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**The
Jewish**

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April
May
June
1986

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I read your article, "The Minyan," with interest in your last issue of the "Jewish Veteran," and it brought back memories.

During World War II, when we were trying to push the Japanese out of our bases in the Pacific, I served aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Franklin CV 13.

We tried to conduct prayer services aboard the ship with just a handful of Jewish sailors Friday evenings and holidays without a Jewish Chaplain. With the blessings of our commanding officer, we succeeded. Seaman Jacob Gindy of Washington, D.C. was instrumental in making the arrangements.

On this ominous Friday, the 13th of October, 1944, at sunset, we were steaming off the Philippines at the end of the day's strikes at our enemy. The Jewish sailors that were not on duty gathered in the library for services; at that precise time the Japanese torpedo bombers launched a surprise attack, dropping three torpedoes directed toward our ship. Our Capt. James Shoemaker was alert and saw this coming. He had the ship maneuvered in time so one torpedo missed the bow, one the stern and the other went directly underneath the ship. During this action, we shot down two of their three bombers. We felt that perhaps prayer may have been instrumental in saving our ship from great damage and casualties.

Unfortunately, at a later date, March 19, 1945, the Franklin was hit by a surprise Japanese bomber. This caused one of the great U.S. Naval tragedies of World War II. More than 1200 of a crew of 3600 were either killed or missing.

Seaman Jacob Gindy, truly a wonderful shipmate and comrade who brought us Yiddishkite, was missing in action.

Sincerely,
Jerome Baldinger
West Miami Post #223

Dear Dr. Laufer:

It was a great pleasure to see the many pages of new members being welcomed to the organization.

The "Taps" column is important, but the idea of the listing of new members is brilliant.

Very truly yours,
Oscar Nathans

Dear Editor:

Despite many decades of participation and labor in the vineyard of JWV processes I am overwhelmed! This reaction is caused by the veritable deluge of communications I have received from JWVers since my recent hospitalization. I am astounded! Without question JWV is the most caring, most compassionate, most considerate group of men and women in American Jewish organizational life.

My joust with cardio-vascular problems began early in January of this year. Since then, and to the present, I have been in and out of the hospital, probed, tested, operated on and now discharged to recover in the friendly atmosphere of my home. During all of that time the messages of support and comfort never stopped coming!

Yes, I am a Past National Commander of JWV. Yes, I have served in a leadership role in many other Jewish organizations. Yes, I have had more than my share of *koved*. But when I contrast the response of my comrades in JWV to that of the myriad friends and associates in the many other Jewish and non-Jewish groups, they do not begin to measure up to the flood of communications from the *chaverim* and *chaverot* of JWV!

Simply put, there is a very special bond between JWVers. It transcends rank, station in life and all other benchmarks. Comradeship! It means so much more than the word suggests! Thank you my comrades. Thank you from my now-mended heart, Eleanor, along with my entire family, joins in recognition of your *mitzvot*. With appreciation,

Sincerely,
Albert Schlossberg
Past National Commander

Dear Editor:

Some months ago I sent you a letter commending your magazine and voicing my appreciation of same. That commendation and appreciation is continually deserving.

I was particularly impressed by two articles in your Vol. 40 No. 1 Jan./Feb./March 1986 Issue, "1896-1986" and, especially, "JWV SHALOM WITH HONOR." Your present day comments on same, which I agree with, are just as relevant today as they were 50 years ago, when they were first published in your magazine in 1936.

With Passover greetings and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,
Samuel M. Adler

Dear Editor:

I was honored by JWV Post #273 (Elin-Unger) of Springfield, New Jersey—Murray Nathanson, Commander—by their inducting me as a Patron Member of their post.

And then I received My first issue of "The Jewish Veteran"—Jan/Feb issue. Francis Slinger? I turned to the second page, and there was *her* name. Strange.

My Bn was in Alsace Lorraine at the time she was killed—and for some now unremembered reason I cut the *Stars and Stripes* article about her death—Wed, Nov 22, 1944—and I sent it home.

Her unit might have been supporting us, I don't remember. I do know that when our Bn C.O. was wounded and sent back to one of those very close hospital platoons—not like "MASH" of Korean fame—just a few tents—just a few magnificent young girls—dedicated NURSES plus their dedicated associates—both Doctors and Aid Men manned them—a very few tents—sucking kind of mud—but dedicated—beautiful American Nurses—well, I had gone back to one to check on our Colonel. Did I keep this article because she was with that unit? Or did I keep it because she represented so very much to all of us back then? I just don't know.

And now, 42 years later, I am accepted by the JWV even though I am not Jewish, and I find out so very much more about this young lady.

My Very Best and SHALOM
Jack Coulston

Reunions

The ninth infantry Division WWII reunion, June 26-28, 1986 Nashville, TN. Contact Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087.

USS PCS 1389 reunion, June 27-29, 1986, Norfolk, VA. Contact: Leonard Tampone, 99 E 7th St. Deer Park, NY 11729.

78th Bomb Group AAF-WWII, June 18-20, 1986. Contact: Gail O. Simon, 2036 Giscours Ct., Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814.

The 94th Infantry Division Association, July 17-19, 1986 Dearborn, MI. Contact: Ross Jordan, 1415 Orion Rd., Batavia, IL 60510.

American Ex-Prisoners of War of Stalag Luft 4 & 6 Germany, July 18, 1986, Jackson, MS. Contact: Leonard E. Rose, 8103 E. 50th St., Indianapolis, IN 46226 or call (317) 546-1960.

The 443rd AAA Association, July 11-13, 1986, Hazelton, PA. Contact: Dr. Bernard D. Fox, 151 E. Post Rd., White Plains, NY 10601

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On the Cover

The 15-foot bronze sculpture showing an American GI carrying a concentration camp survivor to freedom after the liberation of Europe in WWII was dedicated in Liberty Park, New Jersey on Memorial Day, 1985. The monument, titled "Liberation," was created by internationally acclaimed artist Nathan Rapoport and is the culmination of two years' work by a committee of 100 New Jerseyans who raised almost \$1 million to finance the project.

In This Issue

This issue features an address by the Honorable Meir Rosenne, the Ambassador from Israel, on terrorism. In honor of Israel's 38th birthday, we have included a piece on volunteering in Israel. We also feature articles on Jews around the world.

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of the United States of America

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