

1896-40th Anniversary Number - 1936

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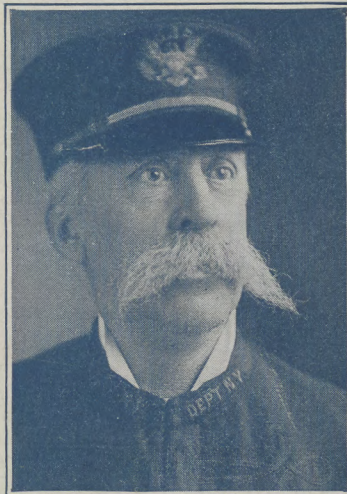
# The Jewish



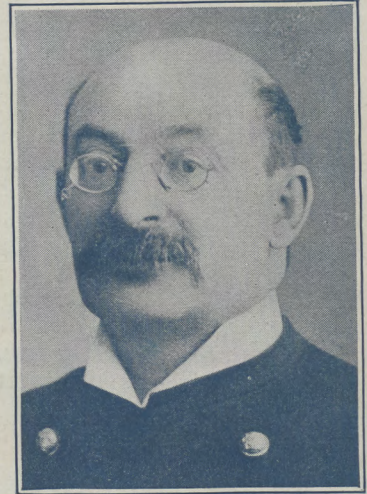
# Veteran

First Officers of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States

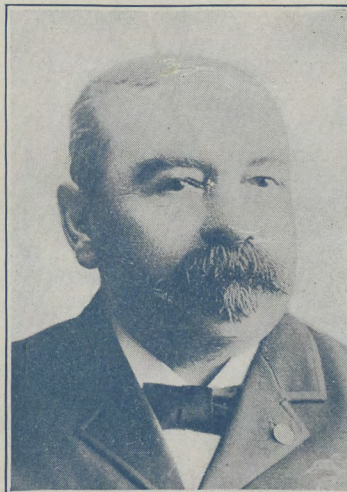
Official Publication  
of the  
Jewish War Veterans  
of the United States



Isidore Isaacs



Joseph A. Steiner



Joseph Unger



Isaac Eckstein

MARCH 1936

Installed at New York City on March 15, 1896

# THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA

## MARCH 15, 1896

By J. DAVID DELMAN

*"In pursuance to a call issued by Commander Joseph H. Stiner, Isidore Isaacs, Isaac Eckstine, Jastrow Alexander, Jacob Jacobs, Joseph Unger and Joseph C. Wolff, a meeting of Union Veterans of the late war who are of the Jewish Faith was held on Sunday, March 15, 1896, at the Lexington Avenue Opera House."*

In that simple, unadorned unostentatious manner, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, was originated forty years ago. Without blowing of trumpets, and without the shouting of alarms. A call to arms, but unaccompanied by a brass band, for that call came from the innermost depths



J. DAVID DELMAN

of the hearts of those noble comrades who felt the indispensability of an organized body of Jews who served with honor in the Wars of our Republic. Seventy-eight comrades who served in the Union Army during the Civil War, answered that call, and immediately organized themselves into the Hebrew Union Veterans Association. Oh! it was not easy. There was opposition from our own camp, from Jews who are meek, supine and afraid, whose counterpart we also have with us today. These Jews will never learn that it is useless to hide our identity and that on the contrary, a good Jew makes a good American. Opposition also came from our non-Jewish veterans of the Civil War. On the other hand all right-thinking Jews agreed with that grand personage, Simon Wolf of Washington, D. C., who was "glad to hear of the action taken by the Hebrew Veterans in forming an association."

With a deep feeling of respect and reversion, mingled with awe, I read through the historic minute book of these veterans, most of whom have passed to the Great Beyond. The period beginning March 15, 1896 and ending February 5, 1905, is detailed in that document. The pages are yellowed and fading, the strong clear hand of its first secretary, Isidore Isaacs, is becoming weaker and weaker, the book itself shows the wear of time, but the purposes to which the organization gave voice, are still strong and steadfast.

