

The Jewish Veteran

Spring 1988

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JERUSALEM
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1948

THE PALESTINE POST IS BORN

THE PALESTINE POST
THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT
has returned to The Palestine Post
office, Hamamel Street,
Jerusalem, Tel. 4235.

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VOL. XXIII, No. 6714

STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken in the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE
WASHINGTON, Saturday, May 15.—Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate over Palestine, President Truman today announced that the United States would recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the de facto authority representing the Jewish State.

Proclamation by Head of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael," the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben-Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.



David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine's most crowded hours in its history. For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the hundred Hagahana men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory, with no communications since Thursday morning, was what caused the most anxious questions. What could not be Truce Councils would secure respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions for the dead.

Jews Take Over Security Zones

The battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued. The fighting in the city was still being heard in the early hours of this morning. Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday to bring about a cessation when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time.

Special Assembly Adjourns

FLUSHING MEADOWS, N.Y., Saturday, May 15.—The special session of the United Nations Security Council adjourned today after a long and tense session. The council failed to reach a decision on the partition plan for Palestine.

2 Columns Cross Southern Border

CAIRO, Saturday (AP)—A column of Egyptian troops crossed the Egyptian border with Palestine today. The column was reported to have crossed the border near the town of Be'er Sheva.

Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.

Fighting in the Kfar Etzion bloc continued today. The Kfar Etzion settlers were taken prisoner by Arab forces. The fighting was reported to be very intense.

A Good Thing

CAIRO, Saturday (AP)—The Egyptian army has advanced in the Gaza Strip. The advance was reported to be a good thing for the Jewish people.

Emergency

A state of emergency in the Jerusalem area was declared today. The emergency was declared to deal with the situation in the city.

War Office Says League Had Left

LAKH, Saturday.—The War Office today said that the League of Nations had left the Middle East. The League's departure was reported to be a significant event.

EGYPTIAN INVASION BEFORE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL

LAKH, Sunday.—The Egyptian invasion of the Gaza Strip was reported to the United Nations Security Council today. The council is expected to take action on the matter.

Not did the Arab Bloc remain idle. True to their promises, the League members plan to take full-scale action against the Arab "crusade" in the Middle East.

According to sources, Egyptian troops are expected to enter the Gaza Strip within six hours.

The first act of the Council was to announce the declaration of independence of the State of Israel.

I would like to thank you and National Program Director Michelle Spivak Kelley for the wonderful, prompt answer and offering help in getting my family out of the Soviet Union. For the first time in many years it gives me encouragement and some hope that it might happen.

My family has experienced incredible hardship. After my family applied for the permission to emigrate, my parent's house was set on fire. Officials refused to investigate the case. My sister was fired, she couldn't find another job for two years. A year and a half ago we lost our father, in five months after that I lost my husband. At this time of grief and loneliness, we need each other desperately and ask for nothing else in this world, but for the chance to be together.

Soviet officials are aware of our circumstances, but it looks like human sufferings don't bother them that much.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you for your attention to this matter and shall appreciate anything you can do to help my family.

Very Truly yours,
Mila Katsman

Dear Editor

Each year as I complete the annual Post 44 Donor Program Book and list our deceased members I become aware the membership is dwindling. Each year at the Post election time few members agree to serve in administrative capacities. Each year I strive for more members involvement.

JWV needs you and you need JWV. Get within the target area of activity to make your lives more effective. The target area is involvement with committees, programs, services and friendships. Do not fall short of what your membership dues allow. I have a formula to success: Be involved with JWV. Come to meetings.

Sincerely,
Gerald Berkman
Post #44 Service Officer
Cleveland, OH

Dear Friends,

I am joining with you and with all those whose hearts feel pain that a man and a soldier of the caliber described in recent JWV 1988 article was not honored for the exemplary service he rendered to his fellow Americans. Tibor Rubin deserves the Congressional Medal of Honor, the gratitude of his countrymen and recognition for extra-ordinary valor for his unselfish daring deeds to save his fellow POWs.

