



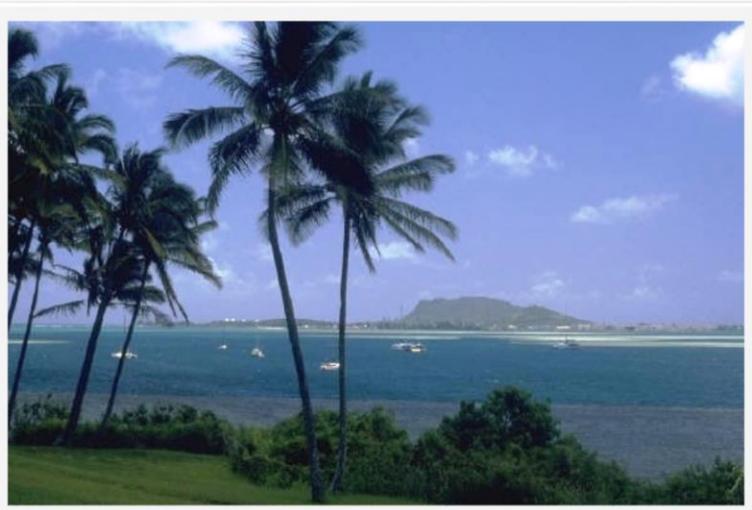
Chartered in 1947 by the United States Congress

History of AMVETS

In 1944, while World War II was still raging in Europe and in the Pacific, thousands of young men were being sent home with battle wounds and medical discharges. These veterans had a desire and felt a need to stick together; therefore, they began forming clubs which they called American Veterans of World War II. Soon, representatives of individual clubs united to help veterans help themselves; thus AMVETS was born.

On July 23, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed the Congressional Charter and since then, AMVETS has amended its charter in 1953, 1966 and 1984 so that today, AMVETS is the only Congressionally Chartered veterans organization open to all Honorably discharged veterans who served honorably after September 15, 1940, plus those personnel presently serving on active duty or in the reserve component.

Through the years, AMVETS has proven to be the most progressive veterans' organization through exhibits of volunteer work, programs and service to veterans, their families and communities throughout America.



AMVETS Hawaii August 2013 Monthly Newsletter

Website: www.amvets-hawaii.org

Email: info@amvets-hawaii.org

808.888.6075



This Newsletter is an official publication of AMVETS Hawaii and is published as a service to members and other interested individuals and organizations.

Views expressed herein are those of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the positions of AMVETS, as a whole.

All AMVETS members are urged to submit materials for publication. The Editor reserves the right to edit any materials for length, clarity, brevity, etc.

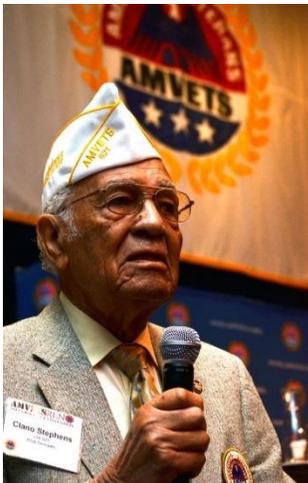
Brooks W. Outland, Editor



Secretary of Veterans addressed AMVETS

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki addressed the AMVETS Family at the AMVETS 69th Annual National Convention during the Joint Opening Ceremony Wednesday, July 31, 2013. He restated his goals on eliminating the backlog and eliminating veteran homelessness by 2015. Shinseki also spoke about other issues facing the veteran community, including the steps VA and DoD have taken to make sure veterans with mental health issues do not feel ostracized when seeking help. Checkout the livestream at:

<http://new.livestream.com/accounts/4799755/events/2271262>.



