jewish War Veterans asks that every post arrange Armistice Day services and a number of suggestions for such services are here given. These suggestions may be altered to meet local conditions. Copies of local programs and newspaper clippings should be sent to National Headquarters.

Armistice Day should serve several purposes, among them,

the encouragement of thoughts of universal peace, rejoicing at having survived the World War, memorializing those of our comrades who have passed on, fostering of patriotism and love of country, and continuing the comradeship which started during the War.

The above are part of the aims of the Jewish War Veterans and it should be the duty of each post to carry out these purposes properly by suitable ceremonies on November 11.

All ceremonies should be public. Invitations should be extended to all veteran, service and Jewish organizations to attend and cooperate. Prominent speakers should be invited. Protestant, Catholic and Jewish clergyman should be asked to have a part in the program. The program should begin with the Star Spangled Banner and close with Hatikvah. At the conclusion of the service taps should be blown.

## Herbert Lehman, Candidate For Governor Of New York, Has Great Philanthropic, War And Public Service Record

Lieutenant Governor Herbert H. Lehman, the Democratic nominee for governor of New York, is not only one of the most beloved American Jews, but a man who is a Jew not by the mere accident of birth. He is a Jew by association, by affiliations, by deeds and has amply demonstrated that his Jewishness is deliberate and that his greatest purpose in life is service.

Mr. Lehman, who gave up a highly successful career as a banker to become the most popular lieutenant-governor the Empire State has ever had, is a native New Yorker. Shortly after his birth his father settled in Montgomery, Alabama where he took an active part in community life and was associated with the Confederate Army during the Civil War, having the full confidence of Jefferson Davis and the war-time governor of Alabama, who was an intimate friend and associate of his.

After the Civil War the Lehmans came North where Herbert was graduated from Williams College. After leaving college he engaged in the textile manufacturing business as vice-president and treasurer of J. Spencer Turner & Co. In 1908, at the solicitation of his brothers, he became a partner in the firm of Lehman Bros. founded by his father and uncles.

Although an active business executive for more than a generation, he has been one of the best known American philanthropists. Since 1903 he has been a director of the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Orphan Asylum and a leader in the work of the Henry Street Settlement. At the outbreak of the World War he became associated with a group of prominent Jews who organized the Joint Distribution Committee of which he has been treasurer for 14 years. As its vice-chairman and chairman of its reconstruction committee, he was responsible for the organization and administration of the reconstruction work

carried on by the J. D. C. and guided its expenditures of \$75,000,000. He has personally contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to various Jewish philanthropies in this country, Europe and Palestine.

Immediately after the entrance of the United States into the World War, Mr. Lehman, although nearly ten years beyond the draft age, applied for admission to the first Officers Training Camp. His assignment to camp duty was held in abeyance on account of his age, but unwilling to give up the chance of serving his country, volunteered for service in the Navy Department at Washington. He was immediately assigned to duty under Franklin D. Roosevelt and thus came into his first close association with him.

In August 1917 he was commissioned as captain in the United States Army and thereafter was promoted to the rank of colonel on the general staff and was made assistant to General George W. Goethals. In that capacity he had a large responsibility in the procuring, distribution and storage of all supplies shipped to our armies abroad or used in this country, amounting to many billions of dollars.

After the Armistice he was appointed a special assistant to the Secretary of War, a member of the Board of Contract Adjustment and a member of the War Claims Board, which negotiated the equitable settlement or cancellation of contracts, the carrying out of which was unnecessary by the cessation of the war. At the conclusion of his term of duty in the army he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

In 1928 he gave up his business to become the successful candidate for lieutenant governor and in 1930 was re-elected. As lieutenant governor he was frequently acting-governor during the absence from the state of Franklin D. Roosevelt. His services as acting-governor won for him the sobriquet of "No Compromise" Lehman

## J.W.V's Service To American Jewry Demonstrated By Its Prompt Action In "Army & Navy Register" Incident

Illustrative of the constructive and effective watchful service rendered to American Jewry by the Jewish War Veterans was the notorious Army & Navy Register incident of last February. Although this affair and the part played in it by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States is perhaps one of the most cogent reasons for the necessity of an organization like ours, few outside our ranks, and even many of our own comrades have ever heard of it. As an indication of what the J. W. V. did in this incident and for the sake of the record we are publishing the entire story below.

On February 6 the Army & Navy Register appeared with the following article:

### THE R. O. T. C.

"Now for the article on the R. O. T. C. by one Felix Cohen. I don't know the gentleman, but I take it from his cognomen that he is a Jew, which, in turn, leads me to suspect that he may be an internationalist, perhaps even in the pay of the Soviet. I can not forget that many of the prominent Soviet leaders are Jews. Jews are by instinct internationalists, which is natural, for they, as a race, have no country of their own, possibly because they would not defend it. I realize that there are many notable exceptions, but I am speaking of the race.

"Mr. Cohen seems to think that there is something despicable about the spirit of high patriotism, love, and loyalty which sends men out to die for their country with songs in their hearts. Being a Jew, he would think so; there is no tangible profit in it that he can see. He is willing

to profit by being a citizen of this country, willing to enjoy its freedom and privileges, willing to get his full share of its prosperity, but he is not willing to defend this country or fight for the freedom, prosperity, and privileges which he enjoys.

"Has he forgotten the persecution of his family in the country from which it came? Has he forgotten that that poor downtrodden, persecuted family was welcomed by us with open arms and just treatment? Possibly, for he evidently doesn't feel any obligation to defend it, good as it has ben to him and his. Let the poor benighted fools with songs in their hearts go out and do it for him. The Jews, as a race, have notoriously little stomach for military service. The pay is poor, there is no profit in it, and, worse, they might be called upon to die for the country of their adoption. How illogical, so long as others can be gotten to do it for them!

