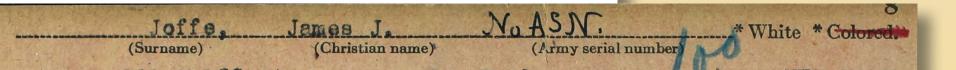
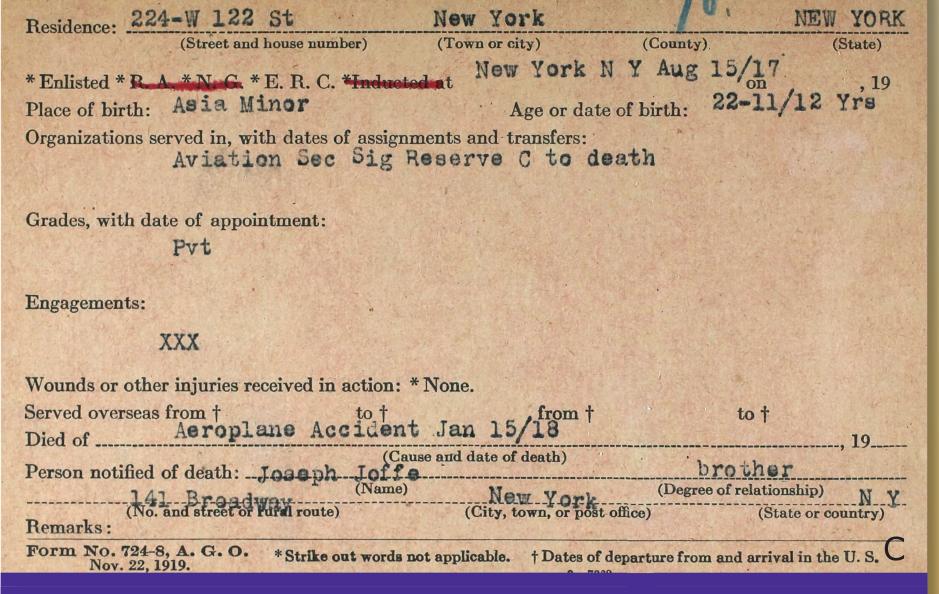
PILOT BURIED AT HEBREW CEMETERY

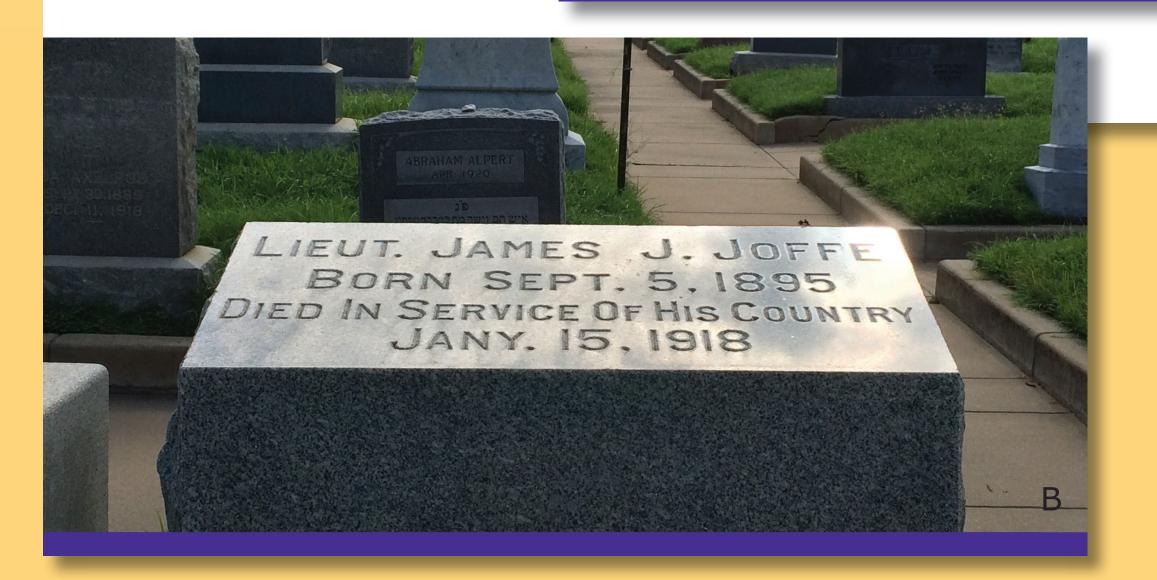
The Airco deHavilland bomber that plummeted to earth January 15, 1918, near Hicks Field north of Fort Worth was piloted by Lieutenant James J. Joffe, 23, a Russian-Jewish immigrant from New York. Newspapers reported that this was the thirtieth crash of a local training flight and that the "machine fell" from the sky. In accordance with Jewish tradition, Rabbi Charles Blumenthal officiated at the funeral after the Hebrew burial society – called a *Chevrah Kadisha* – had ritually washed the aviator's body and dressed it in a hand-stitched linen shroud. The flyer was laid to rest at Congregation Ahavath Sholom's Hebrew Cemetery in a grave never visited by his next of kin. The granite monument marking his grave is inscribed with Hebrew words and an English inscription that reads: DIED IN SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY.

Rabbi Blumenthal, although not a military chaplain, acted in that



capacity. He visited Camp Bowie daily, counseling patients in hospital wards and convalescent tents. He was a regular at the "hut" operated by the Jewish Welfare Board, a new national organization on a par with the YMCA, which assisted soldiers of his faith. Jewish doughboys served alongside men of many ethnicities. They confronted prejudice faceto-face as it arose and gradually became comrades in arms. By necessity, Jews in the armed forces relaxed their dietary restrictions. Contrary to ethnic stereotypes, 51.7% of Jewish soldiers fought in the infantry.





A) DH-4. Air Force Museum

B) Ahavath Sholom Hebrew Cemetery

C) James Joffe Service Card. Texas Military Forces

