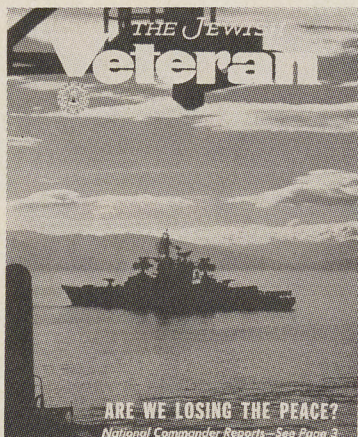


THE JEWISH Veteran



ARE WE LOSING THE PEACE?
National Commander Reports—See Page 3



The proximity of American and Russian vessels are dramatically illustrated by this photograph taken from a U.S. ship showing a Russian missile ship. The National Commander discusses the critical Mediterranean situation in hard-hitting story beginning on page 3.

The Jewish Veteran

"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

Organized 1896

Official Monthly Bulletin of

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States
of America

JEROME D. COHEN

National Commander

66 Court Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201

PAUL RIBNER

National Editor

FELIX M. PUTTERMAN

National Executive Director

1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.,

Washington, D. C. 20009

Phone: 202-265-6280

WARREN ADLER

Managing Editor

ROLLY GIBBS

Administrative Editor

JIMMY MIDGETT

Art Director

JEROME M. NISMAN

Advertising Director

EDITORIAL OFFICES

5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.,

Washington, D. C. 20015

Phone: 202-362-2257

The Jewish War Veteran is published seven times a year: January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September, October-November and December by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America at Washington, D. C. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D. C. Subscription price in the United States is \$2.00 per year, payable in advance. Advertising information and rates available from the Advertising Director or any of the advertising representatives. JWV National Headquarters, 1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

PRINTED
U.S.A. 7

THE JEWISH Veteran



MARCH-APRIL 1972

contents

volume 28 number 2

3 COMMANDER-AT-LARGE

Are we losing the peace in the Mediterranean? National Commander Jerry Cohen reports on his tour of NATO, the Sixth Fleet and Israel. He offers a frightening prospect compounded of citizen indifference and naval obsolescence in the face of impending Soviet superiority. By Jerry Cohen

4 THE INCREDIBLE JEWISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE AMERICAN VETERANS MOVEMENT

A noted Jewish authority continues discussing the role of American Jews in both founding and perpetuating the American veterans movement. He offers remarkable research into these contributions. By Bernard Postal

10 ISRAEL—THINKING AND ACTING LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES

A young American, now free-lancing in Israel, provides a youth's eye view of what Israel is like in today's world.

By Tom Ackerman

14 NOSTALGIA

Highlights in the careers of JWV members over the years.

15 CAPITOL CORRIDORS

The National Executive Director gives a bird's eye view of current Congressional trends. By Felix M. Putterman

16 JWV MEETS IN ISRAEL

A round-up with pictures of JWV's meeting in Israel.

19 A VISIT WITH JEWISH VETERANS DOWN UNDER

JWV's Program Consultant tells of his experiences with Australian Jewish war veterans. By Dr. Seymour Weisman

28 JWV's 77TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Reservation and Registration forms to JWV's 77th Annual National Convention, being held for the first time in its history in Texas. Complete details for this upcoming meeting to be held August 13-20 in Houston, Texas.

31 AN EDITORIAL

DEPARTMENTS

18 AROUND THE JWV CIRCUIT

20 BLUE RIBBON POSTS

21 GRASS ROOTS by Benjamin H. Chasin

22 SUPPLY BOX

23 TAPS

26 JWV INSURANCE by Malcolm A. Tarlov

27 TOP TEN

30 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

30 THE EDITOR SPEAKS by Paul Ribner

ARE WE LOSING THE PEACE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN?

by Jerome Cohen, *National Commander*

Oceans now are mere ponds. Skeptics say that it was a physical impossibility for George Washington to have tossed that silver dollar across a river, but realists today say that in this nuclear age it would be a simple matter for Nixon or Brezhnev to toss a Kennedy half-dollar or a ruble across the Atlantic. No area in the globe, not a home, wife or child, is safe from the horrors of war because today in the nuclear age our oceans have shrunk.

Upon recommendation of the Foreign Affairs and Policy Committees, the National Executive Committee of the Jewish War Veterans last October resolved that the participation of the United States in NATO must be actively continued, particularly as concerns the strength of the United States Navy and especially the Sixth Fleet. It was agreed that never before had we experienced so long a period of peace in Europe and clearly this was because—and is—a deterrent to war.

With this JWV directive in mind, I embarked upon a mission to SHAPE headquarters in Mons, Belgium; NATO headquarters in Brussels and Naples; Israel, and then to the Sixth Fleet for first hand observations, in depth briefings and discussions with General Goodpaster, SACEUR; Admiral Kane, General Miller and Admiral Shanahan at NATO headquarters in Brussels; Admiral Rivero, CINCSOUTH in Naples; General Ewell, as well as General Leonelli of the Italian Army, a Turkish General and a Greek Admiral—and then on

to Israel for discussions with Prime Minister Golda Meir, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Chief of Staff General David Elazar, Admiral Batzor, Deputy Minister of Defense Tsur, General Sharon at the Suez Canal, and then on to the Aircraft Carrier John F. Kennedy in the Mediterranean for discussions and briefings with the Executive Officer, Captain Fellows, and the Air Wing Commanders, as well as the members of the crew.

The initial briefing with Admiral Shanahan and discussions that followed, originally scheduled for fifteen minutes to half an hour, stretched out to an entire morning, continuing through dinner and long into the evening hours after it was understood that JWV was not interested in gasoline consumption statistics or what was being served for dinner. While we understood such needs, our interest was in a more profound discussion. This pattern followed throughout all briefings thereafter when it was generally understood that we were not interested in "window dressing."



National security planners now must take into consideration that the arduous task of extricating the United States from the horrible error of Vietnam has conditioned the public to general distrust of the military and a renewal of the isolationism that existed prior to December 7, 1941. We have come half-circle from the pre-WWII supplying of metal to Japan and the isolationism which encouraged the military buildup and self confidence of the Axis Powers that added to their desire for world domination, to the advent of the United Nations and the realization that there must be a table at which we can negotiate while maintaining the peace.

The only way to negotiate is through strength; the words of Teddy Roosevelt, "Walk softly and carry a big stick" seem to have been forgotten. The admonitions of our finest naval leaders that the showing of the flag is the best insurance for peace without firing a shot, seem to have been disregarded. Indeed the use of this precept by President Kennedy during the Cuban crisis seems to have been scrapped. All have been discarded as a result of the insensible disregard for the value of human life experienced in the tragedy of Vietnam.

"Never again," a uniquely Jewish

(Continued on page 8)