



# AMERICAN VETERANS OF ISRAEL

VOLUNTEERS IN ISRAEL'S WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

UNITED STATES & CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS

136 East 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016

## Major New Work on The War of Independence Reviewed by AVI Members

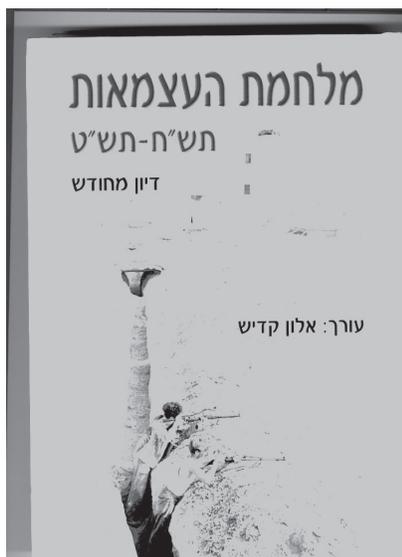
*Kadish, Alon, ed. Israel's War of Independence, 1948-1949. Re-consideration. (milhemet haatzmaut: 1948-1949, diyun mehudash) Israel: Ministry of Defence, 2 volumes, 2004.*

From time to time the AVI Newsletter has reviewed books on the participation of Machal and Aliya Bet volunteers in the struggle to establish the State of Israel. On two occasions bibliographies on that subject have been printed\* The Ministry of Defence of the State of Israel has just published a two-volume summary of studies on the War of Independence, the context in which our volunteers served. The text is available only in Hebrew. The following reviews will introduce the non-Hebrew reader to this collection and provide the Hebrew reader with some assessment of the work.

\*See AVI website <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/sklausne/aviweb.html> and click on Index to AVI Newsletters. Look under the heading Book Reviews and Books on Aliyah Bet and Machal.

### Overview of the Book

Of the area allocated for the Jewish State in the UN decision of November 29, 1947, no territory remained under Arab control and the area of the state was expanded to include 80% of mandatory Palestine as compared with 55% intended in the UN's Partition Resolution. The most definitive result of the war was the establishment of a Jewish national state--as a foundation for carrying out the national tasks--the ingathering of the exiles and the conquest of the desert. During the war, some 120,000 olim arrived in Israel...It is estimated that the Palestinian Arabs lost some 13,000 and the Arab armies some 3,600... About 650,000 Arabs became refugees. About half left their homes, willingly or unwillingly, before the British evacuation.



Cover, The War of Independence

## How They are Remembered Continued

The Winter 2004 Newsletter offered reminiscences of deceased colleagues by their survivors. Here are a few more. Obituaries highlight the wartime service of deceased members. Those who survived service lived to become fathers and mothers of families, conduct businesses and professions and serve as active members of their communities. This section provides an opportunity for their survivors to recall the lives they lived in the years after the war or service in aliya bet. In most cases we have a photograph of the veteran with his or her spouse or family. Sometimes we have a photograph of the veteran near the time of the War of Independence.

### Benjamin B. Sklar



Ben and Naomi Sklar

Bennie and I met in the spring of 1966 and married in the spring of 1967. We met at an Ulpan in Tel Aviv, I, on a year's leave of absence from a teaching assignment in New York and he on what he thought was to be his long awaited, devoutly to be sought aliya from California to Israel. Had he not met me, this would have happened; having met me, circumstances forced us to delay our "forever trip" till January, 1972.

Bennie never talked much about himself, he was the very soul of modesty but little by little his unending valor in World War II had to burst its bonds of silence and seek the daylight of recognition so that he could serve the Israel he loved with the skills that were honed in twenty-five bombardment missions over the skies of Europe. Years later I discovered a unit citation and an individual citation, which he received during World War II. The unit citation reads, in part, "... the 95th bombard-  
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**[www.israelvets.com](http://www.israelvets.com)**

# Memorial Service for the Machal Fallen on Israel's 56th Yom Ha'Atzmaut

As Israel marked its 56th Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Machalniks gathered at the Machal Monument in Sha'ar Hagai on Remembrance Day to honor the memory of the overseas volunteers who fell in Israel's War of Independence. The annual World Machal Memorial Service this year took place on April 26, 2004 in the presence of several hundred veterans and their families, augmented by delegations from France, headed by Maurice Fajerman and from the United Kingdom, led by Stan Medicks, as well as a contingent of young Machalniks now serving in the IDF.

