



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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The Temple, servicemen's letters, 1945.



36TH PLTN HQS  
997TH SIG SVC BN  
APO 565 % PM FRISCO

26 MARCH 45  
DUCTH NEW GUINEA

DEAR RABBI SILVER,

JUST RECEIVED YOUR ANSWER TODAY. THE THINGS YOU HAVE TO SAY MEAN A LOT TO ME, NOT NECESSARILY BECAUSE OF YOUR POSITION, BUT MORE BECAUSE THEY MAKE SENSE.

YOU MENTION SENDING ME SOME LITERATURE----THIS WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED. THE THINGS I WOULD LIKE BEST WOULD BE ODD I FEAR, FOR THEY WOULD BE COPIES OF THE TALMUD, KORAN, WRITINGS OF CONFUCIOUS, AND THE BOOK OF THE MORMONS. DEAR SIR, I FEEL THAT BE READING ALL THESE AND PICKING THE VERY BEST FROM EACH, ONE WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO GUIDE HIMSELF AND HELP OTHERS. EACH PARTICULAR BOOK HAS A GREAT DEAL TO OFFER, AND EACH COVERS THE SAME POINTS BUT FROM DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE SUBJECT.

IN  
- I AM PRESUMING MUCH/~~AT~~ WRITING LIKE THIS. I AM HOPING FOR PATIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE FROM A MAN THAT HAS SEEN MUCH ~~XX~~ AND KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF A BROADENED POINT OF VIEW/~~AT~~ TO BE ABLE TO SEE HOW OTHERS LOOK AT THINGS---THAT'S TRULY A WONDERFUL THING. AND TO ACHIEVE THIS I BELIEVE THAT ONE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT THE OTHER BELIEVES IN, AND <sup>WHY</sup>/~~WHY~~ THEY BELIEVE IN ~~AT~~.

I HAVE CHANGED JOBS AND THOUGH STILL PRESENTED WITH THE SAME PROBLEMS, AHV A FEW NEW ONES THROWN IN. THIS IS AN OPERATIONS CENTER, A SORTOF GIANT SWITCHING CENTRAL AND RELAY POINT FOR ALL MESSAGE TRAFFIC ENTERING NEW GUINEA. THE PROBLEMS ARE MORE TECHNICAL THAN THOSE FOUND IN A SIGNAL CENTER.



IT IS MOST EXCITING, ESPECIALLY WHEN LINES GO OUT AND ELECTRICAL STORMS RAISE HARRY WITH THE RADIOS. NO GRAY HAIRS YET, IN FACT I'M HAPPIER THAN EVER BEFORE, BECAUSE WHEN I HIT THE SACK AT NIGHT NO ONE HAS TO ROCK ME TO SLEEP-----THERE ARE NO MORBID AND UNCALLED FOR THOUGHTS OF THINGS THAT I AM MISSING. MY PARTICULAR JOB IS ASSISTENT OPERATIONS OFFICER, BUT THERE IS SO VERY MUCH TO LEARN THAT I FILL THE CAPACITY IN NAME ONLY RIGHT NOW.

I HOPE THAT THIS LETTER FINDS YOU IN THE BEST OF HEALTH. PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR FAMILY ~~TO~~ AND TO THE FEW TEACHERS ON YOUR FACULTY THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY REMEMBER ME.

I WON'T FORGET WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN, BUT PLEASE WRITE SOME MORE,

*Ministry of Education,  
Tel.*

PERHAPS YOU HAVE BETTER SUGGESTIONS IN THE WAY OF LITERATURE .  
LEAD ON, IT'S TIME I LISTENED!!

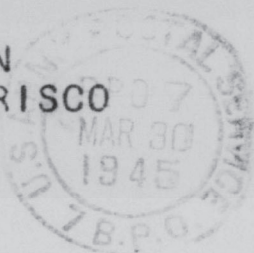


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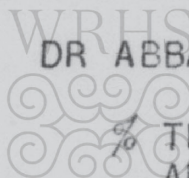
36TH PLTN HQS

997TH SIG SVC BN

APO 565 7/8 PM FRISCO



VIA AIRMAIL



DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER



% THE TEMPLE  
ANSEL ROAD  
CLEVELAND  
OHIO

*Ted V. Fisher*



File No. APA-159/  
Serial:

U.S.S. DARKE (APA-159)  
% Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

April 8, 1945

Dear Rabbi Silver,

It has been a long time, since I've had the pleasure of seeing you. During this period, I have been, and still am very actively engaged in working to help us gain a peaceful, tolerant world.

