

Asher, Gad (of Blessed Memory)
 Born 1926 in Hamburg, Germany
 Came to Palestine in 1936
 Joined the Palyam in 1945
 Died in Hadera on November 16th 1998
 As written by: Nechama Asher

This is the Way it Was

Gad received his Jewish education in a Talmud Torah. In Hamburg he also first came to love the sea. His father had a small sailboat and they would sail in it on Lake Alster. In 1936, when he was ten years old, his family made Aliya to Palestine. They settled in Tel Aviv and Gad studied in the "Levanim" School. At the age of 14 he moved to the agricultural school at Givat Hashlosha. Even before he finished studies there, he went to a course for non-com officers of the Hagana, and served as instructor for a group of youths in Petach Tikvah. He completed his studies in 1945 and participated in Course No. 5 for small boat commanders at Sdot Yam. In 1946 he was transferred to Maabarot.

On "Black Saturday" he was arrested and imprisoned in Atlit and then spent one month in the prison camp at Rafiah. When he was released he was sent to be a platoon leader at Neve Yam. With regard to Aliya Bet, he participated several times in helping Olim from ship to shore. This was the case when the "Amiram Shochat" broke through the British blockade of the coast, and ended up on the shore near Caesarea. This was also the case with the "Shabtai Luzinski".

In 1947 he attended the fourth naval officers course at Yagur/Haifa. In 1948 he attended a course in marksmanship and became an instructor in sniping. He did this for quite a long time.

From the Palyam to the Israeli Navy

When the first military naval unit of the IDF was formed during the War of Independence Gad became a gunnery officer on the "Wedgwood" (K-18). From there he went to other ships, usually as a deck officer. In 1956 he was put in command of eight small landing craft, that later that year were transferred to Eilat. In the "Kadesh" operation he also commanded a landing craft unit. His unit took part in the conquest of Sharm-el-Sheikh and supported the 9th Brigade by offloading fuel at Dahab. After that he commanded a unit at A-Tur. He continued to serve in the armed forces for several more years.

Gad was very modest about his own accomplishments, and what best exemplified his character. Whatever job he was given, he did with enthusiasm and to the very best of his ability. He lived most of his life in Hadera and his three children were born there. He suffered poor health in his latter years but never lost his love for the sea and for adventure. He died on November 16th 1998 at age 72.