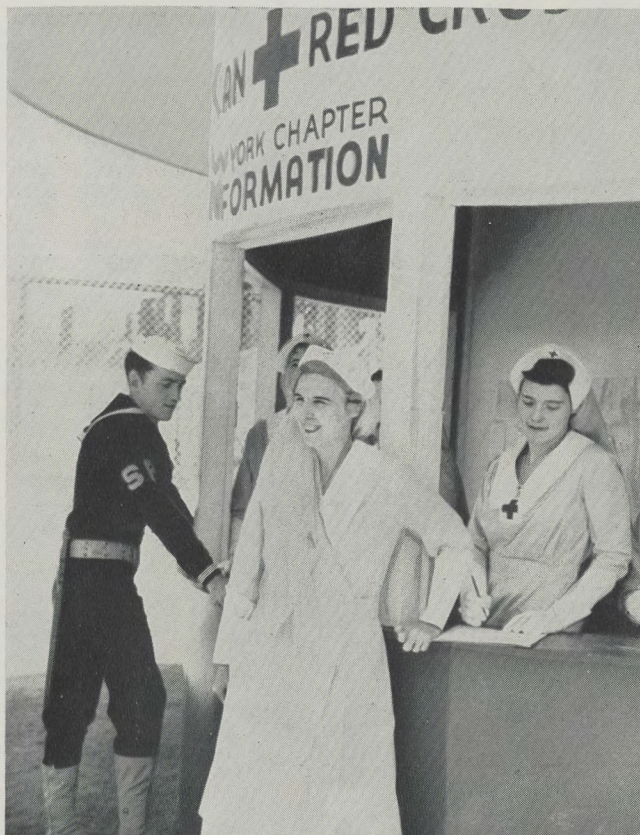


# The Jewish Veteran



★ APRIL ★ 1941 ★ ★

# *For National Defense*



## **American Red Cross**

- ★ Aids needy soldiers, sailors, National Guardsmen, trainees and families.
- ★ Establishes emergency blood bank for defense forces.
- ★ Recruits nurses and technicians for Army and Navy.
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- ★ Maintains Disaster Relief Service, Motor Corps, Hospital Service, etc.

**NEW YORK CHAPTER - AMERICAN RED CROSS**

315 Lexington Avenue, New York City

This ad contributed by the "Jewish Veteran" Magazine

# In Retrospect of J. W. V.'s Founder

## COLONEL ISIDORE ISAACS

Organizations, like individuals, do not "just grow." They come into being after careful thought and consideration, pain and sacrifice, and they grow only with care and attention. There is an old Jewish expression that "the apple does not fall far from the tree." How true this is of the Jewish War Veterans! Even in the midst of the rapid stream of current events, it is well to pause for a moment, and reflect on the beginnings of our beloved organization. A study of history often gives us a true perspective of current events, and balances our judgment. And what better time to do it than prior to Memorial Day!

As we all know, anti-Semitism is nothing new. For two thousand years, Jewry in European countries have lived through waves of it. While the waves in the United States have not been so frequent, nor so violent as in Europe, still we have experienced them. And so it is not strange that following the financial depression of 1893 and 1894, a wave of anti-Semitism swept our country. It was then just 30 years after the close of the Civil War. Between 18,000 and 20,000 citizens of Jewish faith, had served with equal valor in the armies of the North and South. Many had lost their lives, many more wounded and disabled, and many had been decorated for bravery.

When, therefore, during this period, the libel was widely spread that "Jews were unpatriotic," a small remnant of these veterans residing in New York City, decided that it was time to stop this false charge. On March 15, 1896, at the call of Col. Isidore Isaacs, 50 Jewish ex-soldiers assembled and decided to organize the "Hebrew Union Veterans Association." They felt the existence of an organization representing the thousands who had fought for their country, was the best answer to the anti-Semites.

Col. Isaacs was appointed Temporary Adjutant and was the "Thomas Jefferson of the J.W.V." in drafting the principles and ideals and the constitution and by-laws of the Hebrew Union Veterans Assn.

At the organization meeting, Col. Isaacs refused the offer of the command of the organization, but consented to act as its Adjutant. Judge Joseph H. Stiner was unanimously elected their first Commander (the title of the National Commander at that time was "Colonel"). After serving several terms, Judge Stiner retired and Isaac Eckstein was elected Colonel. During these years, Col. Isaacs continued as Adjutant.

