

Greenberg Chaim (of blessed memory)

Born on 17th October 1918

Came to Palestine on an immigrant ship in 1939

Enlisted in the British army in 1941 and joined "The Gang" in Italy

Died at Bnei Dror on 21st October 1989

Written by Zehava Greenberg

This is the Way it Was

Chaim was born on 17th October 1918 in the town of Piatra Neamt, Rumania. There were five children in the family and his father was a baker. Chaim studied in a commercial school and while still young he joined the HaNoar HaTzioni movement. In 1938 he went to a training farm in order to prepare himself for Aliya to Palestine. He came to Palestine in 1939 through Aliya Bet and spent about 6 months in Atlit, after which he joined Kibbutz Nitzanim in the southern part of the country.

In 1941 he enlisted in the British army and served in the engineering corps. He trained in Sarafand, was sent to Egypt and ended up in Italy. In Italy the Hagana was organizing qualified men for secret operations. Chaim worked in Italy under an assumed name and in civilian clothes, and soon learned to speak Italian. One of his jobs was to make commercial contacts with Italians. He bought equipment for ships that were to sail for Palestine. He did very well at his job, which demanded the utmost secrecy and discretion, both in regard to the Italians and to the British also. Afterwards he was given a bungalow near Bari from which he operated in several fields at one and the same time. It was at this camp, Camp Dror, from which Aliya to Palestine was organized, that I first met him, and I was at that time 17 years old.

I made Aliya via Aliya Bet on the ship, "Enzo Sereni". After a stay of two weeks at the Atlit detention camp I arrived at Kibbutz Tel Yitzchak. Chaim remained in Italy for some time in order to finish up some incomplete projects, and arrived in Palestine several months later. We married and we moved to Kibbutz Nitzanim where our oldest son, Ilan was born in 1947. Chaim was very active in Kibbutz Nitzanim also, and when the kibbutz was captured by the Egyptians, Chaim was captured along with other members of the kibbutz and was freed nine months later. At that same time, the women and children of Nitzanim were at Kibbutz Tel Yitzchak. When Chaim returned we left the kibbutz and went to the Moshav Shitufi "Bnei Dror". Several friends of Chaim from his former outfit were already there. Chaim built the first buildings in the Moshav and then went to work in the carpentry shop. Our two daughters, Dahlia and Nira were born here. Chaim continued to work in the carpentry shop until one week before his death. He died of cancer on the 21st October 1989.

We have 3 children, 12 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. I am left with many very good memories of my life together with Chaim. They were beautiful years.