My experiences have been multiple. I've traveled thousands upon thousands of miles. I have experienced many different types of climates. None have diminished my desire to return



to Cleveland!

It so happens that I am the only Jewish officer aboard. As such, I have been in charge of Jewish services.

The marked cooperation of all hands, has been very gratifying. Chaplains of different faiths, whom I have contacted from time to time, have gone out of their way to aid us in every possible manner.

We held a fine Seder Service. Matzos, gefilte fish, wine, and all the symbolic dishes were in evidence.



A simple request was sufficient to assure our having whatsoever we desired.

In general, my duty has been excellent. I am associated with a fine group of men. My personal accommodations are adequate.

Our food is excellent.

My office is equipped with the finest equipment money can buy. I have two well-trained assistants, whom I keep very busy.

I do a large amount of oral surgery. During combat, I have



4.

become a jack-of-all-trades.

In addition to my surgery,  
I practice general dentistry. There is  
need for a vast amount of work.

I'm trying to do ideal work, in so  
far as it is practicable. Suffice it  
to say that I feel more than grati-  
fied for the many efforts I expend,  
by the marked, expressed apprecia-  
tion from the men aboard.

Consultations with the medical  
officers have become almost daily  
occurrences. I have learned a great  
deal. I hope my humble contri-



5

putious to these discussions have  
been of some value.

I have seen a good bit of  
this Pacific war. While much in-  
formation is restricted, I can tell  
you that I was at Iwo Jima. In  
essence, the discussion in the  
March fifth issue of Time, was  
very accurate.

The scenes pictured therein  
are scenes I saw with my un-  
aided eyes. At no time was I beyond  
binocular range.

The spirit of the casualties



6

astounded me. Men who were hurt badly would say they could wait for care, and requested that we care for men who were hurt worse.

Many were very anxious to receive treatment so that they might return to the beach and return to combat.

None whimpered. All were very grateful for any attentions they received.

I hope this finds you in the best of health. Give my best regards to Mrs. Silver.

Very sincerely yours,  
Ralph F. Hollander

Lieut. R. F. Hollander, USNR



*Lt. Ralph F. Hollander, USNR*

LT. RALPH F. HOLLANDER, USNR  
USS. DAKKE APA 159  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.



*Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver*

*The Temple*

*E. 105<sup>th</sup> St. and Lursel Rd.*

*Cleveland, Ohio*





Germany

7 MAY, 1945

Magdeburg

Hambacher Schloß bei Hambach a. d. Weinstr.

Dear Rabbi,

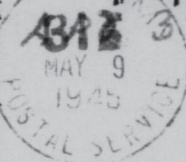
The final hour of our war in Europe is close. On a lonely hill amidst a Germany, destroyed, beaten, ravaged by war and inhumanity I am waiting for the final word. Not only of this war is finished, the future plans that will guide us to long hoped for happiness are yet to be announced. I think in this hour of joy and your work towards the shaping of this future, and guidance into our future. Sincerely yours

GARY M. SILBERBACH

Sgt. GARY M. SILBERBACH  
ASN. 35059692  
DET "A" 2nd RADIO Sq. Mobile

Free

Postkarte



3:24 PM N.Y.

RABBI



ABBA HILLEL SILVER

The Temple

CLEVELAND, OHIO  
ANSEL ROAD


Druck: Grobdruckerei W. H. F. Fig., Magdeburg-Platz - Verlag: Fritz Winter, Landau-Platz



6/7/45

Dear Sirs,

I don't know how to start the letter seeing as how no names appeared. Who is the Editor of you're telling us? It's really a very good idea and I compliment the person that brought up the idea. However, I think there should be a little heartwarming news. Such as what are the younger generations doing for entertainment, recent returnees, etc.

I've been in India several months and I'm really   at any time. It's not quite what it's cracked up to be and any S.F. that says different is cracked up. (Period)

India is the land of mystery and Romance. The only mystery I can see, is, finishing the romance. Of course I'm not looking. I'm perfectly content. The day before the Temple picnic of '44" I married the most wonderful girl in the world. Time being limited we couldn't go far for a honeymoon. Consequently we were able to drive into the Beach for the annual picnic. There I saw Rabbi Silver. He was the first person to be introduced



to my wife, with her new name. At the same time I had the pleasure of meeting his wife for the first time.