The impressive ceremony, in the hills of Jerusalem, began with the lowering of the flag, accompanied by a 12-year-old bugler, the great-nephew of Machalnik Sol Baskin. At precisely 11:00 am, sirens rang out throughout the land for two minutes while the people of Israel stood at attention in respectful silence for their fallen. After the lighting of the Memorial Flame at the monument and Laying the Wreath, the names of the 119 Fallen Machalniks were read out and the countries from which they came. The religious part of the ceremony followed, led by Rabbi Ephraim Shach, with the reading of Psalms, a brief address, collective Kaddish and the El Maleh Rachamim prayer. The service concluded with the singing of Hatikvah. To oblige everybody present, Masters of Ceremony Zippy Porath and Rafi Seroussi conducted the program in English, French, Spanish and Hebrew, without a hitch.

By noon, old friends had a chance to socialize and picnic, with the option to join a tour later to nearby Latrun for a visit to the Armored Corps Museum and the Machal Statue. The proceedings at Sha'ar Hagai, including interviews with visiting Machalniks, were videotaped for a planned ESRAVISION program on Machal to be shown later this year on a local TV channel. (ESRA is Israel's English Speaking Residents Association.)

Zipporah Porath



*Yom Hazikaron, Israel, 2004*

*Yom Hazikaron, Israel, 2004*



# How They are Remembered *continued*

From Pg. 1

ment group (H) displayed extraordinary valor, audacity and courage under fire. By heroic strength of purpose, it led the way over the target to carry out its mission successfully. . . . The citation is signed by G.C. Marshall, Chief of Staff. Bennie received the Distinguished Flying Cross with the following citation: " . . . For extraordinary achievement while serving as Ball-Turret Gunner of a B-17 airplane on 25 bombardment missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. Displaying great courage and skill, Sergeant Sklar, fighting from his gun position has warded off many enemy attacks and has materially aided in the success of each of the twenty-five missions. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Sergeant Sklar on all these occasions reflect the highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States." The citation was prepared by Col. John S. Allard, Deputy Chief of Staff under the command of Major General Doolittle.

I didn't know Bennie in '48 but his buddies from Machal became close friends and the chief topic of their conversation was ever and always the Israel of the Independence War and their part in its drama. It seemed that every passing moment of '48-'49 was analyzed, discussed and then analyzed again. They never tired of the memories and reminiscences and I never tired of listening. Bennie served in the Air Transport Command and he did a lot of flying . . . bringing much needed supplies from Europe to Israel. His flying expertise made him a very valued teammate and he reveled in what he was able to do to serve in the great cause in which he was so willingly engaged.

During his civilian working life Bennie was employed by Israel Aircraft Industries . . . both in the U.S. during the years that we were waiting to make aliya and then in all those very productive years until retirement. Productive indeed!

We made our home in Netanya where Bennie was active in the community; AACI (Americans and Canadians in Israel) and Laniado Hospital in their very early days and later in the Amuta that we founded together, ATTAD, (Aid to the Aged in Institutions) where a lot of recognition has been offered. Bennie did not "sit home". He searched for deeds to be done and people to be helped and he always found what he was looking for. . . . and he WAS a Certifiable Hero!

May his Memory be for a Blessing.

*Naomi Sklar*

## Fred Dahms

How did Fred's service in Israel affect our family life? It almost ended our short marriage. In 1948, Fred and I had only been married six months when he

went to work for Al Schwimmer who was buying war surplus C-46s and smuggling them to the infant state of Israel.

