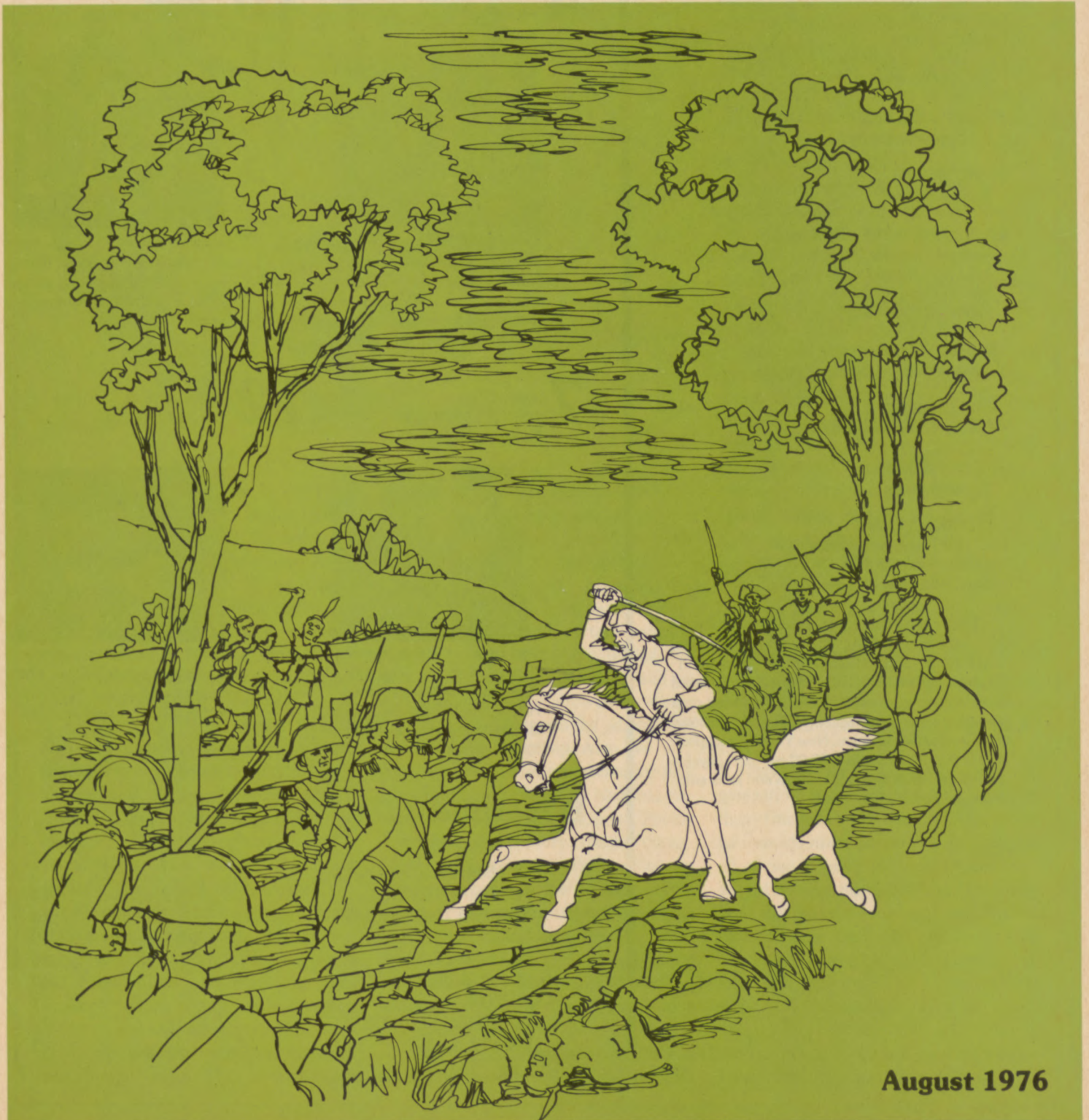


The Jewish Veteran

**JWV Saluted Francis Salvador
on Independence Day, 1976—see page 4**



August 1976

The Jewish Veteran

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The Jewish War Veteran
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Jewish communities in Spain are few, American air force bases even fewer. So when they come together, there's sure to be an interesting story.