That isn't the end of my good fortune for just three months ago my wife presented me with a son. So you see quite a bit has happened to me this past year. I've become a husband, father and made a trip half way around the world.

At this time I'd like to say "hello" to Rabbi Silver & thank you for sending the Bulletin to me.

I'm enclosing a poem I made up on our stay in ~~London~~ <sup>London</sup> & several of the fellows have copied it and sent it home so I thought maybe you'd like to see it. Do with it as you like. (Is a waste basket handy?)

I hope sincerely to be sitting in Temple listening to Rabbi Silver's sermon one year from today, so until then I'll say Adieu.

your brother & fellow confederate

bt  
CWS



## AN ODE TO INDIA

It seems like years since that eventful day,  
When you were forc d to hear me say,  
Goodbye, my Darling, don't be blue,  
For I will soon come home to you.

You took it bravely, you were great,  
You left our happiness to fate,  
You'd hea'rd from God and He was true,  
He said he'd send me back to you.

Then came the boat ride, it was hell,  
We tossed our cookies as it rose and fell,  
It was hot and stuffy and not much space,  
We anxiously waited to reach our base.

After an eternity our faces were lighted,  
Someone called out that land was sighted,  
Happy smiles were slyly passed,  
For we were in sight of land at last.

We got off the boat and on a train,  
And headed through Indias' vast terrain.  
After days of riding and our bodies full of cramp.  
We were dumped at the doorsteps of our overseas camp.

That was the beginning of life in the raw,  
The worst kind of living that I ever saw.  
Where sickness prevails and insects galore,  
you kill half a dozen and there's two dozen more.

We're no longer rookies, we're learning the ropes,  
But get us in town and e're nothing but dopes.  
We're eager to buy and easily taken,  
By the indian merchants in this land God-Borsaken.

There's nothing to do for the average G.I.,  
But to sit and write letters, reminisce and sigh,  
He dreams of his family and remembers his dates,  
And thinks of the fun he had back in the states.

Oh, Yes; we have movies they're all up-to-date,  
They were released seven years ago, they just got here late.  
Shirley Temple's still a baby and Clark Gables still ~~Grand~~ Grand  
Mickey Rooney is still playing, "Strike up the Band".

We're anxiously waiting to get the hell out,  
And when that day comes you'll hear us all shout,  
Goodbye dear old India, I'd much rather die,  
Than ever return to the C.B.I.

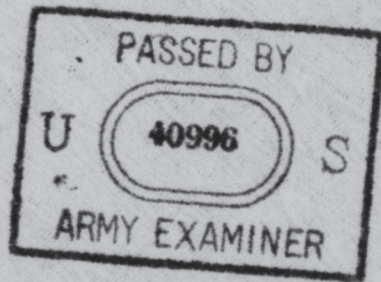


S/Sgt. Al Baker 35512263  
4204 G.S.S. A.P.O. 220  
% P.M. N.Y. N.Y.



*air mail*

"your telling this"  
% The Temple  
E. 100 St + Counsel  
Cleveland, Ohio







U. S. NAVAL REPAIR BASE  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Sunday  
June 10, 45

Dear Friends

Class of '42"  
HIGH SCHOOL '44"

I have just come back from my leave and I was fortunate enough to attend one of your Friday night memorial services. I can't tell you how much it meant to me. We have just come back from a trip to India, Egypt, Arabia & North Africa. All this time I was unable to attend a Jewish service. Being the only Jewish boy aboard, it was hard to get used to it. In civilian life all my friends were Jewish and we understood each other.



I can't say that there isn't  
anti-Semitism <sup>in the</sup> Navy, but I can  
say that while aboard my ship  
things were swell and everybody  
got along.

My outfit is called the Armed  
Guard, that is Navy gunners on  
merchant ships. This trip we  
carried 6 tons of dynamite to the  
North Pacific (Calcutta India), believe  
me there was it an atheist  
aboard.

Thanking you again for the  
Temple Bulletin & your telling me.  
I remain.

