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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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1803

Zionist Organization of America, "A", 1945-1946.

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## TEMPLE OHABEI SHALOM

ORGANIZED 1843

1187 BEACON STREET, BROOKLINE 46, MASS.

September 18, 1945.

Rabbi A. H. Silver,  
c/o The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Abba:

I have thought of you very often since you and Virginia were kind enough to call at my home to see me during my illness. I am progressing nicely. I have been doing very little Temple work and not much of other kinds of activities.

I have been following you and your work very diligently and I am very happy of course in the feeling which you have created throughout the country establishing yourself very securely in the hearts and minds of countless numbers of devoted followers. All of this is not at all surprising to those of us who have been with you and who know you and your abilities.

Sarah and I congratulate you on the victories you have thus far achieved and trust that you and Virginia and your children will have a very delightful and pleasant year.

We are most anxious to have an outstanding Palestine-Zionist Night on Tuesday evening, October 30th at 6:30. The Brotherhood of my congregation will sponsor this dinner meeting. The function will be informal. In view of what has happened I am so anxious to have this meeting in order to win and gain hundreds of additional followers to the cause. I know that upwards of 1500 will be present at this dinner meeting and I am hoping with all my heart that you can find your way to arrange to be the speaker on this occasion.



October 8, 1945

Rabbi Samuel J. Abrams  
Temple Ohabei Shalom  
1187 Beacon Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.

My dear Sam:

Please pardon the long delay in answering your letter. I have been away from the city most of the time. Just at present I am head over heels in activities connected with the Zionist crisis which has developed.

I should very much like to come to your Brotherhood dinner meeting on October 30. It would give me great pleasure indeed. But unfortunately it is quite out of the question for me to take on additional out-of-town engagements at this time. As it is I am away from the city four and five days a week, spending most of my time in New York and in Washington. I also am scheduled to address the New England Zionist Convention in Boston in Boston on November 4. I must forego many attractive invitations which normally I should be most happy to accept. I know that you will understand.

With all good wishes to you and Sarah in which Virginia joins me most heartily, and in the hope that your boys are back home or on their way back home, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:BK



HENRY PENN, President  
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28 Glenville Ave., Allston

## TEMPLE OHABEI SHALOM

ORGANIZED 1843

BEACON STREET TEMPLE, BROOKLINE 46, MASS.

TEMPLE OFFICE, 1187 BEACON STREET, BROOKLINE

TELEPHONE ASPINWALL 3842

Nov. 20/45.

Dear Abba-  
Mazel Tov to you, and the ZOA should  
congratulate itself on its wisdom in choosing  
you as the titular head and President. Your  
life has been a steady climb upward, and the  
peak is in sight. Who knows, it may be  
under your leadership - into Fish, Fat!  
YIP 13

Sam



Marcus Abramson  
Sixty John Street  
New York 7, N.Y.

November 21, 1945

My dear Dr. Silver,

I missed the opportunity of extending personal felicitations at Atlantic City, therefore please permit me to take this means of expressing my sincerest congratulations and best wishes upon your unanimous election as President of the J. O. A. Indeed, I feel rather that all Jews should be congratulated upon that fact. It has been an uphill struggle which, however, was destined from the start for certain success under your inspiring leadership. I take genuine pride in the small efforts which I contributed to the result.

Contemplating the tasks ahead, one trembles at the magnitude of the responsibilities and burdens which you have undertaken. It must, I am certain, be a source of reassurance to you to know that you have a really united and enthusiastic

Marcus Abramson  
 Sixty John Street  
 New York 7, N.Y.

Zionist constituency behind you. It is this  
 real unity in Zionist ranks which your  
 election symbolizes which gives promise  
 of great accomplishment. Lead and we shall  
 follow.

Despite the low ebb of the present  
 Zionist position, I am confident that  
 under your guidance and direction we  
 shall yet emerge to triumphant success.  
 Our people have survived many dark periods  
 in their history and will this period of  
 storm and stress. The job ahead is formidable  
 but, with the help of the Almighty we shall  
 win through. Folkl 75h

With Zion's greetings and with kindest  
 personal regards, I remain,

Faithfully yours,

Marcus Abramson



December 20, 1945

Mr. Marcus Abramson  
60 John Street  
New York 7, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Abramson:

Upon my return from Palestine, I found your gracious note of congratulations upon my election to the Presidency of the Zionist Organization of America. I am very grateful for your thoughtfulness in writing to me and in sending me your good wishes.

The days ahead are likely to be critical and decisive ones for our Movement, but I feel confident that with the loyal and wholehearted cooperation of all our people we will win through in the end.

With Zion's greetings, I remain,

Most cordially yours,



December 20, 1945

Rabbi Samuel J. Abrams  
Temple Ohabei Shalom  
1187 Beacon Street  
Brookline 46, Mass.

My dear Sam:

Upon my return from Palestine, I found your gracious note of congratulations upon my election to the Presidency of the Zionist Organization of America. I am very grateful for your thoughtfulness in writing to me and in sending me your good wishes.

The days ahead are likely to be critical and decisive ones for our Movement, but I feel confident that with the loyal and wholehearted cooperation of all our people we will win through in the end.

With all good wishes to Sara and to all the members of your family in which Virginia joins me most heartily, I remain,

Most cordially yours,



January 9, 1946

American Jewish Conference  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter of December 27, permit me to state that the delegates who will represent the Zionist Organization of America at the third session of the American Jewish Conference will be

Judge Louis E. Leventhal  
Emanuel Neumann  
Dr. Leon Feuer of Toledo

With all good wishes, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:GR



AMERICAN PALESTINE INSTITUTE, INC.  
165 BROADWAY • NEW YORK 6, N. Y.