AMVETS' oldest member

Clano C. Stephens, AMVETS' oldest member was recognized for over 58 years of service at the 69th Annual AMVETS National Convention today. Stephens is over 100 years old and has not dropped his pack when it comes to being an honored and valued member of the AMVETS Family. It is the dedication and love of service that members like Clano bring to this organization that allows AMVETS to truly impact the veteran community and help those in need.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE:

This is the inaugural edition of the AMVETS-Hawaii Monthly Newsletter. Our Newsletter is intended to supplement the AMVETS Magazine. Among other items of interest to members will be SITREPs of current legislative initiatives affecting Veterans.

Hello fellow AMVETS, Friends and Family,

I hope everyone who was able to attend the AMVETS 69th Annual National Convention had a great time. Our "Aloha" were well received for those of us that were unable to attend. The Convention was not just about the election of our National officers for 20132014. There were a great number of Veterans issues and concerns addressed by our National Commander Cleve Geer and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, followed up with lots of informational meetings. Recordings of the convention are posted online on "livestream" at: <http://new.livestream.com/accounts/4799755/events/2271262>.

WELCOME...

I am pleased to announce AMVETS-Hawaii's Legislative Director, Brooks W. Outland, US Navy (RET). Brooks is a Veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars and is a Life Member of AMVETS. He previously held the position of Legislative Officer for other Veterans Services Organizations. He was a Flag Officer (Admiral) Writer from 1967 until his retirement in 1973. During his last four years of service, he was the first Enlisted Flag Officer Personal Aide in the Navy. He was Aide and Writer for Rear Admiral Dean L. Axene, U.S. Navy.

I am also pleased to announce AMVETS-Hawaii's Program and Benefits Director James Kawai Kau'pe, Jr., USMC (RET). James is a Veteran of Vietnam and is a Life Member of AMVETS. He retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 and as a Staff Member of G-6, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay Hawaii after serving over 21 years. James has over 19 years as an accredited Representative by the VA General Counsel to represent veterans.

AMVETS Hawaii, family and friends will benefit greatly from both Brooks and James numerous years of experience, knowledge, and skills. They both have a passion for helping people.



I am pleased to announce AMVETS Hawaii partnership with Oahu Workforce Investment Board, City and County of Honolulu. Our partnership will benefit us greatly, especially having the use of their classrooms for workshops such as: Resume Writing, Interview skills, Computers and Finance.

Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), University of Hawaii at Manoa, Shidler College of Business student chapter will be helping our wounded warriors & veterans in mock interviews/elevator speeches.

Tutor.com offers free resume building, cover letter writing, and a few other tools that might come in handy, but only for military personnel that are currently enlisted or just transitioning out of the service and the reserve. They also offer free tutoring for military children in various subjects.

Link: <http://www.tutor.com/military/eligibility>

Make an appointment with a Career Specialist at: Career@amvets-hawaii.org.

Stay up to date with our TEAM Hawaii at: <http://www.amvets-hawaii.org>.

God Bless all of our veterans, troops and their families.

Donovan A. Lazarus, AMVETS Hawaii Commander. You may contact me at: Donovan@amvets-hawaii.org.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS:

Prior to accepting the position as your Legislative Director, I was working on several legislative issues affecting Veterans. The following is a SITREP of those initiatives:

First - Mishandling of a VA Program

Upon arrival on Oahu, I learned that several benefits awarded to veterans in other States were not awarded in Hawaii. Among those benefits; the payment of travel reimbursement to eligible VA patients at the Clinic; disabled veterans license plates; and an exemption of Hawaii's annual vehicle registration fees.

The Beneficiary Travel Section Supervisor at the Clinic stated that "no one on the island was eligible for travel reimbursement." Several days later, I discussed the benefits not available to veterans residing in Hawaii with Senator Maile Shimabukuro (then a Representative). In response to a letter Senator Shimabukuro wrote to the Office of Veterans Services (OVS), she was told that "the VA will pay travel allowance to veterans who live 75 miles or more from the VA Clinic."

