

# Whatever Happened to Emmanuel?

An Historical Essay

By

Peter Keeda

## Contents:

Whatever Happened to Emmanuel .....2  
Appendix 1 Names of Participants in Kissufim.....15  
Appendix 2 Newspaper Articles .....16

## Whatever Happened to Emmanuel?

by Peter Keeda

On kibbutz Kissufim his nickname was “Manual Labour”. In June 1967 Emmanuel left the comfort of his home in Chile to volunteer in Israel, at a time when it seemed that the Jewish Nation was once again under threat of annihilation. Together with two other young men from Chile, Bernardo and Alberto, Emmanuel, known as ‘Manuel’, was sent to kibbutz Kissufim (כיסופים = yearnings) on the border with Gaza. Fifty-four years later no one can find him. Whatever happened to Emmanuel?

The three Chilean volunteers met up on Kissufim together with other youthful volunteers from England, France, Germany, USA, Holland, Canada and a rowdy group from Australia. Altogether there were thirty-eight volunteers who were sent to this forlorn outpost on the border with Gaza.

The Australians, fond of creating their own brand of rhyming-slang, were delighted when Manuel and his friends arrived – here was the personification of their enforced labour – and promptly gave him the nickname “Manual Labour”. There were several volunteers from USA and the most vocal of them, Phillip, was soon known as “Seppy”. Obvious, isn’t it? “Phillip-the-Yank” rhymes with ‘septic tank’ and why not just shorten it to “Seppy”? The unpopular young Kibbutznik, Amram, who demonstrated a distinct dislike for the volunteers was known amongst the volunteers as ‘Gorilla’, not in the least for his hairy appearance.

In June 1967 Israel was not prepared for an influx of volunteers from overseas , a phenomenon which last occurred in the build-up to the Israeli War of Independence in 1948. Many thousands of young volunteers, mostly Jewish, arrived in Israel during June and July 1967 and within Israel there was considerable debate what to do with them. Was it merely a waste of energy and resources? It took about twelve months for the Israel bureaucracy to accept the notion of overseas volunteers and in the

following years, tens of thousands of 'volunteers' visited Israel on short-term visits, usually accommodated in kibbutzim.

Many of the old-timers on the kibbutz were idealist who recognised the volunteers' idealism and devotion, and many 'adopted' a volunteer. For those lucky enough to be allotted kibbutz 'parents' this was a great boon as it gave an opportunity to blend into the world of a kibbutz family. Forty-five years later, in 2011, a group of the volunteers visited Kissufim and met with one of the old-time members of the kibbutz, Yehuda, who had nothing but praise for the 1967 volunteers.

*"I know that our time in Kissufim had been a major event in our lives, but I hadn't understood until this visit that it had been a major event [in] the Kibbutz members lives too. In fact, we had opened them up to the world beyond the kibbutz."*  
(Miriam/Leo)

In 1951 Kibbutz Kissufim was established by a group of young Zionists from North and South America and despite the desperately hard work of its members, never really 'made it'.

*"Kissufim was obviously a very poor kibbutz... Later I found out that it appeared dead last in their ranking of over 150 of their kibbutzim."* (Leo)

As with the overall population in Israel, in the build-up and aftermath of what became known as 'The Six Day War', all the young men and many of the young women in the kibbutz were drafted into active army duty. Agriculture was the mainstay of kibbutz Kissufim, and the manpower drain was felt most acutely. The kibbutz had no idea that many young Jews had volunteered to help-where-they-could and so were somewhat bewildered when these thirty-eight young men and women turned up in dribs and drabs, at their doorstep to help out. None of the volunteers had any farming skills but the kibbutz was happy to accept their manual labour, picking fruit, weeding fields and other unskilled jobs around the kibbutz.

