

# The Jewish Veteran

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Christmas, 1942

TO OUR VETERANS:

At this holiday season, despite the fact that our country is involved in the most devastating and dangerous war ever known to man, I hope you may be cheered and heartened by an abiding faith in the rightness of our cause and the strength and devotion of our armed forces and those of our Allies of the United Nations.

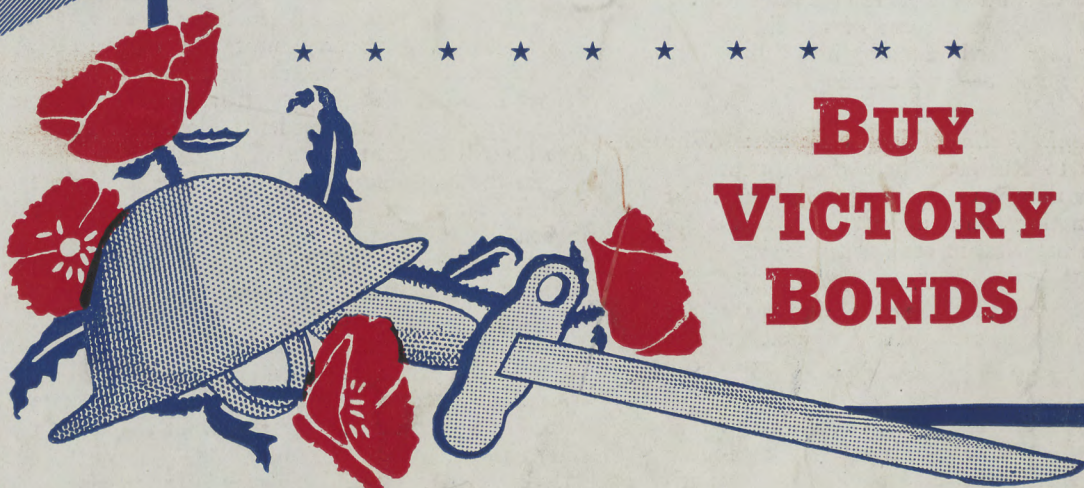
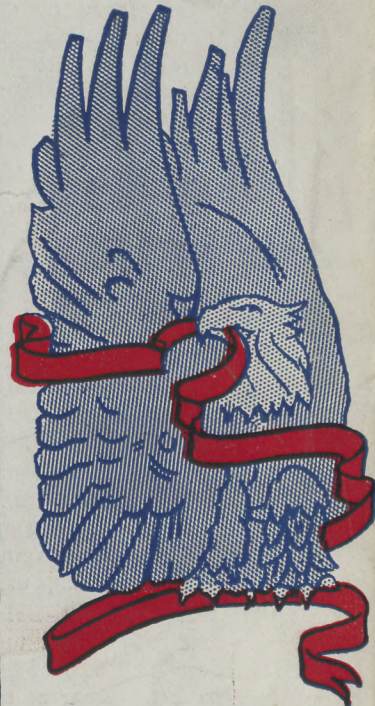
You who have bravely served and suffered in that service hold now as always, the enduring gratitude of the nation whose honor and freedom you fought to maintain.

To you, and to all our veterans, I send heartfelt greetings for Christmas, an earnest prayer for your welfare and for a happier New Year.

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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**BUY  
VICTORY  
BONDS**



December, 1942

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# HITLER'S "SECRET WEAPON" AGAINST AMERICA

## The Weapon by Which the Nazis Hope to Hamstring the Entire American Armament Program

WE Americans have always prided ourselves on being nobody's fools.

We can smell fraud a mile off.

We are leery of fake advertising, political hooey, and propaganda.

*Especially propaganda!*

Yet today we face SOMETHING NEW in the way of flim-flam—something even our shrewdness can't easily penetrate.

In fact, our native skepticism is exactly what leaves us wide open to the attack which America's enemies are planning against us—THE GREATEST DANGER WE'VE EVER FACED.

It's a neat little trick, designed to split America wide open:

The Nazis know that a democracy is controlled by public opinion.

They know therefore that strong action by a democratic nation depends on a UNITED PEOPLE—that disunity means hesitation and weakness in the face of attack.

Well, then, they argue, a little adroitly inspired division in the people's ranks could do wonders to slow up the American war effort.