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		M. H. BLINKEN PRESIDENT	
ANSWERED			

January 24th, 1946

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American Zionist Emergency Council  
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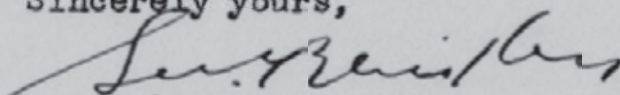
Dear Dr. Silver:

My brother is ill and will be gone for several days.  
I am trying to carry the load for him while he is  
away.

As the Nathan report is about to go to press, we  
should like to receive a comment from you on this  
work which can be used to advertise the sale of the  
book. We are endeavoring to obtain several such  
comments for the same purpose.

As we are working against time, your early attention  
to this matter will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

  
S. M. Blinken

SMB:N



February 4, 1946

Mr. S. M. Blinken  
American Palestine Institute, Inc.  
165 Broadway  
New York 6, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Blinken:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of  
January 24.

I should very much like to send you a comment on  
the Nathan report. Unfortunately, I have not seen  
it. I understand it is a very excellent report.  
I have no objection to the use of my name in endor-  
sing it in a general way.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:GR



# ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

ATLANTIC CITY DISTRICT  
TESTIMONIAL DINNER  
TO  
JOSEPH HALBERT, PRESIDENT

## Chairman

HARRY ROBINSON  
1313 Atlantic Avenue

## Committee

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WM. SNYDER  
BERNARD STERN  
HERMAN SHAPIRO  
JULIUS WALDMAN  
HARRY WAXMANN  
JACK WAXMANN  
BENNIE ZELTNER  
MYER ZUBKOV

February 24, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver,  
The Temple, Ansel Rd.,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Silver:

The Atlantic City District, Zionist Organization of America, will give a Testimonial Dinner to Joseph Halbert, its President in recognition of his ten years service to this District, and for the Palestine cause. The dinner will be held at the Royal Palms Hotel, south Mayyland ave., on Thursday evening, March 21st, 1946.

It is the sincere hope of this Committee that you will attend. If you find it impossible to do so, would you be good enough to address a one page letter to Joseph Halbert accordingly, and mail it to me to the address indicated below, so that we may read same at the Dinner.

Trusting we may have the pleasure of your attendance and with Zionist Greetings, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Harry Robinson*  
Harry Robinson, Chairman  
Testimonial Dinner

919 Atlantic Ave.,  
Atlantic City, N.J.



MAIER M. LEVIN  
527 OHIO STREET  
TERRE HAUTE, IND.  
March 5, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
President Zionist Organization of America  
Cleveland, Ohio

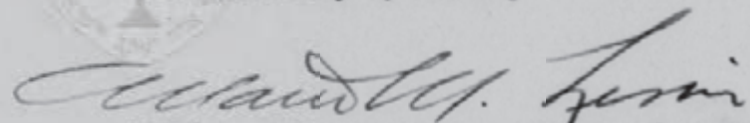
Dear Rabbi Silver:

On behalf of the Terre Haute Zionist District want to express our sincere appreciation of the assistance you gave us last Sunday. It was a pleasure to have talked to you and have you respond so wholeheartedly.

We want you to know that everyone enjoyed listening to Mr. Auerbach and we were more than happy with your choice of a speaker for our meeting. Everyone felt that Mr. Auerbach, although put to great inconvenience, really enjoyed his experience in attending the function we had.

With Zionist greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,



Maier M. Levin, President  
Terre Haute Zionist District

P. S. We asked Mr. Auerbach if there would be any expenses to be met and he told us that he wanted to speak with you. Like all local organizations we keep our treasury depleted by sending everything we have to Zionist causes. Yet if you feel that there is any remuneration due Mr. Auerbach, please let us know.



March 7, 1946

Mr. Charles Auerbach  
18507 Newell Road  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

My dear Friend:

This afternoon I received a letter from Mr. Maier M. Levin, President of the Terre Haute Zionist District, which reads as follows:

"On behalf of the Terre Haute Zionist District want to express our sincere appreciation of the assistance you gave us last Sunday. It was a pleasure to have talked to you and have you respond so wholeheartedly.

We want you to know that everyone enjoyed listening to Mr. Auerbach and we were more than happy with your choice of a speaker for our meeting. Everyone felt that Mr. Auerbach, although put to great inconvenience, really enjoyed his experience in attending the function we had.

With Zionist greetings, I am"

I need not repeat to you what I told you in Cincinnati, how deeply indebted I feel towards you in responding so readily to the emergency appeal of the Terre Haute Zionist District.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR



March 14, 1946

Mr. Joseph Halbert, President  
Atlantic City District  
Zionist Organization of America  
919 Atlantic Avenue  
Atlantic City, New Jersey

My dear Friend Halbert:

I understand that the Atlantic City Zionist District is to tender you a Testimonial Dinner on Thursday, March 21, in recognition of your ten years service to your district and your many services to the Palestine cause.

I wish I were free to attend this dinner. It would have given me great pleasure indeed. Unfortunately, as you may well imagine, pressure of work from many directions makes it impossible for me to do many things which in normal times I should be delighted to do. I wish you to know, however, that I will be with you in spirit.

The Testimonial Dinner which your friends are giving in your honor is richly deserved. You have been a bulwark of strength for our movement in your city and in your state. You have given splendid leadership and untiring devotion, which are deeply appreciated not only by your friends in your own community but by Zionists throughout the nation.

The Zionist Organization of America, of which I have the honor to be President, shares in this testimonial and wishes you many successful years of distinguished service and leadership.

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR





# AMERICAN ZIONIST YOUTH COMMISSION

(Joint Youth Agency of Zionist Organization of America and Hadassah)

381 FOURTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 16, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 3-1683

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*Executive Director*

March 19, 1946

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver  
41 E. 42nd Street  
New York City

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The American Zionist Youth Commission is holding its second annual National Conference on Saturday night and Sunday all day March 30th and 31st, at the Hotel New Yorker.

