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We live in fame of we go down in flame, 1943.

Western Reserve Historical Society 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106 (216) 721-5722 wrhs.org

American Jewish Archives 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220 (513) 487-3000 AmericanJewishArchives.org WE LIVE IN FAME OR GO DOWN IN FLAME The Spirit of Adventure in War and Peace

1 . .

By Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At The Temple

On Sunday morning, March 28, 1943 In that stirring battle song of the United States Air Force there is a line which tingles the blood: "We live in Fave or Go down in Flame." It is the battle

song of the men who ride the skies - the daring and adventurous knights of modern chivalry, the men who fight with new weapons, in new ways, in a new dimension of space. Theirs is a most spirited, exciting, romantic and dangerous service, and the line which I have quoted is particularly expressive of the mood and the temper of these intrepid fighting men of the air.

It is the right mood, the winning mood for all soldiers in war-time. Fame or Death! To win thru to glorious victory or perish in the attempt. These are the two only alternatives of men who are fighting and who mean to win. In normal times and in peace times, we can afford to disseminate, as it were, to scatter our lives over wide areas, interests, cautions and conservations. We can grade our loyalties. We can regulate the measure of our devotions to each one of them. But in times of crises, in times of war, we must focus our lives, bring them to a point, as it were, bring all that we have --- interest, loyalty and happiness into one single throw. Everything becomes sharply concentrated. What is it? Courage or cowardice!

Some of the men prove outstanding under fire in the quality of their bravery and they are acclaimed and singled out for honor. But unless the unwitnessed and unacclaimed courage of the rank and file is also of a high order, the army is defeated before it even goes into battle. And unless there is boldness and daring, along with skill in the highest command of the army, the courage of the fighting men will by itself be inadequate.

Now we have accustomed ourselves to expect and await manifestions of heroism and valor and bold adventure among fighting men in the field, on land, on the sea under the sea, and in the air. We have also come to expect a courage to match that of the soldiers even among civilians when their homes and cities are bombed from the air. Reports of magnificent courage and high morale have come to us from the blitzed cities of England and elsewhere. Quite a number of first rate plays and movies have been written around this theme -- courage of men in the imminent threat of death.

Now it is good th t mankind can draw upon these unspent resources of human courage -- to live in fame or to go down in flame -- in these desperate hours when only that courage stands between it and disaster. England was able to tap such resources when it faced national destruction after Dunkirk and during the German air-blitz on the cities of England. In those days the whole Empire hung on a thread. Never in a thousand years had England come so close to death. And it was the spiritual dauntlessness of the race, and the courage of these very flying men to save England which saved her. Of the flyers you will recall, Churchill declared: "Never did so many owe to much to so few." Sheer fortitude, sheer daring saved the greatest Empire on earth from annihilation. And in this connection it is well to remember that an essential condition of victory was the fact that the leaders of Great Britain in that terrible hour themselves had the courage to rely on the fighters. They believed, unfalteringly in what Churchill recently called "the vigor, ingenuity and resilience of the British race." He believed in it in that dark hour when everything seemed to be crumbling. Many leaders lack that courage, the courage to believe in the people whom they lead. They believe themselves to be conservative, prudent and practical. Actually they are cowards, as Petain was a coward. In the hour of his national crisis he did not believe in his people, and so it was his cowardice which betrayed the courage ofthe French people. In moments of crisis, in those rare moments which either make or break, which are decisive for centuries to come, everything narrows down to one thing -- courage or cowardice.

Great military leaders, for example, are not those who with sufficient, ample forces, splendid equipment, sufficient resources, overwhelm their enemies. That is nothing. Our greatest military leaders of all the times were those whose

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armies were inadequately equipt, out-numbered, faced with disaster, but who by their skill and resoluteness, and by their faith in their troops which they were leading, were able to inspire among them a fighting determination which would take them to the very limits of heroism, daring, who were then able to snatch victory, as it were, out of the very jaws of defeat. That is how Washington won through. That is how the bedraggled armies of the French Revolution beat back and defeated the coalition armies of Europe. That is how it was done at Stalingrad. "We live in fame or go down in flame."

A 11 of which brings us to the reflection of how marvelous it would be if mankind could draw upon that same spirit, that same magnificent human spirit of adventure in peacetime, wherein mankind spends most of its time. Why must people wait for war to begin great drives to the high levels of sacrifice? Why must a people wait for ar to become great, to rise to high levels of sacrifice and discipline? Why will people accept in war-time restraints, regulations, radical reorganizations of their business, industry and customary ways of life, which they resist so bitterly in peace-time, and which if they would accept-even a fraction of them in peace-time, would make their lives so much more pe ceful, secure and noble? We accept the spending of tens of thousands of millions of dollars for our army. We have raised, recently, our national debt limit to two hundred thousand million dollars. How bitterly we have been resisting through the years, the spending of a few hundreds of millions for social insurance, for the improvement of the lives of our own people, men, women, children, in peacetime. How bitterly which we fight, for example in peacetime, increases in taxes/whould help to improve the lives of our own people for greater security, for more education, for improved health, for the aged, for the children, for the unemployed. How bitterly we resist any effort to spend any money for that purpose, and how willing we are to pay taxes, which make other taxes dwindle into insignificance, into army munitions for war.