Richard Felber S/C 285-84-53  
ARMED GUARD U.S.N.  
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Your Friend  
Dick Felber



RICHARD FELDER S/C 485-84-53

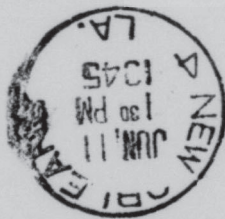
ARMED GUARD U.S.M.  
CENTER  
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

FREE

WRHS



YOUR TELLING US  
THE TEMPLE  
E 105 TH ST. & ANSEL  
CLEVELAND, OHIO





June 17, 1945.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I do not know, how this letter is going to sound, because I am not sure what I will write, but I wanted to write and tell all of you that whatever it was that you tried to teach us, was not all lost.

I have a lot of memories of the Temple. I took a lot of pride in it. I still do. But this is going to be mostly about what I have seen in the Army.

I have only met one Reformed Rabbi in the Army. The rest were orthodox. I have wanted to attend services so I have learned to go on Friday night, to sit with my hat on, and learned the Hebrew responses. That I think was the hardest, and I think one of my greatest regrets is that I did not learn to speak Hebrew. I guess I was just one of the lazy pupils, altho I started in too late.



But more important I have learned several other things. We had Chanukkah services in English in England. We were, at that time, with several other hospitals, and the congregation of Chester invited us in for tea. It was fine to see a Temple, but what impressed me more was how friendly they were to us, not because we were Americans, but because we were Jewish. They used their ration points, which are not as plentiful as in the States, for us, and we really enjoyed ourselves.

More was to come tho. Our hospital arrived in France, and came to Verdun. It was the middle of Winter, mid January, but the first Friday night we held services in the Synagog in town. It is small, it had no roof, or almost none, the snow was several inches deep, but we held services anyway. And without a Rabbi. That happens often, one Rabbi must cover a lot of ground.

We managed to fix that synagog up a little, it was the least we could do, and



I might say it is being done by G.F.'s all over France. The Jewish boys get together and take up a collection to help the Jewish people, to help repair the Synagog; to do the little things that must be done right away. It makes me proud all over again to be Jewish.

We were lucky enough to be able to hold Passover services in Verdun. Jewish men came anywhere from fifty to a hundred and fifty miles to attend both the service and the Seder later. I would imagine that there were seven hundred altogether, and that is a lot over here. ~~usually~~ we only have around fifty to a hundred at services on Friday night.

When I arrived here I went out to the huge French cemetery <sup>near</sup> here. There was suppose to be a Jewish memorial there, to those who died in the last war. The Germans had taken cement and covered it over. They



had tried to eradicate everything Jewish. I only wonder why they did not destroy the huge ten commandments on top of the Synagog. Since then the monument has been cleaned up, the cement removed, and the whole place cleaned up.

I want to write a lot more. About the People I have met here, the Anti-semitism I have seen and heard. Hitler may have died but his ideas still live on. Not only do the Germans still wonder if the Jews are human, but also some of the men in the United States. Any wonder the same thing. I do not know what causes it, but it is here and it will come back to the States, and it must be met, face to face. Many soldiers have ~~let~~ themselves go at times, and expressed their feelings. It is usually "The dirty Jews" or something like that. They are not all enlisted men, officers feel the same way.



When I get home I want to stop in sometime and talk that problems over with you.

There is also one more problem. This one you can give as much thought to as the other. What can Jews expect in the future? And what can be expected of the Jewish people in the future?

I thought that anyone with any sense would realize that it might be a good thing to get to know something about their people now, yet we have many people right here in my own outfit who are Jewish, who everyone knows are Jewish, yet make no attempt to go to Temple, or to enter into any talks or plans we might have. They appear to be ashamed to admit openly that they are Jewish. I think they are going to be a bigger problem, or as big, as Anti-semitism. For all Jews must learn to pull together, whether Reformed, Conservative or Orthodox, or whether they are just the border



6.

line Jew. The next twenty years will probably show if American Jewery is going to have the same problem confronting it that German Jews had to face.

One more thought and then I must get some sleep. Jewish families are coming back into this town. They want to start over, not in Palestine, or even America, but right here, because they feel they are still French. Some <sup>Jews</sup> Germans on the other hand feel that anywhere would be preferable to going back to the memories Germany would give them. This is all just my impression.

I hope to wander into Temple some day soon and be able to drink in the beauty that it has. Until then I will attend any service I can find.

yours truly

Alan Klein.

