

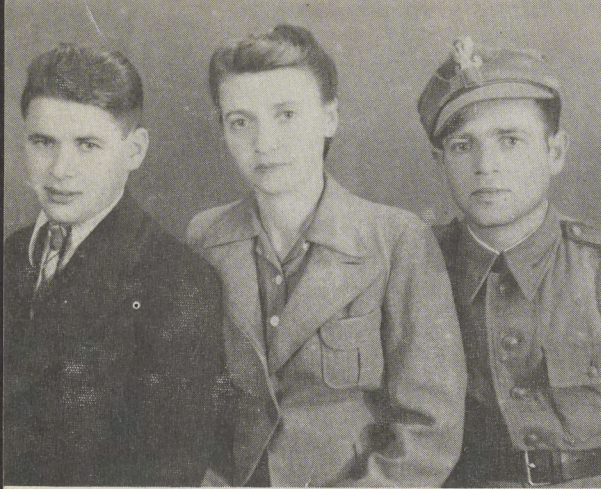
The Jewish Veteran

September/October 1983

*Photo Supp - 9.27.83
J. M. S.*

88th Annual National Convention Wrap-Up





United after the Holocaust in their hometown in Poland in July 1945 are the survivors of the Mandelbaum family; (L to R) Joe, who now lives in Brooklyn, Halina, who lives in Israel, and Samson in his Polish uniform. See Samson's letter below.

Thanks to America

The April/May/June issue of the *Jewish Veteran* was the first I ever read, since I had just become an associate member of JWV. I would like to express my thanks to the editors who chose the articles about the Holocaust, especially about the concentration camps near Landsberg, Germany. At this time when neo-Nazis and some intellectuals are preaching that Holocaust stories are a hoax, it's good to hear from first-hand witnesses.

I know; I also saw much. I was born in a small Polish town on May 15, 1913. My strictly orthodox parents were very poor; there were six boys and one girl, and I don't know how they managed to feed us.

In 1939 when the Germans attacked Poland, I left Krakow where I was living and went to Livow. There the Russian Army saved my life and that of my two brothers; we signed a contract to work in a Russian coal mine.

When I learned in 1942 what the Germans were doing to the Jews, I joined the Polish army. As a member of the second Army (Wanda Wasilewska) in the 3rd division, 9th regiment, 3rd battalion, 9th company, I was part of the Russian army whose destination was Berlin. On May 8, 1945, with the capitulation of the German army, our unit was sent to Lublin to help the temporary Polish government keep order, and this was the end of my military career.

I returned to my home town where I was reunited with my kid brother and my sister, who had survived a concentration camp. With the rest of our family dead and with only a few other survivors left in the *shtetl*, we decided we could not start a new life on a cemetery.

We left Poland forever and went to the American zone in Germany. UNRA sent us to a D.P. camp in Landsberg, where, in January 1949, I got married. On April

Reaction to articles on Holocaust

The series of articles on the Holocaust in the April/May/June issue generated much mail in appreciation of our publication of eyewitness accounts. We share some of this mail.

6, 1949, we came to the U.S. on the military ship "General Black."

You might ask me why am I writing this. I want to say thanks to America for giving me peace of mind and freedom of religion. Thank you America for giving me a chance to write about my experiences and to make sure that such events will never happen again.

As a child, my mother used to tell us that the first seventy years in human life are not easy; the second seventy are much easier. I am now entering my second seventy; I guess my mother was right.

Samson Mandelbaum
JWV Post #459
Boca Raton, FL

Saks. Despite Colonel Saks' handicap due to cataracts, he has rendered an outstanding service in his community in bringing to public attention the Holocaust he witnessed. Eddie Julius Bernstein, a sergeant in my G5 Section of the division staff, was also a very active fellow and made many good photographs.

I expect you understand that I witnessed a number of ghastly sights committed by the Germans. I expect to reach my next birthday on August 24th, at which time I will be 86, with a vivid memory of what I witnessed, experienced, and did my best to handle ably to the credit of our country.

