

THE
Jewish Veteran

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

∴ OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER ∴



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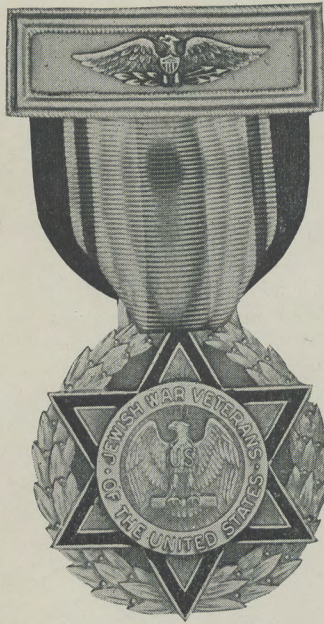
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ISADOR S. WORTH

OCTOBER



1938



PAST COMMANDER MEDALLIONS

Post elections are drawing near. Now is the time to make your selection of a medallion for your outgoing commander. You can have a selection of four different kinds.

- Heavy Gold Filled with blue and white enameled Star of David and dark background 7.50
- Heavy Gold Filled (no enamel) 5.00
- Light Gold Filled with dark blue Star of David.. 4.00
- Light Gold Plate (no enamel) 3.00

PAST COMMANDER OR MEMBERSHIP RINGS

Designed with care by skilled craftsmen, you can now purchase a beautiful gift for your past commander.

- 14 k. Gold, rose finish 22.00
- 10 k. Gold, rose finish 18.00
- Sterling Silver, gold emblem 10.50



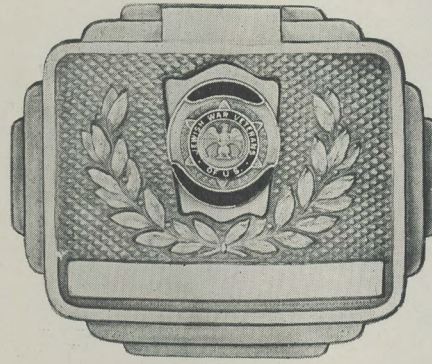
J.W.V. KEY RING

Silver or Gold Plate with Enameled Insignia. Plain back so that identification can be engraved \$1.25

UNIFORMS

Complete, made to measure 26.50

All Merchandise will be shipped C.O.D. unless Orders are accompanied by Check or Money Order.



BEAUTIFUL BELT BUCKLE

Heavy gold plate, can be used for uniform or civilian outfit\$3.25

UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

- Cap Ornaments (Pershing Cap), each 1.00
- Lapel Bars, JWV Cut-outs, per pair75
- Buttons for Uniforms—Small (6 in set) 1.75
- Large (4 in set) 1.00
- Shoulder emblem 4" in olive drab or blue, each..... 2.50
- Sam Browne Belts—Unlined 3.00
- Sam Browne Belts—Semi-lined01
- Due Cards, each01

OVERSEAS CAPS

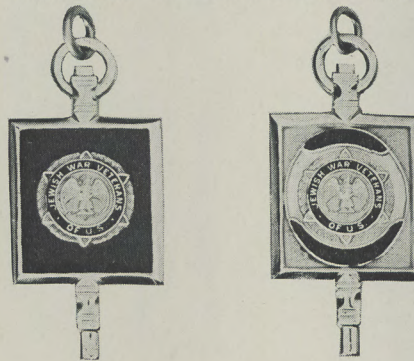
- 12 letters embroidered free with each cap, quantities
 - 1 to 25, each 2.30
 - 25 to 50, each 2.15
 - 50 or over, each 2.00
- Note: All caps requiring more than 12 letters, 5c for each additional letter.

LAPEL MEMBERSHIP BUTTONS

- 1 to 12, each20
- 12 to 50, each15
- Over 50, each 12½
- Gold Plated35
- Gold Filled, Burnished or Rose Finish, each75

COLORS

- American Flag and Post Standard (fully equipped) complete125.00
- J.W.V. Altar Cloth3.50 up



KEYS OR CHARMS

This item has several purposes. Can be used as a watch charm, can also be used as a presentation to schools for essays and as gifts to members for outstanding work in your post. If so desired, it can be made up for Past Commanders.

- 14 k. Gold\$12.00
- 10 k. Gold 10.00
- Gold Filled 4.00
- Sterling Silver 4.00
- Gold Filled, Plain 2.00
- Gold Filled, Enamel 3.00

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT J. W. V.

