

AMERICAN VETERANS OF ISRAEL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2000

50+2 Reunion of American/Canadian Volunteers in Israel' s War of Independence

Over 100 Machal and Aliya Bet volunteers and members of their families heard Lenny Ben David, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Israel Embassy in Washington, DC said, "I salute You!" Ben David, the featured speaker at the banquet held on Saturday evening May 20 in Las Vegas, reviewed the Many contributions of veterans to the establishment of the State of Israel and to the rescue of Holocaust survivors. The session was chaired by Esther Shawmut-Friedman, President of Machal West. (Text of Ben David address will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter)

Prior to the presentation, Ben David distributed Certificates of Appreciation from the Israel Government, to non-Jewish comrades who served on the ships, land and in the air. These were signed by Israeli Ambassador to the United States David Ivry. Accepting certificates were Bill and Terry Patzert for Rudy Patzert Captain of

the SS aducah/Haganah Ship Geula; Evie Dahms for the late Fred Dahms of the Air Force and Jerry McDonald for Hugh McDonald, veteran of Aliya Bet. Accepting for themselves were Walter Germack, Air Force; August (Duke) Labaczewski, Aliyah Bet; Michael and Winona Ondra, Air force and Robert and Peggy Leeds, Air Force. (See acceptance speeches by

Evie Dahms on p.) 3-5.

Acceptance of Mr. Robert X. Leeds

Mr. Ben David, Honored Guests, Chavarim & Chavorot. It is an imposing challenge to be as asked to speak on behalf of the gentile veterans of the middle east conflict. Most of us feel that all we did was make a statement. I submit, any kind of recognition kindles within me some sense of shame. Because, after so many years of religious oppression. After learning of the Holocaust. How could so few of us rise up and say enough is enough!

When first asked to speak, I did so only on condition that I be allowed to explain why I volunteered, but why did they and how did they feel now, about their service.

Well, it appears that there were a number of reasons for having fought for Israel, but only one universal response after they returned, and this was the

reason they had stayed to the end.

1. They found the cause was just
2. They learned the risk was warranted.
3. But the personal reward – the reward of a final victory in a conflict against seemingly impossible odds, was a gift unmatched and unavailable in the course of most men' s lives.

You see, nothing anyone can say to us or about us or record for posterity. No platitude, no scripted praise, no medals can ever measure the dimension of the pride we carry within us.

This was not a fight for conquest, retribution, or with racial implication. It was a fight about justice and we only stood up, while others – stood aside.

Despite my gray hair, I am not so old that I heard Thomas Jefferson ask the question, but he once asked: "Is life so dear or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains or slavery?"

Jerry McDonald receives certificate for Hugh McDonald. Lenny Ben David (right), Esther Friedman (left)

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Canadians honoured for fighting in Israel

OTTAWA-The Israeli Embassy began the Yom Ha' atzmaut week with a ceremony to commemorate and honor the 250 Canadians who fought in Israel' s War of Independence and the 11 volunteers who gave their lives.

Israel Ambassador David Sultan unveiled a plaque with the names of the volunteers who died. He then thanked all the volunteers for their contribution.

"It was long overdue," he said, "I decided that we had to do this before I leave Canada and as it is close to Yom Ha' atzmaut, the time was opportune."

Many of the 250 Canadian volunteers were present on May 5, coming from as far away as Edmonton to receive the recognition for their contribution to the establishment of the State of Israel. Throughout the room, stories abounded. Many of the 250 Canadian volunteers were present on May 5, coming from as far away as Edmonton to receive the recognition for their contribution to the establishment of the State of Israel. Throughout the room, stories abounded. Many of the volunteers had not seen each other in many years.

Amir Maimon, a counselor at the Israeli Embassy, recognized their presence and introduced his assistant, Anna-Lee Chiprout, who described the volunteer efforts during the War of Independence," she said, "some 3,500 volunteers from 37 different countries rallied to Israel' s defense. These young men and women, Jews as well as non-Jews, were known as Machal (Mitnadvei chutz la' aretz) the Hebrew acronym for overseas volunteers.

"Many of the volunteers had been members of Jewish underground movements in Palestine and abroad before the state was proclaimed, or had served as crew members on Aliyah Bet ships running the British naval blockade to bring holocaust survivors to the shores of the land of Israel."

