

**Nameri, Dvora** (Levin)

Born in Russia, Made Aliya from the USA in 1931

In 1939 was radio operator in the Hagana network

Joined the Palmach in 1941

**This is the Way it Was**

I was born in the city of Tambov, Russia, and during the Pogroms my father (RIP) fled to the USA and settled in Detroit Michigan. In 1923, my mother (RIP) took her three daughters and joined him there. That is where I grew up and studied. In early 1931, I made Aliya with a group of young American pioneers which was formed after the riots of 1929 in Hebron. The aim was to make Aliya and to work in farming; "to build and to defend". We ten young people were received by Golda Meir (Meirson) herself, and she took good care of us. We made quite a splash in Palestine then because we were the first group of pioneers from the USA. The Detroit Jews were also very proud of us and called us in Yiddish "Di Kvutza" (the group). We were sent to the 'Northern Group', near Kvutzat Ginegar and were the ones who planted the Balfour Forest there. (The nucleus of Kibbutz Ramat Yochanan is the "Northern Group".) From there we were sent to Kibbutz Gesher, and it was there that I joined the Hagana. While there I took part in a course in signaling with searchlights and flags, and also by radio in Morse code. I also had a course in first-aid.

In 1939 I received the infamous "White Paper" in Morse code, and read the message to all of my commanders as they stood by in my station. In 1941 I joined the Palmach.

1947 – 1949, My husband, Davidka Nameri, was sent by the Jewish Agency to the United States to work in procurement. I and our three small children went with him, and lived in Brooklyn, New York.

We returned to Israel in 1949 and went straight to Kibbutz Ashdot Yaakov (about 1934 all the members of "Gesher" moved to the lands of Dalhamia, which became Kibbutz Ashdot Yaakov.) I worked at first in the plant nursery and afterwards as a school teacher. I continued my work as a teacher and Davidka was drafted to work in Ha'apala (immigration) as the executive officer in charge of immigration by sea, land or air. He initiated, coordinated, and oversaw the aerial immigration of the Jews of Baghdad, Iraq (Operation Wings) and their successful landing in Yavniel.

I worked as a Gideonit, in contact with all stations in that network and did whatever was required, to maintain communication with stations on land and on vessels of the Ma'apilim.

1960 – 1965: Davidka was chief executive of the Ministry of Transportation. I and our four children were with him in Jerusalem. I continue my studies at the University, and earned a BA and an MA. In 1965, because of Davidka's illness,

we move to Haifa and I found work at the Haifa Technion. I then worked on my Doctorate under the tutelage of Prof. Harel Fish.

My thesis was printed in two volumes in 1976. I continued to teach at the Technion and was accepted as a member of the academic staff. Davidka died in 1966 and I worked on the preparation of a book in his memory. This book, "David Nameri; by Him and About Him" was published in 1974 by the Kibbutz Meuchad. The editors were Avraham Yavin and Shlomo Derech.

I continue with academic work and, at the present time, am occupied mostly with the tragic characters in the plays of William Shakespeare. This field occupies me at the present also.



**Davidka Nameri and Grisha Sheinkman preparing passports**