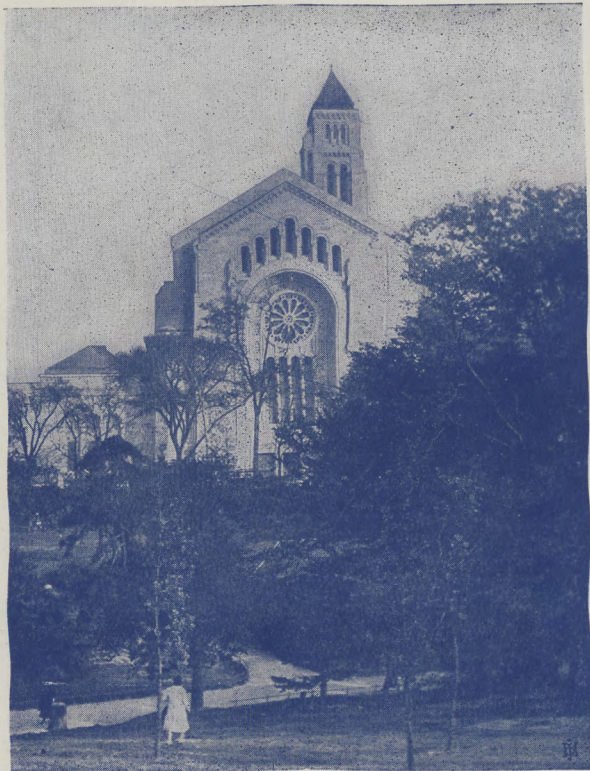
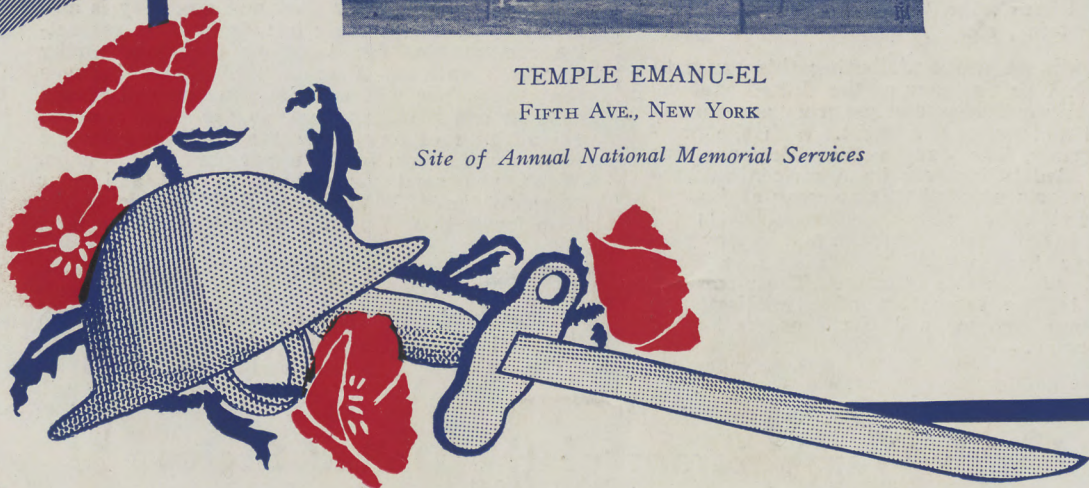
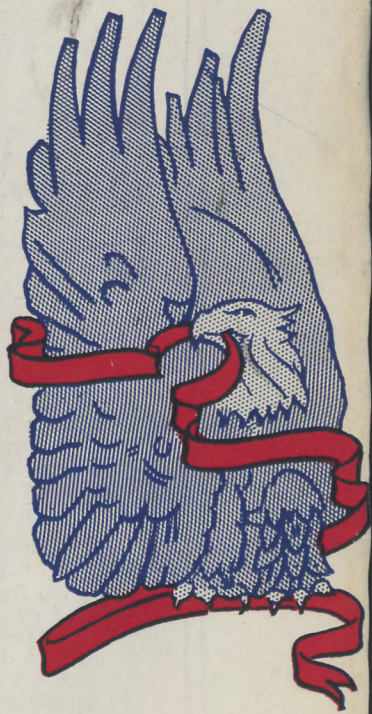


