



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series VI: Speaking Engagements, 1917-1964.

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Fort Dix, New Jersey, 1954-1955.

Headquarters 69th Infantry Division

Office of the Jewish Chaplain

Fort Dix, New Jersey

14 October 1954

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
Cleveland, Ohio

My Dear Rabbi:

I was delighted to talk to you and to learn that you are considering giving us the pleasure of your presence. The Commanding General of this post, General Cornelius E. Ryan, will extend the formal invitation. He is a devout Roman Catholic who has given maximum support to the work of all the Chaplains here.

He has extended an invitation to Cardinal Spellman and to Bishop Kennedy to represent their respective faiths.

As you probably know, Fort Dix is the training center for the metropolitan areas of the east which explains the very large percentage of Jewish Personnel. In addition, McGuire Air Force Base, a large installation, is adjacent to the post.

Knowing how busy you are, I can only justify this invitation by stressing the importance of this "Judaism Day". There are now three (3) Jewish Chaplains here ministering to the needs of the men. In their name, I want to urge you to accept the invitation of the Commanding General.

In setting the date, may I invite your attention to the only military holiday that occurs during the recommended period. Washington's Birthday falls on Tuesday, 22 February 1955, and would be the only weekday night unsuitable for this celebration.

With best personal wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Herman Dicker

HERMAN DICKER
Chaplain (Major)
U. S. Army



HEADQUARTERS 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY

October 15, 1954

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland, Ohio

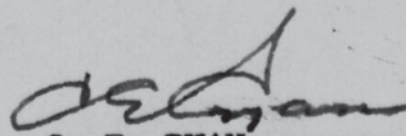
Dear Rabbi Silver:

In the months ahead, I am planning a series of special days dedicated to the major religious faiths. Fort Dix is the home of the 69th Infantry Division, with approximately forty thousand (40,000) troops, of which over ten per cent (10%) are members of the Jewish Faith. It is my sincere belief that such a Judaism Day would greatly benefit the young men undergoing training here, lead to greater religious understanding, and substantially contribute to the spiritual strength of this command.

As the outstanding representative of the American Jewish Community, I would like to extend this invitation to you to address the personnel here on this occasion. At present, plans call for the celebration of Judaism Day some weekday night during the months of February or March 1955, suitable to your calendar of engagements.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I am

Sincerely yours,


C. E. RYAN
Major General, USA
Commanding

October 26, 1954

Major General C. E. Ryan
Headquarters 69th Infantry Division
Office of Commanding General
Fort Dix, New Jersey

My dear General Ryan:

I wish to thank you for your gracious invitation to participate in the series of special days dedicated to the major religious faiths which you have planned for Fort Dix.

I shall be delighted to come. Would the date of Tuesday evening, March 1st, or Wednesday evening, March 2nd, be convenient?

With all good wishes, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms



HEADQUARTERS 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY

October 30, 1954

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

My dear Rabbi Silver:

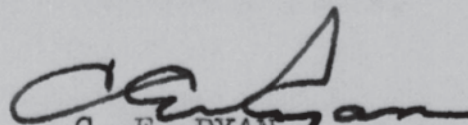
I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for your letter of October 26, 1954. We were pleased to hear that you find it possible to speak at our Judaism Day celebration. Of your two suggested dates, Tuesday evening, March 1st, would be the most convenient for us.

Your early reply confirming this date will enable us to make the most careful plans to assure the success of this celebration. In due time, you will be informed of all these plans.

