

THE  
*Jewish Veteran*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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and Heroism*

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**EDITORIAL**

NOVEMBER



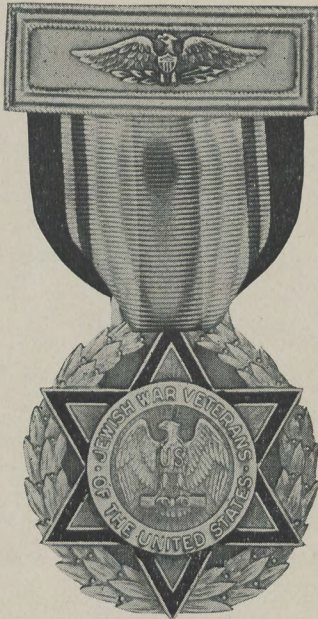
1938

Dear Comrades:

ARMISTICE DAY is upon us. Are you prepared to properly observe it? Do you have your colors, uniforms and caps? When J.W.V. takes part in a joint parade or celebration, our comrades should be truly representative. The first impression is generally lasting. Dress up and leave a good "first impression." But above all, pay your respects to our departed comrades on November 11th.

INSTALLATIONS will soon be here. That's one time of the year when every post likes to be at its best. You invite other veteran organizations and the public. You want to show them you are a real military veteran's organization. NOW is the time to get your equipment. Don't wait until the last minute to order your caps and uniforms. And don't be embarrassed when the Past Commander steps down from his post and you don't have a Past Commander's Medallion to present him with. Put your order in immediately.

ATTENTION: Our National Commander has instructed that Americanism should be our chief objective. The Flag Manual prohibits the use of American Flags for Altar cloths. It is mis-use if not desecration of our beloved flag. Please discontinue the practice immediately. Use instead a beautiful J.W.V. altar cloth. They are ONLY \$3.50 each without your post name, and \$4.50 with your post name.



**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



**UNIFORMS**

- Complete, made to measure ..... 26.50

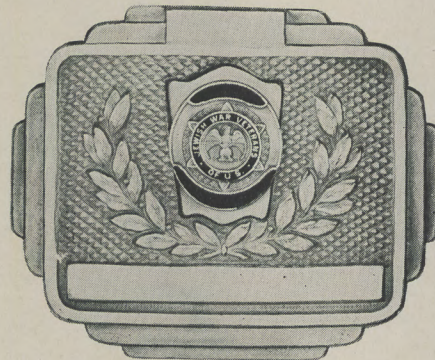
**OVERSEAS CAPS**

- 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.

**COLORS**

- American Flag and Post Standard (fully equipped) complete .....125.00
- J.W.V. Altar Cloth .....3.50 up

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

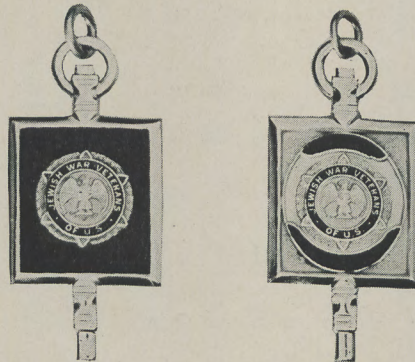


**BEAUTIFUL BELT BUCKLE**

- 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 pair ..... .75
- Buttons for Uniforms—Small (6 in set) Large (4 in set) ..... 1.75
- Shoulder emblem 4" in olive drab or blue, each..... 1.00
- Sam Browne Belts—Unlined ..... 2.50
- Sam Browne Belts—Semi-lined ..... 3.00
- Due Cards, each ..... .01



**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

# The First Jewish Regiment

*A Russian Prince's Scheme*

By GEORGE SOLOVEYCHIK

I SHOULD think that even the most scholarly among the Zionists know the following curious facts: the idea of transplanting the Jews back to Palestine was evolved more than a hundred years before the Viennese journalist, Theodor Herzl, founded the modern Zionist movement, by a great Russian statesman, pro-consul and general, Prince Grigory Alexandrovitch Potemkin (1739-1791), secret husband of the Empress Catherine. It was while writing the biography of this extraordinary man, whose versatile gifts were only equalled by his eccentricities, that I came upon many hitherto unknown or completely forgotten episodes of Russian, and indeed, international history. The curious story I am about to relate is of particularly topical interest.