The Jewish Veteran



TEMPLE EMANU-EL
FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK

Site of Annual National Memorial Services



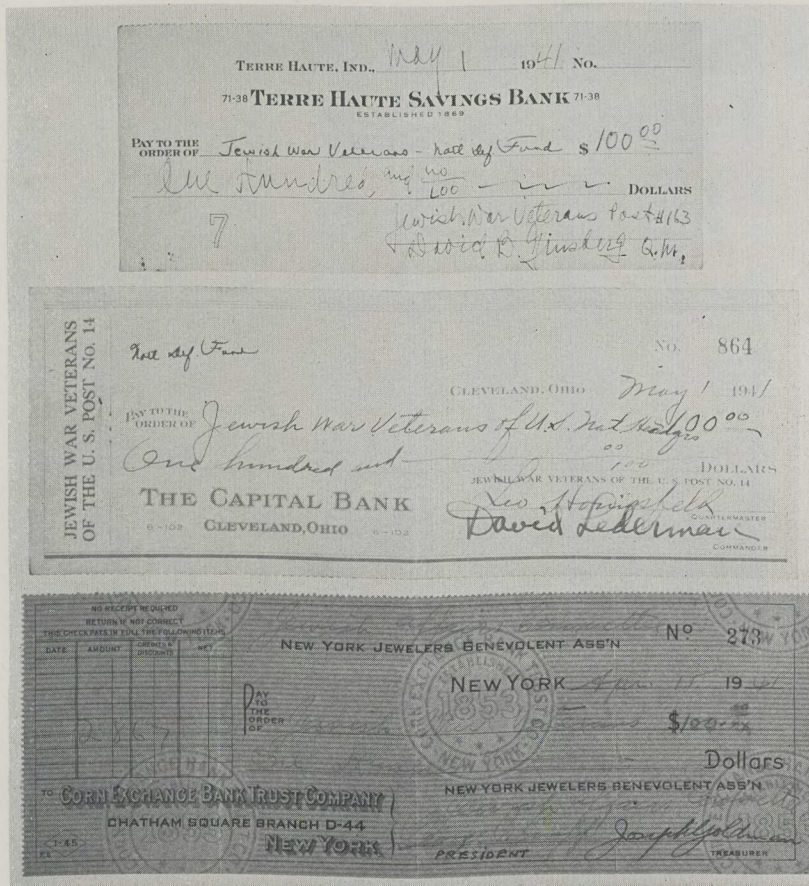
ANNUAL MEMORIAL NUMBER - MAY, 1941

"For J. W. V."

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For several years the "Jewish Veteran" has contributed this page gratis to some worthy national cause, such as the "Boy Scouts", "Girl Scouts", "American Red Cross", "The President's March of Dimes", the "U.S. Army and Navy", "Aid to Britain", etc.

This month we are contributing this space to the "Jewish War Veterans of the United States." We feel their activities and program are worthy of general and national support. With the present emergency, The Jewish War Veterans has been compelled to increase its Americanism Program, its efforts at combatting enemy espionage, sabotage and "fifth column" propaganda, its aid to the national defense program, and to inaugurate a large program of soldier welfare work both within and outside of camps. These services are vital to the promotion of patriotism, the unity of our people, and the preservation of our Democracy.

Every post and auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans is hereby appealed to for a unit contribution for a fund to be used for Americanism, National Defense, and Soldier and Sailor Welfare Work. Every post and auxiliary is also urged to appeal to their friends in their respective communities for donations to these worthy objects. National Commander Harris believes that the public will support your appeal. Three \$100.00 contributions have so far been received (in advance of any appeal) as indicated by the photo-stats shown in the upper part of this page. Won't you send your check in and add your name to the "J.W.V. Honor Roll"? This is the time for Action. Do not wait until it is too late.

Please make checks payable to Fred S. Harris, National Commander, and mail to:

Jewish War Veterans of the United States

276 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

How Memorial Day Began

In April, 1863, a little group of southern women, after two years of sorrowful, weary waiting, and in fond remembrance of a father, brother, husband, or sweetheart, had journeyed to the graveyard near Columbus, Miss., and there decorated the graves of their loved ones.

An elderly lady of the group after she had finished decorating the graves of her two sons, who had lost their lives in defense of the southern cause, was seen walking toward a corner of the churchyard, where lie buried two unknown Union soldiers.

One of the ladies of the group asked her what she was doing. "Do you forget," said the first woman, "whose graves those are? They are two Union soldiers; they are two Yankees, who—" "Hush," said the mother of the two heroes, "they are nameless graves marking where two soldiers lie buried; but somewhere in the North, in some little city or village, or perhaps in some lonely farmhouse, a mother or a young wife or a sweetheart mourns for them as you and I grieve for the loss of our beloved ones."

She turned back to the unmarked grave and stooped down, gently pushed aside the long grass, cleared the graves, and tenderly spread her flowers over the two mounds. With tears in her eyes, but with her head held proudly, she faced the women who had silently gathered about her and said: "We bring these flowers"—she pointed to the graves of her sons, then to the others decked with flowers—"to express our love and devotion. They are dead, our heroes of the South; they are dead, these unknown soldiers of the North, lying in our churchyard at Columbus, Miss., in nameless graves. But when the war is over and peace comes again we shall call them our heroes. So here are my lilacs and roses—red, white, and blue—for both alike." "And mine, too," said the other women softly, as they added their flowers to the blossoms on the unmarked graves in the churchyard.

