

# *The Jewish Veteran*

AUGUST ☆ 1944



**RELIGION IN THE NAVY**  
Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs

**SICK SOLDIER IN THE A.A.F.**  
Capt. Alfred Fleischman

**THE JEW ON THE FARM**  
Dr. Gabriel Davidson

# WAR EMERGENCY CONVENTION

(49th National Encampment)

HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK CITY

OCTOBER 5-6-7-8, 1944

**J.W.V.'s part in post-war reconstruction.**

**J.W.V.'s place in the field of rehabilitation.**

**J.W.V. and its fight against anti-Semitism and other un-American movements.**

**The enforcement of the Veterans G.I. Bill, proper hospitalization and care of veterans and their dependents.**

**Equal Opportunity for Employment for All Veterans.**

These are only a few important matters which this convention must determine. It will determine J.W.V.'s program and policy for the next five years. Specialists in each field will advise and guide us. Comrades will be able to express their views at forums. Nationally prominent speakers will address all sessions and the banquet. It will be a convention replete with education, enlightenment and action.

There will also be many opportunities for relaxation and entertainment. New York is the greatest convention city in the world. Your Committee has many surprises.

Hotel rooms are at a premium. Make your reservations early. **Hotel reservations should be made directly to Hotel Commodore, New York City.**

The National Commander's Banquet will be Saturday evening, October 7th. Reservations are limited to 1500 persons. Subscription (which includes reservation fee) \$6.00 per person. Banquet reservations should be sent to M. Edwin Levy, Treasurer, 276 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

You cannot afford to miss this most important of J.W.V.'s Conventions. 500,000 prospective J.W.V.'s now in service expect us to do our part. The future growth and influence of J.W.V. depend on this convention. **Make reservations early!**

BEN F. SWARTSBERG, General Chairman  
National Encampment Committee

# The Jewish Veteran

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

J. GEORGE FREDMAN, Editor

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## Religion in the Navy— Differences are the Norm

By VICE ADMIRAL RANDALL JACOBS, U. S. N.

*The Chief of Naval Personnel*

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**COVER NOTE:** The Conquest of Saipan. Marines attacking a Japanese position, flush the enemy out with a demolition charge and pick them off with rifle fire as they attempt to escape.

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I AM NOT a psychologist, and would not pretend to know how religious prejudices are born and nourished. I suspect that these old distrusts are deep-rooted and have the durability of weeds. Many of us not only protect our prejudices with considerable care but cherish them. Perhaps the best most of us ever do is to admit the other fellow's right to be dead wrong. To displace intolerance, to substitute the spirit of live-and-let-live, will take the efforts of our best minds and most stalwart leaders. It is ironic, of course, that so many of history's ugliest chapters have been written because of religious persecution and in the blood of men who believed themselves exclusively enlightened. Historians will look on this as peculiarly perverse behavior.

"Here were apparently intelligent creatures," they will say, "who hated, abused and reviled each other because they attended different churches each of which did its best to teach them to be gentle and kind. Thousands of them felt convinced the other fellow's religion was dangerous and entirely wrong, which is curious when you consider how little most of them knew about their own."

I don't know much about heaven, but I have reached one conclusion about it. Heaven must be full of men and women with a surprised expression—surprised, of course, at finding their neighbors there.

It would be pointless to deny that bitterness over religion still exists in this country and can still be provoked into flame. Archbishop Spellman has remarked with deep concern that bigotry in some ways seems more widespread and virulent now than ever before. No one need be reminded of the disgraceful symptoms. The excitement of war may contribute to this. There is inevitably a lot of loud talk and loose thinking. The atmosphere is highly charged, nerves are worn thin.

We are, nevertheless, making visible progress. We are getting away from the idea—and it has been a tenacious one—that men of different religions must inevitably be natural enemies. We have reached a stage where some of the burning issues of the past seem not only disgraceful but preposterous.

But I do not want to speak in generalities about intolerance and religious persecution. Instead, I want to relate some things that come under my scrutiny as the Chief of Naval Personnel. They concern a side of Navy life that has a direct bearing on the problem. We have a Navy today of more than three million men and women. The striking truth is that we shall shortly have almost as many craft,

(Continued on page 17)

