

**Kafkafi, Malachi**

Nickname: Malik

Born in 1927 in Tel Aviv

Joined the Palyam in 1945

**This is the Way it Was**

I studied in the A.D.Gordon elementary school and in Tel Nordau. I continued in Balfour Gymnasium. My studies were over in 1945. I was a member of the Hanoar Haoved youth movement in Tel Aviv from 1939 and until I joined the Palmach. I joined the Palyam in the framework of my training group at Sdot Yam in 1945 and we went straight to a course for launch commanders as we had already had paramilitary training in the Hagana and in Hapoel.

In December 1945 I was sent to a course for Gideonim (radio operators) in Shefayim and after that I worked as a Gideoni at the Sdot Yam station when there were several occasions to unload ma'apilim. In March 1947, I was sent to Cyprus with all the ma'apilim of the "Shabtai Luzinski". I helped Yoash Tzidon to build a radio set that he hid on the bottom of an ordinary radio. I then opened a line of contact between Headquarters in Tel Aviv and the camp. I worked there until relieved by Biba Nafcha in May 1947.

I was discharged with my whole training group in August 1947. My group settled at Kiryat Chaim and many of the members went to work in the port of Haifa. At the end of the War of Independence they founded Nachsholim at Tantura. I was sent to work in the Noar Oved youth movement for one year. When the situation with the Arabs became more severe, in March 1948, I was mobilized to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion as cultural officer until I was wounded in the battle of Malkiah, on 16 May 1948. When I recovered from my wound the navy remembered me. I was sent to the communications headquarters of the navy and then sent to the first course for naval officers of the navy. In 1949 I left the navy and I left communications and I transferred to the munitions branch of the army. I was commander of repair facilities and then Brigade munitions officer until I completed my reserve duty in 1984.

In March 1950, after I was discharged from Tzahal, I went to work for Mekorot, the national water company. I had various positions there both in the field and in the company headquarters. In 1950 I completed studies in economics and business administration at Bar Ilan University while working for Mekorot. I am married and the father of two girls and grandfather to five grandchildren, and a retiree living in Tel Aviv.