Obviously, neither the Clinic nor OVS understood the rules governing the VA Travel Reimbursement Program. Further investigation uncovered the possibility that VA patients residing on Oahu were not paid travel reimbursement from 1978 until January 2009 (perhaps never). In response to my letter, the VA confirmed that there has never been a minimum mileage restriction

I reported this obvious mishandling of a VA Program, to the VAOIG Hotline, then the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and as a last resort I wrote a personal letter to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki reporting the incident and requesting that restitution of denied travel claims be made to affected veterans. After nine months without a response from Secretary Shinseki, I asked Hawaii Senator Maize Hirono to make an official inquiry to the VA on my behalf. As of this writing, we are still awaiting a response to Senator Hirono's inquiry. I will keep the membership advised of any progress.

Second - Possible Exemption of Hawaii Annual Vehicle Registration Fees

When Senator Shimabukuro learned that many other States had already granted an exemption of the annual vehicle registration fees and Hawaii had not, she quickly submitted a bill (2008) which would provide such an exemption. Long story shortened, the exemption bill has not yet passed the Hawaii Congress. Senator Will Espero intends to re-submit SB539 to the next session of Congress (2014). I attended the committee hearings in 2008 and will provide supportive testimony during any congressional hearings held on this issue next year. I will keep the membership advised of any progress.

Third - The VA Travel Reimbursement Program

38 U.S. Code re: Payment of Allowances for Beneficiary Travel needs to be amended to reflect equitable treatment of VA patients. The infamous "deductible" needs to be eliminated ASAP; The VA budget needs to include supplemental federal funding in order to permit the VA Secretary to use his discretionary authority to increase the VA travel reimbursement rate to coincide with periodic increases as and when posted by the General Services Administration (GSA); VA patients eligible for travel reimbursement should be exempted from the federal mandate requiring payment of reimbursements by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and the VA should be authorized to pay travel reimbursements to its patients, in cash, on the same day as the patient's appointment.

It should be noted that the VA Secretary was unable to increase its travel reimbursement rate from 1978 until 2009 because to do so would have decreased funds earmarked for direct medical care. Secretary Shinseki orchestrated and received approval of an enormous increase in VA's budget which occasioned the increase in the VA reimbursement rate to .41 ½ cents per mile on 1 January 2009. The GSA travel reimbursement rate as of 1 January 2013 is .56 ½ cents.

Comment.

The above recommended changes to 38 U.S. Code have been passed on to Hawaii Representative Tulsi Gabbard with the request that a bill be submitted which would amend 38 U.S. Code accordingly. I have been continually following-up on this initiative and will keep the membership advised of any progress.

In December 2012, I wrote a personal letter to each of the Senators and Representative in the Congress highlighting the three problems which exist in the current VA Travel Reimbursement Program. Since this issue affects veterans in every State, the Senators and Representatives were requested to support any bill addressing this issue that might surface in the future (hopefully, Rep. Gabbard will submit such a bill in the near future).

As for the issuance of special “disabled veteran” license plates, that will not be possible! There are so many specialty license plates bearing the same numbers, that nine different plates have to be checked when officers run a check on plates. We can forget that one!

Brooks W. Outland, AMVETS-Hawaii Legislative Director. You may contact me at: Brooks@amvets-hawaii.org.



Alert SB539: Contact Senator Will Espero and voice your support for quick passage of SB539.

Mailing Address:
The Honorable Will Espero
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-6360
Senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Alert VA Travel Reimbursement Program: Contact Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and express to her the need to submit a bill which would correct the inequities of the VA Travel Reimbursement Program!

Mailing Address:
Representative Tulsi Gabbard
502 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Honolulu Office: 808-538-0233
D.C. Office: 202-225-4906

Please address questions regarding legislative issues to Director Brooks W. Outland at: Brooks@amvets-hawaii.org.

