

# The Jewish® Veteran



## National Commander Visits NATO and Europe

**F**rom March 14 to March 26, National Commander Herbert D. Greff, travelled to Europe for the JWV National Commander's annual trip to NATO. Accompanying the National Commander and his wife, Francine, was JWV National Legislative Director Colonel Herbert Rosenbleeth, and his wife, Sandy.

The itinerary included meetings with the U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, U.S. Ambassador and Defense advisor to NATO, Commander In Chief of the U.S. Army in Europe, Senior Jewish Chaplain in Europe, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force in Europe and Jewish Lay Leaders in West Berlin and Bitburg. Tours included East Berlin's Jewish Community Center and Russian War Museum, Marienfelde Refugee Center in West Berlin, Dachau Concentration Camp, West Berlin's Jewish Community Center, Freedom Bridge and government buildings, the Heidelberg Jewish cemetery and the two former synagogues of the city. NC Greff and NLD Rosenbleeth attended Purim services in a synagogue in West Berlin, Heidelberg's Post Chapel and Judische Gemeinde.



During his trip to NATO and Europe, NC Greff meets with Mark Swearngen (ctr.), Chief of Community Relations, Office of Chief of Public Affairs, Berlin and Lt. Col. Gary Oedewaldt, I, Public Affairs Officer, Berlin Brigade.

In Brussels, the U.S. Ambassador to Belgium, the Hon. Maynard Glitman, a principal negotiator of the INF treaty, briefed NC Greff on the progress of the nuclear pullout, explaining that the Soviets have not actually reduced any forces. According to Amb. Glitman, Mikhail Gorbachev's peace initiatives are taxing the creativity of NATO to respond.

*continued on page 8*

## JWV Sponsors First Annual Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel

### Christian Vet Leaders Get First-hand Look at Jewish Homeland

by Michelle Spivak Kelley,  
Natl. Dir., Communications & Programs

In an effort to encourage greater understanding of Israel—her relationship with her neighbors and the U.S.—JWV recently sponsored its first Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel.

The mission provided a small group of up-and-coming leaders of America's veterans' community with the opportunity to personally evaluate the current Middle East situation with a first-hand look at the Jewish Homeland.

The intifada, the confusing and often times misleading media reports of violence on the West Bank and in Gaza, and the U.S. State Department's decision to open talks with the PLO, provided the impetus for this mission. JWV leadership recognized the need to present an accurate picture of Israel to an influential group of non-Jews, who served in America's armed forces and understand the need for defending your native land.

The idea for the mission was presented to the National Executive Committee at the December 1988 meeting by PNC Robert M. Zweiman, JWV's International Liaison Officer and the President of the National Memorial, Inc.

*continued on page 2*

## INDEX

Forum	2
Keeping Posted	3
Reunions	3
In Search Of	3
On The Hill	4
Convention Coupon	4
Convention Tours	5
Veterans' Affairs	6
Supply	8

## Remarks to the NEC

by National Commander Herbert D. Greff

I stand here a week after Passover, a few days after the day set aside to remember the Holocaust, Yom Hashoah, and a few days before Israel's 41st birthday. Somehow these events all tie together. As Jews worldwide enjoyed the Seder, we once again retold the story of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt. We never tire of this freedom story and the Haggadah

is passed on from generation to generation.

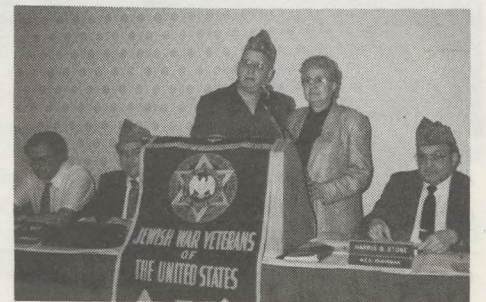
On the other hand, Yom Hashoah is a day of remembrance. On this day we remember with sadness the Holocaust. Hopefully, this day which we recently set aside to memorialize our brethren will be passed from generation to generation.