What life, what happiness and what tragedy is recounted within the two covers of that historic document. It is not only the coursing of the life-blood of the veterans of the Jewish faith, who served in the Civil War, nor even that of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States as a whole. The epochal events therein recorded exemplify the sacrificing, altruistic service-giving spirit of the Jewish race. Read with me the magnanimous resolution brought to light by our predecessors on May 1, 1898.

"Motion made and seconded that the Hebrew Union Veterans' Association tender its services to Governor Black at any time he may see fit to call on them for the protection of this country against Spain—Unanimously carried."

It is that desire and anxiety to protect our beloved country that pervades through the entire history of Jewish Veteranism. Throughout all the wars of the Republic, the Jews gave of themselves unstintingly. There is

no need to mention names. Go to that ancient cemetery in the Old Bowery of New York City. There, beneath the antiquated tombstones lie interred many of the Jewish heroes of the Revolutionary War, men who have served with and for Washington to "establish Justice," . . . and

*New York March 15<sup>th</sup> 1896*

*In pursuance to a call issued by Comrades Joseph H. Stiner, Isidore Isaacs, Isaac Eckstine, Jastrow Alexander, Jacob Jacobs, Joseph Unger and Joseph C. Wolff, a meeting of Union Veterans of the late war who are of the Jewish Faith was held on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Lexington Avenue Opera House. The meeting was called to order by Comrade Isidore Isaacs who stated the objects of the call and on*

*Motion*

*Comrade Jastrow Alexander was elected Temporary Chairman and Comrade Isidore Isaacs, Temporary Secretary. On Roll-call, 63 Comrades answered to their names. After speeches by several comrades, who spoke in favor of perfecting a permanent organization, on motion a Committee of seven (7) was appointed to select permanent officers, the Committee consisting of Comrades Adam Brown, Jos. C. Wolff, Louis Black Gustave Arnold, Leopold Crook, Isaac Kohu and Jacob Jacobs, retired, and on its return presented its report and recommended that the following named Comrades be selected as the officers of the Association.*

*Comrade Jos. H. Stiner, Chairman*

*" Isaac Eckstine 1<sup>st</sup> Vice "*

*" Jastrow Alexander 2<sup>nd</sup> " "*

*" Joseph Unger Treasurer*

*" Isidore Isaacs Secretary*

*" Michael Davis Sergt. at Arms.*

*On motion, the report of the Committee was adopted, and the Committee discharged*

Above is reproduced part of the minutes of the first meeting of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association held at New York City, on March 15, 1896 and written by Isidore Isaacs, first Secretary of the organization.

to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity." Someone has properly said that "the pattern of American history has been interwoven with the golden thread of Jewish idealism." It is symbolized by the Hebraic legend on the Liberty bell. It is because of this

(Continued on next page)

## THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA

(Continued from preceding page)

harmony of the ideals, upon which our Republic was founded, with the Hebrew creed of justice, liberty and freedom, that the Jews of the U. S. have as a matter of course always been happy to serve. Those are the ideals to which Jews responded when they answered the call of the immortal Lincoln, this inborn feeling for justice and freedom that prompted a Jew to be the first volunteer to answer the call of McKinley, in 1898, and in our own generation brought forth thousands of Jews to fight bravely and daringly in the last war for world Emancipation.

If only that record of Jewish patriotism would be read by the anti-Semites who crop up from generation to generation, by those who are filled with hatred and ill-feeling against Jews, yea, even they would learn to respect the religious fervor with which Jews are imbued when service for their country is needed. No conditions, no ifs or buts, simply and without strings, the Jew always served when called upon for the protection of his country.

To belie the slander of lack of patriotism, and to uphold the fair name of the Jews, inspired the formation of our organization on March 15, 1896.

Picture to yourself the important events that transpired that year. An army officer had written an article in Harper's Magazine, in which he stated that he had travelled from East to West, from North to South, but had not found a Jew who served in the Civil War. Ridiculous as this was, it had its effect, as have all slanders and calumnies. "A wave of anti-Semitism was sweeping the country."

