

THE JEWISH VETERAN



MARCH 1935

OVERSEA CAPS



Regulation overseas caps in good quality Royal Blue serge with gold piping. Caps are complete with yellow embroidered emblem as illustrated and lettering of post name together with number of the post. The caps complete with lettering and emblem are \$2.50 each.

In quantities	
25 to 50	-----\$2.25 each
Oved 50	-----\$2.00 each

Regulation overseas caps are also obtainable in olive drab and khaki, with emblems as in the royal blue caps and lettering of post name. Prices will be furnished on application.

We are also in a position to furnish the comrades with overseas caps of every nature and description and will furnish prices on receipt of specifications.

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(As Illustrated)

The prices on the charms are as follows:

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Sterling Silver, 1 to 10	-----1.75
10 and over	-----1.50
Gold Filled, 1 to 10	-----2.50
10 and over	-----2.00



These charms may also be had in 10 karat gold, prices on request.

These charms make handsome gifts to outgoing officers, and are also suitable for comrades. They can be engraved with the name, office in post, number of post, time of office.

For further information, consult Headquarters.



illustrated at \$1.00 each. One week is required for all orders and money must accompany orders.

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New York, N. Y.

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EDITORIAL

APPARENTLY the people of this country have little knowledge of the Constitution, its origin, provisions or why it possesses authority. Every time a new proposal is made for extending the powers of government, national or state, in the field of individual liberty, an outcry is raised, in substance, "Why does an ancient document, written for other times, have any authority over a representative assembly of this day? Are we not a free people?" This attitude implies little appreciation of the fact that the Constitution is the solemn compact by which the thirteen Colonies which had fought as one body to win their independence agreed to terms upon which they would form a Nation.

They had fought the revolution as "The United States of America," but the unity was almost wholly in the common purpose, to throw off the rule of Great Britain. Their confederation afforded only the feeblest sort of a government while war lasted and thereafter had almost no authority. The leaders knew the need for continuing cooperation, and the more sagacious ones knew that this could be effective only through a Government of assured authority, to which their several states would be in many respects subject. It must have its own contacts with the people, with power to make and enforce laws, levy taxes, establish a monetary system, regulate trade, declare war and negotiate with other nations.

From this conclusion they shrank. They had one thing in common, viz., their British heritage, but even so they differed much in some human characteristics, and even more

in economic interests. They were alike in their determination that nobody should rule over them, and they knew so little of each other that each feared it would be in a helpless minority under new and intolerable masters. But the alternative was an imminent prospect of having the confederation laps: into the thirteen communities, with numerous disputes among them in prospect, the danger of civil war, of foreign aggression and possibly of grave social disorders.

Under these conditions, each of these states sent their most trusted leaders to the Convention which drafted the Constitution for submission to the people for their consideration. The Convention did not readily reach an agreement, but it labored with a profound sense of responsibility.

Eventually public opinion yielded to the considerations which had brought the Convention to agreement. First, the problem narrowed inexorably to the two alternatives, and, second, there was no rational choice but to form the United States of America.

And so the most momentous merger of all time was accomplished, by means of a Plan of Government, which is at once comprehensive and a marvel of condensation. The men who wrote it were the elect of America at that time; they were scholars and statesmen; they knew the history of Government and all worthwhile that had been written about it to that time, and they were under pressure to make the most of their knowledge quickly and in few words. The Preamble is a fitting introduction to the document they produced. It deserves to be read more often than it is:

WE, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION for the United States of America.

The judgment of mankind upon the Convention's work has been in general accord with the deliberate estimate of Gladstone, to-wit: that it is "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the hand of man."

