

# The Jewish Veteran

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## THE J.W.V. ATTITUDE

It happened on a sidewalk in New York.

A little girl of five was playing peacefully with some children of her own age, when a boy about nine passed by, and called her a childish anti-Semitic name.

The little Jewish girl said nothing. She dropped her handful of jacks, leaped at the boy with her doubled fists and struck him in the face.

The astonished boy, speechless, ran away crying.

The little girl never had to hit him again. That boy never came back, and none of the other boys on that block ever came around again calling Jewish children names.

"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings," said a wise old man, "comes wisdom."

Such has always been the attitude of the Jewish War Veterans. We have learned from experience that when one respects himself, others will also respect him. When you take it lying down, cowards will come back and give it to you again and again. A common answer of vulgar people as to why they bait Jews, is simply, "Why not? Jews don't fight back." When it came to fighting Hitlerism, J.W.V. adopted the aggressive weapon of the Boycott; when the Christian Front held subversive meetings on street corners, we attacked by holding meetings on opposite corners and preached Americanism; when the Bund were holding their public meetings, we attended and challenged their false statements. The results prove that our tactics were correct.

Of course, the Jew-baiter does not stop to think and does not know that he is serving the forces which create Fascism and lead to the enslavement of all, Christian and Jew alike. Anti-Jewish acts are only the entering wedge for anti-Semites. Catholics and Protestants, Labor Unions and Free Masons have learned this to their sorrow from experiences in Europe. The same would follow in this country and thinking Christians are beginning to realize that anti-Semitism is also a Christian problem.

Discrimination in employment, isolationism and other anti-Semitic manifestations are beginning to rear their heads. The 33 indicted anti-Semitic seditionists have not yet been brought to trial. Senators and Representatives in Congress are making insulting speeches. There have been incidents in our armed forces. We should loudly protest all anti-Semitic behavior, as Jews and as Americans. Such actions threaten the nation's unity as well as our lives.

## J.W.V. PRESENTING 25 AMBULANCES

Having learned from our authorities that ambulances are vitally needed, and are the most constructive current gift that any civilian organization could make, the Executive Committee of the Jewish War Veterans voted to make an outright gift of twenty-five ambulances to the United States Army. The funds (not bonds) to purchase the ambulances is available and seven ambulances have already been presented, as follows:

Two at the Department of New York Convention and one each at the Conventions of the Department of Massachusetts and New Jersey. Each of the other departments will be permitted to make similar presentations. Ambulances have also been presented at Hartford, Conn., Paterson, N. J., and Springfield, Mass. Other presentations will be made in the larger cities through the midwest. It is expected that the 25 will have been presented before the end of August, 1943.

Following presentation of pursuit planes, the sale of bonds and donation of blood, the presentation of these ambulances makes another constructive chapter in J.W.V.'s contribution to our nation's war effort, of which we are justly proud.

Would these same people dare attack the Catholic or Protestant Church? What would happen if they said similar things against the Irish. Today even Negroes no longer hush-hush.

The strange thing about it is, the Jew *has* courage. The Jew of the Bible was one of the greatest of military leaders and followers. He had not only his Davids and Jonathans and Maccabees, he had his rank and file of unconquerable fighters. The Jew of today is also a fighter. We proved that with our Kaufmans and Drebens and Krotoshinskys in World War I, and our Meyer Levins, Billens, Segals and Epsteins are proving it in this war.

Of course, standing on our own two feet and fighting back will draw attack from our enemies, but they attack us anyhow, and invent reasons if they have none. But it will also create a new attitude in the vast numbers of Americans who do not know the glorious history of the Jew in America, but who do respect the man who respects himself.

**KEEP BUYING BONDS!**

## Cohen Captures Lampedusa

Last month we recorded an incident of poetic justice—that of Maj. Gen. Fritz Krause, haughty-Hitler-heiling Artillery Commander of the whipped Afrika Korps, being forced to surrender unconditionally, of all men to a young American Jew, Lt. Albert Klein of Waukegan, Ill.

When the Americans landed in North Africa, we told the story of Corporal Bernard J. Kessel, of Brooklyn, who became separated from his battalion, and who practically captured the city of Oran, single handed with the help only of a General Grant tank.

