



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.
Series C: Zionism/Founding of the State of Israel, 1942-1955.

Box
4

Folder
4

Americans for Haganah. 1947-1949.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

Haganah

Rudolf G. Sonneborn

88 Lexington Avenue
New York City 16

May 11th, 1949.

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
3001 Forest Street
Denver, Colorado

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

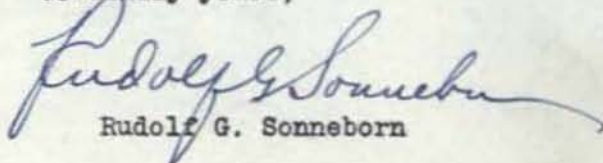
Almost four years ago, two distinguished Palestinians met a small group of us at my home to explore the possibility of generating a discreet but sturdy lifeline to the underground army, Haganah. From that initial meeting on that memorable day, grew a dynamic organization of men and women throughout our country who mobilized themselves into a veritable American Palmach. We remained an informal army of workers without stationery or officers or any semblance of formal structure until a little over a year ago.

Haganah is no longer an underground army. The Jewish State is recognized by the smaller and larger powers the world over. One phase of our work may be completed, but there is still much to be done to ensure the security of Israel. It should be of interest to review the work we have accomplished. It seems fitting, too, that we make this an occasion to celebrate our Fourth Anniversary.

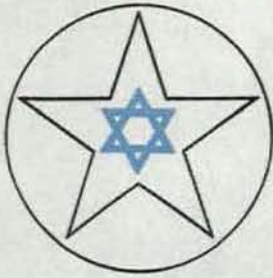
I take pleasure, therefore, in asking you to join an intimate group of our friends for dinner on Tuesday evening, May 31st, at the Ambassador Hotel, Park Avenue and 51st Street, at 6:30 P. M.

Our dinner will be an informal, intimate meeting of old friends and is not for the purpose of any type of solicitation. We shall have with us a number of associates from Israel, including several old friends who have just returned on special assignments. I hope you will join us.

Cordially yours,


Rudolf G. Sonneborn

RGS:eu



AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH INC.

38 WEST 69th STREET

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

TRAFALGAR 3-0100

June 8, 1948

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ABRAHAM FEINBERG, *President*
DAVID R. WAHL, *Executive Director*
Boris Margolin, *Vice-President*
Robert E. Lagunoff, *Treasurer*
Nahum Bernstein, *Secretary*
Samuel Cherr
Helen Waren
Judge Benjamin Shalleck

NATIONAL COUNCIL

BARTLEY C. CRUM, *Chairman*
Eddie Cantor
Rep. Emanuel Celler
Freda Kirchwey
Herbert Lehman
Louis Lurie
Philip Murray
Mayor William O'Dwyer
James G. Patton
Edward G. Robinson
Dr. Guy Emery Shipley
Ben Swig
Sen. Robert F. Wagner
Sumner Welles

BULLETIN EDITOR

Jacob L. Rycus

Rabbi Herbert Friedman
Temple Emanuel
1595 Pearl St.
Denver, Colo.

Dear Herb:

I am informed by a mutual friend that you have been very helpful in Denver, to which my reply was that I would be shocked silly if you were not terrifically helpful.

It was suggested that I send you certain information on what is going on. Please let me know the set-up at your end, also would it be possible to set up a tightly knit committee in Denver which could take care of any Haganah functions, including a concentrated subscription campaign, etc.

I ran into Lou Leventhal the other night, which was the first time I had seen him since he returned from Germany.

Best regards,


David R. Wahl

uopwa
drw:bm

April 1, 1948

Mr. David Wahl,
Americans for Haganah, Inc.,
38 West 69th Street,
New York 23, New York.

Dear Dave:

I am writing to bring to your attention the availability of the services of a very fine and capable woman. Her name is Mrs. Henry Slonimsky, 375 West End Avenue. She is fiercely interested in the whole problem of defense, and during the time that Haganah was raising its own funds, she worked tirelessly collecting money. Now that that phase is over, she would like something else to do.

She has already made contact with your office in regard to some volunteer work on the bulletin. She is rather shy and modest and does not wish to approach you directly. Hence I am writing this letter to bring her to your attention. She is intelligent, devoted, and quite capable of performing valuable functions. She speaks extremely well and is quite convincing. I might suggest that you could use her in some aspect of public relations or propaganda work, either through speaking or through writing.

Otherwise, what is new? I would love to hear from you again, with a resume of recent events. Out here in the west a small group of us have been working quietly and, I hope, effectively on some very important projects. 'Nough sed. With fondest regards,

As ever,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

HAF:EW
cc:Mrs. Henry
Slonimsky



AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH INC.

38 WEST 69th STREET

NEW YORK 23, N. Y.

TRAFALGAR 3-0100

April 9, 1948

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ABRAHAM FEINBERG, *President*
DAVID R. WAHL, *Executive Director*
Boris Margolin, *Vice-President*
Robert E. Lagunoff, *Treasurer*
Nahum Bernstein, *Secretary*
Samuel Cherr
Helen Waren
Judge Benjamin Shalleck

NATIONAL COUNCIL

(in formation)

BARTLEY C. CRUM, *Chairman*
Eddie Cantor
Rep. Emanuel Celler
Freda Kirchwey
Herbert Lehman
Louis Lurie
Philip Murray
Mayor William O'Dwyer
James G. Patton
Edward G. Robinson
Dr. Guy Emery Shipler
Ben Swig
Sen. Robert F. Wagner
Sumner Welles

BULLETIN EDITOR

Jacob L. Rycus

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
East 16th Avenue at Pearl St.
Denver 5, Colo.

Dear Herb:

Awfully good to hear from you.

I found that Mrs. Slonimsky was sitting right in my office and working away. She seems indeed like a very fine person, and thanks to your suggestion, she will be exploited to the full.

We have had a very complex and difficult time, but who expected it to be easy? I am passing your letter on to the girl who handles our circulation, and asking her to get in touch with you with respect to expanding circulation of our bulletin in your area.

If all goes well, I will be leaving for Palestine for a quick trip next Wednesday and hope to work out some problems which will affect the future conduct of this organization.

Best regards,

David

David R. Wahl *DM*

uopwa
drw:bm

Haganah
United Palestine Appeal
41 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

*Dear Rabbi:
You will be interested in
this, along the line of
Haganah fund-raising.
Regards,
Israel.*

MEMORANDUM

January 9, 1948

TO: Executive Director
FROM: Ellis Radinsky

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

On January 5th, there appeared in the JTA a release which announced the organization of an emergency fund for Haganah and Histadruth. The UPA promptly challenged the use of the Haganah appeal by the National Committee for Labor Palestine.

I know you will be interested in the attached exchange of telegrams. The UPA is determined that no other campaign shall confuse the fact that security needs of Palestine will be met in this country only through the United Jewish Appeal.

I hope you will continue to make clear to your community that the UJA is the only authorized agency for fund raising for security and defense. We would appreciate your keeping us informed of any violations of this understanding on the part of any other organizations.

C
O
P
Y

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL
41 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

January 6, 1948

MR. ISAAC HAMLIN
NATIONAL LABOR COMMITTEE FOR PALESTINE
45 EAST 17 STREET
NEW YORK CITY

IN VIEW OF RECENT MEETING WITH KAPLAN AND REPRESENTATIVES ALL ZIONIST PARTIES AT WHICH IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT NO ORGANIZATION IN THIS COUNTRY HAS RIGHT TO ISSUE APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR HAGANAH WITH EXCEPTION OF UJA AND IN VIEW YOUR OWN AGREEMENT AND DENIAL THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION AT ALL INVOLVED I AM DISMAYED YOUR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR PALESTINE PLANNING EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN IN BEHALF HAGANAH AS REPORTED IN JTA DATED JANUARY 5. "AN EMERGENCY FUND OF \$1,000,000 WILL BE RAISED IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS FOR THE HAGANAH AND THE HISTADROTH, IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR PALESTINE". BELIEVE IT IS SERIOUS VIOLATION ZIONIST DISCIPLINE AND TENDS TO UNDERMINE AND DAMAGE UJA 1948 CAMPAIGN WHICH SO VITAL TO OUR CAUSE. MUST INSIST THAT NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LABOR PALESTINE IMMEDIATELY ISSUE PROMINENT RETRACTION OF STORY OR ELSE UJA WILL HAVE TO ISSUE PUBLIC DENOUNCEMENT YOUR PLAN.

ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

IG:SCL

C
O
P
Y

WESTERN UNION

NEW YORK NY JAN 7 1200P

LONG WU D 57 DL PD XQ

DR ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN CHAIRMAN

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

RE YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING OUR EMERGENCY CONFERENCE REGRET
EXCEEDINGLY THAT RELEASE TO PRESS CONTAINED ERROR DUE TO
OVERZEALOUS NEW PUBLICITY MAN. PHONED JTA ABOUT IT YESTERDAY
AND CORRECTION HAS BEEN SENT TO PRESS. OUR LONG RECORD OF
DEVOTION TO COMMON CAUSE AND ESPECIALLY CONCERN FOR OVER-
WHELMING SUCCESS 1948 UJA ARE SUFFICIENT PROOF OUR ZIONIST
DISCIPLINE. EMERGENCY SITUATION TODAY REQUIRES CLOSEST
HARMONY ASSURING SUCCESS OF UJA AND HISTADRUT DRIVES THIS
CRUCIAL YEAR. SHALOM

ISAAC HAMLIN
NATIONAL SECRETARY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1/9/48

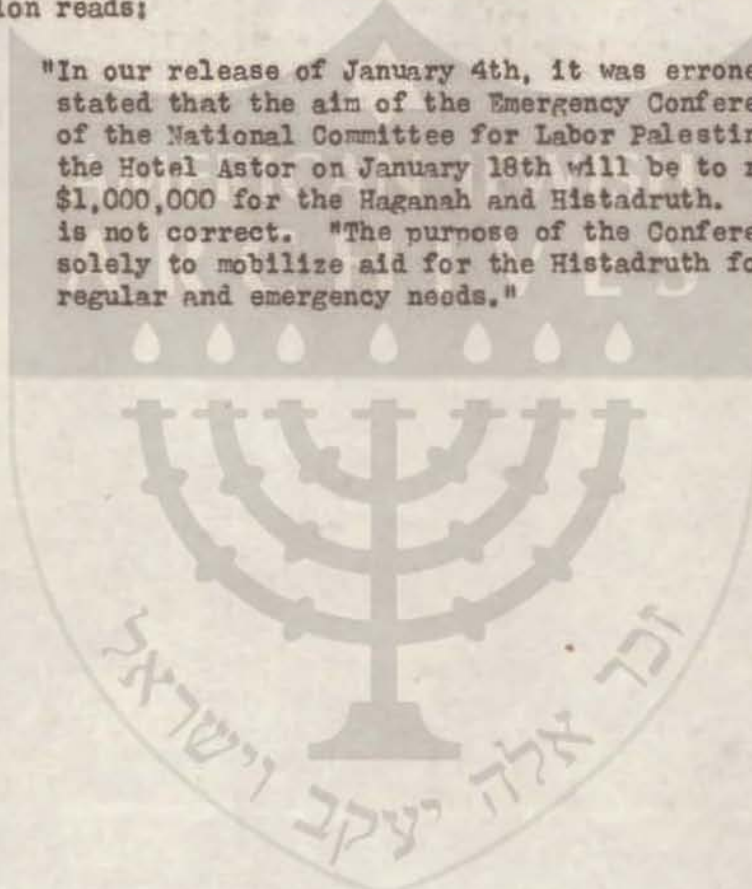
C
O
P
Y

EXCERPT FROM J.T.A. NEWS BULLETIN DATELINE JANUARY 7, 1948

The National Committee for Labor Palestine today sent out a correction to its statement issued earlier this week announcing that it intends to raise an emergency fund of \$1,000,000 for the Haganah and the Histadruth in Palestine. The text of the correction reads:

"In our release of January 4th, it was erroneously stated that the aim of the Emergency Conference of the National Committee for Labor Palestine at the Hotel Astor on January 18th will be to raise \$1,000,000 for the Haganah and Histadruth. This is not correct. "The purpose of the Conference is solely to mobilize aid for the Histadruth for its regular and emergency needs."