We cordially invite you as the President of the Zionist Organization of America which is one of the sponsoring parents of the Commission to bring greetings at our Luncheon Session on Sunday at 1:00 p.m., in the North Ballroom.

We are looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to greeting you, and with cordial Zionist greetings, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Ethel Schleifer*  
Mrs. Ethel Schleifer  
Conference Chairman

ES:mg

P.S.:

Would you be good enough to let us have some information regarding the subject of your address that afternoon. We should like to use this for publicity purposes.



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...



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PALESTINE CORRESPONDENT

March 26, 1946

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

Mr. Joseph Jacobson, of Rehovoth, Palestine, has just arrived in this country to act as head of a Palestine Citrus Industry Delegation which will travel throughout the United States. Mr. Jacobson is carrying important messages for you and would therefore like to meet with you, if possible, before the 4th of April on which date he expects to leave for California.

The American Zionist Emergency Council here was not certain when you would be in New York, and they suggested that I communicate with you in Cleveland.

I should appreciate it if you would let me know when you expect to be in New York City and when you will be able to meet Mr. Jacobson here.

Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours,

*Edna Preiser*  
Edna Preiser, Secretary

EP:es

CC: American Zionist Emergency Council  
342 Madison Avenue  
New York City



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

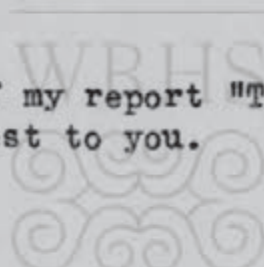
MEMORANDUM

March 27, 1946

TO: DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER

FROM: HERSCHEL AUERBACH

I am enclosing a copy of my report "The Veteran and the Z.O.A." which I think might be of interest to you.





## THE VETERAN AND THE Z. O. A.

by Herschel Auerbach

### I

Zionism demands aggressive action for the fulfillment of its aims. The situation at the moment is fraught with innumerable possible developments with which we must be prepared to cope. To successfully carry out the decisions of aggressive Zionist leadership an energetic, enthusiastic, fearless and devotedly active Z.O.A. is necessary.

In the Jewish community the group exists which fills the bill for this type of membership. The Jewish veteran has the necessary qualities to vitalize and strengthen the organization. In an article in "The Jewish Social Service Quarterly", Vol. IX, Abraham Duker says, "Jews . . . have been benumbed by the fear of anti-semitism, and so overwhelmed by the line-up of forces against them that many of them are incapable of taking a vigorous stand on anything . . .". This could not be true of the Jewish soldier whose fearless leadership could capture the imagination of the whole Jewish community.

Americanism surrounds the veteran like a halo. The little golden discharge pin in the lapel denotes a man who has made a sacrifice for the United States. His loyalty is not easily questioned. In his patriotism he can stand up with anyone as an equal. This quality, and the fact that he is usually native-born and educated and has the American point of view, makes him additionally valuable to the Z. O. A.

Approximately 15,000,000 Americans are veterans of World War II. Most of them have joined or will become members of various Veteran Organizations. These organizations, such as the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars, formerly exerted their pressure and influence in political matters only when a specific veteran's issue was involved. Bonuses, pensions, medical care and other privileges and benefits for veterans were their primary interest. This picture is in the process of changing. With the appearance of organizations such as the American Veterans Committee, Amvets, etc., on the scene, veterans groups are broadening the basis of their political operations. Foreign policy had become one of the major factors involved in this exertion of political pressure.



Increased activity on the part of the new veterans groups is beginning to force the older organizations to expand their interests too. This situation will result in a number of powerful bodies, all acting in the name of veterans, putting pressure on the government to influence it. They will be listened to very respectfully, and where their desires are backed by sufficient numbers the government will probably act as closely in accord with their wishes as will be possible.

For the Z. O. A. this means that veterans organizations must be on our side. From the American Legion to the Catholic War Veterans, Palestine must be thought of as a Jewish Commonwealth. This thought association can only be successfully inculcated by the Z. O. A. public relations program. However, as Colonel Berman, Executive Director of the Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. stated, "It takes a veteran to talk to a veteran". His years of experience in the field of veterans organizations has taught him that they will not listen as attentively, nor will they give as much weight to the opinions of a man who is not himself a veteran.

A half a million Jewish veterans of this war are the potential mouth-piece of the Z. O. A. There is no one who can replace them in this work. They are the ones to talk Zionism to veterans organizations and to all non-Jewish groups. The Jewish veteran is essential if it is desired to propagandize in all corners of the American scene.

## II

Leaving the field of political Zionism for a moment, the veteran also assumes importance as regards Palestine itself. Many of our returned soldiers have gained technical knowledge and skills in their military service. These skills are often being wasted, as the civilian field is closed, and the veteran finds it necessary to accept a position in some other line, or he may even be unemployed. Palestine needs men with "know-how" and men who are adaptable to new conditions of life and a new environment. The serviceman had to learn to adapt himself and many of the veterans have the necessary "know-how". These men might possibly find a future in Palestine and their activities there would help to increase the absorptive capacity and further the economic development of the country.



Today, immigration to Palestine is, for all practical purposes, at a stand-still; but we do not know about tomorrow. Whether the veteran should or would go to Palestine on a permanent or temporary basis can be decided upon at a later date. However, their value to the country must be recognized.

Internally, Palestine is seething. There is no necessity to go into a description of the situation however the thought cannot help but enter our minds that the next demand upon us may be for something similar to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Upon the training, experience and size of this kind of a force may depend the continued existence and furtherance of the gains which have grown out of the toil and sacrifices of the past thirty years. Only the Jewish veteran can be the nucleus and can make up such a group. If we already have veterans, the job will be immeasurably facilitated; without them it might result in the proverbial "To little and to late".

