

Shechner David (Of Blessed Memory)

Born 1922 | Vienna, Austria

Came to Palestine in 1939

Joined the British Army in 1942

Joined Ha'Chavura ("The Gang") in 1945

Died at Tivon in 1995

Written by Rachel Shechner

This is the Way it Was

David was born in Vienna and went to school there until he was 16 years old. In 1937 he joined a group of Aliyat Noar and went to Germany with that group for training prior to immigrating to Palestine. In September 1939 he came to Palestine with that group and went to Kibbutz Massada. From the kibbutz he went to Natanya and tried his hand there at diamond working. In 1942 he volunteered for the British Army (1942-1946).

When he was discharged from the army but still in uniform he went to Vienna to search for his parents. He found out that they had been killed in the Holocaust. During the month of June 1947 he worked in Italy within the framework of Aliya Bet, and upon his return to Palestine he joined the Negev Brigade of the Palmach and fought in the Negev during The War of Independence. The transfer from the Palmach to Tzahal was automatic.

Upon his release from Tzahal he continued his ties with the subject of security. He also wrote about this topic especially when he was attached to the headquarters of the second-in-command to the Chief of Staff. David did all he could for the benefit of the ordinary soldier in Tzahal and spent much of his time in their company, especially when they were in outposts in Lebanon.

During the last years of his life he volunteered for work in the local Kiryat Tivon council (his residence) in absorbing the large immigration which came from the Soviet Union. He did this as he had done all his other jobs, diligently and modestly. David died in December 1995. He had reached the rank of Colonel in Tzahal. A memorial stone in his memory was erected in Tivon. He was married to Rachele Musarov and the father of Yoram and Gideon.

He was buried in Tivon and his buddy from the days of Ha'Chavura ("The Gang") and of Aliya Bet in Italy, Eliezer Biger, paid him tribute at his gravesite: "We your friends of bygone days, the period when we were active in Italy with the Ha'apala (the 'illegal' immigration of Jews to Palestine during the mandatory era), we shall always recall you to mind as "David the Ye'ke" (Ye'ke stands for 'a German' and its intent is to describe one as being ultra pedantic and exact in his manner of doing things). Your uniqueness, your quiet way of doing things, your modesty and your manner of weighing matters thoughtfully and then carrying out every job that you were given, your finding the initiatives and the means of achieving your ends ; perhaps all these together is what led to your being known as "David the Ye'ke".