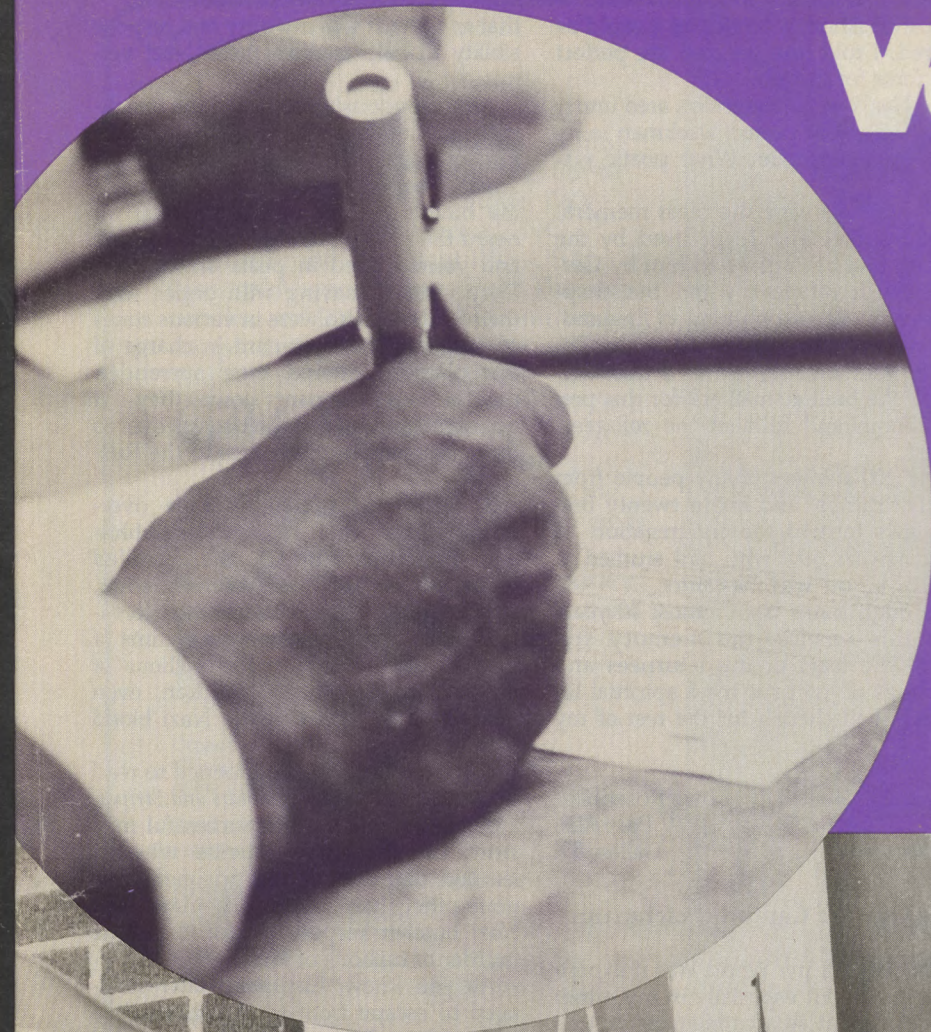


The Jewish Veteran

January/February/March 1984

**Our Future
Is Now**



Letters to the Editor

Those Who Live Must Remember

Rabbi Herman E. Grossman, Chaplain Northport, NY VAMC, and member of Post #488, Huntington, L.I., received the following letter from Soviet Prisoner of Conscience Lev Ovsischer after sending him a copy of the November/December 1982 Jewish Veteran in which Col. Ovsischer's story was told. Rabbi Grossman and many other JWVs had also sent letters of condolence to Col. Ovsischer upon the death of his wife Nadya on January 12, 1983, and Col. Ovsischer's letter is in response:

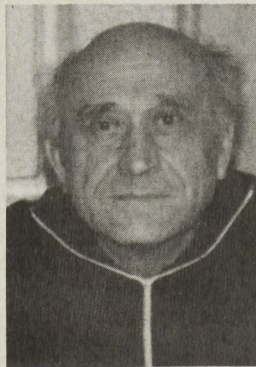
I've received your letter with your condolences on my misfortune. It's very difficult for me to write, because of my great loss. I thank all of those who sent me their condolences.