### III

Much has been written and said about the character and attitudes of the returned serviceman. Opinions are often in conflict with one another and the same facts lead different "experts" to arrive at widely divergent conclusions. There are certain basic decisions which can be made and some very definite conclusions can be drawn; but we must be careful.

In "The Returning Serviceman" published by the Vassar Political Association, Emmy A. Berger writes, " . . . . There seems to emerge a pattern of thought about 'Our Boys' characterized by two extremes: On the one hand we seem to think they will have been relatively unaffected by the world shaking events they had to witness and participate in, that their main desire and hope is to come 'back to normalcy', to the proverbial corner drug store, ice cream soda and Saturday night movie with his favorite girl. On the other hand we find various statements to the effect that they left home as happy, young lads, but will return as grim, embittered, cynical men with deep lines in their faces expressing a fundamental change within . . . . .

"It may be safe to generalize and point out that communal life and regular, constant contact and association with one particular and regular group of men will



heighten the soldier's social consciousness . . . . . It seems pure common sense to reason that a Jew or a Negro previously meekly accepting his inferior status might demand recognition equal to that accorded to any other fighting American".

The demands of veterans who are members of groups which are discriminated against is further discussed in "The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science", March, 1945 by Dr. Roy V. Peel. ". . . . . we can count on an awakened sense of importance, an invigorated and righteous wish for the retention of equal rights on the parts of the submerged classes: Women, Negroes, Jews and Orientals. . ."

On the basis of the above quoted opinions, with which I have found no disagreement, we can assume that the Jewish veteran is ready to join the Zionist movement. We can analyze the matter further by recalling the influence to which a Jewish serviceman was subjected.

A young Jew called into the service was often snatched from a relatively secluded life revolving around a local Jewish community. The totality of his contacts with non-Jews was perfunctory. His whole economic and social life took place within the Jewish community and only occasionally did he even speak more than a few words, as on business matters, to a Gentile.

In the Army he was dropped into the midst of a conglomeration of Americans -- Jews and non-Jews from all sections of the country. For the first time in his life he lived intimately with Gentiles. He encountered the problem of anti-semitism on a highly personalized plane.

Whereas anti-semitism may previously have been a vague concept, it was now a recurring reality with which it was necessary that he cope. The problem faced him directly and spurred on his thinking of his position as a Jew. He had to ask himself why he, as a Jew, was discriminated against; and what he could and should do about it. His Jewish consciousness was aroused and, voluntarily or involuntarily, he began to ask himself questions and look for the answers. Most veterans are not yet quite certain as to what the answers are, but they are now conscious that they are Jews and that problems exist. Therein lies great possibilities for the Z. O. A.



The experience with anti-semitism has been gone through by every last one of our returned Jewish soldiers. How many are still mulling the problem over in their minds today is anybody's guess. In many cases, however, all that is necessary to secure membership is letting the veteran know that the Z. O. A. exists as an organization for him to join.

Europe was the theatre of operations in which many Jewish veterans served. They were often rudely awakened by what they saw there. The impressions made upon them by the Jews of Europe will not be easily forgotten and it can be unequivocally stated that nearly every continental Jew, met by an American soldier, asked when he could leave for Palestine. How many of our Jewish soldiers were asked by the half alive, half dead remnants of European Jewry to open the doors of Palestine cannot be counted. To these Jewish soldiers the necessity of Zionism has been indelibly etched on their conscience. They cannot ignore it, but they must be approached to be enrolled as members.

We can draw a very definite and concrete conclusion -- Jewish consciousness has been awakened in the Jewish veteran. He is looking for his niche in the Jewish community and will join our ranks if only spoken to.

#### IV

Many promises and bright hopes have been held out to the veteran. Few of these live up to expectations and the result is that the former serviceman is alienated from those who attempt to aid him.

"A few of the veterans spoke rather sharply about the publicity program of public and private agencies offering services for veterans. One man told me that he had heard so much of the word 'rehabilitation' that he hoped no one would even mention it to him again," is how Milton Goldman describes this in the "Jewish Social Service Quarterly" for September, 1945.

Charles Bolte also warns us in the "Veteran's Outlook" for October, 1945. In an article entitled, "Why the Run Around", he says, "... The loud assertions, the fanfare over the G. I. Bill of Rights, the endless and much publicized seminars on rehabilitation have all held out a tremendous promise to the returning soldier but the gap



between promise and performance is very wide. And in the 12,000,000 veterans who are disillusioned with the promise of Democracy there lies a great potential danger to America."

It is therefore obvious that for the Z. O. A. to embark upon any kind of servicing program for veterans is extremely dangerous. It would not only appear puny when compared to the work being done by established Jewish and non-Jewish agencies, but could antagonize rather than attract and could negate any results from good work along other lines.

However, the veteran does think of himself as different. He is different and expects this to be recognized. "These men gave many indications that they thought of themselves as a special group, entitled to special consideration and deserving of priority service from the community," is what Milton Goldman says further along in the article quoted above.

The former serviceman's belief that he deserves priority is not the only way in which he feels that he is different from the rest of the population. The mode of life and experiences which were his as a soldier also influenced him along social lines. That is why veterans organizations are always rewarded with great initial success in their membership enrollment. Willard Waller describes this in his book, "The Veteran's Attitudes".

He says, "The veteran had the almost mystical experience of solidarity with his fellows. This solidarity, or comradeship characteristic of soldiers since time immemorial, is one of the few rewards of military life. When the man who has tasted this loyalty, which is stronger than the love of life, returns to the dog-eat-dog existence of civilians, he finds it unsatisfying. Therefore, the veteran is often the victim of extreme disillusionment or else he spends himself in a vain effort to find in civilian life a solidarity which does not exist. This fruitless attempt to recapture his vanished comradeship and the resentment of the fact that it cannot be found explain much of the veteran's behavior."