The next April the women of Columbus, Miss., in increasing numbers repeated this beautiful deed, and they continued these rites year after year, although with each year the privations and sufferings of the war were greater and the losses of the South were irreparable.

In 1867 the New York Tribune printed this story of these southern women who decorated the graves of all soldiers who had fallen—those of the North as well as those from the South—and this was published throughout the nation.

From these acts of these good women of Columbus, Miss., came the most beautiful of our holidays.

Following is the last verse of a poem entitled "The Heritage," which this news item from Columbus, Miss., inspired:

"No more shall the war cry sever,
Or the winding river be red;
They banished our anger forever,
When they laurel the graves of
our dead.

"Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;
Love and tears for the Blue;
Tears and love for the Gray."

On May 5, 1868, Gen John A. Logan issued his historical general orders No. 11.

"1. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion.

"2. It is the purpose of the Commander in Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrade."

Memorial Day did not become a legal holiday in any of the States until 1783 when the veterans in New York succeeded in persuading the legislature to pass an act designating "the thirtieth of May, known as Decoration Day," as one of the "public holidays for all purposes whatsoever as regards the transaction of business in the public offices of the State," or counties of the State, and "in acceptance and payment of bills of exchange, bank checks and promissory notes." Rhode Island followed suit in 1874. Then came Vermont in 1876, New Hampshire in 1877, Wisconsin in 1879, and Massachusetts and Ohio in 1881. Today it is a legal holiday in 40 states, territories and possessions.

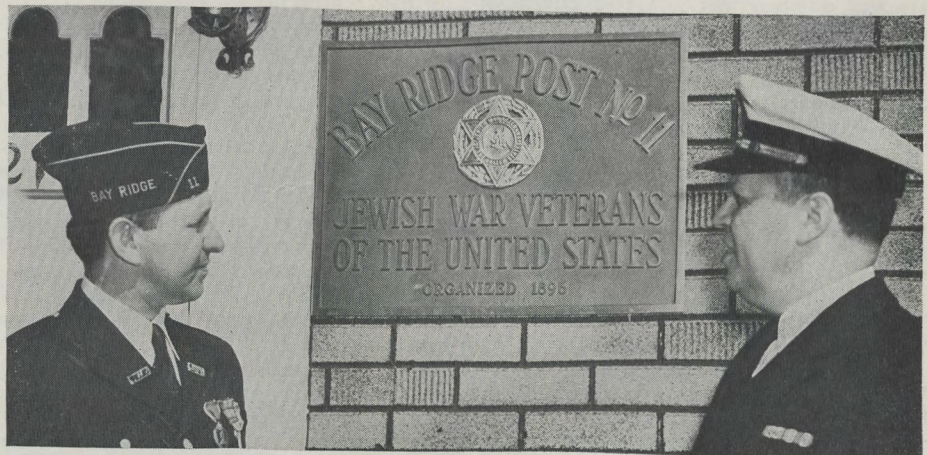
In the course of time the Army and Navy adopted regulations for the observance of Memorial Day. Article 516 of the Army Regulations gives specific instructions for the display of the national flag at half mast on May 30th, the firing of a national salute of 21 guns and the playing of a dirge by the band. Naval regulations provide for a suspension of all drills and

exercises on May 30th and the firing at noon of a 21-gun salute by all ships in commission and at all naval stations during which the ensign is to be at half mast. Since it is not possible to decorate the graves of men who died in battle at sea, it has become the custom to construct little ships of flowers which are set afloat on the water at the chief ports of the country in order that the tide may carry them out to the great waters.

Until about 20 years ago Memorial Day celebrations in the North were devoted to oratorical glorification of the victory of the Northern armies. But in recent years there has been a mellowing of sentiment and the note of triumph has disappeared from Memorial Day oratory. Since the day was originally set apart to decorate the graves of soldiers with flowers, it became known as Decoration Day. But the Grand Army of the Republic always protest against this name and insisted on employing the term Memorial Day. Although it was established to honor the memory of those who died in the War between the States, Memorial Day has also come to be observed in memory of the dead of succeeding wars. Memorial Day parades everywhere now include not only the representatives of the men in Blue and Grey but also the veterans of the Spanish-American and World Wars.

The two principal celebrations of Memorial Day take place in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg and at Arlington. The annual ceremonies at Gettysburg have come to be a celebration of national unity, five Presidents having spoken there. One of the most significant gestures of national unity was made on May 30, 1934, when Congress formally accepted the statues of George Washington and Robert E. Lee presented to the government by Virginia to be placed in Statuary Hall. The statues had been presented 25 years earlier, but because General Lee was represented wearing a Confederate uniform, opposition to their acceptance was raised.