In the article which was written about me, there was a mistake. Everything that was written about me was correct, but the photo was not mine, but of another person, a friend who now lives in Israel. Please tell all the veterans about this, and if possible, the publisher.

Now is a very difficult time for me, and I can't believe my dear Nadya is not with me. But what am I to do?

Those who live—must live and must remember those who have gone. Best wishes to all my friends. Cordially yours,

Lev Ovsischer
Minsk



We are pleased to present a correct photo of Col. Lev Ovsischer. For more news about him, see page 26.

Rosh Hashonah in Bremen, 1945

May I add my praises for the Yom Kippur Remembrance series in the Sept/Oct 1983 issue. The stories recalled my own experiences in 1945.

In charge of an IPW team serving in France and Germany, I was assigned to the 29th division in the Bremen-Bremerhaven enclave. My team organized a detention area for German war criminals.

A Jewish chaplain, assigned to the 29th, approached me in late July 1945 with a problem. He had located a damaged house, centrally located in Bremen, which would make an ideal synagogue

for Rosh Hashonah services if it could be repaired. I told him we had the perfect labor force for the job.

The Nazis in the detention area under our control made perfect workmen to rebuild the synagogue. What poetic justice!

The holidays were the most memorable of my life. The Torah used by the chaplain had been given to him by German Jewish refugees when the chaplain's regiment was training in England. The refugees had pleaded, "Use this Torah for your first service in a free Germany." We built a small ark for this precious Torah and fulfilled the refugees' request.

Over 200 soldiers, many people from local DP camps, and about twenty Bremen Jews formed the congregation. A young Jewish boy, who had studied at cantorial school was the cantor.

Although it has been almost 40 years since this service, the memory still glows. The tears of the returnees and their hugs of joy gave me a spiritual lift which I shall cherish for the rest of my life.

Louis Rosenblatt
JWV Post #256
Dallas, TX

The Day We Captured Eichmann

One event of my World War II experiences stands out especially in my mind: my assignment as a combat medic to a platoon on a vital mission to take custody of a group of S.S. leaders perched high up in their Tyrolean retreat.

I was beset by two conflicting emotions as I began my perilous mission. The war was over in Europe, and now I was again endangering my life. Yet, I felt

that as a Jew, it was my duty and responsibility to help capture these Nazi vermin.

After laboriously ascending the treacherous mountain peak, we faced the grim, foreboding, desolate hideout for the Nazi Storm Troopers. We silently surrounded the building, then as we entered, we heard their radio blaring loud jazz music and voices raised in peals of laughter. They were all having wild orgies with their *frauleins*, who were in various states of undress. The lieutenant in charge of our platoon ordered their surrender. Caught with their pants down, they did not resist, and turned themselves over to the Americans in preference to the Russians.

A feeling of incredible rage overwhelmed me when I saw these subhuman lecherous animals, the so-called "Master Race," so meekly surrendering. I strongly felt the urge to slowly, tortuously kill them, to avenge the victims of their fieldish slaughter: the millions of innocent men, women, children, even infants, all sacrificed in the Nazi blood bath of Europe.

A few weeks later, I happened to read in the GI newspaper *The Stars and Stripes*, a detailed report on our successful mission. Imagine my surprise when I learned that one of the prisoners was none other than Adolph Eichmann, the Nazi butcher responsible for the mass murder of millions of Jews.

As you know, Eichmann later managed to escape from an American Prisoner of War Camp, but was recaptured years later by the Israelis, who then brought him to justice.

Sy Oboler
JWV Post #57
Far Rockaway, NY

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Free Distribution by Mail Carrier or other Means—Samples, Complimentary	456	537
Total Distribution	55,149	57,446
Office Use, Left-Over, Unaccounted	2,251	2,554
Total	57,400	60,000

On the Cover

Our cover photos by Michelle Bernatsky show the signing of the settlement documents and the opening of the door to the new building; left to right are: PNC Harris B. Stone, JWV National Executive Director; PNC Ainslee Ferdie, President JWV-USA National Memorial, Inc.; PNC Theodore Brooks, and JWV National Commander Joseph Zoldan. The building is ours. The Future is Now.

In this Issue

In this issue, we highlight the importance of the new building to the present and future of the JWV as well as bring you feature articles about interesting historical and contemporary events. The linkage of past, present and future is the theme of this issue.

The Jewish Veteran
"The Patriotic Voice of American Jewry"

Organized 1896
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of the United States of America

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