

The Voyage of the "Gavriela"

This vessel was prepared for its voyage in the port of Piraeus, Greece. Its commander was Yitzchak Alsheikh and the crew was Greek. There was no one else of the Palyam with Yitzchak and there was no Gideoni either. The vessel sailed with 40 Ma'apilim on board from a small bay near Piraeus on September 2nd 1945 and arrived opposite Mount Carmel on September 9th, without being intercepted. The vessel was to rendezvous there with a launch of the Palyam but the two vessels did not make contact. The "Gavriela" continued southward and arrived at the coast of Caesarea under its own power. The Ma'apilim were disembarked on the shore and the vessel left immediately and returned from whence it had come.

This vessel sailed when the Aliya project was still in its infancy, shortly after WW II had come to an end, and the British had not yet organized themselves for intercepting vessels. The "Gavriela" was the third among the first eight voyages (that carried a total of slightly more than 1000 Ma'apilim), which were not captured by the British.

(Compiled by Tzvi Ben-Tzur)



The voyage of the Gavriela in the Mediterranean