

**Geva, David (Feig) ד"ר**

Born 25<sup>th</sup> May 1923 in Germany

Came to Palestine in 1934 with his parents and sister

Joined the naval section of Hapoel in 1939

Joined Kibbutz Sdot Yam in 1944

Chose to die on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1999

Written by: Rachel Geva

**This is the Way it Was**

David studied in the Educational Classes for workers' children, in North Tel Aviv, and in the Max Fine Technical School. He was a member of the Machanot Olim youth movement, and at the same time joined the naval section of Hapoel, whose leader was Shmulik Tankus. That naval section became an arm of the Jewish defense forces under direction of the World Zionist Organization when various marine operations had to be carried out. This was apparent in the building of the Tel Aviv Port, the Twenty-Three who were lost at sea, the Palyam and eventually the Israeli Navy.

'David understood the importance of these acts in the defense of the Jewish community in Palestine and in saving the remnant of the Holocaust. He saw himself as a partner to others who had the same aim and was more than willing to do his share...'. This statement is a rough summary of what Shmuel Tankus said about him.

In 1943 he concluded his studies at Max Fine and went into training together with his age group of Machanot Olim at Maoz Chaim. After one year of training and working in the machine shop, he joined Kibbutz Sdot Yam in Caesarea. In order to keep contact with the sea he went to work on the kibbutz's fishing boat "Ne'eman". This was another thing that attracted him to the Palyam and working at bringing olim to Palestine.

The value of labor and of being satisfied with very little, were indicative of his character. He worked at fishing, farming and in the machine shop, both in hot weather and cold. He carried responsibilities of various positions – he was personnel director of the kibbutz, studied mechanical and marine engineering at the Technion for two years and continued to educate himself in this field. He continued to study during the many years that he worked in the machine shop and won an award for developing an implement to carry agricultural equipment to the field. He helped both old and young, with politeness and patience.

Although he worked for many years in the machine shop, he tried in many ways to keep in contact with the sea and accompanied school classes on trips to Turkey and Greece. He worked for a time as a machinist on the training ship, "Galim". He also took part in the venture to build a yacht in Sdot Yam for training purposes and for pleasure. He later took several trips with the yacht – "Caesari".

When over 60 years of age, he asked to work on vessels of the kibbutz, and was allowed to work on the "Palmach" and the "Moran". After several years he also worked as a deck boy and machinist on the "Tarshish," with which he participated on extended voyages. He was inordinately proud of his children and grandchildren who also became tied to the sea as a result of his activities.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 1999, while surrounded by his loving family, his strength suddenly failed him and he chose to die. May his memory be blessed.