The solidarity of comradeship of striving towards a common goal -- Zionism -- could very well be a partial answer to this problem for the returned Jewish soldier.



However, the atmosphere of the Zionist districts of which the veteran is a member must be an active one without the usual superficial finery and embellishments. As Waller says, "For various reasons, but particularly because Army life does not permit discussion of orders, the soldier comes to value action and be impatient with talk. . . . important effects of this impatience with talk arise in the political sphere."

Group activity of an aggressive nature built around Zionism can be combined with a well-planned social life to take advantage of these attitudes on the part of the veteran. Social adjustment is quite important in the sphere of veteran's problems. Whereas attempting to service the returned serviceman by job placement is dangerous, providing an opportunity for comradeship is not. In "Marching Home", Morse A. Cartwright says, "It is to be emphasized first in facing the general problem of veteran adjustment, that job placement is only one of the objectives to be sought. Social adjustments loom quite as large on the serviceman's or woman's horizon as do vocational adjustments."

Understanding these characteristics and desires we can readily build a veteran's program and plan veteran's activity. We have a basis upon which to work and from which we can go forward into other fields.

V

Keeping the above discussion in mind we turn to the book, "Jews in The Post-War World", by Max Gottschalk and Abraham G. Duker and read that "A community-of-fate concept has long been and may continue to be, a cohesive force of great importance. Anti-semitism and historical tradition, the one negatively, the other positively have combined to make the Jews feel that they belong to one community, though this in no way affects their civic and national fidelities, and their relationship to their non-Jewish neighbors. . . . ."

"It is historical tradition that offers the greatest hope for survival. It is here that the dynamism of survival must originate. . . . Such historical tradition can only quicken the pride in those who are aware of it. . . . ."

It is superfluous to say that any discussion of historical tradition must revolve around Palestine and modern Zionism. Pride kindled by knowledge of historical fact



can be fanned into a flame by knowledge of Jewish achievements in modern Palestine. But the relationship of Palestine to anti-semitism, i.e. the effect of a Jewish Commonwealth on anti-semitism, has not been sufficiently underscored. Anti-semitism is that problem which has made the Jewish veteran aware of his role as a Jew, and we must approach him on his attitude towards Palestine in the light of this fact.

Not only must we show a picture of Palestine as a place of refuge, and not only must we arouse his Jewish pride by pointing out the heroic work of the Yishuv, but we must show him that the Jewish Commonwealth will have a profound effect on the world as regards anti-semitism. Palestine as a Commonwealth will effect his personal status as a member of a minority group in the community, it will add to his dignity.

## VI

The major Jewish organization in the veteran field is obviously the Jewish War Veterans of the United States. It is enrolling thousands of Jewish veterans. The program and activities are of particular interest to us, especially as regards what we can expect from them as to Zionist activity.

As we know, at their last National Convention, the J.W.V. passed a very strong Zionist resolution. However, as stated to me by Colonel Berman, Executive Director of the organization, they will not engage in active Zionist propaganda on a National scale for fear that this would jeopardize their position and standing with other veterans organizations which are non-Jewish.

The J.W.V. builds its program around veteran servicing, in cooperation with the Jewish Welfare Board, anti-defamation work, and patriotic activities. This, however, does not satisfy them as it is not sufficient to keep their members interested, and definitely it does not satisfy us. We obviously want a strong Zionist Program on the part of the J.W.V., and this is within the realm of achievement.

The major problem for the J.W.V. is a program of activity for its various posts all over the country. Every local and national leader of the organization is trying to think up new ideas for such a program. When offered Zionist speakers or movies they gladly accept with the eagerness of a drowning man grasping at a straw. This leaves us a wide open door for work.



In some communities the local J.W.V. Post and Z. O. A. district are holding a joint meeting for the purpose of enrolling all Jewish veterans of the community in both organizations. There is no objection on the part of the J.W.V. to our actively attempting to enroll veteran membership. Usually the opposite is true -- they favor this.

The situation can, therefore, be simply summed up by saying that the J.W.V. is enrolling returned soldiers as a specific veterans organization for servicing them. At the same time, his membership there helps develop his Jewish consciousness and prepare him for entering the Z. O. A. In cooperating with the J.W.V. we will gain a goodly number of their members as our own.

Other Jewish organizations are making strong attempts to enroll returned soldiers. The methods used range from free dues and waiving of the initiation fee by some B'nai B'rith lodges, such as the one at Irvington, New Jersey, to the call of the National Jewish Workers Alliance in the "Alliance Voice" for each of its chapters to set up a veterans committee which should visit every returned soldier and approach him for membership.

## VII

Much discussion has been heard about where the veteran belongs -- the Z. O. A. or Masada. In Philadelphia this problem has been resolved by setting up a veterans chapter and letting the individual member decide which group he desires to join, with all veterans, whether Masada or Z. O. A. members, meeting together. The purpose being to have a Zionist group which can speak in the name of veterans. However, each community has its own peculiar conditions and will have to resolve the problem for itself. In approaching the question of Masada, though, we can learn a great deal by referring to the book by Morse A. Cartwright previously quoted.

"The returning veteran constitutes a challenge to adult education - the greatest in history. And it should be borne in mind first, last, and all the time that the returning veteran, irrespective of age, is adult. War service precipitates maturity. Any idea that the veterans can be 'palmed off' on existing agencies for childhood and youth education and there absorbed and dismissed is both false and unrealistic.



