

"They came to us when we most needed them, during those difficult, uncertain days of our War of Independence in 1948."

-Yitzhak Rabin

# HEROES from ABROAD


## The Machal & Aliyah Bet Legacy

### North American Volunteers in Israel's War of Independence

Few Americans realize that North American volunteers played a critical role in the epic battles for the liberation of the Jewish people following World War II. Approximately 1,500 young Americans and Canadians participated in this extraordinary story of rescue. They risked their lives and citizenship by coming to the aid of the Jewish remnant in Europe and the embattled Jewish forces in Israel.

For decades these Jewish and Christian volunteers were reluctant to share their stories because their service in the Israeli armed forces had been considered illegal by both the U.S. and Canadian governments.

Yet due chiefly to the lifelong efforts of Dr. Ralph Lowenstein and the American Veterans of Israel (AVI), a unique and impressive collection of records, the Machal and Aliyah Bet Archives, came into existence. With their recent acquisition by the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), a new generation of Americans and Israelis can now research and honor the contributions of North Americans to Israel's miraculous creation.



Map of Israel

Caption for group photo above: This group of men, almost all Machal, are shown in front of their B-17 shortly before it took off for Israel from Zatec airport in Czechoslovakia in July 1948. These planes remained the only heavy bombers in the Israeli Air Force for the duration of the war.

Panel 1

## FULFILLING the DREAM

### Victory in 1948 War – America Supplied Ships and Air Power


Theodor Herzl, founder of modern Zionism, wrote, "If you will it, it is not a dream." Fifty-one years after the First World Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897, Israel became an independent state.

Zionist pioneers in Palestine exerted the greatest personal labors and suffered the greatest personal losses to make this dream come true. But North American Jews created political support for the United Nations vote on statehood and provided the bulk of the financial support necessary for a military victory.

Approximately 1,500 men and women—Jews and Christians—served as volunteers and provided the critical dimension of victory in two areas—the ships that brought manpower to Israel from the death camps of Europe, and the air force's Air Transport Command and fighter aircraft.



Simon Springman, 16, of New York City, a soldier in the Golani Brigade, 1948-49, Israel Defense Forces.



The IAF could not have come into being without the high standards and professionalism of the Machal volunteers. Not enough tribute has been given to Machal in this respect."

-MORDECAI ANEL, FIRST COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE

### A Nation with few weapons now had an ample supply

It is generally accepted that without American volunteer pilots, Israel would not have been able to fly its heavy bombers or transport planes, nor could it have wrested control of the skies from enemy forces. In a few short months in 1948, American transport planes with American pilots in the cockpit made 49 flights from Czechoslovakia, carrying 23 disassembled fighter planes and an incredible 25 tons of arms and ammunition, including 15,000 rifles, 4,000 machine guns and 2 million rounds of ammunition.



Ship at sea.

### Rescuing Survivors of the Holocaust

America provided the "big ships" that carried huge human cargoes. The 12 American "big ships" challenged the right of England to restrict immigration through blockade, and, in the end, brought to Palestine or Cyprus an incredible 196 of all immigrants between 1945 and 1948. One of those ships, "Tanach 1947," is credited with tilting world public opinion in favor of the vote for Partition on November 29, 1947.

Panel 2

## ALYIAH BET SHIPS rescue HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

### Quietly Acquiring Arms and Ships

In July 1945, a committee of 19 American Jewish leaders convened in New York City at the request of David Ben-Gurion, then Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. The committee became known as the Sonneborn Institute, named for its chairman, Rudolf Sonneborn, scion of a wealthy Baltimore family and friend of Ben-Gurion. The committee's assignment was covertly to acquire ships for Aliyah Bet and buy arms for the Haganah.

Men like Shepard Broad, a Florida businessman, civic leader and philanthropist, helped negotiate the purchase of ships, such as the *Paducah* and the *Tradewinds*.

The Sonneborn Institute raised money, purchased ships and sent warehouses full of contraband supplies to the Land of Israel until 1949, and then quietly disbanded.



RUDOLF SONNEBORN



SHEPARD BROAD



Ship at sea.

### British Marines Board the Tradewinds

When intercepted by British destroyers, passengers on the *Tradewinds*, left, newly-returned Haganah's (The Haganah), resisted by throwing cans at the boarding party. The British marines responded with tear gas and warning shots, following hand-to-hand fighting, the ship was captured and towed into Haifa on May 17, 1947.