1/9/48



The following is an extract taken from the minutes of a meeting of representatives of Zionist organizations to discuss the coordination of Palestine fund-raising, (marked "Confidential"), which was held Friday, December 19, at the Essex House and attended by Zionist leaders and representatives of the United Palestine Appeal:

"In view of the fact that the budgets of the United Palestine Appeal agencies, whose needs are met out of the U. J. A. campaign, make provision for the needs of security and Haganah in Palestine, all Zionist organizations are asked to advise their membership that no other campaign in this country has the right to raise funds or include in its appeal for funds, any reference to security or Haganah needs."

This was enclosed with a memorandum, dated December 31, to executive directors from Ellis Radinsky of the United Palestine Appeal.

--

HAROLD G. JAFFER

250 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19

January 20, 1948

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Congregation Emanuel
East 16th Ave. at Pearl St.
Denver, Colo.

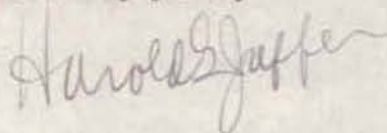
Dear Rabbi Friedman:

I have your letter of January 13th. The memo which Mr. Radinsky sent to you containing the resolution is one which I know the UJA has been trying to get adopted.

We have accepted this situation but I understand that other groups including the Gerwerkshaffen, the Expansion Fund and many other non-related campaigns do refer to security needs. This resolution which Radinsky sent to you, I suppose, is designed to strengthen the hands of the local campaign bodies when the community is asked to undertake efforts.

We ourselves are shortly going to launch an effort to secure contributions in kind. You will hear details of that activity from us within the next few weeks.

Sincerely yours,



HGJ:JP

December 31, 1947

Mr. David Wahl,
Americans for Haganah, Inc.,
38 West 69th Street,
New York 23, New York.

Dear Dave:

By this time you probably no longer remember who I am, but I have thought of you many times and was quite interested to hear that you had gone over with the Americans For Haganah.

As you may or may not know, I had quite extensive contact in Germany and Austria with some of the boys who were running the show there, and I came to have an understanding and appreciation for the problems of the Haganah. Most of the work which I have done since returning to the States has been for Mr. Jaffer's office.

Some time ago you sent me a large number of copies of the October bulletin. I am distributing those where I think they will do the most good. There is a very active group of Jewish War Veterans here in Denver who are quite interested in your organization. One of them, a certain Mr. Bill Saxon, 932 Cook Street, is really anxious to solicit members in the organization. I am therefore suggesting to you that you contact him and make available to him membership blanks, cards, etc.

His idea is to invite as many people as he can possibly make contact with to join Americans For Haganah at a \$10.00 membership fee. He feels that any person who would refuse to give him \$10.00 would also refuse to give him \$2.00. He is quite enthusiastic and wishes to compile a roster as much to determine who is sympathetic in town, as to collect the \$10.00 bills. In other words, he has a double motive. I have given him the large bundle of bulletins to distribute, but he is desirous of having additional paraphernalia.

December 31, 1947

I might offer my own judgment, Dave, that he is a person to be relied upon. He has great energy and has this cause very much at heart. Therefore, the next step is up to you. I have told him that I am going to put you in contact with him.

I would love to hear from you in general as to what is happening in New York and what the future outlook is. Any opportunity you have for writing a long expository letter would be greatly appreciated.

As ever,

HAF:EW

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES



Sephardic community - two leaders Matroni and Marcena.
 meeting at home of Allazaki (Wed. 27)
 Moshe

42,500

HOTEL ROOSEVELT

AV. INSURGENTES 287
 MEXICO, D.F.

Srl Wishniak
 Sam
 Moiser Marcena 3,000
 Kessel 5,000
 Pushkart
 Shiper 500
 Tabajovich
 Korbman
 Dr Adolfo Fastlicht
 L. Dultzin 1000
 Wishniewich 1000

Leon Putianski 5,000
 Joe Foster 5,000
 Max Goltzschmidt 500
 Elias Sourachsky 10,000
 Arturo Wolfowitz 10,000
 Jacobo Liberman 2,000
 night of 20 Aug. at
 home of A.W.
 Fein
 Friedman

two committee meetings
 20 and 21 Aug. at
 Hamburgo 128

1st meeting I told them
 of work of Hyman's Immigration
 2nd meeting decided strategy
 of campaign

1. secret
2. fast
3. small campaign - not general
4. make list of 1000
5. several meetings at homes -
- 5 homes - divide these names:
 A.W. (Fri 22)
 Kessel (Mon 25)
 Lasky
 Zidencher
 Goltzschmidt + Zanic

5. those not present will be
 handled personally by those
 present.

6. org. will hold meeting
 Paula Lion (Fri 29)

AMERICAN JEWISH
 ARCHIVES



וְכָל אֱלֹהִים יִעֲקֹב וְיִשְׂרָאֵל

1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado
25 August, 1947

Mr. Harold G. Jaffer
250 W. 57 St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rabinowitz,

May I write this brief report of activities in Mexico City for the few days I was able to be there, from 20-22 August, inclusive.

Two large committee meetings were held on the evenings of 20 and 21 August, at Zionist Organization headquarters, Hamburgo 138. These meetings were for the purpose of planning the strategy of the campaign. Although there had apparently been some discussion about the campaign before our arrival, still there was no clear-cut plan, and that had to be created. There was a great deal of enthusiasm at both meetings, and I spoke at some length about the conditions in Europe, the necessity for the kind of work which would be done with the money raised, and the privilege of sharing in it.

The following policy questions were decided upon, as principles upon which the campaign would be based:

1. That it would be a secret, quiet campaign - not generally publicized.
2. That it would be a fast campaign - lasting not longer than 2-3 weeks.
3. That it would be a small campaign - i.e. confined to a small group of men.
4. That a list would be compiled of approximately 250 names, and these would be solicited.
5. That there would be several meetings arranged at various homes, and these 250 men would be split up into several groups, and invited to one of the private meetings.
6. That those who did not attend the private meeting to which they were invited, would be approached individually for their contributions.

The first of the several parlor meetings was held on the evening of 22 August at the home of Arturo Wolfowitz. About 40 men were invited, of whom about 20 attended. The others will be solicited individually. Attached is a sheet giving the names and amounts of those present. At this meeting approximately 50,000 pesos was raised. This is only the beginning. The other meetings may be expected to do almost as well.

I spent the time during the day meeting people and managed to contact perhaps a dozen individuals for private conversations, explaining the nature of the organization and its work. Among those contacted was the Sephardic community, which consists of several thousand persons, distinct from the Ashkenazic.

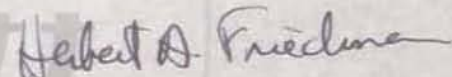
The two leaders of the Sephardic community are Matrzni and Moscona. The richest man among them is Allazraki. After a personal conversation with him, he agreed to have the private meeting for the Sephardim in his home, and this is considered a good sign. It was arranged for 27 August. Mr. Kessel, of the Ashkenazic, is having a meeting in his home 25 August. Several others will follow suit.

Abram Fein arrived on the morning of 22 August, and I immediately introduced him to the key people. He was present and spoke very well at the first meeting at Wolfowitz' home that very evening of his arrival. The people took to him, and he makes a fine impression.

Am enclosing a list of expenses on attached sheet.

With fondest best wishes to yourself, Eugene Cohen, and Joe Eisen, I am,

Sincerely,



Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

Two encl.:

1. List of meeting on 22 Aug 47
2. Expense list

P. S. I kept referring to the figure of \$100,000, which is 500,000 pesos, and never spoke of less. Abram is going to continue this line. My own guess is that he will reach that sum, or pretty near it. We are not speaking of less.

Meeting of 22 August - First Meeting of
Campaign at home of
Arturo Wolfowitz

*	Sol Wishniak		
*	Sam Wishniak		
	Moises Mareina	3,000 pesos	
	Kessel		
	Pushkart	5,000	(this will mos probably be raised to 10,000)
	Shipper	500	
*	Tabajovich		
*	Korbman		
*	Dr. Adolfo Fastlicht		
	L. Dultzin	1,000	
	Wishniewich	1,000	
	Max Goltzschmidt		
	Elias Zach	5,000	(this may go higher)
	Arturo Wolfowitz		
	Katz	10,000	
	Leon Putianski	5,000	
	Elias Souradsky	10,000	(this will not be given in his own name, but under Dr. Putianski)
	Jacobo Liberman	2,000	
		<u>42,500</u>	

* These men did not announce their gifts, but all promised to do so by the following morning. Unfortunately, I had to leave the next morning, and so do not know what they finally decided, but Fein will know by now. On the basis of the above figure, with five donations still to come in, I feel certain that 50,000 was reached the first night.

1595 Pearl Street
Denver, Colorado
25 August, 1947

Mr. Harold G. Jaffer
250 W. 57 St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rabinowitz,

May I write this brief report of activities in Mexico City for the few days I was able to be there, from 20-22 August, inclusive.

Two large committee meetings were held on the evenings of 20 and 21 August, at Zionist Organization headquarters, Hamburgo 138. These meetings were for the purpose of planning the strategy of the campaign. Although there had apparently been some discussion about the campaign before our arrival, still there was no clear-cut plan, and that had to be created. There was a great deal of enthusiasm at both meetings, and I spoke at some length about the conditions in Europe, the necessity for the kind of work which would be done with the money raised, and the privilege of sharing in it.

The following policy questions were decided upon, as principles upon which the campaign would be based:

1. That it would be a secret, quiet campaign - not generally publicized.
2. That it would be a fast campaign - lasting not longer than 2-3 weeks.
3. That it would be a small campaign - i.e. confined to a small group of men.
4. That a list would be compiled of approximately 250 names, and these would be solicited.
5. That there would be several meetings arranged at various homes, and these 250 men would be split up into several groups, and invited to one of the private meetings.
6. That those who did not attend the private meeting to which they were invited, would be approached individually for their contributions.

The first of the several parlor meetings was held on the evening of 22 August at the home of Arturo Wolfowitz. About 40 men were invited, of whom about 20 attended. The others will be solicited individually. Attached is a sheet giving the names and amounts of those present. At this meeting approximately 50,000 pesos was raised. This is only the beginning. The other meetings may be expected to do almost as well.

I spent the time during the day meeting people and managed to contact perhaps a dozen individuals for private conversations, explaining the nature of the organization and its work. Among those contacted was the Sephardic community, which consists of several thousand persons, distinct from the Ashkenazic.

The two leaders of the Sephardic community are Matrzni and Moscona. The richest man among them is Allazraki. After a personal conversation with him, he agreed to have the private meeting for the Sephardim in his home, and this is considered a good sign. It was arranged for 27 August. Mr. Kessel, of the Ashkenazic, is having a meeting in his home 25 August. Several others will follow suit.

