

War Era Story Project 2012

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Age:91

Passover in New York

Toward the end of my basic training on Hoffman Island, I was feeling kinda depressed. Passover was approaching and it would be the first time that I would not be with my family for the first Seder. I always looked forward to the holiday when our family joined Uncle Morris and Aunt Becky and their family for the first Seder.

Being the only Jew in our training group, I was surprised to see a memo on the bulletin board. "Seder Services for the Armed Forces of the United States, by the New York Jewish Welfare Board, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Max Maneschewitz, at the U.S.O. Club 1, East 65 St. New York." I just had to be there.

It required a motor boat ride from Hoffman Island to Staten Island, a four block walk to the bus stop, the bus ride across Staten Island to the Staten Island Ferry, the boat ride to the Battery in lower Manhattan, and then the subway ride to upper Manhattan to the U.S.O. I made it and it was a wonderful evening; not like being with family, but it served the purpose of dissipating my depression. Of course I had to retrace the trip from the U.S.O. back to Hoffman Island, but it was well worth it.

Now, whenever I see the Maneschewitz products displayed at Passover time, I'm reminded of that great Seder at the U.S.O. in New York.





Seder Services

tendered to the
Armed Forces of the United States
by the
Greater New York
Army and Navy Committee
of the
Jewish Welfare Board

Wednesday, the First of April
Nineteen Hundred and Forty-two

U.S.O. Club

1 EAST 65TH STREET, NEW YORK