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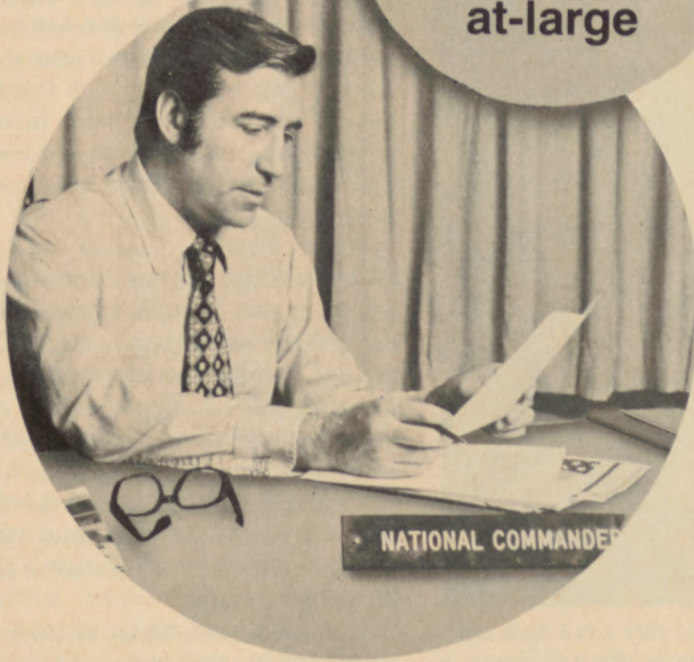
Our 81st annual convention promises to be our best yet. The luxurious Hollywood, Florida setting assures a satisfying combination of business and pleasure.

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by
Judge Paul Ribner
National Commander

commander- at-large



During my two terms as National Commander, I have constantly looked forward to anticipate areas for necessary action, issues which might have to be met, and programs which would require planning in advance of their actual implementation. However, as I complete my second term, I would like to look backward for a moment to assess the effectiveness of my administration.

The image of J.W.V. is at an all time high. As I review thousands of press clippings from every state, hundreds and hundreds of pieces of correspondence from citizens, other organizations, members of the government from the White House down, I conclude that our opinions and actions have received favorable comment editorially and in opinions received in all quarters. We have accomplished this image not by staying in the background and avoiding controversy, but by taking the lead with a vigorous and militant approach in areas involving veterans' benefits, domestic and foreign issues. This is not always

easy to do. At the same time, I am gratified that without exception our membership has gotten behind the position advanced by our national J.W.V. administration on every occasion, including our most controversial decisions.

We have effected certain internal changes which have strengthened the hand of the National Commander and his staff and which have allowed for direct communication between the administration and the membership. Also, we have broadened the base of representation on a more equitable basis in our National Executive Committee, National Policy Committee, and in every aspect of the national organization. Any fair-minded observer must conclude that we have a more effective, democratic organization than we ever had and certainly than any other organization which I have seen might have. I have had the pleasure of working with many leaders of other organizations and I can tell you very bluntly that there is no other organization in which the top elected leadership reflects the policies

and wishes of its membership to the extent that J.W.V. does, and there is no other organization in which the national leadership reflects the ideas and thoughts of a broad based membership.

I point these things out because I want to emphasize a thought which I have expressed many times in many speeches. There is a tremendous need for our organization in the veterans community and in the Jewish community. All of our major veterans organizations perform a valuable and necessary service in this nation and each organization has certain special areas of interest. In addition to our constant interest in the welfare of our country and its veterans community and the preservation of the institutions we all served to protect, we also have a great interest because of emotional ties in the Jewish community in the world and in the Middle East. In no other veterans organization could we express all of these policies in as cohesive and unified a fashion as we can through J.W.V.

Although there are other Jewish organizations whose goals we sometimes share, there is no organization that has the homogeneous quality of a group of veterans, former fighting men and women, who have our similarity of interests: support for Israel, the maintaining of our military power, and the need to fight unwholesome influences in the United States. During my administration, as in the past, we have frequently taken a position without any support from any other group, and I defy anyone to demonstrate where we were shown to have made the wrong decision at any of these times. On the contrary, we have been proven right on almost every occasion.

I have a great deal of pride in this organization, in our good works, and in the many fine men and women who form our nationwide membership. I want to thank all of our membership for its great support of my administration and I certainly hope that the knowledge and experience I have gained as National Commander will continue to be available at any time and at any place required. The Commander's Reports for my terms in office are available to any of our comrades who have not seen them and if you will drop me a note, I will have them sent along to you.