National Legislative Alert #13-8: HR 2654 / S 1281

Veterans & Servicemembers Employment Rights & Housing Act of 2013

The Issue: Co-Sponsors Needed for HR 2654/S 1281, Veterans & Servicemembers Employment Rights & Housing Act of 2013

Immediate Action Required: AMVETS is asking you to contact your Senators and Representative to ask them to become co-sponsors of one of these bills.

Background: AMVETS is seeking protected status for all American veterans to give them every advantage in finding gainful employment. This nearly cost-neutral initiative would enhance veteran access and equity in employment opportunities by making employers more aware of the value of actively hiring veterans and providing legal recourse to veterans experiencing employment discrimination. Employment discrimination is the most important area in which veterans are at a disadvantage when compared to non-veterans.

Fewer than 7 percent of Americans have ever served in the Armed Forces and less than one percent wears the uniform today. These figures suggest that veterans, taken as a group, are in the minority. While other minority groups enjoy certain protections and advantages under the law, those who have served and fought for their country currently enjoy no such comprehensive legal consideration. In fact, just the

opposite is often true; frequently those who have served and sacrificed are at a disadvantage in comparison to their peers. Employment is often the first obstacle that veterans must overcome during their transition from the military to the civilian lifestyle.

The value and importance of appropriate, living wage employment cannot be underestimated in the overall transition from the military to the civilian workforce. Since the best approach for dealing with transition issues is a holistic approach, it must be understood that employment is an integral facet of a veteran's overall continuum of well-being. The negative effects of long-term unemployment are especially devastating to service members who may also be suffering from additional stressors such as: repeated deployments; marital discord; domestic violence; multiple moves; substance abuse; depression/PTSD; homelessness and suicidal thoughts. Employment is often the lynchpin that holds families and lives together.

Additionally, it's not unusual for American Veterans transitioning from military to civilian employment to enter the workforce years behind their high school or college classmates. While their contemporaries have: gone to or completed college, held internships and/or entered the workforce, established expertise in their fields, and built a professional network of contacts, those who have served, regardless of experience or rank, are often forced to begin their civilian careers at or near the bottom of the employment ladder. Even though veterans bring a wealth of valuable experiences to the workforce, their time in the military is often not clearly understood or appreciated by civilian employers. Misperceptions about veterans greatly contribute to high levels of veteran un- or under-employment.

The second obstacle that veterans must overcome is the negative press about the effects and repercussions of prolonged wars, such as Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and other mental health issues affecting increasing numbers of returning veterans. There is a common perception of veterans as 'ticking Time bombs', 'unstable and dangerous' or 'damaged goods'.

Additionally, the ending of the draft, the lingering ill-will toward Vietnam-era veterans and the

infrequent, but no less reprehensible, reports of mayhem performed by a small number of American soldiers may unconsciously leave negative feelings in the hearts and minds of employers. Whether conscious or not, the sensational headlines and negative media coverage over the last decade of war cannot help but contribute to growing concerns and misinformed prejudices among prospective employers.

AMVETS believes that status as a protected category under the existing non-discrimination law would go a long way to ensure veteran success in an unfavorable civilian job market and it would also provide legal recourse for discrimination based on military or veteran status. While AMVETS heartily recommends the hiring of qualified veterans, it does not support any concept that seeks to endorse a "less qualified" applicant over a "better qualified" one simply because one is a veteran. AMVETS simply wants to ensure that no one who is or has defended this nation should have their military or veteran status used against them.

Finally, AMVETS is committed to eradicating all forms of invidious discrimination experienced by American veterans and is therefore dedicated to the promotion of protected status for our nation's heroes as acknowledgement of their many sacrifices on behalf of all Americans.

TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

By using the "Write to Congress" feature on the AMVETS Web site at www.amvets.org, you can IMMEDIATELY e-mail your elected representatives. A sample letter is included in our "Write to Congress" feature. You can e-mail the pre-written message or edit the sample letter as you desire. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. Also, contact your friends and family and urge them to use Write to Congress as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to Diane Zumatto, AMVETS National Legislative Director via email at dzumatto@amvets.org.