Ship at sea.

For a Short Time Near to Home

English (British) passengers, guarded by British soldiers, leave their captured ship in the port of Haifa. In the following days they boarded a new ship to return to their homes in the United States. Captain Rudy Paterni later recalled that as he looked at the children he said that "they were looking for nothing at all in the world but a home." At that moment, he said, "I was committed to their side. What happened to them happened to me, happened to all of us."



Ship at sea.

### Internment in Cyprus

Internment camps in Cyprus had been built by the British for German prisoners of war in World War II. The *Paducah's* captain, "Rudy Paterni," is seen inside a Cyprus camp with two crewmen from the *Tradewinds*, which was captured the same day as the *Paducah*. On the left is *Simon Springman*, from Spain, the *Tradewinds*' cook, and on the right is *Yitzhak Rabin*, from the *Tradewinds*, Northland destroyer, from New York City, one of two African Americans who volunteered for Aliyah Bet.



Rudy Paterni, 35, the *Paducah's* non-Jewish captain, was a highly-experienced World War II Merchant Marine veteran. He was hired to ferry the *Paducah* to Europe, where he would turn it over to a Jewish captain. When he arrived in France, he realized he could not abandon the ship or its mission. He stayed on for its final voyage and was then interned in Cyprus with his Jewish crew.



Ship at sea.

### The Paducah Captured at Sea

The *Paducah* left, but was shadowed by a growing number of British destroyers when it entered Palestinian waters bearing its new names, *Gedla* (Judea/Galilee). Although I was prepared to open boarding parties with cans and water hoses, at the last minute orders came from the Haganah not to resist. A Royal Marine boarding party stormed the ship, which was towed into Haifa on October 2, 1947.

Panel 3



## Aliyah Bet Paved Way for Israel's Birth

At the end of WWII, over 200,000 Holocaust survivors, their families decimated and their former communities destroyed, remained confined to squalid Displaced Persons (DP) camps. The Western nations and the British in Palestine refused to admit more than a tiny percentage.

In response, underground Jewish organizations organized "Aliyah Bet," the clandestine immigration movement, to smuggle Jews into Palestine. Financed largely by U.S. and Canadian philanthropists, they acquired U.S. ships to run the British blockade, manned principally by about 240 American and Canadian volunteers.

The *Paducah* and the *Tradewinds*, former naval vessels that had been decommissioned and sold as war surplus were typical of the Aliyah Bet ships purchased after World War II. Here they are seen at anchor in the Miami River. Designed for 80 to about 100 sailors, the passengers were 14 times more numerous than the crews the ships were originally intended for.

Welders and carpenters in European shipyards later tore away the ships' insides, built enclosed wooden superstructures on the upper decks, installed shelving wherever possible to serve as bunks, and fashioned makeshift latrines to dump human waste into the sea. The *Tradewinds* ultimately brought 1,414 Polish, Hungarian, Rumanian, and Czech refugees from the coast of Italy to the shores of Palestine in a week-long journey. The *Paducah* brought 1,388 mostly Rumanian refugees from Burgas, Bulgaria, to Palestine in six days.



**Paducah Friends**  
Three Paducah sailors are shown ashore in Biarritz, France, July 1947. Left to right are Louis Ball, New York City; Joseph J. Brennan, and John Brennan, Chicago. A year later, on July 9, 1948, Louis Ball, 26, was "lost" while serving with a Polish army unit in the Suez. His best friend, Hersh Schiff, 22, was killed on duty too while serving with the same unit. Both are buried near each other in Tel Aviv's Nakhla Jewish cemetery.

Moka Limon, 23, was the Hagahat emissary on the *Paducah*. He maintained radio contact with the Hagahat, handled logistics ashore, organized the passengers into orderly groups, and supervised food distribution. Moka Limon later became a commander of the Israeli navy.



## A PHOTO CALL FROM A SURVIVOR

Paul Kaye was trained as an engineer in the U.S. Navy just at the end of World War II. "In March 1947, I received a phone call from a stranger. 'The new water is half way gone!'" The next morning, five or six of them called me and he was in a rooming house in a small town in Belgium, where he was living as a member of the underground. He was a member of the underground. He was a member of the underground.