On Passover we say Dayenu. If God had delivered us from Egypt it would have been enough. This is then followed by a whole litany of "It would

*continued on page 6*



NC Greff and his wife, Francine and NLD Herb Rosenbleeth and his wife Sandy, stand in front of the Berlin Wall in West Germany during the NC Greff's recent trip to NATO and Europe.



PNC Robert M. Zweiman, Chmn., JWV negotiating team, stands at the podium with PNP Rose Toye, Chair, JWVA Task Force, as they announce an agreement in principle between JWV and Ladies Auxiliary. Also, pictured from l-r are NED Steve Shaw, NC Greff and PNC Harris B. Stone, NEC Chairman.



NC Greff and National Legislative Director Herb Rosenbleeth pose with the Hon. Maynard Glitman, a key negotiator on the INF Treaty.



At the Spring NEC meeting, a dinner was held to honor past NEC Chmn. Pictured are from l-r: PNC Nate Goldberg, PNC Herman Moses, PNC Robert Shor, PNC Ainslee Ferdie, PNC Robert Zweiman, PNC Ralph Plofsky and PNC Norman Tilles. Seated are PNC William Carmen and PNC Benjamin Chasin. Those past NEC Chmn. who were unable to make the testimonial included Lt. Col. Joseph Solomonow, PNC Harry Madison and PNC Paul Ribner.

# Forum

## Notes from National Editor Warren S. Dolny

For some, this issue of our newsletter is the first one this year. Unfortunately because of our computer problems, some members did not receive our Winter, 1989 issue. To say the least, we are sorry. Hopefully these problems are behind us.

Your National Headquarters staff is now preparing for our convention in Hartford, Connecticut. In this issue there is a form to use to make your own reservations if you have not already done so. You need to be there because you are JWV and should be heard and seen.

Some noteworthy events which are recounted in this issue are JWV's sponsorship of the First Annual Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel and the National Commander's trip to NATO and Europe. JWV brought Christian Veterans' leaders to Israel in an effort to promote better understanding of Israel and her relations with the U.S. These vets returned with a new outlook on the situation in Israel and an appreciation of Israel and her people.

An analysis of the National Commander's trip to NATO and Europe is also outlined in this issue. NC Greff and our National Legislative Director, Herb Rosenbleeth, were briefed by a variety of NATO officials and military personnel on the current situation facing NATO. Additionally, the National Commander had the opportunity to

meet with representatives of the various European Jewish communities.

You are now looking at an award winning publication. The Jewish Veteran newsletter, and its printing company, were recently presented with the "Award of Excellence" by the Printing Industries of the Virginias, for excellence in graphic design and print quality. This accolade is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our Editorial Staff to produce the best quality periodical that we can. It is our hope that our readers feel the same way as those who judged us. ■

### Dear Editor:

We, Jewish War Veterans of U.S.A living in Israel, appreciate your concern and support for Israel.

But, as citizens of Israel, we demand the same right accorded citizens of every sovereign democracy. Please respect our right to decide our security policies. This right is inherent in the meaning of both democracy and sovereignty. American Jewish leaders mean well, but it is our own lives and security at stake. We live here and know this area intimately. We believe we are more qualified to solve Israel's national security problems. Our elected officials in Jerusalem should make the crucial decisions regarding life and death and national security.

Ask American-Jewish leaders and U.S. Government officials to respect our right to life and liberty and to pursue happiness and a secure peace. Speak up and speak out for Israel.

—Moshe Brodetzky, Jr. Cmdr.  
Jerusalem JWV  
Post 180 Israel

### Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter in answer to one written by Comrade Aaron Morah, in regard to his blood donations over the years, and I wish everyone healthy enough to give blood would take an example from him.

I was a commander of JWV Post 32 in Worcester in the very early 50's, and during, and after, my reign of office had nothing but wonderful experiences with the Red Cross—they were always ready to help when help was necessary, and for that reason I have maintained a regular schedule of donations, also.

Congratulations, Comrade Aaron, may God bless you. And, incidentally, I visited the blood bank this very afternoon (3/23/89) and donated my 179th pint, so we are kind of "neck and neck." I must admit that mine has been divided between my Post and my Masonic Lodge, but the important thing is that we gave!