This month we have another saga to report—that of RAF Sergeant Sidney Cohen, capturing the Italian isle of Lampedusa, single-handed. Cohen is being hailed throughout the world for his resourcefulness and bravery.

Cohen was a cutter in a tailor shop in the East End of London, until he enlisted in the RAF three years ago. While out on a sea rescue flying mission with two mates, an Englishman and a Scot, he noticed that his gas was running low. Compelled to make an emergency landing, he found himself on the island of Lampedusa. Here is Sgt. Cohen's story as told to correspondents:

"In a moment I knew that I was in a bit of a fix. Just then we saw some people waving white sheets, and two Italian officers approaching. One of the officers addressed us in Italian, and we discovered he wanted to surrender the island.

"In view of the accidental nature of my mission, this was a bit of trouble. But I told him I would have to see the 'No. 1' man, and he took us to a high ranking naval officer. Other officers and civilians entered the room and I was just about to receive the official surrender when—swish—everybody suddenly ran out of that room and left me alone. They must have thought another air raid was just beginning, but there was no sign of gunfire or bomb explosions at the moment, and I thought the nerves of my hosts must be getting a little ragged.

"But in a few moments I had a 'worm's eye view' of what was happening. About twelve Lightnings came over and hit the harbor. We fell flat. As soon as that was over, I and my mates went out to our plane and began cranking her. Just then four fighter bombers zoomed over us at zero feet and we dropped in our tracks again. But they saw the markings on our wing and swerved away.

### Sign Surrender Slip

"The next chapter was pattern bombing by the big boys. After that was over our Tyrolean friend appeared and told us to get away at once. We thought it a good idea, too, and the 'Eyeties' gave me a piece of paper signed by the commandant, guaranteeing the surrender and asking that we stop the bombardment. Those chaps were anxious that we deliver it to the proper authorities, and we promised that."

Sergeant Cohen and his mates then rushed off the Italian note of surrender to Tunisia where they landed at an American base

and gave the note to high military authorities who ordered the Allied landing on Lampedusa.

Sgt. Cohen, who is 22, is being called by his mates as "King of Lampedusa."

## Wipes Out 5 Machine Gun Nests, Gets Posthumous D.S.C.

On May 6th, Pfc Sidney Rapeport's company was under heavy machine-gun fire on the steep slopes near Mateur, Tunisia. Hand to hand fighting with bayonets was taking place on nearby hill 139. Armed with a carbine, Pvt. Rapeport, charged with a group of men upon one machinegun nest after another, taking the lead in wiping out four of them. His ammunition exhausted, he used his carbine as a club, even after it was broken on a German helmet.

With four machinegun nests eliminated, Pvt. Rapeport continued his attack upon the crew of a fifth machine gun. In the midst of this last gallant action, which successfully silenced the enemy gun, he was killed. His superb courage, which protected his own comrades and brought heavy casualties upon the enemy brought official tribute and General Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Pfc Rapeport lived with his parents in Cleveland, Ohio.

## 153 Jewish Chaplains in Service

The Jewish Welfare Board announces that there are 153 rabbis—Orthodox, Reform and Conservative—already in uniform. 21 more rabbis have been endorsed and it is probable before 1944 there will be over 200 Jewish Chaplains—eight times as many as in World War I. 21 are already overseas and they will be joined by eleven others shortly.

Even tho' there are no "atheists in fox-holes", the modern Chaplain fulfills a variety of very important duties for the men. Many is the chaplain who accompanies the men to the firing line, holding services in groups wherever possible, sleeing in fox holes and talking to the men individually and instilling in them a greater faith in God and Victory. Both Jewish and Christian Chaplains minister to men of all creeds and faiths, indiscriminately.

Many Jewish parents are thankful that their sons are continuing their religious training under a Chaplain's guidance—others because their sons for the first time are gaining an interest in their faith.

## Inter-Faith Cemetery at Guadalcanal

The cemetery at Guadalcanal was recently dedicated in an interfaith service by Chaplains of all three faiths. Chaplain Jacob Rothschild represented Jewry in this impressive service. The cemetery is beautifully kept by natives. The crosses intermingle with the Stars of David—infantrymen, sailors and marines lie next to each other—truly, a fine picture of democracy.

