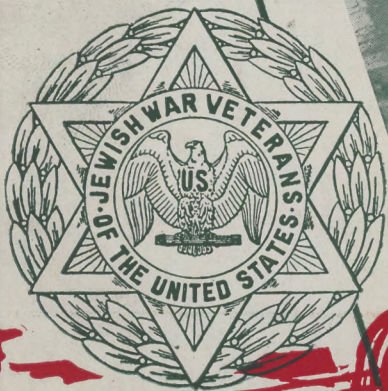


# The Jewish Veteran



Fred Harris, National Commander,  
lays wreath at Tomb of  
Unknown Soldier



December  
1940

THANK GOD FOR PEACE



The people of bomb-torn Britain

**NEED**

Warm Winter Clothing

Hospital Bed Equipment

Motorized Feeding Kitchens

This Ad Contributed by the "JEWISH VETERAN"

# The Morale of the New Army

By GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army

The past few weeks have brought me so many queries regarding Army affairs that I feel it is desirable to outline the exact status of our military program and the progress that we have made. Since we are at peace and the basic purpose of our preparations is to maintain that peace, and since this country is undertaking its present comprehensive military program because the American people demanded it, I feel that the more fully informed the American public is, the easier will be the problem for the War Department and military officials in general. Therefore, this brief review tonight of the present status of the Army.

A subject of outstanding importance and one to which we have given extensive consideration is the moral and spiritual welfare of the young soldier. Our Corps of Chaplains, with one chaplain for every 1200 men, is well organized and will be adequately equipped to provide religious services and training for all denominations similar to those found in the average city parish. The Chief of Chaplains is being assisted by Dr. Paul Moody for Protestants, by Bishop John O'Hara for Catholics, and by Dr. David de Sola Pool of the Jewish Welfare Board. There should be no fear that any young man will suffer spiritual loss during the period of his military service, and, on the contrary, we hope that the young soldier will return to his home with a keener understanding of the sacred ideals for which our churches stand.

However, despite the facilities which exist for the spiritual protection of the soldier, there is another serious problem arising from the establishment of these large camps, and one which troubles me more than any other. I am referring to matters that seriously affect morale, that affect the reputation of the Army, and especially that will affect the future of the young men now in the service. I am talking about the problem of handling tremendous numbers of young men who flood into the small nearby communities over the week-ends, or in the evenings when their work is done.

Growing out of our experience in the World War, it had been determined many years ago that we should not have competing welfare organizations on the military reservations, and that the Army should take care of such matters and provide the recreational facilities. Congress has given us the money for the necessary construction and for the operation of such services, and these are being organized in a large way. On the reservations the Army can control matters, but when the soldier leaves the camp our troubles begin.

Human nature being what it is, establishments for the purpose of selling liquor are becoming increasingly active in the communities adjacent to the camps, and in some communities there has been an influx of persons of questionable reputation. Here we have on the one side a sordid busi-

ness for the accumulation of money, and on the other the interest of every parent in the United States who has a son in the Army, not to mention the responsibility of the War Dept. to develop an Army of the highest quality. This situation must be brought under control before it grows serious.

It is in this field, in the communities in the vicinity of our troop concentrations, that the War Department urgently desires the assistance of every welfare organization in the country. We can manage matters on the military reservations, but, as I have said, we have little authority once the soldier goes to town. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to the Army that the Red Cross and YMCA, the Knights of Columbus and the Jewish Welfare Boards, the Salvation Army, the various fraternal organizations, and the churches of the community, all cooperate to develop wholesome places for the soldier to go for his entertainment—places where he at least can sit down in respectable surroundings and not have to tramp the streets with the ever present prospect of getting into trouble.

This question has received continuous thought in the War Dept. and much has been done to stimulate the organization of committees of men and women familiar with local customs to cooperate with camp commanders in communities adjacent to camps.

Here is a field where tremendous good can be done both for the National Defense and for the future of these young men. Here is the field where, it seems to me, an obligation exists on the part of the local communities to do this work. It would appear to be but a matter of good business for communities adjacent to our camps thus to organize for the protection of the thousands of new customers that the Army has brought to their gates. But in a broader sense, there is a moral obligation on the part of both the Army and civil communities to assist these young men to lead clean, sound lives while they wear the uniform of their country.

This is not simply a matter of morals or sentiment. More than ever before, the efficiency of an army depends upon the quality of its soldiers, the men required to operate the complicated machines of this modern age. Soldiers today must be alert, active, and in condition, mentally, morally, and physically to withstand the ordeals of the enemy's onslaught from both ground and air, and still be able to carry the fight to the other fellow.

We ask your assistance in bettering the living conditions for the families of our officers and men, and in guarding the health and morale of our soldiers while they are guests in your communities.