P.F.C. Alan J. Klein

201<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL HOSPITAL  
A.P.O. 513

% POSTMASTER, NEW YORK.



193d General Hospital  
APO 513, % PM, NY, NY  
June 20, 1945

You're Telling Us  
The Temple  
E. 105 Street and Ansel Road  
Cleveland  
Ohio

Dear Friends:

It was with a great deal of joy and reminiscing that I received your first issue of YOU'RE TELLING US. I'm all for it! YOU'RE TELLING US is an excellent medium between friends. I'm sure that all of us are eager to know "where he is", "what he's doing", "what his future is", and far from least "just how he is".

In answer to the above I'll add my two cents worth for anyone who might be interested. The 193d has been in Verdun, France, since New Year's Eve. We left the States on Halloween, after spending two wonderful weeks at Myles Standish. Boston and New York were swell, not to mention Wellesley. Made the crossing on the AMERICA, rechristened for the Army WEST POINT, in good time and unaccording to schedule we spent one month in Glasgow. The Scottish people are most hospitable and I made some lasting friends. A trip that would take one-half day in peacetime took us a week - crossing the Channel. It was our landing at Le Havre that brought the war direct to the heart. Complete devastation was the only thing in sight, as we were the first to arrive at said port. Another jump to Etretat, where we were greeted by booby traps, German propaganda, etc. Managed to survive the ordeal, only to find Verdun the land of "Bed-check Charlies" (enemy aircraft). We're sited in a French hospital and have what is commonly known as a "perfect set-up". If only it would last!! The censored letter shows you what I mean.

Tonite I'm off to Paris for a three-day pass. Will spend my time with Bill Lipton and Bill Moss.

Been wondering how I'm earning my two stripes? Kept me busy in Medical Supply for a while, but now I'm stuck in Information and Education. The training schedules we're drafting up now will be the "last straw". By the time I get home I'll have to move to Cedar Avenue.

It'll be your fault if I miss that train! The best of luck to you all and may God bless you and keep you. My best regards to Rabbis Silver and Kramer and my friends of The Temple.

A bientot,

*Bob Stern*



FROM

TO Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
To The Temple  
E. 105<sup>th</sup> St. & Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

Re. H. Greenberg, (613) 6057  
Hq. 59. A. & Defense Command,  
A.P.O. 925, P.O. Box, San Francisco Cal.

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Rabbi

Maile, P.I.  
Thurs. June 28, 1945

I'm only beginning to realize the true importance of the Temple Bulletin. For some time now, I have not been able to receive them. And during that time I learned that the purpose as far as I was concerned, aside from the fact that the bulletin contains news and information of a kind that I can find in the above relationship the bulletin brings between the Temple, our faith, and myself. Not only does a spiritual feeling exist, but also a feeling of friendship. You can count on me as a regular and active member of your congregation - when my civilian status is returned to me. I would appreciate a line or two from you at any time. My answer will be prompt and as interesting as censorship regulations permit. So, until the next time, I remain, as always, only

Howard Greenberg

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE  
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY  
V---MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE  
ADDRESS AT TOP?





UNITED STATES NAVY

August 3, 1945.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple,  
Ansel Road & E. 105th St.,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My Dear Rabbi;

After a prolonged period of absence, I am again happy to write you of my appreciation in receiving the Temple's regular Holiday Gifts and to have a friendly chat with you. I enjoyed reading the new Temple brain child "Your Telling Us" and found it extremely interesting, and know it will please all the Temple service men.

This carrier has been with the Fast Carrier Task Force, of which Admiral Halsey is the Commander, for some months now and we have seen much action. Nothing is more stirring and confident-giving as when stepping onto the flight deck and seeing the numerous types of warships cruising along mightily, and when their guns begin roaring, despite the deafening sound, one feels greatly comforted. One really feels proud of being a part of this vast navy.

We have been through the entire Okinawa campaign, and have hit surrounding islands (these names are censored for the time being) but you have no doubt been reading about that in the daily newspaper. Strangely enough, we have to await for the news from elsewhere as to what we have been doing. That is, in receiving a more elaborate account of the navy's action.