I was told I could join Fred in Rome and it sounded romantic. He flew in a C-46 from Panama to Sicily and sent me a cablegram. It read in part, "Not stopping flying northeast." Northeast of Sicily were Slavic countries and our cold war with Russia was heating up. That was the last word I heard from him for 21 long days and sleepless nights. Had his plane crashed? Was he a prisoner of the Russians? Was he escaping from our marriage?

No. He was in Czechoslovakia, behind the Iron Curtain. Schwimmer's operation was hush-hush and all mail was routed through Switzerland. Fred asked me to join him in Geneva. I arrived in November, 1948, but Fred wasn't there. For seven weeks I waited. He had volunteered to set up an aircraft-refueling base in Yugoslavia where Americans were not welcome and was being smuggled out disguised as a Jewish immigrant.

In December 1948 amid blackouts and bombings I arrived in Israel and Fred, now dedicated to helping the Jewish cause, convinced me we were needed. Ekron Field (Tel Nof) needed an English language typist. Fred set up an Accessory Overhaul Shop and I, with the high-sounding title of Secretary to the Commanding Officer, sat on a backless stool in front of an old Underwood typewriter balanced on an upended orange crate and typed shop orders.

Mid cold and rain and leaky roofs and shortages of everything including food. (Our basic diet was cabbage and potatoes) we stayed and I've been forever grateful. Facing danger and privations bonded Fred and me forever. We made lifelong friends and are proud to have participated in, to a small degree, helping to establish the state of Israel. To paraphrase Tony Bennett, "I Left my Heart in the State of Israel."

Evelyn "Evie" Dahms

## Paul (Abraham) Sprinzeles



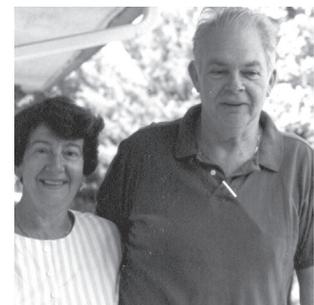
*Paul and Lola Sprinzeles*

Paul was born in 1924 in Vienna, Austria, an only child to "hard-core Austrian" parents. Yet, his maternal grandfather emigrated to Palestine in 1920 and had his family follow him. However, his older daughter, Paul's mother, remained in Vienna. She was seventeen years of age and decided to get married rather than emigrating to a country of sand and lack of "culture." In 1939, with Austria's annexation by Germany, Paul's parents decided to send their son to his grandparents where he would be safer than in Nazi Germany. At that time Paul's parents had no means of emigration. A few days before the outbreak of World War II (September 1939) they managed to obtain visas to the U.S. and traveled via Great Britain to the "New World."

Paul went to school in Palestine and joined the Haganah (in 1946) and the army in 1948. He achieved the rank of master sergeant serving as quartermaster and rejecting his parents' efforts to have him come to the United States. After his discharge from the IDF in 1951 he complied with his parents' wishes to visit them.

I was a volunteer from Great Britain was stationed in military hospital No. 5 in Tel Hashomer. Although I was often in Sarafand, where Paul was stationed, we never met until I came to the United States in 1953. Moreover, we had many mutual friends but his and my paths had never crossed until our meeting in New York when a friend introduced us. We both continued to study here, he going to Brooklyn Tech for an engineering degree and I to New York University for a degree in psychology. In December 1954 we were married and planned to return to Israel upon completion of our studies. Unfortunately, Paul's father died suddenly of a heart attack and his mother developed Parkinson's disease. Consequently, Paul was stuck for he could not leave his mother here alone nor could he have uprooted her in her state of health. Thus, we remained here. Paul pined for Israel until his death in 1997, Perhaps our grandsons, aged seven and four, may fulfill their grandfather's dream.

*Lola Sprinzeles*



*Lola and Paul Sprinzeles*

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## NY AVI Marches in Israel Day Parade



*Israel Day Parade, New York, 2004  
David Green leading the Contingent,  
Ira Feinberg at far left, Paul Kay  
at far right and Sprinzeles  
holding banner*

Some fifty families marched, or rode in cars, at the New York Israel Day Parade on May 23, 2004. The AVIers began their march at 5th Avenue and E. 56th Street and ended at E. 79th Street. As the veterans passed by especially loud cheers and applause were heard from the sidewalks along the parade route.