*"Kissufim still evokes for me many powerful memories of idealism, both that of the original founders, and of us as volunteers and others who came before and*

*after us. I also recall a sense of a less than open-armed welcome and embrace by the kibbutzniks of the motley, jet-lagged, bunch of kids/almost adults from down-under ...” (Alexi)*

The Aussies arrived on the kibbutz in several groups and most of the nineteen had arrived from Sydney as members of the Zionist Youth Movement, Betar . One narrative is that because the volunteers had seemingly declared their loyalty to this right-wing ideology, the Israeli officialdom, mostly left-wing bureaucrats, sent these members of Betar to this miserable outpost.

*“On the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1967, during what became known as Israel’s 6 day war, the first group of volunteers from Australia departed for Israel. The group consisted of 17 medical practitioners and three “ambulance drivers”. The “ambulance drivers were Geoff, Peter and me. The reason we were labelled “ambulance drivers” was for the media and to satisfy the Jewish communal organizations who had put up numerous hurdles to stop us from volunteering ... a short time later, the next contingent of volunteers from Australia arrived and again, they had admitted to the Jewish Agency that we were members of Betar, the Agency sent them to another god forsaken kibbutz, west of Be’ersheva, Kibbutz Kissufim.” (Ed)*

Mike from the UK turned up in Kissufim with his own car, an unknown luxury on the impoverished kibbutz. Mike soon became a celebrity, not only for his pleasant character but also on the off-chance of maybe getting a lift with him. The only modes of transport on the kibbutz were tractor for work, and bicycle for recreation. As a volunteer, if your ‘adopted kibbutz parents’ allowed you to use their bicycle you were indeed privileged. Mike also gained celebrity status by bringing with him the newly released Beatle’s album, *Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Together with the then current Israeli hits, including ‘Golden Jerusalem’ (ירושלים של זהב), the tracks of *Sergeant Pepper* were constant companions. Whoever thought that 54 years later we would reminisce about “When I’m Sixty-four”?!!

Ros and Geoff met on the kibbutz and in 2021 are still married with a string of thirteen children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ros went to Kissufim as a bit of lark, together with her close friends Mavis and Angela (aka Angie). These three Londoners had planned a holiday in Israel and had bought plane tickets when the Six Day War broke out. Determined to make good on their plane tickets the

threesome decided to continue with their holiday plans and when they arrived in Israel were summarily sent to kibbutz Kissufim. At Kissufim Ros met Geoff, a fifth-generation Australian, and they soon became an 'item'; two years later they were married, lived in UK for a while and eventually ended up in Australia where they grew their large family.

On Kissufim it was Geoff who coined the phrase 'hee tapuchim' (היא תפוחים) which is a literal translation of the Aussie expression "she's apples", meaning "that's OK". The Israelis couldn't understand: there were no apples grown on the kibbutz and 'hee tapuchim' was both linguistic and literary nonsense.

Australian Phillip (not to be confused with 'Seppy', the American) met American Stephanie and several years later they married in USA and had a '*wonderful marriage*' (Phil) for 42 years until Stephanie's premature death. There were several other liaisons amongst the kibbutz volunteers, but much water has passed under the bridge since then and better not to disturb those peaceful waters ...

*"And I remember being enamoured with a certain kibbutznik and he with me – whatever love meant at that tender, innocent age of discovery of the world, of ideas, ideals and self."* (Alexi)

Fella relates how she got to Israel –

*"In 1967 I was living by myself, in London studying for A-levels ... My best buddies were two Jordanian guys, from Jerusalem no less, and I was so proud of myself for not feeling any prejudice. We studied, listened to music and they recited Rumi [ed: a Persian poet] to me. From the moment the war broke out in Israel, horrified to my bones, I was never without my transistor radio, cheering for every bit of Israel news, arriving at school with my fear for Israel, transformed into victorious elation, while they got increasingly morose and hostile. No more poetry and no more common ground. They worried about their relatives in Jerusalem, and I was scared that our precious Israel would get destroyed. All I could think of was to go to Israel to volunteer. A signature from a legal guardian was required, because I was only 19. My parents refused to sign for me. Holocaust survivors. They were far too scared. I told them that if in time of need*

