

Einav, Zalman (Treibetsh)

Born 1 December 1928 in Tel Aviv

Joined the Palmach in 1946

Joined the Palyam in 1947

This is the Way it Was**History**

I lived in south and in north Tel Aviv until I went to the Palmach. I studied at the "Dugma" school and the "Yavne" school, both elementary schools. I studied at the Balfour Gymnasium until 1946, when I left studies so that I could join the Palmach. I was 17½ years old. The atmosphere in our home was such that it was simply normal to volunteer for national duty. Our father, Mordechai, was a veteran of the Hagana; my oldest brother, Shmuel, had joined the "Etzel", my second brother, BenTzion, joined the Palmach in 1942, and my third brother, Azriel, joined the Palmach in 1943. We were the only family in Palestine with three boys in the Palmach.

The Palmach

I joined the Palmach in August 1946 (after "Black Saturday") and was assigned to "G" Company. At first I was at Moshav Herut in the Tel Mond area. Several months later I was sent as a member of a squad to Kibbutz Naan where we were attached to a platoon of pilot trainees. It was suggested that I take up flying, but I preferred to remain in my platoon in the Palmach which was to be a scouting platoon. Several months later we moved to the Kfar Saba area where we had further training and then were sent to Ein Hashofet as part of the Ein Hashofet platoon of "G" Company. I served in this platoon until 14 March 1947 when I went on security duty at the beach of Nitzanim when the "Shabtai Luzinski" came in. Our commander was Yochanan Zariz, but I was under the direct command of the battalion commander, Uri Yaffe. In the morning the whole platoon retreated and only I and Yochanan Zariz remained. When the "Shabtai Luzinski" came into shore and the Ma'apilim started jumping into the water, I ran to join the band of Palyamniks to help bring the Ma'apilim to the shore.

The British Army placed a cordon around the beach area. In the morning, I and the Palyamniks and Ma'apilim who were still near the shore, and the hundreds of people from the surrounding area who had come to help, were all rounded up by the British and arrested. While being rounded up, we collected all the ID's from the Israelis who were in the crowd with the Ma'apilim. and burned them all. Benny Marshak conducted the 'burning rites'. In this manner all of us, Ma'apilim and veterans, could say that we were all Israelis.

Working in the Camps of Cyprus in the Framework of the Palyam.

On the night of March 15, 1947 we were moved in British army trucks to the port of Haifa and after stubborn resistance were loaded onto the deportation ship "Ocean Vigour". Uri Yaffe held on to me tightly while the British beat us both, until we were finally thrown onto the deportation ship like a sack of potatoes. On

the ship too, I was taken below and thrown into a hold. Getting us off the deportation ship was also a battle, and the British had to use tear gas to subdue us. We were then brought to the 'summer camps' not far from Famagusta. The Palmachnikim and the Israeli volunteers and several of the Ma'apilim were the first to be brought back to Palestine, but there was a request that some of us volunteer to remain with the Ma'apilim in the camps. Eitan Yacobson, Eliezer Nachshon and I volunteered to remain, and we were sent to the 'winter camps' near Larnaca.

In the winter camps I was quartered in the youth camp and, within the framework of the "Ranks of the Defenders", we built a Gadna unit (a pre-army unit for youth) and also started a training course for leaders of the Gadna, of which I was the commander. Concurrently we instituted a course for instructors in the use of weapons, which I also commanded. Training in these camps included field work, KAPAP (fighting with sticks) weapons training, and various sports activities. All this was a part of the training of the "Ranks of the Defenders". Within the framework of my job in the "Ranks of the Defenders", I left the camps to bring in weapons and equipment needed for training. We did this until we were caught while hiding in a cave and a Turkish fisherman informed on us. We were two Palmachnikim and two Ma'apilim and the four of us were placed in jail in Larnaca where we spent two weeks before being freed and returned to the camps.

Several months later I was back in Palestine and sent to a squad leaders' course in Kibbutz Dalia, whose commander was Chaim Bar Lev, the Spear, (RIP).

When the course in Dalia was finished I became an instructor in weapons for the Arab Platoon at Givat Chaim for several weeks. After that I volunteered, in accordance with a wish of Yosefele Tabenkin, to return to the Cyprus camps in October, 1947. I went on a fishing boat with a group of instructors and officers that left from Sdot Yam. We brought weapons, explosives and communications equipment with us. We entered the summer camps at night by way of a tunnel dug previously and all the equipment was brought into the camp. Several days later I took some of the equipment to the winter camp, which I entered by crawling under the barbed wire fences.

Once I was back in the winter camp, we resumed our military training within the framework of the "Ranks of the Defenders," and in preparation for the Ma'apilim who were to be sent to Palestine where they were to join the ranks of the Palmach. The winter camps had expanded and there were now five camps that held the Ma'apilim of the "Pan York" and the "Pan Crescent", whom we also included in our training. After a short lapse I was asked by Idel Dreksler to reorganize the "Ranks of the Defenders" which I did, and which I based on a regular military hierarchy. When the reorganization plan was ready I was appointed Chief of Staff of the "Ranks of the Defenders" in the winter camps, under the direct command of Idel (Yehuda) Dreksler. The other Palmachnikim all acted as instructors.

The “Ranks of the Defenders” was organized into platoons, companies and battalions and their number in the winter camps totaled 2,800 Ma’apilim. It is important to point out that the direct command within the ranks was by the Ma’apilim themselves. Many of them had attended courses of the Palmach, served as seconds-in-command to Palmach officers, and had had various positions of responsibility. We celebrated the 29th of November in the winter camps, and since every one was aware that war was bound to break out soon in Palestine, no one complained when we intensified our training program so that the Ma’apilim would be ready to join the ranks of the Palmach when they arrived in Israel.