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Yes, you will say, but in war time we have no choice. That is true. But does that mean that when we do have a choice, that we must choose wrong, that we must choose that which is short-sighted and narrow, and which lacks imagination?

Civilization is built up not exclusively nor largely out of victories won in war but out of the victorious achievements, of imagination, initiative and courage in peace-time. The men who dared to confront the poverty, the injustices, the inequalities of their day with a larger measure of justice and equality, who faced attack, hatred, persecution and often death at the hands of their own people whom they wished to help -- these too are the chivalrous knights of embattled mankind, for they too were prepared "to live in fame **er** go down in flame." Their moral strength and valor is no whit less than that of the men in the plane, tank, submarine, or fox-hole.

There are people, young people especially, who think that only in war time is there room today for men who have wings and want to fly. Nothing can be further from the truth. Nothing can be further from the truth. The great battles of the human mind and spirit are still to be fought! The most formidable frontiers are still to be crossed! New continents still await the exploring and discovering and pioneering heart of man.

There will be greater need for men of faith, of vision, of audacity tomorrow, and greater opportunity for fame and high reward than ever in the past. And young men and older men, for that matter, who like a battle, who love to break a lance in behalf of a good cause, who, to use the phrase of Emerson, "require a little sense of victory, a roll of the drum to call their power into full exercise" -such men will find these opportunities all around them if they will open their eyes. What then, is it that men fight for in peacetime? In wartime they know. No soldier fights for the pay in wartime -- for the money that is in it. They stake all that they have, their whole lives not for material things, but for duty and love of country and hatred of wrong and oppression. Now if the same people would

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carry over into peacetime something of that same unmercenary attitude, unmaterialistic concern to peacetime tasks, they would find many exciting and glorious opportunities of service.

A week ago, the sameman to whom I referred a moment ago, the Prime Minister of England, addressed his nation. It was a great utterance, and a great challenge. He spoke to them "of the mystery, the peril and the splendor of the vast sphere of of practical action into which we shall have to leap once the hideous spell of Nazy tyranny has been broken." Note his words -- "the mystery, the peril and the splendor of the vast sphere of practical action into which we shall have to leap once the kx hideous spell of Nazi tyranny has been broken."

He referred to the magnitude of the task in building a future world organization as a safeguard against future wars -- the reorganization of Europe into a Council of States and groupings of States, as a first step to a new World League of St tes or Councils. He called attention to the heavy task of integrating Europe without destroying "the individual characteristics and traditions of many ancient and historic races."

He spoke of the problem of the transition period for his country -- and measures which must be taken to maintain and progressively improve the previous standard of life and labor of his countrymen.

He spoke of the "further journey" the next "great advance" which must be made in the field of Social insurance, and he put himself squarely on the record in favor of "national compulsory insurance for all classes, for all purposes from the cradle to the grave."

He outlined a program for the improvement of public health, and the extension <u>must</u> of the opportunities of Education. "Facilities for advanced education/be evened out and multiplied. No one who can take advantage of higher education should be denied this chance."

He spoke of a great program of greater democracy for his people, and I quote his enkindling marked words: "Under our ancient monarchy that bulwark of

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British liberties, that barrier against dictatorships of 11 kinds we intend to move forward in a great family, preserving the comradeships of the war, free forever from the class prejudice and other forms of snobbery from which in modern times we have suffered less than most other nations, and from which we are now shaking ourselves entirely free. Britain is a fertile mother and natural genius springs from the whole people.

"We have made great progress but we must make far greater progress. We must make sure that the path to higher functions throughout our society and empire is really open to children of every family. Whether they can tread that path will depend upon their qualities, tested by fair competition.

"All cannot reach the same level, but all must have their chance.

"I look forward to a Britain so big that she will need to draw her leaders from every type of school and we ring every kind of tie. Tradition may play its part but broader systems must now rule."

This is the conservative Churchill speaking for conservative England for tomorrow -- "The mystery, the peril and the splendor" after the war.

