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THE JEWISH VETERAN



J. W. V. PRESENTS SECOND PLANE TO U. S. GOVERNMENT

National Commander Kaufman presents \$50,000.00 to Lawrence Bell, Pres. Bell Aircraft Corp. at Buffalo, N. Y., to purchase "Star of David" Pursuit Plane in background. Plane then being turned over to Col. Kimball, representing the U. S. Army Air Corps.

(See story page 10)

JEWISH "FIRSTS"

By HON. W. WARREN BARBOUR, U.S. Senator of New Jersey

I am deeply appreciative that your organization has given me an opportunity to pay tribute to Louis Schleifer, first boy from Newark, New Jersey, to lose his life in the second World War. It is my understanding he was the first Jewish boy to lose his life in this war, having been killed in the line of duty at 9:30 A. M. at Hickam Field, Hawaii, when the Japanese strafed the air field.

The record made by the boys of Jewish faith in the last World War is unquestionably one of heroism and bravery. In my humble estimation that splendid record will be upheld in this present international world conflict.

I mentioned that Private Schleifer was the first boy from Newark to lose his life. I also find that there are many other examples of Jewish men being what we might call *firsts* in the news coming to us from the war fronts. The first man from the State of Delaware to lose his life in the defense of democracy also was a Jew, Sergeant Harry Fineman; among the very first—possibly the first—men in the United States Army to give their lives in the Second World War were two Jewish boys from Philadelphia, Corporal Theodore Lewis and Private Jack Feldman. Connecticut's first casualty, Kenneth Harold Messenger, was a Jewish boy, and the first body to be returned to the United States for burial from the Pacific battle zone was that of Marine Sergeant Herbert Keilson, a Jewish lad from Long Island.

I do not think that this is pure coincidence. Jews have been fighting oppression and tyranny for centuries. They received their basic training in Egypt and became seasoned soldiers on the battlegrounds of Europe.

Wherever tyranny threatens, wherever the rights of man and the four freedoms are in danger of being destroyed—there you will find the Jew, joining forces with others willing to fight and die for freedom. That is the reason Hitler took special pains to single out the Jews for persecution and, if possible, complete annihilation. He knew what he was about—he knew they would be in the forefront of the fight to prevent him from enslaving mankind the world over.

America has a great tradition of freedom. Much of that tradition comes from the Old Testament. When the first settlers came to this country they thought of the Atlantic Ocean, which they had to cross to reach the new promised land, as the Red Sea. When America fought for independence, the story of God breaking the yoke of Egypt gave spiritual justification for our expression of the right of all men to liberty.

And now in this new struggle for liberty we find Jews rendering service of the highest quality, and, like Private Schleifer, often being among the first to give their lives for their country, whose abiding dem-

(Accompanying address was prepared by Senator Barbour for delivery on June 30th, 1942, at the Jewish Center, New York City. The occasion was the Mordecai Ben David annual award to Private Louis Schleifer by Yeshiva College for "Conspicuous service in the promotion among members of the Jewish faith of a deep and abiding sense of loyalty, devotion and patriotism." The award in the form of a \$1,000 U. S. War Bond was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Morris Schleifer of Newark, parents of a deceased soldier. Pvt. Schleifer fell at 9:30 A. M. on Dec. 7th at Hickam Field, while attempting to rescue the crew of his plane from attacking Japs. Schleifer was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for valor in action.—Editor.)

ocratic principles stem from the tenets of their own religious history.

That Louis Schleifer, a Jew, was the first from Newark to fall in battle is, therefore, not surprising. Neither is it unusual that during the brief period that elapsed between the time the Japanese struck and the time he met his death, he so distinguished himself in action that he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for valor. He was representative of his people and his heritage. He made the supreme sacrifice

that man might breathe the air of freedom on this earth.

The story of Jewish participation, with all other groups in the United States in the present world conflict, has only begun to unfold. That story was written in the fox holes of Bataan, in the bomb bays of high-flying fighter planes, on the decks of ships where the guns flash. One chapter was recently written at Corregidor by a Jewish radio operator from Brooklyn, Sergeant Irving Strobing. It was he who tapped out the final, heart-breaking record of that island fortress's last valiant stand. The authors of that story of participation are the young men who did not plan to be heroes, but who nevertheless are risking their lives, and sometimes losing them, so that life may be worth the living for all peoples of good will.

Before the sacrifice made by Louis Schleifer, we are all struck with our own inadequacy, with a profound sense of being unworthy. That is as it should be. Private Schleifer has shown us, by example, the true nature of patriotism and the greatness of the human soul. Let us therefore rededicate ourselves to the great tasks at hand, that we may be worthy to live on in a world made safe for us by the sacrifices of all the Louis Schleifers, of whatever faith, who have fallen in this battle for freedom.

Justice Deplores Sniping at Allies

How often have you heard Americans say: "we're fighting Britain's war," or that "Hitler is merely fighting Communism"? Americans who repeat such statements are parroting the well-known Nazi red-herring technique. Some die-hards even reject relief to Britain and Russia injuring our unity and war effort. The following from an address recently made by Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black, is timely and constructive. It should be carefully read and passed on:

Citing the "glorious record" of China, England and Russia, Justice Black asserted that "the debt which we owe to our fighting Allies we can never fully repay—the very least that we can do is to cooperate with them completely and sincerely."

"Unfortunately, some Americans are not tendering that sort of cooperation to our Allies," he went on. "They do a great disservice to the United States and the United Nations by sniping at our Allies. They are playing Hitler's game and are giving aid and moral comfort to the enemy."

"The man who wants to keep our tanks at home, charging that the British don't know how to use them anyway, is such a person; the man who, as every Fascist does, from Hitler down to Mussolini, constantly harps on his alleged fear of what he calls the 'Russian Menace,' is such a person; the man who says we should let China and Ja-

pan fight it out between themselves is such a person.

"The Nazis have a way of getting people to dig out their own graves before being executed; Americans whose words tend to separate us from our allies, whether they are aware of it or not, are making enemy arguments and are giving Hitler help in his attempt to have them dig their own graves—and the graves of the rest of us as well.

"Cooperation with our fighting allies is of equal importance with cooperation among ourselves. That our form of government differs from that of some of our allies is no reason against the alliance. We are not a constitutional monarchy, as is Britain, nor are we a Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as is Russia—but they, like us, are fighting Hitler and between us and our allies there is therefore the strongest of all possible bonds."

"In times like these, every country divided against itself is brought to desolation. We must dispense with the luxury of quarreling amongst ourselves over differences, however important, which do not directly relate to the cause for which we fight. If we win, free men can settle their differences in a democratic way at the ballot box and in the courts, whose judges are sworn to uphold the American Constitution. If we lose, there will be no free men, our Constitution will not exist and all differences will be rapidly liquidated in the Hitler way, in concentration camps or by firing squads."