

Engler Yaakov

Born 1926 in Rumania

Came to Palestine in 1932

Joined the Palmach in 1943

Joined the Palyam in 1944

This is the Way it Was**Hadera**

When we arrived in Palestine my folks settled in Hadera and I studied in the school for working class children in Neve Chaim. In 1940 I transferred to the "Tietz Trade School" for mechanics at Kibbutz Yagur.

Joining the Palmach

On the completion of my education I volunteered in July 1943 for "B" Company at Kibbutz Naan. We were called "The Paratroopers". Several months later I was transferred to "E" Company at Kibbutz Ramat HaKovesh under the command of Haim Bar Lev. He also helped me join the Naval Company at Caesarea. I would like to point out that my dog "Gur" also joined the Palyam and did morning workout and running just as we did, from Sdot Yam to the Hadera Stream. He also sailed with us on the boat "Rivka". If we went too far out to sea then he would jump overboard and swim back to shore. Before the end of the course he disappeared.

I had a feeling for the sea ever since I was a small child and had been a member of the Hadera Chapter of the Zvulun club, so going to the Palyam was exactly what I wanted to do. The course I participated in had a strong influence on me and I had many good friends there; Menachem, Shaikhe Ophir, Eskimo, Yochai, Dudi and all the rest. We enjoyed the dolphins that frolicked alongside our boat at sea and we did physical training with Peretz and had lectures with the legendary Benny Marshak, and in general it was a wonderful experience.

Immigration

While at the course I Caesarea I participated for the first time in helping the immigrants to come from ship to shore when the "Dalin" arrived. Among these immigrants were a few Polish officers whom I later ran into when I was in Tzahal; Roman was commander of the 11th Battalion and Shapira was a lawyer in the Southern Command.

When our course was completed we went to Yagur where we were to wait to get onto ships and work as ship mechanics. For some reason not clear to me this never happened. From Yagur I was sent to Shefayim where we were to help receive incoming immigrants. This is what happened when the "Berl Katznelson" arrived. While at Shefayim we also hiked to Ramat HaKovesh one night and back with a load of explosives that was used to blow up the police station at Sidni Ali. In 1946 I was retired to the reserve forces.

After the Palyam

When I was relieved from active duty in the Palyam I was drafted on a permanent basis into the Hagana and participated in the "Avinoam" course for radio operators in Juara. After the course I became communications officer for the Central Galilee region. (I had learned to train pigeons when I was at Kibbutz Yagur.)

When Tzahal was created I was sent to an Officers course and became communications officer for Camp No. 4 and then went to a course for heavy mortars. That course completed, I became commander of a heavy mortar platoon of the Givati Battalion. Tzahal went from mortars to cannons and I was made commander of a Gadna course at Givat Olga. I was then transferred to the Southern Command where I served under Uzi Narkis as chief instructor at the battalion training center. After being retired in 1952 I married.

My civilian career began in agriculture in Rishon Letzion. Two years later I worked for the Jewish Agency together with Lova Eliav in settling the Lachish region. I also dabbled a bit in politics for Mapai, Dash and Shinui. During the Kadesh War I fought with the 10th Battalion in the battle for Nitzana and Um Katef, and during the Six Day War I was communications officer in the Southern Command under Ariel Sharon.

After the war I signed up for the permanent army and served as an officer in Northern Sinai while we evacuated all the equipment that had been abandoned there. Yochanan Gur was in charge of that operation. In 1976 I was wounded at El Arish and as a result my left leg had to be amputated later, so I am now a wounded war veteran.

Today I am a pensioner living in Nes Tziona. I have three children and five grandchildren and volunteer for various things in my community.