*they would not let me show up for Israel, then they were never allowed again to mention Israel to me again. They signed. A good friend of theirs promised to help place me “far from the border”, at his daughter’s “very safe Kibbutz ... not so far from Tel-Aviv.” And that is how I ended up at Kissufim, right next to Gaza.”*

Maria’s parents were also Holocaust survivors, and it must have also been heart-wrenching for them to see their only daughter depart for what was a war zone. Aviva wanted to get to Vienna to spend some time with her cousin there. By volunteering to Israel, she not only had her fares paid, but gained her ex-Viennese parents’ support and blessings. Siblings Miriam and Paul were the first Jews to be born in Australia’s capital city, Canberra. Thirty years earlier their father had fled the Nazis in Czechoslovakia but gave his children full support with these words: “If I was younger, I would join you”.

The members of Betar Sydney had quite a struggle to get to Israel as the Sydney Zionist ‘establishment’ were not interested in sending youngsters, regardless of their enthusiasm and commitment. After several such rebuttals Peter went on a fund-raising campaign and raised enough for 8-10 air tickets. The shit-hit-the-fan when the ‘establishment’ learned of this independent initiative, as fundraising, so they thought, was their exclusive domain. Leo & Peter negotiated with the ‘oldies’ and a compromise was reached: Peter would hand over the money and in return they would finance the air fares for a ‘number of volunteers’. In the end, nineteen volunteers from Betar Sydney went and a few months later a similar group from Habonim left for kibbutz Yizrael.

*“Despite huge and frequently vociferous arguments the [ed: Jewish] community managed to organize several huge rallies in support of Israel both in the City and Bondi Junction.” (Leo)*

The Australian government was ambivalent, on the one hand showing flexibility in the interpretation of the rules governing University scholarships but on the other hand

*“... had placed restrictions on travel to the area. To overcome this Zvi, Ed, George and Leo devised a cover story that we needed passports to travel to a skiing*

*contest in Central Europe. Since our names were Berkovic, Adamek, Berkovitz and Rogovin we had no trouble convincing the relevant authorities and received passports without delay.” (Leo)*

Ros, Paul and Geoff recall

*“When we arrived at Kissufim, we found that the volunteers had been allocated to the only viable accommodation – abandoned huts that had previously been the homes of the kibbutz members, now “slightly” dilapidated, and now due for demolition. Mind you, after a short time and a little effort, the odd piece of “liberated” furniture, and plenty of enthusiasm, the volunteers made them quite comfortable.” (Geoff)*



Outside wooden hut accommodation

Most of the young volunteers had interrupted their university studies to volunteer and so while they brought few agricultural skills, most were intelligent and (reasonably) well-mannered. The kibbutz fields desperately needed ploughing and it was soon recognized that three of the Australian volunteers knew how to drive tractors.

*“The cotton fields needed weeding; the wheat and cotton fields needed ploughing, fruit needed picking; and farm equipment needed repair. I felt immediately that we were needed, and it was not just a Farm Stay.” (Paul)*



They were sent to the fields – bordering on mined no-mans-land – and ploughed in day and night shifts with little or no security. Only days before the volunteers’ arrival a kibbutz tractor had been blown up on a land mine. Volunteer Dov earned his ‘stripes’ while ploughing one night; hearing rustling in nearby bushes he emptied his revolver magazine into the shadows. Next morning on returning to the kibbutz, he related his story, and they went to investigate. He had eliminated an unfortunate hedgehog. ...





