

Koren Dvora (Dubka) Berman

Born July 1922 in Vilna

Joined Ha'Chavura ("The Gang") in 1945

Made Aliya on the "Eliyahu Golomb" in 1946

This is the Way it Was

During the World War I was in the Vilna Ghetto. I was completely alone as my whole family had been taken to the Ponar Camp and exterminated. When the Vilna ghetto was liquidated I was sent to work in labor camps in Lithuania and Estonia. Towards the end of the war the Germans marched us all in the direction of Germany. On the way, I managed to escape from the convoy and hide in a small village. When the war was over I went back to Vilna to look for the rest of my family. I found no one so started to wander along with other remnants of the Holocaust and in the end I found myself in Milan.

In Milan, members of Ha'Chavura ("The Gang") brought me to the Magenta camp which was located somewhere between Milan and Turin. There, I met other young people of my age. In Magenta there was a large storehouse that contained food, German weapons and fuel, and which was held to be a secret hiding place. The camp itself was led by young Israelis and they asked me one day to take charge of the storage houses. Work there was done only at night. Men of "The Gang" would come then and unload more food and fuel and arms. The arms and the food would be stored below ground. The fuel, which was delivered in barrels would be stored in ditches and covered with earth. Before any of the Hagana ships would sail I would receive orders to prepare a portions of food for ten people. I would like to mention those that helped me at this point, and have already passed on from this world (may their memory be blessed): Pesach Linkovsky, Moshe Kenel, and Aharon Kresner had permission to enter all of the storerooms.

While I worked there we prepared food and fuel for the "Chana Senesh", the "Wingate" the "Enzo Sereni", the "Dov Hoz" and the "Eliyahu Golomb". The weapons arrived in Israel at the outbreak of the War of Independence". I came to Palestine on the "Dov Hoz" which sailed from La Spezia. Several months later I married my boyfriend, whom I had met at Magenta. He was one of the drivers of "The Gang" that brought supplies to the warehouse at Magenta. After the wedding we moved to Menachemia in the Jordan Valley.

In 1949 we moved to Moshav Avigdor. We live there to this day and have built a nice farm. We also have raised three children and nine grandchildren and one great grandchild, so far.