

The Jewish Veteran

April/May/June 1983



The Joy of Freedom

Letters to the Editor

Condolences Appreciated

I am sure you can understand that I find it physically and emotionally difficult to answer each and every comrade to thank you for each of your cards, letters and telephone calls with your expressions of condolences for me and my family. Cornie will long be remembered by your generous donations to the land of Israel through trees, through the many Memorial Funds, Scholarship Funds and Golden Books, Cancer Research, Heart Fund, JWV and many other worthwhile causes. Your outpouring of warmth and friendship gave Cornie the "send off" he deserved and the comfort and support our children and I need at this time.

Jeanette Schneider
New York, NY

The Vietnam Memorial

In November, I attended the Memorial Dedication in Washington, for the 58,000 Americans lost in Vietnam, which unfortunately included the name of my youngest brother, Bernie, from Madison, Wisconsin. It was without a doubt one of the most emotional experiences of my life.

I was most impressed with the dignity and the way the organizing committee handled every detail, including the fine work and participation of the Jewish War Veterans ... and on behalf of my family, I salute you all for a job well done. This recognition was long overdue from our government and people.

Larry Mazursky
President, KLFF Radio
Phoenix, AZ

Recommended Reading on Wallenberg

Mr. Allen's review (Nov/Dec 1982 issue) of Dr. Harvey Rosenfeld's book, *Raoul Wallenberg, Angel of Rescue* is one that I heartily endorse, with one glaring exception. Dr. Rosenfeld's book is truly excellent, and in its very excellence can stand proudly alongside the four other books that are also well researched, well documented, and well written. Each book has its own merits, but to attack them for either a "paucity of research" or "calculated sensationalism" seems to me a value judgment that is unwarranted.

The Raoul Wallenberg Committee of the United States in its newsletter has suggested the following bibliography:

1. *With Raoul Wallenberg in*

In Appreciation

The following have recently made donations to the JWV West Point Jewish Chapel Fund (as of April 8, 1983).

All contributions should be made payable to Jewish War Veterans West Point Jewish Chapel Fund and mailed to JWV National Headquarters.

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Dr. David Wladis

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Mr. Ralph Yachnin

Elmont, NY, in memory of his brother Pvt. Robert H. Yachnin

Budapest, Per Anger. Holocaust Library.

2. *Righteous Gentile*, John Bierman. Bantam Books (paperback).
3. *Wallenberg, the Man in the Iron Web*, Elenore Lester. Prentice Hall.
4. *Wallenberg*, Kati Marton, Random House.
5. *Raoul Wallenberg, Angel of Rescue*, Harvey Rosenfeld. Prometheus Books.

Rachel Oestreicher Haspel
President, The Raoul Wallenberg
Committee of the United States
New York, NY

Contribution Begets Reunion

Thank you for listing my name as a contributor to the JWV West Point Jewish Chapel Fund.

An old buddy of mine who went to the CMTC in Plattsburgh, NY saw my name and wrote to me. What a pleasant surprise to hear from a buddy that I have not seen for 50 years.

Not only do I feel good about making the contribution, but I feel wonderful about renewing my friendship with Jacob Saiber.

Lt. Col. J. Radom
Miami, FL

The Jewish Veteran

On the Cover

Irving Weinstein, noted ethnic artist, has permitted us to reproduce his woodcut "Hasidic Dancer" for this issue's cover, which to us, signifies the joy of freedom.

In this Issue

Some may wonder why we have chosen the theme of the joy of freedom to mark this issue, which features articles on the Holocaust. While this issue's articles recall the dark past, they also talk of liberation and of survivors' achieving freedom and dignity. This issue also celebrates Israel's 35th anniversary of independence.

The Jewish Veteran
"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

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At the opening session of the Third World Assembly of Jewish war veterans, National Commander Zwaik brings greetings on behalf of all veteran delegations from outside of Israel.

