

The Jewish Veteran®



View From The Top

Warren S. Dolny, National Commander

April 19, 1993 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Plans were made months in advance for me to represent JWV at the various ceremonies. Accompanied by my wife, Violet, and my Chief of Staff Monroe Mayer, and his wife, Joan, we traveled to Warsaw, Poland, for these ceremonies.

When I arrived, I received a phone call from the White House inviting me to be part of the U.S. Presidential delegation to the commemoration. Unfortunately, as I was already in Poland, I missed the chance to fly on Air Force One. Nevertheless, I happily became part of the delegation once they arrived.

I had the opportunity to participate in the various programs, along with

Vice President Al Gore, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin and Polish President Lech Walesa. We visited the various historic sights in Warsaw, including Mila 18, where the uprising ultimately ended with the suicide of the last remaining fighters. The group of 30-50 combatants held off the Nazis for one month, though poorly trained and poorly armed.

A film presentation was shown depicting Warsaw before, during and after World War II. An incredible eighty-five percent of the city was totally destroyed. Left as rubble, no building whatsoever remained standing.

We also had the opportunity to visit the city of Krakow, and tour the concentration camps of Auschwitz and

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Jewish Liberators Reveal Horrific Scenes in New Museum Exhibit

by Helen Belitsky

When David Cohen, a member of the Army's Fourth Armored Division arrived at the Ohrdruf Concentration Camp in April, 1945, all that were left were the dead. "The German soldiers had all escaped" Cohen recalls. "The few survivors told us that the people who had just been shot in the back were coming to meet us. Rather than let them live, the S.S. machine gunned them down. They also loaded about 2,000 inmates on railroad cars and took them East."

Cohen is now a retired social studies teacher, and has been lecturing on his

experiences as a concentration camp liberator to help keep the memory of what he saw alive.

It is Cohen, and to other American Jewish liberators like him that the National Museum of American Jewish Military History turned to in creating the new exhibition, "GIs Remember: Liberating the Concentration Camps." These liberators, who came to the camps in April and May, 1945 had fought in the front lines of France, Austria and Germany. Taped memories, photographs, and artifacts of some 40 of these liberators, including

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President Clinton and National Commander Warren S. Dolny.



A portion of the new museum exhibit, "GI's Remember; Liberating the Concentration Camps".

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JWV Votes Against Americans for Peace Now Joining Jewish Leadership Group

by Howard Metzger, Assistant National Director of Communications

In one of the most controversial and divisive issues to face the American Jewish community in many years, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (COPOMAJO) has voted to accept Americans for Peace Now (APN), the polemic Jewish activist group, as members of the Conference. The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV), a member of the Conference of Presidents, voted to

oppose admission of APN, joining with a minority of mainly Orthodox and Halachic organizations.

The Conference of Presidents, the umbrella group whose purpose is to coordinate the activities of over forty major American Jewish organizations on issues such as American-Israeli affairs and Jews in other lands, voted to admit APN, despite vocal opposition from a number of organizations,

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JWVA President Speaks
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FORUM

Letters To
The Editor

Turner Publishing Appreciation

Dear JWV,

I just recently learned that JWV is working with Turner Publishing Co. in the production of a history of JWV in conjunction with its 100th anniversary.

I can tell you that the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association were indeed proud to have Turner Publishing do a compilation of the history and events of December 7, 1941. This, of course, was published as a memento of the 50th anniversary of that day which will live in infamy. Included in the publication were many priceless photos taken during the attack. Additionally, biographies of several thousand survivors were included. My only regret was that I neglected to submit my own. Let me suggest to you that should Turner Publishing ever issue an addendum to this book, I would be the first to submit my story.

I would recommend to every member of JWV that they submit their biographies and pictures taken while in service. It is something you and your family will cherish for all time.

