

The Voyage of “Lo Tafchidunu” **[We Won't Be Frightened]**

The vessel “Lo Tafchidunu” was prepared for her voyage in the port of La Spezia, Italy. She sailed on December 11th 1947 from the region of Civitavecchia, carrying 853 Ma'apilim. The commander of the vessel was Gad Lasker, accompanied by Pinchas Mishkov - RIP (Pinchas fell in the Battle for Kfar Etzion on May 13th 1948). The Gideonit was Tzipora Rosen.

The Ma'apilim boarded the vessel at night, in secrecy with the aid of small rubber boats. Four people who were not Ma'apilim joined the passengers: Meyer Levin - a film photographer, the German author- Bertrand Hesse, the journalist - Therese Susanne and the journalist - Y. Michaelevitch. They had taken upon themselves the filming of the flight from Europe of the Holocaust survivors and their passage to Palestine. The film they produced was called “The Illegals / Lo Tafchidunu”. The name of the film was changed in 1948 to “The Voyage of the Unafraid” and again in 1961 to “The Real Exodus”. During the filming, strong searchlights and flares were used to light up the area, arousing the curiosity of the local villagers. The resourceful Ada Sereni convinced them that a film about WW II was being produced, and they were invited to take part (and were paid) for rowing the boats.

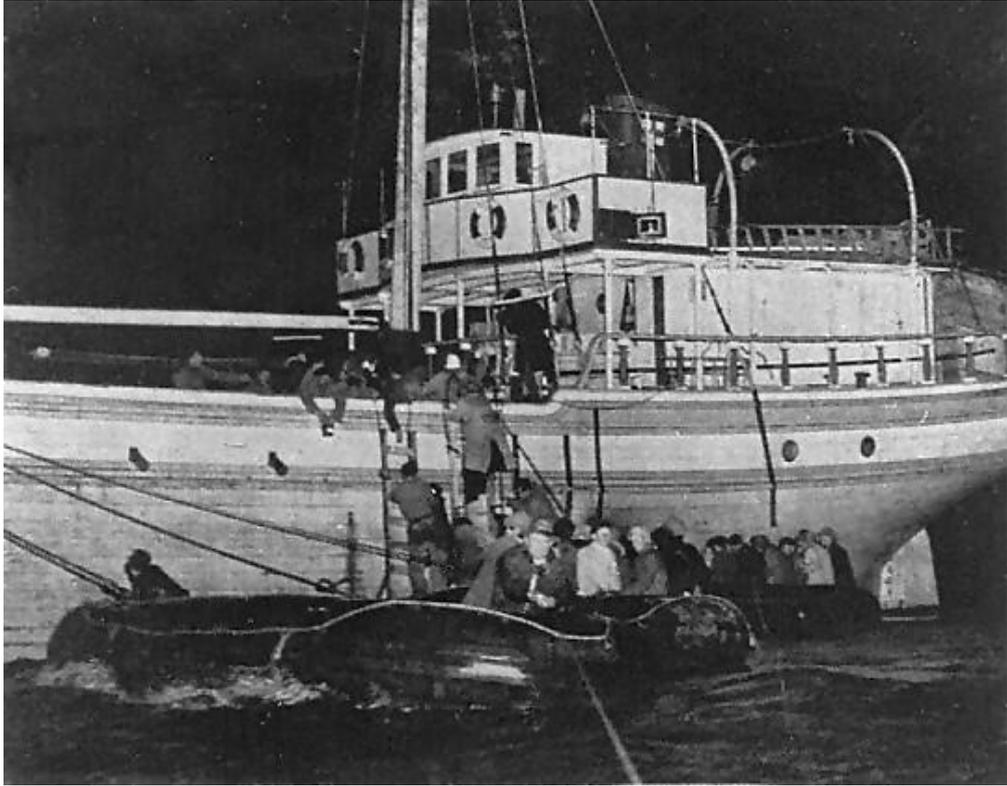
A British scout plane discovered the vessel on December 22nd and several hours later there were four destroyers at the scene. The next morning they captured the vessel without any opposition and the vessel was towed to Haifa. The Ma'apilim were deported to Cyprus together with the Palyamnikim who had disappeared into their midst.

In 1948 this vessel was pulled out of the ‘shadow fleet’ and used for transporting Olim under the name “Yardena”.

(Compiled by Tzvi Ben-Tzur)



Boarding with the aid of rubber boats



Boarding the ship