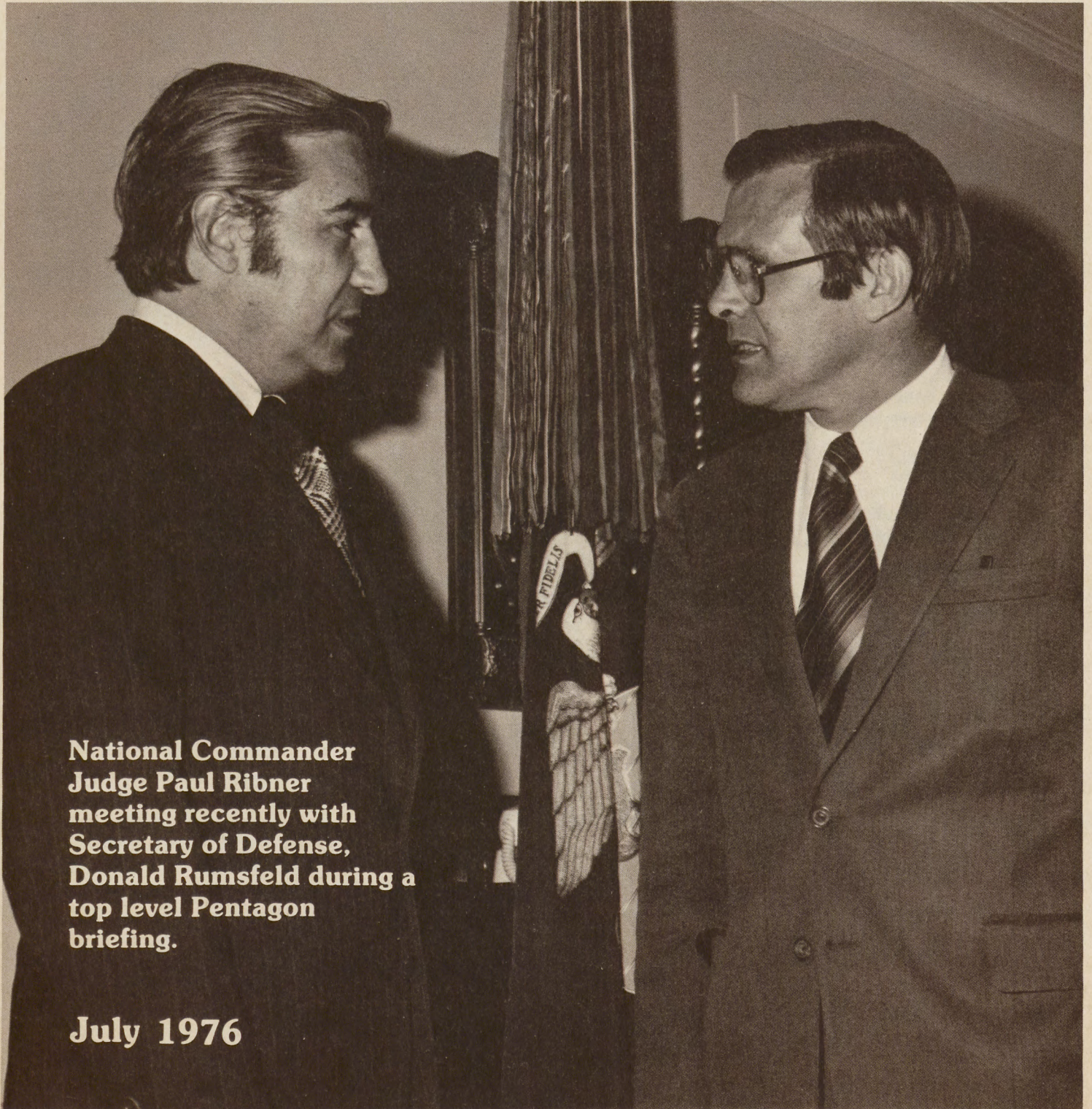


The Jewish Veteran



**National Commander
Judge Paul Ribner
meeting recently with
Secretary of Defense,
Donald Rumsfeld during a
top level Pentagon
briefing.**

July 1976

The Jewish Veteran

JULY 1976

VOL. 30, NO. 9

The Jewish War Veteran
 "The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

Organized 1896
 Official Bulletin of
 The Jewish War Veterans of the United
 States of America

JUDGE PAUL RIBNER
National Commander

IRVING WEINER
National Editor

LT. COL. IRWIN ZIFF, USAF (ret.)
National Executive Director
 1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20009
 Phone: (202) 265-6280

MITCHELL GUTTENPLAN
Assistant National Executive Director

CHARLES KRIEGER
Director of Administration

STEPHEN BARLAS
Managing Editor

EDITORIAL OFFICES
 1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20009
 Phone: (202) 265-6280

The Jewish War Veteran is published six times a year: January-February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October, November-December by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America at Washington, D.C. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C. and additional mailing offices in Brooklyn, New York. Subscription price in the United States is \$2.00 per year, payable in advance. Advertising information and rates available from the Editorial Office.

CONTENTS

4 DOUBLE JEOPARDY by Leonard Winograd



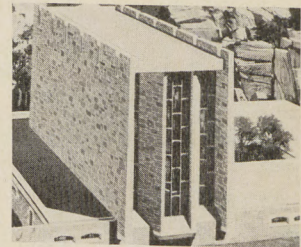
Terrible fear and anxiety haunted American-Jewish POWs during their World War II imprisonment at the hands of the Germans. A former army officer remembers.

