

THE
Jewish Veteran

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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APRIL



1938



PARADE REST!



MEMORIAL DAY! One day each year Americans pause to pay a "mite" of tribute to those heroes who have passed on. What America today is, what we have—our homes, our liberty, our privileges, unequaled anywhere else in the world today—result largely from the sacrifices of these comrades of all wars.

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ARMY DAY

Its Origin and Its Purpose

By MAJOR

EDWIN S. BETTELHEIM, Jr.

The nation will celebrate the 11th annual Army Day on April 6th. In this article, written especially for the Jewish Veteran, Major Bettelheim, national adjutant-general of the Military Order of the World War, the organization that initiated Army Day, tells of its inception and objectives.

THE EDITOR.

APRIL 6th will mark the eleventh annual celebration of Army Day which is set aside each year by patriotic Americans as a day upon which to give honor to the Army of the United States. Led by the President of the United States, the Congress and the governors of the various States, official standing has been given to the day. The national heads of practically every veteran and patriotic organization has added his or her endorsement. Last year Congress adopted a resolution calling upon the President of the United States to issue a proclamation and in that proclamation to request the governors of the various states to issue their proclamations in celebration of the day.

Army Day began with a very simple service ten years ago when it was inaugurated by the Military Order of the World War. As years have passed, it has grown in importance and prestige and gives the citizenry an opportunity to pause and take stock of the condition of the national defense of the country. Throughout the width and length of this nation, including our insular possessions, ceremonies of varied character will be held. As in the past, the Jewish War Veterans will take a prominent place in these ceremonies and it is the hope of your national commander that units of the Jewish War Veterans will appear in local demonstrations.

In Washington the President of the United States has invariably reviewed the monster parade lasting during the better part of the afternoon. In New York an even larger parade will be held on the Saturday succeeding Army Day. The President of the United States in a letter to Rear Admiral Reginal R. Belknap, commander-in-chief of the Military Order of the World War, made the following statement:-

"In the present disturbed condition of the world the observance of Army Day on April sixth of this year will serve to focus the attention of our people on our own national defense. The American nation is committed to peace and the principal reason for the existence of our armed forces is to guarantee our peace.

"The traditional American policy is to maintain only a small Regular Army and to rely in an emergency on patriotic citizens called to the colors when our peace and safety are threatened. The National Defense Act provides that our small Regular Army shall be the professional nucleus for an expanded force necessary for our protection in a crisis. The National Guard and the Organized Reserves are composed of citizen-soldiers who in time of peace patriotically devote a portion of their time to preparing for their country's defense.

"The Army of the United States is one of the smallest in the world. How-

ever, I am glad to note that its efficiency is steadily improving. I hope that the people will take the opportunity afforded by the observance of Army Day to learn more of their army and its role in the preservation of American peace and security."

Very sincerely yours,
(signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt."

General Malin Craig, Chief of Staff of the Army in adding his endorsement to the Army Day celebration says "the preservation of peace is not a mere passive duty." He calls attention to the fact that Army Day will provide an occasion for the public to learn more about our Army and to bear in mind that "with the actual and threatened hostilities engaging the attention of many nations today, it is prudent forethought to consider our defenses." He then said that the Army would be very happy to assist in every appropriate way to make the observance of Army Day an outstanding success. Secretary of War Harry Hines Woodring in calling attention to the horrors of war points out that "we are likewise convinced that one of the best ways by which war may be avoided is to be strong enough to resist aggression. * * * If our Army and our Navy are invincible the likelihood of their employment in actual warfare is materially reduced." The day was established with a very modest beginning by the Military Order of the World War in 1928, and has ever since been sponsored by our Order.

At a staff meeting of that Order, held in New York City in January 1938, the Army Day idea was inaugurated. The then commander-in-chief, was directed to call upon all chapters to organize patriotic celebrations for Army Day, and "to bring to the attention of the public our Army—what it stands for and what it needs, all to aid in the great problem of national defense." He was further "authorized to obtain endorsements from other veteran and patriotic organizations, as well as from state and city officials." May first was selected as the date at that time to offset the then prevailing communistic activities and youth movement parades which had been scheduled throughout the United States for May Day. Modest celebrations were held by various chapters throughout the country.