A friend of Kaye's mentioned that he had seen the *Tradewinds* in Miami visiting in World War II. Some were members of the *Tradewinds* crew. The *Tradewinds* recently loaded more than 1,400 passengers on the two-month voyage. After more than a week's journey, the *Tradewinds* was stopped by British warships and escorted to Haifa.

Approved Palestinian workers. Some other British warships stopped. Had to hand fighting ensued as British warships repeatedly searched the ship. The *Tradewinds* was released. The ship, the *Tradewinds*, was released on May 11, 1947. The ship was released on May 11, 1947. The ship was released on May 11, 1947.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

Kaye remained a prisoner in Cyprus for two months, then was transferred to the *Aliyah Bet* camp near Haifa in another month. He was brought out of the camp and sent back to the U.S., where he joined the crew of another *Aliyah Bet* ship, the *Paducah*. Kaye then served during the War of Independence in Israel and later became a member of the Israeli navy.

## North American Ships Bringing Refugees to Palestine and Israel

### Entering British Mandate Palestine



**Beascharnos/Isiahah Wedgwood**  
Built 1944; former Canadian navy corvette HMCS *Beascharnos*  
Departed New York City; took on 1,257 refugees in Sicily  
Intercepted by Royal Navy June 21, 1946  
Refugees and crew interned in Atlit, Palestine



**Noreyd/Haganah (Defense)**  
Built 1943; former Canadian navy corvette HMCS *Noreyd*  
Departed New York City; took on 2,678 refugees in Yugoslavia  
Intercepted by Royal Navy and towed to Haifa July 29, 1946  
Refugees and crew interned in Atlit, Palestine



**Ulan/Haim Arlosoroff**  
Built 1912; former US Revenue cutter USCGC *Ulanog*  
Departed Baltimore; took on 1,378 refugees in Sweden and Italy  
Rescued February 22, 1947; at Tel Aviv, south of Haifa  
Refugees and crew interned in Cyprus



**Abriel/Ben Hecht**  
Built 1931; former private yacht *Abriel*  
Departed NYC; took on 600 refugees in France  
Intercepted by Royal Navy March 8, 1947  
Refugees interned in Cyprus; crew jailed Acre Prison



**Tradewinds/Hatikva (The Hope)**  
Built 1896; former US Revenue cutter USCGC *Gresham*  
Departed Miami; took on 1,414 refugees in Italy  
Rammed by Royal Navy destroyer May 17, 1947  
Refugees and crew interned in Cyprus



**President Warfield/Exodus 1947**  
Built 1928; former Chesapeake Bay excursion boat  
Departed Philadelphia; took on 4,530 refugees in France  
Rammed by two destroyers, 3 persons killed, July 18, 1947  
Crew deported to US; most refugees sent to Germany



**Paducah/Galia (Redemption)**  
Built 1906; former icebreaker and US Navy patrol gunboat  
Departed Miami; took on 1,388 refugees in Bulgaria  
Intercepted by Royal Navy October 2, 1947  
Refugees and crew interned in Cyprus



**Northland/Medinat Hayehudim (Jewish State)**  
Built 1927; former Coast Guard cutter USCGC *Northland*  
Departed Baltimore; took on 2,664 refugees in Bulgaria  
Intercepted by Royal Navy October 2, 1947  
Refugees and crew interned in Cyprus



**Pan Krescent/Galatesa (Hapsharshing of Galles)**  
Built 1901; former Central American banana boat  
Refitted in Yugoslavia; took on 7,557 refugees in Bulgaria  
Escorted to Cyprus by Royal Navy January 1, 1948  
Crew and refugees interned in Cyprus



**Pan Crescent/Atzmaut (Independence)**  
Built 1901; former Central American banana boat  
Refitted in Venice, Italy; took on 7,612 refugees in Bulgaria  
Escorted to Cyprus by Royal Navy January 1, 1948  
Crew and refugees interned in Cyprus

### Entering Independent Israel



**Alizana**  
Built 1944; former US Navy LST-138  
Departed Fort Lauderdale; loaded arms, 940 passengers in France  
Arrived in Israel on June 22, 1948  
Barricaded and burned on Tel Aviv beach after being fired upon by Israeli army in dispute over division of arms. Seventeen persons on both sides were killed in this incident.



