

The Tragic Event in Shaul's Life Of The Fall Of His Sole Son

Based on Shaul's biography book by Aryeh Boaz

On July 12, 1948, Gur – the only son Shaul had – was killed by a shot of an Arab sniper during a fight that took place near Segera. At that time, Shaul was busy in Europe organizing critical arms shipments to Israel. He got the bitter message only two days later from Meir Sapir, his friend from Kibbutz Kineret. The following is Shaul's reaction in his own words:

"I woke up that day as usual and prepared to take a bath. In the meantime I finished shaving and I was cleaning my shaving gear. All of a sudden, a knock on the door. My heart didn't tell me anything. Meir came in looking tense. In a very direct way he told me 'Gur was hit'. 'Wounded or dead?' I asked, holding to a straw of hope. 'Dead' Meir said. 'Where?', 'in Segera' he replied. I understood the message but it didn't sink in. Automatically I continued to clean my shaving gear. I finished, organized them in their box, and even went on to take the bath – maybe because I wanted to be by myself – and then I started to grasp what happened and I started to cry... I asked my friends to leave me alone, went out of the hotel, and sat to the shores of Lake Geneve. My mind wondered and I imagined I was sitting on the shores of the Kineret Lake (Sea of Galiles)... this year marks 30 years to my arrival to Kibbutz Kineret in 1918, and this is what fate secretly concocted for me for this occasion. I lost control over my thoughts. The next day I went to the office to continue my work".

Shaul took his time before going back to Israel, and continued to work as hard as possible, feeling obliged to handle the critical arms issues that he was in charge of. B.G. encouraged him to do so by sending him the following condolence telegram: "you have always been dear to us Shaul, and now, over the grave of your sole son, you are seven fold dearer. Increase your work and this will strengthen your wounded heart".

Following the event, Shaul changed his family name from Meirov to Avigur which means in Hebrew Gur's father. Few weeks later Shaul terminated his assignment in Europe and returned to Israel, where he continued to serve as B.G.'s right-hand man in various matters involving national security.