## Private Among Kings

Pvt. Aaron L. Feld of Philadelphia gave up his violin and music teaching when he joined the army March 13, 1942, but not his love for music. While in England, he learned that Yehudi Menuhin was giving a concert in London and got a leave. But there were no "free tickets," minimum price was six bucks, and it was a long way to pay day. But a Rabbi and Red Cross nurse (angel) intervened and Aaron got a ducat.

When he presented his ticket at Albert Hall, the guard looked at his ticket and then at him and then led him to the King's box! And P. F. C. Feld tells the rest of the story:

"On my left sat King Peter of Jugoslavia. On my right, King Haakon of Norway. Two seats to my left was President Raczkeiwicz of Poland and throughout the box were many more famous people. In the center sat Aaron L. Feld!" Aaron is saving the ticket as a "very pleasant memory."

Aaron's father is in the Army Signal Corps and a brother Robert, in the U. S. Army. Aaron is a Service Member of Free Sons of Israel Post 221.

## Jewish Heroes Fight Again

United States fighting ships named after Jewish heroes are riding the waves. We have reported the launching of the U. S. S. Ordronaux, the U. S. S. Levy and the U. S. S. Jeray.

Recently two more U. S. Destroyer-es-corts have been named after Jewish heroes. The U. S. S. Seid was launched at the Boston Navy Yard, as a fitting memorial to Lt. Daniel Seid, U. S. N., who was killed in action "in the performance of conspicuous heroic duty" in the Gilbert-Marshall islands engagement.

The U. S. S. Leopold was launched in Louisiana, in honor of Ensign Robert Lawrence Leopold, killed in the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor. Ensign Leopold, who hailed from Louisville, Ky., was the first casualty among the membership of the American Bar Association.

## National Commander Busy

The past month has been a very full one for National Com. Kaufman. He attended the Department Conventions of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. He made a flying trip to Flint and Detroit. He also made trips to Boston and Springfield, Mass., to Bridgeport and Waterbury, Conn., and to numerous functions in New Jersey and New York. He attended several conferences with the J. W. B. in connection with our new Rehab agreement and several meetings of the Allied National Veterans Alliance. He addressed two successful fund raising meetings of the National Expansion Committee, and has conferred with numerous national committees at Headquarters. These trips and conferences, the preparation of radio and other addresses, plus taking care of stacks of correspondence received daily at Headquarters, makes the job of our National Commander a 24-hour round-the-clock one.

## Multiple Medal Holders

Major Carl J. Lichter, 29, of St. Paul, Minn., has been decorated with the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, the *Air Medal*, and *Oak Leaf Cluster*, a unit citation, and four *Oak Leaf Clusters* to the unit citation. Major Lichter is a member of the 19th Bombardment Group.

He was attached to Clark Field when the Japs struck there and later fought as an infantryman on Bataan. He then became part of General MacArthur's Australian Air Force. Major Lichter has gone out on at least 75 operational missions.

He is home on his first leave in two and a half years, and after his thirty day leave is up, he intends to report to Stout Field, Indianapolis.

S/Sgt. Robert Kessler, 21, of McKeesport, Pa., joins the ranks of four-medal American Jewish fliers, having earned the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, the *Silver Star*, an *Oak Leaf Cluster* to the *Silver Star*, and the *Air Medal*.

A radio operator and gunner aboard a B-24 Liberator called "The Black Maria," Sergeant Kessler is now home after eleven busy months in the Middle East. He was a member of the first American group of fliers to bomb vital oil fields in that area and is credited with bringing down seven enemy craft and three more "probables."

Piling up 349 combat hours over the Middle East, Sergeant Kessler completed 35 bombing missions, never missing any scheduled raid. Once he was shot through the right hand by shrapnel from a Nazi shell which exploded inside the Black Maria. Another time, after a particularly hot skirmish with Nazi aircraft, the Black Maria landed in the Libyan desert with just one motor alive.

T/Sgt. Jerome Marcus, 24, of Brooklyn, is another four-medal flier, holding the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, the *Air Medal*, and two *Oak Leaf Clusters*. Marcus is an aerial engineer aboard a Flying Fortress.

A graduate of Jamaica High School, Sergeant Marcus played varsity football despite serious injuries suffered in an accident at the age of 16. He was a shipping clerk before he joined the Air Corps two years ago.