Upon the retirement of Col. Eckstein, Col. Isaacs consented to serve as Commander. He was re-elected for five successive terms. During this period, the organization made rapid strides, and it was then that the first monument in the United States, memorializing the services of Jewish soldiers in the Civil War was erected in Salem Fields Cemetery.

Following the Spanish American War, he was very active in urging the veterans

of that war to organize themselves into a patriotic organization, which was known as the Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain. Isidore Weill, our Past National Historian, who was Commander of the H.V.W.S., in 1906 and 1907, recalls the many nights he spent with Col. Isaacs planning and coordinating the efforts of both organizations toward a common goal—"the rightful place in the sun for Jewry in America."

During the World War, he was vitally interested in enlistment of Jewish youth in the military service, and their welfare while in service. Following the Armistice, he busied himself to organize the veterans of the World War. He was especially active in the Bronx, and was very proud of his efforts in behalf of the Col. Harry Cutler Post No. 3. His whole heart and soul was wrapped up in these three organizations (he did not live to see their consolidation into one unified group—the present J.W.V.) until the day of his death, on February 20th, 1923.



COLONEL ISIDORE ISAACS

However, his interests were not only on behalf of veterans of Jewish faith. He was just as active during his entire life, in the Grand Army of the Republic. He joined the G.A.R. back in 1869, shortly after its formation. In 1901 he was elected Department Commander of New York. In 1910, after his opponents had started a whispering campaign on religious issues, he was elected National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

In 1908 he was Grand Marshal of the G.A.R. Memorial Parade in N.Y.C. At the time of his death he was Secretary and Welfare Officer of the Grand Army of the Republic. And his memory is *not* forgotten. On each Memorial Sunday, his final resting place in Mount Carmel Cemetery is a shrine

for various veterans organizations who respect his memory by holding services there.

It might be well to sketch a brief outline of the military and later life of this gallant soldier, noble American and good Jew.

On April 18th, 1861, while some of the City Regiments of soldiers were marching down Broadway to the Battery to embark for Washington, D. C., at the call of President Lincoln, a boy of fourteen years stood watching the parade and imbued with the spirit of patriotism, followed the crowd and when he reached the boat on which they were to sail he sneaked aboard with some other boys. This was our hero, Isidore Isaacs.

While he was rather large for his years, still he was refused enlistment on account of not having his parents' permission. He was afraid to advise his folks of his whereabouts, so procured odd jobs until September 10th, 1861, when volunteer regiments were being formed and was accepted and mustered into Co. F, 59th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry.

On May 26th, 1863, while serving with his regiment in the battle of Antietam he was wounded in the right leg by a bullet and taken to the hospital at Sharpsburg, Md., where the surgeons decided to amputate his leg as blood poison had set in due to a piece of trouser cloth having been imbedded in the wound with the missile. He refused to permit them to cripple him, so was invalided home with an honorable discharge as sergeant.

When he arrived in New York his parents had their family physician care for him and was entirely cured after two months.

Again he was fired with the desire to be a soldier and ran away for the 2nd time and went to Syracuse, N. Y., where he enlisted as sergeant in Co. I, 12th New York Cavalry, on August 12th, 1863.

On account of casualties in the regiment he was promoted several times until he reached the rank of Captain. On July 19th, 1865, at the end of war, he was discharged and breveted as Colonel of Volunteers.

Upon his return to New York he held various positions in the City Government. Col. Theodore Roosevelt as Police Commissioner, appointed him to the Police Department through a special act of Legislature. He served 26 years with distinction, retiring with the rank of sergeant.

Capt. Julius Isaacs, a son, is carrying on the good work of his father, and for many years has filled the office of Secretary and Welfare Officer of the G.A.R.

We salute Colonel Isidore Isaacs, firm in the confidence, that the Colonel must be proud of the achievements of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., the result of his conception, love and labor forty-six years ago.

