

HANUKAH FEATURE

IN HONOR OF HANUKAH, JEWISH 8-DAY TRADITION OF SACRED CANDLE LIGHTING, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF STORIES TO COMMEMORATE THE HOLIDAY WHICH COMMENCES AT SUNDOWNSUN., DEC. 12 AND LASTS UNTIL THE EVENING OF DEC. 20, 1971.

(NO MATTER HOW YOU SPELL IT - CHANUKAH, HANUKKAH, HANUKA, HANUKAH - IT ALL ADDS UP TO HAPPY HOLY DAYS WITH SUCCESSIVE CANDLES ON THE MENORAH.)

The General's Yarmulka

By Chaplain (CPT) Harold Axelrod

When Maj. Gen. James F. Hollingsworth, Deputy Commanding General, Headquarters, XXIV Corps in Vietnam, was introduced and rose to speak, the Jewish GIs of Military Region 1 at the Break-the-Fast Dinner at Da Nang gasped with pleasure.

The general, representing the Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Welborn G. Dolvin, was breaking in a new article of clothing -- a yarmulka with two stars on it, denoting his rank.

The audience broke out in applause, even before he spoke.

They were very much indebted to Lt. Gen. Dolvin and to his Deputy, Maj. Gen. Hollingsworth, for they had been extremely helpful in releasing all Jewish personnel throughout their entire command for the High Holy Days, so that they might fulfill their religious obligations.

They came from the front lines, from supply units, from behind desks, from flight fields -- they came.

They enjoyed the comradeship of each other and the religious services conducted by the writer, the Jewish chaplain of the area. His mission of providing Jewish coverage of Military Region 1 in Vietnam is completely supported by Chaplain (COL) Robert J. Plocki, Staff Chaplain XXIV Corps. Chaplain Plocki helped plan, implement and assist Chaplain Axelrod to fulfill his High Holy Day Services.

Now, after the Day of Atonement, they were together for their last evening of fellowship, partaking in the delightful Break-the-Fast Dinner. The kosher food and other supplies were provided by the National Jewish Welfare Board. Special holiday items were provided

by various committees of the Women's Organizations' Services of JWB.

The military provided the dining hall, the help, the fresh vegetables, the coffee, the soft drinks and the security to make it a gala evening. Sitting by General Hollingsworth and nodding with glee was Maj. Gen. Njuyen Van Heiu, a Vietnamese commander, also sporting a two-star yarmulka and learning, for the first time, the beautiful meaning of the High Holy Days and, especially, the Break-the-Fast ceremony. The affair was organized by the writer as the Jewish area chaplain, his assistant, SP5 Fred Davis, and several Jewish lay leaders.

From the time I was a youngster, I wanted to be a rabbi, and studied for seventeen years in day schools, private schools and seminary in order to receive my ordination. My first pulpit was in Greenwood, Mississippi, and then for two years, I served in New Orleans, where I also taught on the Loyola faculty. I had the distinction of serving as the New Orleans area Chairman for the United Fund.

On July 26, 1970, I entered the Army -- at a time when the military was downgraded and everyone spoke harshly of Vietnam. Yet, I came because I had the strong feeling that, no matter what the attitude of individuals may be towards the war, Jewish men were serving there, and I felt that I had a "call" to serve their needs.

The work of a chaplain in Vietnam is very arduous. A chaplain is on the road three or four days a week, travelling from unit to unit, from "pit to pit," looking for Jewish personnel, dealing with their problems and bringing as much solace and comfort as possible to his people.

The chaplain is the link, the father image between the Jewish GI and his parents at home. When the chaplain comes, he never comes empty-handed. It is not only a prayer book

NEW YORK (WNS)--The Zionist Organization of America denied reports that it had refused to accept the decision of the Zionist Congress Tribunal in Jerusalem that upheld mail balloting to select 55 percent of the delegates to be chosen for the World Zionist Congress to be held in Jerusalem next month. But the ZOA charged the American Zionist Federation was attempting to censor ZOA campaign material.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told the Labor Party leadership that a resumption of hostilities by Egypt was still possible.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--Jordan is urging notables in the West Bank not to participate in the local elections anticipated within three months.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--A year of relative calm on the Lebanese-Israeli border was shattered by the firing of two Katyusha rockets at Nahariya, a seaside town about six miles from the border.

NEW YORK--The New York Board of Rabbis conferred its first annual Maccabean Service Award to Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz at its annual Hanukkah reception to legislators.


and Bible which he carries in his jeep or chopper (helicopter), but also comfort items, gifts from JWB and more important, a smile and a handshake which tells the individual man that someone cares.

The general and the chaplain made it a great evening for their Jewish boys in Vietnam. The men are there for only one year, and this is a single experience. However, it is the hope of the chaplain and the general that the men will recall this event with pleasure, and will institute Break-the-Fast ceremonies in their own homes when they return. After all, this is what it is all about -- the preparation of men to become good citizens of the Jewish community and of the general community, when they return to home and those they love.

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