Abram Fein arrived on the morning of 22 August, and I immediately introduced him to the key people. He was present and spoke very well at the first meeting at Wolfowitz' home that very evening of his arrival. The people took to him, and he makes a fine impression.

Am enclosing a list of expenses on attached sheet.

With fondest best wishes to yourself, Eugene Cohen, and Joe Eisen, I am,

Sincerely,

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman

Two encl.:

1. List of meeting on 22 Aug 47
2. Expense list

P. S. I kept referring to the figure of \$100,000, which is 500,000 pesos, and never spoke of less. Abram is going to continue this line. My own guess is that he will reach that sum, or pretty near it. We are not speaking of less.

Meeting of 22 August - First Meeting of
Campaign at home of
Arturo Wolfowitz

*	Sol Wishniak		
*	Sam Wishniak		
	Moises Mareina	3,000 pesos	
	Kessel		
	Pushkart	5,000	(this will mos probably be raised to 10,000)
	Shipper	500	
*	Tabajovich		
*	Korbman		
*	Dr. Adolfo Fastlicht		
	L. Dultzin	1,000	
	Wishniewich	1,000	
	Max Golttschmidt		
	Elias Zach	5,000	(this may go higher)
	Arturo Wolfowitz		
	Katz	10,000	
	Leon Putianski	5,000	
	Elias Souradsky	10,000	(this will not be given in his own name, but under Dr. Putianski)
	Jacobo Liberman	<u>2,000</u>	
		42,500	

* These men did not announce their gifts, but all promised to do so by the following morning. Unfortunately, I had to leave the next morning, and so do not know what they finally decided, but Fein will know by now. On the basis of the above figure, with five donations still to come in, I feel certain that 50,000 was reached the first night.

HAROLD G. JAFFER

250 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19

Sept. 9, 1947

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
1595 Pearl St.
Denver, Colo.

Dear Rabbi Friedman:

Thanks so much for your report on activities in Mexico City. It has gone the rounds of the entire staff and we were all very pleased with your analysis. We are waiting now for Abe Fein to return and will let you know the results of his stay.

Enclosed is a check for \$437.83 covering the expenses of yourself and Mrs. Friedman.

Again our thanks to you and best wishes from everyone and you may be sure that we will call upon you again whenever the occasion arises.

Sincerely,

Harold G. Jaffer

HGJ:JP
Enc.

HAROLD G. JAFFER

250 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19

Room 1919

August 5, 1947

Rabbi Herbert Freidman
930 Humboldt
Denver, Colo.

Dear Herb:

This letter is really a double one. In the first place I feel like writing to you myself, and in the second, I'm pinch-hitting for Shlomo Rabinowitz and Joe Eisen.

Joe Eisen told me that you are going to Mexico for several days, and considering your very busy life at this period of the year, it certainly is appreciated by one and all. I would like very much to give you some of the inside poop from this angle, but I think that you are about as well-oriented as anyone in this office. However, should there be any difficulties or information that you desire, do not hesitate to get in touch with me. On the other hand, any information that you care to pass this way will of course be welcome.

Were you able to get in touch with Captain Nowinsky? And were you able to do anything for him?

I received a letter from Phil Bernstein congratulating me on the excellent piece of work that I'd done in Europe (tra la) and informing me that he is coming home shortly, and would like to see me, sometimes. Well, it was nice of him to remember, anyway.

As for myself, I am still doing the same type of work, and all goes pretty well.

Please give my best to your lady, and please write at your earliest opportunity.

Yours truly,

Eugene J. Cohen
Eugene J. Cohen

EJC:MW

HAROLD G. JAFFER

250 WEST 57th STREET

NEW YORK 19

P.S. During the luncheon that you and Elaine attended, one of the members of our staff, Mrs. Millie Krasnow, was told that we are working with the wrong people in Denver. Would you send us the names of the right people?

Joe Eisen is planning to go to Mexico with you. However, he is having difficulties obtaining a visa. If he fails, either another American will go from this office, or a Palestinian with an American passport. You will receive another letter later on telling you whom to contact in the fair country of Mexico.

Did you ever break 80?



Americans for Haganah

A NON-SECTARIAN ORGANIZATION PLEDGED TO SERVE GOD AND HUMANITY BY SUPPORTING UNRESTRICTED JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO AND THE DEFENSE AND BUILDING OF A DEMOCRATIC JEWISH HOMELAND IN PALESTINE



AUGUST 15, 1947

Vol. 1, No. 1

MORE SHIPS ON WAY SAYS HAGANAH

Piracy, murder, prison ships — these are the only words which can adequately describe the dastardly attack by British naval forces on the Haganah Ship Exodus 1947, seventeen miles outside of Palestine territorial waters and the subsequent deportation of 4,554 survivors of Nazi concentration camps back to the European graveyard.

Not since the days of the Barbary pirates has an unarmed vessel plying the Mediterranean on a peaceful, humanitarian mission, been assaulted on the high seas.

Starve and Beat Refugees

Not since the days of the African slave traders have human beings been incarcerated in cages on British detention ships without adequate food, water and medical attention for babies and expectant mothers.

Despite their suffering on the British prison ships, the refugees have refused to debark in France and their ultimate fate is unknown at this writing. All we know is that they are being kept locked in dirty, congested ships' holds, under the baking Mediterranean sun. They are being starved and beaten in an attempt to force their submission.

Two More Ships Arrive

Haganah's answer to British barbarism was to bring in more ships. Two have already arrived since the Exodus, making a total of 36 known ships carrying 40,000 immigrants in 21 months. More are on the way, the Haganah announced. The refugees must get out of Europe, and the Haganah will get them out despite all obstacles.

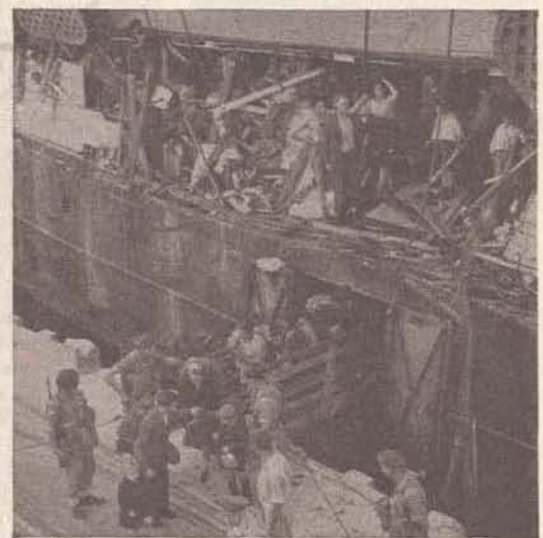
Haganah task forces also blew up a deportation vessel in Haifa Harbor and destroyed a radar station on Mount Carmel, which was used to detect Haganah vessels. One Jewish soldier was lost in the attack on the radar station.



With blue and white flag flying fore and aft, the Haganah ship Exodus 1947 comes into Haifa Harbor under her own steam with 4,554 refugees on board. Note holes in hull caused by repeated ramming by British warships.



Tears of pain and frustration are the lot of this refugee family. The husband was shot by British sailors who used teargas, fire hoses, and automatic weapons against the unarmed refugees. Resistance lasted for three hours. Press Association photos.



Refugees stand by the wreckage caused when the Haganah vessel was rammed by 6 British warships 17 miles outside of territorial waters. Total casualties were three dead, including the first mate Ensign William Bernstein, USNR, and over one hundred wounded.

Gave His Life For Freedom

Brother Tells Bernstein's Story

By MORRIS BERNSTEIN

My brother, William Bernstein, lost his life on the Exodus because he believed that liberty means freedom for all, not just in one place, but all over the world. There were no half-way measures for Bill. He was the kind who had to put his ideals into action, and he would not let somebody else do the job for him. After he joined the Haganah immigration service, he wrote me a number of letters. I have included some excerpts from them which show how deeply he felt about what he was doing.

Bill was 18 when the United States entered the war. He was then a student at Ohio University. The draft board offered to defer him as a premedical student, but Bill refused. He felt that if Hitler was going to overrun the world, he had to join the fight to stop him. There was no use in pointing out that as a doctor he might be more useful to the service later on.

Could Not Forget DP's

After three years of service in the merchant marine all over the world, Bill became an ensign in the Navy. While he was on duty in Europe, he saw the Jewish victims of the German concentration camps at the time of their liberation. He could not get those people out of his mind.

Bill was honorably discharged from the Navy late in 1946. It was a shock to us when he told us soon afterward that he was going to sea for the Haganah. He had just come home after five years of war service, and we had hoped that he would settle down and go back to school, satisfied that he had done his share. But Bill felt that his job was not yet finished.

I saw Bill for the last time shortly before he entered the Haganah service in January 1947. He wrote as often as he could. Bill had not had any Jewish training. He never belonged to any Jewish organization. In the beginning he appears as an outsider helping other human beings. He was "I" and the others were "they". Later he began to feel a closer identification with them. He began to talk in terms of "we of the Warsaw Ghetto".

Excerpts From Letters

January 1947 (to his brother): "... But the crew! We have everything aboard except sailors. . . . To hear the bosun give an order in Yiddish and have everyone comply as though there's nothing strange or funny about it—I just can't describe what it feels like!"



William Bernstein

February 22, 1947 (to his mother): "... You ask me to settle down, go to school, and so forth.—That's all very fine, mom, but one doesn't find happiness by continually telling himself he's happy. . . . Don't you think I would like a nice wife and kids and a good job? Of course I would but I can't do that now. . . ."

March 9, 1947 (to his brother): "... "Incidentally the motley mess of philosophers, mathematicians, and assorted intellectuals have begun to shape up into some sort of a good working crew. More team work. The ship is beginning to run like a ship. . . ."

Only 5 Days of Resistance

April 21 (to his brother): "... "Our people have only one burning desire here, the second deliverance to Eretz Israel. The first migration was supposedly the handiwork of God, the second we fight for. . . . Three days ago the Jews here celebrated the fourth anniversary of the resistance of the Warsaw Ghetto. Everyone of 60,000 Jews was massacred defending a street with small arms against the German army. Only five days of resistance in 4,000 years of persecution. Something we should be ashamed of.

However, the time isn't far off when we'll redeem our honor. Perhaps you and I won't be around when it happens but I can see it building all around me. The base of the pyramid is slow in building but the pinnacle comes quickly. I was at a refugee camp yesterday. They . . . all will be in Eretz Israel eventually raising Sabras (natives of Palestine) on farms stolen from the desert. A good many of these kids have numbers tattooed on their arms as proof of the life they have led for four years. . . ."

July 9 (to his brother): "... "This is it! After working, hiding, and chasing all over Europe . . . we are finally on our way. . . . This is the biggest ship to do this kind of work. . . . we are carrying the greatest number of people ever transported on one ship. The chances of getting through are slim. We will do our best but the important thing is that these people are out of Europe and will end up with their own people sooner or later."

Bernstein Mates Vow to Continue

Awaiting trial on charges of aiding "illegal" immigration of Jews to Palestine, three American shipmates of William Bernstein showed no remorse for their "crime".

"We cannot forgive ourselves for not succeeding in achieving our aim," they declared, "to help give the pitiful remnants of our people in Europe the opportunity to rebuild themselves as free citizens of Palestine."

"We, a group of American Jewish war veterans, solemnly pledge that the murder of our passengers and the fatal wounding of our shipmate, Bill Bernstein, will be answered in a manner which they would have wanted. We will continue to bring the remnants of European Jewry to Palestine."

