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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:

Ariella Noveck & Bethany Mandel

Co-Founders, [Shield Communications PR](#)

+1 (732) 742-9042

Inquiries regarding Operation Benjamin:

Shalom Lamm, Chief Historian

slamm@operationbenjamin.org

+1 (917) 282-7375

www.operationbenjamin.org

[Operation Benjamin](#) Unveiling 2 Corrected Star-of-David Headstones for American-Jewish WWI Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery

Washington, D.C. – March 07, 2025 – *Operation Benjamin*, the leading organization dedicated to identifying and correcting burial errors for American-Jewish soldiers mistakenly buried under Latin Crosses, announces a significant milestone.

Operation Benjamin (OB), the non-profit organization dedicated to memorializing Jewish American soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the American armed forces, will conduct its first Mission to Arlington National Cemetery. This ceremony is set to honor two American soldiers whose headstones will be replaced from Latin Crosses to Stars of David, properly recognizing their Jewish identities over a century after they died in the U.S. armed forces in France.

After several months of fighting in France, U.S. Army Pvt. David Moser died during the Spanish Flu epidemic while stationed in Germany at the end of the war. He was initially buried in the American section of the civilian cemetery in Mayen.

On September 25, 1920, Pvt. Moser's remains were repatriated and buried at Arlington National Cemetery with a headstone engraved with a Latin Cross, even though his burial card included a stamp from the Jewish Welfare Board, indicating that he was Jewish. None of his family attended the reburial.

In December 2024, Pvt. Moser's sole-surviving 102-year-old niece, Dr. Deborah Eiferman, with the assistance of Operation Benjamin, wrote to the U.S. Army's Office of Army Cemeteries, which administers Arlington National Cemetery, requesting that her uncle's headstone be corrected to reflect his Jewish faith. The leadership of Arlington National Cemetery, agreeing with the correctness of the appeal, granted the request for the replacement. The ceremony will occur at 3:00 PM on April 7th, with Dr. Eiferman and other family members in attendance.

Dr. Deborah Eiferman's unique story includes the loss of her uncle in WWI and her fiancé, Pvt. Jerome Robbins, who was killed in WWII.

PFC Adolph Hanf was killed in action on August 4, 1918; the second day of the Battle of Fismes. Hanf's brother, Bernard, requested his brother not be buried under a cross, and be laid to rest in Arlington. On July 1, 1920, Bernard Hanf wrote from his home in Detroit to the Chief of the Graves Registration Service (OQMG Cemeterial Division), Maj. Charles C. Pierce, in Washington, DC. In his letter, Bernard explained that he had received photos of PFC Hanf's temporary grave at Fismes and was writing to "object" that there was a cross over his grave. Bernard said very plainly, "[Adolph Hanf] is of the Jewish faith, and, of course, it is against our religion to have a cross on the grave of such a person."

Over one hundred years later, Operation Benjamin will ensure these requests are honored.

Operation Benjamin is honored to hold this ceremony at *Arlington National Cemetery*. The Army's leadership in maintaining military cemeteries and accurately honoring American soldiers worldwide has been invaluable in ensuring these soldiers receive the recognition they deserve.

"We are honored to work with the families of the fallen and alongside the leadership of Arlington National Cemetery to honor these soldiers," said Shalom Lamm, Chief Historian of Operation Benjamin. "Their leadership has been crucial in ensuring the legacies of these young American heroes are accurately remembered."

Shalom Lamm, Chief Historian and Co-Founder of Operation Benjamin, expressed profound gratitude at the resolution brought to the family of Pvt. David Moser, after more than a century under a wrongly marked headstone.

Pvt. David Moser and PFC Adolph Hanf embody countless Jewish soldiers' courage, dedication, and ultimate sacrifice. A brief overview of Pvt. David Moser's life and service can be found in the white paper provided on our website at <https://www.operationbenjamin.org/arlington-mission-2025> .

Operation Benjamin, founded in 2020 by Rabbi JJ Schacter, Shalom Lamm, and Steve Lamar, is devoted to preserving the memories of soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice by ensuring the graves of U.S. Jewish soldiers buried abroad are properly marked with the Star of David. Through collaborative efforts, most importantly with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), Operation Benjamin has corrected the headstones of more than 30 U.S. Jewish soldiers, including Pvt. Benjamin Garadetsky, after whom the project is named. Three additional soldiers from the Italy campaign have already been approved for headstone replacements, and many more are being investigated for soldiers of both WWI and WWII.

SHIELD Communications PR manages media & communication efforts on behalf of Operation Benjamin.

