

# The JEWISH VETERAN



*"To Be Prepared for War  
Is One of the Most Effectual  
Means of Preserving  
Peace."*

GEORGE WASHINGTON



**"ONE NATION, INDIVISIBLE,  
WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE  
FOR ALL"**



*"A House Divided Against  
Itself Cannot Stand. I be-  
lieve this Government can-  
not endure permanently  
half slave and half free."*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



February

1941



SYMBOLIZING AMERICAN UNITY OF ALL FAITHS

*"ONE NATION, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL"*

is the keynote of Brotherhood observance in 1941.

**President Roosevelt's Brotherhood Message to the nation follows:**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

"With reverent dependance upon God and faith in our destiny as a people, let us meet in church and school, in cathedral and synagogue, in public hall and home, during the week of Washington's Birthday, to purge our hearts of all intolerance and to bind all our citizens in a common loyalty. The defense of America begins in the hearts of our countrymen. In this hour of emergency, let us set aside time to build our unity from within, to renew our faith in brotherhood, to quicken our national life, and to reinvigorate our patriotism with a renewal of that vision of democracy without which we perish as a people."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

The Jewish War Veterans have been leaders in the "Good-Will" Movement and we are, therefore, happy to join the National Conference of Christians and Jews in this nation-wide observance of Brotherhood Week. The advocacy of "National Unity" during these times of stress is a duty of every patriotic citizen—it is vital to our National Defense Program.

This Ad Contributed by the "JEWISH VETERAN" magazine

# I'm Going Down Fighting!

By ARCHIE BRICK

"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, *Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!*" When Patrick Henry uttered those soul stirring words that swung Virginia into line with the rebels of New England then also there were cautious beings who howled "self-dramatization", "hysteria."

One shudders to think what might have happened to the American cause had a watchful Hessian sentry been stationed on the banks of the Delaware that fateful night when Washington crossed. But that was a time for action—a time for taking chances—and not a time for waiting and waiting and hoping—and slowly seeing all hope and courage seep from his men until their very marrow would turn to water. But Washington also had his over-cautious critics, his experts who thought he should not take such terrible chances.

In more recent years the whole world thrilled and aviation received its greatest impetus when word flashed across the oceans that Lindbergh had arrived safely in Paris.

History is full of such incidents in which a daring deed has changed the course of the world. But it does not necessarily mean that that daring deed was reckless, foolhardy and selfish.

Yet during the past year there have appeared several articles in this magazine which have hammered the theory that we veterans must not take any action against anti-semitism, that we do not know how to handle the situation, that we would do more damage than good and that we should leave everything in the hands of the experts who know how to handle such matters. In one article all people who are in favor of doing something about this subject are classified as hysterical morons. The writer in effect builds up a plan of action which he presumes we would take and then proceeds to tear that plan to pieces with adroit arguments.

Every man is entitled to his opinion and has the right to uphold that opinion. It does not reflect the opinion or accepted attitude of the majority of J.W.V. and therefore should not be circulated by the Jewish Veteran.

One such article said "—any fool can go out and (declaring heroically that he "is going down fighting") create still greater confusion and enmity. Sensible Jews have no intention of destroying themselves for the short lived pleasure of dramatic histrionics. To stay up swimming adroitly is much preferable to an absurd and unnecessary martyrdom."

How any American veteran can subscribe to such a theory of life is so

*Freedom of expression is one of the keystones of Democracy. Signed articles are the opinion of the writers. Our columns at times print articles, with which we do not agree. The columns of "The Jewish Veteran" are always open to comments by comrades. The accompanying article is in answer to "The Folly of Hysteria", by Solomon A. Fineberg, which appeared in our December issue.*

—EDITOR.

amazing to me that I wonder at seeing it published in our magazine. This concept of living and getting on is a splendid one for the Jew living by sufferance in the European ghetto—it dates back to the days when a ruler who was in need of funds placed unbearable laws on his Jewish population knowing that they would raise large sums of money to buy him off. This in effect is what is suggested by the writer of that article when he says we should stay up swimming "adroitly."

It is utterly impossible for us veterans to adopt such an attitude and still retain our self respect and our standing as an American organization. Too long has the Jew taken the viewpoint that he must have a Gentile for a front man to talk up for him. Too long has the Jew run and hidden and cajoled and bribed so that he wouldn't suffer "unnecessary martyrdom."

The artificial wave of anti-semitism that is being stirred up is an American problem and not a Jewish problem. We feel that we are Americans by birth or adoption—we feel that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States mean just what they say—we feel that we are just as much Americans as any other American regardless of his religion—and with that promise and that feeling we intend demanding the same rights that any other American has.

That does not mean that we go about seeking trouble—that does not mean that we are to carry a chip on our shoulders—but it does mean that we are ready to fight our own battles in an above-board manner. We veterans have ample proof of the effectiveness of this type of action. Not long ago the street corners of New York City were overrun with hoodlums openly preaching anti-Americanism and anti-semitism. They openly invaded Jewish neighborhoods and terrorized men and women. Can you imagine any group going into a Negro or Irish neighborhood and preaching hatred against the inhabitants thereof without hindrance? Yet we Americans of the Jewish faith allowed this condition to exist, until in the neighborhood of Kings Highway in Brooklyn the women were in a state of terror.

Where were our self-appointed leaders and experts then? Sure, they were doing something. They were "pulling strings" and "seeing people" and calling on Jim to go and see Bill to try to get him to call his bad boys off. They were fawning on the very people who were causing these meetings to try and have them called off! It was only when the Flatbush Post of the Jewish War Veterans decided not to wait for experts in public relations to handle the situation and took the matter into their own hands that these traitorous gangsters folded up and moved on to other fields. Here was a case where a thousand hot-heads were infinitely better than one cool head!

How can any one ask us to keep cool when our lives and liberties are being threatened? Rather, we must burn up with righteous indignation in every fibre of our being—we must rally and fight back with every weapon at our command until these vermin are crushed!

And, if God should desert us and we were defeated in our efforts, 'twere far better that we and our families weren't here to suffer the tortures and indignities that our brethren in Naziland are suffering to-day. The Maccabees, the heroes at Thermopylae, the embattled farmers at Concord and Lexington are going down through the ages as symbols of the worth of the things they fought for. Are we made of meaner stuff? Are these liberties and rights we treasure less worth while? I cannot believe so.

The trouble with so many of these authorities is that they do not understand the very reason for existence of our organization nor do they understand our attitude in these matters. They do not realize that we feel AMERICAN in every little part of our being and we are not going to allow anyone to make us think of ourselves as a "minority group." We are part of the great majority of the American people and intend remaining so.

The gist of the entire matter is that we must speak up for ourselves and not use any Gentile front men to speak for us. We must come out openly and fight our own battles and then we will be amazed by the number of allies who will rally to our banner. If we do not treasure our liberties enough to fight for them we cannot expect others to fight for us.

In that spirit I—and a million others like me who value their rights, their lives, their liberties and are willing to fight for these precious things, say—I'M GOING DOWN FIGHTING!