Among other duties and together with other Palmachniks and a number of Ma’apilim, we also made tunnels under the barbed wire fences that surrounded the camps. In this way we were able to bring in or accompany out of the camps other Mosad for Aliya Bet officials or Palmachniks who had to get to Famagusta for some reason, and would do so with the aid of a trusted Cypriot who had a car.

I also gave lectures to groups who belonged to the youth movements and wanted in-depth information on life in Palestine. I also had to adjudicate between the various cultures of the Ma’apilim. Not always was there harmony between those from Europe and those from North Africa. In March 1948, shortly before the declaration of the State, I asked to return to Palestine where my first job was to help Benny Marshak in receiving and absorbing new Olim from Cyprus into the ranks of the Palmach.

The Palmachniks and the Ma’apilim in the Camps of Cyprus.

Relations between the Palmachniks and the Ma’apilim in the camps of Cyprus was characterized by complication and the extensive work that the Palmachniks did within the framework of the “Ranks of the Defenders”, and by daily life of Ma’apilim within their family circles and friends. The Ma’apilim had arrived from all corners of Europe after the Holocaust, and from North Africa, after the conquests of the Vichy regime. On the other side were the Palmachniks who came from the kibbutz, the moshav, or the city.

The Palmachniks in the camps could be divided into groups: those who were caught along with the Ma’apilim and reached Cyprus not of their own volition, and their acquaintance with the Ma’apilim was of short duration: and Palmachniks sent as part of a group to Cyprus, and who worked particularly, to train the Ma’apilim for the “Ranks of the Defenders. These did not often maintain close personal ties with the Ma’apilim. These men succeeded in their jobs of preparing the Ma’apilim for participation in the War of Independence. There was also a group of Palmachniks who were not only involved with the Ma’apilim through the “Ranks of the Defenders”, but also in their daily lives. During my long stay in the Cyprus camps I believed, and I thought that all Palmachniks should have believed, that we were preparing the Ma’apilim for a new life in Israel,

The War of Independence and Accompanying the Vessels of the Ma'apilim

Prior to the Declaration of the State of Israel I was appointed Platoon Leader of a company of the Palmach founded at Tel Mond, and scheduled to go down to the Negev. My platoon consisted of Ma'apilim who had been my trainees in the "Ranks of the Defenders" in Cyprus. They had been brought to Israel and were now about to do their part in its defense. We had celebrated the creation of the State in the Tel Mond area, and the Ma'apilim cried with emotion. Immediately after that we went to the Negev and were assigned to the 7th Battalion of the Negev Brigade, under Brigade commander Yochanan Zariz.

I did my fighting in the War of Independence with this platoon which was active in the battle for the village of Ashdod, and as a part of the "Negev Wild Animals". It also took part in two attacks on the police fortress of Iraq Suedan, opposite Kibbutz Negba. With the first cease fire, in June, I was brought north to take part in an officers' training course and during this course was sworn into the newly formed IDF. After this course, Palmach headquarters sent me to work for the Mosad for Aliya, (no longer Aliya Bet), to accompany shiploads of Olim to Israel. This was because of the lengthy experience that I had had with the Ma'apilim in the camps. In this capacity I accompanied the "Pan York", under the captaincy of Gad Hilb and the "Nirit" under an Italian captain.

In 1949, when the Mosad for Aliya became a private shipping company, I became free and joined Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael where I remained as a member until 1950. During the years 1950-1954 I studied architecture at the Haifa Technion and completed it 'magnum cum laude' and received a diploma of architect-engineer. In 1955 I worked with Lova Eliav in the Lachish region as planner for the settlements built there and in the Be'er Sheva region.

In 1956 I traveled to England to study architecture for tropical regions and completed that course in 1957. In 1959 I went to work and to teach in Ethiopia, and worked independently as an architect in Addis Ababa (I even founded a school of architecture there). I returned to Israel in 1966 and set up an independent office that did work in Israel and in Africa. During the Six Day War I volunteered for the 5th Brigade and served on the Central Front until the capture of Nablus.

My work in architecture continues to this day and besides my work in Israel, I have worked in many African countries, in Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. In 1973, during the Yom Kippur War, I volunteered for service in Sinai and joined General Sharon's forces until the cease-fire. I then came north to work at headquarters with General Abrasha Tamir on the plans for peace, and was one of the founders of the Planning Division of the IDF. In the Planning Division I worked on all the documents of the agreement with Egypt, under the aegis of the then Chief of General Staff, Dado Elazar (RIP) and the Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan (RIP). Afterwards I dealt with the interim agreement of 1975 with Chief of General Staff Motta Gur (RIP) and Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin (RIP). From 1977 to 1979 I dealt with the Peace Treaty with Egypt under the

command of Chief of General Staff Rafael (Rafal) Eitan (RIP) and Minister of Defense Ezer Weitzman.

When the Peace Treaty was signed I returned to my office in Israel and resumed my work in Third World countries. In recent years I have also been busy with community affairs. This included setting up a center for the export of technical services in the Institute for Export in 1986, and I was its chief until 1992. During this period I was also the head of missions from Israel to Singapore and to China. I am a member of the Directorate of the Organization of Academicians, Engineers and Independent Architects of Israel from 1992 until the present, and its representative in the International Organization of Architects and Engineers.