Bay Ridge Post No. 11 Dedicates New Home



Commander Carl Mileton unveiling plaque in presence of P.N.C. Abraham Kraditor, Chairman of Dedication Services.

THE Jewish Veteran

"THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

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

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

A Good Creed

I am an American. I intend to stay an American. I will do my best to wipe from my heart, hate, rancor, and political prejudice. I will sustain my government. And through good days or bad, I will try to serve my country."—*Benet.*

What Are the Answers?

The United States is committed to the policy of all possible aid to Britain and her allies. The interpretation of this policy has divided the country into two opposing camps of opinion. Which of these camps is right, is something which only history can decide. However, they raise several interesting questions, which are:

Is the defeat of Hitler essential to our national welfare? A large majority of Americans is convinced that it is.

If Britain is defeated, do you think the U.S.A. will be less secure from attack by Hitler? In his book "Mein Kampf", Hitler has stated that America is in his blueprint of conquest. Nazi leaders have since echoed this hope. The Nazis prize the wealth and resources of the U.S.A. more than any other land in the world. This being so the answer obviously is that America will be less secure.

What kind of a world would we face if Hitler wins? Unquestionably a militaristic one, and probably one of slavery. We know the kind of a world that Poland, Norway, Holland and other Nazi-controlled countries already face. Aryans would be the "superior race". The Nazis are well on their way to a re-organization of Europe's industries, with a view to capturing the world's commerce. Sales of \$300 autos and \$10 sewing machines in South America are evidences of their progress. With cheap labor and barter, we would be put out of business.

With these questions answered, we must get back to the original premise as to what extent we will go to carry out our policy to aid Britain. Should we run the risk of getting American goods to Britain, even at the risk of war? The Legion, V.F.W. and 80% of Americans answer "Yes".

That puts the question right up to us. What are WE going to do about it? At least we ought to get busy!

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Let Palestine Defend Itself!

With the recent Nazi thrust through Syria, the scene of war approaches the Holy Land. The Jewish community in Palestine faces extraordinary dangers. They are un-afraid however. All they ask is the right to defend their home-land.

At the beginning of this war, 135,000 Palestinian Jews voluntarily registered for emergency service. 10,000 Jews are in active service and many have won distinction. 50,000 additional able-bodied Jews are ready to sacrifice their lives for their native land. Of all the British possessions, Palestine has shown the most pro-British sentiments.

A Jewish army properly equipped may still save the Middle East for Britain. Palestine has a population of half a million Jews, in which are included 50,000 refugees from Germany. If the Nazis invade or capture Palestine their fiendish persecution and ruthless destruction of Jews can only be imagined. The blood and sweat and money of Jewry of the world have been poured into Palestine. With it they have transposed a desert into a garden spot. They have also built a land dedicated to the principles of democracy and human freedom. The least the British can give them is the chance to protect and save their own. Let them have a Jewish Army!

Civilian Aid Vital

Modern war proves there are no front lines. In fact, proportionately more civilians are casualties than soldiers. In many European countries the war was won behind the military lines before an enemy soldier appeared. This was accomplished through "fifth columns", sabotage and Quislings. Airplane warfare and parachutists create new battle-grounds. Total war must be met by total defense, and civilians are an important part of that defense. Without civilian aid, modern war can not be successful. A single sliver of light can betray and ruin an entire city.

Most Americans have not yet realized how near the war is to our shores. Dakar is only 1400 miles from South America. Martinique is relatively near to the Panama Canal. The SS. Hood was sunk in the Western Hemisphere.

Not only must we awaken, but we must prepare to take a part in it. Secretaries Hull and Knox have warned that we will all have to sacrifice, if we are to keep our cherished liberties. Are YOU doing your share? This applies to both men and women. Women can replace men in many non-military activities.

Under Federal supervision, many states have formed State Guards. To-date about 50% are composed of veterans of the World War. Generally only those beyond draft age are eligible. They are being trained to combat Fifth Column activities, to protect the States in case of emergency and in other ways cooperate with the military. There are also other State and Civilian Defense Committees. The army requires blood in banks, the Red Cross needs nurses. The U.S.O. needs men and women to aid in recreational work for enlisted men. The Government needs funds to pay for the defense program, and we can help through buying defense stamps. There is some place in the program for each and every one of you. Don't do like the Dutch did—don't imitate the French. They have slavery now! We can save our democracy if we will all pitch in, work, sacrifice, as one great Unity—labor, capital, the military and civilians!

Charity Begins At Home

On page 2 is an Ad appealing to J. W. V. and friends to contribute so that J.W.V. could carry on its wide activities. Charity should begin at home. Enough said!

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