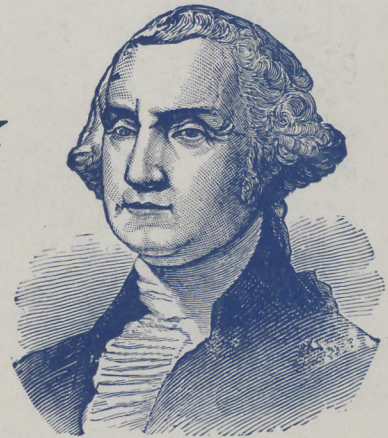


The Jewish Veteran



To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport
Rhode Island
Gentlemen.

While, I receive, with much satisfaction your Address replete with expressions of affection and esteem, I rejoice in the opportunity of assuring you, that I shall always retain a grateful remembrance of the cordial welcome I experienced in my visit to Newport, from all classes of Citizens.

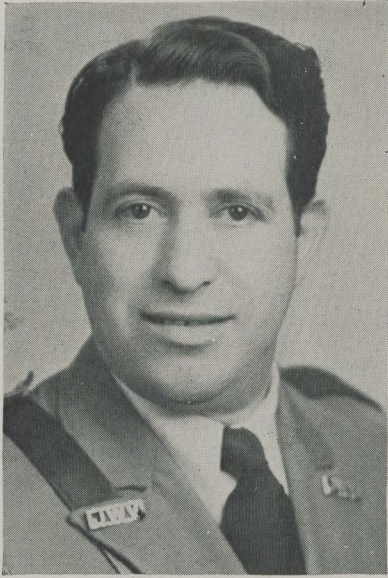
The Citizens of the United States of America have a right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy, a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the

the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection, should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support. . . .

May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy.

George Washington

February, 1943



WILLIAM GILMAN
Junior Vice Commander
Dept. of Mass.

Veteran of the Month

WILLIAM GILMAN

Jewish War Veterans: Junior Vice Commander, Dept. of Mass., Member National Speakers Bureau, Chairman Malden Post Americanism Committee.

Boy Scouts of America: Sponsor of two Malden J.W.V. Post Boy Scout Troops and on Quapanowitt Council.

Active in Malden Joint Veterans Council.

Delegate to New England Association of the A.A.U.

Morale Warden of Rumor Clinic.

Jewish Welfare Board: Member Army and Navy Com. 1st Corps Area and Sec'y of House Com. of Boston Army and Navy Club.

Procurement Officer for Chaplains and Special Service Officers, U.S. Army and Navy.

Jewish Affairs: V.P. Malden Hebrew School; Financial Sec'y of Temple Tifereth Israel; active in Zionist org. and U.P.A.

Liaison between J.W.V. and Anti-Defamation League.

Awarded title by Boston Jewish Advocate as a "one man U.S.O.," caring for the wants of any and every serviceman who makes a request of him. When his attention was invited to the numerous fine testimonials he had received from those whom he had aided, his cryptic reply was "How could I do less?"

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By J. GEORGE FREDMAN and LOUIS A. FALK

Published by The Jewish War Veterans of the United States

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★ ★ ★

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The Jewish Veteran

J. GEORGE FREDMAN, Editor

VOLUME TWELVE

FEBRUARY, 1943

NUMBER SIX

SOLDIERS OF LIBERTY

In this year of war 1943, the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln have a more solemn significance than ever before.

The memory of those mighty champions of liberty must remind us of that vital truth which we learned again at Pearl Harbor: "Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom."

Before the first World War, there were many good people who took it for granted that, as time went on, humanity would become more civilized and war would just naturally disappear.

And back in 1783 there were other good American folk who took it for granted that, since we had won a military victory against royalty, our democratic republic would just naturally create itself.

But we know that these things did not happen.

George Washington and his fellow patriots not only fought a winning war, but worked all the rest of their lives to help firmly establish a constitutional democracy. They did not take it for granted that somebody somewhere some day would do the job. They did it themselves.

For generations thereafter, most Americans took it for granted that the question of slavery would just naturally settle itself. Anyhow it had nothing to do with the liberties of white Americans. So they thought.