At the Georgia-South Carolina Department meeting last July 4 in Charleston, South Carolina, a wreath was placed at the Washington City Park gravesite of Francis Salvador.

Participating in the ceremony honoring the first American Jew killed in the Revolutionary War were (left to right): Leon Walper, Chaplain, Turteltaub Post; Nathan Schaeffer, DC Georgia-South Carolina; and Judge Paul Ribner.

by Tom Hamrick

If his family hadn't bet its fortunes on the spice trade in the Far East, and lost, Francis Salvador might have become just another bright and prosperous businessman who spent his life quietly with wife and family in England.

Instead at 29, he was butchered and dead, his body sprawled on a narrow dirt roadway near a town in South Carolina named Seneca. And busy history promptly forgot all about the first Jew to give his life for the American cause of freedom.

Francis Salvador, one of the least known Sandlapper heroes, was born in London in 1747, the scion of a prominent and affluent Anglo-Jewish family. His parents blessed him with the best of schooling and tutoring, as was the custom of the wealthy in England. Then, to supplement what he had gained from books and lectures, his family provided him an opportunity for extensive European travel, the finishing school for boys in the 18th century.

With a handsome legacy awaiting his adult beck and call, the world was all roses for Francis Salvador. But the promise of still greater wealth from investments in the spice trade with the East Indies caused his bubble to burst. The

CAROLINA'S FIRST JEWISH PATRIOT FRANCIS SALVADOR

Salvador family plunged deeply into its available finances to buy shares in the export trade of the East Indies as a raging fever for quickly potential profits from the Far East swept through the moneyed halls of England and the Continent.

But the promise of the East Indies proved deceptive. The Salvadors, along with hundreds of English business counterparts, watched helplessly as bankruptcy, bred by poor judgment and over-speculation, swallowed their bank accounts.

A Carolina Farmer

Undaunted by the misfortune of his family, young Salvador turned his eyes to the West and opted for a new try, this time in the hinterlands of South Carolina. His target for opportunity was some 6,000-acres of land near Ninety Six. The holding had been purchased earlier by his father-in-law and an uncle as investment property and Salvador decided that his gold lay in the crop fields of far-off Carolina. His two relatives gave him the go-ahead to try his hand at agriculture and in 1773 Salvador set sail for Charleston.

History has husbanded relatively few words on the life of Salvador, but unquestionably he must have been personable, progressive and popular with the people in the Ninety Six community. The good folk in the area elected him a delegate to both the First and Second Provincial congresses of South Carolina in 1775-76. Had there been a Junior Chamber of Commerce in his day, Salvador would have been a likely candidate for "Young Man of the Year."

The Second Provincial Congress had placed its stamp of approval on the Declaration of Independence in 1776, thus putting members in a treasonous position as far as King George III was concerned. England's ill-humored king, believed by some present-day educators to have had a minimal I.Q.—around 70—held the opinion that the best place for any Carolina patriot was at the end of a stiff rope.

Unfrightened, Salvador busied himself serving as the delegate from Ninety Six, then the second most populated district in South Carolina. He was a member



of several important committees and he became closely allied with such prominent firebrands of the state as John Rutledge, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and William Henry Drayton.

German-speaking George, who never could understand how the colonies bred so many angry young men, would have taken a very dim view of Francis Salvador's sitting in a key congressional seat. In his England, it would have been simply unthinkable for a Jew to hold public office, make laws and, worse, engage in treason. Merry old England wasn't too merry for families of the Jewish faith. At best, they were regarded as second-class citizens and prohibited by law from holding public office.

Joins Revolution

By July 1776, the Americans had severed all ties with England, and George William Frederick was hopping mad at the affront. He saw South Carolina not only as one of the powder kegs which had exploded in chain reaction, but as a prime port of entry into the southern half of his

rebellious colonies.

Revolution had long been in the making and the British weren't caught flat-footed by the American action. The bell at Independence Hall in Philadelphia had hardly cracked before the British launched a pincer movement against the Palmetto State, designed to knock South Carolina out of the war before the revolution was a month old.

A British fleet almost immediately attacked hastily erected fortifications at Charleston, while a guerrilla force of English-armed Indians and Tories began a scorched earth campaign in the upper half of the state. The British fleet met with no success in its assault on Charleston, as its biggest cannonballs bounced off the palmetto log fortifications. But the guerilla threat in upper Carolina seemed to offer a successful potential.