## J.W.V. HONORS GENERAL HINES



National Commander Fred Harris presents Certificate of Merit and Pins Medallion on General Frank T. Hines, U. S. Veterans Administrator, in the presence of National President, Ladies Aux., Jennie Silverman. The Honor was voted at our Boston Encampment, for outstanding services performed by General Hines as Veterans Administrator, and his cooperation with all veterans.

THE

# Jewish Veteran

"THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

J. GEORGE FREDMAN • Editor

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NUMBER FOUR

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Happy Chanukah

Chanukah is the only Jewish holiday based on a Jewish triumph of arms against its enemies, and is associated with the Jewish warrior Judas Maccabeus. Although it is a festive holiday, this year with 10 of the 12 million European Jews homeless, destitute and persecuted, our thoughts will be in far from festive regions. It may, however, be a good omen that both Chanukah and Christmas this year fall on the same day. What an ideal opportunity on December 25th, for all peoples to lay aside their prejudices and differences and join in prayer to God that Peace may return to our war stricken world, and that instead of hate and intolerance, tolerance and love will be the rule of our civilization. Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all!

### National Defense Lags

The most important item confronting our nation is Preparedness. Unfortunately preparedness is seriously lagging. On Dec. 13th, William Knudsen, head of the Natl. Defense Commission, said: "I have tried to make it clear to you that I consider the defense effort to date not satisfactory enough to warrant hopes that everything is all well. Maybe I haven't made it strong enough."

With Hitler shouting that he could lick the world and not denying that he wants South American markets, this is a deplorable situation. The time for discussion has passed. What are we going to do about it? We might ask for a Congressional investigation. But that would take months. We could request legislation compelling conscription of industry and labor, which might be fair to the \$21 a month selectees but that will also take months. The best and quickest method would be for the President to declare an emergency. Strikes would be outlawed, priorities could be established, and plants that refused to work on defense contracts would be taken over by the government. Something drastic—and that soon—must be done if we are to stave off disaster. Let's do it NOW!

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### Dies and the F.B.I.

We are happy to note an agreement by the Dies Committee and the F.B.I. to work together to combat subversive elements. Next to national preparedness, anti-"fifth-column" activities require our united attention. Spies and saboteurs can easily ruin our defense plans, and propagandists divide and destroy our nation. The Committee and the F.B.I. each have separate functions—the former to expose to light, and the latter to prosecute. They should not compete, but cooperate and complement each other. We hope the agreement will be faithfully kept, for the sake of unity and safety.

### Sending Food to Europe

We predicted in October, this would be a popular subject before the winter passed. The pros and cons are hard at it. The late Lord Lothian made it clear that the British Government could not weaken its blockade to permit food shipments to pass through to occupied territories under plans sponsored by Herbert Hoover and others. This should settle the issue for Americans, since 95% of us believe that Britain's battle is ours. Recent statistics further indicate that the possibility of starvation in Europe this winter is grossly exaggerated.

### Help the U.J.A.

The United Jewish Appeal covers three distinct fields—(1) the Joint Distribution Committee feeds and aids millions of suffering Jews stranded in all parts of Europe (2) The Palestine Appeal continues the work of building Palestine, and the relief and charitable organizations there (3) Refugee service in the U.S.A.; houses and feeds refugees already here, educates and trains them and tries to distribute and place them in jobs. These are all worthy and needy causes, and every Jew should contribute his share.

### Help J.W.V.

Natl. Com. Harris' message shows the need by J.W.V. for funds to carry on our enlarged program. Our posts and comrades contribute to all other worthy causes—Jewish and non-sectarian alike—and their charity pleases us, but we fear they overlook our own needs. It is well said that "Charity should begin at home." Will you comrades give this paragraph your consideration and aid J.W.V.'s treasury?

### Membership Important

A good way to start off the New Year is with a membership drive. After 25 years, veteran membership declines, so we have only two more years to reach our maximum strength. Many posts do not have 25% of eligibles. There will never be a better time to interest recruits. Strength is vital, therefore start this year off right with a membership drive.

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# The Folly of Hysteria

By SOLOMON A. FINEBERG, Past National Chaplain

If I were given the command of a nation's army and told to select for officer training those who would be most useful material, I should begin by eliminating everyone who liked to dramatize himself. High ranking officers as a rule are rather silent men with tight lips and great self control. They are not people who enjoy making a lot of noise for the sheer sake of being conspicuous. When "under fire" the most precious soldiers are those who do not become hysterical;—men who can still use their brains, shrewdly and skillfully, instead of being swept by emotions into an ambush. Wherever there is battle or conflict of any sort, the victory is not necessarily to the strong nor to the many, but rather to those who can plan a campaign and carry it out with calm unruffled determination.