S/Sgt. Arthur Weitz, 22, of Brooklyn, holding the *Distinguished Flying Cross*, the *Silver Star* and the *Air Medal*, has been cited by Lt. Gen. Kenney for "extraordinary achievement in the Southwest Pacific area."

Crew chief of a transport plane, Sergeant Weitz has taken part in more than 50 missions, dropping supplies and transporting troops over territory continually patrolled by enemy fighter aircraft. The D. F. C. citation lauds his "courageous, fearless services to air combat protection to his fellow American airmen," adding that often his plane had to make landings on fields only a few miles from Japanese bases. "These operations aided considerably in the recent successes in this theatre." He has a brother, Stanley, 27, serving in North Africa in the Chemical Warfare Division.

Lt. Eugene J. Pollock, 24, of New Orleans, La., is another of the multi-decorated Jewish Servicemen. He holds the *Distin-*

*guished Service Cross*, the *Air Medal*, and five *Oak Leaf Clusters*.

Attached to a U. S. bomber base in England, Lieutenant Pollock is a flying Fortress navigator and has been participating in the concentrated Allied assault on the European continent. On a recent raid over Paris, his plane was one of 133 Forts which devastated the Renault motor works.

### Barney Ross as a Symbol

The appearance in Boston yesterday of Barney Ross, former world's champion boxer, dramatically symbolized the heroism of the Marines at Guadalcanal. The Advertising Club, which brought him to Boston, quite properly celebrated the achievements of a real fighter, awarded the *Distinguished Service Cross* for having killed 26 Japs at Guadalcanal. A symbol of American patriotism, Barney Ross, between recurrent hospitalizations as a result of malaria, shell-shock and shrapnel wounds, is now visiting industrial plants and service clubs for the Marines.

Barney Ross also has another symbol value in a country that hasn't completely escaped the Nazi exported doctrine of anti-Semitism. Last week George Wiswell, director of the Department of Propaganda Research of the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety, told Rotarians that 14 percent of all untrue rumors are anti-Semitic. Pointing out that some of this propaganda takes the form of doggerel which casts aspersions on Jewish patriotism, Wiswell referred to the record of Jews in this war.

He might well have used Barney Ross himself as the symbol of the hundreds of thousands of Jewish men now in the armed services of the United States. He might have referred to the late Meyer Levin, Colin Kelly's thrice decorated bombardier. He might have referred to any one of hundreds of Jewish medal winners or, even more important, to any one of hundreds of thousands of Jewish boys each doing his part in the fight for the Four Freedoms.

Boys in the armed services are cooperatively and individually doing their parts. That unfounded rumors—echoes of untrue Nazi propaganda—should be spread is completely alien to the basic tenets of Americanism.—*"The Boston Globe."*

In service two years, he joined the Army Air Corps while still in college and received his diploma in uniform. He has a brother, Howard, serving as ensign in the Navy Air Corps.

Capt. Sidney M. Richman, 24, of Oshkosh, Wisc., holds the *Distinguished Flying Cross* and *Soldier's Medal*. The former is for "long distance flight over water" under

hazardous and uncertain conditions; the latter award was for gallant efforts to rescue a fellow-pilot from a blazing plane. Much of Capt. Richman's flying has been in the Alaskan area.

Pvt. Oren Libson, 23, of Minneapolis, has been awarded the *D. S. M.* and the *Purple Heart* for gallantry under fire in Tunisia. Driving an American tank, Libson was blown ten feet into the air when an enemy shell hit his tank, the only one of the crew to come out alive. Stumbling over a sergeant whose leg was shattered, Pvt. Libson stopped to administer first aid and was hit in the leg.

Platoon Sgt. Stanley D. Kops, 33, of New York City, has been posthumously awarded the *Navy Cross*. A member of the First Marine Raider Bat., Sgt. Kops was cited by Secy. Knox "for extraordinary heroism on Guadalcanal."

Lt. (s. g.) Arthur N. Ershler, 32, of Hudson, N. Y., has received the *Navy Cross* for valor and heroism in the invasion of No. Africa. A dive bomber pilot attached to an aircraft carrier, Lt. Ershler participated in the "softening up" of enemy defense installations preceding actual landings. He has two other brothers in service, and an uncle, Major Philip Ershler is also on active duty.