All mail intended for the Quartermaster General should be addressed to Jacob Rietzfeld, Quartermaster General, 41 Bennett Avenue, Bronx, New York.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY BROADCAST

THE use of the broadcasting facilities of either the National Broadcasting Company or the Columbia Broadcasting System means a donation by either of these companies of time worth, over a nationwide hook-up, approximately \$20,000 per hour. That means that so far as we are concerned, we are getting \$20,000 or the equivalent in free advertising, national in scope. It also means that we are able to reach the places where no written propaganda, originated either by our organization or any other Jewish organization, could possibly hope to reach—in other words, every nook and corner of the United States and Canada. As Past Commander-in-Chief Simmons so aptly stated at the last Executive Council meeting, the Jewish Newspapers reach only a portion of Jewish homes. Non-Jewish newspapers cannot, of course, give us very much space. Books and other publications would, of course, reach only those persons who buy them. But practically every family, rich or poor, in the United States, has a radio. And when we, through the radio, convey our message to them, it is just as though we were invited to their homes and permitted by them to take fifteen minutes to an hour of their time to tell them that the Jew after all is only a human being, having the same objects and aspirations, born the same way, coming to an end the same as they do—that is, death; that he does not have horns and is not the devil in another form. That we are just people, the same as they are, and we want to be as we know they want to be—good American citizens, ready to fight for it, when called to do so.

In order to utilize these facilities to their utmost, we suggest that every post and every national and departmental officer contact the radio editors in their community or vicinity for publicity so as to feature these programs. We also suggest that they contact the city editors of the newspapers for the same purpose. In other words, get as many people to listen in to these broadcasts as they can.

We also suggest that the radio stations of the particular network in the vicinity be

contacted with requests that they carry the program of the Jewish War Veterans. We will make the program sufficiently interesting for the station. We also ask that when the broadcast is over, all persons affiliated with the organization take the time to drop a letter or postcard, or other means of communication, so as to convey their appreciation for the opportunity to listen in. By all means, immediately after these programs, a drive for membership should be instituted. That will afford us the best argument when signing up eligibles.

Radio address of His Excellency, James M. Curley, Governor of Massachusetts, over Columbia Broadcasting System, February 22, 1942, under auspices of Jewish War Veterans. Friends of the Radio Audience:

To address the people of the Nation on the day which has been perpetually dedicated to the honored memory of our first president and commander-in-chief is, of itself, a signal honor, and I am deeply appreciative of the invitation of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States to speak on the anniversary of Washington's birth. Without the patriotic spirit of him who is so well entitled to be called "The Father of his Country" there would have been no United States of America, but it is not so generally known that Washington had the valued cooperation of Americans of Jewish faith, in whom the intense fire of patriotism and a desire for personal liberty had been implanted through countless generations of persecution.

From the days of Moses and Aaron, Jews have been foremost in espousing the cause of freedom. And in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of the Revolution they were conspicuous by their loyalty and devotion to the cause which eventually led to the separation of the American colonies from the Crown. It is a matter of historical record that the first decisive step leading to the Revolutionary War, namely: the Philadelphia non-importation resolution of 1765 was signed by nine patriots of the Jewish faith.

Who is there, who has read and excelled in the history of that epoch-making struggle

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for liberty, that does not know of the contribution of its success, made by the Jewish patriot, Haym Solomon—a contribution to the cause of the Colonial forces which, although never repaid, will forever remain an imperishable testimonial to his memory.

In this day of class and racial strife, of proscription and persecution masked by the false front of national unity, which has confounded rational and tolerant thinkers throughout the civilized world, it is fitting on the holiday which the American people have set aside as a day of reverence and appreciation of the character of Washington, to reflect upon the fact that George Washington, throughout his life, maintained a liberal attitude toward all religious beliefs. If he were alive today I am confident that he would be deeply grieved to learn of the suffering resulting from religious intolerance abroad. His broad and humane sympathies could brook no distinction based on the accident of birth as is evidenced by the fact that he chose for his own aide-de-camp a Jewish officer of the Continental Army—Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Franks. Isaac Franks was a friend of Washington and the commander-in-chief was a frequent visitor at the Franks home in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Additional evidence that the great man who carried the major part of the burden throughout the eight long years of strife with the Mother Country, was proud to number Colonial Jews among his friends, is indicated by the following excerpt from one of his letters, written to the members of the Hebrew Congregation at Newport, Rhode Island: (I quote from Washington's letter)

"The citizens of the United States of America have the right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy—a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike, liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the Government of the United States of America, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it, on all occasions, their effectual support. . . . May the children of the

stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants; while everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid."