Good luck and good health!!

—Simon Gorschman  
Shrewsbury, MA

### Dear Editor:

During the period 11-21, Nov. 1988 I was in the Federal Republic of Germany. I was able, during this time, to participate in a number of observations commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Kristallnacht. In Mannheim, in which I participated in a commemorative march, some 1,000 people participated. The march and route were heavily patrolled by German police. The march was sponsored by the City of Mannheim. At the site of the old destroyed synagogue, a can-

tor attempt to recite Kaddish. The police neglected to divert traffic, and the cantor was rendered inaudible by vehicular traffic and the tolling of the bells of the Jesuitenkirche. I suspect that this dereliction was not necessarily unintentional. No accommodation was made for participants in the service, which was over two hours long; the church was unheated, and a large percentage of the participants were elderly people. All the local prominent types, politicians and clergy, made speeches. I attended such memorial events in several German cities; the speeches were essentially identical. My German friends, as do I, suspect that the speeches were canned, prescribed by the Bonn government. The services were travesties, lacked sincerity, were superficial and synthetic.

I grew up in Germany. As a professional soldier I served for many years in Germany. I am a Germanic philologist. Anti-semitism is at best somewhat latent in Germany. The Jenninger affair, which occurred in Germany, when the Bundestagspräsident eulogized the Nazis and excoriated the Jews, is of course a manifestation of the general German attitude. The recent political success of a former SS criminal, Schönhuber, is similarly another manifestation of inveterate German anti-semitism. During the commemorative period of the Kristallnacht there were numerous instances of desecrations of cemeteries and synagogues in Germany. They will never change.

—Richard A. Schwartz  
Wilmington, DE

## Veterans Mission to Israel *continued from page 1*

PNC Zweiman and the Honorable Herbert Tanzman, National Foreign Affairs Chairman, agreed that the mission would be most meaningful for participants if it coincided with the Easter holy days. The project was, therefore, put in motion immediately.

Through the efforts of JWV Department leaders in California, New Jersey and Massachusetts potential participants were identified and invited to attend as guests of JWV. Federations in these localities were approached for funding, as were individuals.

All of the allied veteran participants were first time visitors to Israel. Having been deluged by news reports

dwelling on violence in the region, before leaving for Israel, attendees expressed surprise at how safe they felt traveling the country.

Their itinerary included high-level military and government briefings. The group was escorted to various military installations including the Good Fence at Israel's border with Lebanon, and the Golan Heights. The tours of historical sites included Christian holy places in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth. The group also saw the famous Holocaust memorial and museum—Yad Vashem.

Mr. Leo Bernier, Jr., of the American Legion Department of Massa-

chusetts says he returned from the mission with "a greater understanding of Israel's people and their problems." He feels Israelis are "threatened and need to be strong militarily to defend themselves."



Participants of JWV's First Allied Veterans' Mission to Israel.

For John G. Mooney, Senior Vice-Commander of VFW's Department of New Jersey, the mission was an eye-opener that changed him forever. In a letter to the PNC Zweiman, Mooney writes, "The trip to the Holy Land is one that shall stay with me for the rest of my life. My feelings on Religion and the people of the state of Israel have changed in a most profound and positive manner. You now have a walking P.R. man telling the good things of Israel."

George Maness, Commander of the Department of California of AMVETS was equally affected by the trip. "The

experience I will never forget," says Maness, "and the memories of that courageous nation which survives and progresses against almost insurmountable odds will forever have my support."

The mission participants were, from Massachusetts, Gordon Crosby, VFW Department Commander, Leo Bernier, Jr. American Legion Department Commander and Bernard McClusky, State President, Vietnam Veterans of America.

From New Jersey, attendees included, PDC Robert Anderson of Disabled American Veterans, Robert E. Wallace, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Veterans' Affairs and Past Department Commander of VFW, Joseph Ward, PDC of the American Legion and member of the Legion's National Security Council, John G. Mooney, Department Sr. Vice-Commander of VFW.