Get them fighting AMONG THEMSELVES!

Soften them up for the kill!

For it's always easier to fight a nation already undermined by doubt, confusion and discord—a nation ready to fall like a rotten plum into the bag of conquest.

Prey on every human weakness!

Appeal to every specialized group interest which can be uncovered!

Use fear, greed, distrust, prejudice and hate—and use them SCIENTIFICALLY, to set group against group, class against class, race against race, religion against religion.

You'd think Americans in the last few months would have learned a thing or two. Yet some of us still let the Nazis turn us against each other by fanning into flame every spark of friction in our midst—by increasing the tensions that exist among us.

*Is there anti-Communist feeling?* The Nazis ask: "Why send planes and tanks to Russia to help the Communists over-run Europe?" As though maintaining a Russian front were the same as promoting Communism! And as though the Russian front were not vital in beating the Axis!

*Is there anti-Administration feeling still about?* The Nazis try to make it appear that those in high places are playing petty politics with the peoples safety, or that "Washington is chaotic," or that the "wrong people" have been given the key posts.

*Are there conflicts between economic, religious or racial groups in the population?* The Nazis stir up anti-labor feeling, anti-business feeling, anti-Negro feeling, and anti-Catholic feeling.

*Is there anti-Semitism in certain quarters?* The Nazis dig up the old discredited charges that "the Jews" are conspiring against the rest of the population.

*Is there anti-British sentiment around?* The Nazis start rumors that American Lease-Lend materials are being sold by the British to South America; or that Britain is about to make a separate peace; or that American war strategy is being determined in London for British "imperialist" interests.

DOES ALL THIS sound fantastic, unreal, impossible? Just remember that this is the land of Free Speech, Free Press, Free Assembly, where we defend these sacred rights EVEN FOR THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH US.

Remember that the Propaganda Ministry in Berlin, deciding that a certain "angle" should be stressed in America, can within an hour reach thousands of listening posts over here by SHORT WAVE RADIO, and thus START A WHISPERING CAMPAIGN FROM MAINE TO CALIFORNIA.

Remember that press hand-outs by Herr Goebbels, as well as the radio outpourings of Hitler himself, are cabled to America AS NEWS, and that such stories reach Americans day after day, not through flimsy pamphlets, but through front-page headlines.

Only a FEW Americans are traitors, to be bought by Nazi promises or cash, but these are the tall tales you will hear those few repeating and passing on to others, aided and abetted by the Nazi sympathizers still at large in this country.

Others who have repeated their lies and rumors have been just "innocents" who have fallen for the game and unwittingly carried on the work.

DEMOCRACY does not mean that all citizens must think alike. The very meaning of democracy is that issues are decided by public discussion. But in an emergency such as the present, democracy must also raise ITS MORAL DEFENSES. Every citizen must be aware, as never before, of how ordinarily healthy controversy can be perverted to divide the country, destroy its singleness of purpose, undermine its will to resist.

Since the beginning of this war, there has been talk about Hitler's "secret weapon." Now we know what this secret weapon is.

Can we beat it? Yes, of course! But only if we steel ourselves against the attack—refuse to believe disquieting rumors, refuse to repeat them.

Start a Where-Did-You-Hear-That Club. Question the source of every rumor. Then smother it.

Remember that what we do *at home* is in many ways as important in winning this war as what the armed forces are doing abroad.

Let's think straight. Let's stand firm against the enemy in our midst. Let's fight back. This is *our* fight.

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## JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

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# EDITORIAL PAGE

J. GEORGE FREDMAN, Editor

VOLUME TWELVE

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NUMBER FOUR

## ONE YEAR AT WAR

One Sunday afternoon last December Americans listened, stunned, at their radios as news came in of the Japanese atrocity at Pearl Harbor. History holds no record of a similar villainy during peace-time.

The Americans who died at Pearl Harbor are not at rest. Their spirit goes marching on, side by side with the living troops. They were in that plane with Captain Colin P. Kelly and Meyer Levin as it rammed the funnel of a Jap battleship. They flew with General Doolittle as he bombed Tokio; they held up the courage of the men who followed Lt. Gen. Stilwell through the jungle to freedom. They arm the soul of General MacArthur as he drives the enemy back in New Guinea. Their memory will live and march until the final vengeance is won.