Henri Cynamon, attended the ceremony from his home in Edmonton. He was born in Poland but spent World War II in Belgium. From there, he volunteered to go to Israel.

Left to right, front row: Jerry Rosenberg, Jack Goldstein, Syd Cadaloff, middle row: Ambassador,

Sidney Beabe; back row: Jerry Gross, Mickey Dofman, Melman

Friedman Letter

To: Sam Klausner, President AVI

From: Esther Shawmut Friedman, President Machal West

June 13, 2000 9:30 PM PDT

Dear Sam,

Please extend to the entire AVI Board of Directors at the meeting to be held tomorrow my sincere thanks and appreciation of the wonderful fifty plus 2 Reunion held last month in Las Vegas. I am well aware that the idea was the brain child of AVI and that it was carried to its conclusion by your efforts together with Ralph Lowenstein and David Gerard.

I know only too well how much effort and planning and execution it took to pull this occasion off in the style in which it took place.

Except for the opening session in which some lack of harmony appeared and this only because of human error, the reunion was memorable on all accounts. Everything went so smoothly, and I know how hard Ralph worked to keep everything that way and on time. I wish to express my admiration for the colorful presentation of the program To David Gerard, my heartfelt respect for the way he handled all the financial arrangements, the ingathering of participants, their monies and choices of rooms and refreshment.

To Sam, please accept my appreciation of your courtesy and gracious manner to me. You are a fine gentleman AND a Scholar. We found issues to agree upon and disagree, but your manner to me was always respectful, and for this I thank you. I think we both came away with a feeling more of agreement than the opposite. I know that East and West, as I inherited and even in a large way developed and sponsored, are different in make up and attitude. I know too that the one thing we do share in common was the privilege to serve Israel when we were needed, and it is THIS that make us ONE.

I look forward to a continued association between Machal West and AVI. I truly feel we have a bond that unites us. How we will handle the fiscal matters I am sure can be solved. Machal

West will be holding its meeting on June 25th and this will be a priority on the agenda.

I must add that I personally agree that Ralph Lowenstein' s desire to truly define USA and Canadian participation as volunteers, a goal that should not be ignored. I also do feel that a standard for American participation is needed. That Machal West has chosen others paths should not be a deterrent to his fine endeavor.

In closing I get the general feeling that all who attended these days came away enriched for their later years.

Most Sincerely,

Esther Shawmut Friedman

COLONEL DAVID MARCUS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The annual Col. David "Mickey" Marcus memorial honoring Machal war dead was held at the United States Military academy at West Point on May 7, 2000. Nearly 100 veterans and their families from the New York area and members of the Rockland county Chapter of the Jewish War Veterans gathered in the Jewish Chapel at 11:00 A.M. following presentation of the colors by the JWV a memorial candle was lit by Cadet Joshua Knobel followed by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and hatikvah led by the Shapiro Family Choir. The invocation was delivered by Rabbi Victor M. Solomon, Col. USAF (Ret) And greetings offered by Chaplain Richard White, Lt. Col., USMA. The proceeding were chaired by David Gerard, Treasurer of AVI.

Following organization greetings from AVI President, Samuel Klausner he introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Yaron Sideman, consul for Public Affairs of the Consulate General of the State of Israel in New York. He recalled the important contributions of the veterans to the founding of the state and the esteem in which they are held by the entire Jewish people. Following a medley of Hebrew songs by the choir and a benediction by Chaplain White, the group removed to the military cemetery and gathered around the graves of Emma and David Marcus.

Portrait of a Machalnik

Barnet Cohen

1/3/1923 – 9/8/97

"My name is Barnet Cohen" and I come from Brooklyn, and my father is a baker, what's yours?" He reached out his hand to me. The hall was packed with 2000 soldiers, dancing neck to neck. The event was Purim, March 1948, at the Air force Base

In Ekron, Israel. I looked at his head, cocked to one side, his radiant smile, his witty,

jaunty demeanor and I knew I liked this maverick, right from the start. What I didn't know was that my fate would be linked to his for the next forty seven years. We danced the whole night thru and eventually we married and the next forty seven years were the happiest of my life! Throughout the years, my love and respect deepened for he was a man of incomparable beauty, strength and character.

Barnet Cohen was born in Philadelphia, PA on January 3, 1923. When he was two years old, his family moved to Coney Island, where he spent a magical childhood on its beaches.