**Mala/Calanis (Anemone)**  
Built 1898; former US presidential yacht USS *Mayflower*  
Departed NYC; took on 1,300 refugees in France  
Landed in Israel July 11, 1948  
Refugees became immediate citizens of new state of Israel

# EXODUS 1947

## How one ship helped create a Jewish state

First launched in 1928, the *President Warfield* saw service in World War II before it was purchased by Aliyah Bet. Under its new name, *Exodus 1947*, it transported 4,500 Holocaust survivors to the coast of Palestine before Royal Navy destroyers intercepted it. Passengers and crew threw potatoes and cans of tomato meat at the British maritime boarding party. The British responded with tear gas, fire hoses and lead-weighted truncheons. The second mate of the *Exodus* and two passengers were killed in the melee.

To make an example of *Exodus 1947* the British government ordered the passengers returned to France and eventually Germany, where they were delivered to Displaced Persons camps. The spectacle of survivors returned to the country that had authored the Holocaust inflamed world opinion against British policy and contributed to the successful vote in the U.N. in November 1947 to create a Jewish state.



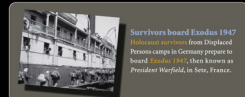
An officer from the Royal Marines walks down the main deck of the captured ship. The British won the battle. In the final accounting, *Exodus 1947* won the war.



Bill Bernstein, 24, of San Francisco, second mate of the *Exodus*, was clubbed to death by British Marines who attempted to defend the ship. He was the first of 41 American-born Canadians to die fighting for the cause of Israel's independence.



*Exodus 1947* as it looked when it was towed into Haifa harbor. It received the hole in its side when a destroyer rammed it. Continued sideswiping by British naval craft splintered the length of its sides.



Survivors board *Exodus 1947* from a tugboat. The ship was captured by British warships in the Mediterranean. Passengers were taken to Displaced Persons camps in Germany, France, and Italy.

## The Pan Yoke

This view of the Pan Yoke deck gives some idea of a typical voyage of five or more days from Europe to Palestine on an *Aliyah Bet* ship. Wooden bunks, such as the one in the left foreground, consisted of a long bench with round holes leading directly to the open sea. The woman in the left foreground is holding her daughter from a salt water basin. The only fresh water on the voyage was strictly rationed for drinking.

The food and drinking ration for each person: one glass of water a day, cheese and crackers for breakfast, bread and crackers for lunch, crackers and crackers for dinner. In a novel about the War of Independence, one author wrote: "After four or five days, [a passenger] would wonder if the smells of the latrines, crushed crackers, salted, salted fish, and up bread, and never had permeated their skin for all time, as it had permeated the soul and mind of the Pan Yoke."



## Birth of the Israeli Navy



Paul Shulman, first commander of the Israeli navy, with David Ben-Gurion, first prime minister of Israel.

Five North American Aliyah Bet ships became the backbone of Israel's combat fleet at the inception of the War of Independence. The *Northland* became *Eilat A-16*; *Norsyrd* became *Haganah K-20*; *Beauharnois/Wedgwood* became *Wedgwood K-18*; *Tradewinds* became *Hatikva K-22*; and *Abril/Ben Hecht* became *Masa K-24*.

These were joined by *Noga K-26*, the former *Yusatan*, which had arrived in Israel after the establishment of the state. It had also been purchased in the U.S.

Volunteers from the U.S. and Canada served in the Israeli navy during the war. Most prominent was Paul Shulman, an Annapolis graduate, who was named commander of the navy. Shulman had been deeply involved in the acquisition of Aliyah Bet ships in the United States, and served as *Wedgwood K-18*'s captain in addition to his other command duties.

Three dozen volunteers also served as deck officers, skippers, radar and radio operators, communication supervisors, gunnery officers, engineers, electricians and engine maintainers. They played important roles as instructors for the new 2,000-person navy.

On August 24, 1948, *Haganah K-20* and *Wedgwood K-18* seized a ship named *Argiro* that was bound for Egypt with a load of 8,000 rifles and 10 million rounds of ammunition purchased in Czechoslovakia. After confiscating the war material, they sank the *Argiro*. The rifles and ammunition were quickly distributed in Israel.

