

THE  
*Jewish Veteran*

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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**JWV's Forty-Third National Memorial Service**  
MAY 29th, 1938

MAY



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.

This tribute to American heroes of Jewish faith—services in temples and synagogues, and decoration of their graves in Jewish cemeteries—are important reasons for the existence of J.W.V.

In addition to local observances, NATIONAL each year conducts a nation-wide Memorial Service. This year, MAY 29th, 1938 is the date, and TEMPLE EMANU-EL, New York City, the place. A uniformed parade precedes the services.

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# HOW MEMORIAL DAY BEGAN

## *A Brief History of the Holiday*

By J. GEORGE FREDMAN

*Past Commander-in-Chief*

**That Memorial Day is a holiday that originated with the veterans of the War Between the States and that this year marks the 70th anniversary of its first national observance are among the interesting facts revealed in this special holiday feature.**

### THE EDITOR.

April 26th is now celebrated as Confederate Memorial Day in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. The day set apart for this purpose in North and South Carolina and Tennessee is May 10th, while Louisiana and Tennessee celebrate Confederate Memorial Day on June 3rd, together with the birthday of Jefferson Davis. Virginia observes Confederate Memorial Day on May 30th.

### AUTHOR OF "POPPIES" DIED 20 YEARS AGO

It is an odd coincidence that the 70th anniversary of the first celebration of Memorial Day should also be the 20th anniversary of the death of Col. John McCrae, the Canadian physician and poet and soldier, who wrote the immortal poem, "Poppies." Recently there were held special exercises at the grave of Colonel McCrae at Wimereux, France, with ex-servicemen from 12 countries participating. Major J. B. Brunel Cohen, honorary treasurer of the British Legion, a legless veteran, spoke in the name of Great Britain.

It is worth recalling that the immortal words Colonel McCrae penned in a dugout during the Battle of Ypres in 1915—"IF YE BREAK FAITH WITH US WHO DIE, WE SHALL NOT SLEEP THOUGH POPPIES GROW IN FLANDERS FIELDS"—inspired a Frenchwoman to come to London in 1921 and propose to the British Legion that it purchase poppies manufactured by French ex-servicemen of Lens and Doullens and sell them in the streets to aid British ex-servicemen.

This idea aroused the enthusiasm of Marshal Haig, and in 1922 the British Legion decided to manufacture its own poppies. The sale of poppies in this country for Memorial Day probably originated from this. Since that date, 542,000,000 poppies have been sold throughout the world.

Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, as it was popularly called for many years because of the custom of decorating the graves of the soldier dead with flowers and flags, is so widely observed an occasion that it is difficult to believe that it is just seventy years old this year. Nor is it generally known that Memorial Day is not a national legal holiday like July Fourth, Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day or Labor Day, in the sense that they are celebrated in every state of the Union. There are eight states—all in the south, in which May 30th is not a holiday. On the other hand there are three other dates—April 26th, May 10th and June 3rd—which are observed as Memorial Day in some southern states.

To understand this one must remember that Memorial Day as it is celebrated in the North originated with the Grand Army of the Republic, whose adjutant-general in May, 1865, suggested to General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief, that arrangements be made for the organization to decorate the graves of the Union soldiers who died in the War Between the States on a uniform date throughout the country. General Logan approved the plan and issued a general order to all G.A.R. posts in which he said that "the thirtieth day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

This order was widely obeyed. Special exercises were held in the National Cemetery at Arlington, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, this constituting the first formal and official observance of the day. General James A. Garfield, then a member of Congress and later President, was the orator of the occasion. But while the G.A.R. can claim credit for instituting the formal celebration of Memorial Day, the graves of soldiers killed in the War Between the States had been decorated with flowers before 1868, especially in the South. The women of Columbus, Mississippi, laid flowers on the graves of both Confederate and Union dead in 1863. On April 26, 1863, Mrs. Sue Landaon Vaughn, a descendant of John Adams, the second President, led some women to the cemetery in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and decorated the soldiers' graves there. In May of the same year the women of Winchester, Virginia, formed the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Association and on June 6th they went to the Confederate Cemetery in Winchester, the first cemetery laid out especially for the soldier dead in the South, and decorated the graves with flowers.

The people of Petersburg, Virginia, where the graves in the Confederate cemetery are decorated on June 9th, claim that the establishment of Memorial Day in the North resulted from a visit of General Logan to that city in 1865 to look over the fortifications raised for its defense. He and his wife, while passing the Blandford Cemetery on June 9th, saw some ladies decorating the graves of the Washington Artillery in the square south of the Blandford Church. General Logan thought he might be intruding, but the ladies, members of a Confederate Memorial Association, welcomed him and explained what they were doing and why. Since General Logan was commander-in-chief of the G.A.R. when the order was issued 70 years ago that the Grand Army posts should decorate the graves of the soldier dead on May 30, the people of Petersburg think it reasonable to assume that he was influenced by what he had seen in their city.