During the Depression years, as

he grew up, he learned to tough it out with the punks of the Irish and Italian gangs of the neighborhood, who called him "dirty Jew." When Barney was 22 years old, he served in the U.S. air force, in the battles of Normandie. In 1948, he interrupted his schooling at Brooklyn College, to volunteer in Machal. For a while, Barney was stationed at Kibbutz

Maabarot, where with a handful of other Machalniks they were engaged in patching up pieces of aircraft that were sneaked in from Czechoslovakia, miraculously creating small planes for the tiny Israeli Air force, of the time. Later, he was transferred to Ekron Base, near Rehovot.

His responsibilities were to examine, repair, and maintain aeroplanes for the small Israeli Air Force.

While at I.A.I. Barney acquired his Professional Engineering Degree and his FAA Inspector' s license. At I.A.I. he was responsible for training hundred of people, many of whom were new immigrants who arrived in Israel by the thousands, with no skills. Barney had an innate respect and affection for his workers, and he was known for maintaining a thorough professionalism that made him adhere to strict standards of high efficiency. He was loved and respected by both his superiors and his workers.

In 1967, after the six day war, Barney was sent to I.A.I to represent the company in its offset production at McDonnell Douglas corporation in Long Beach, CA.

Barney, my love, passed away on September 1998 after a long illness. He was a good and generous and courageous man! People sensed his goodness and were spontaneously drawn to his sunny disposition and his good cheer. He magnetized people, wherever we went. Bursts of laughter would frequently reverberate around him, in response to his endless stream of amusing anecdotes. But he was much much more than an amusing entertainer. He was protective of his roots and his values and he was always quick to respond against evil, injustice, or bigotry. His innate sense of justice prompted his quick response to Israel' s call for help, in 1948. He loved Israel and adopted the country as his second home. Barney left behind an example that continues to shine in our three children, Shira, an art teacher, Didi, a psychotherapist and Jordan, an emergency room physician. They were lucky to have had his example, the example of a genuine mensch.

Written February 29, 2000 by his loving wife, Naomi Cohen, 3481 Gilbert Dr Huntington Beach, CA 92649 562-592-4712

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

TO THE EDITOR:

As for my personal story, I was an Army Jewish Chaplain (Captain) with the 9th Infantry Division, third Army in Germany. When the war ended in 1945, I took trucks from our motor pool and drove through the dark forests and lakes of Bavaria, picking up Jewish survivors, placing them in small camps, arranging food, clothing and medicine.

Mr. Ben-Gurion' s assistant, Ruth Kluger (later Ruth Aliav – Hebrew shorthand for Aliyah-Bet) telephoned me in Germany to come to Paris. I came to the hotel, where she asked me to join the Haganah. Ben-Gurion was in the room and thanked me. She then laid out the operation.

I was to get myself posted to Berlin; she would send soldiers from the Jewish Brigade, stationed in Belgium; I was to supply trucks, gasoline and cigarettes from bribes; the Brigade group would serve as drivers, gunners, mechanics, etc.; and we were to drive 150 miles from Berlin to Stettin, on the Polish boarder near the Baltic Sea, load the survivors, and drive back to Berlin where there was a large DP camp-Schlachtensee, prepared to received them.

There are numerous fascinating details and stories connected with the whole operation-but the bottom line is that the Aliyah Bet guys from Palestine brought these battered refugees across Europe to the Border of German, and I helped bring them into Berlin. This operation lasted nine months and brought 90,000 Jews to safety. I was transferred to Frankfurt, and Chaplain Mayer Abramowitz took over in Berlin, continuing the operation.

There are other chaplains who were not literally sworn in to the Haganah as I was, but assisted with the work as though they were. I remember some names; all U.S. Army chaplains, all American Jews who qualify for inclusion in Ms. Halamish' s article. There was Max Braude, Abe Klausner, Gene Lipman, Joe Miller and several others.

I hope I didn' t bore you with a long story, but I felt keenly that these men, as a category, should be included in her history.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

RESPONSE BY THE AUTHOR

I would like to thank Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman for his illuminating comments about my article. There is no doubt that American Army Jewish chaplains (and other Jewish Officers and soldiers) played an important role in assisting European Jews after the Holocaust. It is not, as he suspects, that I "did not know much about this", but rather a matter of distinguishing between two separate phases of that glorious operation: the "Bricha" (escape)-in which they were very helpful in various ways (as described by Rabbi Friedman), but that was not the subject of my article; and the "Ha' apalah" (clandestine or illegal immigration).