The three arrested men are: Bernard Marks, captain of the Exodus, 24, of Cincinnati, enlisted in the merchant marine in 1942 and served on convoy ships between the United States and the Near East.

Stanley Ritzer, 24, of Brooklyn, a veteran of 4 years in the Marines, who spent three years overseas.

Cyril Weinstein, 22, also of Brooklyn, joined the merchant marine in 1942 and served on Army transports.

Exodus Radios Battle Story

At 7:30 this morning (July 18) the following message was broadcast from the deck of the Haganah ship Exodus 1947:

"Before dawn at 2:00 A.M. we were attacked suddenly and without any previous warning by six destroyers and one cruiser, a distance of 17 miles from the shores of Palestine in international waters.

"The assailants immediately opened fire, threw gas bombs and rammed our ship from three directions. On our deck there are one dead, five dying, 20 seriously wounded and 100 less seriously."

Capture Boarding Troops

"Under a hail of fire and bombs, the naval forces succeeded in boarding the vessel and seizing the bridge. But the ship's crew were not deterred. By using a reserve steering wheel in the bottom of the ship, we succeeded in piloting the ship in the desired direction. At the moment, the boarding party on the bridge are our prisoners."

"The resistance continued for more than three hours. Owing to severe losses and the condition of the ship, which is in danger of sinking, we were compelled to sail in the direction of Haifa, in order to save the 4,450 Jews from drowning."

"The ship is leaking and our pumps are working at full speed. We hope that if we reach the coast quickly, we may still save the ship."

Appeal to UN Committee

The captain of the refugee ship sent an S.O.S. to the members of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine: "Come quickly, come immediately to Haifa to witness the shocking crime against humanity and international law. There was never before such a crime on the seas. We have all the evidence and log books to show beyond doubt that we were attacked in international waters. We are prepared to stand before any international court and to prove that an international and inhuman crime was committed against us."

"The hull of the ship is broken. Water is pouring in. The deck is smashed. The pumps are working at full speed to dispose of the water inside. I have just, to my greatest relief, learned that there is hope that we may be saved from drowning if we sail full speed for the coast."

"The ship's transmitter is continuing to function and will continue to broadcast on the 35 meter wave length as long as we possibly can."

Haganah Speaks To The United Nations

Ready To Defend Jewish Palestine Against Attack

In a memorandum to the United Nations Special Committee on July 12, Haganah declared that it would use all its resources against "any regime which is designed to liquidate Zionism," and asserted that its "military strength is adequate to defend Jewish Palestine against any attack from the Arabs of this country whether or not they are assisted openly or secretly by the military forces of the neighboring states."

Rejects Terrorism

Haganah rejects the terrorist groups because "they impede our national struggle" and "because of the criminal folly of their actions."

Presenting the history and aims of the Haganah, the statement, signed by the "Jewish Resistance Movement of which Haganah is the backbone", stressed the following points:

● Haganah is not a "band of conspirators, not a private army, not a political faction". It has "no political aims other than those of the Jewish people and the Zionist movement".

Every Village a Haganah Base

● Haganah is a "free national volunteer army" including "practically every Jewish young man and woman capable of bearing arms." Its forces "cover every Jewish rural and urban settlement" and "embrace practically every Jewish household."

● Any attempt to break the Haganah "would mean imprisoning every Jew in Palestine—every boy, girl, man, and woman"—and subduing "every town and village—where they are all bases of the Haganah."

Immigration and Settlement

● The British government "will never succeed in halting the immigration organized by the Jewish resistance . . . the blockade of our shores has been broken time and time again and it will be broken in the future."

● In spite of restrictions on land purchase, "we have extended and we will extend the area of Jewish settlement."

Scores of Jewish Lives Saved in Anti-Terror Campaign



In the heart of the Tel-Aviv commercial district, under one of the busiest corners in the city, Haganah discovered a half-completed tunnel dug by men of the Irgun Zvai Leumi attempting to blow up Citrus House, British military headquarters, shown on the left. The tunnel, beginning from a cellar under the house on the right, reached beyond the middle of the street when discovered. Scores of Jewish civilians would have been killed and injured

along with the British troops in the building.

As part of its campaign to root out terrorism, explained in article on Haganah memorandum to the UN on this page, Haganah sent a task force to seal up the tunnel on June 18. Zev Werber, 23, leader of the group, was killed by a booby trap laid by the terrorists. Funeral services for Werber were attended by 40,000 people in a mass demonstration against terrorism.

● Haganah rejects terrorism for "both political and moral reasons." It denies the right to existence of the "terrorist gangs because they impede our national struggle, because they are a danger to the internal freedom of the Yishuv and because they lead our youth into the paths of evil . . . because of their reactionary social make-up and because of the criminal folly of their actions."

● In preventing acts of terrorism its object "was not to gain the commendation of the Government, but to defend the Yishuv against outrage and provocation. This was no

more than a service to the Jewish people."

Will Fight Against Subjection

● The full strength of the Haganah will be used to "prevent the subjection of the Jewish people to foreign rule or to Arab domination."

Recalling that the Yishuv was "the only loyal anti-fascist force" in the Middle East during the last war, the statement pointed to the thousands of Haganah volunteers who fought on all fronts. "Our aim is to be a free and independent people, enjoying equality in the family of nations," it concluded.



An icebox in the room at entrance to the tunnel carries the chalked message "Haganah was here. We will not allow you to carry out your evil plan. You have been warned." Terrorists disregarded the warning, laid the trap which killed Zev Werber instead.

Copies of the complete memorandum of the Haganah to the United Nations Special Committee may be obtained by writing to

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH, INC.

38 West 69th Street
New York 23, N. Y.

Arms Hunt

In a hunt for alleged "Haganah arms factories," British troops arrested 24 workers of the Charash Barzel Engineering Works of Tel-Aviv charged with manufacturing sten gun parts.

Americans For Haganah Backs Jewish Immigration

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH was formed to rally the support of the American public behind unrestricted Jewish immigration to Palestine. Mr. Abraham Feinberg, president of the new organization, announced at a meeting on July 8 at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City.

Sole Immigration Force

"Haganah, the people's defense army in Palestine, is the only force in the world working actively and effectively to bring displaced European Jews into Palestine in defiance of Britain's illegal restrictions and brutal efforts to strangle immigration," declared Mr. Feinberg, in presenting the program of the organization. "As Americans who recognize that the solution of the DP problem is one of the leading humanitarian questions in the world today, we have joined together to coordinate for the people of this country all information regarding the part that Haganah is playing in solving this problem."

Three-fold Program

The three-fold program follows:

1. To rally the moral support of the people of the United States behind unrestricted Jewish immigration into Palestine.
2. To disseminate information about the part Haganah is playing in bringing displaced European Jews into Palestine in spite of the illegal British immigration quotas.
3. To clear up confusion existing in many American minds concerning the various wildcat groups which claim to be identified with the Palestine struggle.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the following organizations:

Hadassah
Labor Zionist Organization
Mizrachi Organization of America
Zionist Organization of America
American Trade Union Council
National Committee for Labor Palestine
Jewish War Veterans
National Committee for Labor Palestine
Habonim
Hashomer Hatzair
Interglacial Zionist Federation
Junior Mizrachi
Masada
Young Judea
Young Zionist Actions Committee

Will Tell Rescue Story

Every available channel of information will be used to tell the epic story of Haganah's work in rescuing the Jewish survivors of the Hitler terror in Europe and transporting them to a productive life in Palestine. The AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH bulletin will be published twice a month to report on the activities of the Haganah in Palestine and on the progress of the Americans for Haganah program throughout the United States.

"We will report how Haganah is rebuilding human lives by helping refugee Jews to settle on the land in Palestine, and how it defends the new settlements against all attackers," Mr. Feinberg said. "We will tell how Haganah is rejecting terrorist tactics in accordance with its time-honored policy of avoiding unnecessary and irresponsible bloodshed which defeats the real aim of the Jews."

Haganah Aid to Allies Cited

Mr. Nahum Bernstein, secretary of the organization, pointed out that "although Haganah is denied official status by the British it comprises the overwhelming majority of the democratic Jewish community in Palestine. During the last war it rendered valuable service to the Allies. Thousands of its members constituted an important strategic and striking force against the common enemy."

"The story of Haganah is the story of new Palestine. The Jewish defense army embodies the indomitable courage of the Jewish people in resisting oppression down through the centuries."

In addition to Mr. Feinberg, president, and Mr. Bernstein, secretary, other officers and members of the Executive Committee include Boris Margolin, vice-president; Robert E. Lagunoff, treasurer; Samuel Cherr, Helen Waren, and Judge Benjamin Shalleck. A National Council is in formation.

Headquarters have been established at 38 West 69th Street, New York City.

New Settlement Goes Up



A truck convoy, loaded with men and supplies, arrives at dawn at the site of a new settlement. By noon the settlement will be completed. Hundreds of new points have been founded in this way. The operations are planned by Haganah and all necessary protection is provided.

Message From Haganah

Palestine, July 10.

"Haganah extends heartiest greetings to the Executive Committee—and to all its friends in the United States—on the formation of AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH.

"Haganah is the military arm of the Yishuv pledged to defend the life, honor, and rights of the Jewish people. It carries the burden of resistance to the British efforts to destroy Zionism. Haganah safeguards immigration and assures the existence, development, and independence of the Yishuv.

"Haganah is the symbol of the Yishuv united against the enemy. It is the democratic voluntary army of the Jewish people. To its ranks belong all able-bodied young Jewish men and women of all classes and political parties.

"Haganah is constantly being hunted by the British authorities, but to no avail. It has grown in strength despite their increasing efforts to crush it. The attempts of enemies from within to undermine the work of Haganah will also fail. Haganah will never permit the two small terrorist organizations—the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern group—to impose their rule of treachery and deceit on the Yishuv.

"We are passing through a difficult period. Even harder days lie ahead. The formation of AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH encourages us and increases our hope. Haganah—guardian of the Yishuv—will carry the flag high."

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH, Inc., 38 W. 69th St., New York 23, N. Y.

I wish to keep informed about Haganah's activities in immigration and in safeguarding the Yishuv. I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ subscriptions to your bulletin.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

Published twice a month. \$2.00 per subscription

RABBI MAX MACCOBY

September 10, 1947

Dear Colleague:

Where will the wanderers on the Exodus '47 spend Rosh Hashonah? The voyage of this vessel is an index to the conscience of mankind. It is a special challenge to American Jews. Working with Haganah, we helped them escape Europe. We dare not let them down now.

This is no appeal for funds. We seek your help, rather, to inform American Israel of what is being done to save European Jewry and to safeguard the Yishuv. That is the job of AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH -- information. We want your help especially during the High Holidays when a sermon on the Haganah would be very timely. Enclosed is a transcript of the Haganah statement to the UNSCOP. It tells the story of Haganah completely and clearly. I am sure that you will find it extremely helpful.

Publication of the UNSCOP proposals submitted recently must not interfere with the work we are doing. It will be a long time before decisions are made. We dare not ask the battered and broken travelers on the Exodus '47 to wait nor those hundreds of thousands who still languish in the D. P. camps of Germany.

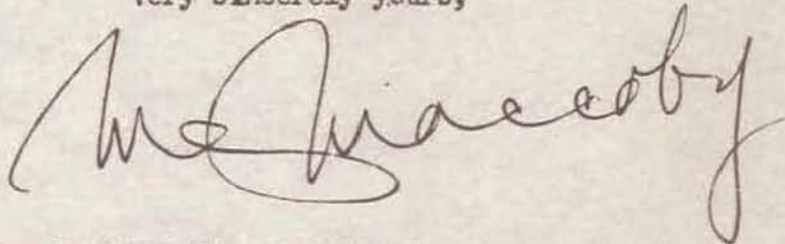
Knowledge of the truth is paramount. We want all Jews to know what the program of Haganah is. Haganah is the arm of the Yishuv, dedicated not to destruction but to building and increasing the strength of the Yishuv.