With best regards,

Lee Goldfarb, National President
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association
Lt. Robert P. Grover Post 10, JWV
East Hanover, NJ

National Museum of American Jewish
Military History

Dear Editor,

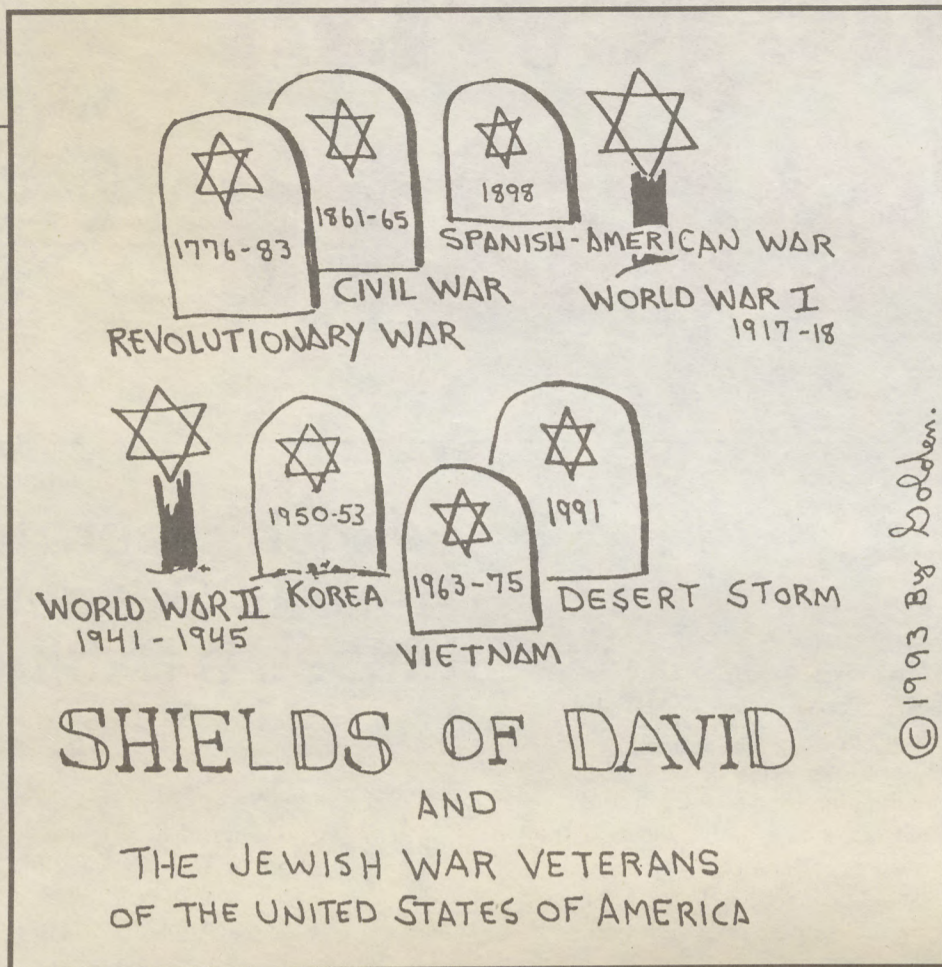
It was an emotional experience for me to participate in a tribute to an always quiet, modest, lovely lady, Mrs. Bailor, during the NEC. Her 38 years of loyal, dedicated, professional service to all of us at JWV, reminded each of us of how indispensable she has been and always will be.

It was only fitting that she was the catalyst for creating the individual spark that will light the fire and burn our existing mortgage on the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, before it becomes due. All the bricks sold to honor Mrs. Bailor will be used for this purpose - to pay off the mortgage on our museum.

Each of us in our own way must try to imagine the tremendous emotional feeling of joy it would give us should this dream come true. Our museum, the home to our historic treasures which unquestionably proves our existence to the bigots, and factually documents our participation in defense of this nation, should be free of debt!

Can it be done? It must be done! Each of us has been subjected to numerous forms of bigotry. Each incident has hurt - deeply.

I ask each of you - how much money would it take for you to donate to our



museum, so that you will feel that you have combatted all those bigots and liars? I asked one veteran that same question and he replied, "I would have to keep giving money until I died for that to happen." That is the point! We have to give more and more, even if we have given before.

It is only fitting that the burden to pay off our mortgage be placed squarely on our soldiers. We never have lost a battle. We have never lost a war. This battle **must** be won, as well!

May our museum always remain open, so that our heroic story will be told forever and be our lasting statement against bigotry.