Sparsely settled, the upper state was a prime target for a force which moved, struck and moved again. Hoping to gain converts through victory, and sweep on into Charleston as the land prong of an envelopment, the guerrillas involved themselves in a campaign of terror—

killing, looting and burning throughout the backcountry.

Realizing that beleaguered Charleston had its hands full defending itself, Salvador saddled up and clattered about the countryside enlisting recruits in a quickly formed mounted militia.

Maj. Andrew Williamson took command of the Ninety Six area's pioneer-and-farmer cavalry corps. With Salvador beside him in the lead, he rushed his detachment at a gallop toward the enemy, reported to be operating somewhere in the vicinity of Seneca.

Dies for his Country

The last day Francis Salvador ever saw was Aug. 1, 1776. The war was then only some 600 hours old. The first of the thousands of Jews to give their lives for their country, Salvador was cut out of the saddle by rifle fire as the Americans and their horses pounded into a roadside ambush set up by a forewarned guerrilla band.

A fusillade from behind a splitrail fence and adjacent bushes and trees swept the ranks of the mounted Americans. Among those first to fall in the initial volley was Francis Salvador. It is

doubtful that the young American ever had an opportunity to fire his own shot in anger before he tumbled to earth mortally wounded.

His comrades, suddenly fighting for their lives against a well-concealed enemy, scampered to defensive positions as Tory and Indian bullets peppered around them. The fire fight was brief, lasting just an hour, with the Americans finally emerging bloodied but victorious.

When his compatriots gently lifted his body, they found that Salvador had not only been shot but he had also been scalped. Still, he had fought off death long enough to learn that the Americans had won the first battle for the fate of interior South Carolina.

It was at this point that Salvador slipped from history to go unremembered and unheralded for almost two centuries. Today, thanks to the efforts of Charlestonians, Francis Salvador is being awarded long overdue recognition.

Regrettably, one of the men who devoted the greatest effort in probing the curtained past to create a well-deserved memorial to Salvador died just as the veil of years was being lifted.

Friends say that Thomas J. Tobias of Charleston, an ex-newspaper and com-

munity leader, spent many hours researching faded and forgotten records to uncover the story of Salvador. Then, as the Jewish community of South Carolina prepared to publish the findings and elevate Salvador to the niche in history he deserves, Tobias was—like Salvador—visited suddenly by death.

But Tobias' research had uncovered no existing portraits and Tobias and his associates weren't satisfied to let Salvador be entered into history by words alone. The answer was a colorful diorama executed by Robert N.W. Whitelaw of Charleston—a brightly-lit fragment of yesterday capsuled in a box several feet in length and height, showing Salvador slumped in his saddle as the guerrilla party blasted at the hero and his horse from a picket fence ambush.

U.S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina was guest of honor and the main speaker at the dedication ceremonies marking the first public showing of the Salvador diorama in May 1970 at the beautiful and modern Jewish Community Center on the western outskirts of Charleston. ■

Reprinted from SANDLAPPER, the Magazine of South Carolina.



JWV Fetes General Julius Klein

by Simon Bloom

How many Jewish Generals have there been in the whole history of the Jew. Perhaps a few hundred authentic ones, which doesn't include such "generals" as Sampson or Simon Maccabeus let alone the generals of Israel and the generals of the Yetzl, the Irgun, the Haganah. In the U.S. today there is but one solitary living Jewish General (with perhaps one exception), and this unique individual is not only unique as a Jewish General he is unique as an individual. I had the privilege of meeting him at the end of April in Chicago when I attended a banquet given in his honor.

The man I refer to of course, is the fabulous Julius Klein, two star general, one of the few Jews ever to be a combat front line warrior of that rank. The occa-

(Continued on next page)

Simon Bloom has been editor/publisher of the *American Jewish Ledger* for 33 years. He is a member of New Jersey Post 33.



25 Years Ago

Soldiers and men of the 109th AAA Brigade, Illinois National Guard, under the command of Brig. Gen. Julius Klein, rendered a final salute to General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as he left Chicago, Friday, April 27, 1951. Gen. MacArthur stopped his motorcade to greet the brigade-commander.

