

The Voyage of “Kaf Tet Be’November” [29th November]

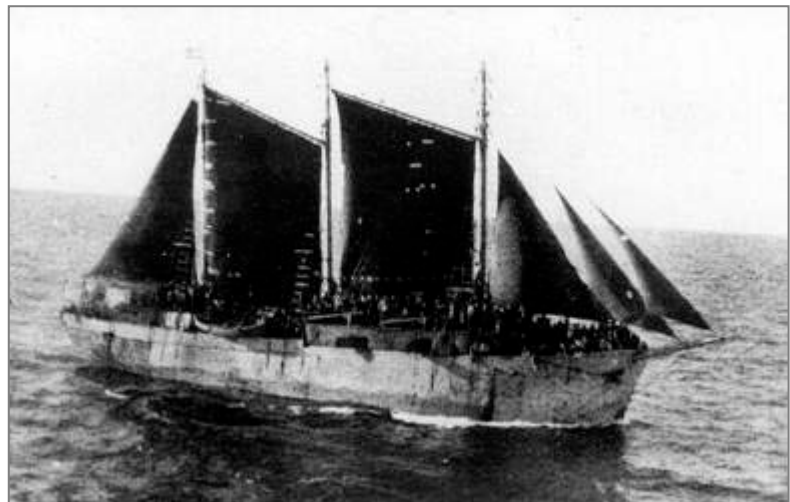
This vessel was named in honor of that fateful day in 1947, on which the United Nations voted for the establishment of the State of Israel. For the communications network of the Gideonim and Ha’Mossad Le’Aliya Bet, this vessel was known as the “He’Halutz” [Hebrew: The Pioneer]. She began her voyage in the Bay of Girolata, Corsica. She had arrived at the Bay with an engine that was out of commission, after she had attempted to load Ma’apilim not far from the city of Algiers, Algeria.

Mocca Limon (pictured here), who was the commander of the vessel had arrived 10 days before she was to leave. With him were Nimrod Eshel, Kuba Betzer and the Gideoni - Shlomo (Hanzi) Rosen. On December 14th 1947, 680 Ma’apilim boarded the ship; they were brought to her by another vessel known as the “Zibale”, whose commander was Yehuda Ben-Tzur. With him were Avner Gilad (Skandi), Emanuel Katzav, Ya’akov Ben-Tzion (Melech) and the Gideoni Aharon Michaeli.



The voyage to Palestine took two weeks. She was discovered on December 23rd near the island of Crete, by a British destroyer, which shadowed her all the way to Palestine. As the vessel drew close to the shore, more destroyers joined in to escort her into the port of Haifa. They entered port on the night of the 28th-29th of December. Instructions were not to resist and the Ma’apilim were deported to Cyprus.

(Compiled by Tzvi Ben-Tzur)



“Kaf Tet BeNovember”



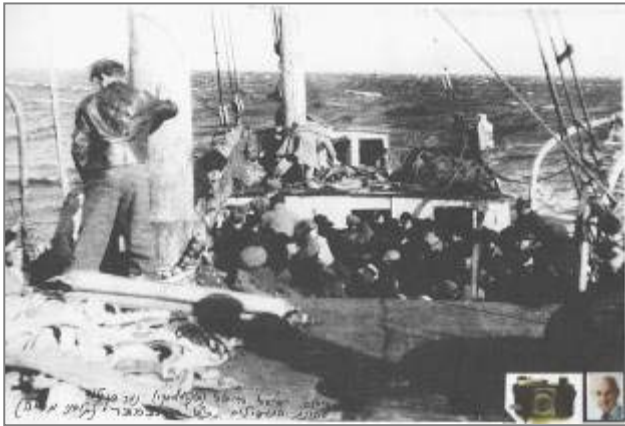
*On board “Kaf Tet BeNovember” during a storm
(photo by Ephraim Meital, a 15 year old Ma’apil)*



Transferring Ma'apilim at sea from the "Zibale" to the "Kaf Tet BeNovember" (photo: Israel Meital)



*On board the "zibale"
(photo by Ephraim Meital, a 15 year old Ma'apil)*



*On board "Kaf Tet BeNovember"
(photo: Israel Meital)*



"Zibale" commander Yehuda Ben Tzur (left) and Israel Meital – the photographer, 60 years later