In France, in that year, the Dreyfuss case was at its height. Captain Alfred Dreyfuss, the Alsatian Jew who was unjustly condemned by a French court martial, had been conveyed to the notorious Devils Island. France was divided into two camps—Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards. The echo of this unjust conviction and the anti-Semitism which caused it, had its repercussions in the United States.

In Vienna, Theodor Herzl issued in 1896 his "Judenstaat" which gave the world modern Zionism. He revolted against the supine attitude of his brethren. He demanded and gave a program. Not dull resignation was the answer to anti-Semitism, but a constructive policy to remove the causes that had contributed to make the disease possible. He gave the "Judenstaat" as his answer.

In that year, 1896, our predecessors,

the Union Veterans of the Jewish Faith, too, could no longer remain inactive. Away with supineness and meekness! We are proud of our history and tradition, and we will broadcast it to the world. We Jewish Veterans will serve as a living refutation to that vilest of calumnies, the slanderous aspersions upon the lack of patriotism of the Jews. And thus the Hebrew Union Veteran Association was conceived.

A grand panorama of scenes and activities passes between the two covers of that precious minute book kept by those Jewish Veterans. Fervent allegiance to our beloved republic, two-fisted battles against anti-Semitism, help and relief to the distressed, honoring the memory of the heroic dead. That and much more is recorded. And so we continued faithfully where our brethren left off, and we will transmit our traditions to our children when our time comes.

What does it matter if names are changed? Hebrew Union Veterans Association, Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain, Jewish Veterans of the Wars of the Republic, Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. Yes, we bore all those names, but the principles always remained the same, and steadfast, and have been always scrupulously observed.

"To maintain true allegiance to the United States of America. . . and to encourage the doctrine of universal liberty, equal rights and full justice to all men."

"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."

That is our record. Judge us by that. Forty years of Jewish Veteranism. Forty years of service to our country and to our race.

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## STARS and STRIPES

Here's to the RED of it—  
There's not a thread of it,  
No, nor a shred of it  
In all the spread of it  
From foot to head;  
But heroes bled for it,  
Faced steel and lead for it,  
Precious blood shed for it  
Bathing it RED!

Here's to the WHITE of it—  
Thrilled by the sight of it,  
Who knows the right of it,  
But feels the might of it,  
Through day and night;  
Womanhood's care for it,  
Made manhood dare for it,  
Purity's pray'r for it,  
Keeps it so WHITE!

Here's to the BLUE of it—  
Beauteous view of it,  
Heavenly hue of it,  
Star Spangled dew of it,  
Constant and true;  
Diadems gleam for it  
States stand supreme for it  
Liberty's beam for it,  
Brightens the BLUE!

Here's to the WHOLE of it—  
Stars, Stripes and pole of it,  
Body and soul of it,  
O, and the roll of it,  
Sun shining through;  
Hearts in accord for it  
Swear by the sword of it,  
Thanking the Lord for it,  
RED, WHITE and BLUE!

### Department of Pennsylvania

The Department of Pennsylvania Convention will be held at the Hotel Rittenhouse in Philadelphia, on March 27th, 28th and 29th. Sessions will start with Sabbath Services Friday evening, March 27th. In addition to the regular business sessions, a military ball will be held Saturday evening, and a banquet Sunday evening, at the hotel at 6:30 o'clock.

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Comrade NATHAN E. COHEN

# • EDITORIAL MOMENTS •

## TIMELY TOPICS IN AN EDITORIAL NUTSHELL

### THE JEWISH VETERAN

*Published Monthly by*

#### THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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*Business and Editorial Office*  
16 Hudson Place, Hoboken, New Jersey

Subscription \$2.00 a Year Single Copy 25c.