Are there fewer such tasks awaiting our people after the War? or less weighty and heroic ones? Need we fear that America will offer fewer opportunities to its sons and daughters in the future than in the past? Not if you think of America, as Churchill thinks of Great Britain, as one great family moving forward together, not as classes trying to exploit one another, to trample on one another, not of men thinking exclusively in terms of amassing and hoarding. If you think of America in terms of one great term -- in greater security for all and greater happiness for all, then there will be ample opportunities in our gracious land for it.

When we demobilize after the war, we should not demobilize completely the spirit and idealism and fearlessness and integrity and the spiritual values of our eople. We should retain something of it that "living in fame or going down in flame" spirit so that we will all move forward to a greater, lovelier people.

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The trouble is that in war time people become young in spirit -- not only the fighting men, but those who remain behind. A sort of challenge and refreshment of spirit of men to great and glorious things. But as soon as that armistice is over, they become old again. The old ways, the old ideas, the old slogans come back and recapture their lives. That is what happened after the last war. Thoreau said once: "The youth gets together his materials to build a bridge to the moon, or, perchance, a palace or temple on the earth, and at length the middle-aged man concludes to build a wood-shed with them." That is what we did after the last war. We builded a woodshed out of a glorious temple, out of the high hopes of war." After the war there was neither fame nor flame, neither glory, nor glory in death, nothing but cruelly tortured and distraught world that was helplessly slithering down thru revolution, depression, conflict and tyranny to another world war.

We might build another woodshed out of it after this war if we are not careful. Churchill has warned his people to begin planning now for the days after <u>some</u> the war so that/mankind of new glory can be built for the people after the war. We shall have on other chance. This may be our last chance. We can build and keep our wings after the war....

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1. In that stirring battle song the air Force there is a line which simples the blood: "We live in Fame a So down in Flaw. It is the batch sorry, the wen who ride the skies - the daring and adventur the maplet, the andern Chivalize the men who light with new menfores, in new ways, in a new dirner ficing space. There's is a most spinked exciding, romante and dangerous second. denjum serves - and the line while I have protect filly expresses the moved and seconder of them Fliers. In them are of the air. all is then Fliers. 2. His the right wind in was have a peath! To win them to glorious vielan or peach in the attruight ! It with the of the and allowing the attruight ! that is the those on the and achematives for men who are fighting for a thread to cards. In normal time we can disservine the one bries over wide areas of interest routions and conservations to curses - such as when - we what focus our bries, and put all the have of interest dyalk had happines, on one throw, Everything the concentrated be and interesting a concerdia. s. Some were prove antohowing vorder fire in the gradety; their tranen-and they are acclaimed thinghed art for hour. But inters the univitnement & unacclaimed connege, the rank and pla is also y a high ader - the army is defraked life it ener fills into lattle. and unbers there is belaners and daring hit were into lattle. and unbers there is belaners and daring the histories would, the army the course, the fighting men will by they be inadequate.

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We must make plans for parttime release from industry so that our young people may have the chance to carry on their general education and also to obtain specialized education which will fit them better for their work.

"Forward, in a Great Family"

Under our ancient monarchy. that bulwark of British liberties, that barrier against dictatorships of all kinds, we intend to move forward in a great family, preserving the comradeships of the war, free forever from the class prejudice and other forms of snobbery from which in modern times we have suffered less than most other nations, and from which we are now shaking ourselves entirely free. Britain is a fertile mother and natural genius springs from the whole people.

We have made great progress but we must make far greater progress. We must make sure that the path to higher functions throughout our society and empire is really open to children of every family. Whether they can tread that path will depend upon their qualities, tested by fair competition.

All cannot reach the same level, but all must have their chance.

I look forward to a Britain sobig that she will need to draw her leaders from every type of school and wearing every kind of tie. Tradition may play its part but broader systems must now rule.

We have one large immediate task in the replanning and rebuilding of our cities and towns. to the utmost.

Field for Enterprise

A number of measures are being and will be prepared which will enable the government to exercise a balancing influence upon development which can be turned on or off as circumstances may require. There is a broading field for State ownership d enterprise, especially in relation to monopolies of all kind. The modern State will increasingly concern itself with the economic well being of the nation, but it is all the more vital to revive at the earliest moment a widespread healthy and vigorous private enterprise without which we shall never be able to provide in the years when it will be needed the employment for our soldiers, sailors and airmen to which they are entitled after their duty has been done.

In this brief survey I have tried to set before you both hopes and fears: I have given both caution and encouragement. But if I have to strike a balance, as I must do before the end. let me proclaim myself a faithful follower of a larger hope. I will proceed to back this hope with some solid facts. Any one can see the difficulties of placing our exports profitably in a world so filled with ruined countries. Foreign trade to be of value must be fertile. There is no use in doing business at a loss.