Four of the Israeli warships engaged an Egyptian corvette and three Egyptian gunboats on October 19, 1948. They shot down one of the gunboats and damaged the corvette, which retreated. Three days later, the same four ships, with the help of *Shayetet 13* (Navy Seals), sank the Egyptian navy flagship *King Farouk*.



A nurse bandages Murray Ansoff of New York, Bandus 1947 seaman. In the background are David Ben-Gurion and Yip of the party of Royal Marines.



Four Volunteers: Four American volunteers were assigned to Shayetet 13, an underwater demolition unit.

Left to right from: Larry Cohen, New York City; Ted Friedman, New York City; Left to right from: Ted Friedman, New York City; Ted Friedman, New York City; Ted Friedman, New York City; Ted Friedman, New York City.

### Built on rust Maers

As was reported in Israeli War ships, there are three tiers of rusted metal in the hull of the ship. The ship was built in the U.S. with a 20-inch hull built from rusted metal. The ship was built in the U.S. with a 20-inch hull built from rusted metal. The ship was built in the U.S. with a 20-inch hull built from rusted metal.



### A Shipwreck on the Seabed

A shipwreck on the seabed. The ship was built in the U.S. with a 20-inch hull built from rusted metal. The ship was built in the U.S. with a 20-inch hull built from rusted metal. The ship was built in the U.S. with a 20-inch hull built from rusted metal.



## an ENGLISH-SPEAKING AIR FORCE



"It may well be, that the participation in the IAF is what tipped the scales in Israel's favor in the War of Independence, whose outcome hung precariously in the balance."

David Ben-Gurion, first prime minister of Israel

Because only a handful of Palestinian Jews had pilot training, Israel turned to the Diaspora—primarily to the U.S., Canada, England, and South Africa—for veteran flying crews that could help stop the Arab invasion. More than half of all American and Canadian volunteers served in the air force.



Top Canadian Ace George B. "Buz" Bevington, shown pointing a "vite" on his Royal Canadian Air Force insignia, was the top Canadian air ace in World War II, with 33 enemy planes to his credit. He was one of 34 Canadian pilots from the U.S. and Canada to volunteer for the IAF. Bevington, 26, and his Jewish co-pilot, Leonard Cohen of England, were killed while attempting to ferry a plane from Italy to Israel on May 20, 1948.



Israel's only fighter planes in the first few months of the war were ex-ArLu 5 (the Czech version of the famed German Messerschmitt ME-109). Left to right: Leonard Cohen, 24, Newark, New Jersey; 10, Pennsylvania; 26, Newark, NJ; and David Ben-Gurion, 26, St. Paul, Minnesota.



Al Schwimmer, 30, from Bridgeport, Connecticut, a former TWA flight engineer, became the major donor of aircraft purchase. He found and bought 13 surplus transport planes, organized the Air Transport Command that carried arms from Czechoslovakia and recruited many of the pilots, engineers and mechanics for the new air force, of which he became second in command. He returned to Israel in 1950 to establish and head Israel's Aircraft Industries, which would become one of

Israel's largest companies, with 20,000 employees. David Ben-Gurion, shown here with Schwimmer, described his activities in 1947-1948 as the Diaspora's single most important contribution to the survival of Israel.

### Maersk-Gusterson Services

Maersk-Gusterson Services operated during the fledgling Israeli Air Force, including aerial photography, radio operations, and aircraft maintenance. Several of its fleet members were commandeered during World War II service. For right is aerial photographer Yip, left, 30 of Calgary, Canada.



### The Royal Mounted Get Their Man-BEELY

Irvin (Sweeney) Schneider, from Miami, attempted to smuggle a surplus B-17 to Israel in late 1948. He landed at a military airfield in Canada due to bad weather, and is shown here being arrested by Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There he, he eluded his captors and flew his plane as far as the Azores, where he was again arrested, this time by Portuguese authorities. He was returned to the U.S. for trial and given a suspended sentence for violating the U.S. Neutrality Act. Three other B-17s were smuggled out of Miami and became Israel's only heavy bomber force.



### Destination Cairo

This page of a flight log kept by flight engineer Bill Lichtman, 30, of New York City shows that the B-17 took off from Miami on June 19, 1948. It landed in Zatec, Czechoslovakia, on June 20 to be refitted with guns and bomb racks. On its way to Israel, it detoured for a bombing mission over Cairo, the first time an Israeli plane bombed Cairo in 1948.