S/Sgt. Arthur I. Berkovitz, 23, of East Chicago, Ind., missing in air action over Europe, holds the *Air Medal* and two *Oak Leaf Clusters*. He was in many operational flights against Germany.

Sgt. Schiller Cohen, 23, of the Bronx, recipient of a *D. F. C.* and an *Air Medal*, helped drive the Germans from Kasserine Pass. Waist gunner aboard a Fortress, Sgt. Cohen has brought down many enemy planes. In Casablanca, Sgt. Cohen shook hands with President Roosevelt.

### THE FLAG

Flag Day pictures in the paper disclosed a fact we hadn't noticed before. Old Glory, so gallantly streaming, is not merely the grandest flag that floats, the promise of liberty and equality, the flag of the free heart's hope and home, the sign of pride, honor and union, and the emblem that makes tyranny tremble. On top of all that, it is photogenic. Where is another flag on earth that shows up so well in a halftone print? Every star shines, every stripe registers, all of which endears it to us the more. No other banner shall be waved by us while life endures.—"N. Y. Times."

*Onondaga Post* 131, Syracuse, N. Y., recently inducted nine men discharged from the army. The ceremony was performed in the presence of several heroes of this war on furlough, who were all inducted as Service Members. The army is discharging thousands for physical disabilities and age limitations and all JWV posts should be alert to have them join their posts. The post also presented an American Flag to Calvary Episcopal Church, which will be placed in the Church shrine, dedicated to men from the church in service. Commander Albert Weinstein made the presentation.

## J.W.V. - J.W.B. Join On Rehabilitation

The Natl. Ex. Committee has approved a proposed joinder of J. W. V. with the Jewish Welfare Board in the handling of service claims, vocational training, insurance matters, re-employment and general rehabilitation of discharged service-men. Both organizations have been aiding veterans in these regards in the past, and such co-operation will avoid duplication and give veterans the best possible service.

With so many Jewish veterans in uniform, it will be necessary to have a service office in practically every large and medium sized city in the nation. Every post will have to join actively in rehabilitation. Since thousands of men are already being discharged, post Service Officer and Rehabilitation Committee should be appointed immediately and start functioning.

Under the agreement, which will be published in full in our next issue, legislative matters will be handled exclusively by JWV. To do this properly a JWV Legislative Director will be delegated to devote his full time to it in Washington.

## National Encampment

Many comrades and sisters are inquiring as to the time and place of this year's National Convention. Neither time or place have been fixed, but the Convention Committee is bending every effort to make a decision. The Executive Committee resolved to have the convention along the Atlantic seaboard, because of ODT regulations. Three places are being investigated—a large hotel near New London, Conn., Lake Kiamasha, where the New York Department holds its conventions and Atlantic City. The Army has vacated or will shortly vacate most of the Atlantic City hotels, making that city available.

Since most resort hotels would be crowded over Labor Day weekend, the Committee has decided to hold the convention the first or second week-end following Labor Day.

Notice of Time and Place will be sent to all posts and published in the next issue of "The Jewish Veteran," immediately following the Natl. Ex. Committee meeting on July 10th. Meantime all comrades and sisters can start making preparations and saving their pennies.

### TO OUR READERS:

Due to paper shortage and unavoidable printing difficulties, "The Jewish Veteran" has been delayed the last several months. In order to restore it to its original date—the 10th of each month, this abbreviated edition is being issued. Beginning with the July issue, the regular edition will be continued. We appreciate your indulgence and cooperation.

The Editors.

## Our Service Members

National Co-Chairman Archie Greenberg reports the number of our Service Members is approaching 20,000, with many Chaplains and JWV posts just getting into the swing. It is possible that our service members will reach 100,000 by the end of this year. There is no better foundation for a large, active JWV after the war.

