

The Jewish Veteran

January/February/March 1987



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

On Thursday, the 21st of October 1937, Dr. J.H. Hertz, then Chief Rabbi, consecrated the New Synagogue in Thompsons Lane, Cambridge, England. In the course of his address he said "Let every Jew in Cambridge regain the religious inheritance which is inalienably his; and let the Synagogue become the spiritual home of all Jewish students of the University."

In the Fall of 1987, the present members of the Cambridge University Jewish Society, and former members and alumni of the University, will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of that historic event. In the intervening years the Synagogue and Society have largely fulfilled the aspirations of the Chief Rabbi at that time. Of course during that period, and particularly during World War II, many American servicemen were welcomed to the Synagogue, the Society, and its activities. Many we individually remember warmly, and many more we are sure do cherish the memories of the welcome and hospitality that we, as the student community, were able to offer.

Many JWV members share those memories and might be interested in sharing in the celebratory event in one way or another. The milestone event, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the consecration of the Synagogue, will have a number of manifestations. Firstly, we will be publishing a book of recall. It will contain articles by former members, including one by President Hyam Hertzog. This volume will also contain a roll of past members and associates, and any readers who would like to be included in that roll are invited to let us have details of their name, current address, period or even dates that they visited the Synagogue and a very brief note on their activities since those far off days. A second feature will be an Anniversary Dinner to be held in the Guildhall, Cambridge, on the 13th of September 1987, at which it is hoped that the first then undergraduate president of the Cambridge University Jewish Society, Mr. Abba Eban, will deliver the keynote speech.

Thirdly, the 50th Anniversary is an occasion to acknowledge the various changes in the Jewish community of Cambridge. There is a much larger undergraduate population, there is a much larger contingent of Jewish senior members of the University, including masters of two colleges, and there is a relatively large resident population. To meet the growing needs and changing times it is intended largely to rebuild and extend the premises in Thompsons Lane. To this, too, former members and those who have in the past enjoyed what the

Synagogue and Society have to offer, are invited to contribute.

I look forward to hearing from any readers who might be interested.

Mr. Ansel Harris
23 Ferncroft Ave.
London NW 3 7PG
England

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the published article and duplicate. I was pleased to see it and enclosed is a copy of one of the responses received.

Sincerely,
Robert Wasserman

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

I could not help but be fascinated by the article on Graphology and Character Analysis in the November/December, 1986, issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, and especially the segment on my late uncle, J. George Fredman, a former Commander in Chief of the organization.

In my opinion, your analysis of my uncle's character hit the mark so very well that I have sent a copy to his son, Judge William Fredman of San Luis Obispo. He may well also want to comment to you, from a much closer point of view.

Very truly yours,
Samuel G. Fredman
White Plains, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

The striking cover the November/December issue caught my attention as I opened my door and looked at the stack of mail lying on the floor. In the time I have been a member of the JWV, I have seen the "Veteran" evolve into a first-class magazine.

I would like to compliment you, your staff, and your readers—even the letters to the Editor are literate and of substance. I belong to other veterans organizations, and find their publications of a much lower level in terms of editorial content, style, and literacy. I know that I am not being chauvinistic, because others have commented to me.

And so, for the secular New Year, I wish you continued success, and, to you and your staff, I say, "Yasher koach".

Cordially,
Leon Schwarzbaum
Post #770
North Woodmere, N.Y.

Dear Editor,

What's the big deal—if you want any of your medals/ribbons, send to:

Department of the Army
RCPAC
St. Louis, MO 63132

Just include in your letter what war or wars you served in, your dates and time of service, your outfits, your serial number and the name you used in the service. It takes 3-6 months to receive a package and a list of what medals you are entitled to. All it will cost you is your time and a 22¢ postage stamp.

Respectfully,

Ralph M. DeGroot
Post #550
New Rochelle, NY

Dear Editor,

This letter is written in memory of a deceased comrade—Norman "Buddy" Spetner. There are many excellent and devoted men and women in JWV—but this individual was truly outstanding—a tremendous worker for every Jewish cause.

Buddy served as first commander of Post #644 from 1949-1951. He entered WWII as a reserve officer in the Field Artillery and then transferred to the Air Force, where he got his wings as a pilot and the rank of captain. During the Korean Conflict, he served for two years, completing training in B-47's.

Upon his return to civilian life, he became the Dept. Commander of Missouri and then a member of the NEC. He was a driving force in fund raising for the JWV Memorial Home in St. Louis. Before his demise, JWV Heritage Post #644 held a 36th Double Chai Reunion. Mr. Spetner was the guest speaker of this dinner. His untimely death at age 63, on October 3, 1986, left the Jewish Community of St. Louis, stunned. He was a leader who will be missed.

Sincerely,

Al DeWoskin
Post #185
San Diego, CA

Dear Editor,

Here is an interesting fact that might help an unemployed veteran who served 180 days or more during the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam War.

If you are *unemployed* the VA has a program whereby you can apply for an Eligibility Certificate which does the following: you first produce your original

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