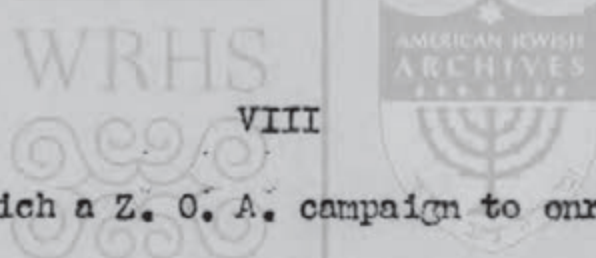
Disastrous experiences in schools and colleges following World War I testify to this effect. The returning veteran calls for special handling, for special facilities, for special instruction, and all on an adult level with an adult philosophy. . . .

"The psychological value of recognizing the adult nature of the problem is not to be minimized. Youths who have waged war-fare in the European, Mediterranean and Pacific theatres of operations may still be youths in years when they return, but they will be peculiarly -- almost painfully adult in outlook and point of view."

Based on a survey made by the Army in late 1943 we can approximate the age groups of veterans as follows:

27% of our veterans are between 20 - 22 years of age  
33% of our veterans are between 23 - 26 years of age  
21% of our veterans are between 27 - 32 years of age  
19% of our veterans are over 30 years of age

Some veterans may and will find their place in Masada, but a large number will react unfavorably just to the title "Youth". These will only join the Z. O. A., the "adult" group.



The degree of success which a Z. O. A. campaign to enroll veterans will have is largely dependent upon the thoroughness with which it is carried out. We have seen that the returned soldier has an aroused Jewish consciousness and is anxious to find his place in the Jewish community; therefore, it is up to us to go out and show him that he belongs in the ranks of the Z. O. A.

A Veterans Committee set up in each district to carry on this campaign and approach every returned Jewish serviceman is essential. Veterans should be gone after on a group basis and on a personal basis. A group basis could include activities such as a joint meeting with the local J.W.V. Post, a welcome home dinner or meeting, social functions with movies of Palestine or any other such approach. One idea, for example, which exploits the veterans reactions to anti-semitism, could be a meeting with two of them as speakers. One of these ex-G.I.'s who had been in Europe and seen the tragedy of the Jews, could tell of his experiences and of the desire of the remaining European Jews to immigrate to Palestine. The other soldier, one who visited Palestine, could



paint the positive picture of the Yishuv and the constructive work there with special stress upon arousing the veterans pride in Jewish accomplishments. But it must always be born in mind that a veteran will listen to another veteran much more receptively than to an "outsider," even if the "outsider" be a famous man.

The personal approach to veterans to induce them to join the Z. O. A. is probably the more important of the two. This simply means that every returned soldier must be visited by someone and spoken to regarding his enrollment. To reiterate, wherever at all possible the one talking to the veteran should himself be a discharged soldier. The ground for such a visit may be prepared by previously mailing the veteran a pamphlet or throw-away specifically drawn-up to appeal to him.

The immediate initiation of such a membership campaign is a primary factor for consideration. Now is the time when a discharged soldier is settling down in the civilian community, joining organizations, and establishing his basis for a social life. He can therefore, best be approached at present. If we wait until the Fall for example, it may be altogether too late as the veteran may already have joined non-Zionist groups and it will be much more difficult to get him to join with us. Let us give the Jewish veteran his niche in Jewish life today.

## IX

However, just getting veterans in as members is not enough, we must also keep them. To have them remain we need a program. It must be a positive program requiring active participation by each and every member. We must keep him busy politically and socially.

The first point in such a program for veterans who are members of the Z. O. A. is based upon their public relations value. They should be utilized as speakers before veterans groups and before non-Jewish groups. The function of the veteran in the Z. O. A. should be to plan and carry on the district program for public relations among Gentile organizations. Every American, even though he is not a Jew, must be made to associate the name Palestine with the thought of a Jewish Commonwealth there. There are also hundreds of small, relatively unknown, veterans organizations in America



today. If the veterans within the Z. O. A. keep contact with each of these, see that the Z. O. A. is represented in one way or another at their affairs, and keep them on their toes regarding Palestine, an invaluable job will be done to further the cause of Zionism. Naturally, the major public relations activity will revolve around the local J.W.V. Post. If we are active enough and are thorough in influencing enough J.W.V. Posts, it may even be possible to "capture" the whole organization. Nationally, we should plan joint projects with the J.W.V., give them something to keep their members interested, and gain for Zionism. One such project could revolve around sending veterans to Palestine or having the J.W.V. support a particular project there, for example, a colony for veterans of the Jewish Brigade. It might even be possible for the J.W.V. also to give scholarships to Jewish veterans going to Palestine to study under the G.I. Bill of Rights.

In addition to doing this public relations work among returned servicemen and non-Jews, a veteran in the Z.O.A. can, at the present time, be utilized very effectively as a speaker in a general membership campaign. Whereas, the usual speaker at the Zionist meeting is a man with a "name", a known-personality, the Jewish serviceman who has been in Palestine or Europe also has something to say. His story, due to its simple and direct appeal, can often be more effective than any other speech and it will certainly not be the usual run-of-the-mill product.

The second portion of the veterans program should be well-planned social functions, and even athletics if deemed advisable. Social functions revolving around the close comradeship of the veteran members will fulfill their needs which were discussed above. It is true that this is also offered by other Jewish organizations, but we cannot overlook its importance. We have to offer this to the veteran so that he does not have to look elsewhere for social life.

To satisfy the returned serviceman's innate desire to be proud of his Jewish heritage we can offer him Palestine. Giving him an opportunity to familiarize himself with what is being done there through straight-forward education accomplishes this. Lectures, movies, literature and all other methods can be utilized just as they are for the general Zionist membership. We should also train the future leadership of the



Z. O. A. from among its members who are veterans. At any rate, they will certainly assume leadership if given the opportunity and in many cases will demand it.