Memorial Day did not become a legal holiday in any of the States until 1783 when the veterans in New York succeeded in persuading the legislature to pass an act designating "the thirtieth of May, known as Decoration Day," as one of the "public holidays for all purposes whatsoever as regards the transaction of business in the public offices of the State," or counties of the State, and "in acceptance and payment of bills of exchange, bank checks and promissory notes." Rhode Island followed suit in 1874. Then came Vermont in 1876, New Hampshire in 1877, Wisconsin in 1879, and Massachusetts and Ohio in 1881. Today it is a legal holiday in 40 states and all territories and possessions.

In the course of time the Army and Navy adopted regulations for the observance of Memorial Day. Article 516 of the Army Regulations gives specific instructions for the display of the national flag at half mast on May 30th, the firing of a national salute of 21 guns and the playing of a dirge by the band. Naval regulations provide for a suspension of all drills and exercises on May 30th and the firing at noon of a 21-gun salute by all ships in commission and at all naval stations during which the ensign is to be at half mast. Since it is not possible to decorate the graves of men who died in battle at sea, it has become the custom to construct little ships of flowers which are set afloat on the water at the chief ports of the country in order that the tide may carry them out to the great waters.

Until about 20 years ago Memorial Day celebrations in the North were devoted to oratorical glorification of the victory of the Northern armies. But in recent years there has been a mellowing of sentiment and the note of triumph has disappeared from Memorial Day oratory. Since the day was originally set apart to decorate the graves of soldiers with flowers, it became

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# THE JEWISH VETERAN

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### Who Won the War?

Who won the World War? The Allies, of course! Didn't Germany admit defeat? Didn't she sign an armistice on November 11, 1918, and didn't she sign a peace treaty in 1919 that conceded the triumph of the Allies? That's what the history books have been saying for the last twenty years, and they're right, as far as they go. But right now they don't go far enough. For on March 12, 1938, twenty years after the end of the war that was supposed to end all wars and make the world safe for democracy, a one-time housepainter with a trick mustache and a rare gift for gab and demagogery, who fought in the German army that got licked, succeeded in doing without firing a shot what Hindenburg, Ludendorff and the Kaiser failed to do. He confounded military history by winning the war twenty years after Germany was supposed to have lost it.

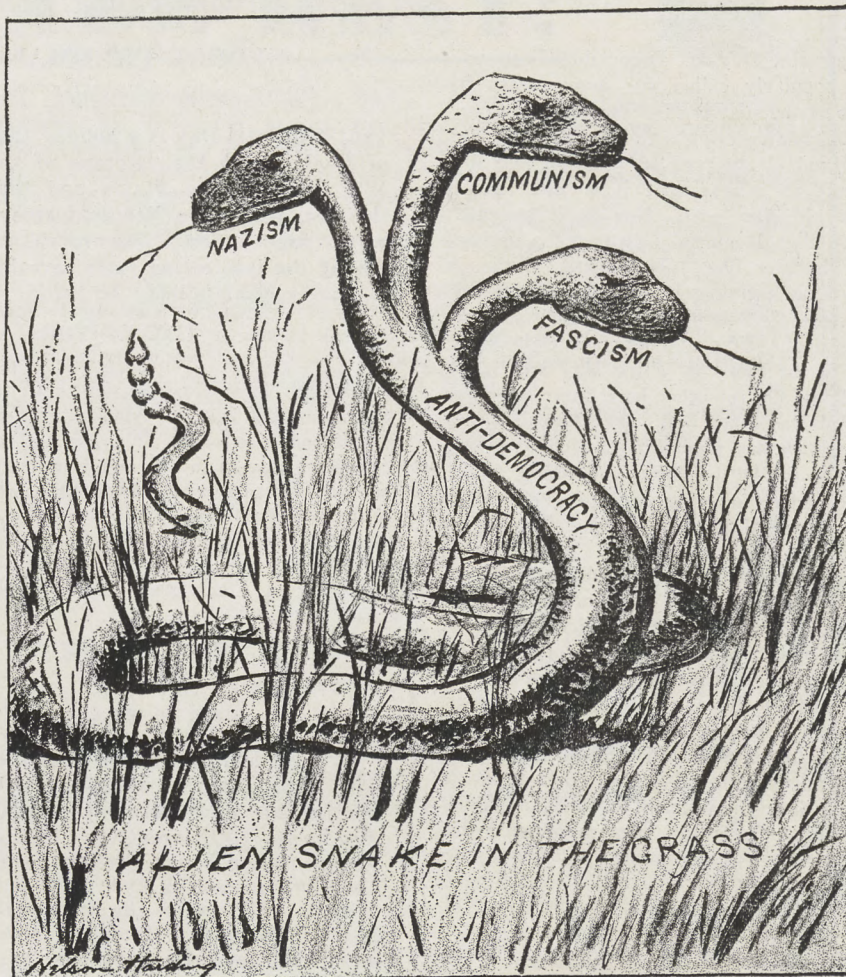
Yes, when Hitler marched his goose-stepping, swastika-waving, heiling Nazi legions into Austria and announced that that former free and independent republic was no more he overruled history and reversed the bloody verdict of 1914-18. Without firing one shot the vanquished of 1918 have become the victors in 1938 while the one-time conquerors look on with amazement and no little fear. Had some Rip van Winkle gone to sleep in the summer of 1914, when the Kaiser unloosed his military hordes to precipitate the World War, and awakened again in the spring of 1938, he would find the political situation abroad almost the same and would hardly know that a great war had been fought or who won it.