I would appreciate your forwarding a biographical sketch and picture to assist us in the preparation of the publicity, and I am directing the Jewish Chaplain to maintain close liaison with you. He will inform me of your plans so that I may personally meet you and welcome you to Fort Dix. ✓

Looking forward to this meeting and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,


C. E. RYAN
Major General, USA
Commanding

*sent photo &
bio sketch
11/4/54*

Headquarters 69th Infantry Division
Office of the Jewish Chaplain
Fort Dix, New Jersey

2 November 1954

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

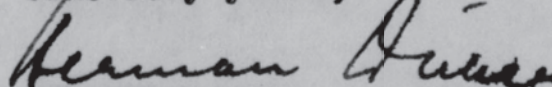
General Ryan has notified me that you were gracious enough to accept his invitation to speak at Fort Dix on March 1st. Permit me to add my gratitude as well as that of my fellow chaplains and those of the entire military congregation here. It is indeed electrifying news and will afford us a goal in our winter program.

At this point it is too early to inform you of the program, but rest assured that we will make every effort to make this day of Judaism a momentous occasion.

In closing, may I just add that your travel expenses will be covered by the Jewish Chaplains' Fund.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



HERMAN DICKER
Chaplain (Major)
U. S. Army

Headquarters 69th Infantry Division

Office of the Jewish Chaplain

Fort Dix, New Jersey

Raymond
42000

25215

25 January 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am writing to inform you of the plans being made for the "Judaism Day" celebration on the evening of Tuesday, 1 March 1955 at which you have consented to be the principal speaker. A fine musical and dramatic program has been especially prepared for this occasion. The Sports Arena is being decorated so as to give a dignified and proper background.

Invitations have been sent to all the community organizations of New Jersey and Philadelphia. A sizable representation of civilians from these areas is expected.

The program itself will be preceded by an official dinner at the Officer's Club at 6 P. M. after which we will proceed to the Sports Arena. May I at this time extend to you Mrs. Dicker's and my own personal invitation to stay with us at our house on the post.

Please let me know at your early convenience about your travel plans so that we may make the necessary arrangements.

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon, I remain with every good wish

Sincerely yours,

Herman Dicker

HERMAN DICKER
Chaplain (Major)
U. S. Army

Headquarters 69th Infantry Division

Office of the Jewish Chaplain

Fort Dix, New Jersey

4 February 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

My Dear Rabbi Silver:

The Public Information Officer has requested me to secure from you the text of your address on Judaism Day, March 1. This is desired for press-release and also for radio coverage which he is now trying to arrange.

Would it be possible to get the text and title at a very early date? It would greatly assist the PIO in his work.

I am enclosing a rough map indicating the location of this post. The nearest cities are:

Philadelphia	28 miles Southeast
New York City	72 miles North
Trenton	18 miles North

As soon as we will know your own travel schedule we will make the necessary arrangements to meet you.

With best personal wishes

Sincerely yours,

Herman Dicker

HERMAN DICKER
Chaplain(Major)
U. S. Army

HD/sc

February 4, 1955

Chaplain Herman Dicker
Headquarters 69th Infantry Division
Fort Dix, New Jersey

My dear Chaplain Dicker:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of January twenty-fifth. I am looking forward with pleasure to my visit to Fort Dix on March first. I am appreciative of your and Mrs. Dicker's invitation to be your house guest on the post. I am, of course, delighted to accept your gracious invitation.

I plan to arrive by plane in Philadelphia on the morning of March first at 9:45 a.m. via United Air Lines Flight 214 from Cleveland. From there on I do not know how best to proceed to Fort Dix. I would appreciate if you would let me know. Major General Ryan wrote me on October thirtieth that you would inform him of the plans of my arrival so that he may personally meet me.

With all good wishes, I remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

P.S. You may wish to indicate to me some special subject or subjects that you would like me to discuss of special interest to the men at the post.

AHS:rms

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS and YM-YWHAs
MEMBER, UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)



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145 EAST 32nd STREET

NEW YORK 16, N. Y.

LExington 2-4949

Cable Address:
JEWELBO New York

February 4, 1955

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Dr. Silver:

I have just learned, with great delight, that you will be the speaker at the Fort Dix convocation on March 1st.

In cooperation with the Public Information Office at Fort Dix, we are working hard on newspaper, radio and television coverage.