There is practically an inexhaustible field around which a veteran's program can be built. However, action must be taken rather than just talking about it. Other points in veteran activity can be as regards veterans going to school in Palestine, veterans going to Palestine to help build up the Yishuv, veterans sponsoring specific projects in Palestine (The Haganah?), and even fund raising work.

In attempting to point out a program for veterans and make the Z. O. A. as satisfying an organization for them as is possible, it might be found necessary to have the Z. O. A. veterans groups partake in all phases of Jewish community life even if Zionism and Palestine aren't involved. For example, an anti-defamation project might sometimes require participation, or a project which involves all minorities in the United States might interest them. Although such activities would be secondary they might very well be found to be essential.

WRHS X



There are several internal organizational problems which arise when veterans are under discussion. These were brought to light in visits to Newark, Albany, Syracuse, Utica, Harrisburg, etc. and in discussions of the problem with many people. The one most often discussed is the dues question. The payment of full dues by veterans seems to be a very important factor in enrolling them. It is claimed that while a man is changing from army life to civilian life and is trying to establish himself economically, the dues payment is quite a dent in his budget. This is quite true in a large number of cases and some arrangement should be made regarding dues; not as an inducement for veterans to become "bargain" members, but so that the financial obligation should not be a deterrent to their joining the Z. O. A.

The question of separate chapters within the district composed exclusively of veterans is also to be considered. In some cases the character of the general membership of the district is such as to alienate the veteran simply because of differences in age and interests. In other instances a veterans group has been found advisable



because it can be used as a youth group within the district; or it can be valuable because it can speak in the name of veterans only. No set rule can be laid down but each community and Z. O. A. district will have to solve this problem on the basis of the conditions peculiar to it. In many cases the veteran fits into the district very readily and all that is necessary is a veteran's committee to carry out the veterans program.

It can be readily agreed upon, however, that there should be a separate section of the Speakers Bureau composed of returned servicemen who are available as speakers. Each district and region should have such men and utilize them to the fullest extent.

There must also be some sort of Manual of outlines for speeches to be presented to non-Jewish groups by veterans as such speeches must be carefully prepared and planned. It is often difficult for the district to assume the responsibility of sending men to Kiwanis or Rotary clubs, for example, as they are afraid of saying the wrong thing. Such a Manual would help tremendously.

The answer to the question as to whether the Z. O. A. needs a National Veteran's Bureau depends upon how well the organization can do the necessary work without one. There is a necessity for speaking to the veteran straight from the shoulder in his own language. There is also educational, membership, and administrative work to be carried on. However, a staff which does this type of work is already in existence and possibly, it can cover the veterans field as well.

The "veterans approach" may feasibly be gotten from National, Regional and District Veteran's Committees composed of members of the district who are themselves discharged soldiers. Irrespective of the Veteran's Bureau, these committees must be established and must be energetic, enthusiastic, and devotedly active in their work. They must do everything reasonable, and even unreasonable, to immediately enroll tens of thousands of Jewish veterans in the Z. O. A. Without the participation of such veterans committees even a Veteran's Bureau could do little; and Zionism today demands that veterans join our ranks.

E N D



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Send the following telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

**WANT A REPLY?**  
"Answer by WESTERN UNION"  
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included without charge.

March 27, 1946

Edna Preiser  
American Economic Committee for Palestine, Inc.  
250 West 57th Street  
New York 19, N. Y.

I WILL BE AT THE COMMODORE HOTEL BEGINNING THIS SATURDAY AND I SHALL  
BE VERY PLEASED TO SEE MR. JACOBSON.

Abba Hillel Silver

GR



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April 19, 1946

4-4/46  
*[Signature]*

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, President  
Zionist Organization of America  
1720 - 16th St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Silver:

I am making arrangements to go to England just as soon as I receive my passport from Washington. While there I should like to meet some Z.O.A. leaders in London, and will appreciate receiving a letter of introduction from you.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

*[Signature]*  
Ben Arnold

BA:T

---

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

DATE: April 26, 1946

FROM: Dr. Sidney Marks

New Address:

41 EAST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

SUBJECT:

Mr. Ben Arnold is one of our key men in South Carolina, and I can only add the recommendation of Mortimer May of Nashville, Tenn. A letter would be most in order.

My kindest personal regards.

*Sidney Marks*

SM:dh  
encl.



May 6, 1946

Mr. Ben Arnold  
Ben Arnold Co., Inc.  
700 Gervais Street  
Columbia 8, S. C.

My dear Mr. Arnold:

In reply to your letter of April 19, I am enclosing herewith a letter addressed to Mr. Liftcn, who is in charge of our office in London. He will, I am sure, put you in contact with the leaders of our movement whom you desire to meet.

I hope that you will have a very pleasant visit to England.

With all good wishes, I remain

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR  
Enc.



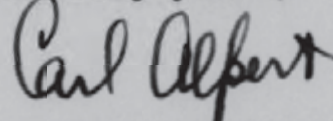
2325 15th St., N.W.  
Washington 9, D.C.  
May 21, 1946

TO THE EDITOR:

No experience in life can compare with the pleasant sensation of return to civilian activities after a tour of duty in the Army, and I am spending every free moment trying to catch up with the busy bustle of Jewish life everywhere - largely from the columns of the Anglo-Jewish press, which I always found my best source of information.

I am enclosing a copy of my regular column, "I Think as I Please", which is scheduled for publication in the Jewish Post on May 31st. Because of the great interest in the coming Zionist elections, it occurs to me that you might care to use this piece simultaneously with its appearance in the Post. It represents my opinion, and should stimulate some thought in your community.