Of course I could not mention the names of all the people who qualify and deserve to be included in our history. I tried to do my share, and it is the task of the veterans and their friends and family members to add more and more pieces to the magnificent puzzle of remarkable Jewish solidarity.

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*Dr. Halamish is the author of **The Exodus Affair: Holocaust Survivors and the Struggle for Palestine.***

To the Editor:

In the spring, '00 edition of the News Letter, the obituary for Allan Burke was a fitting tribute to a great man and a great seaman. However, as important as Captain Burke was as the C.O. of the first Israeli frigate, he was not the only non-Israeli to command an Israeli naval vessel during the War of Independence, Abraham Pizzaro, originally an officer in the Netherlands Navy, was the C.O. of the Nogah, K-26. Dave DeLange, from Britain, commanded one of the armed motor patrol vessels. The Navy had a large sea-going tug boat that was commanded by Al Fine, who had been a tug-boat master in the US Army Corps of Engineers.

We get little enough recognition in the history of that period; let's not be a party to that type of historical writing.

In the article on non-Jewish volunteers, there was no mention of a former shipmate of mine from the Nogah, Charlie Boorts (I'm not sure of the spelling). Charlie was a seaman on the Yucatan when I joined her in Marseilles. After we arrived in Haifa, he went on to join the paratroops. He was an assistant to Dave Apple. Perhaps we can get more information through either Apple or through the British and European Machal. Charlie deserves recognition for his considerable contribution.

Fraternally,

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To The Editor:

I was pleased to read in your newsletter that the arrangements committee for the conference is considering an exhibit of published books and articles on Machal experiences. Recently I met Craig Weiss, co-author of the 1998 book, *I Am My Brothers Keeper*, at a Temple where his wife, Erica, is the Rabbinic Intern, and my daughter, Susan Scanerman, is the Cantorial Soloist. I encouraged him to enter his work in the exhibit so that participants who don't already have a copy may purchase this excellent book for themselves and perhaps their progeny. I'm not sure if he will do so as he is preparing for his wife's ordination and relocating to Israel. I believe that all writings about our experiences in those days should be passed down to children and grandchildren to keep alive what happened those times.

Shalom,

Irv Fellner

COMMENTS

WHY PEACE PROCESSES FAIL

Max Fishman

A major power may often tend to overlook the existence of a conflict situation unless the conflict obviously threatens its position of dominance. When its position of dominance is clearly endangered, a major power will often employ coercion to force the conflicting parties to accept an imposed peace treaty (or peace accord) may be designed to serve the interests of a dominant power rather than to achieve a good solution for the peacemaking problem. It would appear that the chances of achieving a better solution might exist when the parties to a conflict arrive at a mutually acceptable accord without coercion by an outside power. Although direct negotiations between the parties to a conflict may usually result in a somewhat improved solution, it will be shown that the probability of success of any kind solution contained in a conventionally written peace accord will still remain close to zero.

The peacemaking problem is often poorly defined and oversimplified. A proposed solution contained in many peace treaties may still depend very strongly on the classic concept (called a principle of diplomacy) that the loser of an armed struggle must cede sovereignty and land to the winners as the price for peace. Historically, it appears that there is a weak correlation between a loser's ceding land and sovereignty and actual achievement of "peace". The wishful thinking and the simplifying assumptions employed in the attempt to solve the peacemaking problem is revealed by the inclusion of a host of desired but undefined objectives under the single term, "*peace*". Thus, the definition of the peacemaking problem is often poorly defined. The Oslo Accords and subsequent

agreements between the Israeli government and Palestinians led by Yasser Arafat contain only strong hints of the actual problem issues categorized under the headings water, environment, security considerations, arms control, refugees, and economic development. However, an illusion of a detailed study of the complex peacemaking problem is built by proposing detailed solutions to problems that were never clearly defined in the Oslo and succeeding accords. The Israel leadership over-extended the classic diplomatic principle of peacemaker by interchanging the roles of the victor and the vanquished. The Israeli leadership directed the following message primarily to its own war-weary citizens: "We are bringing you peace". Unfortunately, the achievement of reaching a signed peace accord is not synonymous with the achievement of peace.

