

THE JEWISH SOLDIER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649618316

The Jewish Soldier by Henry Goldschmidt

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HENRY GOLDSCHMIDT

**THE
JEWISH SOLDIER**

THE JEWISH SOLDIER,

OR THE

Providence of God Exemplified

IN THE LIFE AND CONVERSION OF

HENRY GOLDSCHMIDT.

"Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God
led thee."—*Deut.* viii. 2.

LONDON:

HOULSTON & STONEMAN, & WERTHEIM & MACINTOSH
J. WRIGHT, STEAM PRESS, BRISTOL.

1852.

210. v. 182

NARRATIVE.

No consideration would have influenced me to write an account of my life, but the hope that it might afford one testimony more, to the unwearied faithfulness with which Jesus, the Good Shepherd, regards poor sinful mortals, from the cradle to the grave; convincing us of our deep depravity by nature, and of the need we have of an Almighty Redeemer.

That I may show how He is able to support us amidst all trials, I will simply relate the most remarkable instances of my life; when it will be seen that I, an humble individual, have had great reason to thank Him for the experience of his mercy and faithfulness.

I was born at Frankenthal, a small town on the borders of Germany. My father being the only son of Rabbi Eleazar, the priest of the Jewish congregation in that place, was educated not only in rabbinical learning, but he obtained also some eminence in other sciences. He married early in life, in order to avoid the conscription, and in consequence of his thorough knowledge of the French language, (which was then no common attainment in Germany,) he obtained an important situation under the French Government.

I was the eldest son of fifteen children. My parents, to the utmost extent of their ability, endeavoured to qualify me for becoming a useful member of society. In my early youth I was much troubled with scruples concerning the great truths which are narrated in the Bible. I have since read several of the writings of certain

persons, who pass for great philosophers and wise and learned men, against the scheme of man's salvation, and the truths contained in the Bible, but have seldom found anything new in such books, or what had not been suggested at that time to my own heart by a spirit of unbelief. Finding no rest and peace of mind, nor deliverance from sin by this human reasoning, I proposed to leave my friends and seek my own fortune in the world. My wish was obtained sooner than I expected. War broke out between France and Spain in the year 1808; my country, being united to the French dominions, received orders to furnish a certain number of recruits for the army.

I was then in my 18th year, being registered for the ensuing conscription. On the 20th July, 1808, I received orders to appear before the sub-prefect. Here I met many more similarly circumstanced

with myself, all hoping to draw a lucky number. The sub-prefect and magistrates having prepared the tickets, we were ordered one after the other to draw a ticket, and whatever number we drew above 120, would exempt us from service until the next conscription. Some of our parents having accompanied us to the place of rendezvous, were now anxiously looking for a successful issue. As for myself, my doom was fixed; I drew the fatal No. 8, which settled my destiny. My father returned with me in distracted sorrow, lamenting over my misfortune. As for myself, I was at that time too well satisfied with my state; but I must confess, the idea of being drawn into inevitable danger without the least hope of being released, very much alarmed me. However, the days of my calamity were at hand.

On the 30th July, we received orders to

join the Depôt of the 122nd Regiment, which was then at Nimeguen in Holland. On taking leave of my friends, my grandfather, a man of a venerable age, with a white beard, placing his hands upon my head, in a very solemn manner commended me to the grace of Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; praying him to preserve and guide me through my whole life, by that angel which redeemed them from all evil. This circumstance made an indelible impression on my mind.

The anguish of our bereaved parents under these circumstances, might be more easily conceived than expressed; tracing the footsteps of their children, bewailing their misfortunes, and the toil and labour of the many years which had thus disappeared in one day. Thus we set off for Mayence, where we joined another party, with whom we proceeded to Nimeguen,

which we reached in six days' march.

Having received uniform and arms, we were drilled twice a day, and went regularly through all the military manœuvres. At this time the most of my comrades were taken ill of the ague, and in October, when the air grew cold and damp, I was likewise attacked with it. I had two fits of it daily, from ten in the morning, till six in the evening, and a slighter one from six in the evening, till ten in the morning; this continued for three months, which so reduced my strength, that I began seriously to despair of recovery. At length the illness took a turn, and on the 2nd January I had the last attack, which however left me very weak.

Soon afterwards, we got orders to join the regiment in Spain, which was in daily combat with the Guerillas, in the province of La Mancha. Three hundred men were now