

The Jewish Veteran

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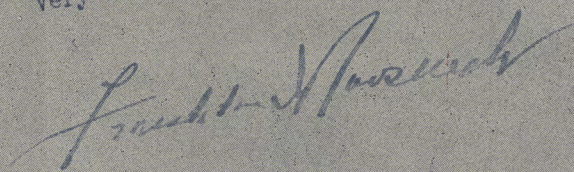
August 30, 1943

My dear Commander Kaufman:

My greetings and best wishes are extended to you and the members of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

The record of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States on the home front since the inception of the present conflict in aiding the armed forces is known to me. It is one of which you may, with justice, be proud. The battle record of the American Jew has had new lustre added through the heroic feats of the present generation. I am certain that with an unshaken belief in the final triumph of good over evil, the people of the stock of Abraham face the future with courage and hope in the eventual triumph of our just cause.

Very sincerely yours,



Mr. Benjamin Kaufman,
National Commander,
Jewish War Veterans of the United States,
276 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

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1943

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THE Jewish Veteran

"THE PATRIOTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY"

J. GEORGE FREDMAN, Editor

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"Full Part In Our Destiny"

RECENTLY a friend told me this story.

He was with his young son at a reviewing stand watching a Memorial Day parade. The sidewalks were crowded as they always are on such occasions. Banners were high, flags waved, bunting stirred in the wind; there was all the glamorous atmosphere of a day of celebration.

The parade made its way along the avenue. There was the marshal, Army and Navy officers and city officials, units of the Army and Navy, of the Coast Guard. Military equipment rumbled by and, last, there was a procession of patriotic and veterans' organizations.

No doubt about it, it was a thrilling sight to see them all go by. Each unit in an eye-catching uniform, many with banners of their own. There were scout troops, national guardsmen, church organizations, veterans posts—all marching along smartly.

Among the paraders, in an impressive phalanx of their own, along with the Catholic War Veterans group, the Lutheran Church Legion post and others, there stepped briskly a unit of the Jewish War Veterans and of their Women's Division. Heads were high, banners were flying and there was a good share of medals on broad chests.

As with the other units, hands clapped in applause.

At this point, my friend told me, his youngster, not yet ten, who had been watching the procession with deep intensity, turned to him with just this comment:

"Now, I feel better, Dad."

WHEN I was told that story, it seemed to me that out of the mouths of babes there had come a revealing truth. In his own simple, unsophisticated way, this youngster had put his finger on the reason for the very existence of the Jewish War Veterans.

Maybe, it would have been better if all the paraders had worn the same uni-

form with no distinguishing labels, with nothing to mark one from another.

Maybe.

I have my doubts about it because it sounds too much like regimentation to suit me. But quite apart from theory, the fact remains that here there were groups of American citizens, all joining in a common enterprise yet each identified in his own way.

So long as this is true, we American Jews, who have helped fight our country's battles, express ourselves through an organization characteristic of and acceptable to the American people—the Jewish War Veterans.

THESE are grave times for all of us, citizens of the countries of the United Nations, who are fighting the greatest combination of evil the world has ever known. These are grave days, even if lifted with hope, for all of us Americans fighting for our very survival as a great people.

These are bitter and parlous days for us Jews who have seen our fellow-Jews massacred, brutalized, whipped out of the countries which have been their homes for centuries.

In such times, it is imperative that we get our bearings straight, that we set ourselves the most appropriate tasks and that we do not flinch in those tasks.

I believe that it is the task of the Jewish War Veterans to hold high the symbol of the devoted and patriotic participation of American Jews in American history. I believe that by our very existence we serve that great purpose. I believe that by our work in all patriotic efforts, by our participation as American-Jewish veterans, we are a living refutation of slanders against the Jews, a living testimony of the full part we are playing in our country's destiny.

Because of the Jewish War Veterans, I believe, all American Jews can say, "Now we all feel better."

BENJAMIN KAUFMAN
National Commander