Since you are an old hand at this kind of thing, I hope you will find it possible to send as far in advance of March 1st as possible the text of your address to Captain Tom Hamerick at the Public Information Office, Hq. 69th Infantry Division, Fort Dix, N.J. I too would appreciate getting a copy.

We would of course appreciate it if somewhere in your address you might find it possible to make some reference to the role of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy.

I am enclosing a copy of the release we are sending to the daily papers, including those in Cleveland, and to the entire Jewish press.

Sincerely,

BERNARD POSTAL

Director

Bureau of Public Information

BP:JB
Encl.

for
release

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS and YM-YWHAs
MEMBER, UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC. (U. S. O.)

145 EAST 32nd ST., NEW YORK 16, N. Y. LExington 2-4949



Bureau of Public Information

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1955

3,000 JEWISH GIs TO ATTEND TORAH CONVOCATION AT FORT DIX;
DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER TO ADDRESS "JUDAISM DAY" FETE

FORT DIX, N.J. ---The largest Torah Convocation ever to be conducted for Jewish military personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces will be held at Fort Dix on March 1 when Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, world-renowned Jewish leader and rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, addresses a "Judaism Day" assemblage of some 3,000 Jewish servicemen in Fort Dix sports arena. The program will begin at 8 P.M.

Chaplains Herman Dicker and Max Daina, Jewish chaplains at Fort Dix, have arranged the Convocation in cooperation with the National Jewish Welfare Board's (JWB) Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. Col. Harry D. Henshel, New York, chairman of JWB's national Armed Services Committees, will bring greetings to the assemblage. Dr. Silver is a former member of the Commission through which JWB recruits, ecclesiastically endorses and serves all Jewish military chaplains. Dr. Silver's son, Rabbi Daniel Silver, recently completed a tour of duty as a Navy chaplain.

The Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy encourages the Jewish chaplains to organize Torah Convocations as occasions for providing instruction in Judaism. Materials and guides for use in setting up Torah Convocations are provided by the Commission, which is composed of representatives of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Rabbinical Assembly of America and Rabbinical Council of America. JWB is the government-authorized agency for meeting the religious and welfare needs of Jewish military personnel and of Jewish veterans in Veterans Administration hospitals, and the national association of Jewish Community Centers and YM-YWHAs.

The keynote of the Fort Dix Convocation will be the "history, traditions and meaning of Judaism and how they apply during these troubled times." The American Jewish Tercentenary will be emphasized in the program. A giant 30 ft. by 80 ft. backdrop is being built by Jewish servicemen stationed at Fort Dix to dramatize the theme of the Convocation.

Similar cultural rallies, though on a smaller scale, are regularly sponsored by Jewish chaplains at military installations throughout the world, with the complete support of the military authorities. "Judaism Day" at Fort Dix is one of three days honoring the major faiths on the post. A Catholic celebration was held last December and the Protestants will hold one next fall. The observances are planned under a program of religious emphasis instituted by Maj. Gen. C.E. Ryan, commanding Fort Dix.

#####

BP-,EJL, GP, CL
2/18,2/19

#14 - 2/3/55

Suggested subject (by Chaplain Dieter):

"Building America & Religious Values."

5 nsp. mats for local newspaper.

Sent 2/24

air mail.
special



HEADQUARTERS 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY

March 9, 1955

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio.

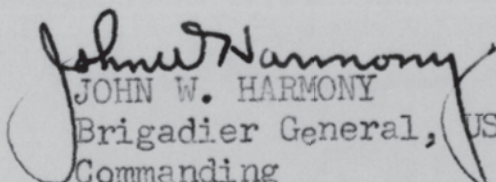
My dear Rabbi Silver:

Upon the conclusion of the "Judaism Day" celebration, I wish to express my personal appreciation for your visit of March 1st and 2nd. From all the reports that have reached me since, I know that your presence and your address have left a tremendous impact and will serve as an inspiration to all who were privileged to meet and hear you.

I hope that you too may have derived a measure of satisfaction from the activities carried out at this post. It is visits like yours that make the task of training our youth much easier.