Now of course it is true at the time of the Revolution, there were few Jews in America. The thirteen original Colonies, spread along the Atlantic seaboard, were but sparsely inhabited by the descendants of the first settlers and those adventurous souls who came later to conquer a wilderness and lay the foundation for the great Nation of which American citizens of every national strain are so proud today. But the records show that no fewer than forty-six Jews participated actively in the battles of the War for Independence. These Jewish officers and men, the sons of pioneers and grandsons of patriarchal forbears to whom privation and hardship was already a story centuries old, shared the hunger and tortures of that darkly foreboding winter at Valley Forge and gloried in the hard-won victories of Saratoga and Yorktown.

In addition to those who rendered actual service in the field, there were many American Jews who rendered valuable aid to their new country through their knowledge of other languages and their traditional pre-eminent relations with the financial markets of the world. They served in many ways and always with that warm and firmly implanted love of country, so characteristic of the Jewish race since the earliest times.

It is unnecessary for me to call the attention of any Jewish veteran, or that of any person within the sound of my voice, to the contribution of the Jews to the success of the arms of the Allied cause during that greatest of all wars, the echoes of which still resound in various quarters of the globe. More than 200,000—an army in itself—was the marching host of khaki-clad boys and men which assembled from Jewish homes to fight in the ranks of Democracy during those fateful months of 1917 and 1918. And it is interesting to note that, although the Jews of America number but three per cent of the entire population, this formidable host of Jewish soldiers formed approximately five per cent of the total number of Americans under arms. Let no man, regardless of motive, say that the Jewish citizens of the United States did not perform their patriotic

duties with a zeal and in a measure as great as that of any other group. Rather let him say, as Senator Tydings of Maryland said on Independence Day last year, speaking at the exercises held in the Arlington National Cemetery:

"Who knows but if our greatest hero, sleeping in yonder tomb, may not himself be a Jew who gave his life for the United States of America? Who knows but that in far-off Germany in its tomb for the unknown soldier—that hero may not be a Jew? Thousands of Jews fought in the German Army and in the Allied armies as well. And now, having offered their all to their country, we find in Germany these offerings taken during her hour of need are spurned. Called upon to bear the dangers of the battlefield, they are forbidden the blessings of peace."

The Jews traditionally have been a peace-loving people. From the days when the Red Sea opened before the rod of Moses to give them safe passage on their way to the Promised Land, their quest has been consistently that of a nation of shepherds seeking only the opportunity to live with their flocks amid amicable surroundings. I need not tell you, however, that the Jewish Race never has displayed a moment's hesitancy to join with other militant citizens when their common cause demanded forceful and positive action. There is no military conflict in which America has taken part in which the American Jews have not participated in an honorable and aggressive way. They have enlisted cheerfully, fought gallantly and courageously and died as brave men should when engaged in the defense of their country.

A moment ago I spoke of Colonel Franks, who was on General Washington's staff and the forty-five other Jews who fought for the independence of the American colonies. It is, in my opinion, a rather significant fact that, of these forty-six men, no less than twenty-four, or more than fifty per cent, were officers, indicating the character and intelligence which was to be found in those dauntless early Jewish settlers who came to America to help the infant republic in its struggle for existence and later, in the perilous task of conquering the frontier.