We dare not stop or diminish our work. The fate and future of European Jewry and the Yishuv depend upon it. We must mobilize our strength to save the passengers of the Exodus '47 and all those in Europe who seek rescue.

May I count on your support. Please write and tell me so.

With good wishes for a Happy New Year.

Very sincerely yours,

A large, fluid handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Max Macoby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

P. S. Enclosed is a bulletin of AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH. I urge you to subscribe and tell your friends about it.

HAGANAH SPEAKS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

MEMORANDUM
SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
BY
THE JEWISH RESISTANCE MOVEMENT

Reprinted by:

Americans for Haganah Inc.
38 W. 69th Street
New York 23, N. Y.

HAGANAH SPEAKS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chairman and Members of the United Nations Committee on Palestine,

The Jewish Resistance Movement in this country and in the Diaspora is one of the most vital facts on the Palestine scene. The British Government does not wish you to see this in its true light. It is, indeed, quite possible that they will endeavour to diminish and distort the true nature and strength of the Jewish Resistance Movement. On the other hand, the Jewish official representatives, for obvious reasons, will be unable fully to bring out its significance, present and future.

The Command of the Jewish Resistance Movement has therefore decided to submit to you this memorandum with the object of assisting you to a better appreciation of this basic aspect of the situation.

The Jewish Resistance Movement, of which the Haganah is the backbone, is not a band of conspirators, not a private army, not a political faction. We have no political aims other than those of the Jewish people and the Zionist movement. The Resistance Movement bows to the authority of the Zionist Congress and although as a mass non-party organisation it is not directly represented in the Zionist Congress, the policy decided upon by the Congress is automatically the policy of the Resistance Movement. We are a free national volunteer army in whose ranks may be found practically every Jewish young man and woman capable of bearing arms. Our forces cover every Jewish rural and urban settlement; they embrace practically every Jewish household. Our members are drawn from all parties and all social groups in the Yishuv. Our ramifications extend over all Jewish communities in the Diaspora. The Jewish Resistance Movement is the Jewish nation organised for defence and struggle.

The Haganah started its career as a watchmen's organisation to protect the pioneer Jewish settlements against outbreaks of pillage and murder which were the constant risks of life in the lawless wilderness which the first Jewish settlers found when they came to Palestine. The Ottoman administration had neither the strength nor the will to protect our settlements against attack, and in the same way as the whole responsibility for the creation of the Jewish settlements was borne by the Jewish people alone, so did the Jews take upon themselves the burden, the honour of self-defence.

As time went on - even after the British occupation of Palestine in 1917 - the Jewish settlements were frequently subjected to armed Arab attacks. Armed gangs of Arab hooligans were incited to fall upon our settlements by the extremist Arab leaders, who saw a threat to their authority in the expansion of the Jewish effort. The British administration showed little interest in putting a stop to this campaign of Arab terror; moreover, its policy, to all intents and purposes, served to encourage it (e.g. the treasonable role played by the Arab police during the riots from 1936 to 1938; bolstering up of the position of that Nazi agent, the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem; suppression of the Arab opposition parties, etc.). The British administration tried to appease the Arab extremists with political concessions, subjected Jewish development to a series of artificial restrictions, interfered drastically with the normal course of Zionist endeavour, and thereby spread the impression that the Government was actually on the side of the enemies of the Mandate and that anti-Jewish terrorism would gain political reward.

It was the Haganah alone which enabled the Jews to defend their lives, their property, and their honour. Were it not for the Haganah many pioneer settlements would have been abandoned; were it not for the Haganah, this country would have been left to the mercy of Arab gangsters. Thanks to the Haganah Jewish agriculture, industry and communications have carried on uninterruptedly and the Zionist enterprise has not been stifled.

Jewish self-defence in Palestine is thus born of the vital needs of life; it is the result of the clear realisation that the Jewish people cannot afford to rely on the precarious protection of a foreign administration. Self-defence has become as cardinal a principle of our life as Jewish labour and the breaking of new ground for Jewish agricultural settlement. It is an integral part of the rebirth of the Jewish nation in its homeland in its urge to freedom, to security and to national independence.

The Haganah cannot be broken. It is impossible to break it not only because all the Jews of Palestine will fight for their right to self-defence, but because breaking the Haganah would mean imprisoning every Jew in Palestine - every boy, girl, man and woman - and because it will be necessary to occupy and to subdue every town, colony and village - for they all are bases of the Haganah. The Haganah can be crushed only as a result of the complete destruction of the Yishuv. It will dissolve of its free will when the Jewish State makes its existence in its present form unnecessary.

It is not the liquidation of the Haganah which will bring peace and order in Palestine. On the contrary, its continued existence is essential if peace and order are to be secured. Jewish self-defence is the safeguard for Jewish immigration, the security of the Yishuv and the rights of the Jewish people generally. There will be no peace in Palestine unless these are secured.

The Haganah is not recognised by the Palestine administration. The Government pursues the Haganah in order to break it up, members of the Haganah are imprisoned for bearing arms and training for defence. During the last war the Haganah was the only military force in the whole of the Middle East which was unreservedly loyal in the fight against the Axis. This has now been forgotten. The Haganah is pursued but stands firm. We were attacked by the Government on the 29th of June last year but our strength has since increased ten-fold.

We deny both the moral and political validity of a law which robs our people of its right to defend itself in the face of attacks. We are ready to stake everything for our right to self-defence, for we remember what happened to the Assyrians and the Armenians, we remember the ghastly fate of our kin in the gas-chambers of Europe, and we know of the hapless lot of our brethren in the Arab states. We also know that rehabilitation, security and independence will not come unless we are prepared to defend them.

We have no doubt that representatives of the Government will try to frighten you with the specious argument that the Jewish constructive effort in this country can be extended only in the teeth of the armed resistance of the Arabs of Palestine and the neighbouring countries. The Government will pose as the sole guardian of the security of the Arabs and of peace and order generally.

Of one thing you may be certain: We have ample strength to beat off Arab attacks which cannot but be encouraged by the administration's hostility to our effort, by its support of extremist elements among the Arab people and by its interference with our development. Anything which tends to increase the real strength of the Jews in Palestine is to the country's benefit as a whole, for it reduces the incentive for Arab aggression. We do not, however, rely on our military strength alone in our relations with the Arabs of Palestine. We believe that the progress and prosperity which the Jews have brought to the Middle East are ultimate guarantees for good relations in the future. At the same time our military strength is adequate to defend Jewish Palestine against any attacks from the Arabs of this country whether or not they are assisted openly or secretly by the military forces of the neighbouring states.

The Jewish Resistance Movement unconditionally rejects terrorism as an instrument in our national struggle. The reasons are both moral and political: Terrorism runs counter to the moral foundations and the very spirit of the Zionist Movement. In our own military operations, we have always tried scrupulously to safeguard human life

and to prevent the shedding of innocent blood. When defending ourselves against Arab attackers we took extreme precautions to avoid injuring an Arab merely because he was an Arab - our weapons were aimed at the criminals only.

Moreover, men of the Jewish Resistance Movement have endangered and jeopardised their own lives to prevent murder, terrorism and provocation - the Citrus House incident in Tel Aviv was but one example.

In preventing these acts of terrorist madness our object was not to gain the commendation of the Government, but to defend the Yishuv against outrage and provocation. This was no more than service to the Jewish people.

But the Jewish Resistance Movement will not co-operate with the Police in the eradication of terrorism. The reasons are clear - the Jewish people are engaged in a struggle with the administration; they cannot co-operate with a Government which dooms us to destruction, drives out and kills immigrants, establishes a Police State in our country, robs us of our land, and carries out a consistent policy designed to put an end to our work of reconstruction.

The Jewish Resistance Movement denies the *raison d'etre* of the terrorist gangs because they impede our national struggle, because they are a danger to the internal freedom of the Yishuv and because they lead our youth into the paths of evil. We utterly reject the right to existence of such para-military factions because of their reactionary social make-up and because of the criminal folly of their actions.

Terrorism is born of the anti-Zionist policy of the Government. Terrorism persists because immigration and settlement have been crippled and the young people of this country have been driven to disappointment and despair. It is the Government of Palestine which gave rise to terrorism and it continues to nurture it. The Jewish Resistance Movement is combatting and will combat the spread of terror, but it must be realised that terror can never be completely stamped out as long as the Government pursues an anti-Zionist policy, as long as the gates of Palestine are barred against our harassed and tortured people, and as long as the youth of Palestine have no constructive channels into which to direct their urge to help their less fortunate brothers and rebuild their country. It will not be difficult for the Yishuv to root out terrorism on its own when the sources on which it feeds dry up, that is, when the Government abandons its present policy.

During your tours of the country and your public sessions in Jerusalem you have had the opportunity to hear the bitter protests of the Jewish people at the oppressive anti-Zionist regime in Palestine. It is not our intention to add anything to these protests. We shall not weary you with further evidence of the scheming, the heartlessness and oppression of this administration.

The British Government has declared open war on the Jewish people and its struggle for liberation. The Jewish Resistance Movement - the fighting Jewish people - will not submit.

We have never recognised and we will never recognise the legality of the restrictions on immigration. We have never recognised and we will never recognise the legality of the restrictions on the purchase of land. We will never accept a regime which aims at throttling us.

AMERICAN JEWISH

We have no other desire than to pursue our work of reconstruction in peace. The present bitter conflict is not of our making. We have been forced into it by the British Government. One aspect of the conflict is our struggle for free immigration, for the evacuation of the remnants of European Jewry to the motherland. The British administration has acted with unparalleled callousness in trying to obstruct this work of rescue. They hunt our people by land, on the sea and in the air. Nevertheless the stream of immigration goes on, the blockade of our shores has been broken time and again and it will be broken in the future. The Government will never succeed in halting the immigration organised by the Jewish Resistance, for it stems from the depths of the agony of a sorely stricken people.

A further aspect is our struggle for settlement on the land: In spite of the government's restrictions we have extended and we will extend the area of Jewish settlement. We shall continue to break new ground on the undeveloped wastes of this country.

Moreover, we have considered it our duty to interrupt the smooth working of the anti-Zionist regime by a series of military operations whose object was to warn the Government and to demonstrate to the whole world that the Jewish people will not submit to the liquidation of their Palestine enterprise. The political struggle of the Jewish people both here and overseas and their forceful protests in this country are the reasons why the Palestine problem, which is connected by indissoluble bonds with the problem of the Jewish people, has now been removed from the sole jurisdiction of Britain and submitted to the United Nations.

It is not our intention to describe the structure of the Jewish Resistance Movement - its strength in manpower, in arms, or in military efficiency. All we wish to make clear is that we are strong enough to resist any anti-Zionist regime in Palestine. The Jewish Resistance Movement will contest the establishment of any regime of this nature with force. The Jews of Palestine are of sufficient strength to challenge the application of any anti-Zionist policy in this country.

This is not theory but plain fact: We will use force if force is required. The Jews of Palestine will not buy a false peace and prosperity by acquiescence in the freezing of Zionist development. All our resources will be available for the struggle against any regime which is designed to liquidate Zionism, to deny us our freedom, to obstruct our national development. Our Movement is strong enough to attempt a serious dislocation of the present regime in Palestine until its anti-Zionist policy is changed.