Bill Lichtman

This raid essentially put a stop to the daily bombing of Tel Aviv by the Egyptians. The pilot of the B-17 was Ray Kurtz, a former New York City fireman. Both Kurtz and Lichtman were World War II veterans.



Ray Kurtz



### The Czech Connection

A little-known story of the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 involved American planes, mostly American pilots and the decision of one small country to help another.

After approval of the Partition Plan in November 1947, virtually the entire world imposed an embargo on the sale and shipment of military equipment to Israel—except Czechoslovakia, which agreed to sell a substantial amount of German-designed rifles, machineguns, ammunition, and even fighter planes to the Jewish state.

But Czechoslovakia was landlocked, surrounded by countries that would not allow shipment of arms in violation of the embargo, and more than 1,800 miles from Israel. With a chartered C-54 and seven of the C-46s originally purchased as war surplus in California, Machal pilots and crews in the Israeli Air Force Air Transport Command began an airlift that would become one of the miracles of the War of Independence.

For more than three months—May, 1948 to August, 1948—Czechoslovakia loaned Israel its Zatec air field. It became virtually an Israeli installation and was used for refitting planes, training pilots, and warehousing guns and ammunition destined to be flown to Israel.

By the time the Czechs closed Zatec to the Israeli armed forces, Machal volunteers in the Air Transport Command had completed 95 flights, carrying 25 Me-109s to Israel and an incredible 35 tons of arms and ammunition, including more than 15,000 rifles, 4,000 machineguns and 3 million rounds of ammunition.



Charlie Winters, 36, a Miami businessman, sold Hagannah supporters World War II B-17s that he had been using to haul fruits and vegetables between Puerto Rico and Miami. Winters, a Christian, was convicted of violating the Neutrality Act and sentenced to 18 months in a federal prison. He was the only American actually jailed for defying the embargo. After his death in 1964, his remains were transferred to Israel for burial in the Templar Cemetery in Jerusalem.

American Ace Rudy Argentin, 26, a Harvard student when he volunteered for the IAF, stands in front of a crashed Egyptian spyplane. Argentin had downed two German ME-109s while flying a P-47 during World War II. He shot down four Egyptian aircraft while flying a Czech Me-109, British Spitfires and American P-51s in the IAF. He was one of only six Americans awarded "ace" status by combining victories in two wars.



### Israeli Forces Services

Stores of these Canadian-designed Stinsons (Stinsons) were purchased in the region of Germany and before sending (they came to 122) to the Netherlands. Machal pilots flew them out from Ben Gurion to Israel in the first weeks of the war—a grueling 13-hour journey.





## AIDING the GROUND FORCES

American and Canadian volunteers served in virtually every unit of the Israeli army, contributing military expertise that many had acquired in combat in World War II. The approximately 1,500 volunteers were a distinct minority in the Israeli army. The men and women of Machal provided important specialized skills in armor, weaponry, equipment maintenance, medical aid, signals, and key positions of command.



David "Mickey" Marcus, 47, held the highest command position of any American volunteer. A West Point graduate, this native of Manhattan's Lower East Side had parachuted into Normandy with the 101st Airborne Division on D-Day. He wrote Israel's first field manual, and was named commander of the Jerusalem front by David Ben-Gurion. He was the first officer to receive the new rank of "aluf" (brigadier general). He was accidentally killed by his own sentry during the successful battle to open the road to surrounded Jerusalem.

Native American, Jesse Stale, from Oklahoma, was the only Native American to serve with Machal. A member of the 4th Troop, 1st Anti-Tank, 421st Artillery Regiment, Negro Brigade, he said he joined because of his respect for a Jewish officer during World War II. "He was the first guy to treat me like a white man."



Volunteers in the Medical Corps. **Sharon Kagan**, 24, of Chicago was one of a dozen nurses and another dozen medical doctors from the United States and Canada who volunteered to serve in Israeli army hospitals and medical units. Most had military medical experience from World War II.



Armored car crew. **Angelo Saxon**, 29, of Pittsburgh, was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the only American to serve in the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the only American to serve in the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion.

First Tank Commander. **Isaac Drucker**, 24, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, was the first tank commander in the history of the Israeli army. He and the tank crew he led served in the 8th Brigade against Egyptian forces in the Negev. The three tank models displayed represent Israel's entire tank corps in the first months of the war—one American Sherman M4A4, built from pieces jammed by the departing British army, and two British Cromwells, delivered by two Irish soldiers who defected from the British military.



