

THE
Jewish Veteran

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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J.W.V.'s All-American Eleven

DECEMBER



1936

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"THEY SHALL NOT PASS"

By LOUIS A. FALK

ONE of the enigmas of the present Jewish existence—a situation not peculiar in our history—has been the stubborn refusal by our brethren to look at the rapidly approaching cataclysm promising to wipe out Jewry in its entirety. With the advent of the adventurer, who surrounds himself with a horde of fanatics and desperados, and by sheer violence makes himself ruler of the people, the fate of the Jew has been sealed, unless, he recognizes the signs and himself takes the proper precautions to prevent his annihilation.

Reaction, (its modern name is "Nationalism"), the arch-enemy of the Jew, is on the march! In Europe it has triumphed everywhere outside of Great Britain, Scandinavia, Holland and Switzerland. Popular government, conceived through the influence of the old Mosaic law, has been discarded. The rights of the individual have been eliminated. The minds of three-fourths of the people in this world have been jailed and the key to the lock has been thrown away. Medievalism has been brought back with its torture rack and paganism.

There is ample historical authority to place the present era in Jewish life back in medievalism. In "Jews of Germany" by Marvin Lowenthal* we find, reminiscent of modern Hitlerism, the following paragraph—

"Social relations between the sects were reduced to an incredible minimum. Christians were forbidden to buy food or drink from Jews—especially meat and wine, which had, of course, been prepared in accordance with Jewish ritual, and milk, which was presumably poisoned. They were forbidden, for the same reason, to use Jewish physicians or medicines. They must not eat or drink with Jews, attend Jewish weddings, dances or other festivities, and naturally they dare not set foot in the synagogue. On the other hand Jews were forbidden to use Christian inns or baths, and hire Christian servants or nurses. (Shades of Hitler!). They were ordered to behave in public and private with the humility and shamefacedness proper to a servile, guilty and Godstricken people. Illicit sexual intercourse between Jew and Gentile incurred penalties running from fines to whipping, burial alive, or death by fire."

It is quite patent that the conditions of the Jews will not improve in the countries where dictators rule. There is nothing to look forward to—or even to hope for—that these demagogues of no name, no tradition, no character and no convictions, who make themselves the States, will improve the Jewish lot. On the contrary, history has shown them to be masters of crime, hate and war. Under their regime the Jew is always the scapegoat and subjected to nationally organized repression and persecution, violence, terror and massacres.

Looking back at the past three years, we are puzzled most by the amount of self-inflicted punishment the Jews seem able to

stand. And much of this punishment comes from the plethora of self-appointed leaders in Israel. At every turn and twist there arises a Moses (?) to lead the lost tribes out of the wilderness. Clothed in sombre garb, this leader struts the front pages, becomes vociferous and leads the children of Israel into a morass of mouthy vaporings and there they remain out on a limb until the Messiah will bring them forth with the blow of the Shofar.

In the World War, the battle of Verdun saved France from slavery and left it a free people. Germany fully realized early in the War it would be necessary to crush France quickly. They were making rapid strides through Belgium and France and almost at the gates of Paris they came to the fortified town of Verdun. The Crown Prince of Germany was given the honor of making the assault on Verdun, and clearing the path to Paris. But Verdun wrote a different story. Here at Verdun, Germany's claim to military invincibility was buried. Because facing Germany, with all their might and spirit was a free people who wanted to, and gladly did die, to remain free. These French people were inspired by the words of Petain "Ils ne passeront pas"—"They shall not pass"—and the Germans *did not pass*; True, France lost 350,000 of its young men on this spot, but the spirit of freedom conquered.

The spark of anti-semitism fed by Hitler and kindled into the flame of Nazism has been spreading. It reached England, the mother of parliamentary government. Mosley and his black shirts required more attention if they were to make an impression on the taciturn Englishman. What better provocation than to march into Whitechapel, the Jewish East Side of London and there stage his play? Of course, such is the action of the bully and is typical of Fascist sadism. The good friends of the Jews, particularly the Jewish leaders, advised the East Enders "To stay home," "Ignore the Black Shirts," "Keep off the streets." The Rabbis, those leaders clothed in the sombre garb, also preached to the good Jews to close their stores and hide behind locked doors and shuttered windows and "it will all be over."