The British Government has betrayed its international trust. Instead of assisting the Jewish people to return to its homeland and to reconstitute its national independence, it is using Palestine as a base for the service and protection of its own selfish interests. The Jewish Resistance Movement repudiates the moral and political foundations of British rule in Palestine.

Our strength is small, but such as it is, it will be used to uphold our freedom and prevent the subjection of the Jewish people to foreign rule or to Arab domination. We share no imperialist conquest by any power. During the last war we were the only loyal anti-fascist force in this part of the world and as such we are today the most potent single factor for progressive peace in the Middle East.

In the realisation of Zionism no decision can be achieved by force of arms. It can only be realised by an intensive process of immigration and settlement and by the establishment of the Jewish State. Our aim is to be a free and independent people, enjoying equality in the family of nations.

The Jews have brought peace, progress and prosperity to all the inhabitants of this country. We are the only people who have come to the East without any desire to oppress and to exploit anyone. We strive for friendship with the Arabs in Palestine and those of the neighbouring countries, provided they seek no domination over us.

We repeat that the Jewish Resistance Movement is a central feature of the Palestine scene. It is the Haganah and none other which from the very outset has defended

the Yishuv and the Zionist effort against attack, it is the Haganah and none other which was the main driving force in Palestine's military war effort. Thousands of its members of all ranks volunteered for armed service and formed the backbone of all Jewish units and of the Jewish Brigade Group. Units of the Haganah, in cooperation with the British army, played a vital role in driving the Nazis out of Syria; the Haganah undertook to carry on operations against the Germans behind the front in the event of the British Army being compelled to evacuate Palestine; our men acted as parachutists in Europe in the service of the Allied Armies, and organised resistance.

The Jewish Resistance Movement has stood firm and will continue to stand firm in the struggle against the present regime. It organises free immigration into Palestine, it protects the settlements and will, if necessary, undertake military operations in the defence of Zionism.

We await the recommendations of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine with hope. The fact that the problems of Palestine and of our people have been removed from Great Britain's aegis and transferred to that of the United Nations is an encouraging sign. We have no doubt that the United Nations will not submit to the policy of the Mandatory Power, and that they will strive for justice for our people so that it may become a free nation in the family of free nations.

THE JEWISH RESISTANCE MOVEMENT.

Somewhere in Palestine.
11.7.47

(As is evident from this memorandum the Jewish Resistance Movement of which the Haganah is the backbone has no connection with the Palestine Resistance Committee, the League for a Free Palestine and any other supporters of the terrorist groups Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern group in Palestine).

Americans for Haganah

A NON-SECTARIAN ORGANIZATION PLEDGED TO SERVE GOD AND HUMANITY BY SUPPORTING UNRESTRICTED JEWISH IMMIGRATION INTO AND THE DEFENSE AND BUILDING OF A DEMOCRATIC JEWISH HOMELAND IN PALESTINE



November 10, 1947

Vol. 1, No. 5

HAGANAH KEEPS SHARP BORDER WATCH

By A PALESTINE CORRESPONDENT



Hanita, on the edge of Western Galilee, looks north toward the mountains of Lebanon. Established in the teeth of the Arab riots of 1936-1939, it is one of the chain of settlements in Western Galilee which the Jews are asking the UN to include within the proposed Jewish State.

POST WAR IRONY: Jews Must Escape In Secret

By MEYER LEVIN

Exclusive to AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH

Paris, October 29—By now, the drama of the Haganah boats has caught the world's eye, and most people realize the difficulties involved in putting these boats to sea. But little is known of the hazards and difficulties involved in bringing people across Europe to the obscure ports of embarkation. Sometimes a half dozen borders must be crossed, legally, semi-legally or without sanction; sometimes the Palestine-bound refugees cross and recross the same border, wandering from the French zone of military occupation to the American zone in Germany; months go by before they come to a point of embarkation.

The passage across Europe is the work of the Haganah, which has links in every area, and amongst all organized groups of DP's. Little has been

(Continued on page 7, col. 1)

After thorough reconnaissance of the mountainous frontier areas bordering on Syria and Lebanon, Haganah has concluded that the massing of Syrian troops is primarily part of the war of nerves being conducted by the Arab States. No immediate hostilities from outside are expected, although the presence of Arab troops on the borders remains a constant threat. However, uprisings inside the country by the extremist followers of the Mufti may come at any moment.

Observation posts established along the entire length of the borders of Palestine—Syrian, Lebanese, and Trans-Jordan—are keeping a sharp lookout for movements of troops and supplies on the other side of the frontiers. Special runners are standing by, day and night, carrying messages to and from the scouting patrols. From these reports, an accurate picture is being kept of the number and equipment of the Syrian troops which have been drawn up.

Panic Efforts Foiled

Shortly after the first news of the massing of Syrian troops a few weeks ago, Arab visitors brought repeated reports of plans for an attack against Jewish settlements within a day

or two. Investigation proved that there had been some military concentrations, but the reports had been exaggerated. It was concluded that the visitors had been told to spread the false reports in order to create panic among the Jewish border settlements.

HAGANAH MERITS LEND LEASE AID

By BARTLEY C. CRUM
Chairman, AFH National Council

As an American and especially as an American for Haganah, I am gratified by my government's position on Palestine as expressed by Mr. Herschel Johnson before the UN. In particular, I should like to point out the full implications of one passage in Mr. Johnson's address: "In the final analysis the problem of making any solution work rests with the people of Palestine. If new political institutions are to endure, they must provide for early assumption by the people themselves of the responsibility for their domestic order."

It seems to me that these words placed upon our shoulders a very serious responsibility. We know that in Palestine today there exists a force, known as the Haganah, which has proved itself in the history of Palestine to be a disciplined

(Continued on page 8, col. 4)

PALESTINE ARABS GET BRITISH ARMS

Bevin Says No...

Ernest Bevin said to the House of Commons on October 29, that the British government will not cancel its contracts to deliver arms to the Arab states, but insisted that all precautions are being taken to prevent arms from being smuggled into Palestine.

But the Facts Are...

Authoritative reports from Palestine say that great quantities of arms are being smuggled across the border to be sold to Palestine Arabs. Bedouins engaged in this traffic admit that the arms are purchased from the Transjordan Arab Legion, British owned and British armed, at ridiculously low prices.

The 1936-1939 Riots

Haganah's Steel Tempered Under Arab Fire

(This is the first of two articles. Part II will be an analysis of Arab strength and strategy.)

In the three years between 1936 and 1939, Palestine was ravaged by more than 1,000 Arab attacks. These raids and riots had been carefully planned a long period in advance by the Mufti and had been largely financed by the Arabic powers. During those years, 450 Jews, 140 Britons and 2,287 Arabs were killed.

The story of the Haganah's defense of the Jewish community against the attacks is of great significance again in light of the present situation.

On April 17, 1936, two Arabs were found dead near the Jewish town of Petah Tikvah. The murderers are still unknown. The incident was seized and probably created by the Mufti's agents to spread false rumors of wholesale massacres of Arabs by the Jews. The authorities made no attempt to check the inflammatory rumors.

Britain Could But Didn't

On April 19, open rioting started in the Arab city of Jaffa, spreading throughout the country in the following week. British forces in Palestine were large enough and strong enough to cope with the situation, but Great Britain was unwilling to use its power decisively.

From the outset, Haganah took responsibility for the safety of every Jewish settlement. Not a single Jewish settlement was evacuated.

It became clear in the very first days of the outbreaks that Jews would perish if they did not defend themselves. The legal arsenal allowed officially by the British government in April 1936 were 30 rifles, to which were added 12

light machine guns. These were to be used by the Jewish settlement police to defend the entire Jewish community.

The Sealed Shotguns

In addition, the government issued to each settlement a small quantity of shotguns in sealed cases, on condition that they be kept sealed until the moment of an attack. There are even cases on record of settlements having to telephone the nearest police station at the beginning of an attack for permission to use the shotguns.

For the first few months of the riots, Haganah had to continue its defense and training surreptitiously. Whenever British police visited a settlement, special arms and signalling apparatus had to be hidden or camouflaged. Often, officials arrived at a settlement after an attack had been repulsed. They asked for a report of the battle. The settlers replied that they had used only their licensed shot guns.

At the end of 1936, Haganah received back door recognition by the Palestine government. A large number of its members were enrolled as supernumerary police to defend the Jewish settlements.

Never Enough Rifles

Rifles were issued for the police, but never enough for the number

of men (16,000) authorized to bear arms. Training was conducted for the first time more or less openly.

The unofficial cooperation between Haganah and the administration and the military went a step further when Captain Orde Wingate, later to achieve fame as General Wingate in Ethiopia and Burma, came to Palestine. That a small band of Arabs were successfully outwitting 20,000 highly trained British troops was intolerable to him.

Wingate asked for volunteers to the Special Night Squads. Haganah provided him with young men familiar with the terrain and of proven courage. To them he added a few carefully chosen British officers. These men were trained in guerilla tactics of surprise ambush, hand to hand combat, and small unit operations. In 1937-38, they succeeded in clearing most of northern Palestine of the raiding bands.

In military terms, Haganah was a success. Morally, its success was no less remarkable. Its motto through the entire siege remained:

"No retaliation by indiscriminate reprisals. We pursue and punish the guilty—never the innocent. Let us rather answer by building even more settlements."

And through these troubled years, about 50 new villages went up. These were known as the Watchtower Settlements because of the defense towers built at the center of each.

Other results of the riots were:

- 1) The port of Tel Aviv was built. When the port of Jaffa was closed by an Arab strike, permission was granted to build the port of Tel Aviv.
- 2) New roads and communications were established to isolated settlements.
- 3) Methods of defense were improved.

The Jews of Palestine emerged from those years of trouble and insecurity vastly strengthened in spirit and unity. Henceforth, Palestine Jewry was confident of its power of self-defense. Haganah had proved itself to be a highly disciplined army, responsible to the democratic will of the people.

TIRAT ZVI

This is the story of Haganah's defense of one of the Jewish settlements, against a well-organized surprise attack by the Arabs.

At the height of the Arab attempts to wipe out the Jewish settlements, Tirat Zvi was founded in the very heart of Arab territory in the Beisan Valley near the Jordan River. This was a most daring and defiant move and the Arabs chose Tirat Zvi as the target for one of their heaviest attacks.

Tirat Zvi was familiar territory to the Arabs because it had been used by the Arab High Command, as headquarters. The attackers started by cutting through the barbed wire fences. They entered an abandoned trench from which they advanced toward the inner trench. They tried to deceive the defenders by calling to them in Hebrew. A second group of the Arabs, spread out and waited outside the fence.

The Arabs began to attack by concentrating their fire on the searchlight which was extinguished immediately. The shattering of the searchlight made it impossible to communicate with other settlements.

Although the attack came by surprise, the organization of the defense proved quite effective. As the first shots were heard, every one rushed to his post immediately. All the services (communications, first aid, etc.) functioned with precision. Only at 11 P.M. was it possible to establish communication with Bet Yosef by the auxiliary signalling lamp.

The fire barrage laid down under the supervision of post commanders was directed squarely at the enemy. Neighboring Bedouins said afterward that the band of attackers stole three mares to carry away their wounded. These tribesmen said that the band included about 100 men.

People from neighboring Jewish settlements managed to reach Tirat Zvi only at 6:10 the following morning. Ten minutes later, the police arrived.