Potemkin, like so many Russians, combined hopeless physical immorality with profound religious devotion. Unlike his contemporaries, he was not intolerant, but was, on the contrary, most friendly toward all forms of religion and especially towards the Roman Catholic Church and Judaism. He also had a special interest in, and affection for, all the Oriental and alien peoples inhabiting Russia, and was determined to use them for the colonization and defense of Catherine's vast empire, organizing them in separate formations according to their race and nationality.

The most astonishing effort in that direction was the creation first, of a Jewish battalion and, later of a whole Jewish regiment. Potemkin conceived the idea that some day—when, in accordance with his most ardent desire, the Ottoman Empire would at last be destroyed and the Turks expelled from Europe, with Constantinople and the Straits firmly in Russia's possession—Jerusalem should not be allowed to remain in the hands of the "infidels."

Opportunately, then, he could remove all the Jews, whom he thought to be in many ways a source of trouble and a nuisance, back to the Holy Land, to which, in his opinion, they were fully entitled. He had no doubt that back in their own country they would become completely regenerated, but he also thought that they would have to do a great deal of fighting against the "infidels" before they could firmly establish themselves and prosper. He therefore decided to begin their military training at once, and as a nucleus of this future Jewish army he formed an initial squadron which was placed under the honorary colonelcy of Duke Ferdinand of Brunswick and called "Israelovsky," a name closely resembling in sound that of the famous "Ismailovsky" Horse Guards.

Armed with huge lances of the Cossack type, but still wearing their own traditional costume, with their long beards and ringlets of hair flying in the wind, these Russian Jews presented an unbelievable sight, espe-

*Most of us are of the opinion that all-Jewish regiments are of recent vintage, but here is a story that reveals they originated with a Russian prince in the 18th century, who wanted to train Jews to fight the Turks in Palestine. This article is particularly timely in view of efforts to organize Jewish self-defense in Palestine today.*

THE EDITOR

cially when ordered to charge an imaginary enemy at breath-taking speed. But little by little Potemkin's drill sergeants managed to shape this picturesque and almost comic military unit into something more presentable and to infuse such courage, enthusiasm and military skill into the bewildered sons of Israel, who had at first manifested nothing but apprehension and fear of the Cossack chargers on which they were mounted.

It is a fact that in 1794 the Jews in Poland themselves applied for permission to form a cavalry regiment, and that its extremely active commander, the Jewish Col-

onel Berkovitz, covered himself with glory, even getting the Legion of Honor for his bravery when in later years he joined Napoleon's army. He lost his life fighting the Austrians in 1809. But the original idea of starting Jewish military service formations belongs to Prince Potemkin.

In his arguments in favor of such an unprecedented action he can be said to have been the precursor both of the Zionist movement and of Lord Balfour, who was also anxious to enable the Jews to return to the Holy Land. It is indeed remarkable that Potemkin visualized the return of Palestine to the Jews and that his reasons for it were partly practical and partly idealistic. But perhaps even more striking is the fact that, unlike Balfour and the other sponsors of the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate award to Great Britain, he foresaw local resistance and decided upon effective preliminary steps to enable the Jews to defend themselves against the "infidels." Thus Potemkin was the father of the first Jewish regiment in modern times.

## Why I Joined the Jewish War Veterans

By RABBI JULIUS A. LEIBERT, Adams-Wilshire Post No. 189

Several years ago, when the formation of Jewish War Veterans' Posts came up locally for discussion, I was emphatically not in favor of it. I viewed it with the same misgivings that I still view Jewish Masonic Lodges, Jewish Boy Scout Troops, Jewish Golf Clubs, Jewish Professional Men's Clubs, Jewish sororities and fraternities, and certain Jewish Charities. Inasmuch as these are expressions either of tacit acceptances of prejudice—a most dangerous state of mind in a democracy—or of self-exclusions—they are decidedly potential mischief breeders. And I for one could never bring myself to the point of endorsing their programs.