As a survivor of the Holocaust who was fortunate to serve with the U.S. Third Army (26th Div.) I can appreciate his courage and disregard for his own

safety Rubin displayed. He did not have to take such risks after living through the Nazi hell in his native Hungary. Therefore his heroic conduct is all the more commendable. Napoleon was quoted saying that "it takes more courage to suffer than to die", and our sages said that "one who saves one human life is credited as though he saved a whole world." If that is so, how much more credit is due to Tibor Rubin, who is credited with saving over 30 lives of his companions in a time of crisis and at a great risk to his own life.

JWV deserves much credit for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,
George Topas
Post #178
Lakewood, NJ

Dear Editor:

Thank you to all my good friends and well-wishers for the many cards and kind thoughts during my recent illness.

Sincerely,
Dan Applebaum
National Tour Chairman

The following letter was received by NED Steve Shaw:

Dear Steve:

Today's mail brought my first issue of *The Jewish Veteran*, Winter, 1988, since I'm a brand new member-at-large.

I have to write to you immediately, to let you know that I read it, cover to cover, finding it more interesting than the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans magazines, which I have been receiving for years as a long-time member of both of these organizations.

It was good—so good—to read articles that support my interest in Jewish affairs and my concern with Jewish problems.

In a previous letter to you, I wrote about my work at the Seattle Veterans Medical Center, where I have been a volunteer for five years since my retirement. All this time I've been giving credit for my hours served, to the local B'nai Brith Chapter.

Now that I'm also a member of JWV, I asked the VA Hospital to change its records to credit my volunteer hours from now on to JWV. While I work there, I see many volunteers from American Legion and DAV and I feel we need the presence of a Jewish veterans' organization, too. It makes me feel good now, when I sign in as a member of JWV of the USA—I feel it is better for our image.

Thanks for your helpfulness.
Shalom,
David Sidney Katz
Seattle, WA

By Warren S. Dolny
National Editor

In this issue you will see a number of subtle changes in the appearance of the magazine instituted by our editorial staff. Scott Zucker, who has been doing a fine job, has been promoted to Associate Editor. He is now responsible for daily operations of the magazine. Michelle Spivak Kelley is now the National Director of Communications and will oversee all JWV publications. Scott, Michelle and yours truly are endeavoring to bring you a more substantial magazine, both editorially and graphically.

In addition, your National Editorial Staff is looking to open new lines of communication to the membership. In an effort to achieve this, a newsletter is being considered for 1989. The next publication you receive will be a model of what we hope to publish as a supplement to the magazine. We have many new ideas that you will be seeing in upcoming issues of the magazine, and I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

Our theme for this issue is Israel's 40th Anniversary. As many of you know, the 5th World Assembly of Jewish War Veterans was recently held in Israel. Your National Commander, National Executive Director, and a large group of our

"Israel is very safe"

members, myself included, were in Israel for the World Assembly. If I have just one major point to share with you, it is that Israel, despite all the adverse publicity, is doing just fine and IS VERY SAFE (safer than many U.S. cities) for tourists. If you were considering changing plans and cancelling your visit to Israel, you would be doing both Israel and yourself a great disservice. DO NOT FALL INTO THE ARAB PLOT AND HELP ISRAEL'S ENEMIES. My advice to you is that Israel needs you, and you will not regret making the decision to go and visit her now.

Finally, I would like to toot our own horn a little by telling you that Michelle Spivak Kelley's article on Tibor Rubin, from the Winter, 1988 issue was reprinted in the April 4, 1988 edition of *Stars and Stripes*, as well as other publications. If you have any comments on the magazine or newsletter please write to me at National Headquarters.

Due to the special nature of this issue, some of our regular departments (including Keeping Posted) do not appear. Rest assured, that they will return in the next issue.

The Jewish Veteran®

Vol. 42 No. 2 Spring 1988



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Happy 40th Anniversary to the State of Israel! The cover features a reproduction of the front page of the *Palestine Post* from May 16, 1948.

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of the United States of America

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Having turned the corner of my administration—seven and a half months have quickly sped by—I am now on my final lap.

I had the good fortune, while making an official visit this past January to the Lone Star State of Texas, to join in the presentation of an award in memory of the Challenger astronauts and to get a circumspect view of the NASA operation in Houston. Prior to attending NJCRAC in Los Angeles, in February, I paid an official visit to the Department of California. While in San Diego, as a guest at the Naval Training Command Review, I was pleasantly surprised to see the development of the Jewish Chapel on the Naval Training Base as an independent house of worship. The Army Museum tour in San Francisco was an eye-opener. It featured a complete documentary which included not only the military history of the U.S.A., going back to the Indian uprisings, but also a rare reproduction showing the city before and after the famous San Francisco earthquake.