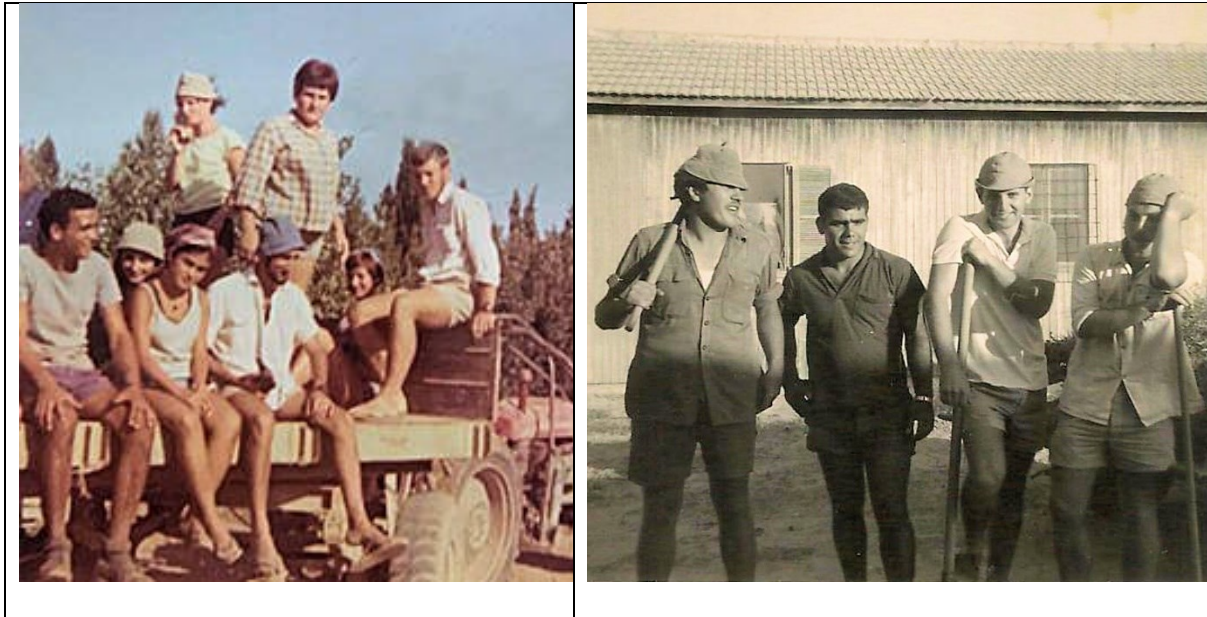
Security on the kibbutz ...

Many of the volunteers developed a life-long aversion for mish-mish (מישמיש= apricot) as they spent endless hours in the broiling sun picking them. Most of the jobs were boring and repetitive, not exactly the sort of stimulus that university students would enjoy.

*“One of our first jobs was weeding in the cotton fields. It was pretty tough yakka and extraordinarily hot. Koki was our boss & ... certainly not giving us enough breaks in those conditions. So, as good Aussies we did what good Aussies do and went on strike (שביתה). During our sit down Clara, a larger than life character, treated us to a Sofie Tucker song “Nobody loves a fat girl, but oh, how a fat girl can love” (Maria)*

*“The heat and boredom were broken by us singing black slave freedom songs like Go down Moses, Swing Low Sweet Chariot especially to annoy the kibbutz supervisors...” “My work at the kibbutz was pretty much boring ... We began in the orchards picking apricots, eating more than we should have and never eating again for years afterwards. Transportation on the open trailer pulled by a tractor every morning.” (Miriam)*

*“Our labour of exhausted dawn rising, picking fruit, mainly apricots, early in the day, then later carefully selecting and packing them into crates - held a higher purpose.” (Alexi)*



Off to work ... hopefully ...

*“Ros managed to convince the Kibbutz nurse/medic (Miriam) to give her a job as her assistant in the Kibbutz medical station. Miriam drove a hard bargain – she would only take Ros on if she agreed to clean the volunteer toilets ... the deal was done, and for the rest of 1967, the Kissufim volunteers had the cleanest toilets in the whole of Israel.” (Ros, Paul, Geoff)*

With the support of the Jewish Agency the kibbutz organised some ‘tiyullim’ (טיולים = trips) for the volunteers which were memorable events. One was to an archaeological site inside Gaza where the kibbutz archaeologist revealed the mosaic floor of a sixth century synagogue.