It appears clear that delegating major parts of anti-terrorist operations to the Palestine Authority in the Oslo accords neglected to consider the importance of proxy forces such as Hamas, Hizballah and others supported by Syria, Iran and Arafat's PLO itself. It is also clear that the Israeli "strategist" who accepted the reversed diplomatic principle that "*land (and sovereignty) can be traded for peace*" had never learned the lessons provided by the results of the Hitler-Chamberlain pact at Munich and other faulty peace treaties. The order in which peace treaties are reached with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria interact strongly with the laws governing the behavior of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so that the peacemaking problem becomes exceedingly complex. Most conventionally written peace treaties and their peace processes are fatally flawed. For example, the diplomatic "solutions" imposed on Serbia have neither eliminated hatred or political instability. Similarly, the peace processes in Israel, Ireland and several other areas of the world are on the verge of imminent failure. When diplomats and political scientists sometimes admit that implementing a deterministic solution may provide a poor peacemaking solution, they often use the redundant argument that implementing an ineffective solution may be preferable to doing nothing at all to further the "peace process". This sense of a deterministic solution ignores the strong likelihood that implementing a faulty peace process will increase the level of conflict. The previous presentation raises the question whether all peace processes prescribed in mutually acceptable peace treaties are doomed to failure. The constraints only imply that the probability of finding a satisfactory solution approaches zero when diplomacy limits itself to implementing only a proposed deterministic solution as the peace process. However, most diplomats and many political scientists still insist that iterative, heuristic problem solving techniques (discovery by experimentation) cannot and must not be applied during the implementation phase of a peace treaty.

Since the term *peace* usually subsumes a multitude of undefined objectives not specified identified in the text of most peace treaties, an improved peace treaty must include a detailed definition of the desired objectives that must be achieved upon successful solution of the peacemaking problem. The peace treaty itself must include mutually agreed upon measurement methods and specifications for any basic instrumentation required to determine whether the implemented system approaches towards or deviates away from its desired objectives.

For the complete paper or for comments and questions address to mafishm@ibm.net

Max Fishman worked with the Israel Supply Mission in New York 1947 and later served with IRF Squadron 505.

HE TOOK A BULLET FOR THE CAUSE

Abbreviated and reprinted from Journal Inquirer. South Windsor CT of April 28, 1998.

SOUTH WINDSOR – Growing up in Glen Cove on Long Island, Irving Meltzer thought HE WAS BULLETPROFF. He enlisted in the Merchant Marine during World War II, and he didn’ t fear his many transatlantic convoy runs to Murmansk, through waters infested by the German U-boat.

"I really believed that the bomb, the torpedo, the bullet with my name on it hadn’ t been made yet." Recalls the South Windsor man, now 75.

He survived the war without a scratch, "without even getting my feet wet." He says, so it’ s ironic that his first battle wound came at the hands of a British machine-gunner years later.

It was 1947, and the war was over. Meltzer had enlisted in another struggle—settling Holocaust survivors in British-occupied Palestine. The ship he was crewing, the Medinat Ha Ychudim, or Jewish State, was filled with some 2,600 Jews, none of whom legally be allowed entrance to Palestine

The ship was among 65 clandestine immigration vessels that took about 32,000 Jews to Palestine—before creation of the nation of Israel. It was a sometimes bloody struggle.

The bullet with Meltzer’ s name on it grazed the back of his skull, as the British Marines were preparing a gas attack and boarding of the ship in Palestine waters. The shot knocked Meltzer unconscious. Sparks is the nickname for a ship’ s radio operator.

The British would machine-gun the bridge and gas the decks before boarding a ship off Palestine, he said. They tjen would immigration, others call it clandestine immigration

"There are manmade laws, and there are God-made laws," Meltzer says. "Sometimes they are a contradiction, and you have "I don’ t know how much of the Holocaust was true, and how much was propaganda," he says. "Then I meet the survivors, and I see it’ s true. "They say to me, ‘ I’ m alive, are you alive?’ They’ ve been so dehumanized, it was beyond belief".

"I’ m first-generation American-born," he says, "but or the grace of God, I would have been one of them".