The new tank.

Isaac Drucker, 24, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, was a machinist in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which built the USS Intrepid (USS Intrepid). He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Deployed for Battle  
A line of armored cars from the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion lines up at roadside awaiting the command to move forward. About half of the Americans and Canadians in the army were assigned to the 7th Brigade, which was sometimes called the "Anglo-Saxon Brigade" because of the large number of North Americans, South Africans, and Englishmen in its ranks. These armored cars were made in Israel.



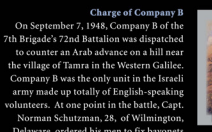
Commander Machalnik. A number of Canadians, mostly from Toronto, are shown at Kfar Bilu, a moshav near Rehovot, in July 1948. Many of these men served in a separate Canadian fighting platoon in the 52nd Battalion of the Great Britain.



Canadian Machalnik. A number of Canadians, mostly from Toronto, are shown at Kfar Bilu, a moshav near Rehovot, in July 1948. Many of these men served in a separate Canadian fighting platoon in the 52nd Battalion of the Great Britain.



Hard conditions  
A Machalnik barracks in for a night's sleep. On two, soldiers were assigned to two cots, two blankets, and a bed made of straw. They carried the blankets into the field during battle and used them as a barrier to the cold Israeli night and the vicious Israeli sun.



Charge of Company B  
On September 7, 1948, Company B of the 7th Brigade's 72nd Battalion was dispatched to counter an Arab advance on a hill near the village of Iamra in the Western Galilee. Company B was the only unit in the Israeli army made up totally of English-speaking volunteers. At one point in the battle, Capt. Norman Schutzman, 28, of Wilmington, Delaware, ordered his men to fix bayonets on their German rifles and rush the Arab positions atop the hill. This painting by Stanley Korman of Los Angeles, a member of the company depicts what is said to be the only bayonet charge in the history of the Israeli army. The hill was retaken, but one Machalnik, Sid Leisure, 19, of Toronto, was killed.

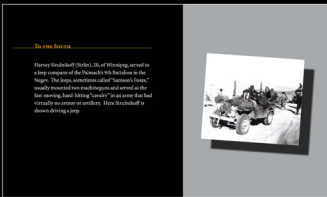


Canadian Brigadier, Ben Danielescu, 48, a battlefield commander in the Royal Canadian Army during World War II, recruited the first Canadian volunteers for the Israeli armed forces and then joined them in Israel. He was the highest ranked Canadian. He directed Operation Hiram, which routed Lebanese, Syrian, and Iraqi invasion forces in the Central and Upper Galilee in late October 1948 and secured that area as a permanent part of the Jewish state.



The new tank.

This report of one of the 79th Armored Battalion showed the new tank in action. The tank was built by the British and was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. It was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



The new tank.

Isaac Drucker, 24, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, was a machinist in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which built the USS Intrepid (USS Intrepid). He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



## THE 41 CANADIANS and AMERICANS who gave their LIVES

The Volunteers from Canada  
(In the order in which they fell)



George "Short" Bunting, 32, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.

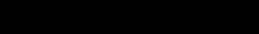
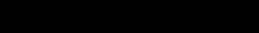
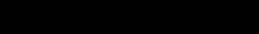
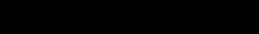
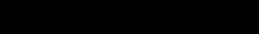
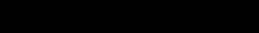
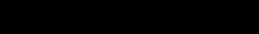
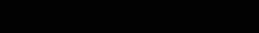
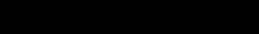
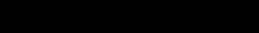
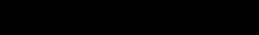
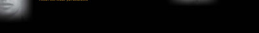
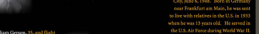
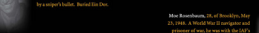


Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.



Robert Cohen, 24, of Toronto, Ontario, died in 1948. He was a member of the 7th Brigade's 79th Armored Battalion. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army. He was the first American to serve in the Israeli army.

The Volunteers from the United States  
(in the order in which they fell)



\*Indicates non-Jewish volunteer

