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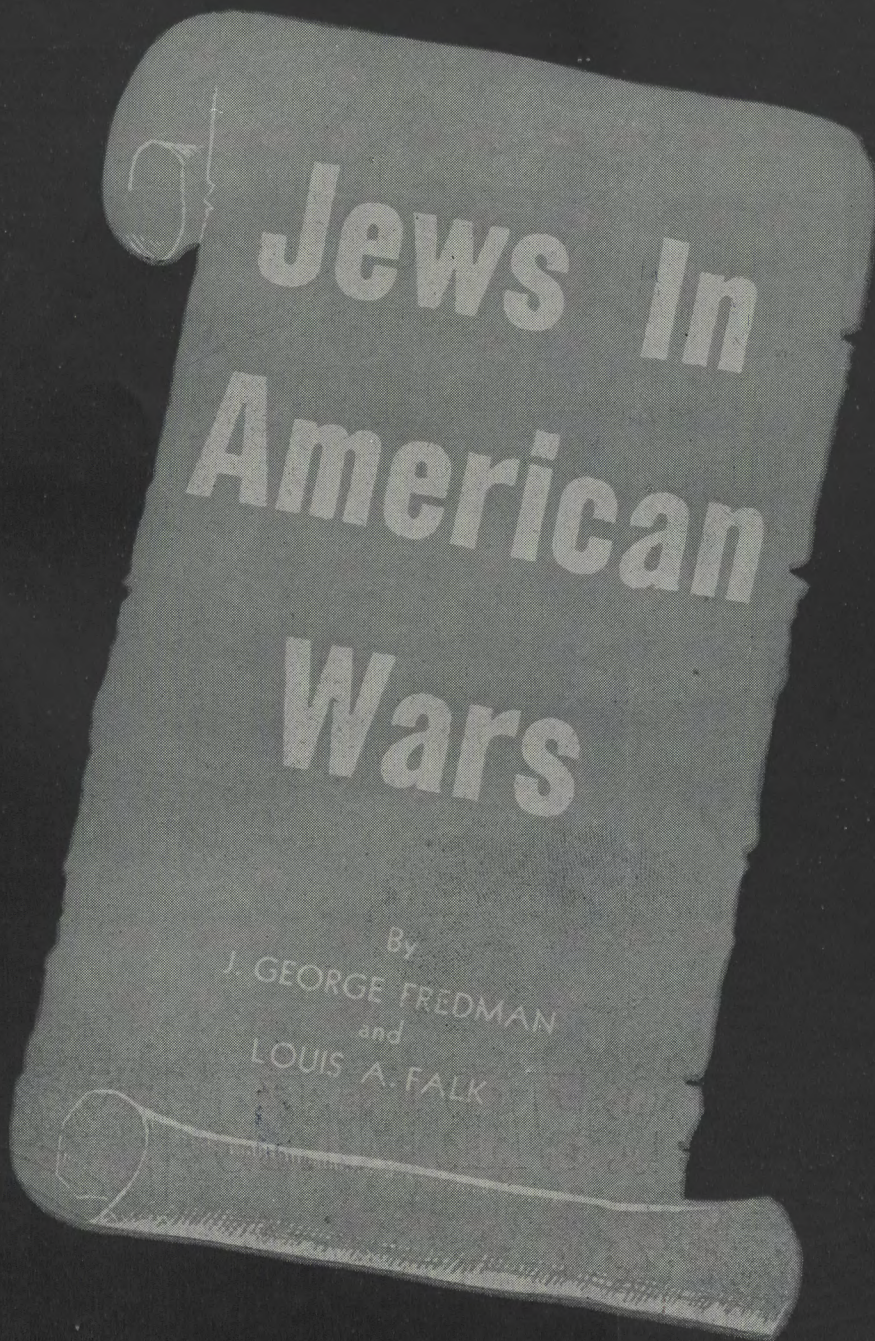


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**A FACTUAL RECORD OF THE CONTRIBUTION BY  
AMERICAN JEWS TO THE MILITARY HISTORY OF  
OUR COUNTRY FROM ASSER LEVY (1654) TO-DATE**

# Neighbors of Yours

Proposing a Congressional Medal of Honor for two Americans.

They're People You Know.

By FREDERICK HAZLITT BRENNAN

When this war is over, when our fighting men have been rewarded with decorations for heroism, when the oratorical tributes are ended and the last laurel wreath is laid, there should be one Congressional Medal of Honor set aside for two people we all know.

Let it be handed to them without ceremony and preferably by "the outstanding hero of World War II." In silence the following citation should be filed in the archives of the government at Washington:

*By direction of the Congress,*

To John and Mary Smith

Address, U. S. A.