I will forego explanation of my numerous appearances, official visits for installation purposes, and speaking events, to concentrate on and highlight subjects of particular interest to JWV.

JWV has taken the U.S. Marines to court in the matter of removing a 65 ft. illuminated Latin cross from Camp H.M. Smith in Hawaii. The cross remains in place, despite an opinion by Navy Judge Advocate General, Adm. T. Flynn, that it be removed. General P.X. Kelley, former Commandant of U.S. Marine Corps, insists the cross stay in place as a "non-sectarian" symbol of hope to families of POWs and MIAs remaining in Southeast Asia. JWV's position is that the cross, as a sacred and revered symbol of Chris-

tianity, does not honor or respect the faith of non-Christians and its location violates the First Amendment. We are awaiting a court decision.

JWV joined with other veterans' organizations in a full page advertisement in *USA TODAY* supporting the elevation of the VA to Cabinet level status. We followed this up with letters to our various memberships asking them to urge their legislators to support Senate Bill 533 to accomplish this purpose.

I, as your Commander, just recently had the honor to appear before the joint Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. I had the opportunity to testify on behalf of JWV's position concerning Congress' current budget approach to Veterans Administration programs. While lobbying for VA Cabinet level status, we were encouraged by both Senate Committee Chairman Cranston of California, and Congressman Sonny Montgomery, House Committee Chairman, that our efforts, and those of our veteran peers were producing favorable opinions in Congress. Other topics we addressed include the Congressional Medal of Honor for Tibor Rubin, the erecting of a Korean War Memorial and a Vietnam Women's Memorial. We made known our dissatisfaction with the current budget, addressing the following critical problems: 1989 budget increase; reduction in medical care and research; beneficiary travel; inadequate disabled aging and homeless veterans benefits; and a host of other subjects.

Having just returned a month ago from a very interesting, delightful and entertaining Israeli trip along with 115 of our people, I will address the balance of this column to my observations on the situation in the Middle East.

The array of speakers who addressed our 5th International World Assembly of Jewish War Veterans in Israel, jointly designed to honor Israel's 40th Anniversary, reads like a list of WHO'S WHO in Israel. The assembly was addressed by the following distinguished individuals, some of whom were introduced by three of our past national commanders, thanks to our International Liaison PNC Norman Tilles.

- Simcha Dinitz** *President, World Zionist Organization*
- Morris Abram** *Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations*
- Teddy Kolleck** *Mayor of Jerusalem*
- Chaim Herzog** *President of Israel*
- Abba Eban** *Member of Knesset*
- Shimon Peres** *Foreign Minister of Israel*
- Yitzhak Rabin** *Defense Minister of Israel*

We attended an additional briefing with:

- Ezer Weizman** *Member of Knesset and Father of Israel's Air Force*

I personally had the honor of introducing Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents being held simultaneously, in Israel, with the Fifth World Assembly. On behalf of the other 10 international Jewish war veterans delegations, who joined with us. I delivered our vote of thanks to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the Farewell Dinner.

It appeared to me that all the speakers were in AGREEMENT in the following areas:

- 1-ISRAEL IS NOT LOOKING FOR LAND—Their holding of territories is ONLY to assure permanent borders when the peace process is realized.
- 2-ARABS WILL REMAIN in the territories.
- 3-ISRAEL WILL REMAIN within defensible borders.
- 4-ISRAEL WILL NOT go back to pre-1967 geographic lines.
- 5-JERUSALEM MUST REMAIN united as the capital of Israel.
- 6-PLO should NOT be part of negotiations as long as it preaches the destruction of Israel.
- 7-Each speaker welcomed Sec. Shultz's new U.S. peace initiatives with the EXCEPTION of Prime Minister Shamir's unexpressed position.
- 8-Allowing the STATUS QUO to re-



Shown after the presentation of JWV flags for display in Congressional Committee hearing rooms are (L-R): Al Lyman, Post #791; Sen. Alan Cranston Chairman-Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee; Willy Herbst, Post #83; Rep. Sonny Montgomery, Chairman-House Veterans' Affairs Committee; and National Commander Jack Litz.

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