Edward Seiller, Lt. Col.-Ret.
Louisville, KY

Ready to Kill All

Thank you very much for writing about the Holocaust in the April/May/June magazine, namely the article "GIs Discover Holocaust." I was a prisoner for ten months in Vernichtungslager Nr 4 Dachau—Annihilation Camp No. 4 Dachau. No one can believe what I saw there every minute of the day—the suffering, torturing, and beating. Very few gentiles were there; 99% were Jews taken from Auschwitz, Theresienstadt and from other concentration camps in the East. This was because the German Nazi beasts didn't want us to be liberated by the Russians; they wanted to torture us longer.

I was lucky to walk out together with the healthier people on April 25. They took us to the main camp, Dachau, where we were liberated on the 30th of April. If the Americans had come a few days later, they wouldn't have found one single concentration camp victim alive. They were ready to kill all of us.

My beloved husband who spent four years in Nazi hell came out all alone. His entire family was buried alive in mass graves in Lithuania by Nazi murderers.

Miriam Aronovitz
Chicago, IL

Memory Still Vivid

I wish to thank you for the publication of the article, "GIs Discover Holocaust," in the April/May/June 1983 issue, as related by my good friend and comrade of the 12th Armored Division, Colonel

Eternal Guilt

Recently I read my poem "Holocaust" at our Post 512, San Bernardino, Calif. special meeting. I would like to share this with our brothers and sisters reading *The Jewish Veteran*.

The dull dark clouds
hovering above
Are the smoke laden dusts
of our people,
From the chimneys of
Auschwitz and Treblinka.
The rains tumbling down
are the tears of our people.
The world stood idly by,
while the chimneys belched
forth the human smoke.
The victims tears swelled the
rivers of silence, so silent.
The conscience of humanity
will not be forgiven by time;
The cries heard around the world
are so still, very still.
The silence of the world whispers
eternal guilt.

Sidney Smith
Hemet, CA

Lt. Col. Jacobs
Life Member of Raritan Bay Post #43

George Scharmatt has recently advised National that Post #43 was the sponsoring post, conferring life membership on Lt. Col. Jack Jacobs, Congressional Medal of Honor winner (see article p.8 July/August issue).

On the Cover

Our cover features the first and last events of the convention. The presentation of the colors with General John Vessey, Jr., as keynote speaker, officially opened the 88th Annual Convention. The last convention event, the election, shows newly elected National Commander Joe Zoldan standing proudly next to our flag.

In this Issue

Most of our usual Departments have been omitted from this issue to allow full coverage of the 88th Annual Convention.

All the photos from the convention, unless otherwise credited, were taken by Craig Stout, VIP Studios, P.O. Box 7351, Marietta, GA 30067, tel. (404) 953-4587.

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Vol. 38, No. 1 September/October 1983

Table of Contents

Features

- 2 Reactions to Articles on Holocaust
- 7 Charity Begins at Home
by PNC Stanley N. Zwaik
- 8 The Chaplain Arrives at Guadalcanal
by William H. Sager
- 9 Yom Kippur Surrender
by Stan Weiner
- 10 Yom Kippur, 1942, in Warsaw
by Maurice Shainberg
- 12 Peace Through Strength
by General John W. Vessey, Jr.
- 15 All the Jewish People Are War Veterans
- 16 Convention Wrap-Up
- 18 Resolutions: National Defense and Foreign Affairs
- 20 Anti-Semitism Equals Anti-Zionism in USSR
- 21 Palestinian Calls for Direct Negotiations With Israel
- 21 Resolutions: Domestic Issues
- 22 1983 Awards
- 26 Resolutions: Veterans Affairs
- 28 America is Number One, Thanks To Our Veterans
by Harry Walters, VA Administrator

Departments

- 4 View from the Top *by Joseph Zoldan, National Commander*
- 6 Execu-Notes
by Harris B. Stone, PNC, National Executive Director
- 24 Washington Report
- 26 Your Insurance
by Herbert D. Greff
- 26 In Appreciation
- 26 Reunions
- 31 Taps