Vol. 4 MARCH, 1936 No. 5

Entered as Second Class matter at  
Hoboken, New Jersey Postoffice

### Heidelberg University

It looks as though something went wrong with our American universities suddenly, particularly after Dr. Conant's refusal of the Hanfstaengel gifts to Harvard University. Harvard, Columbia and Cornell have accepted the invitation to participate in the 550th anniversary celebration of Heidelberg University. JWV Posts will do well to contact their local universities and show them how farcical it would be for American Universities to be represented at the celebration.

With no freedom of enrollment, study, or action by students, and with many of the better professors driven out, how can the German universities be proper seats of learning for youths? And by accepting their invitations, how can our colleges condone everything that has been going on in Germany?

### 200 Jewish Refugees Arrive

Two hundred Jewish Refugees arrived on the United States liner Washington to seek a means of livelihood in the United States. Practically all the refugees were prominent business men, lawyers, doctors and dentists who abandoned Germany because of the prejudice against them which curtailed their earning power. This is the largest group to arrive on one ship since the formation of the Nazi Government.

### The Schwartzwald Bill

With all the international trouble going on overseas to interest us, we might be apt to overlook things right in our own back yard. Recently the Schwartzwald Bill was introduced in the New York Legislature. It is fashioned after the Rafferty Bill that passed the New Jersey Legislature and became a law last year with the signature of Governor Hoffman. This bill has helped materially in New Jersey and the Empire State Bill will do likewise if enacted into law. Its passage will be a protection to New York Jews.

Posts should do all they can to get their local Assemblymen and State Senators to support its passage.

### The Boycott

Much disturbance has been caused by the constant reports that imports from Germany have increased. This condition has been caused by the importation of dyes, leather, cloth materials and machinery.

The Boycott has apparently made little impression on some Jewish importers of these materials. It seems that their business is more important than the finer things in life—even liberty and life itself. Some of the efforts used against the smaller jobbers and retail stores should be transferred to these importers and jobbers in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore.

J. George Fredman, Morris Mendelsohn, Benjamin Sperling, Edgar Burman, Doctor Kalb, Dave Delman—Boycotters par excellence—and many others, too numerous to mention, should get together in an onslaught on these people and put a stop to the steadily growing importations. JWV lead the way three years ago magnificently—why not now?

### London 'Jew-Baiting'

Sir John Simon, House Secretary, told the House of Commons that Jew-baiting in London's East End would be dealt with by a special police detail charged with the responsibility of keeping a special lookout for provocative conduct calculated to lead to a breach of peace. The Home Secretary expressed his dissatisfaction of the present abuse of Jews.

### The Olympics

J. W. V. has been vindicated again. If you don't believe it read Westbrook Pegler's column appearing in metropolitan papers. Then read what is happening in Germany. Treaties are scraps of paper, and bugles are blowing ra-ta-ta-ing on the Rhine.

How anyone can expect true sportsmanship under these conditions is beyond human comprehension. As soon as visitors departed from the winter olympics the Nazis started their attacks on the Jews and Catholics once again.

England has stopped collecting for its olympic fund. France and Belgium will unquestionably send no more of their teams to compete. Other countries allied with them will probably do the same.

This is a good time for JWV to get behind the Olympics Committee headed by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Harry Schaffer and resume the national movement headed by Judge Jeremiah Mahoney in a valiant fight to withdraw the United States participation in the olympics. Let's get going!

### Mexican Senator Praises Jews

When the first Jewish public school in Mexico was dedicated to the Jewish community, Senator Federico Medrano, former president of the Mexico Senate, declared:

"Mexico cannot regard itself as the step-mother of the Mexican Jews who will find in Mexico a fatherland."

Professor Malano, chief inspector of the mexican school system, also lauded the Jewish citizens in Mexico. He added that they were the highest type of citizen and were highly desirable residents.

All articles and news items of interest to the JWV will receive our careful consideration. This is YOUR magazine—help make it one of THE outstanding literary publications by your punctuality and accuracy in reporting news for insertion in the columns of The Jewish Veteran.