In the last war, America helped destroy a faraway monster. Today she fights that monster on her own doorstep. The fight is ten times harder, more grim, more terrible, and *there is no way out but victory.*

Americans must stick together as never before. No difference of race, creed, color, class, may interfere. We are all in this together, and we shall get out of it together or not at all.

Sacrifices such as Americans have never known since pioneer days will be asked of all of us.

More will be asked of Veterans than of others. Veterans know what it's all about. They know the Hun, and they can guess the Jap; he's built on the same model. The Veterans know what victory is worth. Having bled, and sacrificed before, they know how to set an example.

We Jewish War Veterans already have a proud record of pledges fulfilled and new projects being planned.

Every member of Jewish War Veterans is either back in active service or is doing his share on some civilian defense project. Thousands of our Sons are in the Armed Forces.

Our pledge to sell \$25,000,000 of war bonds and stamps has already been over-fulfilled.

Our pledge to collect \$150,000 in cash as a gift to the United States Government for the purchase of pursuit planes is almost completely filled. "The Star of David" is now dropping bombs on Japs or Huns.

Jewish War Veterans have donated "barrels of blood".

Jewish War Veterans have spared no efforts or funds to give comforts and necessities to the boys in uniform. Pianos, radios, pool tables, furniture for recreation rooms, Sefer Torahs, service kits, newspapers, letters, entertainment, have been sent to the boys. A new project is afoot to provide the boys overseas with decks of playing cards.

Jewish War Veterans has published a booklet, "Jews in American Wars," to acquaint our men in uniform with the proud history of our people on American battlefields.

This first year has been but a fore-runner. On the War Front, on the Home Front, with our lives, our blood, our money, with all our hearts and minds, the Jewish War Veterans will carry on to victory.

## THE NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The accompanying editorial summarizes the situation at the end of one year of war. It also summarizes J.W.V.'s war effort to date.

While writing this editorial, I stopped to listen to a broadcast by Capt. Ed. Rickenbacker, rescued by a kindly Providence after 21 days on a tiny rubber raft. Rickenbacker said:

"If you only could know what the boys on Guadalcanal are doing for us and for future generations, you could find it as hard as I to enjoy the comforts of home this Sunday afternoon. YOU never can approximate the sacrifices our men are making on the battlefronts."

Speaking of the complaints and gripes at the week-end gas shortage, Rickenbacker went on to say:

"I know that if those of us raising cries of objections to being rationed could visit the battlefields as I did, you would realize the utter shame and infamy of your position. I could not help but think of the fact that the old rubber in one tire was enough to make two or three of those rafts which saved our lives and which are saving the lives of our airmen every day."

There is no argument. We simply *must make sacrifices* to win the war. Every one of us must tighten our belts, work harder, produce more, give more.

How can J.W.V. best do its share? First by increasing its membership. The larger our membership, the more man-power we will have to serve. Every post CAN increase its membership. Won't you try?

Next, we must continue to serve in every way possible. Intensify your efforts to cheer and comfort the men in uniform. A letter, a pack of cigarettes, a book, a deck of cards can mean a lot to the morale of a lonely soldier or sailor. "Adopt a Yank" or a company of Yanks so you will feel a definite responsibility to some definite serviceman or a group of them.

Which leads me to "Service Members." No project is more important. If you serve the men in uniform *now*, they will want to join J.W.V.—as Service Members now, and as Active Members when the war is over. This host of eligibles joining J.W.V. will make our organization the powerful instrument for good which we have been striving to make it. Make the acquisition of young aggressive, new blood in the form of Service Members your second objective. In future columns, I shall outline other things J.W.V. MUST do, if we are to fulfill our purpose in serving our country to the utmost.

Let us "Remember Pearl Harbor," but let us also resolve to preserve the Home Front, so that they who died shall not have died in vain, and they who fight shall have a home to return to where they can build again and hope again and live again in Freedom and Peace. It is in this spirit that I wish you one and all, and your families, a Happy New Year.

BENJAMIN KAUFMAN.