10 AN OLD CARIBBEAN SYNAGOGUE



You wouldn't think that St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, housed the second oldest Synagogue in the Western Hemisphere; but it does.

12 WEST POINT JEWISH COMMUNITY TIED TO TRADITION by Kenneth Briggs



One of the first two men to graduate from the Academy in 1802 was a Jew. Today, Jewish cadets hold services each Friday night and afterwards, enjoy bagels and lox provided by the JWV.

14 DETENTE ON THE HOMEFRONT by Paul S. Appelbaum



Are Americans being deceived by the Russian-American cultural exchange? One writer thinks so.

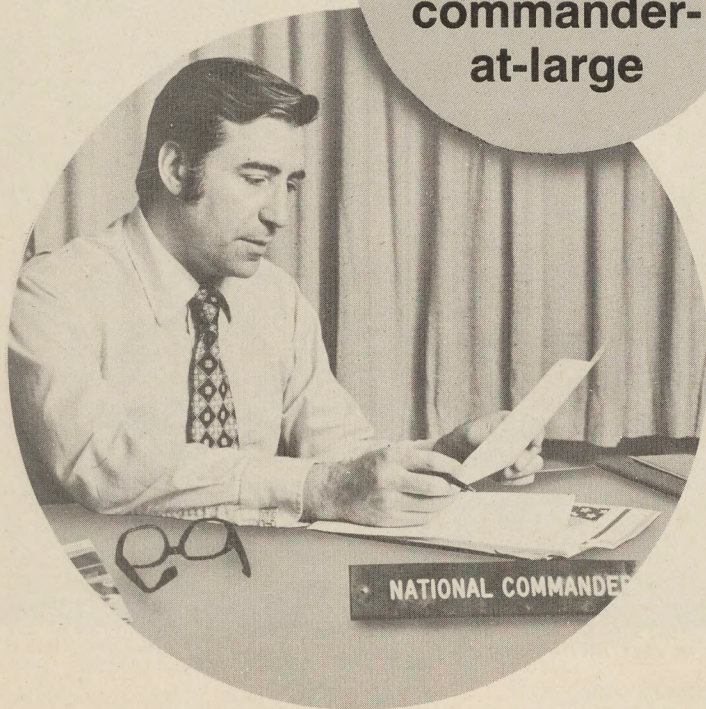
17 VETERANS AT WORK by Steve Conn

Departments

COMMANDER-AT-LARGE	3
POTOMAC FEVER	19
AROUND THE CIRCUIT	21
INSURANCE	25
TAPS	26
VETERANS SERVICE	27
EDITORIAL	28
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	29
TRAVEL	31

by
Judge Paul Ribner
National Commander

commander- at-large



During my terms as National Commander, I have attended a number of military briefings in the Pentagon and White House and have kept in touch with our most senior military officials. As a great veterans organization, J.W.V. is concerned with the treatment and benefits which all veterans are entitled to and at the same time, we are vitally concerned with the security of our own nation in whose military forces we all served.

I recently received calls from both the Pentagon and the White House inviting me to attend a meeting with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, who had with him Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Brown, Air Force Chief of Staff, David Jones, Chief of Naval Operations Holloway, and Secretary of the Army Hoffman. All of these officials emphasized their feeling that the United States today has military power superior to that of any other nation but that Russian strength is increasing at a tremen-

dously fast rate. It is clearly known that the Russian Army is much larger than ours, the Russians have a much larger supply of armored personnel carriers, tanks, and artillery, and their Air Force has a greater number of various types of missiles.

It is the belief of our top military leaders that we still have technological superiority over the Russians. Their navy is increasing its strength at a rapid rate and unless we start adding new strength to our naval forces, the Russians will overtake us in the near future. Their naval forces are also increasing in quality according to our Chief of Naval Operations.

The bottom line of all of the information we have available to us at this time is that we must continue to spend whatever is necessary to retain our number one position militarily. Secretary Rumsfeld pointed out that today we are spending a lower percentage of our gross national product and our budget on military

spending than at any time since pre-Korean War days.

Another point which the Secretary made was that under American law, it is illegal for our government to stockpile weapons for allies and accordingly, our own forces must supply friendly nations around the world in the event of the outbreak of hostilities. For that reason, we must make sure that even if we have to shift armaments to friendly governments in the event of hostilities, we will still have the ability to keep our own U.S. forces at a high operational level. In the present day and age, there is simply not enough time to go into production after a war breaks out somewhere in the world. It is, therefore, extremely naive for anyone to suggest that we send military supplies to our friends unless we spend enough to maintain a high level of those supplies within our own military.

General Jones pointed out that the B-1 bomber, as costly as it is to produce, is vitally necessary for the military security of the United States.

As I look at this entire problem of military spending in a logical fashion, it seems to me that those who call for a cutback in the military budget sought by our military leaders are playing a dangerous game with the security of this country. If they are right, and we spend the money which the Pentagon wants, then we have wasted some money which admittedly causes hardships in other sectors of our economy. But if, however, they have their way and they turn out to be wrong, then there is total disaster ahead for all of us. Frankly, I would rather run the risk of spending a little extra money to make certain that we have the strength necessary to protect our vital interests anywhere in the world and to prevent having the Russians overwhelm us, even if it turns out that we spent a little too much.

Let us be coldly realistic. In Europe, the Russians have friendly nations on their borders, but they are building an immense standing army. The Russians have no vital sea lanes to protect as we do, but they are building a tremendous navy. It would be sheer madness for the U.S. to ignore the obvious, namely, that the Russians intend to exploit any military weakness on our part.