Diane M. Zumatto
National Legislative Director
Phone: 301-683-4016
Email: dzumatto@amvets.org

HISTORIAN

Prof. Michael A. Lazarus:

The American Struggle for Peace and Tranquility for All mankind

“German Propaganda and the Start of World War II”

This is the first of a series of articles being prepared to honor America's veterans, who fought for the freedoms of so many around the world. Most of these warriors willingly gave their lives for our benefit. Their surviving comrades deserve to be recognized, honored, and remembered. Let us never forget their sacrifices. Let us learn from the past and never repeat it. It will be in the honor of all veterans in which these articles are written. The articles published here will only be in part, as the total article will be published later in book form in 2015. To my fellow veterans, may these articles remind us of the weight you carried as the world struggled to carry on.

We will begin our series with the German Propaganda Machine. It is only fitting to start our story with this concept, because Nazi Germany corrupted the world with this type of information and its stain is still visible in many parts of the world. It is in these locations where we will create our next generation of veterans. Let us tell our story of why we fought, how we fought to prevent others from fighting.

Propaganda ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further one's cause or to damage an opposing cause. Prior to the Nazi party's control of Germany and throughout its reign, Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels were masters at using propaganda to further their own cause as well as damage all other opposing causes that were relevant in Germany prior to Nazi control. In addition to being masters at using propaganda, Hitler and Goebbels also created a unique form of propaganda that merged the practical and the political with the mythical. Through this unique form of propaganda and playing on the fears of the German people, the Nazis became quite successful in indoctrinating the majority of Germans and purging the country of the people who did not fit the Aryan description or adhere to the Nazi ideals.

Nazi propaganda could be found in every aspect of the lives of those living under Nazi control but at the same time was nothing more than a world of appearances.

Following the devastating loss of World War I, German nationalists were in the midst of a nightmare because of the humiliating terms of the Treaty of Versailles. The treaty took land from Germany that she had conquered, forced her to take responsibility for the war, forced her to pay all reparations for the war, and only allowed her to keep a small army. Because of these terms and the war itself, Germany's economy went into a great depression and many of her people could not find work. The terms of this treaty and the humiliation that the German people suffered because of this treaty laid the groundwork for propaganda to play a crucial part in their lives. By this time the Weimer Republic was said to have been saturated with traitors that had put millions of people out of work. This allowed for the opening of a scapegoat, or multiple scapegoats, and left the people looking for a leader that could promise them prosperity, pride, greatness, and hope in their futures.

Prior to the start of World War II, there were a number of films that were used as propaganda to encourage the idea of the pure-Aryan race. One such example is what can be referred to as the Nibelungen films. *Nibelungenliedis* a mythological epic poem that was written in Middle High German during the 5th and 6th centuries that follows the tale of Siegfried and the Burgundians. In the films that were created in the mid-1920s, everything is beautiful and staged, depicting the Huns as sub-humans that destroy everything that is beautiful and the Burgundians as the heroes. According to these films, death and horror come to those who follow the ways of the Huns, who are attempting to destroy the Burgundians. Similarly, Arnold Fanck, director of what is referred to as mountain films, also depicted the idea of the pure-Aryan race. Specifically in *The Holy Mountain*, there is a call for the renewal of the human race through physical exercise as well as an emphasis on a strong, blonde man that gives his life as a hero, which is exactly what the Nazi regime wants to promote throughout their reign.

Goebbels was also successful in creating the cult of the *Führer* in the 1920's and early 1930's. This was created through election campaign materials that

many times were depicted with strong images and simple messages. Through the use of these materials, speeches at mass rallies, parades, and radio addresses, Hitler was casted as a soldier at the ready, as a father figure, and ultimately as a messianic leader brought to redeem Germany (Nazi Propaganda). Along with this ideology, Heil Hitler became the legal and obligatory greeting as did the Hitler salute (Führer). Hitler's picture was everywhere as was his autobiography, *Mein Kampf*. Hitler was certainly making his presence known in every aspect of the citizen's lives.