He asked where they would go, and they said to Palestine, any way

ISRAEL MACHAL

Last week Machal Olami held its annual Yom Ha Zicharon Service. Over 100 people attended including a large group from France including Maurice Fajerman, the head of Machal in France and a British contingent led by Stanley Medics. The Service was brief,

with a wreath laying, torch lighting and reading names of the fallen, Rabbi David Rosen read several Psalms. Sol Baskin, a combat experienced U.S., Army infantry officer and IDF veteran, conducted the service and made appropriate remarks of remembrance.

The memorial flame was lit by David Baum. This year the KKL (JNF) provided a tent (no sides) so all could sit in shade.

After the service, I drove to AVI memorial at Har El. Unfortunately the area seems neglected. Weeds fill the entrance path and the usual forest debris is much in evidence. I'll contact the KKL next week and ask them to do some upkeep.

L' hitraot Dave Baum

rejected all of them and I was insulted. So I left and came here.

Doctor: Mr. Steiner, I am trying to ask about your problem.

Bill: Problem? I don't have any problems. It's all the doctors around here who have a problem with me.

Doctor: Well, how do you feel when you wake up?

Bill: Well I don't know. The nurses here don't let me go to sleep, so I never have a chance to wake up.

Doctor: Mr. Steiner, you know, we're probably going to have to put a camera up inside you to take some pictures.

Bill: I don't blame you. At this point, I'm probably more photogenic on the inside than I am on outside.

On and on it went. Bill never gave the surgeon a single straight answer. The doctors finally left with big smiles on their faces.

Bill Steiner's two daughters are graduates of the University of Virginia, are fluent in Hebrew and have lived in and maintained a close relationship with Israel. Linda Kotz is a Nursing Supervisor and resides in Burke, VA. Deborah Poliner is a registered architect and resides in Washington DC. In addition to his daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren, he is survived by his brother Julius (Vienna, Austria) and his wife, Susan Steiner, who resides in Annandale, VA.

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE IN NEW YORK

New York AVI Parade

On Yom Atzmaut, Boston area Machal members were invited, as in past years, to the consulate celebration. Attending were Frank Lavine, Arnie Schutzerg, Avram Kalitsky, Jurray Band, Irv Meltzer and Al Glassman along with their wives. Former President of AVI, Lola Sprinzales, who was in Boston also attended.

Most of the Boston group have been close friends for over 45 years and some of us served in the same fighting group in Israel.

DEAR CHAVERIM

In memoriam

Ben Sturrey

My Eulogy

By Baruch ban Avram Hersh V' Chaya Perl

My Dear Friends:

Do not grieve too much for me, because for me this is a joyous day. I now go to meet me Beloved Manya.

And, I cannot wait to tell her how well you all consoled me, at her passing.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to the many member of Mania' s family, as well as to the members of my own family, and friends, here and in Canada, Israel, and Australia for their supportive love...

I also offer thanks to my ancestors, to my Rabbis, and to my teachers, who helped me shape my life.

I have led a most interest, and eventful like and I have worked as a store-clerk, tutor, ranch-hand, sailor, bar-waiter, restaurateur, jeweler and I have worked as a supervisor for Harry Kay.

Also, I was involved in 2 wars, with the royal Canadian Air Force Bomber Command in England, surviving 35 missions over Europe. And, with the Israel Air force during the 1943 War of Independence, during which I was involved in flying Spitfire warplanes from Yugoslavia to Israel.

Later, I helped to bring the Yemenite to Jews from Yemen to Israel by air, in Operation Magic Carpet.

I can now reveal that, perhaps, my one regret in life, may have been, when I declined the opportunity or a Bronfman Scholarship to become a Rabbi.....wouldn' t Manya have made a wonderful Rebbetzin?!

My greatest accomplishment, of course, was to marry Manya Perlman: For this, I have to thank the memory of her Aunt Saralee Perlman, and also her ocusin Lorraine Hertz, who brought me and Manya together. There is not enough gold in all of Fort Knox to repay them for a Precious Jewel that they bequeathed to me.

And thanks, also, to Rabbi Raskas, who tied the Marriage knot so tight, that not even "Death could us part' ...