Sincerely,

PDC Alvin Rose
Dept. of Florida
South Dade Post 778
Miami, FL

Gays in the Military

Dear Editor,

The letter from Rabbi Schindler, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, is as interesting as it is misleading.

His argument that the armed forces should be tolerant of homosexuals and lesbians simply because there are lots of them around, is too flaccid to take seriously as the basis of moral argument. Should we be equally tolerant of wife-beaters and pedophiles for the same reason?

As a Reform Jew, I assert that Rabbi Schindler has no spiritual authority to speak for our faith on this issue. I assume he is being prodded into action by an influential cluster who aim to stick a spiritual label on every political issue that appeals to them.

I trust your patriotic readers aren't seduced into believing that pederasty has been endorsed by the rank and file of Reform Judaism as a moral imperative.

If there are those who think Rabbi Schindler is an apostate, count me in.

His pathetic letter to JWV deserves an apology. Military service is no basis upon which to discuss the impact of changing rules overnight. Being a veteran doesn't make one an expert on everything. Is General Colin Powell "antediluvian" for seeking a 6-month grace period to study the issues?

Rabbi Schindler, and people like him within Reform Judaism, provide yet another example of the weak driving out the strong.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Krohn
Arlington, VA

Dear Editor,

Although I am disappointed by JWV's stance on homosexuals in the military, I do not consider the JWV "as an out-of-control, reactionary organization." As a former officer in Dallas Post 256, I respect the men and women who actively work within the organization.

However, as a Jew I am offended by a resolution which discriminates against people simply because of who they are. We are the people who told the world that bearing false witness is a sin, and that "All forms of slander, defamation and misrepresentation whether of an individual, a group, a people, a race, or a faith" are prohibited.

As a Jew, I am embarrassed to learn that some of my fellow Jews lack compassion and understanding. As a Jew whose people suffered persecution for centuries, I am bewildered by Jews whose bigotry inflicts pain and suffering upon others.

As the mother of a gay son and secretary of P-FLAG/DALLAS, chapter affiliate of the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, I respect one of the "certain groups" your resolution alludes to. Yes, there is a concerted effort being mounted by activists. Who are these "activists"?

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Where
We
Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

Historically, the thread of Jewish presence in America began about five centuries ago. Though few in number then, from the east to the west coast, from northern borders to the southernmost shores, history records gallant deeds performed by brave Jews. For most Americans, including many Jewish-Americans, the participation and contributions to the building and defense of what is now the United States of America, remains a near-untold story.

Though American Jews fought, shed blood, and died in every conflict in American history, they did so in consort with millions of Americans who were not Jewish. Historically, almost without exception, Jewish participation in the armed forces of the United States was in a proportion greater than the percentage of Jews in the total population of our nation.

The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., as America's oldest, active veterans' organization, nearing its 100th anniversary, has proudly flown our JWV banner along side those of America's other veterans' organizations. We, of JWV, seek no special benefits or treatment for our members. As comrades in arms, we join forces with our brothers and sisters all, America's veterans, to defend America's security, freedom and honor.

For almost two centuries, the men and women who had worn the uniforms of America's military forces and then returned to civilian life, received scant recognition for their contributions. Their deeds of courage and valor were often quickly forgotten.

About a century ago, the 30th day of May was recognized as a special day which Americans who had given their lives in defense of our country, or, who had died subsequent to their military service, were memorialized. Across the land, flags and flowers were placed at their graves. In villages, towns and big city squares, the populace turned out to reflect on their gallantry. Now, the crowds have thinned, the once-special day has been relegated to the last Monday of May, and the ceremonies often seem to be no more than a perfunctory, unimportant task.

As World War II wound down to an end, the Congress and Senate of the United States pledged that the ill-treatment which had plagued the Doughboys of World War I would not be visited upon WW II's returning G.I.'s. Beyond the G.I. Bill, a concept which became a bridge to productive life for the millions who had served, and returned dividends to our nation far in excess of its cost, the Department of Veterans Affairs has, until now we are afraid, been a brilliant icon of America's determination to respect and remember what our nation's veterans did for our country.

Sadly, at this time of Memorial Day, 1993, in some quarters of administra-

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