Sometimes it seems incredible, when sitting on the flight deck and viewing the brilliant golden sunrises and sunsets or in the still peaceful darkness of night, that I am so very, very far away from home. However, I have attempted to maintain my bright mental outlook and have derived joyous compensation by doing so. In these thoughtful moments one usually reminisces on the many pleasant experiences of one's home, and knowing that his family, relatives and friends haven't been subjected to what so many people in other countries have is another encouraging and uplifting thought.

My time here as yeoman of this fighting squadron has been unusually busy and interesting. Even on this carrier there are many things for which to be thankful. For example, I am constantly thankful that we are able to get three substantial meals a day, drink clean, cool water as often as I wish, live in a clean environment, do interesting work, listen to the radio daily as well as record players to favorite records, read books and magazines, the opportunity to visit with various men

(Phil Greenstein, Ylc, VF-47, c/o F.P.O., San Francisco, Cal.)





UNITED STATES NAVY

-2-

and exchange ideas, and even to enjoy free moments of being alone just to meditate and reflect. Also, I am thankful for not having been on the FRANKLIN or BUNKER HILL carriers when they were bombed, because we were right near both on those two tragic instances. And finally, I am extremely thankful for several narrow misses which this ship was fortunate in avoiding. One suicider missed us by a few yards, while another whizzed over us without doing anything, for some unexplainable reason. Yes, Rabbi, for all the above things I shall be extremely thankful this coming Thanksgiving.

Now that I have related some of my experiences, which have carried me away for the moment, I want to say a few words that belongs right at the beginning of this letter. I want to express my humble tribute to you on celebrating your 25th anniversary with the Temple. The April 8th issue of the Temple Bulletin, which I have before me, bristles with praises and worthy tributes in your behalf, and I felt so keenly happy in reading them, just as if you were a pal or friend of very long standing and have finally come into his own.

May I offer you in naval terminology -

A HEARTY WELL DONE AND SINCEREST WISHES FOR MANY MANY MORE YEARS OF COMMUNITY, STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UPBUILDING X

I feel that I know you very well, and yet I still am looking forward to my first genuine meeting with you; that is, a personal chatty conversation with you, and the next time I come home for a leave, which will give me more time than I have ever had, I will surely phone you. I trust that this standing appointment will hold, whenever that may be.

Please pass my sincerest wishes to Mrs. Silver, and may all your wishes for the next 25 years be completely fulfilled.

Sincerely yours,

*Phil Greenstein*





Chaplain Herschel Lyman

Okinawa  
16 August 1945

Dear Rabbi Silver,

This is just a short personal note from the other side of the world. I have seen much and experienced more during my stay on this island. Naturally, all of us are tremendously relieved to know that now it's all over, and we look forward to getting back home.

I cannot rightly call myself the Okinavischer Rav, because there are other Jewish chaplains who could contend for the honor. However, allowing me liberties in the text, the name and title: the Gaon of Shuri might properly be applied to me, since our outfit is located only a short distance of famed Shuri Castle.

During the High Holidays I shall conduct services in the town of Naha -- which scholars might assert is an apocopated form of Nehardea. I don't know. However, there is no equivalent for Pumpeditha, so I shall bring to an end my scholarly investigations!

At all events, I welcome this chance to greet you and Mrs. Silver, and even though this is a letter from afar, I want it to convey my best wishes for your continued happiness and success in this coming year and the years to come.

I hope to have the opportunity of seeing you soon. In the meantime,

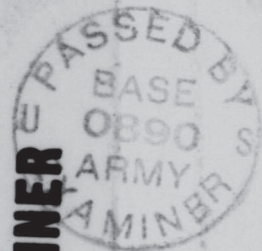
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*Herschel L.*



Office of the Chaplain  
Dr. Herschel Lyman  
25th Replacement Depot  
PO 105  
PM, San Francisco, Calif.

U. S. ARMY EXAMINER



WRHS



Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
East 105th and Ansel Rd.  
Cleveland, Ohio

AIR MAIL AIRMAIL AIR MAIL

*Herschel Lyman*



Dear Rabbi Silver —

This should be the last time

it is necessary to put pen to paper in order to convey my greetings for the New Year. It seems more than appropriate that events heralding an era of peace should coincide with Rosh Hashanah. One can truly send wishes for a happy and peaceful 5706 without doubting the possibility of fulfillment.

