

The Voyage of "Peter II"



The vessel, "Pietro" that was called the "Peter I" came back to Italy for a second voyage, this time under the name "Peter II", only one month after its previous voyage. Once again, Eliezer Armon (Weresh, pictured here,) was commander and Avraham Reis the Gideoni. Gad Lasker accompanied them. The crew remained the same Italian crew, as did the Italian captain.

On October 15th 1946, the vessel left from a point not far from Taranto in southern Italy, carrying 174 Ma'apilim. She arrived at the shore of Shfayim on the evening of October 22nd, without being noticed. The Ma'apilim debarked quickly and were sent on regular service busses of "Eged", and scattered about the nearby settlements. "Peter II" turned round once again and made for Italy, this time carrying 23 Palyamnikim, who wanted to get back to work in Europe, as quickly as possible.

On her voyage back to Italy she ran onto a rock and had to enter the port of Bari, Italy, for repairs. On November 2nd, she was caught by the British police and was held for several months, before she was finally freed, thanks to the excellent connections of Ada Sereni. She returned to serve Ha'Mossad Le'Aliya Bet under the name "Albertina". Her last voyage for Ha'Mossad Le'Aliya Bet was under the name of "Aliya", in November 1947.

(Compiled by Tzvi Ben-Tzur)

