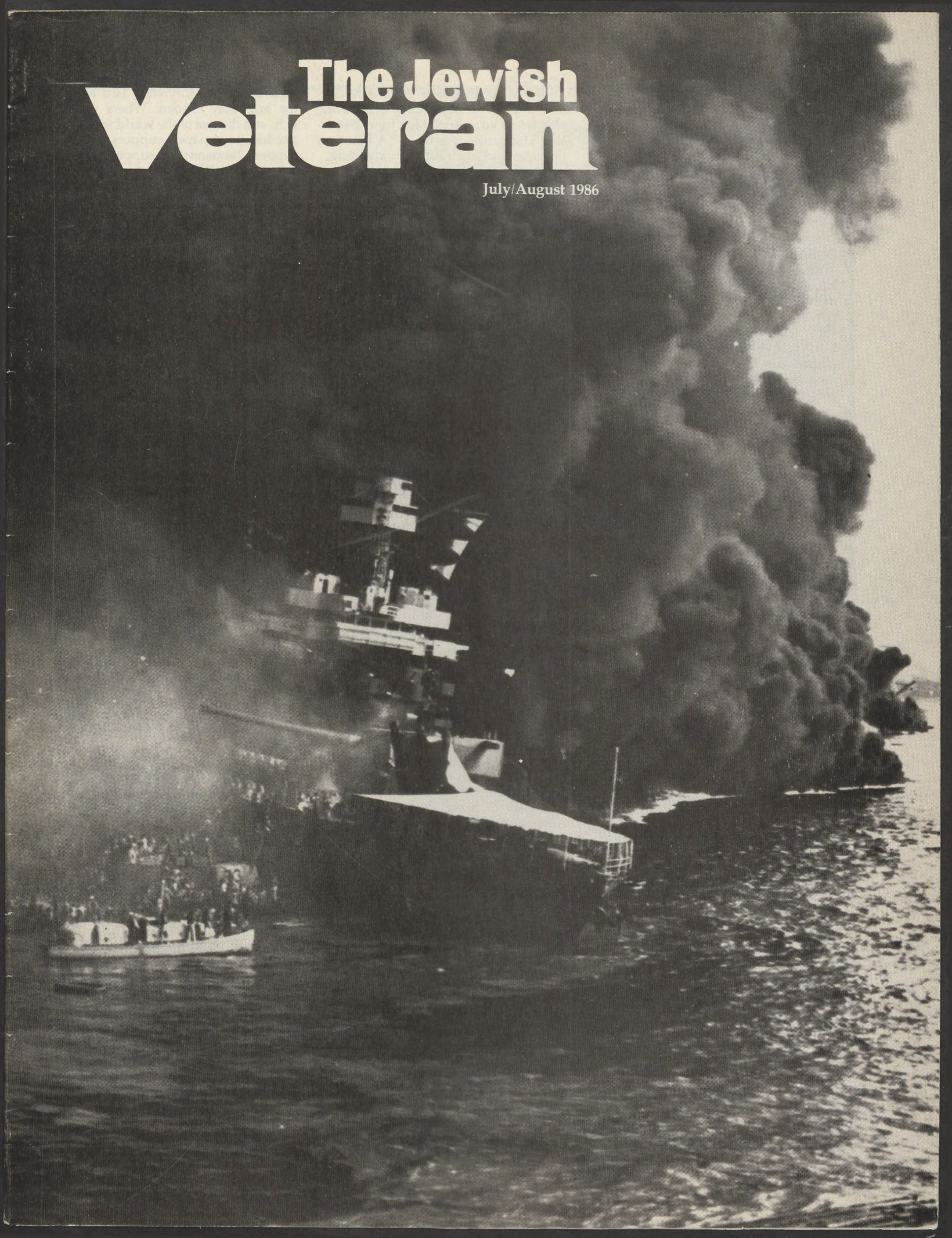


The Jewish Veteran

July/August 1986



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Reading Milton Feir's article on "Volunteerism for Israel" brought back many pleasant memories. I was stationed at the same base during Dec. of 1985, as a welder. There isn't much more I can add to his article except that the address for "Volunteers for Israel" was missing: it is 40 Worth Street, Room 710, New York, NY 10013.

Yours truly
Eli Leftin
Commander, Post #23

Dear Editor:

In your presentation of the Supreme Court's "yarmulke" case, it is my opinion that it was done in a slanted manner.

Your resolution that was passed at the 1985 National Convention mentioned supporting "Rabbi Goldman's" action. Since Goldman was not in the Air Force in the capacity of a Chaplain, you should have referred to him as "Captain" Goldman.

When I was in the service, a close buddy of mine had a Ph.D. and was not referred to as "Doctor" but as "Sgt." I see no difference in Goldman's case.

Air Force Regulation 35-10, Section 1-6(h)(2)(f) clearly states that "headgear will not be worn . . . while indoors." When Capt. Goldman entered the Air Force, he did so at his own will and vowed to abide by its rules and regulations. This regulation was in effect at the time, so, where's the problem? Had he been drafted, I possibly could have seen some justification for his suit.