Once the war began, the propaganda that was used continued to intensify and find a way into the homes and lives of everyone who lived in Germany and the lands that the Nazis controlled. One particular way that this was done was through the use of films. While Hitler and Goebbels considered feature films to be meaningless because they did not contribute to the building of the Third Reich, they used films that they created to indoctrinate those under control of the Nazi regime. The melodrama was used often with a prominent actress name Kristina Soderbaum. She was the epitome of the Aryan woman: blonde, curly hair, slender, and pronounced features. In many of her films, she usually died by the end, to promote the idea of dying for one's country. To the Nazi regime, dying for one's country was the ultimate sacrifice and one was not considered a hero unless that was one's fate. In *Jud Suss*, Kristina Soderbaum is defiled by the Jewish menace, drowns by the end, and the state is left bankrupt because of the Jewish menace. This is a prime example of Nazi propaganda identifying the perfect Aryan race as well as depicting the Jews as subhuman.

Party conventions were the most important staged events and were almost always filmed. Hitler hired film director, Leni Riefenstahl, to film the Nazi party rallies because she was capable of making these look like feature films that the majority of the population enjoyed watching. Among her most popular films were *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympia*, which both depicted the Nazi ideals. *Triumph of the Will* documented the 1934 Nuremberg rally, featuring the Hitler Youth, SS soldiers, and Hitler giving a triumphant speech. Essentially, it was a memorial to the unity of the German people. Similarly, *Olympia* documented the ideal Aryan by emphasizing strength and health through the 1936 Olympics. Leni

Riefenstahl used effects such as slow motion to show that the Aryan had complete control, the camera looking up to the Aryan to indicate his superiority, and the sky in the background to depict his connection to a higher power. In addition, when showing the marathon runners, she showed the runners in order of those who were the most exhausted rather than the place in which they ended the race. The last runner that is shown is carried away like a martyr because he sacrificed all of his strength for his country (which is what the Nazis wanted to emphasize). While Leni Riefenstahl did have a hand in playing into Hitler's propaganda schemes, she was also world renowned for the new and innovative uses in film technology and one of the world's first successful female film directors.

Another aspect of the use of propaganda can be found amongst the art and architecture created during the Nazi era. Both art and architecture were considered a part of the overall vision that Hitler had for the Third Reich, however, Hitler considered architecture and sculpture as the real forms of art because they were able to give form to the Third Reich. An example of this initiative can be found in Hitler's Words in Stone program where architects like Albert Speer would sculpt or build Hitler's words into their works. At the Paris Exhibition in 1937, Albert Speer said, "We are realizing the ideas of the *Führer*." Much of this initiative seemed to be based off the idea that if Hitler could not have his new world right away, at least he could have it in an artistic form. Many of Hitler's plans and ideas were praised and even some of his earliest sketches were reproduced and admired. Essentially, Hitler was seen as a great architect and statesman and through writings heralded as a great builder of the state, of the party, and of German cities. In contrast, Hitler viewed paintings (just as he viewed feature films) as meaningless to the state because they could not contribute to the physical building of the Third Reich.

Not only was the general population subjected to Nazi propaganda, but intentionally and almost more stringently were the youth of the German Empire. The Hitler Youth was a paramilitary group that was part of the SS branch that trained boys ages ten to eighteen for the military. There was also the League of German Girls that taught the young German girls that the ultimate job that they had was to bear children for the Reich. As for the Hitler Youth, which was created in

