

# The Jewish Veteran

*Donated by Pau Block*

"Grant us peace, Thy most precious gift, oh, Thou eternal source of peace.

"Enable Israel to be a messenger of peace unto the peoples of this earth.

"Bless our country, that it may ever be a stronghold of peace in the council of the nations."



DECEMBER  
1 9 3 9

THANK GOD FOR PEACE

# THIS LITTLE GIRL WILL HAVE



# A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

*but*

Tuberculosis is still the greatest killer of youth . . . and takes *fifty per cent more girls* than boys between the ages of 15 and 25!

Two modern aids that help the physician detect tuberculosis in its earliest, *curable* stage are the tuberculin test and the chest X-ray.

Your purchases of Christmas Seals make it possible, not only to teach people that tuberculosis is preventable and curable, but to look for early stages of this dread disease among children who *seem to be* in good health.

So from now 'til Christmas, mail no letter—send no package—unless it is decorated with the Christmas symbol that saves lives!

# BUY



# CHRISTMAS SEALS

The National, State and Local Tuberculosis  
Associations in the United States

THE JEWISH VETERAN

# Message of the National Commander

Dear Comrades:

May I take this opportunity, in the midst of world strife, to wish all comrades and sisters a Happy Chanukah. Chanukah commemorates the triumph of the Jewish people, under the peerless leadership of the Maccabees, over the Syrian tyrant, Antiochus. Reflection on Chanukah brings us a message of courage—of salvation from the modern Hamans, Hitler and Stalin—of success for freedom of conscience and justice.

The numerous letters and clippings piling my desk from all parts of the country indicate that practically every single JWV post properly observed Armistice Day. As "the" veteran's holiday, this is as it should be. Nationally, I was privileged to lay a J. W. V. wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and to speak, with Congressman Charles A. Plumley of Vermont, over a coast-to-coast broadcast, through the courtesy of the Mutual Network.

It is heartening to note that the veterans' organizations are taking the lead in two vital movements: "To Keep America Neutral, and Out of the European War," and to "Promote Tolerance." The reason for this is tersely stated by Jeremiah Cross, retiring Americanism Chairman of the American Legion as: "The members of the American Legion, having served their country in time of war, now in time of peace enlist in this crusade for the preservation of justice, freedom, truth and democracy—and we have never lost a night."

The Catholic War Veterans have also started a campaign of increased activity against "all forms of class, religious and racial antagonisms."

Many J. W. V. posts are embarked on "Good-Will" programs. One of the most impressive, in which I was fortunately a participant was the presentation by Sandy Weisberger J. W. V. post, Scranton, Pa., of a flagpole

and flag to Marywood College (a Catholic girls' college), on November 10th. In accepting these gifts on behalf of the college, Bishop Hafey gave the 650 students



EDGAR H. BURMAN

an extra day's holiday in appreciation, and reminded them that their college was named after a Jewess—Mary. Bishop Hafey and myself spoke over a Pennsylvania radio network.

In this same spirit, the Queens County Council of Jewish War Veterans presented a set of colors to the Queens County Council of the Catholic War Veterans, at the latter's installation on Nov. 22nd.

In St. Louis, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars distributed Jewish prayer books to the Jewish veterans confined to the veterans hospital, and in San Diego, the American Legion post presented a set of colors to the J. W. V. post.

These incidents, which could be multiplied many times, are very heartening, and indicate that veterans at least, not only understand, but are actually practicing the true spirit of brotherhood and Americanism.

Apropos of this subject, while visiting our post in Richmond, Va., I went to William & Mary College.

On the college grounds is a stone monument, and the bronze placque reads: "Presented to William and Mary College by Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Sept., 1926." Seated on the monument were three "darkies."

I spent several interesting days last month at the National Executive Committee meeting of the American Legion, at the invitation of National Commander Ray Kelley. Their hospitality was cordial, and the sessions very enlightening. You will find in another column of this issue the Legion's main legislative objectives for 1940. It was a treat to make the acquaintance of Ray Kelley, Bill Stern, Sam Reynolds, Harry Colmery, Jim Ringling, Bill Doyle, Harry Berdie, Louis Johnson, Watson Miller, Col. Taylor and a host of other fine Americans.