The Kaiser is gone but in his place is Hitler with the same old German dream of world dominion. The only difference is that the Kaiser sought to realize it by force of arms and failed, while Hitler is employing propaganda backed up by military might and seems to be making progress. Now, as then, Germany's military power and lust for world control menace world peace. Now, as then, Germany invades peaceful countries that block her road to conquest. In 1914 it was Belgium. Today it is Austria.

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## Three Heads, One Body

By  
Nelson Harding



From N.Y. Journal-American

### Entente Cordiale

"... The Jewish War Veterans are part of the general Jewish cooperative front to combat anti-Semitism. . . . (It) represents today a worthwhile instrument for dealing with some of the manifestations of anti-Semitism. This has been demonstrated in recent days in connection with the activities of the German-American Bund. . . . The general program of cooperation has recognized the value of the Jewish War Veterans, both with respect to the work which they are actually doing, as well as their potentialities in carrying out some of the programs of the Committee on Cooperation. . . ."

These quotations are not taken from a speech by a spokesman for J.W.V. or from literature issued by J.W.V. They are from a letter written by Louis Fabricant, B'nai Brith's representative on the Committee on Cooperation, to Alfred M. Cohen, B'nai Brith president. In this letter Mr. Fabricant said that as a result of his intimate contact with Commander-in-Chief Schaffer, who represents J. W. V. on the Committee on Cooperation (other groups represented are the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress), he learned of the difficulties encountered in many com-

munities where B'nai Brith lodges had prevented the establishment of new J.W.V. posts. Satisfied that the lodges were acting unjustly, Mr. Fabricant suggested that B'nai Brith headquarters advise their regional and local officials that such opposition was contrary to B'nai Brith policy.

In response to Mr. Fabricant's suggestion, Maurice Bisgyer, executive secretary of B'nai Brith, wrote to presidents of all B'nai Brith districts that opposition by B'nai Brith lodges to the formation of J.W.V. posts in their communities "is in contravention of B'nai Brith's established policy of non-interference with other organizations. Such action as is complained of should be avoided, leaving the members free to act on their individual account as they see fit. In many ways the Jewish War Veterans have cooperated with B'nai Brith and other Jewish bodies in efforts put forth to serve Jewry as a whole. B'nai Brith has been gratified to receive such cooperation and requests the presidents of the districts to notify their lodges with reference to the above stated policy." This letter was by order of President Cohen.

This establishment of an entente cordiale between J.W.V. and B'nai Brith should prove mutually beneficial.

# A CHALLENGE TO THE LIVING

## *What Memorial Day Should Mean To Us*

By GENERAL FRANK T. HINES

*Administrator of U. S. Veterans Administration*

**Memorial Day as national occasion for rededication to good citizenship, loyalty and the preservation of our heritage of freedom and democracy are discussed in this inspirational essay by our good friend and the good friend of all veterans, General Hines.**

### THE EDITOR.

At this time each year it is our privilege to pay tribute of remembrance to the men and women who through the years of the Nation's life have given their lives in the defense of their country.

As we offer this tribute today to the dead let us hope that it will serve also as a plea and a challenge to the living to strive unceasingly to avoid war; to so order our thinking and doing that finally we may achieve complete abandonment of the ways that lead to war, while maintaining to the fullest our honor, integrity and prestige as a free nation.

So would we best keep full faith with the dead and demonstrate at last that their sacrifice was not in vain.