"Ah, but there's the rub; we had the draft in the last war and many of Mr. Cohen's ilk had to fight for America, willy-nilly; hence, down with militarism, let's disarm, no more fighting, and Mr. Cohen and those like him can save their precious hides. Mr. Cohen says, "I have marched behind drums. I know that when drums beat again a good part of me will march again. It may be that the rest of me can hold back." Faugh! I will bet my bottom dollar the rest of him can hold back and will unless he is made to go forward. If you examine the lists of the volunteers in any of our wars you will find that Jews are conspicuous—by their absence. They are willing to exploit our country, but not to defend it."

Immediately after the publication of this slanderous and bigoted attack on the patriotism of American Jews, Captain Harold Seidenberg, then commander-in-chief, took the matter up with President Hoover and Secretary of War Hurley. The result of our intervention was the receipt of the following telegram:

February 20, 1932.

Washington, D. C.  
Capt. Harold Seidenberg  
Commander-in-Chief  
Jewish War Veterans  
of the United States.

The Army and Navy Register is not an official organ of the War Department, but a private enterprise conducted by civilians. I regret exceedingly that such a malicious statement has been published. I have no respect for any man who hides behind his anonymity to make such an attack on any group of patriotic American citizens.

As an officer of the United States Army, you must know that the attitude of this one isolated individual in no way reflects that of the War Department, nor of the preponderant element of the officers and enlisted men who make up our Army.

The War Department recognizes neither creed nor race.

Personally and officially, I am proud of the American Jews in our Army today and of those with whom I served in the World War.

Patrick J. Hurley  
Secretary of War.

This telegram from the Secretary of War was given the widest possible publicity by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States in the effort to wipe out the effect of the Army & Navy Register's

anonymous and despicable attack on American Jews. Within two weeks after the publication of the telegram (on February 20) the Army & Navy Register published an editorial entitled "Recantation" which was a repudiation of the first article and a vindication of the patriotism of American Jewry.

Furthermore, in its issue of February 27 the Army & Navy Register carried the following extract from an editorial:

**"There has appeared, promptly following the original publication, which has met with condemnation, an editorial on the subject in the issue of this paper of February 20. The publication of the letter of Mr. Felix Cohen would appear to complete the record of regret and disavowal of purpose, and acknowledgment of the other letters of protest—alike copious and courteous—to attack or offend".**

Better than anything we could say, better than years of intensive effort on our part this incident proved the value of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. Promptly, courageously and vigorously we took a stand in favor of our calumniated people! We not only demanded but obtained a complete retraction and apology from the Army & Navy Register as well as a valuable statement from the Secretary of War. The role of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States in this incident is not unusual. It is part of our every day activities. It should not be forgotten by our comrades nor by American Jewry.



### *Posts Urged To Take Active Part In Communal Welfare*

Now that the various posts throughout the country are starting the new year's activities, it is important to point out that they exist not merely for the enjoyment and social pleasure of the comrades. Every post can and should do something concrete for either veterans, Jews or its community. Each post must have an active part in its community. It is by our activities and constructive achievements that we are known and appreciated.

Suggested activities for post are: more frequent visits to veterans' hospitals, attendance at public school assemblies and addresses on Americanism, talks to newly naturalized citizens, fostering of Boy Scout troops, cooperation with other Jewish organizations in local and national projects, assistance to local Jewish centers, entertainments and outings for the orphans and old folks of your neighborhood.

National headquarters would appreciate accounts of what the various posts are doing along the above suggested lines.

### *Needy Veterans May Obtain Reduced Rate Railroad Fare*

The privilege the Jewish War Veterans of the United States once had of issuing charity tickets for deserving veterans over the railroad belonging to the Trunk Line Association has been restored. By means of this arrangement deserving veterans may travel to hospitals, sanitariums and other points at half the usual fare upon the proper recommendation from national headquarters.

Comrades requiring such assistance are requested to apply through their post commanders to Adjutant-General Hordes. Before forwarding such requests to national headquarters post commanders are urged to investigate the merits of applications and to certify that the beneficiary is deserving and in need of the aid requested.

### *David Nudelman Succeeds Brams As Newark Adjutant*

Owing to the election of Herman W. Brams as commander of the newly organized New Jersey State Department, he has resigned as adjutant of the Newark Post and has been succeeded by David Nudelman. Commander Breitkopf, who has promised to have a membership of 250 by the first of the year, has appointed Thomas Ruben as chairman of a membership drive.

The Post will take a prominent part in the Newark Armistice Day parade. Commander Breitkopf is chairman of the Armistice Day Committee. On November 2 the Post will pay tribute to Comrade "Joe" Heimberg at a testimonial dinner. Heimberg has just recovered from an illness. Tickets may be had from Herman Brams.

### *Seek Official Recognition Of J. W. V. In Massachusetts*

A proposal to introduce a bill in the Massachusetts legislature to obtain official recognition of the Jewish War Veterans under the Massachusetts general laws was approved at a meeting of the Massachusetts State Department held on September 25. A legislative committee to deal with the matter was appointed. A recommendation to encourage the outfitting of all posts was also adopted.

At an open meeting of Boston Post on October 11 Commander Simons made an eloquent appeal in opposition to the propaganda of the National Economy League. Mrs. Frances Locke was in charge of arrangements which followed the meeting.

The ladies of Lynn Post have just organized a new auxiliary with excellent prospects. October 30 has been set aside by Lynn Post as "Fraternal Night" with representatives of all service, Jewish and fraternal organizations invited to attend.