### *Marcus Memorial at West Point: Chaplain Huerta Speaks about Iraq*



*Cadet Honor Gaurd, West Point  
Marcus Memorial, 2004*

On Sunday May 2nd, AVI held its annual memorial service at the West Point Cadet Chapel to remember David 'Mickey' Marcus and the other volunteers who gave their lives in Israel's War of Independence. The participants that filled the chapel included guests, USMA cadets and members of AVI. Highlights of the event included the lighting of memorial candles

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## *How They are Remembered continued*

### *Hy Pomerance*

On the morning of December 18, 1948, the snowstorm in Europe was still raging, but the forecast was that the weather was improving somewhat. My husband, Sam Pomerance, said, "We'll take off in an hour." The six planes were going to Podgorica, Yugoslavia to refuel and then continue on a little later to Israel led by a C-46. They took off but four of them returned in about an hour. Bill Pomerantz and my husband were missing. After a short time, Bill was found where he had made a forced landing. He was slightly injured, but he was taken to Israel a little later.

I was told that George Lichter spoke to Sam on the radio, and they told him they were turning back; the weather was too severe, but Sam said he was going to try to get through. He was flying at 14,000 feet with no oxygen mask. Nothing more was said for a few days. I kept wondering what had happened. He had said we should meet in Geneva, Switzerland for a short stay before he returned to Czechoslovakia. One day someone knocked on my door at the Ambassador Hotel in Prague where I was staying. Two young men said that the Ambassador wanted to see me. I thought Sam had sent word that I should go to Geneva, but when I got to the Embassy, I got horrible news. Sam had crashed on a mountain. I almost fainted. I didn't know how I could go on living without Sam.

Evelyn Dahms, who worked for awhile in Israel wanted to write a book using recorded experiences of non-Jewish volunteers. There were several errors in it; the volunteers did not tell the truth all the time. Bob Dawn, of Los Angeles, had said that Sam may have been "hung over" on the morning that he left on the trip to Podgorica because all of the six pilots had been partying all night. Sam was at no party the night before. He had come to the hotel tired and did not feel like going out to eat. I persuaded him to go with me to the hotel restaurant for a short time, and then he went to sleep right away when he returned to the room. I talked to Evelyn about that statement, and she assured me she would take that out of the book she was writing.



*Elsie Pomerance (center),  
Hy Pomerance (right)*

Rob Dawn said also that I had arrived in Czechoslovakia about a week before Sam was killed. Not true! I arrived two months before. Then Bob said some of the volunteers had driven me to the Prague Airport and put me on a plane back to the United States. Not true! I was taken to Geneva Switzerland where I was put on a Pan-African plane to Haifa, Israel. I was going to attend Sam's funeral in Tel-Aviv, and I spent three weeks in Tel-Aviv.

### WEISS BROTHERS' ERROR?

In their book *I Am My Brother's Keeper*, I read, "Pomerantz was married and was the father of two children and was older than most of the other volunteers. He was devoted to his family and brought them over to Israel shortly after his own arrival."

I got in touch with one of the Weiss brothers and asked about that, but he said he would check on it and let me know what he found out, but I never heard from him again. If Sam married some one after me, I would like to know who, where, and when. I would be happy if he had not been killed.

### Mike Finegood

Mike Finegood expressed the opinion that Sam did not attend New York University, but that was where Sam studied engineering. Later, Mike stated that Sam felt he should get military experience in order to get more pilot training. That was an error. Sam had a great deal of experience as a pilot in light airplanes and in some not so light. Sam worked as an aeronautical engineer at Ranger Aircraft Company as a group leader.

Then he began, after World War II was over, to attend Zionist meetings and thinking of en-

***Marcus Memorial at West Point:  
Chaplain Huerta  
Speaks about Iraq  
continued***

by USMA cadets; the religious service conducted by Chaplain Nisson Shulman; the reading of names by Paul Kaye, Marvin Libow and Lola Sprinzeles. The Jewish War Veterans-Rockland Orange District carried the colors and the Shapiro Family Choir sang cantorial and Israeli musical renditions.

