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JWV Joins '52 Register-Vote Plan



OLD AND NEW COMRADES meet together at National JWV Headquarters in New York City, as Isadore Weill, left, 76, and James Dodge, 22, both of Manhattan Post No. 1, talk over the 54th Anniversary of their post, to be celebrated this month. Comrade Weill is a Spanish-American War veteran and one of the founders of the JWV and its oldest member, while Dodge, a Korean War vet, is one of the organization's latest recruits. (Photo by Eli Aaron)

Oldest and Newest of JWV Meet at Manhattan Post 1

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Manhattan Post, No. 1, of 108 West 43rd St., New York City, the granddaddy post of the Jewish War Veterans, among other distinctions possesses the oldest JWV member and one of the youngest.

The May-December combination covering a span of 54 years, only two years short of the actual life of the organization, is made up of Comrades Isadore Weill, 76, and James Dodge, 22. Both live in Queens County, New York. Comrade Weill, a Spanish-American War veteran, has been a member of JWV and its predecessors for 52 years, while Dodge, who saw service in Korea before his medical discharge a few months ago, joined the Manhattan Post only a few days before these words went to press.

The two men were introduced by Comrade Dave Feltz, Life Member of the Manhattan Post. Feltz, one of the two men in the JWV to hold both a Life Membership and a Meritorious Award, works alongside Dodge at National Headquarters and is a long-time friend of Comrade Weill.

No Nominal Comrade

Comrade Weill is no mere nominal member who carries a JWV card and does nothing else about it. He has been active in the organization of one of the parent bodies, the Hebrew Veterans of the War With Spain, founded on Dec. 11, 1899. The Hebrew Union Veterans' Association, a group of Jewish ex-Civil War soldiers, had then been going for three years, and had held regular memorial services for their dead comrades. The Spanish War vets, who held their own services, soon attempted to merge with the older group. Comrade Weill chuckles as he re-

calls the reaction of the Civil War vets.

"They were older fellows, and at first they didn't want to get mixed up with us kids," says the white-haired septuagenarian. That was 1900. In 1906, Weill, who was then Commander of the Spanish vets' group, successfully approached Col. Isaacs of the Hebrew Union, and the first joint memorial services were held that year at Temple Rodeph Sholom, Lexington Avenue and 63rd Street in New York. That was the beginning of a united Jewish war veterans national organization.

Jews Served Country

"We wanted to show that Jews weren't camp-followers of our armies, but served their country as patriotic citizen-soldiers," Comrade Weill says proudly.

Weill fought with the Ninth Co., U. S. Volunteer Signal Corps in the Spanish-American War at the age of 22. He spent six months with the First Puerto Rico Expedition, and went to Cuba as well. A private first class, Weill was attached to the headquarters of Nelson A. Miles.

He had a wife and four children when he went to war, and gave up a job as an electrician with the General Post Office. Afterwards, he went back, and stayed with the Post Office until 1907. Subsequently, he worked with the New York City Hall of Records, and in 1919, went into the electrical supply business, in which he stayed until 1936. In World War II, Comrade Weill served his country again as an Auxiliary M. P. in the Quartermaster Corps. He retired in June of 1946, and is presently living in Kew Gardens, Queens, New York.

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Ginsberg Flays Terrorism Of Malayan Reds

SINGAPORE, Malaya. — Paul Ginsberg, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans, flayed Red terrorism in Malaya during a stopover here recently while on a world tour that covered the Far East, Korea, Japan, Manila and Hong Kong.

Before his departure from Singapore on Feb. 27, Commander Ginsberg said:

"It is distressing to learn, as I have learned here of the loss of human lives, the destruction of property and the suffering of innocent people which is being caused by Communist errorists in Malaya. The National Commander said that a small number of Red guerrillas are trying to prevent millions of Malaysians from working out their political future free from oppression.

Called 'Liberation'

"I am told that the Communists call this a 'liberation' movement, said the JWV leader. "Liberation from what? Do the people of Malaya wish to be liberated from freedom so that they can be enslaved and subjected to the atrocities, extortion and confiscation of property which are now common occurrences in Communist China. I have enough faith in the wisdom of the people of Malaya to believe that they will not choose that path."

Commander Ginsberg said he had been told in Singapore of the policy of the British Government to give encouragement to the desire of the Malayan people to move towards eventual self-government.

PLAN PASSOVER GIFTS

NEW YORK, N. Y. — A new CARE Passover Food Package to assure meat and other needed supplies for families in Israel during the coming holidays, was announced today by Paul Comly French, executive director of the non-profit agency.

Hershenson Launches New Campaign for Americanism

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Col. Harry Hershenson, National Americanism Director for the Jewish War Veterans, has announced JWV's affiliation with the "Get-Out-the-Vote" campaign of the American Heritage Foundation.

JWV's part in the project was effected on March 6, at a meeting between C. M. Vandenburg, Executive Consultant and Program Director and public relations assistant of the JWV. Weisman and Freyer represented Col. Hershenson, now on temporary military duty at Camp Gordon, Georgia.

Each of the myriad organizations attached to the sponsoring Foundation has volunteered to take one facet of the vote program and to concentrate on that. The JWV's task, according to Seymour Weisman, will have two parts.

Sponsoring Essays

"First, we expect to sponsor an essay contest for the grade schools all over the country, on the subject, 'Why My Parents Should Vote in the 1952 Elections.' Second, we will organize a cartoon contest in the high schools, based on slogans designed to get out the veterans' votes."

Mr. Weisman said that the slogans to be used in the cartoon contest would be "Every Vet a Voter," "Fighters of the Front Parade to the Polls," and "Prevent Democracy's Decay—Register Today."

Every JWV post will be asked to contact their local schools to initiate the program, Mr. Vandenburg was told. The County organizations will have the job of coordinating the posts' activities, and at the completion of the program the names of local winners are to be submitted to National Headquarters. Deadline for naming the winners was set at July 4.

The National Americanism Office is offering a special plaque for the post which does the most outstanding job of the campaign. The judges of the winner will be the last three National Commanders

of JWV—Henry Albert, Jackson J. Holtz and Myer Dorfmann.

Will Issue Bulletin

Mr. Weisman said that a special bulletin would be issued to all JWV posts, to bring the campaign to their attention.

The American Heritage Foundation, sponsoring agency for the "Get-Out-the-Vote" drive, is grinding nobody's axe, Mr. Vandenburg said.

"We don't care for whom or for what the people vote as long as they vote. We are not pushing any party, candidate or issue. We believe that the 56 per cent of the eligibles in this country who did not vote in the last election are in the main, the independent voters. They may include the most thoughtful and constructive voices in the nation, and it is shocking to think that they have not bothered to make themselves heard."

These non-affiliated citizens, estimated at numbering 15,000,000, will probably determine the results of the 1952 election, according to political observers, Mr. Vandenburg added.

Four-Part Campaign

The national "Get-Out-the-Vote" campaign will be divided into four parts:

1. The Foundation will provide a program guide, display information for use by cooperating organizations and associations.
2. The Advertising Council is preparing material to enlist cooperation of radio, television, newspapers, magazines, and other mass media.
3. The Foundation aids in the formation of non-partisan committees working in the communities to help with the physical task of bringing out the vote.
4. A system of national, regional and city awards has been devised to give recognition and credit to the groups producing the greatest increase in voting.



ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER, David Ben-Gurion, right, confers with National Commander Paul Ginsberg of the JWV, on the commander's recent visit to Israel. The meeting took place in Tel Aviv during Mr. Ginsberg's stopover there in the course of a world fact-finding tour. (Photo by State of Israel Government Press Division)