But they found out that a nation could not exist "half slave and half free." The sharp conflicts generated by two opposing economies finally led to civil war. And all the people who only wanted to keep out of it, found out that slavery was a matter of life or death to *them*.

For years Americans took it for granted that whatever happened in Europe was no concern of ours. We found out, one night in 1917 when the Lusitania sank, that Germany was our business. And all the "peaceful" Americans who put their hands over their ears when you talked about the war in Europe, learned that German militarism was a matter of life or death to *them*.

In 1933 a new and infinitely more diabolical Germany arose, and began destroying and enslaving weaker nations. But certain Americans insisted that we "mind our own business." What Hitler did to the Jews, to the Austrians, to the Czechs, and others, was no concern of ours. Then Hitler's ally swooped down on Pearl Harbor. Americans then found out that Nazism was a matter of life or death to America.

The military conquest we are fighting for in 1943 will end only the first phase of the war. No matter how completely we crush the armed might of the Axis, we shall not have gained the victory until we have also fought for and won the triumph of the principles of Washington and Lincoln,—until we have crushed all those enemies of mankind, at home and abroad, who oppose the establishment of full freedom for everyone and forever.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Most of us had thought that Pearl Harbor, followed by the sinkings of hundreds of our ships had exploded the folly of isolationism. Yet, I have just returned from a six week trip through the heart of the mid-west, and was astounded at the amount of Isolationist sentiment I found. In spite of the extermination of two million Jews, the killing and persecuting of hundreds of thousands of Catholics and Protestants by the Nazis, and the evidence in this country of a strong fifth column financed by the Nazis, and thousands of Germans or former Germans interned by the F.B.I. because of their subversive sentiments, I also found many Americans minimizing the Nazis and Fascists as enemies and promoting the thought that Communism was our No. 1 danger.

There is something radically wrong with such thinking. President Roosevelt's flight to Casablanca proved how small our world really is. Aviation has made our world shrink to approximately one-fifth its former size. Radio has brought us much closer to the ends of the earth. And these advances in science have also brought about a revolutionary change in our thinking.

In 1917-8, we had a World War. Today we have a Global War. What happens to Malaya, or Ethiopia, or Luxemborg affects every other country in the world. The need for international harmony is vital to the peace of the world. Otherwise, why are 8,000,000 Americans fighting?

We have all heard regretfully of the death of Brooklyn's hero, Sgt. Meyer Levin. In a recent letter home, he wrote: "It seems almost strange that a few years ago we were reviewing World War I as something that a wiser and sadder world would not repeat." Most of the American boys in the services today are fighting for a better world, and I like to believe that the Australian and British, and Russian and French and Chinese soldiers are all fighting with the hope of establishing a better world.

Will Isolationism establish such a better world? Definitely not. Two wars in our generation should be enough. Do you want your children to grow up in an atmosphere of militarism, and devote their lives to preparing for another war in twenty-five years?

What disturbs me most is that so many members of patriotic organizations are among the isolationists. They should know that if Britain had surrendered after Dunkirk, if Russia had not fought so valiantly and China had not held out so long, we would today be fighting on our own shores and defending our homes.

I hate Communist philosophy as much as any man. But I'm a realist. We haven't won this war by far, and this is the time when our fighting men should be given every support, in production and in morale. Isolationists are knifing these fighting men in the back. Let's forget politics, let's forget our ancient prejudices, let's have real Unity and expand with the times, so as a result of this war, we will have that better world to live in.

The Jewish Veteran is published monthly by The Jewish Veteran Publishing Company, a corporation of the State of New Jersey, having its principal and publication office at 93 Hudson Street, Hoboken, N. J. Officers, J. G. Fredman, President; Louis D. Samuels, Treasurer; Abraham Kraditor, Secretary. Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Hoboken, N. J., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Subscription price in the United States, \$3.00 per year, payable in advance. JACOB S. SPIRO, Assoc. Editor

George Washington and the Jews

THE history of the Jews in America is a record of patriotism, from the earliest days of discovery and settlement, down to the present day of Meyer Levin and countless other Jewish heroes who are dying for the perpetuation of our liberties.