DEAR CHAVERIM

In memoriam

William Steiner

October 4, 1919 – March 19, 2000

I first met Bill Steiner during the summer of 1948 at Josh' s place in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. both of us had arrived at that location courtesy of Land & Labor and had been chosen to lead and deliver a contingent of 19 volunteers (including ourselves) to the new state of Israel. It would be repetitive of previous accounts in the Bulletin to describe our experiences at Josh' s place and

on the S.S Marine Falcone traveling to LaHavre, or about the trip through Franace to Marseilles.

Serious business began at St. Jerome, the displaced Persons Camp where Bill discovered he would bear much of the responsibility for running the camp and preparing the MISHMAR HAEMAEEK (Guardian of the valley) for its maiden voyage to Israel. This "ship" was in reality a very small wooden grain carrier built in Italy and purchased to help in transporting human "cargo" to Israel. Bill and I divided our responsibilities with him taking on the task of provisioning the

little vessel and modifying its cargo hold with wooden shelves to accommodate 553 "bodies". Those of us not working on the ship took over the task of running the camp until the time of departure. Needless to say, bill' s previous U.S. Army experience and fluency in speaking German became valuable assets in preparing the ships and helping to control the passengers during the 11 day voyage to Haifa.

The MISHMAR HAEMIK was manned by a skeleton Italian crew led by an ancient mariner and included an Israeli engineer to operate its tiny underpowered diesel engine. Those of us with Naval experience steered and took watches at the helm. Half of the American, Canadian and English volunteers had previous Military experience and their chief task was to feed and oversee the North African and European refugees. The discipline of the volunteers combined with their selfless attitude made the stay at St. Jerome and the difficult voyage to Haifa feasible. We later learned the MISHMAR HAEMAEEK was taken out of service after a subsequent difficult voyage experienced problems with the ship and overcrowded passengers.

It would be erroneous to describe Bill Steiner' s life as entirely filled with hardship. Although he was exposed to the Nazi takeover of Austria and terror of Kristallnacht and felt the blows of anti Jewish oppressors after the "Anschluss", his life was fascinating. He determined success in obtaining an American Visa, subsequent escape form Austria and journey to the United States on the "last" ship in August 1939 are worthy of future literary treatment. After coming to the United States and enlisting in the Army at the onset of WWII, he was naturalized as a U.S. Citizen in 1943. following his U.S. Military Service and after obtaining additional education and work experience, he volunteered to serve with the Haganah in Israel. Bill Steiner had been educated as a engineer and had acquired skills as an armorer/gunsmith while with the U.S. Army.

Lee B. Harris Remembered as important early civilian adviser to state of Israel.

Lee B. Harris, died in Tell Aviv. He was 84. He was instrumental in the creation of the state of Israel," said his son, Ron of Chappaqua, NY.

Harris was a civilian adviser to Israel' s first defense ministry, acting as a liaison between the government and Machal, an organization of English speaking volunteers. He lived in Israel from the end of World War II until 1955 and from 1977 until his death.

He lived in New Rochelle from 1955 to 1977, servicing for most of that time as vice president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In one project, Harris worked with Sens. Jacob Javits and Ted Kennedy to help settle refugees in the Middle East after the Six Day War.

He was born Jan. 2, 1915, in Boston. He was educated at Yale University and Harvard Business School. He was a lieutenant commander in the Navy during World War II. He then moved to Palestine, becoming president of bayside Land Co., a subsidiary of Palestine Economic Corp.

In addition to his son Ron, he is survived by his wife, Leah of Tel Aviv' two daughters, Alona Harris of Portland, Maine and Ori Barnes of Belper, England; a sister, Sally Sadmon and a brother Norman Harris, both of Israel; and four granddaughters. The funeral was held in Israel on Dec. 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

I think your readers may want to know that the letter, "Zippy Writes Home" dated November 29, 1948, which appeared in the spring issue of the AVI Newsletter, is an excerpt from my book, "Letters from Jerusalem 1947-1948." To mark Israel' s War of Independence and the establishment of the State, it was included in a best-selling collection of "LETTERS OF THE CENTURY," published by Dial Press. Other letters chosen "to give history a voice" were written by Mark Twain, Teddy Roosevelt, Albert Einstein and JFK – to mention only a few.

Sincerely,

Zipporah Porath

Givat Savyon, Israel

To The Editor:

I am writing in regard to an article in your recent newsletter. This issue, by the way, was beautifully done with its eulogies of the many volunteers who have passed on. I' m sure they brought comfort to the families.