Military rank: None.

*For extraordinary heroism, above and beyond the call of duty and in the presence of the enemy, John and Mary Smith are hereby awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. They are deemed worthy of this award in the following particulars:*

THAT, on or about March 10, 1941, their only son, John Smith, Jr., was drafted into the Army of the United States as a private. When sympathetic neighbors, having listened to enemy propaganda put forth by American members of the Stay Out of War Committee, commiserated with John and Mary Smith, these parents had faith in the leaders of their government. John said: "When our President says there's danger of war, that's good enough for me." Mary said: "I want my boy to do his duty, as his father did last time."

THAT, on or about June 15, enemy propagandists, working through certain prominent American citizens, laid down a heavy barrage on our home front, where John and Mary Smith were stationed. Reports such as: "Hitler has already won," and "Our boys are training with wooden guns," and "Disease and defeatism are rife in the training camps," burst like a drum-fire of high-explosive shells around John and Mary Smith. Displaying a soldierly disregard of the enemy's fire, they made a scouting expedition to the camp where John Smith Jr. was in training. They found their son well and in good spirits and were proud to discover that he had been made a corporal.

THAT, on or about September 27, 1941, John Smith Jr. sailed with his battalion from a Pacific port, destination unknown. A few members of Congress, a handful of isolationists and certain others launched a severe poison-gas attack against John Sr. and Mary. The worried, anxious parents were told that the United States was forever safe from attack; that the garrisoning of island outposts was nonsense; that the Army and Navy and Marine Corps should be brought back to the continental United States and kept there. John and Mary Smith—without world of their son for 19 days—held their sector of the home front with a firmness worthy of this nation's most glorious military traditions. John said: "We must be ready for anything. Hitler and the Japs

are ready." Mary said: "We're not going to sit at home and wait and grieve. We're going to keep busy."

THAT, on or about December 7, 1941, John and Mary Smith, knowing that John, Jr., was with General MacArthur in the Philippines, executed a brilliant counterattack against the enemy in their sector. John punched the jaw of a man who said: "Our whole fleet was sunk at Pearl Harbor and we're licked." Mary wrote to her son: "Just remember that you are fighting for the best country that ever existed on this earth—the greatest and most powerful, too. We are going to win this war." She re-copied the letter twice, to make sure the handwriting was steady.

THAT, on or about February 15, 1942 the news being bad and no word coming from his son—John Smith tried to enlist, but was turned down for age and physical disabilities. He was then made air warden in his neighborhood. Mary joined the Red Cross canteen service. When a stern order from Washington ruined John's garage business, a friend said: "I dont see why you have to catch all the hell." And John replied: "I know a lot of boys who are in a real hell." John went to a bank to borrow some money on his frozen inventory so he could convert his machine shop to piecework and make parts for an airplane factory. John and Mary are especially to be commended for the dash and vigor with which

they solved the problem of what to do while awaiting word of John Jr. on Bataan. To Mary, John said: "No news is good news. If a telegram or anything like that should come, you let me open it." And Mary said: "I'll open it myself!"

THAT, on or about April 28, 1942, after a series of defeats which might well have sapped the courage of the hardest shock troops, John and Mary Smith withstood the fiercest onslaught which any foe, foreign or domestic, can bring against a sector of the home front. Mary Smith opened the telegram. It began: "It is with the deepest sorrow and regret that we inform you—More painful than a bayonet through the heart . . . more cruel than machine-gun bullets . . . a blacker, uglier nightmare than a raid by a thousand bombers. . .

Said Mary Smith: "I am going to stay in my room until I have stopped crying. No use upsetting folks. They've got troubles of their own—and a war to win."

And John Smith said: "Sonny knew that this might happen. He knew what he was fighting for—he had it all figured out. He said to me once, 'Pop,' he said, 'if we don't win this one there won't be any place in the world fit for a decent man to live.' He died trying to win. What I say is, we'd all be better off dead if we lost it."

To John and Mary Smith—for valor.

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PITTSBURGH POST No. 49 PRESENTS J.W.V. CITATION TO GROSSMANS WHO HAVE SIX SONS IN SERVICE



L. to R.: Judge Benjamin Leucher, Samuel Grossman, Rabbi Phillip Bookstaber, Mrs. Grossman.

THE

# Jewish Veteran

"THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

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

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## December 7th

Unquestionably this day of Jap treachery and the start of the global war, will become an important date in our history. Many organizations are wondering how to observe it this year. Certainly it is not a date for celebration. President Roosevelt has stated that he will observe it in silence. Possibly memorial services for those Americans whose lives were sacrificed in Pearl Harbor might be a solution, at which we ought to pledge anew that their lives were not lost in vain, and rededicate ourselves to gladly ration coffee, sugar, gas, tires, to work longer at our jobs, to continue our services in civilian defense, to give our blood for blood banks, and our dollars to buy more bonds. Let us intensify our every effort to back up the boys on the fighting front and exert our utmost unselfishly to help win the war as quickly as possible.