George Washington was well acquainted with the behavior of American Jews throughout the War for Independence. Two Jewish officers served on his staff: Major Benjamin Nones and Colonel Isaac Franks. Major Nones came to America with Lafayette to aid the patriots. At one time Nones commanded a unit of 400 composed partly of Jews. Isaac Franks was only seventeen when he enlisted, and rose to the rank of colonel and aide-de-camp to General Washington. He was wounded several times in battle and at one time was taken prisoner by the British, but escaped after a few months. It was in his home at Germantown that President Washington resided when the capital was located in Philadelphia.

General Washington must also have been acquainted with the "Jews' Company" of South Carolina, commanded by Capt. Richard Lushington. This volunteer infantry company was not composed entirely of Jews, but derived its name from the fact that it had been recruited from a section of Charleston in which Jews predominated and hence the majority of its members were Jews.

Solomon Bush, officer of the Pennsylvania Militia was cited for valor for his noteworthy service. Philip Moses Russel was with Washington as surgeon at Valley Forge. When he retired in 1780, he received a letter of commendation from General Washington for his assiduous and faithful attention to the sick and wounded.

Washington also knew how the comfortably established Jewish community of New York had given up their homes and left the city almost as one man, rather than remain there after the British had captured it.

And he knew Haym Salomon, that brave little Polish Jew who risked his life again and again during the war, who was taken prisoner by the British, escaped, and after the war gave all the financial aid he possibly could both

to the new government as a whole and to individuals such as James Madison and Robert Morris and others who needed help.

Another who lost most of his fortune in the war was Aaron Lopez, reputed to have been the wealthiest Jew in America at the time. For his loyalty to the colonist cause, his entire property was confiscated by the British. Israel Israel of Pennsylvania was also mentioned by Robert Morris as having given financial assistance to the Revolution. David Hays of Westchester was another Jewish patriot.

No doubt Washington had seen the delightful little town of Newport with its gay and busy Jewish settlement before the war of '76. The liberal government of Roger Williams had drawn many Jews there, and the fine harbor and beautiful view of the sea had encouraged them to put up worthy houses. The war came, and nearly every Jew of Newport fought for liberty. No wonder that when the soldiers of George III arrived in Newport, they burned it to the ground. The Jews fled, and never again was that beautiful and flourishing community re-established.

It has been said that Reverend Gershom Mendes Seixas, Rabbi of the Shearith Israel Congregation of New York, was one of the fourteen clergymen who took part in Washington's inauguration ceremonies.

Thus Washington knew it was no empty verbiage with which the various Jewish communities addressed him on his becoming the first President of the new nation. Their wounds, their graves, the ruins of their once-noble homes, gave them the right to speak as full-fledged citizens of the new republic.

Their words to him were beautiful, breathing the spirit of the ancient Bible, which Washington himself so revered.

"Sir, permit the children of the stock of Abraham to approach you with the most cordial affection and esteem... and to join our fellow citizens in welcoming you to Newport," wrote Moses Seixas when in the fall of 1790 Washington visited what was left of that city. "We rejoice to think

that the same spirit... as of Daniel... rests upon you, enabling you to discharge the arduous duties of Chief Magistrate...

"Deprived as we have hitherto been of invaluable rights of free citizens, we now with a deep sense of gratitude to the Almighty... behold a government erected by the majesty of the people... generously affording to all liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship, deeming everyone... an equal part of the great governmental machine..."

And it was no mere conventional courtesy which moved the great-hearted President to respond with one of his noblest letters, some of whose phrases ought to be engraved on the hearts of all who call themselves Americans:

"To the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, Rhode Island.

"Gentlemen: I have received with much satisfaction your address... The citizens of America have the right to applaud themselves for having given to mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and humanities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were by the indulgence of one class of people that another (class) enjoys the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support..."

"May the children of the stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants..."

G. Washington."

These magnificent lines, written by the first President and great leader of our country, form the true expression of real Americanism. No petty group, maneuvering today to weaken the bonds of national unity by splitting the people into different sects, can break down the barrier to their mean-spirited hopes which was erected in the letters of George Washington.