The victory of Tirat Zvi greatly encouraged the Yishuv. The bravery and intelligence of its defense was much discussed among the British army and police. Major General Wavell, later commander of the British forces in India, congratulated the settlers on the defense of Tirat Zvi.



Members of Wingate's Special Night Squads cleared northern Palestine of Arab raiders in a series of daring guerilla operations.



Two Years Before the Mast...

The Story of Haganah's Postwar Fleet

A SMALL SCHOONER was intercepted by the HMS peacock off the coast of Palestine in the early hours of November 23, 1945. The boarding party found 20 Jewish refugees, the remnants of over 200 immigrants who had landed and scattered before the vessel was captured.

During the next few days, 15,000 British troops, reinforced by tanks, armored cars and planes, cordoned off three Jewish villages in the vicinity suspected of harboring the immigrants. As soon as the news spread, thousands of unarmed Jews from neighboring villages and far off places hastened to the beleaguered colonies to break through the cordons and formed a living wall for the protection of the newcomers. No force of any kind was used by either the settlers or those who came to their aid. But British tanks charged directly into the unarmed groups, killing eight Jews and wounding seventy-five.

This small schooner was the Haganah ship *Berl Katznelson*. Its arrival signalled the opening of a relentless struggle by Haganah to break the British blockade of Palestine erected against those Jews of Europe who had survived the war.

Actually, Haganah's "underground" immigration system has been operating for many years. But until 1939, those who came by the underground routes were but a minor addition to the large numbers admitted under the official British quotas.

In 1939, however, the British issued a White Paper cutting Jewish immigration to 15,000 a year for five years, after which it was to cease entirely. Immediately Haganah launched a full-scale immigration drive, which was interrupted shortly after by the outbreak of war in Europe. During the war only a thin trickle were able to make the escape to Palestine.

Everyone had hoped that with victory over Nazism the doors of Palestine would be opened wide to the Jews of Europe. But VE Day brought no change in Britain's immigration policy. Haganah resumed its rescue operations, this time with all the resources it was able to command.

Since November 1945, Haganah ships brought over 44,000 refugees on 39 intercepted ships; and an additional number—which cannot be disclosed—on ships which were not detected. Of those 44,000, 22,000 are now in Palestine, 18,000 are waiting in Cyprus, and over 4,000 from the *Exodus* were deported back to Europe.

Every day brings rumors of new ships slipping in and out of European ports, bearing cargoes of unidentified people under flags of faraway countries. These are the ships of the Haganah fleet.

The story on the following page marks the completion of two years of Haganah's valiant struggle to carry to life and freedom those who existed for a decade under the sign of death. The struggle will continue as long as Jews are barred from Palestine.

1945

BERL KATZNELSON
November 23—211

CHANA SZENES
December 25—252

1946

ENZO SERENI
January 18—908

ORDE WINGATE
March 26—243

TEL CHAI
March 27—746

MAX NORDAU
May 15—1,663

DOV HOS
May 19—500

ELIAHU GOLUB
May 19—514

CHAVIVA REIK
June 9—462

JOSIAH WEDGEWOOD
June 27—1,290

BIRYA
July 1—1,060

HAGANAH
July 29—2678

THE JEWISH SOLDIER
July 31—510

YAGUR
August 11—754

HENRIETTA SZOLD
August 11—530

KATRIEL YOFFE
August 12—601

THE TWENTY THREE
August 15—790

FOUR FREEDOMS
September 2—1,024

PALMACH
September 22—625

BRACHA FULD
October 20—819

BORDERING this story is a list of the 39 postwar Haganah ships carrying 44,000 refugees that are known to the British. It does not include those that eluded capture and delivered their cargoes safely.

These are the highlights of Haganah's postwar battle for immigration, which reached a climax with the Exodus 1947—a ship destined to live in history:

In the first phase the refugees, when caught, were allowed to remain in Palestine. At worst they were detained at the camp of Atlit for several weeks or months until the British government provided certificates of entry for them. British sailors and port troops treated them in a humane spirit.

The Berl Katznelson was followed on December 25, 1945, by the Chana Szenes with 252 immigrants on board. The boat was grounded on the coast 20 miles north of Haifa, where it was found abandoned next morning. On it was a newly painted message:

"This boat has disembarked immigrants here with the help of the Jewish Resistance Movement. May it remain as a memorial to the 6 million brothers and sisters who died in Europe and as a token of the shame of the British Government."

Britain Puts On The Pressure

When the Enzo Sereni arrived in January, 1946, Britain placed all 908 passengers in the Atlit Clearance Camp to await certificates of entry. The landing went off smoothly. There was a heavy guard, but nevertheless a friendly attitude was created by the good-will and cooperation of the authorities.

By April, 1946, British government circles became alarmed at the tempo of Haganah immigration. On April 10, 1,200 Jews were arrested at the Italian port of La Spezia by Italian police under pressure from England.



They Challenged The Royal Navy



In spite of British pressure in every country of Europe, the ships kept coming: the Max Nordau in May, the Chavivah Reik and the Josiah Wedgewood in June, the Birya, the Haganah, and the Jewish Soldier in July. Between May and July, 9,000 newcomers were intercepted.

In the second phase Britain inaugurated the policy of deporting the refugees to camps in Cyprus to wait for certificates. Resistance to capture by the British became the common procedure. Tear gas, clubs, and bullets were brought into use by the British against unarmed men, women, and children. Forced and violent transferrals to deportation ships bound for Cyprus became familiar to the world.

The first immigrants to suffer deportation to Cyprus were those aboard the Yagur and the Henrietta Szold, which arrived in Haifa on August 11, 1946. Forced transfer to the deportation ships was carried out in secret on August 13, while

Message left beside the overturned Haganah ship Chana Szenes states that Haganah landed 252 refugees safely.



thousands of troops barred the approaches to the port. During the day thousands of people broke the curfew in Haifa and marched toward the port. A boy of fifteen, a girl of nineteen and a man were killed in the demonstration.

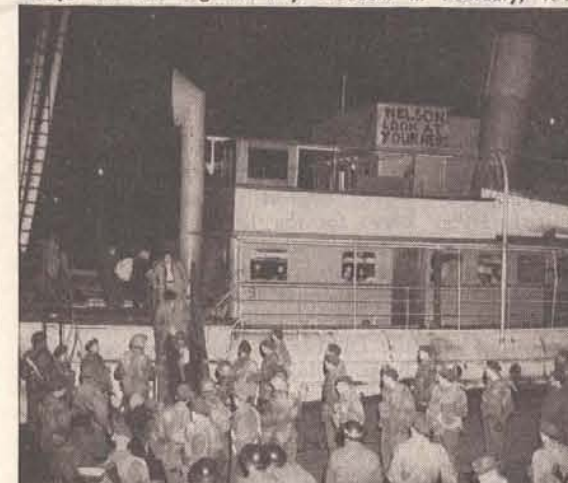
Sixteen ships were intercepted between September 1946, and June 1947. The struggle between unarmed passengers and armed British sailors was repeated time after time. Bitterness increased between refugees and troops with each successive ship.

On the Four Freedoms, 12 men jumped overboard. The bodies of two of them were washed ashore three days later.

On the Palmach, one refugee was killed in battle. Thirty young people jumped overboard, all but three being recaptured at sea.

On the Chaim Arlosoroff which arrived in February 1947, 30 Jews and 11 British seamen were

Four passengers were wounded in a battle with British troops on the Haganah ship Freedom in February, 1947.



injured in a wild battle. Two Jews were killed. The city of Haifa was at fever pitch, and strong troop formations prevented hundreds of demonstrators from coming down to the ship.

The Shabbatai Lozinsky was almost successful in evading the British naval patrols, planes, and radio detectors. It was deliberately run aground by the captain of the ship on March 12 on the southern shore, and the majority of its more than 800 passengers were carried off safely.

Since The Exodus

With the Exodus began the third phase of Haganah's postwar immigration. This marked the low point in British policy. For now, overcrowded Cyprus, which had nevertheless come to symbolize the last bar on the door to freedom for the Jews waiting in Europe, was judged by the British to be too great a concession to Jewish need.

For over a month, news of the battle of the Exodus, the death of two refugees and an American crew member, the deportation first to France and then to Germany of hated memory, rocked the world.

The Exodus has become a classic example of determination born of misery standing against obstinacy born of inhumanity.

The new British policy was answered by the unceasing arrival of more and more ships. Deportation to Germany failed in its purpose. Nothing has stopped. Since the Exodus, five ships have already arrived, and more are on the way.

Every shipload of refugees thinks of itself as perhaps fated to join that silent list which eludes the destroyers, the RAF planes, the coastal patrols, the searchlights, the piercing radar waves. Like free men of every age, they do not wait for freedom to be bestowed on them. They embark on the sea to shape their own destiny.



LATRUN
October 31—1,252

JEWISH RESISTANCE
November 25—3,854

RAFAH
December 5—790

1947

TO THE NEGEV
February 9—652

FREEDOM
February 17—796

CHAIM ARLOSOROFF
February 27—1,356

SHABBATAI LOZINSKY
March 12—800

MOTHERLAND
March 30—1,570

THEODORE HERZL
April 15—2,700

HATIKVA
April 17—1,411

THE REMNANT RETURNS
April 23—750

GHETTO FIGHTERS
May 24—1,459

JUDAH HALEVI
May 31—399

EXODUS 1947
July 18—4,554

RETURN TO ZION
July 28—424

THE FOURTEEN
July 28—700

IN SPITE OF ALL
September 27—445

REDEMPTION
October 2—1,600

JEWISH STATE
October 2—2,500

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH BULLETIN

Published twice a month by
AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH, Inc.
 P. O. B. 46, Ansonia Station New York 23, N. Y.

Subscription rate — \$2.00 a year

November 10, 1947

Vol. 1, No. 5

The Internal Enemy

At this, the most crucial moment in 2,000 years of Jewish life, the Irgun Zvai Leumi threatens civil war in Palestine. Thus, the Irgun stands unmasked as the internal enemy of the Jewish community.

The alleged reason for the latest clashes with the Haganah is the repudiation by the terrorists of the partition plan. There are some members of Haganah who disapprove of the partition plan but who have accepted the democratically expressed will of the Jewish community and who submit to its discipline. The Jewish community is built on the principle that major differences can be resolved within the framework of the democratic process.

The struggle between the Haganah and the dissident groups is not over politics. The Haganah, as the military arm of the Yishuv, has no independent political program. It implements the policy decisions of the Yishuv as expressed through its own representative agencies. The struggle between the Haganah and the Irgun is a struggle for democracy itself.

Now, with the announced British intention of withdrawal from Palestine, the Irgun turns its full fire on the Jewish Agency and the Jewish community in an attempt to direct the destiny of the Yishuv by force.

No nation can tolerate the existence of paramilitary groups which attempt to dictate its foreign or domestic policy.

In the face of an imminent national crisis, in view of the present extremely delicate position in the international arena, in the face of the Arab threats—the need for rigid national discipline is a vital necessity. There can be no compromise; there must be no diversion of Jewish aims.

Western Galilee

One of the high spots of this week's UN deliberations on Palestine was the fate of Western Galilee.

The Jewish demands for the inclusion of the area are based on historical rights and economic and security needs. Bordering on Lebanon, whose large Christian population is eager for friendship with the Jews, Western Galilee is of exceptional strategic importance for the security of the Yishuv. The land is hilly, easily defended and would provide the only highland region in the Jewish state.

That this region was early appreciated by the Haganah is evidenced by the fact that large settlements were founded there in spite of great danger of Arab attacks and in spite of the forbidding terrain. Hanita, founded at the very height of the 1938 Arab riots, is in this region.