But such a national spirit with a definite will toward peace cannot be expected to occur spontaneously. It must be planned for and worked for with energy and intelligence.

To those who have served in war, memory alone should suffice to keep before them the lessons of war, but for those of us who are prone to forget too quickly and for the coming generations to whom the great war will be but hearsay and history, there must be constant admonitions and reminders of the horrors of war, and determined efforts to develop a national spirit of good citizenship and unity devoted to the maintenance of peace at home and in our relations with other countries.

The United States has become a great nation since its citizen soldiers first fought for its fundamental ideals. We have expanded commercially far beyond the expectations of the founders of our nation. As a people we have been blessed with great opportunities.

We have ever defended our ideals of true democracy and in such defense our soldiers have carried the flag beyond our borders, but they have never fought for the purpose of acquiring additional territory, but only in the maintenance of the high principles of good citizenship and good government. Their record has never been marred by their conduct in war or by their terms in peace.

Traditionally a peace-loving race, the Jewish people in America have never hesitated to identify themselves with the militant citizenry of the United States whenever the need has arisen for military action, and an increasing number of Jews have participated in each war in which we have been engaged. Their patriotism has endured and increased throughout the years. They have proven themselves good soldiers and good citizens.

Many of the problems that confront us today existed in the early days of the nation but since then there were fewer people, there was less clashing of opinion on the fundamentals of good government and the problems that arose were more easily and quickly solved.

It is only natural that these same problems augmented in volume and complexity should exist today and should be more difficult of solution. It is equally true that we have today as in those far off days, a constant need for the manifestation of good citizenship, patriotism and sincere love of country.

These attributes actively employed should serve to resolve many differing elements and will go far to cure whatever is sanable through purposeful and unified effort.

The ideal basis from which such achievement might spring is national unity upon the definite essentials that constitute good citizenship. Because of the great diversity of the types of peoples who have availed themselves of the opportunities in the United States and who form a large part of its population, such unity of thought would be most difficult of attainment but it is well worth working for and the beginning of its accomplishment lies in the school room.

Unless young America is taught there the fundamental ideals of good citizenship as well as of good character, it is inevitable that the diversities of opinion and viewpoint will increase instead of diminish.

It is of the utmost importance therefore that the teachers themselves, into whose hands are entrusted the future generations of America, believe in and teach the ideals and standards of character and citizenship which we desire.

I sometimes wonder if we are paying sufficient attention to those who are teaching young America and to what they are teaching. Are they properly trained for the job and the responsibility that is given them; are they adequately remunerated for their services?

We have many excellent institutions of learning, many instructors and teachers of the highest ideals but there is no uniformity of standards throughout the nation and events frequently demonstrate that in some parts of the country the standards are not all that they should be.

We have within our borders too many who have not subscribed to our citizenship and who, not in accord with the fundamental principles of good government, abuse the freedom and liberty granted them here.

Indifferent to the general welfare of the country, such individuals and groups advocate policies inimical to the interests of the country and which, if adopted, would redound to their own hurt as well as to that of the nation.

This is a situation to which we should give serious consideration. The least we should expect and exact in return for the opportunities furnished within our borders should be an unflinching pledge of loyalty and service to the country, state, and community, as well as proper respect for our laws and the order of society.

Unless we can obtain this allegiance and maintain it, I cannot believe that our future will be as successful and fruitful as our past.

The patriotism, loyalty and love of country that undoubtedly inspired those who have served their country, are the very foundations of good citizenship and such service should be considered not only an opportunity but a privilege and should be given freely without expectation of reward.

America has not expected such reward, but the nation from the beginning has a most creditable record of generous care and treatment for those who have served.

This, of course, is the nation's obligation to the veteran but the veteran's obligations as a citizen are enhanced rather than diminished as the result of such service. It is only natural that those who have served in time of war should take the leading part thereafter in their several communities in advocating and working for those ideals of good citizenship that make for a stronger and better nation and for the maintenance of peace.

The nation naturally looks to her veterans to recognize and accept this responsibility and strive unceasingly for its accomplishment.

Our efforts toward an adequate national defense are directed toward this objective. Respect for and responsibility for our own rights, our own citizens, and our own flag—while conceding the same respect to the citizens and flags of other nations—is the most effective assurance of peace and tranquility.

As our thoughts turn once more in memory to our honored dead I pray God that we may never again have need to draw the sword, but if such time should come, I pray that it may find our country adequately prepared, that there may be the least possible sacrifice of human life and effort.

## Lt. Col. Ricklin Will Lead African Regiment

Lieutenant-Colonel Ricklin, a Jewish officer in the French army, has been named commander of the 1st Regiment of African Chasseurs and assigned to Rabat, Morocco.