1922, membership eventually became mandatory by 1939. However, prior to 1939, membership had grown from 50,000 in 1933 to 5.4 million in 1936. The purpose of the Hitler Youth was to integrate them into the national community and prepare them for service as soldiers. At the age of eighteen, all males had to enlist in the armed forces or the Reich Labor Service; this was mandatory. The Hitler Youth were taught to believe that Hitler was the savior of Germany, that sacrificing one's life was the ultimate sacrifice, and that Germany deserved much more than what it had received at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The Hitler Youth were also made to feel special by Hitler himself by being present at every Nazi rally, by being spoken to directly by Hitler, and receiving their own uniforms. In the book, *A Child of Hitler*, by Alfons Heck, he states, Hitler knew we were essential for the future of his movement, and he instilled in us the immensely flattering conviction that we were his most trusted vassals. There was never any Nazi spectacle, particularly after 1933, in which the formations of the Hitler Youth were not prominently featured. Essentially, the Hitler Youth allowed Hitler to ensure that the future generations would be indoctrinated with his exact ideals and goals. Jews and other undesirables were not permitted to be members of the Hitler Youth, teaching adolescents in the Hitler Youth that they were superior to those who could not join. Alfons Heck discusses this topic on page 8: Severely handicapped children could not belong, even if their parents happened to be fanatic Nazis. Here is where the cult of the *Führer* is used to Hitler's advantage: despite people being his most loyal followers, they were accepting of the fact of their handicapped child not being permitted into the Hitler Youth.

As for the undesirables, they were classified by the Nazi regime to be excluded from the national community and consisted of Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, political dissidents, mentally disabled, epileptics, deaf, blind, chronic alcoholics, drug users, Jehovah Witnesses, etc. While many of these groups of people received negative propaganda throughout the duration of the Nazi's reign, the Jews were the recipients of the most negative propaganda. The Nazis used posters, books, films, newspapers, church sermons, and the education system to ensure that the German people were indoctrinated with the idea that the Jews were the worst of all the undesirables. The

Jews were depicted as sub humans that were dirty, evil, and disease ridden. The Nazis used the Jews as a scapegoat for the loss of World War I by claiming that the Jews had poisoned the pure Aryan bloodline, making the Germans weaker and therefore unable to win the war.

There were many films that were used to indoctrinate the Germans about the Jewish sub humans. The most well-known film was *The Eternal Jew* that was created in 1940. *The Eternal Jew* was presented to the German people as a documentary and largely focused on the Polish Jews that were living in the ghettos. The camera angles and effects that were used for this film certainly depicts the Jews as a sub-human race. For example, the camera is always looking down on them and there is no sky in the filming, only dark allies behind the people. These effects were used to add to the idea that the Jews are to be looked down upon and that they were not connected to a higher being but with darkness and danger. Essentially, the purpose of this film was to depict the Jews living in filth, disease, and darkness. The Nazis ended up creating the sub human that they wanted to eliminate by subjecting them to hunger and persecution, giving them the sad and distrustful looks in their eyes. The film also shows some of the Jews picking their noses while holding a loaf of bread to give the idea that they are parasites that carry disease. *The Eternal Jew* also describes the Jews as rats because just as a rat does, they are behind every disease that is spread which means that the Jews are entirely responsible for the world's unhappiness. The unhappiness that they have brought upon the world, according to the Nazis, consisted of communism, social democracy, and capitalism. Overall, the message of *The Eternal Jew* was to epitomize the Jews as a parasitical race dedicated to gold and stealth, and devoid of soul, that was fit for liquidation.