The first official proclamation was issued by the mayor of Philadelphia. He was fol-

lowed closely by the mayor of New York. The military, veteran, and patriotic organizations quickly followed with their cooperative endorsements. The Jewish War Veterans were in the foreground. One of the most interesting ceremonies, inaugurating the first Army Day celebration in 1928, was held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. It was conducted by Rear Admiral T. J. Cowie, a past commander-in-chief of the Military Order of the World War, who delivered an impressive address before a distinguished group.

During 1928, it became evident that it would be advisable to hold Army Day celebrations on some day other than the first of May. The consensus of opinion seemed to favor April 6th, the anniversary of America's entrance into the World War as the most appropriate date.

Accordingly, at the 1928 national convention of the Military Order of the World War, a resolution was adopted naming April 6th as ARMY DAY. By virtue of such action, our then Commander-in-Chief, Colonel Thatcher T. P. Luquer, made public proclamation announcing the establishment of Army Day and its sponsorship by the Military Order of the World War. Since that modest beginning, Presidents of the United States, governors of states, mayors of cities and towns, cabinet officers, military authorities, public officials, and patriotic veteran and civic groups have annually aided in firmly establishing Army Day as a national celebration.

Last year, the Congress of the United States permanently recognized the Day by adopting what is known as S-Con. Res. 5-75th Congress.

The War Department, by a memorandum issued January 28th, 1938, to all corps area and department commanders and commanding officers of other stations directed such commanders to contribute the full Army facilities to make the day successful. The order of the Adjutant General of the Army reads as follows: "Army Day will be celebrated April 6, 1938. This celebration, sponsored by the Military Order of the World War, will be conducted under civilian auspices. The Secretary of War desired that this year's observance of Army Day be given the cordial and enthusiastic support of the army. Accordingly, you are authorized to cooperate in every appropriate way with civilian committees and patriotic organizations in order to insure that the various local celebrations will be successful. Such cooperation might appropriately take the form of reviews, open-house celebrations, ground exhibits, or other features designed to acquaint the public with the army and its professional attainments. Where practicable a general invitation should be extended to the public to visit military posts on Army Day, and special arrangements should be made to provide for the comfort of the visitors."

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Jews Are Fighting Back

"Close observers of Jewish life in Europe state that not since the last days of Czarism has there been such a remarkable upswing of the fighting spirit of the mass of the Jewish people as now in Poland, Rumania and other European countries." So writes William Zukerman, one of the most competent journalists reporting the contemporary Jewish scene abroad, in an article in which he declares that Jews are beginning to fight back against their anti-Semitic oppressors.

The phenomenon to which Mr. Zukerman calls attention has escaped the attention of most Jews who seem to believe that the mass suicides in Vienna, the panicky flight of Jews from Austria and Rumania and the picture of pogrom-stricken Jews cowering in their homes are an accurate picture of Jewish reaction to anti-Semitism in Europe. Mr. Zukerman cites a number of instances to prove the contrary. He points to the heroic resistance of the Jewish students in Poland who have dared expulsion and physical violence by staging a bold stand-up strike against the ghetto benches. He points to the resistance of Jews in Polish towns where there have been pogroms. He mentions the plucky resistance of the Jews of Rumania who held fast to their positions. He shows how the Jewish spirit elsewhere has been aroused.

We think Mr. Zukerman's article highly significant. Too long have many Jews felt that their only defense was in prayer, in meetings, in protests to the League of Nations, in resort to diplomatic intervention and in flight or suicide. The courageous Jewish youth of Europe is organizing for self-defense. It is not content to stand idly by and allow hoodlums and bullies to run wild. They are demonstrating that Jews can resist oppression and persecution. In the long run their resistance may not help but at least they can go down fighting.

Anti-Semites have long fostered the myth that Jews are cowards and that they will not fight back. True Jews have no military organization to protect them. They have no organized self-defense machinery except

in Palestine. But in the towns and villages of Poland and Rumania they are beginning to give anti-Semites blow for blow. And where they are not returning force with force they are answering it with a moral courage and dignity as in Germany where some 300,000 Jews still live in the face of organized brutality and persecution.