# THE Jewish Veteran

"THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

J. GEORGE FREDMAN • Editor  
JACOB S. SPIRO • Associate Editor

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### The Lesson of Passover

The present struggle is the age old battle of Freedom vs Slavery. In the days of the ancients in Egypt, it was Israel vs. Pharaohs. Today it is Democracy vs. Dictatorship. Poland, Czecho-slovakia, Norway, Belgium, and Netherlands are the Egypts of today. A modern Pharaoh is ruthlessly enslaving the world.

The lesson of Passover is two-fold: (1) An appreciation of liberty! Too many people don't seem to understand the difference between freedom and slavery, and are apt to ask "what's the difference", and thus are very indifferent as to what may happen. Pres. Roosevelt has just warned us that we are not yet sufficiently aware of the seriousness of the war situation and its implications for the U.S.A. and (2) The need of courage and defiance! Even though the Israelites in Egypt were slaves, still they kept up their courage and defied their masters. We admire the modern Finns and Greeks. They were free men and appreciated their liberty. They were willing to die rather than become slaves. Some of the other and larger countries preferred their security, would not fight, and today are slaves. There are ever so many Pacifists, Appeasers and Isolations in the U.S.A. Let us beware.

While there is yet time, let us learn the lessons of Passover!

### That Strike Situation

With the headlines and radios blaring the numerous strikes in defense industries and plants, there is reason to become alarmed. However, there are two sides to every question, and as good Americans, we should hear and consider them both before acting.

With defense contracts, management may be making huge profits, and they should be willing to share them with labor. With commodity prices and the cost of living advancing, labor should also receive proportionate advances. But with strikes inspired by Communists or Nazis, or where existing valid agreements are breached, or where they are started because of AF of L vs CIO internal strife, we can have no patience.

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What to do about these unlawful strikes? Legislation does not stop crime, nor did it give us prohibition. There are probably enough laws at present to cover every situation. Labor unions are an institution of democracies, which we want to preserve. We do need Enforcement, the weeding out of racketeering labor leaders and greedy employers, and the jailing of the "fifth columnists" who are sabotaging our defense program. More than all we do need a little more patriotism on the part of both labor and industry. If 1,500,000 men can be drafted from their homes, jobs and civilian life to train for defense of this nation, surely men who can stay home with their families and retain their jobs, at good pay, can work hard, to give the recruits the machinery, ammunition and food they need. Loyalty is the responsibility of every American citizen—not only those in military service. Many countries of Europe have been "too late." It would be too bad if because of the failure of Labor and Industry to unite, the U.S.A. should also be "too late." It's a terrible price to contemplate!

### J.W.V. Will Aid

The War Dept. has asked for 500,000 civilian volunteers to assist the Air Corps in organizing air-raid precautionary services. J.W.V. hereby pledges its wholehearted support. We have heretofore offered our aid to the government in any national defense effort in which we can be used. Through experience in war and in civilian service, and through discipline, none are better qualified to aid than are the ex-servicemen. Every J.W.V. unit is urged to immediately offer its cooperation to the proper local Air-Corps authority.

### We Lack Public Relations

Pick up a paper in almost any city where there is a J.W.V. Post, and you'll find constructive activities by our posts reported. But the rest of the world rarely hears or knows of our accomplishments. It's the old story of "hiding our light under a bushel basket." This does J.W.V. and our cause no good.

What is the remedy? Better Public Relations. Every post should have a Publicity Chairman, whose task it is to publicize noteworthy events locally, and at the same time transmit them to National Headquarters, and secondly, a competent Speakers' Bureau. A speakers bureau is not only essential to promote in the schools, churches, forums, before other veteran, civic and fraternal organizations, our objective of National Defense, Americanism, Youth activities, Patriotism, Good-Will, Charity, etc., but also to educate our own membership.

Does *your* Post, *your* County, *your* Department have a Publicity Chairman and a Speakers Bureau? If not, why not appoint them immediately?

### Welcome To Our Associate

Until this month the editing of "THE JEWISH VETERAN" has been a one-man job. Hence, we are very happy to welcome the aid and cooperation of an Associate. He is Jacob S. Spiro, a native of Jersey City, an active and able attorney of New Jersey and New York, and a comrade of Old Timers Post No. 188. He has had wide writing experience, as an author of several books on legal topics, with the N. Y. Herald, as Editor of the Legal Review, and editor of the "Old Timer".

We know you join in bidding him welcome.

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