Perhaps the largest deception that the Nazis used was Theresienstadt, which is located in present-day Czech Republic. This camp was said to be a residential community where the elderly Jews could retire in peace and safety. The reality was that it was a concentration camp for deportations to ghettos and death camps. At one point over 50,000 Jews lived in an area that had once housed only 7,000 Czechs. In 1942 alone, over 15,000 people died in Theresienstadt, which was over half of the population at the time. While Theresienstadt was created in

November of 1941, no one from the international community went to see it until June 1944. In 1943 the Nazis sent to Theresienstadt some 500 Danish Jews who had not escaped to Sweden. While Europeans elsewhere often quickly lost interest in their deported Jewish fellow citizens, the Danes persisted in demanding that the Germans account for these Danish citizens and allow the Red Cross to visit the ghetto. During that month the Red Cross came to inspect the camp and what they saw were gardens, newly painted houses, renovated barracks, and social and cultural events. The prisoners had been forced to sow these gardens, paint these houses and barracks, and pretend as though it was a wonderful community in which they lived. Half of the population had been deported to make it seem as though living space was comfortable and not cramped. During this time a children's opera, *Brundibar*, was performed for the guests. Once the Red Cross left, the deportations continued immediately which included almost the entirety of the cast, including most of the children, to Auschwitz. Of the approximately 144,000 Jews sent to Theresienstadt, some 33,000—almost 1 in 4—died there, and about 88,000 were deported to Auschwitz and other death camps. By the war's end, only 19,000 were alive. There was also a propaganda film created to continue the myth of Theresienstadt, called *Lens on Theresienstadt*. This film showed the community members attending concerts, playing soccer, working in family gardens, and relaxing. While this film was never shown to the public because of the start of the Reich's downfall, its intention was to continue the illusion that it was a safe and peaceful retirement community and not a transit camp.

Propaganda tries to force a doctrine on the whole people. Propaganda works from the general standpoint of an idea and makes them ripe for the victory of this idea. Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels were masters at using propaganda to their advantage and making sure that every part of the citizen's lives was controlled. These men were successful at forcing their doctrine on the majority of the German people and their ideas were used as the general standpoint throughout the Third Reich. Not only were they successful at controlling the everyday lives of the German people but they were also successful at damaging all other opposing views that had been relevant prior to Nazi control. Nazi

propaganda played on the fears of its people and was a mixture of myth and socialism. This can be seen in the concentration camp, Theresienstadt, the films that were made, the rallies that were meticulously choreographed and staged, and through the control of how the news was presented to the public. In addition, the world of appearances was evident in ridding the schools of Jews and political dissidents, not permitting undesirables to be members in the Hitler Youth, the fabrication of a sense of community, and in the perception of what concentration camps were like for the Jews. In 1942, Hermann Goring, a leading member of the Nazi party said: This is not the Second World War; this is the Great Racial War. The meaning of this war, and the reason we are fighting out there, is to decide whether the German and Aryan will prevail or if the Jew will rule the world. While the Nazis were successful in making their own people believe in their world of appearances, it was not as successful in making the rest of the world believe in it. The Nazi propaganda machine was vital in the power that the Nazis gained throughout its reign and yet was not able to hold the power for them once the Allies began to win the war.

Please send your comments to: Mike@amvets-hawaii.org.

Written by Jami Lyons

Edited by Michael Lazarus



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES:

Please join TEAM Hawaii in welcoming our newest volunteers: Leilani Venzon, Danielle Scarpelli, Drew Cook, Shane Donahue, Ellen Macaraeg, Christine

Little, Julianne Irace, Wendy Stemac, Anna Hermann, Michele Hirata, Chantele Villalobos, and Chuck Baker.

- Special Olympics
- Tutor
- Teach or Classroom instruction

Volunteer for:

- USS Arizona Memorial
- Career Center
- Membership Drives
- Fundraisers
- Special Events Staff

Annie Tran
Human Resources Director
Email: Annie@amvets-hawaii.org

You can sign up for our monthly newsletter at Admin@amvets-hawaii.org and it will be sent to your email address or, call 808.888.6075.

A Soldier Died Today

By A. Lawrence Vaincourt, courtesy of PDC Al Willis

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast;
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done;
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke;
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away;
And the world's a little poorer...

For a Soldier died today.
He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife;
For he lived an ordinary
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."**

Land of the Free, Home of the Brave

*And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free.
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.*

~ Lee Greenwood

God Bless Our Troops