The Denigration Of A Strategic Ally

by Stanley N. Zwaik
National Commander

When will the U.S. stop denigrating our strategic ally, Israel? This was the foremost question on my mind upon my return from leading the JWV of the USA delegation to the Third World Assembly of Jewish War Veterans from around the world. In our meetings and ceremonies with Jewish veterans from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Israel, Denmark, South Africa, Finland and France, there was much good fellowship and discussion of mutual interests. In our joint statement, at the end of the conference, we said; "As Jews we place the struggle for Jewish identity and our commitment to the status and the security of the State of Israel foremost." As Americans, we were dismayed by the deteriorating relationship between Israel's and our defense establishments.

The Marines and Israel's Defense Forces

In published press releases and letters to the editor issued both before and after my trip, I questioned the purpose of our Marines' presence in Lebanon. In the January 31st release, published in the February 7 *New York Times* and elsewhere, I noted that our Marines were not under orders to prevent infiltration by PLO personnel and declared, "If they are to help the Lebanese government reestablish sovereignty and to prevent further conflicts, they can hardly do this by turning a blind eye to terrorists."

Before departing for Israel, the media was filled with stories of dangerous and embarrassing confrontations between the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and U.S. Marines, particularly the incident of the Marine officer waving his gun to stop an Israeli tank patrol. Such incidents were caused by the total lack of communication between our Marines and the IDF, which we expected to find corrected upon our arrival in Israel. Instead, we learned that nothing had been done! Our Marines were still receiving all orders via diplomatic channels from SAC-EUR,

headquartered in Belgium, making direct communications impossible.

Aside from the precedent of allowing communications between military forces on the ground—even enemy forces—and aside from the fact that Israel has direct links with the British, Italian and French forces (and there have been no confrontations), it appeared as if the mission of our Marines was not governed by military needs, but by political exigencies. This was highlighted by a personal experience. Having served as a World War II battalion commander, as well as being your National Commander, I wanted to meet our Marine commander and troops in Beirut to bring them greetings from JWV and our appreciation of the Marines' difficult task. U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, and his military attache informed me and other JWV leaders that we would be afforded *no* protection by our country if we crossed into Lebanon from Israel; as American citizens we were appalled that our country would deny us its protection in a foreign land. Then, it was suggested that we could fly to Cyprus and then to Beirut, or alternatively drive to Amman, Jordan and then fly to Beirut. These circuitous routes would have been acceptable to the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, but we could not expect our Marines to meet with us if we approached them from areas under the control of Israel.

Upon my return, I immediately sent letters to President Reagan and Secretary of Defense Weinberger, as well as press releases, detailing these incidents. No reply has yet been received from the White House, but Secretary Weinberger sent me a long reply, which was received on April 13—long after the publicity over General Barrow's complaints, and after the media reported communications had been improved. The secretary's letter, however, did not provide comfort. In answer to my complaint about lack of direct communications between our Marines and Israel Defense Forces, Secretary Weinberger



Photo: Jacob E. Burke

told me about "operating channels of liaison," which involved using diplomatic third party channels for military forces to talk with each other. His letter stated that only in "emergencies" can the USMC and the IDF officers talk together.

The secretary also stated that he "understands" my "unhappiness" at not being able to travel through southern Lebanon to see the U.S. Marines in Beirut, but he claimed that "southern Lebanon is still a war zone." Concern for "our safety as U.S. citizens" led to the prohibition against this mode of travel, but Secretary Weinberger did not address the issue of the alternate "permissible" forms of travel which would have been equally, if not more, dangerous. He wrote that in southern Lebanon, anyone "could be subjected to random acts of violence," but as we all know, such violence is still endemic anywhere in Lebanon.

Only Maps?

Over and over again, we were struck with the perception that our Department of Defense had initiated a new policy to downgrade Israel's relationship with the

Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs Itzhak Shamir greets NC Zwaik at conference.