From California, George Maness, Department Commander of AMVETS, attended.

JWV Members on the mission were National Commander Herbert D. Greff, PNC Robert H. Zweiman, and PDC Murray Rosen.

The next Allied Veterans' Missions to Israel are scheduled for Christmas 1989 and Easter 1990. ■

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**Reward Offered**

Cmdr. Henry Cohen announced the L.A. County Council would offer a \$2,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) who vandalized a local synagogue with swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans.

**Loyalty Day**

JWV Post 579 in Newport News, VA participated in Loyalty Day ceremonies with other veterans' organizations. Abraham Leiss, NEC, served as Program and Publicity Chmn.

**Honors in Hawaii**

Judge Daniel J. Valk, a member of Post 2, was honored at a reunion of the 100Bn./442R. C. T. in Honolulu, for his efforts on behalf of the Redress Bill of Americans of Japanese Ancestry. Hawaii Gov. John Waihee met Judge Volk.

**Descendants Activities**

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Descendants of Jewish War Veterans has been quite active over the last few months. Besides Descendants speaking at all of the Posts and auxiliaries in

the Philadelphia area, Descendants participated in the local Variety Club telethon for handicapped children. Descendants held a fundraising raffle at Post 697 which brought in over \$500 for the organization.

**Help for Homeless**

New York County Council has started a program to gather clothes for homeless veterans living in the Borden Ave. Veterans Residence. Clothes donated by Cooper-Stuyvesant Cleaners were distributed through the combined efforts of Cmdr. Seymour Hellman, Sr. Vice Cmdr. Sid Wolf, Dave Forman, PC Manny Levine, QM Irving Rappaport and DEC Dr. Al Tinkle, all of Stuyvesant Cooper Post 235.

**Wingate Memorialized by Posts in U.S. and Israel.**

The Dept. of D.C. held a ceremony to honor Orde Wingate at Arlington National Cemetery, marking the 45th Anniversary of his death. NC Greff was one of the speakers. Martin Greenspan, Cmdr., Dept. of D.C., Robert Sherman, Senior Vice-Cmdr., Dept. of D.C., and Brig. Gen. Simeon Kobrinetz, JWV National Chaplain, were among the participants.

Israel Post 180 sponsored a similar ceremony in Jerusalem. Moshe Brodetzky, who initiated similar observances when living in Washington, D.C., coordinated the Jerusalem observance. Sidney Palace represented AJEX. Also in attendance was Yosie Halevi, Director of the Wingate Institute of Israel.



PNC Jack Litz, presents JWV Medal of Merit to Bernard Rotberg, in a ceremony in Philadelphia.



Cmdr. Bill Light, (l), and Past Cmdr. Lenny Kyajet of Albuquerque Post 375 donated socks and other personal items to the psychiatric and alcohol and drug abuse wards at the Albuquerque VAMC. continued on page 5

**REUNIONS**

Marine 8th Defense & AAA Battalion (WW II and Pacific Theatre) will hold their annual reunion in Chicago from Aug. 30-Sept. 3. CONTACT: Vincent Powers, 862 Webster Ln., Des Plaines, IL 60016 (312) 635-6090.

USS LST 50 reunion, Aug. 9-13, 1989, in Pittsburgh, PA. CONTACT: Martin Dumoch, 17 E. Berwin Way, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 (609) 866-1472.

82nd Airborne Division will hold its 43rd Annual Reunion on Aug. 17-19, Valley Forge, PA. CONTACT: Joe DeBartolo, 19 Raritan Ave., #6E, Highland Park, NJ 08904 (201) 846-1882.

USS Jesse Roper DD147 will hold a reunion the weekend of September 9 in Toms River, NJ. CONTACT: Harry Heyman, 879A Winchester Ct., Lakehurst, NJ 08733 (201) 657-1494 or Donald Bousquet, King Rd., Athol, MA 01331 (508) 249-3688.