Among the speakers were Major Carlos Huerta just returned from a tour of duty with the 101 AB Division and IDF Brigadier General Yehiel Gozal, recently appointed National Director- Friends of the IDF. Major Huerta spoke about his experiences in Iraq. He reminded the assembled of the important Jewish historical connection to Iraq over the millennia, including the origins of the patriarch, Abraham; the academies and scholars that created the Talmud as well as the Babylonian exile and return to Zion of an earlier period in our history. Today, the Iraqi Jews are gone; most of them immigrated to Israel. Traces of the old synagogues can be found through earnest investigation. With the help of the small Christian Iraqi community, old synagogues have been discovered, some buried behind refuse dumps.

General Gozal spoke of the new initiative of the Friends of IDF to provide monetary assistance to soldiers on duty in Israel's combat units whose families run into financial hardships as the soldiers are called away.

Following the chapel ceremony, wreaths were laid at the graves of Mickey and Emma Marcus, and the names of the forty fallen were called out by AVI members. The recitation of Psalms and Ke'l Maleh Rachamim followed an "Ode to Col. David Marcus" read by Sidney Rabinovich. The USMA cadets then concluded the ceremony with the Salute by the ceremonial firing squad and the bugler's sound of Taps. AVI members lingered after the ceremony to greet comrades-in-arms and old friends. A group spontaneously congregated at the edge of the military cemetery led by Chaplain Huerta to recite the Kaddish in memory of Lt. David Berstein (z"l), USMA class of 2001 as it was learned that he had fallen in Iraq.

*Si Spiegelman*



*L-R Sid Rabinovich, Celina and Si Spiegelman*

***How They are  
Remembered  
continued***

listing in the Israel-Service. Helephone one morning in March 1948 and said he would send for me when he got established in his work in Switzerland. He kept in touch with me and told me to be prepared to join him soon. I arrived there in the middle of October 1948.



*Elsie Pomerance*

Surprisingly, Mike Finegood did say something good about Sam once. It was when he was at the 1993 Machal meeting. He said, "It was finally openly acknowledged that Israel would probably not exist today if it had not been for the ATC and Sam's fighter airplanes."

I have Log Book #3 of Sam's; two were lost. I copied a few of his flights, etc. to show that he did a great deal of flying: In his last log book, he recorded that he flew Stinsons, Culvers, Interstates, Fairchilds, Robins, Aeroncias, Taylorcrafts as well as his Rearwin and his Stearman. He also flew to such places as Lambert, Wood River, Mattydale, Lancaster, Buffalo, Easton, Pa., Albany to Ocean via Red Bank and Millville, New Jersey. His reasons for flying those planes were as follows: Check their compass, etc., get parts, practice spins, spot landing, figure eights, landings, to check rigging, stability spins, check installed landing lights, night practice, practice landing and takeoffs, night landing and takeoffs, to check out Bill Engle, test carburetor, test flight characteristics, get prop test cooling, glare, glare exhaust, local hops instruments, vibration run engine test (topped engine) engine fuel conservation test, photo tests, and gave instruction occasionally.

Military planes he flew: His Stearman was a training plane; he flew Spitfires in Czechoslovakia and to Israel. He logged a few more hours in 1948 as follows: D. H. Rapide from Milan Italy to Rome. From Rome to Brindisi, he flew an Aeron Anson and an Anson from Brindisi to Rhodes, Greece. The Avia fighter plane, a modification of the famous German fighter the ME 109--the Messerschmitts left in Czechoslovakia by the Germans after World War II.

Leonard Slater, author of The Pledge, said, "On September 27, 1948, five planes flew out of Podgorica headed for Israel. Pomerance and the others received a joyous greeting from political and military leaders as they touched down at Ekron."