Nevertheless, I am advised that in view of the general state of the world after the defeat of Hitler there will be considerable opporboth serve manument

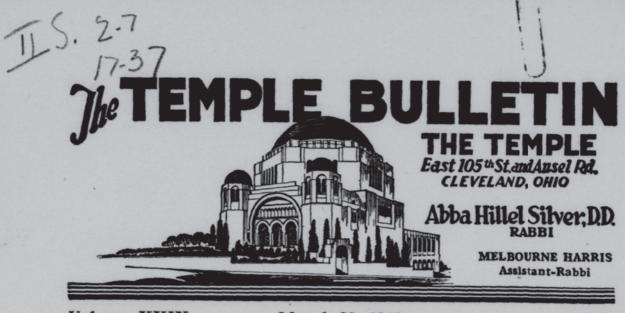
pull the national wagon side by side, then there is no need for us to run into that horrible devastating slump or into that squalid epoch of bickering and confusion which mocked and squandered the hard-won victory we gained a quarter of a century ago.

I end where I began. Let us get back to our job. I must warn every one who hears me of a certain, shall I say unseemliness, and also of a danger of it appearing to the world that we here in Britain are diverting our attention to a peace which is still remote and to the fruits of a victory which have yet to be won while all the time our Russian allies are fighting for dear life and dearer honor in a dire, deadly, daily struggle against all the might of the German military machine, and while our thoughts should be with our armies and with our American and French comrades now engaged in decisive battle in Tunisia.

I have just received a message from General Montgomery that the Eighth Army is on the move and that he is satisfied with their progress.

Let us wish them godspeed in their struggle and let us bend all our efforts to the war and to the ever more vigorous prosecution of our supreme task.





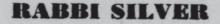
Volume XXIX

March 28, 1943

No. 25

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

10:30 O'clock



Will Speak On

"WE LIVE IN FAME OR GO DOWN IN FLAME"

The Spirit of Adventure in War and Peace

Friday Evening Service 5:30 to 6:00 Saturday Morning Service 11:15 to 12:00 THE TEMPLE BULLETIN, published weekly, except during the summer vacation, by Tifereth Israel Congregation, East 105th Street and Ansel Road, Cleveland, O. Rabbi Melbourne Harris Editor; Harry A. Levy, Sec'y. Subscription price, 50 cents per annum.

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A Thousand Trees Planted In Honor of Rabbi Silver

At its Purim celebration last Sunday evening, the Cleveland Zionist Society announced that through the Jewish National Fund it had planted a grove of a thousand trees in honor of Rabbi Silver.

Temple Women to Hear W. R. U. Round Table

The Western Reserve University Round Table will feature the April meeting of the Temple Women's Association on Wednesday, April 14th. The Round Table is conducted by Miss Eleanor F. Dolan, Dean of Mather College, Russell C. Weisman and other members of the faculty of W. R. U. The subject of the Round Table will be announced in a forthcoming issue of The Bulletin.

A social hour and tea will follow.

Eight-Volume Book Presented to Braille Institute

An eight-volume hand-transcribed book on, "Quest; The Evolution of a Scientist," by Leopold Infeld, has just been completed by Mrs. Samuel S. Berger, chairman of the Committee on Braille. The volumes will be presented to the Jewish Braille Institute of America, as the gift of the Temple Women's Association.

Our Committee on Braille has made several outstanding contributions this year, and their work has been praised highly by both the American Red Cross and the Jewish Braille Institute of America.

Gay Purim Parties Enjoyed By Children

Purim has come and gone, but its gay spirit will linger long in the minds of our Religious School children. Happy festive parties were enjoyed by all last Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Unusually attractive was the Costume Parade, as the hundreds of children marched across the stage arrayed their multi-colored costumesin Esthers and Mordecais. Abrahams and Davids, soldiers, sailors, WAVES, and WAACs-all paraded before the eyes of interested children and parents. The three outstanding costumes were: "The Burning of the Mortgage," by Marc Meshorer; "Point Rationing," by Robert Sugarman; and "Home Defense," by Alan Bialosky. Each class selected its own winners and attractive war stamp corsages and boutonnieres were awarded as prizes.

Equally enjoyable was the "Take It Or Leave It" contest on Saturday, when five bright contestants matched wits for war stamps.

Outstanding indeed were the Megillah readings by Harry Goodman, Earl Greenspun, and Daniel J. Silver.

A program of movies, which included the interesting picture, "Army Chaplains," plus several cartoon comics, delighted the audience.

THE TEMPLE

will hold its

ANNUAL TEMPLE SEDER

Monday Evening, April 19th

in Mahler Hall

Catered by Kornman

Reservations should be made now at the Temple Office.

Adults-\$2.50 per plate

Children under 12-\$1.75 per plate