

The Voyage of “Ha’Chayal Ha’Ivri” [The Hebrew Soldier]

This was a small steamship that was used for coastal sailing. She left Antwerp, Belgium on July 14th 1946, carrying 512 Ma’apilim. The Commander was Tzvi Taitel and other Palyamnikim were Alex Shour, Willi Peter and the Gideoni - Gershon Etzion. The voyage went smoothly enough at its outset, but as they approached Palestine the crew feared an encounter with the British. It was necessary for the Palyamnikim on board to take over the bridge and handle the vessel themselves. The vessel was not discovered by the British and sailed into the port of Haifa under its own steam on July 31st. On August 2nd the sick, old people and children were disembarked and allowed to enter the country. The rest of the Ma’apilim were detained in Atlit.

The Ma’apilim on vessels that came after this one were deported to Cyprus.

(Compiled by Tzvi Ben-Tzur)