Let's face it! If a Jew can wear a yarmulke, what's to prevent a Sikh from wearing a turban? Or a Hari Krishna from wearing a bedsheet and sandals?

I heartily agree that joining the military is not tantamount to agreeing to be deprived of one's civil rights, but the contention of forbidding the wearing of a yarmulke being a breach of the First Amendment is stretching one's imagination.

To continue publicizing this case will only result in divisiveness—something we do not need.

Sincerely,
Hy Rosenfeld
Valley of the Sun
Post 194
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Editor:

One of our members, Mr. Andy Gordon, recently sent me a copy of an article you ran in your April/May/June 1986 issue. This article was titled "A Souvenir From Berchtesgarden" by Irving Fitzig.

I found this article most interesting. However for the sake of historical correctness, Mr. Fitzig should be informed that the Mauser model HSc pistol, which is what is shown in the photograph, was not produced until after April, 1941. This is documented fact, and can be easily verified by the Mauser factory. As such, it could not possibly have been involved in any of Hitler's early escapades. The eagle which has been added to the flap is one of various types that were actually designed for wear on the peaked cap. Without a closer photo, and without knowing the color, I cannot advise you as to whether it was used on a Nazi party hat, army, navy or whatever.

It should also be noted that Hitler was a man of many guns, as were Goering and the various other high officials. The gold plated, ivory gripped Walther PP, presented to Hitler by the Walther factory, is currently in the collection of a gentleman in Canada. A second Walther, presented to Hitler, is still owned by the veteran who liberated it. It was not at all uncommon for various manufacturers, of virtually anything, to present Hitler and other officials with examples of their products.

From the photo, the Mauser HSc owned by Mr. Fitzig, appears to be a standard production pistol, i.e., without any engraving or special markings. There is no question, however, that Hitler could have taken whatever he wanted, whenever he wanted it.

All things considered, however, this pistol is still of historical significance.

Thank you,
Thompson D. Knox, President/Editor
Auto Mag

Dear Editor:

Regarding the photo on the cover of our magazine depicting an American GI carrying a concentration camp survivor to freedom, this sculpture is agonizing to my Jewishness. Nobody said that the survivor is Jewish, but the people equate the Holocaust with Jews, even though there were also five million non-Jews in the same situation.

First of all, the soldier looks much taller than the survivor. Secondly, how many survivors were carried in this manner? I have seen many concentration camp documentaries; they either walked out or were carried on a stretcher or they were expired.

I personally feel the statue is also demeaning to any survivors. This was not the help they needed. Where was the U.S. and the rest of the world when they needed newspaper support, political support, humanitarian support and boycott support. Where was the Jewish War Veterans? True, the Jewish War Veterans boycotted German products for a short time and the young able American Jewish was in the military, but the Jewish War Veterans could have done a lot more. How come the U.S. and British Bombers did not destroy the concentration camps, railway stations leading to them and the gas chambers and crematoria?

Personally, I would rather crawl out under my own power than be carried out. The Jews have a great and brave military history in the USA and other countries. We don't have to be carried. I'm sure Nathan Rapoport could have used more imagination and given more strength to the survivors of the concentration camps.

Shalom,
Dr. Lawrence Nessman
Colonel USAR
Post 695 Wayne, N.J.

Reunions

USS Leary DD 158 & USS Schenk DD159 Reunion, August, 1986, Providence, RI. Contact: Thomas J. Johnson, 141-A W. Maryland Ave., Aldan, PA 19018.

69th Infantry Division Reunion, August 10-17, 1986, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: Clarence Marshall, 101 Stephen St., New Kensington, PA 15068.

First Marine Division Reunion, August 13-16, 1986, St. Louis, MO. Contact: Daniel A. Beffa, 5 Lucas Lane, St. Louis, MO 63121.

101th Mountain Division Reunion, August 12-17, 1986, Seattle, WA. Contact: Maury Dashevsky, 80 Washington Rd., Springfield, MA 01108.

454th Bomb Sqd. Assoc. 323rd B.G. Reunion, August 13-17, 1986, Oshkosh, WI. Contact: Joseph R. Havrilla, 1208 Margaret St., Munhall, PA 15120.

Republic of Vietnam Airborne Division Reunion, August 15-17, 1986, Fort Bragg, NC. Contact: Colonel Joe Kinzer, 9 Donelson St., Ft. Bragg, NC 28307.

63rd Infantry Division of WWII Reunion, August 20-23, 1986, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Murray Moore, 3933 Barkis Ave., Boynton Beach, FL 33436.

Marine 8th Defense & AAA Battalion, August 20-24, 1986, Quantico, VA. Contact: Sgt. Major John P. Yaros, USMC, 484 Plainfield Road, Edison, NJ 08820.

Continued on Page 26.

On the Cover

Shown is the USS California after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Delegates to the convention will have the opportunity to pay tribute to those who lost their lives on that fateful day.

In this Issue

This pre-Convention issue features articles which reflect the broad areas of interest of our membership.

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