276 FIFTH AVENUE

BEN V. LEVIN, National Supply Officer

NEW YORK CITY

America Was Discovered on Succoth.....□

□.....Some Jewish Sidelights on Christopher Columbus

By BERNARD POSTAL

Columbus Day this year is also the third day of Succoth, the Feast of Tabernacles, which in Jewish history commemorates God's guidance of the children of Israel during their 40 years journeying through the wilderness from the slavery of Egypt to the freedom of Canaan. By a strange coincidence, Succoth is also associated in Jewish history with another great pilgrimage—the migration of millions of Jews from the oppressive lands of the Old World to the tolerance and liberty of America which was discovered by Christopher Columbus on Hoshana Rabba, the seventh day of Succoth.

If you will examine a Jewish calendar you will find that between Tisha b'Ab (the ninth day of Ab) and Hoshana Rabba is exactly 71 days. Then go to your encyclopedia and you will discover that Columbus set sail on his epochal voyage on August 3d. From August 3d to October 12th is exactly 70 days. In 1492 Tisha b'Ab fell on August 2d. Thus if Columbus left Spain on the tenth of Ab (August 3d) and reached the New World 70 days later he arrived on the 21st day of Tishri, which is the seventh day of Succoth.

The day before Columbus sailed from Palos in search of the Indies, the Jews of Spain went into exile. It was the intrepid explorer himself who linked those two events when he wrote in his journal on August 3d that "on the day Their Majesties ordered the Jews to leave their lands, on the same day they provided the means for me to set out on my search of new lands." The fact that Columbus coupled these two happenings—one marking the end of the history of the Jews in Spain, and the other signalling the beginning of Jewish history in America—has been cited as proof that he was himself a Jew, or at least a Maranno, a converted Jew who outwardly professed Christianity but who inwardly clung steadfastly to his ancient faith.

But this is far from being the only piece of evidence that the discoverer of America may have been a Jew of Spanish origin. As a matter of fact there is a vast literature on this intriguing subject which has been heatedly debated by historians since 1898 when Don Celos de la Riega, a Spanish statesman, started the Geographical Society of Madrid by announcing he had found material proving that Columbus was born in Pontreveda, Spain, in 1437, of Jewish parents and that his real name was Cristobal Colon. De la Riega's thesis is based on a vast accumulation of documentary evidence uncovered in the archives of Spain.

In support of this thesis, the following facts have been marshalled: most of Columbus' writings were in Spanish and on the rare occasions when he employed Italian his letters were clumsy and ungrammatical efforts; all the names he gave to the places he discovered on his first two voyages were

Was Columbus a Jew? Was he secretly a Maranno? Were there Jews who helped Columbus? How many Jews were in his crew? For the answers read this timely and fascinating article.

THE EDITOR.

the same as those in the Spanish province of Galicia where he was born; his father, Domenico de Colon, a map-maker, came of a prominent Spanish-Jewish family of that name, many of whose members were burned at the stake for openly professing Judaism; when asked where his father was really born, Columbus' son, Fernando, said it was a "secret," a secret which may have been the fact that he was a Jew and since Jews were suspected in Spain he preferred to identify himself as an Italian; it was Luis de Santangel, the Rothschild of the 15th century and a Maranno Jew from Pontreveda, who introduced Columbus to Queen Isabella and helped to provide the funds that made the voyage possible; the navigator was protected and befriended by Jews; he quoted the Old Testament, regarded himself as another King David and the advance agent of Jehovah; in his journal there are repeated references to Jews; some scholars claim to have discovered in photostatic copies of Columbus' letters to his son cryptic symbols in the signature which are Hebrew prayers in code employing an original form of the Star of David.

Equally interesting is the fact that part of the scientific basis for Columbus' exploration was laid at the famous naval academy at Sagres, founded by Prince Henry of Portugal and headed by Jehuda Cresques, the most famous map-maker of the 14th and 15th centuries. "Jacob's Staff," a sea quadrant devised by Levi ben Gerson and applied to navigation by Abraham Zacuto, was the first device for observing the stars. Columbus found Zacuto's perpetual almanac and astronomical tables invaluable on his voyage across the uncharted Atlantic. It was Joseph Vechino, royal physician at the court of Portugal, who provided Columbus with copies of Zacuto's tables. Vechino, together with Abraham Ibn Ezra, Jacob ben Meier and Jacob Carsoni, all Jews, had helped develop the astrolabe, an instrument for measuring the distance of a ship from the equator by means of the position of the sun. This device, too, proved immensely helpful to Columbus. There is also evidence that the funds obtained from the sale of property taken from the Jews sent into exile were used to finance Columbus' voyage.