104th (Timberwolf) Division will hold a reunion Aug. 31-Sept. 4 in Kansas City, KS. CONTACT: Glen Lytle, 4002 Jasmine, Wichita, KS 67226.

15th Air Force (All Groups) will hold its reunion on Aug. 13-17, Las Vegas, NV. CONTACT: 15th Air Force Assoc., P.O. Box 6325, March AFB, CA 92518.

69th Infantry, 661st Tank Destroyer Bn., 777th Tank Bn. will all convene Aug. 20-27 in Denver, CO. CONTACT: (69th) Clarence Marshall, 101 Stephen St., New Kensington, PA 15608 (412) 335-3224; (661st) William Beswick, P.O. Box 576, West Point, VA 23181 (703) 843-2696; (777th) Vernon Wirth, 8330 W. Concordia Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53222 (414) 422-9664.

USS Metcalf DD 595 reunion, Aug. 23-27 in Chicago, IL. CONTACT: John Chittum, 350 S. Walnut St., Huntington, WV 25705-3514 (304) 423-6963.

63rd Infantry Division reunion will convene in San Francisco, CA, Aug.

23-27. CONTACT: John Santangelo, 3339 S. Canfield Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034.

6th Arm'd Division will hold its 42nd Annual Reunion, Aug. 29-Sept. 3, 1989 in Boston, MA. CONTACT: Ed Reed, P.O. Box 5011, Louisville, KY 40205. ■

**IN SEARCH OF...**

Abraham Worebey is looking for Isidore Goldstrom, Jr., whose last known residence was Havre de Grace, MD, and who served with him in WW II. If you have any information regarding Mr. and Mrs. Goldstrom, contact Abraham Worebey, 47 N. Bassett, Rd., Brockton, MA 02401.

Any Jewish servicemen who have information regarding the only known Jewish synagogue in the Azores, located in Ponta Delgada, on the island of San Miguel, are asked to contact the Azores Synagogue Restoration Fund, Inc. The Fund has been assigned the task of restoring the seriously deteriorated 150 year old synagogue. A group of servicemen led by Capt.

Nathan Landsman, Chaplain, from Lajes AFB attended Yom Kippur services in the synagogue in 1967. Anyone with information concerning the synagogue is encouraged to contact the Azores Synagogue Restoration Fund, Inc., 56 N. Main St., Room 401, Fall River, MA 02720 (617) 673-5836.

Elman Ellsworth, LTC AUS RET, is looking for Francis Lion and Dr. Paul Finkelstein. Mr. Lion was in the 204th FA Battalion and Dr. Finkelstein was the unit doctor in the 5250 Technical Intelligence Detachment in Tokyo in 1947. If you have any information, please contact Elman Ellsworth, LTC AUS RET, 1035 South 1500 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84105.

The Jewish Children's Bureau of Chicago is seeking to contact individuals involved with the Agency as part of their resettlement of European children and youth during 1933-1953. If you were involved, contact Dr. Ruth Stock Zober or Charlotte Dolins-Lozano at (312) 444-2090.

Andrew Miller, Jr. Vice Cmdr., and Historian for the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor, Inc., is trying to locate Seymour Hoffenberg, originally from Bronx, NY, and Morris Littman, originally from Philadelphia, both of the 19th Air Base Squadron, and former Japanese Prisoners of War. If you have information on their whereabouts, contact Andrew Miller, Jr. Vice Commander, American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Inc., 1605 Cagua Drive, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

Dr. Bernard Weinstein, Phd., Director of the "Holocaust Oral Histories Project", is seeking members of the Armed Forces having served in the ETO who were liberators of any of the concentration camps or were in contact with the survivors of the Holocaust. Contact Dr. Bernard Weinstein, Phd., Director of Holocaust Oral Histories Project, Kean College of N.J., Union, N.J. 07083 (201) 527-2121.

Maurice Solomon is searching for the family of four Jewish servicemen who were buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery, Lagos, Nigeria. Mr. Solomon officiated at their funerals in 1946. If you have any information, contact Maurice Solomon, 247 Fair Oaks Ave., Rochester, NY 14618. ■