

The Jewish Veteran

January/February/March 1983

Our Man In Russia



Letters to the Editor

Lipschis May Be First To Be Deported

Thank you for carrying the articles by Charles R. Allen Jr. about Nazi war criminals in the U.S. as well as other information on this important subject.

Hans J. Lipschis, born Antanas Lipsys in Lithuania, may become the first person in history to be deported from the U.S. because of war crimes.

Lipschis was accused of committing war crimes while serving as a guard at Auschwitz and Birkenau. He had moved to Germany in 1941, enlisted in the German army, and served as a guard for three years.

Lipschis was located by means of a computer check and has agreed (Dec. 23) to leave the U.S. within 120 days. He decided not to contest the charges. West Germany has agreed to accept him, but it is not known whether Germany will prosecute him.

Keep up the good work.

Arnie Matanky
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Trifa Will Go

In his article in the November-December *Jewish Veteran*, Charles R. Allen Jr. quotes an observer as expressing fear that Trifa might remain in the United States indefinitely if he were granted a stay based on the possibility of political persecution in Romania. This will not happen. In the first place, Congress amended the Immigration Act in 1978 to make such stays unavailable to those who took part themselves in persecution. Second, Trifa renounced any right to any stay of any kind when we concluded the case against him.

One legal error in your account: a deportee is entitled to only one "preference" of country, not three. Trifa chose Switzerland. The government of Switzerland refused him permission to enter. Trifa has no more choices. He will go to the first country that agrees to take him—a matter OSI is now pursuing.

Allan A. Ryan, Jr.
Director
Office of Special Investigations
Washington, D.C.

Do You Care?

The September/October 1982 issue of *The Jewish Veteran* announced the JWV program "We Care About Vietnam Veterans." This program offers volunteer support to Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers. The November/December issue of the magazine reported on the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans at which the Jewish War Veterans of the USA were prominent.

The "We Care About Vietnam Veterans" program has received accolades from all quarters, including the Veterans Administration and the Vet Center Team leaders. However, in order for it to succeed, the Departments, County Councils and Posts in areas where Vet Centers are located, must be responsible for implementing the program.

A copy of the program has been sent to all echelon Commanders. Please contact your Commander if you are interested in participating and showing that "JWV Cares About Vietnam Veterans."

National Salute to Vietnam Veterans

From November 10-14, 1982 I was in Washington, D.C., and came away from the National Salute to Vietnam veterans impressed, grateful and with a feeling that finally the enormous sacrifice of my fallen brothers, all 57,939, both dead and missing in action, had been given some semblance of honor and appreciation.

I saw and felt the pain, honor, respect and a patriotism among many Vietnam veterans, parents, and relatives of deceased veterans. They saw that the country and its people have come to the realization that no matter what the conflict, no political statement has to be made. Only a statement that those who served, both the dead and those that returned alive, deserve and should be given the honor, respect, and gratitude of the American people.

A young girl, probably in her early 20's came up to me while I was at the Memorial as I was looking for the names of my two buddies, Samuel Frederick Ankney of Flint, Michigan and Edward Michael Maher Jr., of Hillsdale, New Jersey who were killed in September and August 1968 respectively. She said with tears in her eyes, "The Memorial is beautiful, what do you think?" I answered, "Beauty has nothing to do with it. The Monument is not beautiful; the Monument is awesome and tragic." The tens of thousands of people present made me see the black granite memorial as the American Western Wall, similar to the Western Wall of the Jews in Jerusalem.

The layout is brilliant and overpowering. The 70 panels with the names five abreast and the gentle slope of the land down to the Memorial give you the feeling of going down into a mass grave. The black granite mirrors the reflection of the living, a reminder that life must and will continue.

Once beside it, you find your buddies' names, and after minutes of meditation, tears, and memories you turn around and walk up out of the grave, never forgetting their sacrifice but nevertheless walking up to life and out of the grave. Beautiful is no word for what history will affirm to be one of the greatest memorials against any and all wars past, present and future.

All through the week in many hotels throughout Washington, D.C., the scene was as if we were on huge ships like the ones on which soldiers were transported back to the States after World War I or World War II, each consoling his brother and getting acclimated to the war finally being over.

The National Salute was a start, not an end in itself. Many Vietnam veterans still have long journeys to make in order to get back from the War. Many Vietnam veterans who are part of main-stream America, should be strengthened in their resolve to join with their brother veterans of all wars, to make sure that the United States government will assume its responsibility to the veteran population.

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