

Yitzhak Rabin

of blessed memory

1922 – 1995



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Youth

- Rabin was a “sab’re” (born in Israel); he was born in Jerusalem in 1922
- His parents were 3rd Aliya’s pioneers who came to Israel after the end of WW-I
- He grew up in Tel-Aviv, and attended the famous Kaduri Agriculture High School, hoping to become an irrigation engineer (he never did)

The Palmach Era

- In 1941 Rabin joined the Palmach - the elite forces of the Hagana (the underground military arm of the Jewish community in Eretz Israel)
- During WW-II he participated in operations against the German-friendly forces of Vichy France in Lebanon
- He advanced quickly in ranks, becoming the Palmach's Chief Operations Officer in Oct. 1947
- In the Palmach he met his wife Leah and they got married in 1948

The War Of Independence

- At the beginning of the Independence War, Rabin was the commander of the Harel brigade that broke the siege on Jerusalem.
- He was later the deputy commander of Operation Danny – a major battle that secured Israeli control over the center of the country.
- He then participated in all the major battles against the Egyptian forces as the Chief Of Operations for the Southern Front.

Service in the IDF

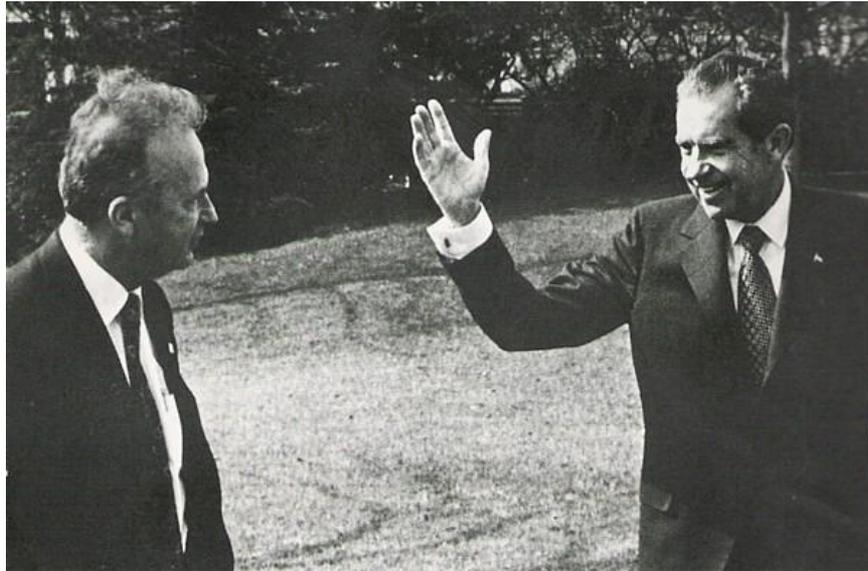
- Rabin's long and distinguished military career lasted till 1968
- In 1964 he became IDF's Chief Of Staff
- The culmination of his military career was the huge victory of the Six Days War (June 1967)



Moshe Dayan & Itzhak Rabin (center) entering the Old City of Jerusalem

Beginning of Public Service As Civilian

- After his retirement from the IDF in 1968, Rabin served 5 years as Israel's ambassador to the USA



Ambassador Rabin meets President Nixon

First Term As Prime Minister

- Rabin was elected to the Knesset at the end of 1973, and became a minister in Golda Meir's government. He succeeded Golda in June 1974 as Prime Minister.
- A very important achievement of his government was the Interim Agreement of 1975 with Egypt that paved the road to the Peace Agreement 4 years later.
- The most dramatic event during his 1st term as PM was Operation Entebbe – the release of Israeli hostages from Entebbe, Uganda.

Opposition Knesset member and Minister of Defense

- In late 1976 Rabin encountered problems with religious parties in his coalition; new elections were scheduled to May 1977.
- In the May 1977 election, the Labor Party headed by Rabin was defeated, and the Likud party headed by Menachem Begin came to power
- Until 1992 he served as either opposition Knesset member or Minister of Defense in various national unity governments.

Second Term As Prime Minister

- In 1992 Rabin was elected chairman of the Labor Party which won the national elections; Rabin then became the Prime Minister again
- As PM, Rabin signed the controversial Oslo Accords with the Palestinians (1993), and the peace agreement with Jordan (1994)
- During his 2nd term as PM, Rabin became a hero of Israel's "peace camp", and the target of vicious attacks by the right wing forces in Israel.

Assasination

- On Nov. 4, 1995 Rabin was assassinated by a radical right-wing Jew. The shooting took place as Rabin was leaving a mass rally in Tel Aviv in support of the peace process defined by the Oslo Accords. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he died on the operating table.
- His murder was a huge shock; his memory and legacy is commemorated on each anniversary of his murder.



The graves of Yitzhak & Leah Rabin