

## **The Voyage of “Aliya”** [Immigration of Jews to the Land of Israel]

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1947, this vessel sailed from the Bay of Bandol, France, carrying 182 Ma’apilim. The “Exodus” had been the last vessel to leave (in July 1947), and visas to South American countries could no longer be obtained; other types of travel certificates became scarce as well. For this reason, the Ma’apilim of “Aliya” stole away from the port secretly, during the night, and were taken on board by rubber boats, which plied between vessel and shore with the aid of a cable that the Ma’apilim pulled. The commander of the “Aliya” was Yair Braker and the Gideonim were Batya and Meir Reines.

Around that time, the vessel “Kadima” had left from Palestrina, Italy, carrying 794 Ma’apilim and here again, Ha’Mossad Le’Aliya Bet had intended for these two vessels to meet at sea, when they were not far from Palestine, and have the passengers of the “Aliya” board the “Kadima”. This vessel, formerly named “Albertina”, had already made several such voyages for the Hagana<sup>1</sup>.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, when the vessel was close to Lebanese waters, the Gideonim on board managed to overcome the difficulties that they had been having with the wireless equipment, and report the vessels coordinates. It turned out that the distance between the two vessels was only several tens of miles; However, by then, “Kadima” was picked up by a British destroyer and the original plan had to be abrogated. It was only then that the vessel was given the name “Aliya” and was told to try to beach her on the shore of Nahariya. Despite a British scout plane hovering in that area and destroyers in the water, the captain succeeded in beaching the vessel. The Ma’apilim were swiftly debarked and put into several waiting buses, which scattered them among the settlements of the surrounding area.

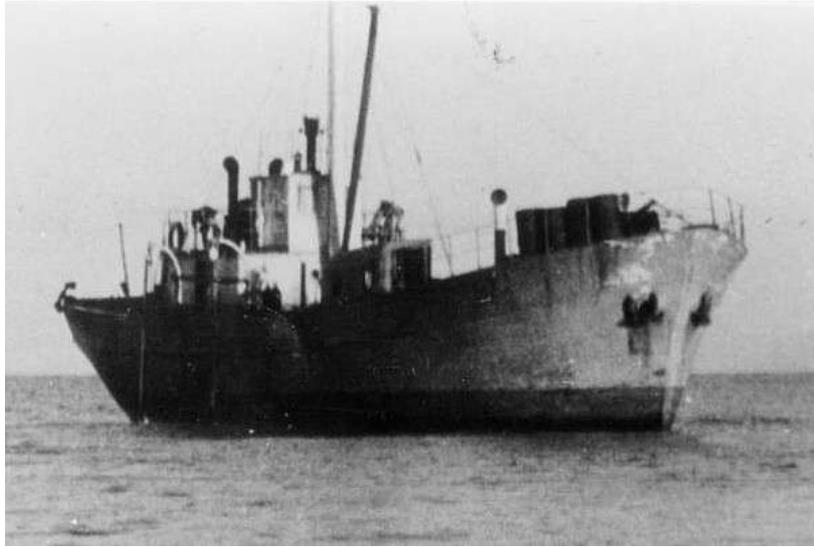
(Compiled by Tzvi Ben-Tzur)



*The “Aliya”*

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<sup>1</sup>The “Albertina” had previously made several successful voyages with Ma’apilim to Palestine as the “Peter A” and “Peter B”



*The "Albertina", AKA "Pietro", "Peter A", "Peter B"*