

סיפור 'מבצע דוד' עפ"י יצחק שושן

יצחק שושן וחבוקק כהן פעלו במחלקה הערבית של הפלמ"ח ('המסתערים') והיו בעת המבצע סוכנים ישראלים "שתולים" בלבנון.

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April 15, 2013

מקור: THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/our-man-in-beirut-the-remarkable-story-of-isaac-shushan>



Isaac Shushan (foreground) and Havakuk Cohen in Lebanon, around 1949

In November, 1948, a coded Morse message arrived from Israel concerning a unique ship that had just docked at Beirut. A Lebanese Christian of the wealthy Arida family, the message said, had purchased a Nazi craft that had served as Hitler's personal yacht and sailed it to Lebanon.

The boat, the *Aviso Grille*, carried senior German officers throughout the war and, in 1940, appears to have been intended to convey Hitler in triumph to London after the planned Nazi conquest of Britain.

Headquarters seemed to think the Lebanese meant to arm the *Aviso Grille* with cannon and use it to attack the Haifa port. (In fact, it appears the Lebanese buyer purchased it

on behalf of the Egyptian king, Farouk, who then backed out of the deal and stranded it in Beirut.) It is also possible that a Nazi ship was too tempting and symbolic a target to resist. The agents were ordered to put it out of action.

Isaac located the boat 500 yards offshore near a popular swimming beach. He reported back.

The next message to come in on Havakuk's radio informed them that a navy craft would land an explosives expert to help destroy the yacht.

The rendezvous took place along the coast near Beirut. Isaac flashed a light. A dinghy flashed back, and the expert swam ashore. It was Eliyahu Rika, another Syrian Jew, in a mask and snorkel, two mines strapped to his body.

The agents took Rika to the shoreline near the *Aviso Grille*. He swam out, scraped a section of the hull clean just below the waterline and attached the mines. He came back blue and shaking after nearly an hour in the water, and Isaac handed him a small bottle of rum and rubbed him down with a towel.

The agents went back to their room. Havakuk tapped out a message to Israel saying the explosives were in place.



The Aviso Grille, 1935 (photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Then nothing happened.

The next day, they waited for a boom from the direction of the port. Nothing.

By a day or two later — Isaac no longer remembers precisely how much time went by — they had given up, which was when a blast finally rocked the port.

The mines blew a hole in the hull, but the ship was repaired before it could sink. To the extent that this incident has been mentioned at all since then, the blast on the *Aviso Grille* has generally been attributed to unknown saboteurs or “anti-Faroukist terrorists.” The ship later ended up in New York, where it was briefly a tourist attraction. Hitler’s yacht was sold for scrap in 1951.