## The Offensive Has Started

In Egypt, in North Africa and in the Solomon Islands the tide has turned. We have a right to be hopeful, but we must not slacken our effort. Pres. Roosevelt has well warned us "It will be uphill all the way. There can be no coasting to Victory." We can hope for victory in a year, but we must continue to prepare for a war for two years and more. We have tough enemies, and must not underestimate them. We will shorten the war only if we have better and more machines, and if our soldiers are better and tougher than theirs. Let's keep our minds, our hands and our resources to the one important job ahead—the winning of the war.

## Voting for Soldiers

During the last general election, some questions were raised as to whether the boys in service, especially, those overseas should be given the facilities to vote. This is a vital and serious question. If there were any preferences in suffrage it would seem that the boys in uniform should get the preference. Both Federal and State laws should be passed early next year to ensure that each and every soldier, sailor and marine, entitled to vote, shall be given every possible facility to vote, not only for Federal officials, but for all state and local officials, the same as if he were at home. Let us give this the serious consideration it deserves.

"Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, for the Lord, thy God, is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Book of Joshua, Chap. 1, V. 9

## We Do Not Understand!

The American people are 100 per cent behind the administration in any measures invoked to help win the war. Sometimes we wonder if our elected representatives are. Take for instance the exhibition of some of the Senators on the anti-poll tax bill. That threatened filibuster while we're trying to harness our full energies to win the war, savors close on to sabotage. And how about the recent attempt of some of the Senators to attach a prohibition rider on to the teen age draft bill? 75 or more Congressmen from states where gasoline is plentiful are trying to postpone nation-wide rationing. It seems that silver metal is vitally needed for many purposes and is available in large quantities, and yet some silver state Senators are holding up the repeal of selfish silver legislation which now requires the Government to continue endlessly to purchase silver at inflated prices and forbids it to sell the metal outright even for urgent war needs, except at prohibitive prices. We might mention similar conditions affecting small plant owners, retail merchants, etc., but we have indicated sufficient to prove, we believe, that some "morale building" might do some good "at the top."

## Discrimination in Employment

We have harped on this subject so much, because we believe it to be so important—the essence of Americanism. Of what avail to achieve world freedom, and to retain discrimination here at home. The regulations of the President and of the Man Power Commission have brought improvements, but many employers still discriminate against many groups. If equality in employment cannot be procured voluntarily or through governmental proclamation, let's pass laws, with teeth in them, so that an employer would not dare violate them. Some improvement has been made in New York state through the passage of State laws, and every post outside of New York should get a copy of the New York statutes and try to have similar laws passed in their states. Won't you give this your thought and action?

## New Faces at National

George Feigin is our new National Adjutant. Adjutant Feigin is a practising attorney in New York, and a past commander of Metropolitan Post 146. For the past several years he was active in the County and Department of New York J. W. V., and also acted effectively on several National committees.

M. Edwin Levy is our new National Quartermaster. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of Parkway Post No. 61, Brooklyn. As a Post, County and Department Quartermaster, he is fully familiar with the duties of his new office. Louis Samuels, National Quartermaster for six successive years, resigned because of the press of his personal business. At the last National Executive Committee meeting, he was presented with a Certificate of Merit for his devotion to duty and excellent services rendered to J. W. V.

Abraham Schwartzman, Executive Secretary, resigned as of November 15th. We understand he has a more important appointment with Uncle Sam, and we wish him luck.

## SCRAP IS STILL NEEDED TO LICK THE JAPS

## Post Elections

Some of us still carry on "as usual" in spite of the war. We imagine some posts in electing their new officers next month for the ensuing year will also carry on "as usual." If so, this plea will be ineffectual. We wish to suggest that these being unusual times, it would be desirable to omit "usual" procedure. If your present commander is capable and experienced, it might be preferable to re-elect him for another term.

Precedents are being broken daily in larger spheres of life. Rather than "break-in" a new comrade, if your senior-vice is a good hard worker, but not a leader, would it not be better to let him remain as senior vice, and pick a man who is known to be an executive and a leader? We know its hard to forget personal interest, but the cause is so vital. Every post should elect its *very best men* as officers for next year, so that J. W. V. can operate efficiently, without loss of time or effort, and give our best and most for war service. Give this thought *before* you elect.

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