

Limon, Mordechai (Moka)
Born 1924 in Poland, came to Palestine in 1934
Joined the Palyam in 1942
Commander of the Navy, 1950 – 1954

This is the Way it Was

In his youth Moka belonged to the Hashomer Hatzair Youth Organization, and was active in the nautical branch of Hapoel in Tel Aviv. In 1939 he participated in the course for sailing instructors which was organized by Shmuel Tankus. In 1942 he joined the Palmach's nautical section, and was an instructor in the first two courses for small boat commanders that were held at Caesarea in 1943, together with Shmuel Tankus, Dov (Berchik) Magen and Uri Neta (Flanzenboim), under the command of Yaakov Salomon.

During the years 1944 – 1945, while WW II was in progress, Moka served on merchant ships of the Allies. In 1947 Moka commanded three Aliya Bet ships: "Theodor Herzl", "Geula" and "29th of November". In early 1948 he took part in accompanying transport planes that brought the first shipments of weapons to Israel.

During the War of Independence he served in the Navy, along with his friends from the Palyam, on the naval ships "Hagana K-20", "Hashomer K-18" and after the war as fleet commander, as Chief of Operations of the navy and as Commander of the Navy from 1950 - 1954. Following the end of his naval service, Moka fulfilled many tasks as an emissary of the Ministry of Defense involving assistance to developing countries of the Third World. Following that, he headed the Israeli Ministry Of Defence Purchasing Mission in France. When the "Cherbourg Boats" incident – the escape in 1969 of the five Israeli missile boats built in France occurred, the French Government formally requested that Israel recall Moka home.