Dedicated to the officers and men of the 109th, the original autographed picture was placed in the halls of the historic Broadway Armory, Chicago, home of the 109th AAA Brigade.

sion was among other things the swearing in of a large number of new Jewish War Veterans at a department banquet and the presentation to Klein by the JWV of a "Distinguished Service Award." The appearances in public of General Klein are not as frequent as in former years, he had been ailing and had just recovered from serious kidney surgery. The banquet affair had been in the making for some time, and was to be restricted to members of the JWV, when all of a sudden Klein had to be rushed to a hospital. When he was finally released a great sigh of relief went up from his friends in the JWV and the affair turned out to be also a sort of jubilee at his recovery.

There were a few hundred members of the JWV from of course Illinois and closepoints, but also from the eastern sector. I was there in two capacities, representing this newspaper and as a JWV member to do honor to a great Jew, to a fighter for the things the Jew stands for,

to a general and to a past National Commander of the JWV.

I have never before had a bowing acquaintance with a general, let alone one who has two stars. When I was in the service the closest I ever got to a general was on parade when they condescended to look. That was eons of time ago, generals just weren't my cup of tea, and they are a foreign animal to me.

But the two star general Julius Klein is an entirely different breed. I can't describe the tribe of generals for I don't know any, except one now, but I doubt they are all humans like Julius Klein. Maybe one reason is because of the tradition of the JWV. No one in the JWV is called by their last name, you are called by your first name and that makes for a warm camaraderie. That is the nature inwardly of Klein also, and I wonder how he got along with the 10,000 men under his command for three years in the South Pacific under General Douglas McArthur.

Foreign Correspondent

But he sure got along swell with the hundreds of his pals and friends who came to wish him well in Chicago. Within one minute after I met him I was toasting him L'chaim. Klein must have been a large man physically, but he had lost a great deal of weight because of his illness and though taller he didn't bulk much larger than myself. I had known him from his reputation only and do you know what that reputation was? He is a colleague of mine in one way in that he was a newspaperman, but what a man or should I say boy? I don't mean one who hustled sheets on the streets, I mean a foreign correspondent at the age of (hold your hat) 15! At that age he was the aide to Colonel House in Germany and he went with the Colonel and Ambassador Girard as translator when they broke bread with the Kaiser, his Imperial Majesty. Julius Klein was there because he had sold the Colonel the idea that he could be of invaluable aid when House would be talking to the Kaiser. Klein though born in the U.S. was sent to Germany in his very early years, he was schooled there, he spoke the language as a native, he knew German history. House had other talents, and he needed what Julius Klein had. Only he didn't know his confidential aide was only 15 years old!

Judge Paul Ribner was the featured speaker at the Gen. Klein dinner. His remarks centered around JWV's forceful advocacy of issues critical to American Jews. He cited JWV opposition to the renomination of Gen. Brown and our continued travel boycott of Mexico.



The German Accent

This story is about the banquet, so I better get my typewriter teeth into that, but let me conclude on the 15 year old boy with just one more little bit of data which Klein himself told me. He had become so enamored of the Germans that on one occasion when he returned to his folks in the States, he told his father that he didn't want to be an American, he wanted to be a German. That so infuriated the old man, he beat the daylights out of his young son. The slam bam licking he got knocked that idea out of Julius, but what remained was the German accent, and a nickname as Dutch.

The man that took charge of the evening's affairs was Marshall Korzak, a luminary of Chicago referred to in the invitation as Hon, so we will call him Judge. If we are wrong all he can do is cite us for something or other, but not for contempt. For his remarks as M.C. were

witty, succinct and apt. About the first words he said when he took the podium were that this was a Bar Mitzvah of Julius Klein, a belated one. I fell down on my job as reporter by not pinning him down on that and getting more data on the Bar Mitzvah angle. It was 61 years ago that Julius was 13.

Every large Veterans group in the country sent wires. Among them was one from the National Commander of the American Legion. The Commander in Chief of the close to two million VFW vets, Thomas C. Walker said in his telegram that Klein "laid it on the line during the time of war." Klein's old fashioned father Leopold kept a diary and in one place in the diary exhorted his sons to always be honorable. How proud, Leopold Klein would have been to hear Walker's remarks.

Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Commerce, in his wire said he was proud to join in the "parade of generals, admirals and other national leaders" paying tribute. Admiral Zumwalt, a four starrer, said in his wire, "If all Americans worked as hard and with as much dedication on behalf of their country, our troubles would rapidly drop astern." How about that Papa Leopold. And all Americans and all Jews.