Combating anti-Semitism is no different than any other struggle. It cannot be won by shouting louder than the other fellow. It cannot be won by screaming that the Jews are a wonderful people or even by carrying on debate with the enemy. For Jews to take the defensive in this matter is a sure way of keeping themselves in the same unenviable position as the man who is asked repeatedly in public, "when was the last time you beat your wife?" Obviously we have to put an end to this issue. As long as people are even debating as to whether the Jews are fit to hold citizenship and enjoy the rights and privileges of their neighbors, the Jews are at a disadvantage. To establish a genuine equality and absolute security for Jewish life in America requires a condition which will not be established by those who merely advertise false issues which leave the Jews in the position of criminals on trial.

The saddest of all sad things in the present situation is that Jews are ready to believe that anyone who is "doing something" to stop anti-Semitism, especially if he does it loudly and blatantly, is a hero and champion of their cause. In truth, the "something" may have boomerang and backfire consequences which only worsen the situation. Of course, to the hysterical at a fire, even the man who throws oil on it seems to be very helpful because hysterical people don't stop to examine whether it be oil or water. Hysterical people don't take into account a thousand and one considerations which do occur to the thoughtful and the well informed.

Let me offer a few examples of the things that some of us take into account which many Jews seem completely to ignore. Suppose that an anti-Semite is

seeking publicity. His name is known quickly to many Jews but to only a few hundred Christians. He has not been publicized in the daily press and he has only a small following. Before attacking the man on a great public scale and thus advertising him throughout the nation, one question to be asked is, "What will this publicity do for him?" As matters stand, if he goes to a city away from home a hundred people at the most, may come to hear him and his slanders. The press will practically disregard him. If the Jews "build him up" by plenty of notoriety, thousands will come to hear him and provide the audience he is seeking.

Hysterical Jews assume that if a man is labelled an anti-Semite, that ruins him in the sight of Christians. If so, how does it happen that a score of men in several countries, (in Germany and elsewhere) who boast openly that they are anti-Semites still occupy amazingly high positions? It is a stupid assumption that shouting about a man's anti-Semitism helps the Jews. Pointing out his villainies against people in general is infinitely wiser. If we were to brand, for example, ten leading American citizens as anti-Semites, in the public press, most Christians would probably say "if all these people hate the Jews — there must be something the matter with the Jews."

While anti-Semitic statements appear to the Jews to be preposterous lies, which can be quickly deflated by mere denial, as far as the non-Jew is concerned, the assertion may appear to him to be a potential truth. Jews themselves do not always repudiate instantly unkind things said about other groups. No one has such inherent love for any group as the members of the group itself. Why assume that calling a man a Jew-baiter will ruin him in the public eye?

Another consideration often overlooked is the fact that hooliganism and vandalism, when advertised, suggest to other weak minds performance of similar acts of destruction. In a Southern community where a swastika was painted on the temple, all reference to the matter was kept out of the newspapers. The police were told to investigate quietly, which they did thoroughly, but anti-Semitism did not become and is not now an issue in that community. In a Northern city a similar incident was followed by a great deal of newspaper publicity and violent speeches by Jews with the result that there were many consequent threats made by phone calls and anonymous letters. There were

bomb scares and every non-Jew in town was discussing whether or not the Jews were desirable neighbors.

The trouble with the hysterical man is that when you tell him that this, that, or the other should not be done, he screams that you are in favor of complete inactivity and that you do not appreciate the need for action. When an hysterical person has made up his mind that the way to rid the baby of a high fever is to pour ice water on the child, he may become indignant when the physician attempts to cure the condition by slower, less dramatic, less spectacular—but much more skillful, wiser and saner methods—methods which instead of killing the infant—have the correct effect.

Competent detectives do not rush out and grab some little miscreant who has been selling drugs. They watch him closely until he himself unknowingly leads them to the higher-ups and until they can strike a vital blow at the top ring. The detective whose emotion and desire to make a quick arrest overshadow his judgment and his need for patience, defeats the larger purpose he should be serving.

It is not true and it never has been true that if Jews scream and yell loud enough anti-Semitism will vanish. It is more likely that such tactics lead their neighbors to saying, "That's only those Jews getting stepped on again." Either we shall appear to our neighbors as a sniveling, crying, wailing people who are not worthy of their respect, or we shall appear to them as do the Finns, the Greeks and the Britons, as brave, calm, resolute people who can "take it" and who can stand up under fire. Which is it to be?

If anyone is in doubt as to which of these two impressions it is better for the Jews to give to their neighbors, I feel sorry for him and tremble for what his hysteria will do in stirring contempt and disgust of the non-Jewish public. One generous public act by a Jewish War Veteran Post is worth ten thousand loud words of protest against some anti-Semite. Brave, capable people do not fight with their tongues nor do they get into needless brawls with their fists. They use their heads. They seek methods which are not stupid, short-sighted and obvious. Most of all, they do not make the mistake of thinking that the public can be favorably impressed by screaming when one is hurt;—any weakling or coward can do that.