Sincerely yours,



Carl Alpert



I THINK AS I PLEASE  
By Carl Alpert

Attention, Ladies

With my wife's permission, I should like to have a short chat this week with the members of Hadassah. We male Zionists have nothing but respect and admiration for Hadassah and for almost everything connected with it; its leadership, its organizational administrative efficiency, its practical work in Palestine. The rapidly maturing political consciousness of the organization should likewise be cause for pride and satisfaction, increasing as it does the intensity of devotion in the cause. It is no mistake, I believe, to identify this trend within Hadassah with the leadership which the ladies have enjoyed within recent years.

On the basis of this esteem and respect, then, I essay to address myself to those members of Hadassah whom I am fortunate enough to number among my readers. My subject: the forthcoming election of Zionist delegates to the World Zionist Congress.

"Oh, but you're wasting your breath," a good friend remonstrates, peering over my shoulder as I write. "Hadassah is a disciplined organization, and the members of every chapter in the country will vote ONLY as they are instructed by their national office."

One must not underestimate Hadassah discipline: it is inspiring and wondrous to behold. Yet I venture to hold a high opinion, as well, of the intelligence of individual Hadassah members, and of their superior loyalty to the greater Zionist cause which they serve through Hadassah.

The issues which will confront the coming Zionist Congress are momentous. They concern not the day-to-day details of nation-building, important though these may be, with which the Zionist parties and the Zionist funds occupy themselves, but the very fate and future of the entire movement. Finance and health, labor and education, land, industry, agriculture - these will of course be considered in their relationship to the rebuilding of the Jewish Homeland, but the principal issues will be political. Jewish statehood, relationship with Britain, the United Nations, the Arabs - these will be high on the agenda.

There can be no question of the fact that it has been the Zionist Organization of America which has furnished the leadership on the Zionist political front in this country. Our friends on the left are noble exponents of the workers of Palestine: the ladies of Hadassah have achieved



miracles on the health and sanitation front; but in the field of activity with which this Congress will be primarily occupied, it is the Z.O.A. which possesses the major experience and the genuine strength. In the eyes of the world, in the minds of President Truman, Congress, international statesmen, the Z.O.A. is known and recognized as the outstanding body of American Zionists.

To fail to send an overwhelming Z.O.A. delegation to the Zionist Congress would be to cripple our own effectiveness at a time when all our efforts should be devoted to political work. These are simple facts which, I am sure every Zionist can understand. We simply cannot afford to indulge in the luxury of "jealousy" for the "rights" of individual groups or parties. The cause of Zion must come first.

Of course every branch and segment of the Zionist movement in America and elsewhere must be represented, for Zionism is a democratic movement. Because of the nature of the problems to be discussed at the Congress, however, it should be clear that we shall have need of the advice and experience and guidance of the best leadership which American Jewry can produce. Men like Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, Louis Lipsky, Judge Morris Rothenberg, Dr. Israel Goldstein and others, recognized as the titans of American Zionist leadership, must go to the Zionist Congress secure in the conviction that they speak in behalf of the great majority of American Zionists.

It may not be generally realized but votes in the shekel election are cast not for individual candidates, but for group slates. A voter may mark his ballot for the Z.O.A. ticket, or for the Hadassah ticket, or for any of the other parties listed. It is thus unfortunately true that a vote cast for a separate Hadassah slate means a vote against Wise and Silver and others of the Z.O.A. leadership. There were no insurmountable obstacles to a union of the Hadassah and Z.O.A. slates, and the Zionist Organization eagerly proposed and urged such a joint list. For reasons concerning Hadassah's "independence", however, these overtures were rejected by the ladies.

A conscientious member of Hadassah, who follows organizational discipline, is thus placed in the difficult position of voting against Dr. Wise, Dr. Silver, and all the others who constitute the strength of organized American Zionism!

I venture to address myself to the independent members of Hadassah. That there are many such has become increasingly evident, as chapters of the organization throughout the country have expressed their dissatisfaction with the division of General Zionist forces in the election. Hadassah membership is large, and without doubt there will be a large "disciplined" vote for the Hadassah slate. But to those who give serious thought to the future status of the movement, who are desirous of sending American Jewry's greatest leaders to the Zionist Congress, and preserving American Zionist political strength. I earnestly advise that they cast their votes for the Z.O.A. list. Discuss this matter with other members of your Hadassah chapter, courageously, independently, with the best interests of the Zionist movement at heart.



May 27, 1946

Mr. Charles Auerbach  
18507 Newell Road  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

My dear Mr. Auerbach:

I thought that you would be interested in reading the enclosed fan letter about yourself. It is highly gratifying that your visit to the Coast was so very successful.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

AHS:GR  
Enc.





June 23, 1946

My dear Miss Aginsker:

It was indeed very thoughtful of you to write to me, and I deeply appreciate the good wishes which you sent me.

Most cordially yours,

AHS:GR

Miss Frances Aginsker  
645 East 53rd Street  
Brooklyn 3, N. Y.





[undated]



BIRTHDAY'S GREETINGS To You



Mr. SILVER:

I shall always be grateful  
for the privilege of being  
present at the Brooklyn  
Academy of Music and at the  
Madison Square Garden.

Really of this week, where  
you appeared with so many  
other reputable persons

Justice will indeed be meted  
out to the peoples of the  
earth, I trust in due time  
As you have stated hereto-  
fore you have given many  
years of effort to achieve  
your goal. President Franklin



*Congratulations to you  
on <sup>THIS</sup> your Birthday  
and every good wish  
for the coming year*





Poland Roosevelt strove  
for many years to help  
keep the Peace throughout  
the World for all nations,  
as well as Prosperity  
for the People of America  
during his reign as  
President.



It is my wish that you  
will continue for many  
years - may good health  
be yours always.

Frances Aginskee

645 East 53rd Street Brooklyn 3 <sup>NY</sup>