*Elsie Pomerance*

## ***Ruth Gruber, Witness to Aliya Bet, Has Two New Books***



*Dr. Ruth Gruber*

Ruth Gruber, long time and honored member of AVI, spoke at the Hanukka 2003 celebration of the New York region of AVI. The second volume of her autobiography, [Inside of Time: My Journey from Alaska to Israel](#), (Caroll and Graf, 382 pages) has appeared. Following is an excerpt from a review published in the Los Angeles Times, May 15, 2003. The review was entitled "The hard-eyed witness" and was written by Blanche Wiesen Cook.

Gruber has always been fiercely independent and powerfully

talented. Born in 1911 in the stetl of Williamsburg, Brooklyn, she was an adventurous rebel who defied tradition, challenged authority and confronted danger... The first volume of her memoirs, *Ahead of Time: My Early Years as a Foreign Correspondent*, detailed her early triumphs and struggles. She graduated from high school at 15 and from New York University at 18. She earned a master's degree in German literature from the University of Wisconsin. She then completed a pioneering dissertation on Virginia Woolf at the University of Cologne and at 20 became famous as the youngest PhD in the world. It was 1932, Hitlerism was on the rise, the Depression raged and Gruber could not get a teaching position.

She became a journalist and never looked back... In 1944, while Adolf Eichmann was in Hungary selecting 560,000 Jews for death in Auschwitz, Gruber had an epiphany aboard the army troop transport, Henry Gibbins with refugees bound for a makeshift sanctuary at an army post in Oswego, N.Y.

"Standing alone on the blackened deck... I was trembling with the discovery that from this moment on my life would be forever bound with rescue and survival. I would use words and images, my typewriter and my cameras as my tools. I had to live the story to write it, and... If it was a story of injustice, I had to fight it."... From 1946-1948

Gruber traveled throughout Europe and the Middle East as a journalist covering the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry and the U.N. She writes, "You never knew what to expect... They can pull you out of your car, lock you up, no charges, no trial and you're in jail for a couple of months or a couple of years."

In Palestine, Gruber met two cousins from Poland. On a kibbutz in the northern Emek region, she learned how everyone in her mother's shtetl in the Wolyn Province was murdered. Everyone, all ages, beaten, stripped, shot, and then shoveled into the river. She was more determined than ever to have an impact: "I wanted my words and pictures to shake my readers," Gruber wrote in the article "Palestine Today is Ireland of 1921." The fierce hatred of the British, the concentration camp atmosphere, the destruction of civil liberties, the growth of a people's army—the same social and political explosives which made Ireland the tinderbox of the last postwar period, make Palestine the time bomb of this one."

The British foreign office was run by imperialists, "men who think back

## **Israel Consul General Honors Florida Machalniks**

The Israel Consul General to Florida and Israel, Miki Arbel, presented certificates to several Machal veterans at a ceremony in North Miami, Florida on the occasion of the 56th anniversary of the declaration of the State. Ezra Katz, former president of the Miami Jewish Federation, joined by Congressmen Kendrick Meek and Mario Diaz-Balart and the Consul.

Receiving certificates were Bill Gelberg, Irving Meltzer, Israel Bachachi, Arthur Jaffe, Leon and Albert Suissa, Baruch Rabinowitz, Robert Weiss, Jacques Siboni, Salvador Binnun and Shab-itay Yahya.

The certificates recalled the creation of Israel and its struggles against its enemies. The certificates conclude with the following three paragraphs:

*Whereas, unselfishly and at great personal risk, the men and women of the Mitnadvei Chutz L'Aretz (Overseas Volunteers) offered themselves and their services to assist the nation of Israel during crucial times; and*

*Whereas, these volunteers displayed heroism and courage beyond the call of duty:*

*Now, therefore, the State of Israel hereby recognizes the invaluable contribution of the Mitnadvei Chutz L'Aretz in Florida, United States of America, to Israel's victory, and on behalf of its citizens, hereby offers the deepest and most heartfelt gratitude this twenty-sixth day of April 2004.*

**More than 700 guests in attendance at the ceremony applauded enthusiastically.**



*L-R Ezra Katz, Kendrick Meek, Mario Diaz-Balart, Miki Arbel, Robert Weiss*

A few of you have not paid dues for this year. Please send your check so that we can keep the Newsletter coming to you.