Western Galilee belonged historically in a Jewish state; it has several large Jewish settlements; even the British Royal Commission in 1937 included it in a recommended Jewish state. The loss of this region would be a severe blow to present colonization plans.

The Jewish state, when at long last the boundaries are set, must be a cohesive and complete unit. Western Galilee is essential in such a unit.

This Bulletin

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH, through this Bulletin, can provide what is more urgently needed today than ever before—authentic news on the activities of Haganah as the Jewish people's army of Palestine ready to defend the community against all attacks. This information is essential to you and your friends.

Your subscription to this Bulletin will enable us to continue to expand to meet the needs of the day.

Ali Bevin And The Forty Thieves



From B'terem, Palestine Weekly

FACING THE FACTS

By MARIE SYRKIN

Who Is "Demoralized?"

More than once we have heard it whispered that the DP's are really an unworthy lot. They have been demoralized in the concentration camps—so the charge goes, the "best" perished in the crematoriums, and the remnant is psychically maimed. Of course, the critics hasten to add, this state of affairs is understandable; the survivors are innocent victims, but the fact of their deterioration remains. This analysis sounds sensible and many good people have joined in the *sotto voce* laments. Then something happens which wrecks the diagnosis. The supposedly spiritually broken DP's do something which very few "whole" sound individuals would be capable of.

Some weeks ago, we witnessed the heroic tragedy of the Exodus. And now we see something, in its way, just as glorious; the DP's lodged in the huts of Cyprus have offered to surrender a month's quota of 750 certificates in favor of those who made the journey on the Exodus.

The Jews of Cyprus were not alone in their offer. The DP's waiting hungrily in Bergen-Belsen for the chance to emigrate to

Palestine, also offered their monthly quota of 375 certificates to the Exodus refugees.

Life is pleasant neither in Bergen-Belsen nor in Cyprus. In the dreary barracks of Bergen-Belsen, another wretched winter is about to begin with its cold and desolation. In Cyprus the winter rains are starting; tents are not the coziest shelter. And when one surrenders a certificate one cannot be too sure as to when the next "turn" will come. Yet a sublime expression of heroism came from the choking hold of the Exodus, and the most overwhelming measure of self-abnegation has just been displayed by the DP's of Cyprus.

It will be harder to throw around adjectives like "demoralized" and "broken" after this. Such idealism, courage and compassion do not spring from broken beings. One of the most valiant blows for the Jewish people was struck by the frail survivors of Hitler's extermination centers, and the most luminous lesson in generosity has been spelled out in the DP barracks of Cyprus and Bergen-Belsen. Next time we American Jews are called upon to "give," perhaps we shall recall the example of "giving" that we have just witnessed.

NEWS OF HAGANAH FROM EUROPE...

Jews Escape In Secret

(Continued from page 1)

disclosed of the functioning of this organization, and few facts can be disclosed. (It is one of the greatest of post-war ironies that the Jews of Europe still have to be aided secretly in their flight.)

When there is to be a "big move", groups who have been selected in the various DP centers and accepted for the trip to Palestine are gathered at established points.

The "Old Days"

There is already a firm body of legend about the movements of the "old days." The "old days" were a year or two ago, when moving a transport across a border was easier. Now, things are more difficult, but nevertheless the flight continues, and thousands of men, women, and children are brought on the appointed day to the embarkation point.

The people on the move have an unbelievable patience. Night after night, they sleep in trucks or on floors; sometimes they walk for hours to cross a border in the dark; sometimes they ride in special trains composed of baggage cars. Sometimes, they may be so lucky as to stay overnight in a vast hall with endless

rows of army cots, a few water taps, and broken windows.

Yet, during several days with such convoys, scarcely a single undisciplined incident was witnessed. The good humor of the groups was striking. These are no longer groups dominated by partisan youth. Now, entire families are on the move, out of the Balkans. The flight from Europe is encumbered with family belongings and with dozens of baby carriages.

An idea of the difficulties encountered can only be glimpsed. Though hundreds of truck transports have been successfully organized from one zone into another, from one country into another there are a few tales which illustrate the hazards and the inevitable temporary failures.

Temporary Failures

There is, for instance, the legend of the convoy of forty trucks which started one night for an unnamed destination.

The convoy travelled through side roads to avoid carefully patrolled territory.

But when the convoy reached the border post on that road, the leader was informed that it was not an official passage point — he was re-directed

through another route. He would not go. Several hours passed as he attempted to reach authorities at the destination point. The trucks jammed with refugees waited all night on the road, while frantic attempts were made to find a way for them.

At last they were ordered back. On the return trip, truck after truck began to run out of gas. The drivers siphoned gasoline from one truck to another, trying to keep the convoy going. The refugees ran out of food. Another day was lost in trying to find a legitimate crossing point. A third night was passed on the road, when the trucks completely ran out of gas. On the fourth day, relief supplies of food and gaso-

line reached the stranded convoy. They were led back into Germany. Eventually, they went on their way to Palestine by another route.

The Only Logic

Many people on the trucks, in the transports, at the halt-stages will speak of their uncles in America or in England, of possible visas for other countries. They always end with a strange little smile, as if they recognize that the world views them as illogical, while they know within themselves that they have the only logic. They say, "Nevertheless, I'd rather go this way to Palestine. Even if it is only to Cyprus. Cyprus is a DP camp not any worse than other DP camps. But it is nearer Eretz Israel."

FROM PALESTINE...

Palestine is full of rumors, and the people are on the alert. But the atmosphere has not reached the tension felt before the outbreak of the riots of 1936.

Among the Jewish settlements of Upper Galilee, all measures short of declaring a state of emergency—have been taken to meet the danger of an attack.

The roads of Upper Galilee are crowded with trucks and workmen, en route to strengthen the defense forces of the border communities.

Arabs Recruiting

Relations with the Arab neighbors continue to be friendly despite the pressure of blackmail and intimidation from the extremist followers of the Mufti. Daily work continues unhampered. Work has already begun on the planting of 250,000 trees in the mountains near the Syrian border.

Syrian Arabs bringing their produce to sell to the communities of the northern frontier report that delegates of the Arab League are touring the border villages and urging the

Arabs to join the Lebanese Army.

Haganah Worker Killed

Aitan Avidov, a member of Haganah was killed recently during an Irgunist attack on a Haganah camp in Europe. The camp was an escape center for Displaced Persons. Avidov was buried in Nahalal, Palestine, with full honors. Avidov, 22 years old and second-generation Palestinian, had found no rest while the Jews of Europe suffered and had gone there to help.

Leaders of the Yishuv, speaking in his praise, said, "If this tragic death is not be wholly in vain, it will serve to open the eyes of the Yishuv and arouse it to enforce discipline."

Settlers from Nahalal and nearby settlements came to pay their last respects. Speakers included Shmuel Dayan, for Nahalal; Mr. D. Bar Rav Hai, for the Vaad Leumi; and Mr. Joseph Baratz, for the workers of the Yishuv.

Britain Alarmed

The entire British press got excited on Sunday, October 26. Headlines and reports that 150,000 Jews were cramming European port cities in a mass immigration drive to Palestine created as much stir as an announced air raid might be done.



Jewish refugees en route to Palestine being turned back to Austria at the Italian frontier. Undaunted, they must make new plans to cross the border.

Haganah Faces Big Defense Job When Britain Withdraws

Warning that "the impending withdrawal by England and the failure of the UN to have ready now any force capable of defending the country" has placed the responsibility for guaranteeing the peace in Palestine on Haganah, Abraham Feinberg, president of AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH called upon the American people to give Haganah their fullest moral support.



Abraham Feinberg

Courage Not Enough

In an address at the Atlantic City convention of Hadassah on October 26, Mr. Feinberg said: "The strength of Haganah will ultimately determine the fate of Jewish Palestine as a nation. These people fought and died for this achievement and will continue with determination and courage. They must have everything they need to defend the country, for courage alone will not beat back forthcoming attacks."

Mr. Feinberg expressed doubt "that the Arab states, as such, will engage in full scale war against the Jews. They would be too vulnerable to world condemnation and world forces—economic, political, and military—to attempt anything so risky. Nevertheless the experiences of 1936-39 have taught us that such acts can be furious and their results devastating."

He pointed to the supplies of "modern tanks, planes and equipment which the Arabs have acquired from Britain through

U.S. lend lease," as factors which increase the danger.

"The only real guarantee rests with the people themselves," Mr. Feinberg continued. "The Jews of Palestine are prepared to carve their own destiny and they are able to do it. There has emerged in that tiny country, a well trained army of men and women seasoned on the land and on the battlefields of the world, for 30,000 of them fought on the side of the Allies."

"It cannot be stressed too emphatically that this is a people's army, and it derives its power from the people. That is why martial law, curfew, and economic restrictions were unable to break the will of the people. That is why the miracles of immigration have been achieved. That is why the people will back Haganah in its every move, and why terrorist forces and undisciplined groups can have no place in the picture."

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH is the information center in the United States with regard to the activities of Haganah. Our job here is to rally public opinion behind the three point program of Haganah:

Immigration
Colonization
Defense

We use various public channels to accomplish our aims. The most important of these is our Bulletin, published twice a month. You can serve Haganah by enlisting scores of subscribers to this publication from among your friends, associates and members of organizations to which you belong.

CHAOS AVOIDABLE

David Ben Gurion, discussing the British High Commissioner's warning that "chaos and confusion" might follow Britain's withdrawal from Palestine, remarked that this would depend largely on the British government itself. The government can create or prevent chaos by its actions between now and the withdrawal.

"It is natural that there should be a spirit of expectancy about the final decisions of the UN," he concluded, "but let us not forget the saying of the philosopher Hillel: 'If I am not for myself, who will be for me; and if not now, when?'"

CERTIFICATES EXPECTED

The Palestine government is expected to issue soon certificates for 3,000 women and children among the 18,000 refugees now interned at Cyprus who were captured on Haganah ships at the shores of Palestine.

Lend Lease To Haganah

(Continued from page 1)

people's army, prepared and able to maintain order and fulfill the requirements of building a Jewish state.

If we are to carry out our government's stand, this country will see to it that this force (the Haganah) is the core of the security force which is to be utilized by the UN in the preservation of law and order in the Jewish state in Palestine. We must see that this force has the wherewithal to carry out its functions. Wherewithal includes arms, technical assistance, economic and political implementation. It would follow that lend-lease arms would be placed at their disposal.

Opposes One-Sided Aid

Arms given by us through lend-lease to Great Britain have in turn been given by Great Britain to Arab countries with the approval of our State Department. Great Britain has, on the other hand, seized arms from the Jews in Palestine, impairing their self-defense. This process must be stopped.

Let us now consider this fact: The great powers of the world, speaking in the forum of the UN, have stated unequivocally that there is to be a Jewish state. The rest of the answers and the implementation of a great part of this decision, depends not only upon the Yishuv but upon us here, too. Informed, articulate public support for the government's official position may be a decisive factor in this sector of the battle-ground for human dignity and justice.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH, Inc.
P.O.B. 46, Ansonia Sta., New York 23, N. Y.

I wish to keep informed about Haganah's activities in immigration and in safeguarding the Yishuv. I am enclosing \$_____ for _____ subscriptions to your bulletin.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

Published twice a month. \$2.00 per subscription.

AMERICANS FOR HAGANAH, Inc.
P. O. B. 46, Ansonia Station
New York 23, N. Y.

Sec. 562, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK, N. Y.
Permit No. 8987