While this column has singled out some posts and individuals who have been exceptionally successful in this project, almost every post is participating actively on Service Members. Every comrade has a son or relatives in service and comes in contact with many more almost daily, and generally, it requires only that the comrade have an application blank with him, and ask the youth to sign. General experience has shown that the vast majority of the boys now in uniform have heard favorably of J. W. V., have been the recipients of letters, diaries, kits, books, playing cards, etc., from our comrades or auxiliaries, and are proud to become members. Most of the misunderstandings have also been eliminated—all posts know that application blanks may be had gratis of National Hqrs., together with brochures and other information, and that posts may sign up servicemen, not only from their own city, but from any place in the nation. Membership cards are also supplied by National Hqrs.

Any Jewish boy in service in any branch of the American armed forces reading this column may drop a postcard to "Jewish War Veterans of the U. S., 276 Fifth Avenue, New York City" and the necessary application blanks and information will be sent to him directly.

### Honorable Mention

More Jewish boys pass through Camp Upton than through any other camp in the U. S. A., and thus Lt. Samuel Sherman, Chaplain, has greater cooperation opportunities than any other Chaplain. However, Rabbi Sherman is "sold" on JWV and he combines will with opportunity. As a result he keeps hundreds of applications rolling in weekly to Hqrs.

Chaplain Samuel Horowitz of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Capt. Samuel Teitlebaum, Chaplain at Ft. Smith, Ark., have become active and doing splendidly with Service Member applications. Many thanks Chaplains!

Baer Post 244, Bklyn., has approximately 600 Service Members. S. M. Chairman Abe Kassoff spends most of his time writing letters and sending gifts to these boys and derives much satisfaction out of the replies received. Com. Sam Malkin boasts that Service Members are project No. one of his post.

David L. Fannick Post No. 91, Waterbury, after a couple of visits by our Natl. Commander, is starting to reap the rewards of his S. M. campaign. Commander Samson Siegel is now sending a steady stream.

Phil Cohen, P. C. of Rochester, is personally responsible for more than 40 S.M.'s. William A. London, Adj. and Com. Martin W. Horowitz, of Richmond (Va.),

Post 155, are doing a swell job from Richmond, and Camps Pickett and Lee.

St. Louis 127 was a little late in starting, but they're now "in high" and the applications are pouring in. Com. Jack M. Pollyea makes sure that their SMs receive not only necessities and comforts but a subscription to "The Jewish Veteran."

Metropolitan Post No. 164 have 400 SMs. The Aux. sends them kits, but Israel Margolius, Chmn., makes sure that each SM receives a birthday card. The date of birth is taken from application blank. Why not YOU try this? Makes the boys out there happy.

Montefiore Post No. 102, Sam Frankel, Com., held a rally attended by 300 parents of boys in uniform. Among them was Sam Gold of the Bronx, who has six boys already in service and a seventh waiting a call. SM Certificates were distributed to each parent.

We should like to impress on all comrades and men in service, that there are no dues or obligations of any kind attached to becoming a J. W. V. Service Member. It is J. W. V.'s happy duty to serve ALL men in uniform, and to give them comforts and assistance. Why not join up TODAY?

### Hero Becomes Service Member

Maurice Davis, Com., of Jacob Cousins Post 99, has sent in the SM application for Lt. David A. Sacknoff, of Portland, Me. Lt. Sacknoff was a pilot on a B-25 bomber which completed 41 missions in the Tunisian campaign. One trip his plane was riddled with 500 bullet holes. He holds an Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters. He is here on detached service awaiting further orders. Welcome and lots of luck to you, Lt. Sacknoff.

## Lauds Heroism of Jew

Speaking in Congress recently, U. S. Senator James Mead told of the military contribution of Jews to this country. He said among other things:

"The part that Jewish servicemen are playing in this war is a matter of public record. Let me recall to you a part of that record. The first boy to lose his life from Newark, N. J., was Private Louis Schleifer; the first from Delaware was Sgt. Harry Fineman; Connecticut's first casualty was Kenneth Harold Messinger; the first body to be returned to the U. S. for burial from the Pacific battle zone was that of Marine Sgt. Herbert Keilson; the first fatality from Minneapolis was Ensign Ira Weil Jeffrey, who received a posthumous reward for valor; the first known fatality among the membership of the American Bar Association was Ensign Robert L. Leopold. The first close personal friend of mine to give his life in this war was Capt. Jacob Joseph of New York City who fell on Guadalcanal. . . . Wherever the American flag has gone, Jewish soldiers on every battlefield have followed. They are fighting on every battlefield of this war."