Yes, the Jews are fighting back. Perhaps not as much as they should, but enough to show that the Maccabean spirit has not been quenched. This is the Spirit that J.W.V. Stands for and what we are trying to arouse in the 4,500,000 Jews in America. "If die we must, let us die fighting!"

The New Wilderness

If Moses, who led the ancient Israelites out of the bondage of Egypt into the wilderness on the road to the Promised Land, an Joshua, who led them into the Promised Land, could see the plight of their brethren on the eve of this year's celebration of Passover they might well imagine that the Jews had never really been saved from Pharaoh's tyranny. To millions of Jews the re-telling of the Passover story, with its theme of Jewish liberation, will sound strange. They who knew not Pharaoh and his taskmasters do know the cruelties of his contemporary counterparts.

Passover is the Jewish festival of freedom but one-third of the 16,000,000 Jews in the world will observe it under circumstances that would have made Pharaoh green with envy. He would doubtless be amazed at the new refinements of persecution and degradation devised for the Jews in Germany, Austria, Poland and Rumania. He would probably wonder why he never thought of such things as "Aryan" laws, Nuremberg laws, and the systematic expropriation of Jews. He would probably kick himself for not having thought of anti-Jewish boycotts and concentration camps. But he could of course take comfort in the knowledge that he was *not* what we call the ruler of a "civilized" nation in the twentieth century, so as much could not be expected from him in the way of anti-Semitism.

Yes, Pharaoh was almost a great friend of the Jews in comparison with Hitler, Streicher, Cuza and Goga. And their kind seems to be multiplying and spreading over the face of the earth like one of the plagues invoked against Pharaoh and his people. The world appears to be closing in on the Jews. Steadily there become fewer and fewer places where Jews can call themselves free men, where they can look forward to the morrow with aught but fear and doubt. Passover finds world Jewry beset with new and more terrible disasters. To the black spots of Germany, Rumania and Poland is now added Austria. Tomorrow it may be Czechoslovakia and Hungary. And the day after no one knows where. Such is the black picture that confronts Jewry as we prepare to usher in Passover. How long it will remain that way no man can tell. The Jews in ancient Egypt had long given up hope of rescue before there appeared a Moses. At this moment there doesn't seem to be another Moses in the offing.

General Hines

The vagaries of politics are such that men holding major public offices of an optimistic character that are not covered by civil service seldom remain in them long. When they do, surviving political upheavals, there must be a reason. Usually it is efficiency, constructive achievement and character. Such is the case with General Frank T. Hines, who has just completed fifteen years as head of the United States Veterans Bureau and Veterans Administration.

A veteran himself—he served with distinction in the Spanish-American War, the Filipino Insurrection and the World War—General Hines came to his post imbued with an understanding of and sympathy for the problems of the ex-servicemen. Succeeding a director whose malfeasance in office sent him to jail and created chaos in the administration of veterans affairs, General Hines not only eliminated bureaucracy and introduced efficiency, but converted the Veterans Bureau into a government agency that has won respect and admiration. As an administrator General Hines is second to none in the government service.

During the fifteen years he has directed the affairs of the Veterans Administration he has made it a policy to consult the various veterans organizations. He has listened to their suggestions, adopted many of them, and has always shown readiness to be cooperative and helpful. The Jewish War Veterans is happy to join with General Hines' legion of friends and admirers in extending to him all good wishes and to express the hope that his next fifteen years will be as productive of good as were his first decade and a half as head of the Veterans Administration.

J.W.V. Leads In Extending Boycott to Austria

"Boycott Austria!" That is JWV's answer to the extension of Nazi terrorism to the once free and independent republic of Austria. As the founders of the boycott against Germany five years ago, JWV announced the extension of the anti-Nazi boycott to all goods made in Austria immediately after it became apparent that Germany is continuing in that territory the barbaric treatment of religious minorities, labor unions, fraternal organizations and other groups that have suffered from Nazism in Germany. Since Germany seeks to avoid the Boycott, she may mark even goods made in Germany as "Made in Austria," and it is highly important that the Austrian Boycott be made efficiently effective without delay.