I have reference to a long article which started on page 1 and continued on page 14-17, entitled The Triple role of American Jews In Illegal Immigration Palestine 1945-1948 by Avia Halamish.

The author describes three roles:

- 1. Raising money to purchase ships**
- 2. Supplying funds through the JDC/Joint**

3. **Manpower-about 250 young men who joined the Ha' apalah fleet.**

She left out the role played by American Army Jewish chaplains stationed in Europe during the years in her title. These men played a serious part in Aliyah-Bet, assisting the movement of DP' s from the East into the American zone of Germany, and then assisting in the movements down to the French and Italian coast on the Mediterranean.

(perhaps because she did not know much about this). I would refer her to a book by Alex Grobman entitled "Rekindling the Flame."

His expertise with the repair and modification of machine guns and other weapons made him highly in demand during the War of Independence and he traveled to various military installations while in Israel where he remained until 1950.

It was privilege to have had Bill both as a friend and fellow Machalnik. Although I served with the Israeli Navy while he was in the Israeli Army during the War of Independence. I got to know his father, mother and brother who were living in Haifa when we arrived. Bill' s older brother Julius was an early settler in Palestine, having arrived in 1935. His mother and father were able to escape from Austria during WWII, but his younger sister perished during the Holocaust. Following his return to the United States, Bill helped his mother and father settle here. He subsequently married and came to the Washington, DC area where he worked for various military contractors and sharpened his skills as an engineer at George Washington University. Those of us fortunate enough to have known Bill Steiner remember his friendly and outgoing personality. At his synagogue, the job of greeting visitors and making them welcome fell to him. Bill' s willingness to engage them in animated conversation was well-known.

Even at critical times while bleeding internally at an intensive care unit 5 months before his death, Bill could not get serious and remained the eternal optimist. The following transcription of a conversation took place while Bill was all hooked up to the tubes and various monitors:

Doctor: Mr. Steiner, what brings you to Washington Hospital Center?

Bill: Well, I was at Fairfax Hospital. I offered to donate my organs to Fairfax, but they

DEAR CHAVERIM

In memoriam

In the New York Times Review Book Review of May 7, 2000, Carol Gilligan reviewed a book by Stefanie Guttman. Gilligan described the book as "an impassioned defense of the warrior culture and the vision of masculinity it sustains". In the course of the review, Gilligan reports that Guttman dedicates her book to her father, ' who told her his war stories. But his stories were about helping the Haganah smuggle Jews into Palestine through the British blockade of the 1940' s. There is a slippage between this kind of here and the "professional killer it is her military' s mission to train a slippage that creates the impression that driving her argument." something else is

From New York Times Book Forum, May 24, 2000.

THE WARRIOR CULTURE

To the Editor:

In her book, "The Kinder, Gentler Military." My daughter Stephanie Guttman cited my service as a sailor for the Haganah-the Jewish underground organization that, in defiance of a British blockade, organized the clandestine immigration of Jewish Holocaust survivors to Palestine. But in her critical review (May 7). Carol Gilligan uses the father's story to attack the daughter's celebration of the United States armed forces' "warrior culture." Thus, in Gilligan's view, my history of civil disobedience against the British demonstrates that one can be a fighter without being a murderous warrior. It somehow follows, then, that armies can become kinder and gentler; they can demobilize the masculine warrior culture, presumably without any loss of martial effectiveness.

A DAUGHTER AND HER AVI FATHER

But early on I learned the opposite lessons: my experience with unarmed resistance to the British crown only confirmed for me the need for real warriors. Lacking guns, we Haganah sailors were helpless when Royal navy marines seized our unarmed ships and hauled young Jewish survivors off to yet another stinking prison camp, this time on Cyprus. Love was not enough: it took guns, warriors and killing to complete the rescue mission that our voyages of peaceful resistance could only begin. Before the orphans of the Holocaust could finally reach haven in the new state of Israel, Jewish warriors had to fight a bloody battle for Haifa Port, they had to hold the new country against the invading Arab armies, and Jewish warships had to secure the sea lanes from Europe and Cyprus. Stephanie Guttman is right: love and war are not inevitably in conflict, but form a paradoxical unity. Until all the lions

lie down with all the lambs, the ports of refuge and the islands of decency have to be secured by disciplined soldiers who are prepared to kill as well as to die.

DAVID GUTMANN

Chicago