## **AVI LEADERS AT ORDE WINGATE MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.**

On Sunday, April 25th on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his death, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America held the widely publicized remembrance service at the Arlington National Cemetery honoring the memory of Orde Charles Wingate. He is remembered as a great soldier and friend of the Jewish people who dedicated his life to the cause of freedom. Orde Wingate helped to organize the precursor to the Israel Defense Forces while serving as an officer in Palestine in the late 1930's. Moshe Dayan and Yigal Allon, among others, have credited Wingate with being the spiritual father of the IDF. He was the inspiring force behind the Haganah's "Special Night Squads" that fought a counter-guerrilla war against the Arabs and trained many of the officers who later led the decisive struggle for a Jewish State. During the Second World War, Wingate, until his untimely death in March 1944, organized and led the famed British-Indian Chindits in Burma against the Japanese, supported by the U.S. Army Air Force's 1st Air Commando Group. Winston Churchill hailed Wingate as "a man of genius who might well have become also a man of destiny." Paul Bernstein, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans lauded Orde Wingate as, "a British patriot, a proud Zionist, a righteous Christian, and a defender of freedom."

Hundreds of veterans from the wars in which Orde Wingate served were in the assembly. American Veterans of Israel was represented by a number of participants. Among them were Paul Kaye, Regional Vice President-Northeast and Kelly Bernard from Florida. Other Machalniks who participated in the event were Esther Friedman, President Emeritus of Machal West and Lt. Michael Flint (son of Mitch Flint). A Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns preceded the program. The guests assembled at the Memorial Amphitheatre for the ceremony and religious service that included military and flag processions and a concert band playing patriotic music. Prayers for the United States of America, Great Britain and for the State of Israel were followed by the national anthems of each nation.

Among the many speakers who took the podium were Martin Indyk, former U.S. Ambassador to Israel and other prominent diplomatic and military representatives from the United States, Great Britain and Israel. All spoke about the legacy of Orde Wingate. Paul Kaye brought greetings from Machalniks everywhere and reminded the gathering of Orde Wingate's prophesy related by Moshe Dayan "you will one day have your country, but you will have to fight for it".

A procession took place to Orde Wingate's gravesite for a stone and wreath laying ceremony. Soil of Israel was placed on the grave and the Hazamir Youth Choir concluded the ceremony with the Kaddish and the singing of Hatikvah.



*Si Spiegelman*

*Paul Kaye (center), Kelly Bernard (L)  
at Orde Wingate Memorial*

## **Ruth Gruber, Witness to Aliya Bet, Has Two New Books**

through their grandfathers." They recruited Nazis and fascists to patrol the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. British police trucks were chalked with swastikas and slogans, "Kill the Jews."

Finally, the U.N. created UNSCOP, without a British representative. Now there were differences among the Jews. Weizmann recommended a two-state solution: partition of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state. Others preferred one binational state, a secular democratic state of Jews and Arabs. At the time, Gruber wrote an article: "Divide the Land and Let the People Grow."

The earlier memoir, [Ahead of Time: My Early Years as a Foreign Correspondent](#) (Wynwood, 1991), was summarized in Publisher's Weekly May 10, 1991.

Gruber is not a household name despite her having written 13 books and serving as a foreign correspondent during the 1930s in countless dangerous locales. This memoir is beautifully crafted, covering her inner life sensitively as well as educating readers about what it was like to grow up Jewish in a Brooklyn shtetl in the early part of the century, to enter New York University as a 15-year-old freshman, to hitchhike to the University of Wisconsin to begin a master's degree in German; the study in Germany at the time of Hitler's ascension; and to explore Europe and the Soviet Arctic as a New York Herald Tribune journalist. Gruber changes some names for the sake of privacy, devaluing the book somewhat as a historical document. That reservation aside, this volume, recalling her first twenty-five years is one of the most evocative journalistic autobiographies to appear. Readers will hope to see the rest of her story published.