Today, however, I am frank and glad to state that I am unequivocally in favor of Jewish War Veterans' Posts. I am still convinced that it is neither wise nor politic to stand apart from our fellow Americans except in matters where the dividing line is clearly and characteristically Jewish.

But I am now just as fully convinced that the formation of Jewish Veterans' groups comes squarely under the exception I have just indicated.

We are not excluded from the American Legion. Nor are we seeking to exclude ourselves. On the contrary, we urge every Jewish ex-service man to affiliate with a Legion Post.

But as Jewish Veterans we have a special piece of work to do. It is a most needed piece of work and a piece of work that no other Jewish organization could do.

Daily our professional enemies charge

us with lack of patriotic zeal, with harboring communistic sympathies, and with such other malicious tommyrot that appeals to the moron fringe.

Really it is lucky we won the war, else the unscrupulous Nazi would easily have fabricated a "stab-in-the-back" and laid it at our door . . .

To refute, by voice or the printed page, these slanderous charges is worse than futile. And equally uneffective is the citing of figures. For after all, we are not dealing with intelligent and impartial minds.

But there is one thing that not even the moron or the professional Anti-Semitic may ignore. And that is a visible, tangible and vocal entity, that daily bears eloquent witness to its living existence.

A living, functioning body of Jewish Legionnaires, whose members mount into the hundreds of thousands is the most effective refutation of all the canards, libels, and drivel concocted against us.

Living and functioning Jewish Veterans' Posts, in every large center of Jewish population, could not help but act as a check on the irresponsible tongues of the professional hatred-mongers.

A parade, in force, of Jewish Veterans through the streets of a city is both a warning to and an unmasking of the haters-for-hire.

And for these reasons I feel it my duty, as American and Jew, to extend the hand of comradeship to my fellow Jewish War Veterans and unite with them in the cause of truth and democracy.

## THE JEWISH VETERAN

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### Twenty Years After

When we think of the riots in Palestine, the inhuman deportation of thousands of Jews from Germany to Poland, the betrayal of Czecho-slovakia and the rape of Austria, the Spanish, and Sino-Japanese wars, Armistice makes a sort-of-hollow sound. Twenty years after, it definitely appears that the victors of the World War lost the war and that the vanquished are today the real victors:

Instead of democracy prevailing, that popular type of government seems in the descendant. Instead of even our own country being "safe," we have been invaded by foreign spies and all types of alien propaganda, seeking to fashion our system after the dictatorships which so arrogantly rule Europe today.

However, on this twentieth anniversary we should be thankful, in view of what has already happened in Europe, that the American people have finally awakened from their indifference and lethargy and are taking aggressive steps to preserve our democracy. First and foremost, of course, is our preparedness program—the building of a sufficiently large navy, army and air force to protect our thousands of miles of coast and frontier against any invasion.

Second is our internal protection—the development of industries in essentials which we now lack, the coordination of peacetime industries with our defense plans in time of conflict, the protection of our defense secrets from foreign spies with the development of our own adequate secret service, and the revival and arousing of the true spirit of Americanism with the appreciation of what democracy means and affords.

Armistice is the World War Veterans' holiday. Let us understand its meaning, and the message our departed comrades would want it to convey. For twenty years we have more or less rested on our laurels. "Their" torch has now been challenged. We DARE NOT stand idly by. Let us start NOW to fight to uphold the ideals for which America entered the war and for which we sacrificed so much to achieve.

44th National Encampment  
Miami, Florida

### FIGHT BACK

Ever since Hitler's advent, the J.W.V. have advocated a policy of "fight back" against our oppressors. Our first step was the Boycott. For many months we had to go it alone. Our attitude was rather novel in Jewish life. Others preferred to protest and turn the other cheek.