Whether or not the new-found evidence of Columbus' purported Jewishness is accepted, there is no question that many Jews accompanied him on his voyage of discovery. How many Jews sailed on the Pinta, Nina and Santa Maria is not known, since only a handful of names have been handed

down. It is a fact, however, that when preparations were being rushed for the expedition thousands of Jews were languishing in Spanish jails for the crime of "Judaizing." Since it is admitted that the greater portion of the crews of Columbus' ships were recruited from the jail population because Ferdinand and Isabella offered a pardon to all prisoners who signed up for the voyage, it may well be that a majority of the crew were Marannos.

We do know, of course, that Luis de Torres was the official translator of the expedition; that Rodrigo Sanches was on the Santa Maria; that one Marco was the surgeon of the little fleet; and that Bernal, who had escaped from the Inquisition at Valencia in 1490, was ship's doctor. Another known Jew with Columbus was Alfonso de Calle.

Seventy days after the fleet left Palos harbor, land was sighted. The agreed signal of "land ho" was the booming of a cannon and the sailor who first saw land had been promised a liberal pension by Queen Isabella. Rodrigo de Triana, who first sighted the New World, was so angry when Columbus himself claimed the prize, that "he took his leave, went to Africa and there changed from Christianity to his former creed." In other words the man who first laid eyes on the New World was either a Moor or a Jew. When Columbus and his crew landed, he selected Luis de Torres as one of the two men to explore the hinterland of what the discoverer felt sure was the Orient, the land of the Khan and splendid palaces, gold and jewels. Torres, Columbus wrote in his diary, "had been a Jew, knowing Hebrew, Chaldee and even some Arabic." Although Torres had been baptized on the eve of the voyage, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that when he looked at the high cheek bones of the natives and observed some of their familiar ceremonies, he at least tried to say "Shalom" (peace) to them, for contemporary writers were convinced that the Indians were a lost remnant of the Jews.

Schaffer on West Coast

Harry Schaffer, P. C. I. C., our Field Secretary, started on his job immediately following our encampment. His itinerary called for stops at Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, San Francisco and Los Angeles, California, where he attended the American Legion Convention. He intends to organize posts in the Northwest, and to aid existing posts to build their membership. There are many outstanding men on the West Coast eligible to J. W. V. who we need in our organization. We wish our Field Secretary and Mrs. Schaffer success on their trip.

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Our New National Commander

A sure sign that an organization is lacking in vitality, is the difficulty it experiences in enlisting able men to accept leadership and responsibility. No man, no matter how ambitious, cares to assume leadership in an organization that is moribund.

All of which leads us to the spirited contest for the office of National Commander at the Detroit encampment. If that contest is any criterion, J. W. V. is very much alive and kicking. For the first time in J. W. V. history, three comrades sought the highest office, and for the first time more than one ballot was needed to decide the victor. And the victor was decided by the narrowest of margins.

In every contest there must be a loser and a winner. It is unfortunate that the three candidates, all good men, Maxwell Cohen, Edgar Burman and Isador Worth, could not be winners. The losers put up a valiant battle.

The election is now behind us. We have a new National Commander who is entitled to the undivided support of every comrade regardless of who that comrade supported in Detroit. Our task lies before us—in combatting our common enemies, in promoting Americanism and advancing J. W. V. In these important responsibilities, there can be no division of action or loyalty.

In our new National Commander, Isador S. Worth, we have a leader, who while comparatively young in J. W. V., has already proved his mettle. As an organizer, as an executive, as a speaker, as a veteran and as a Jew, he combines the qualifications required to make a successful national commander. Let us pledge him our earnest support. To him we say, good luck, God-speed, and a happy and successful year in J. W. V.

KEEP COOL!

When you read this, either Europe will be in the throes of war, or England and France will have capitulated to the bully Hitler. In either event it behooves ex-soldiers to remain calm. In case of war, our experience will be invaluable and our

Miami-Bound

The comrades who attended the 1935 national encampment at Saratoga will no doubt remember the vigorous opposition that was raised against the proposal to award the 1936 convention to Pittsburgh. The objection was made that Pittsburgh was too far away, that few of the comrades would attend, that we had too few posts in the Middle West to justify meeting in Pittsburgh, that the convention would be a "flop." All of those objections were met, answered and rejected and the 1936 encampment was held in Pittsburgh.