Looking forward to meeting you again soon, and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,


JOHN W. HARMONY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

March 13, 1955

General John W. Harmony
Headquarters 69th Infantry Division
Fort Dix, New Jersey

My dear General Harmony:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of March 9th. I am happy to learn from your letter that my visit to Fort Dix and my address were in some way helpful. I need not tell you that I enjoyed my day at Fort Dix tremendously, particularly the pleasure which it afforded me of meeting you and Mrs. Harmony. I learned much from visiting the many installations on the post which were devoted to the care, health, and spiritual needs of our men in the service. I thought that the evening program with its rich musical program was very impressive.

Looking forward with pleasure to the opportunity of meeting you again, and with all good wishes for success in your new command, permit me to remain

Very cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms

March 24, 1955

Chaplain Herman Dicker
Headquarters 69th Infantry Division
Office of the Jewish Chaplain
Fort Dix, New Jersey

Dear Chaplain Dicker:

I believe you will want to know that
Rabbi Silver's expenses involved in the trip
to Fort Dix on March 1st amounted to \$60.00.

I needn't tell you of the glowing remarks
that he made about his visit to the post. I
hope the men enjoyed him as much as he enjoyed
being at Fort Dix.

Very truly yours,

(Mrs.) Ruth M. Sparrow
Secretary to Rabbi Silver

Headquarters 69th Infantry Division
Office of the Jewish Chaplain
Fort Dix, New Jersey

30 March 1955

Mrs. Ruth M. Sparrow
The Temple
East 105th Street at Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

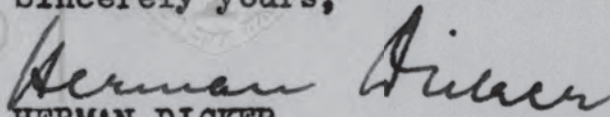
Dear Mrs. Sparrow:

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 1955. I was happy to hear that Rabbi Silver was so pleased with his visit here. You may be assured that we too enjoyed his stay immensely.

Enclosed you will find a check for \$ 60.00. Please return the signed receipt in the envelope provided. Enclosed also are two copies of the pictorial coverage of Judaism Day for your files.

With every good wish

Sincerely yours,


HERMAN DICKER
Chaplain (Major)
U. S. Army

3 Incl: Receipt
Envelope
Newspapers

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11 May 1955

Dear Rabbi Silver:

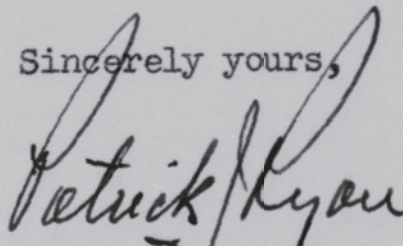
I am writing to you concerning your fine work on the occasion of Judaism Day which was held recently at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

The purpose of this Judaism Day was to assist the Chaplains in their work and also to clarify and strengthen the religious faith of the military personnel of our country.

I feel confident that all who heard you at Fort Dix will long remember your talk on "Building America With Religious Values", and that they will be inspired to live richer and more fruitful spiritual lives.

Thank you again for your gracious contribution. May our Father God make the 1955 Judaism Day a reciprocal blessing to you.

Sincerely yours,



PATRICK J. RYAN
Chaplain (Major General), USA
Chief of Chaplains

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
East 105th Street and Ansel Road
Cleveland 6, Ohio

May 18, 1955

Major General Patrick J. Ryan
Department of the Army
Office of the Chief of Chaplains
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear General Ryan:

Permit me to thank you for your kind letter of May 11th. I enjoyed my visit to Fort Dix tremendously, and I was happy that I had the opportunity to share in the program, "Building America with Religious Values." I think the idea of holding such meetings dedicated to the re-affirmation of the great spiritual values of religion is an inspired one.

With warmest regards, I remain

Most cordially yours,

ABBA HILLEL SILVER

AHS:rms