Since Czechoslovakia, however, it is beginning to dawn on our brethren that possibly they have been pursuing the wrong policy. Dr. Nathan Goldmann, chairman of the World Jewish Congress on his recent arrival from a study of conditions in eight European countries warned that anti-Semitism was spreading rapidly and violently in Europe and that "Jews have no other choice than to fight back." Several Jewish organizations have also assumed the same attitude.

It may not be too late yet to save Jewry—if they realize their plight, and are willing to forget their petty and often selfish differences—to unite all Jewish organizations on a common front and FIGHT BACK.

### The "Jewish Veteran"

The "Jewish Veteran" is our best medium of reaching not only our own comrades but the general public as well. Our main difficulty is that our message does not reach enough non-veterans. Monthly we receive several comments from non-Jews of interest in our endeavor and surprise at information gained from our issues. It is highly important in these times to reach more readers.

For this reason, we have been conducting a subscription campaign for the "Jewish Veteran." Our solicitors are visiting various cities, and where possible obtaining two subscriptions, one for the contributor, and one to be sent to a college, library, or other reading center.

To date our campaign has been successful. Not sufficiently so, as yet. We should like to procure an additional 10,000 non-veteran subscribers. Such added circulation will permit of us procuring national advertisements, and thus make the "Jewish Veteran" self-sustaining.

Unfortunately, comrades in some cities not understanding the importance of this campaign, have either not cooperated with the solicitors, or for local reasons, not permitted them to solicit at all. Strangely enough, in these same towns we have found several other private magazines, without organization backing, getting subscriptions, often with the aid of J.W.V. comrades. J.W.V. is today the outstanding organization combatting Communism, Fascism and Nazism, and J.W.V. and the "J.V." should receive your sincere support.

We have several times inserted notices that ANY comrade who would like to solicit subscriptions for the "Jewish Veteran," should write the Editor, and a worth-while proposition would be made. Unemployed comrades in this way could aid their finances and help our magazine.

We wish to repeat that this is YOUR magazine. Your contributions, suggestions and criticism are invited.

### J.W.V. ON THE JOB

Emergencies always bring out the best in us. And it is in emergencies that our training and discipline become valuable.

Many New England cities were terribly hit by the hurricane and flood which followed it last month. Providence, New London, Hartford, Fall River, and several other cities where we have posts suffered terrible damage. On the first radio appeal for aid by Morris Lurier, Department Commander of Massachusetts 60 comrades reported, and were assigned to night guard duty. Revere Post inaugurated the first relief station where the homeless received clothing, food and shelter. In Fall River, after our Ladies Auxiliary did yeoman work in conjunction with the Red Cross, two of our sisters were elected into their membership. In Hartford, Milton Richman, Department Commander, issued a radio call to all comrades in Connecticut to give every assistance possible, and the response was better than expected. In Providence, where the storm hit hardest, our comrades were among the first to volunteer for guard duty and with funds to aid the homeless and sufferers.

It is by your deeds that you shall be known, is a Biblical expression which holds true today. J.W.V. is proud of the work our New England comrades did in this crisis. We are sure it has also endeared them more in the hearts of their respective communities.

### WHAT THE OATH OF CITIZENSHIP MEANS

The following excerpt from the "Florida Deutsches Echo" is worthy of consideration by all Americans, especially naturalized citizens. President Roosevelt only recently said, "You and I are descendants of immigrants."

#### "TAKING THE OATH OF CITIZENSHIP

"When you take the oath of citizenship according to the democratic American concept, it is taken for granted that you are doing so after most careful consideration. By this act you have renounced all previous political connections and you are now an AMERICAN—nothing else.

This coveted honor does not require you to renounce as well your love to the Fatherland, together with its language, its music, its songs, its literature, its proven culture of centuries and all else that you have brought with you. On the contrary! Cherish these things for the good of America and American culture, and let your ideals be incorporated in ours.

But remember always—when you solemnly raised your right hand and swore allegiance to this country, you severed forever all political bonds to any other country.

The Star Spangled Banner is from now on your only Flag."

If there was more sincere observance of the oath of allegiance, and a better appreciation of what "Americanism" is, there would be no place here for alien "isms."

MIAMI—1939

THE JEWISH VETERAN