Most posts elect officers this month, who are installed in January. During the war, while old troops were evacuating the front line trenches, and new troops were moving in, the sector was *not* left unprotected. Old and new post officers should get together to see that the important work of the post continues uninterrupted. Two months of inactivity can greatly retard our work. I regret I cannot attend every installation, but that is, of course, physically impossible, and I take this opportunity to thank retiring officers, and to wish officers-elect a successful administration.

National Americanism Chairman Jean Mathias is preparing an interesting program for next year, including essay contests and Americanism broadcasts, and I urge every post to appoint a live, active Americanism Chairman, who will cooperate completely with the National Chairman.

J. W. V. was one of the first organizations to telegraph President Roosevelt our indignation at Russia's invasion of peaceful Finland, and we are also one of the first in

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# THE Jewish Veteran

"THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

J. GEORGE FREDMAN • Editor

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

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National Commander Edgar Burman is now on a trip to the Pacific Coast and before his return expects to visit most of the posts in the Middle and Far West. He will instill J. W. V. members with the importance of carrying out our broad pro-Americanism program. Before leaving, he launched a nation-wide J. W. V. campaign to raise sufficient funds to properly put through this program. (See "J. W. V. National Emergency Appeal" page 9). Before his term is up, Commander Burman expects to visit every post in the U. S. A. Before leaving he appointed Abe Cohen, past Kings County Commander, as National Adjutant.

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The almost unanimous sentiment of Americans is for Peace. As many times stated in THE JEWISH VETERAN, all ex-servicemen are the No. 1 Peace Proponents. Peace in America now can best be assured through adequate National Preparedness, and Universal Peace through a broad program of Education. In the November issue of THE JEWISH VETERAN we published an article by Congressman Thill showing the money cost of the war as over Fifty Billion Dollars. In this issue, Comrade Weill in his article "Fifty Billion Plus" shows what America could have purchased if the money wasted in the war had been used for constructive purposes. In bringing these facts and figures to your attention, we hope to plant the germ of the waste and futility of wars.

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Never since the Hun invasion of Belgium have Americans been so aroused to sympathy, as when Soviet Russia invaded Finland. J. W. V. was one of the first organizations to issue a statement condemning this barbarous aggression, and to offer our aid. Shortly thereafter, we pledged ourselves to raise sufficient funds to donate an Ambulance for the Finnish Army. Comrades and Sisters are urged to help our Finnish Fund or some local Fund. The Finns are fighting the battle of humanity. Let us help them, not by words, but by dollars and supplies and ammunition.

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We are all familiar with the canards that "Jews are not patriotic"; that "Jews enlist

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— HELP THE RED CROSS —

in non-combattant services," that they are not brave. The most recent slander is that "Jews profit by wars." Every one of these statements is a malicious falsehood, usually originating in Nazi-Germany. Jews in every country have written a history of loyalty, patriotism and courage, second to no other group. At the same time Jews have suffered through wars more than any other group. So that you and the world may know the truth, and be able to properly answer these myths, our Editor, J. George Fredman, is starting in this issue a series of three articles entitled "Jews in the World War." Thereafter, they will be published for distribution in pamphlet form.

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In the past, other Jewish organizations have resented the formation of a J.W.V. post in their community. This opposition, strangely enough, has rarely emanated from other veteran groups. Undoubtedly the Jewish opposition has been due to misunderstanding or lack of knowledge of J.W.V.'s objects and activities. Rabbi Feinberg in "The Jewish War Veterans in the Community" seeks to point out that J.W.V. has an important place in the life of every community, which does not duplicate or compete with any existing Jewish group. Rabbi Feinberg also indicates the great need for unity in Jewish communal life—for all organizations doing Jewish defense work to cooperate and coordinate their activities. We are happy to report that the achievements of J.W.V. in the past few years have been so outstanding, that opposition has been growing less apace.

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How often have you heard the complaint "I get so many requests for support from so many different organizations, that I no longer know which deserve support and which do not." This also applies to many anglo-Jewish magazines. Publications which do nothing else but publish a weekly or monthly send out solicitors who falsely claim credit for doing important Jewish defense work, and make it difficult for organizations who actually do the work to get essential support. After reading Mr. Pollack's enlightening article on "The Modern Circulation Racket," we know that our readers will be more careful in their support and contributions, especially to "rackets."

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