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# Nazi Propaganda - In Doggerel

In spite of the tons of instructions and suggestions by Government officials and others to be on guard against Nazi propaganda, many Americans are still susceptible. Comrades from different parts of the country have sent us copies of a poem, which for the sake of this article, we shall call "The first American" doggerel. It has come to us in printed, mimeograph and typewritten form. It has been picked up in subways, buses, defense plants, army camps, public buildings, government offices, and other places. It has been recopied and passed on to others. It is probably the most widely circulated piece of Nazi propaganda since Pearl Harbor. And at the same time the most vicious.

The leaflet viciously misappropriates the names of great American heroes to build up to its anti-Semitic tag-line.

The first reaction on its receipt is to consider it a joke and to laugh. The next reaction is to raise doubt as to its truth in the reader's mind, which results in anger and resentment. The third reaction is to create an attitude with reference to any feelings the reader might have for or against Jewish people. All of which makes it one of the most fruitful products the evil mind of Goebbels ever put out.

The use for such purpose of names of American heroes who died or risked their lives fighting against the Axis is shameful. The deriding of the patriotism of Jewry—the sacrifices hundreds of thousands of American Jews are making in the armed forces in this war—is shameful. The following of the Nazi line attacking those of Jewish faith is shameful. The use of American heroism for a laugh, is shameful. The whole thing is shameful and disgraceful.

BY NEW YEAR'S TOP 10% . . .  
BUY U. S. WAR BONDS

The question most often asked us is "how to meet this type of propaganda?"

The first thing to do is to remember the time and place, or the name and address of the person from whom the leaflet was received. Send this information, together with the leaflet itself, to your nearest F.B.I. office. The F.B.I. will then thoroughly investigate and learn the source of the copies. Some copies have been traced to known subversive printers, and others to Nazi stooges and traitors.

Secondly, tell the person who hands you the leaflet or those you see reading it, that it is a lie, that its origin has been traced to the Berlin shortwave, and that anyone in America who helps, however unwittingly, to spread it, not only defiles the standard of liberty and justice for all (which is what 6,000,000 American boys are fighting for today), is to put it mildly, aiding the enemy.

PM recently ran an article on this smear and quoted John C. Cullen's views on the "joke". Cullen is the Coast Guardsman who outwitted the Nazi submarine saboteurs. Here is what Cullen said: "I understand my name is being used, without my consent, in a leaflet called the "First American". Persons putting out that leaflet have no right to use my name. We are in this fight together, Jews, Catholics and Protestants. We are all trying to do our part. Anybody who tries to stir up hatred against a race or religion is playing the Nazi game. I hope every good American who sees this leaflet, or any leaflet attempting to divide us, will tear it up".

The name of John Powers, another hero, killed in the battle of Coral Sea, after his plane destroyed five Japanese ships, is used in one of the lines of the doggerel. Here is what Mrs. John J. Powers, his mother says about it: "It is needless on our part to say that we do NOT in any way approve of the circulation of any scurrilous matter that in any way reflects adversely on anyone's patriotism."

Mrs. Colin Kelly, widow of the hero, whose name has also been used, has appeared at several Jewish War Veteran and Auxiliary affairs. Lt. Commander Bulkley, another whose name the poem dishonors appeared at a Jewish Community Center in Long Island to pay tribute to a fallen Jewish buddy, whom he praised.

Another method of combatting this malicious smear is to more widely publicize the facts of Jewish military contribution to the United States—in every war. Copies of J.W.V.'s book "Jews in American Wars" should be more widely distributed. The facts of "Our Boys in Service" appearing in every issue of the "Jewish Veteran" should be distributed in your community. Copies of United States Senator Warren Barbour's article on "Jewish Firsts" (July 1942 issue of J.V.) should be distributed. Copies may be had by writing to Senator Barbour. In his address Senator Barbour showed that the first American from the city of Newark to be killed in this war was Private F.C. Louis Schleifer. The first man from the State of Delaware to lose his life in the defense of democracy in this war, also was a Jew, Sergeant Harry Fineman. Two other Jewish boys were the first Americans to give their lives in this war from Philadelphia—they were 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.

If Capt. Colin Kelly were alive today, no doubt he would be the first to point out that the bombardier of the ship he piloted was Sgt. Meyer Levin.

Is it known who bagged the first Japanese aircraft at Pearl Harbor? It may have been Lt. Stephen Salzman, who shot down a strafing Jap Plane at Schofield Barracks

(Continued on page 15)



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