

The Jewish Veteran

April-May-June 1982

Time to
Remember



Why I March

Each year seems to speed by more quickly ... and Memorial Day is once more in the offing. It's the end of a nice three day weekend, and it's time to catch up on planting and then rest. The J.W.V. newspaper is exhorting us to join the traditional parade down Long Beach Road. A few respond, some stand on the sidelines and take pictures. To most it is an exercise in futility.

I march not because I'm a super patriot, or because my martial juices are excited by the Junior High School Band. In early 1942, a few remaining Jewish families in East Harlem, somewhere between the Puerto Rican Barrio and the Black Ghetto, contributed their sons to the war which was to destroy Fascism and the Hitler-conquering Wehrmacht. Four of us, carrying a few possessions in beat-up gym bags reported to the draft board at 110th Street and Lenox Avenue for departure to Fort Dix.

Joe Ellenbogen, City College sophomore, the son of a jobless melamed and philosopher, Joe, who had the voice of an angel; Marty Lapp was a wrestler, basketball player and a wizard at math, another City College sophomore. His widowed mother sold fish in an outdoor stall in the Park Avenue Market; Sam Baer, high school dropout, bustling and hustling to make a buck with a mobile pushcart selling whatever he could. (Old Man Baer worked an umbrella hot dog stand on 112th and Lexington.)

Lapp was blown up in a tank leading a counter-offensive in the Ardennes. Baer was hemstitched by a German machine gun and lies in Italian soil on the road leading to Cassino. Joe Ellenbogen died as a result of burns sustained in a plane crash in Attu.

So I march in place of my three boyhood friends and countless others who never made it back. I march to show the boys in the Legion Hall and the V.F.W. and the cynical anti-Semites and the pious church-goers that the "Jew Boys" did their share and more in American wars. If it's a cool day, it will be a one nitro pill march. If it's a hot day, it will be two. But I'm alive and my friends are dead. Two hours on Memorial Day is a small contribution.

Wallace Farber
Dept. of NY Commander

Foster Grandparents

Many thanks for the wonderful write-up you gave my husband and me in the Jan.-Feb.-March issue.

I am hopeful that Chapters dedicated to our Program will be opened up by our various Posts and Auxiliaries.

At this writing, we are in the process of acquiring our third "grandchild," a 12 year old boy, who is the product of a one-parent home, with all the accompanying psychological ills. I know we will be as successful with him as we have been with our first two "grandchildren." Of course, we will continue to see "our" David, who is rapidly progressing into an assertive, delightful youngster.

Betty Cohen

Paul Surenky Post #409 Auxiliary
Clearwater, FL

Disappearing Benefits

In your Jan/Feb/March 1982 issue "Washington Report," you pointed out VA budget plans to add "1167 employees for the Department of Surgery and Medicine, four new nursing homes, a new outpatient clinic, and the expansion of five clinics, etc."

But in reality, the situation is that non-service connected vets are invited not to apply for VA medical care. Those with less than 50% disability are also being shunted.

It seems as if the VA still treats World War I vets, over 95's, and the dead.

At the Miami VAMC, I was told not to return even though I was accepted for treatment in the past and still have the same condition. Why are they still building the tremendous addition to the Miami facility if such a great proportion of us are not to be treated?

Frank Kesten

JWV Post # 266
Delray Beach, FL

Correction—On page 15 of the Jan-Feb-March 1981 issue, Mr. Artz should have been described as a medic with the 59th Evacuation Hospital, 2nd Corps. who volunteered his services at the just liberated concentration camp, Dachau.

10th Mountain Division, WWII is attempting to locate former members for reunion purposes. Contact Bob Lewis, Executive Director, 10th Mountain Division Assoc., P.O. Box 352, Ayer, MA 01432...

All airborne veterans who served in the **13 ABN Div. in WWII**, please contact Don Lassen, Box 87518, College Park, GA 30337, tel. (404) 996-4420 about plans to organize 13 ABN Div. Assoc....

57th Fighter Group of WWII seeking addresses and phone numbers of those who served in this group concerning organizing a reunion. Contact: Wayne S. Dodds, P.O. Box 10428, Glendale, CA 91209, tel. (213) 240-6868....

443rd AAA Association looking for ex-members of this unit. Contact Leon Miller, 240 Homestead Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652....

Leslie Kline is searching for **Corporals Cohen, Greenberg, Newman, Harold Richman and Woodrow Slater** who

served with him in the Army 237th Ordnance Floating Spare Parts Depot, U.S.I.T. "Marymar." Contact him at: Veterans Center, Bldg. 25c, Leestown Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40507....

Air war historian Harold E. Jansen is attempting to locate **Harold Kirchblum**, bombardier on a B-24 Liberator that crashed in Holland. Mr. Jansen needs his testimony for a book he is working on. Kirchblum's last known address is:

5224 12th Ave., Brooklyn, NY. Anyone having any information contact Jansen at: Dr. L.J. Rogierstradt 112, 2552 LB, The Hague, The Netherlands....

Anyone who participated in the **Eastern Solomons and Santa Cruz carrier air battles** of August 23-25, 1942 and

October 26, 1942, please get in touch with Eric M. Hammel, 1149 Grand Teton,

Pacificca, CA 94044.... Military Communicators interested in becoming part of the **U.S. Army Signal Corps Association**, may obtain information from

the Signal Corps Association, P.O. Box 7740, Fort Gordon, GA 30905.

Don't Die Without A Will

We will send you simple but binding will forms with an easy to understand instruction booklet telling how to make a legal will. Send \$5.00 to MIGFITS, Box 8432-JWV4 Kentwood, MI 49508 (GNTD)