But the East Enders were in no mood to follow such advice. Fortunately, among the local leaders were Jewish ex-service Men, who still remembered Verdun. "They shall Not Pass." These veterans disdained the same advice given to the Jews of Russia when the Black Hundreds came down upon a Jewish district and everyone was told to run to the cellars, lock and shutter up the house until the danger of a pogrom had passed. They knew from experience the danger usually "did not pass."

These men who knew war, did not fear the gangster because of his black shirt.

Instead, these ex-soldiers preferred the

attitude of Sholem Schwartzbard. Schwartzbard, it will be recalled was a hero in the World War, fighting with the French army, and when invalided volunteered to fight with the Jews in the Ukraine, to stem the mass extermination of Jews there by the White Russians. His advice to his men was "If we are going to die, let us die like men fighting."

And so, word was passed around — by pamphlet, by word of mouth, by soap box on street corners, by radio; chalked on sidewalks, written on doors and windows. What was written? The words of Verdun, the spirit of Schwartzbard, the attitude of our own Jewish War Veterans — "THEY SHALL NOT PASS."

What happened? The Jews and even the Gentiles in the East End were aroused. Did they hide in their cellars until it blew over? They did not! They gathered 50,000 strong in Algade Road. And when Mosley and his mob of Black Shirts came along, they were first astonished, then stopped, and compelled to beat a hasty and inglorious retreat. They DID NOT PASS!

As a result of this demonstration, all of Great Britain has been aroused. Municipal authorities everywhere in England have banned the marching of political parties in uniforms. Police authorities are squelching the frothings of upstart anti-British groups, parliament is considering laws to prevent recurrences. Mosley has been very quiet, and East End London pursues its business serenely, undisturbed and unafraid.

Have we in the United States any lesson to learn from the Battles of Verdun and of East End?

—O—

MADAME SCHUMANN HEINK

We refrain from placing the usual black border around this obituary. We prefer to think of this "Mother of the Army," as simply passing on—to Valhalla. The World (outside of Germany—announcement of her death in German papers was given but two lines) and veterans in particular have lost a friend. With sons in the German army fighting against their brothers in the American army, Madame Schumann Heink—her heart broken, remained loyal to America, the country of her adoption.

She never refused an invitation to help a veteran organization, or to comfort those unfortunates still confined to hospitals.

One night we shall never forget. We attended a concert at Carnegie Hall, sponsored by the Non Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, to help the Boycott. Mme. Schumann Heink had volunteered her services. Before she stepped to the stage, she was handed a letter. In it was a threat of death if she dared perform. True trouper that she was, she went on with the show.

May she carry on as an Angel, singing to the spirits of our buddies "up there." May her soul rest in Peace!

*Reviewed in these columns, October, 1936.

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Do You Want a Job?

If you live in New York, and want a job, it may not be so easy to get one. The true story appearing in this issue, is repeated often in the lives of thousands of Jewish young men and women.

To deny social discrimination of Jews in the United States would be foolish. Not a few exclusive clubs, summer resorts and hotels do not admit Jews. Only a few years ago, the philanthropist Nathan H. Strauss was denied admittance to a hotel in Lakewood, N. J. Because of this affront, Mr. Strauss bought the hotel. It is today the leading hostelry in Lakewood. Of course, not all of us are Nathan Strauss', nor would we care to duplicate his act. However, it is not difficult to survive these social inequalities.

Economic discrimination is more serious. To look through the "Want Ads," and see one after the other "Gentiles only," "Christian Firm," is not so pleasant. To plod from Employment Agency to Agency, and a glance at one's name, or one's nose, bringing a "Nothing for today," is discouraging. Besides many Christian firms, public utility companies and banks seem especially obstinate in their discrimination, although in cities like New York, they do not hesitate to do business with its two and one-half million Jews. As a result of such discrimination Jewish men and women are barred from practically 90% of all available jobs, especially in the white collar class. It deprives thousands of them of a chance to earn a livelihood.

Although employers give lame excuses to justify their attitude, there is no reason or logic for it. Jews are no better, but they are just as honest, able, neat and disciplined as their Christian brothers and sisters. When we enlisted or were drafted for military service, we were not asked our religion. Why the difference in civil life?

This matter is well worthy of serious investigation.