That encampment made J. W. V. history. Not only was it the first national convention held away from the Eastern seaboard, but it was, up to then, the best attended and most productive. For the first time there were delegations present from the Pacific Coast, the South and the Middle West. The Pittsburgh convention dissipated the notion that J. W. V. was an Eastern organization. Similar objections were advanced last year at Asbury Park when Detroit asked for the encampment. By that time, however, the objectors were in a minority. Pittsburgh had taught them a constructive lesson. Still, there were some timid comrades who warned that going to Detroit would be a mistake.

Well, we went to Detroit! And if it was a mistake then J. W. V. will profit by more of such mistakes. The registration was the biggest in J. W. V. history. More posts than ever before sent delegations. Public interest in the convention reached new intensity. In short the Detroit convention was "tops" in J. W. V. convention history. That Detroit committee did a magnificent job. Sam Leve, general chairman; Otto Silver, the maestro of our finest and most impressive parade; Robert Rosen, M.D., of the housing committee; Perry Burnstine, M.D., chief of publicity; Joseph Jones, chairman of the Entertainment Committee; Phil Cantor, secretary of the convention corporation; and every other member of the convention committee set a record for perfect organization and the execution of promises. Maybe we're a little deaf but we didn't hear a single squawk from any delegate. The Detroit convention was a grand success.

Having seen what Detroit accomplished, the encampment voted the 1939 convention to Miami. Other cities bid for it spiritedly but Miami had too much on the ball. Those Florida boys certainly put on a show. They won the convention and they deserved it. It's still a long way off to the 1939 convention but it's not too soon to begin thinking of it and working toward it. The Miami boys are already hard at it. They mean business and they have plans for making the 1939 encampment the biggest thing in J. W. V. history. So from now on let us sing, "We're Miami-bound." You'll hear plenty about Miami during the next 12 months.

example important. In case of capitulation it behooves us to demand greater national defense to safeguard our shores, and laws to protect our democracy from alien invaders. J. W. V. is bound to play an important part in the history of the next few years. We can best do so by keeping cool.

J.W.V. Grows South

No, that headline is not a typographical error. We didn't mean to say "J. W. V. Goes South." We said "J. W. V. Grows South," for that ought to be our slogan for the coming year. J. W. V. is of course no stranger to the South. The Washington Post is one of the oldest and most influential in the organization. Atlanta Post has been with us for many years. And in the last year or two we have established new units in Baltimore, Norfolk, Richmond, Miami and Louisville. But much more remains to be done below the Mason-Dixon.

The entire state of Texas, which ought to have at least five J. W. V. Posts, remains to be organized. A wide field of activity also beckons in Florida where the up and coming Miami Post expects to organize units in Tampa, Jacksonville, Palm Beach and possibly Tallahassee. North and South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi should also come into the J. W. V. fold this year.

It's a big job but a necessary one. Much of the responsibility for carrying it out will fall on the existing posts in the South and upon Harry Wengrow, regional vice-commander. We know they can do it. They have the incentive that comes with the knowledge that the 1939 encampment is to be held in Miami in 1939, the first time a J. W. V. convention has been awarded to a city in the South.

J. W. V.'s experience in recent years has been that its greatest growth is enjoyed in the territory in and around the last convention city. It was true in 1936 when we met in Pittsburgh. It is true this year when we met in Detroit. And it will be true next year when we assemble in Miami. J. W. V. has grown East, West and North. This year we will grow South. That's our slogan for 1939.

BOOK-CADILLAC HOTEL

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

September 15, 1938

Dear Doctor Rosen:

On behalf of our management, I am very pleased to take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation for the privilege accorded us in serving the Jewish War Veterans of the United States upon the occasion of their Forty-third National Encampment in Detroit, September 2nd to 5th, inclusive, 1938.

The splendid manner in which the encampment was conducted, and the considerate behaviour and cooperation of the delegates in attendance, was particularly gratifying to us. Consequently, it will always afford us real pleasure to invite members of your fine organization, individually and collectively, to avail themselves of our facilities whenever we may be in a position to serve them.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially at your service,

L. E. AMES

Director of Sales
and Advertising