Through my travels in Italy, I have seen what has happened to European Jewry. It is a sad story — but one that should serve as a guide and a warning to those at home who, in the future, are inclined to take peace smugly. Even greater struggles lie ahead to keep peace than were necessary to obtain the opportunity. Fortunately, it should cost no more lives. Already there are elements attempting to sow seeds of hatred — and have succeeded in many instances. Only an even



present picture of the cost of peace will enable us to resist such movements. It is, perhaps, for those at home to be re-educated, so that they, too, may learn what home, family, peace and security really mean. I am certain that any who were overseas are well justified as teachers.

There exists a possibility that I may be in Palestine for Rosh Hashanah. If not, we will celebrate with services in Foggia. Our Jewish population has been greatly decreased because of redeployment — but there will be several hundred at the local services.

To you, Mrs. Silver and the boys, all my good wishes for a happy and prosperous year. One that sees the fulfillment of many dreams and hopes and the restoration of peace and brotherhood to the world. I hope that I shall be able to visit with you soon after the receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,  
Louis F. Weitz



Tuesday - the 11th of September  
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Rabbi:-

I have been meaning to write you a letter for the past month, but have been quite too busy for much correspondence. I'm sure I don't have to tell you what we have been doing, with the International Situation what it now is. Even now, we are up to our necks in work trying to get an area for our Headquarters, as well as working on Personnel records of each man figuring and re-figuring their total Points for discharge etc. Quite a large task for 1,000 men, but since I'm included, I'm going to do my best to get them done right away.

The real inspiration behind this letter, is the fact that We have just finishing observing Rosh Hashenah, and in another eight days will observe Yom Kippour. I was fortunate to be ashore for Evening Services on the 7th, which were held in a Japanese Protestant Church in Yokohama, Japan. The Church, itself, was entirely untouched by any destruction, although the surrounding buildings were destroyed to nothing, but scrap metal and wood. You would be amazed at the accuracy of the Air Corps' bombings, and even when you stand before the Church, it is hard to believe that such precision bombing is possible.

The Services, which for information's sake, were the first Religious Rites, ever held on the Island of Japan by American Citizens, since the 'Day of Infamy' - December 7th, 1941, were attended by more than four hundred Men, of which more than one quarter stood, since the Church is quite small. The Chaplain conducting is from Detroit, and although I tried to find out his name, he was far too busy to even talk for a minute. His service lasted for about twenty-five minutes, and even though, it was quite simple, it was beautiful and hit a soft spot in all our hearts. For a sermon, he used a quotation from one of the Psalms, "Now that Our Tent Ropes have been lengthened, we must drive our stakes in more deeper." He was, of course, referring to the United States's part in the World Peace, which we all hope and pray lasts forever. The entire Rites lasted only about forty minutes, and were probably the shortest Rosh Hashonah Services I ever attended, but I don't believe I will ever forget them, - the first services of any faith to be held in conquered Japan heralding the entrance of the year 5706 of the Jewish calander.

So far, I haven't received any information from home regarding Your Services, but I'm quite sure that they were as beautiful as ever, and you can be quite sure that I would have rather spent my Holiday back home in my own Temple with my own Rabbi, even if they weren't. I certainly hope and pray that for next Rosh Hashonah I can be seated in my regular pew at the Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.



Before I forget, I want to wish you and your family, a very Happy and Healthy New Year of 5706, and hope that for next year, I may extend my wishes personally.

I have been receiving the Temple Bulletin regularly, and even though it arrives a few months late, I read it over and over since it is now the only link I have with the Temple, although I still correspond with and hear from Fran Kozman about Alumni activities and the like.

Before I close, again I would like to wish you a Happy New Year from

*A former pupil -*



*Howard Chessin.*





The University of Chicago

October 19, 1945

Dear Rabbi and Mrs. Silver,

I have received your kind invitation to attend a reception at the Temple in honor of returned servicemen. I am sorry to inform you that I shall not be able to be present, as I am going to college in Chicago.

Very sincerely yours,

*Gerald S. Handel*

Gerald S. Handel



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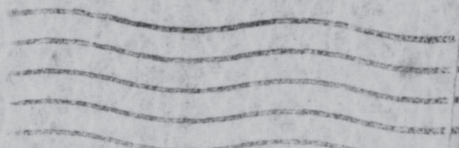
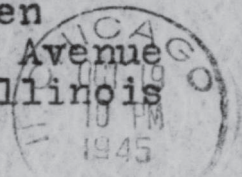
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