The Way Out

Hanukkah—the Feast of Dedication commemorates the delivering of the Jewish people two thousand years ago from the oppression of the Syrian Greeks.

Not much pondering is required to lend significance to this Hanukkah by calling attention to the persecution of Jews all over Europe.

How shall these Jews be delivered, and who shall be their deliverer?

This is also the Christian season of Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men.

What can be done to help our oppressed brethren in Europe? The Hitler fiends have paid no attention to the combined protests of outraged humanity. The Boycott has been effective, but outside of the United States, Great Britain, and several European countries, it has not been as well organized as it might be, so that the economic strangle hold is not yet complete. We are not in position to send armed forces against these mad-men.

What is left? United States Government intervention! The oppression and persecution has been going on with increasing violence through almost four years. How long can civilized nations permit such inhumanities against defenseless human beings continue without interference. If it does continue, will not the world go mad?

United States is the outstanding democracy of the world. It is the one nation not involved in the intrigues of the world. We are financially independent, and the world is our debtor. Our nation has always stood for the ideals of Peace and the brotherhood of man. United States is the country that must bring the disordered world back to its senses.

Intervention in such instances is not without numerous precedent in our history. These precedents deny the claim that the treatment by a government of those who live within its borders is an internal affair, with which other governments have no right to concern themselves.

Our first official intervention was in 1840, when President Van Buren interceded with Turkey on behalf of the cruelties practiced upon Jews in Damascus and Rhodes.

In 1902, we intervened in Roumania, and the same year in the Kishineff massacre by Pres. Theodore Roosevelt. In 1911 Pres. Taft abrogated our treaty with Russia, and in 1913 President Wilson intervened with Turkey following mistreatment of the Jews after the Balkan War. The late Dr. Max J. Kohler compiled a book containing many other precedents. In every instance our appeal to foreign nations was heeded.

President Roosevelt has just been re-elected by the greatest majority ever given any President. Our President is the sponsor of the Good Neighbor League. He is now returning from a Peace mission to South America. The eyes of the world are upon our beloved President. The eyes of suffering humanity in Germany are upon America.

Mr. President, won't you follow in the

Communism No Jewish Issue

An unfortunate tendency has made its appearance in American Jewish life of late. There are a number of Jewish men in public life who are laboring under the mistaken idea that Jewish leadership must tackle "the Communist danger." These gentlemen are very much frightened by the activities of those anti-Semitic groups that make it a practise to use the words Communist and Jew as interchangeable synonyms. Whenever a Jewish name is connected with a radical or Communist activity these Jewish would-be leaders wince.

Thus former Judge Joseph Proskauer, David T. Wilentz and many others have recently in their public addresses tried to prove that the Jews play a minor role in the American Communist movement and that such Jews as are Communists are traitors not only to America but also to Judaism. These same speakers then imply that it is the task of Jewish leadership to fight the Jewish Communists not only as opponents in the economic or political field, but as Jews.

Such an attitude is fraught with danger. The Communists in this free democracy of ours enjoy the status of a legal political party. If Judge Proskauer and those who agree with him want to fight Communism, more power to them. But let them keep off the Jewish Issue. Much as all of us disagree with Communism as a form of government or a political philosophy, we have no business to inject the Jewish issue into this strictly political struggle between parties.

It is just as ludicrous to make a special Jewish effort against Communists as it would be to make a specifically Jewish onslaught on any other political party. The fact that anti-Semites try to create the impression that all Jews are Communists is a poor excuse. If we were to follow this line of reasoning we manoeuvre ourselves into the position of being obliged also to form a Jewish opposition against Jewish bankers and capitalists, for there are quite as many anti-Semites who attempt to have it appear that all international bankers and capitalists are Jews.

Facts speak for themselves. No intelligent American swallows any of this anti-Semitic propaganda about Jewish Communists or Jewish issue. It does not belong in this purely politico-economic battle which they may and perhaps should fight—but only as Americans, and never as American Jews.—
(Trenton Jewish Ledger.)

footsteps of your illustrious predecessors, and tell the rulers of Germany that the world will not stand idly by while thousands and thousands of fellow human-beings, Jew and Gentile, are crushed in the mill of madevilism?

Mr. President, this is the opportunity of a century?

Shall this Chanukkah be like unto that of two thousand years ago?