During the War of 1812, the files of the War Department disclose, the forces that fought under the stars and stripes numbered

many Jewish names, among them that of Judah Touro the most famous Jew of his day in America, who shouldered a musket as a private soldier. Touro was the man who by a generous gift of money, made possible the completion of Bunker Hill Monument. Again, in the War with Mexico, the records are filled with the achievements of Jewish heroes who stood shoulder to shoulder with Americans of Mayflower stock and those of other national groups within our citizenry, to gain the victory that assured the freedom of Texas and avenged the massacre of the Alamo. One of them was General David DeLeon, who twice received the thanks of Congress for gallantry and military ability. Another, Lieutenant Henry Seeligson, was complimented in person by General Zachary Taylor for his intrepid courage at the Battle of Monterey.

Jews fought by the thousands in the Civil War, not only for the preservation of the Union, but under the gallant Stars and Bars—banner of the Confederacy. More than 8000 of them were among the "Boys in Blue" and there were so many who played prominent parts in that tragic struggle which so frequently found brother against brother, and father against son, that it is no easy task to select the names of the most outstanding. President Lincoln personally decorated several Jewish soldiers and there were eight Jewish generals, forty staff officers, eighteen colonels and nearly 800 officers of lesser rank who saw active service.

The Spanish War of 1898 is but a repetition, for more than 5000 Jews answered the call to arms. One hundred and fifty Jewish lads braved the storm of bullets with Theodore Roosevelt in the Rough Riders' ascent up San Juan Hill.

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Comrade Nathan E. Cohen

One Year in J. W. V.

By COMRADE MAURI BANK

Just a year ago marks my induction into J. W. V., and as a member I am proud to state that the progress made in my home city (Philadelphia) should be an inspiration to all Posts throughout the country.

First I wish to thank and praise the good work done by the National Publication "The Jewish Veteran" (Editor blushes.)

In April, 1934, there were only 2 Posts in Philadelphia, and attendance was poor and the discussions uninteresting, and an apparent lack of leadership, and then the awakening came at the time "red blood" was needed and the influential comrades who made nice window dressers, but never attended meetings of the Post, although seen at other organizations were replaced.

Fortunately at the crucial time a new Commander was installed who was a credit to the organization and Jewry, and he started the ball rolling. He appointed his committees and started a membership drive. His slogan was "Bring 'em in" not dead but very much alive, and at once the meetings took on a new lease of life, and many new recruits were installed.

Then the State Dept. came, and several auxiliaries were instituted, and things began to happen. Five Posts in Philadelphia, Posts in Easton, Pa., Harrisburgh, Pa., and several more on the way.

A good Commander makes a good organization, comrades respect the chair and work for the organization, and there is unity of purpose.

J. W. V. is wide awake to-day, and is doing great work in protecting the rights of veterans, and minorities, and in leading in the Boycott movement.

J. W. V. can boast of its leaders, such men as, Berman, Mendelsohn, Fredman, Kraditor, Rabbi Fineberg, Edgar Burman, etc., it is these leaders who realized the seriousness of our times and fought against Hitlerism in America. Therefore, you and I owe to these men the full measure of service in their efforts to build up a bigger and better J. W. V.

The record of Jewish service in the World War can never be forgotten by a grateful American public. No less than eleven hundred Jewish soldiers were cited for valor by the American, British and French authorities. The Congressional Medal of Honor—highest decoration in the gift of the Nation—has been conferred on but 78 and three of them were Jews. The Distinguished Service Cross is worn by 150 American Jews and the Croix de Guerre was bestowed on 174 Jews in the American Expeditionary Forces.

So, my friends, you may see in what worthy manner Americans of Jewish faith have carried on the tradition which Isaac Franks, the friend of Washington, established in the days when to be a patriot was to invite a charge of treason, punishable, in the event of failure, by an ignominious death upon the scaffold.

That they did not fail is a thing of which every American citizen, as he reveres the name of Washington, should be immensely proud. That the Jews of America, from Colonel Franks down to the present time, never have failed to respond to the rallying cry of Columbia in distress, evidences their characteristic devotion to conscience—the keystone of good citizenship.

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