Secret Agent

In between reading telegrams Korshak dubbed Klein a secret agent. That is a chapter of Klein's life that hasn't been fully told though in the biographical notes of Klein I read he at one time was a member of the Intelligence. Why not. If he could be a foreign correspondent for a Chicago publication at the age of 15, it would be a minor matter to be a secret agent in later years. I believe, though, considering Korshak's wit, he meant it in another category. Korshak kept reeling off tributes to Klein paid not only in the present by such as Mayor Daley but in the past by Eisenhower, McArthur, Admiral Nimitz, Senator Taft and on and on. Korshak could also have reeled off the name of Abba Hillel Silver who Klein had as one of his staunch allies in the fight to get Israel recognized by Truman. That story will have to wait for another issue of this newspaper.



Judge Paul Ribner, Mr. Issac G. Glickstein (center) and Gen. Julius Klein (right) get together at the Dept. of Illinois Department Banquet last May. The JWV presented Gen. Klein with a "Distinguished Service Award."

Judge Paul Ribner

The guest speaker of the evening was Judge Paul Ribner, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans. He was introduced to standing applause and his opening remarks were it was exciting to be in Chicago to give tribute to a great commander. "General Klein stands head and shoulders above every American I have seen." The plaques, testimonials, mementoes, decorations, acknowledgements of the work and worth of Julius Klein are amply visible when you go into his Public Relations offices which I did the next day and you are overwhelmed by their presence covering wall after wall. The remarks of Ribner are but feeble acknowledgement to a life time of rich accomplishment.

Korshak after he read the telegram from our Jersey office, which had been sent in case we couldn't be at the banquet, said he was informed we were there to do an in depth story on Julius Klein and he said he hoped I would have a couple of life times to dig up and get all the data. He was so right. Judge Ribner of Pennsylvania told the audience of the work of the JWV. He commented on the international situation saying there are "those who would want to destroy America and Israel. The third world would like to distribute the wealth. This trend of thought is not of recent origin."

JWV Work

Ribner commented briefly on some of the holding positions of the JWV saying "sometimes we in JWV stand alone." A few sentences later he said "Sometimes the General wants to go further than I and that's pretty far." Ribner commented on the stand taken by the JWV when General Brown made his snide remarks on the Jew, and Ribner mentioned that the JWV stands alone (except for the Brith Shalom) in its insistence that travel to Mexico be boycotted until Mexico changes its attitude about the PLO and Zionism.

Ribner who spoke for over twenty minutes said a good speech doesn't have to be eternal, that he is in the habit of saying short sentences such as "life imprisonment" and with that bon mot he concluded.

At the conclusion of Ribner's remarks, the General's wife Helena was introduced. She is a celebrity in her own right, a former movie star and theatrical personage, and I gathered some fascinating stories from and about her, which will also have to wait for subsequent installments on the life of General Julius Klein. ■

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Master Sergeant Walt Myers, lay leader of the 14-member Jewish Community at Zaragoza Air Force Base, conducts Sabbath services.

A Shtetl in Spain

The American Air Force Base at Zaragoza shelters a small but committed group of Jews

by MSgt. John Lyons

Of the millions of Jews throughout the world who will soon be celebrating the High Holidays, few will experience the difficulties that will be encountered by Master Sergeant Walt

Meyer and his 14-member Jewish community at the United States Air Force base at Zaragoza, Spain.

The problems faced by these isolated Jews are minor, yet take on special significance because of the milieu in which they develop. The unavailability of chal-

lah is one good example. In most Jewish communities the challah or egg bread which is dipped in honey and eaten during Rosh Hashana is readily available. This is not the case, however, in Spain where Jewish culture has been marginal since 1492 and the Spanish Inquisition.

Jewish institutions were destroyed during that reign of terror and Jewish life was nonexistent until the middle of the 19th century. As the "Age of Enlightenment" began to influence European social and political development, Spain began to deal somewhat more tolerantly with its small Jewish population. Still Jews could not own property or worship in formal synagogues until ten years ago when a religious freedom law was enacted. Still, the scattered remnants of Spain's once prominent Jewish community support few "ethnic" businesses, bakeries included.

Queen Sophia recently highlighted the changes of the past ten years by attending services in the Madrid Synagogue. There are now two Synagogues—the other is in