Synagogue mosaic of King David in Gaza<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza\\_synagogue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_synagogue)

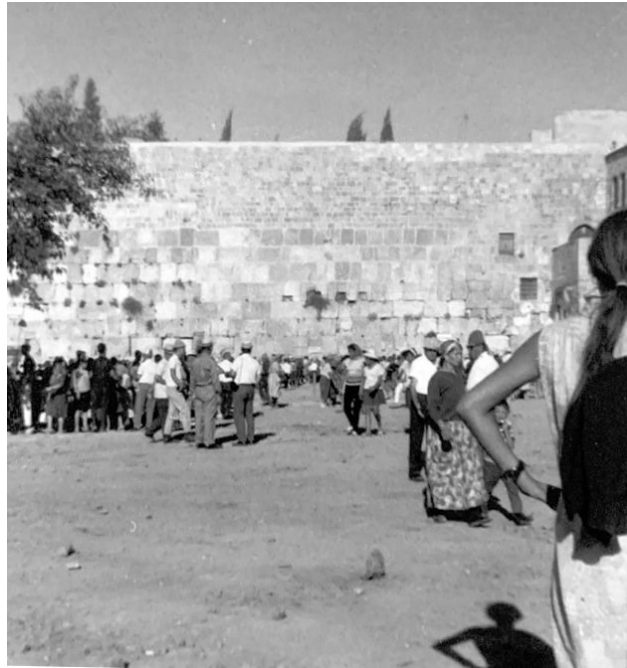
Not everyone was enamoured, and Ed was heard to declare: *“What! not another Byzantine shit house!!”*.

Another tiyul took in the Holocaust memorial museum at kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot (לוחמי הגטאות) where all were deeply moved, especially some of volunteers who are the children of Holocaust survivors.

On a tiyul to the West Bank the volunteers struck up a conversation with the local Arabs some of whom expressed their misgivings that these Jewish youngsters had come to take their homes. A more humorous incident was the ‘Clara affair’. Clara, a well-proportioned young woman, found it too difficult to alight from the old army truck, which was the volunteers’ transportation, and so decided to stay on the truck. Two of the Aussie volunteers struck up a conversation with some of the local Arabs and unbeknown to Clara, offered her for sale!! Furious bargaining ensued but the final offer of US\$2,000 was not accepted ...

*“When told the story Clara failed to appreciate the humorous side of the story”*  
(Zvi)

All the volunteers made ‘pilgrimages’ to liberated/unified Jerusalem and were intoxicated by being able to touch ‘The Wall’, for Jews the holiest site from which Jews were barred and against which the Jordanians had erected a urinal. By the time the volunteers arrived the area had been cleared but, as can be seen from Fella’s photo below, not yet paved.



Paul, Leo, Miriam, Zvi and Peter visited Jerusalem together and stayed overnight at the Notre Dame Monastery (which “offers hospitality to pilgrims who come from all over the world”) and spent two enchanting days discovering the old city of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives.



Notre Dame Monastery

Back at the kibbutz Miriam and Leo remember

*“The most amazing thing we discovered on our first day was that at the entrance to the dining hall there were taps for running water and gazoz (גזוז= soda). We couldn’t stop drinking it .... Really living in the lap of luxury.”*

Ed recalls

*"... our diet consisted of dairy products, bread, sardines, salads and tiny olives. Meat was a luxury, and as such the only meat that was provided was boiled chicken which was only available to us if we were ill."*

and Fella reminisces

*"Started my unfortunate smoking career with those crazy kibbutz cigarettes that made me cough my heart out, until I got used to smoking. Green package. Nadiv"*



Nadiv cigarettes נדיב = 'generous'  
which has the same linguistic root as 'mitnadvim' מתנדבים = volunteers  
Leo relates, however, that cigarettes were plentiful but not so matches; a barter trade developed paying for matches with cigarettes!

Fella remembers -

*"... there was singing almost every night - and Zvi played the guitar. We sang Erev Shel Shoshanim .... and "hem rochvim, levadam, sham ba vadi mul ha yam ..."* (Fella)

and Ros recalls -

*"Clara hysterically bemoaning how her breasts were getting larger and larger. All the girls piling on the kilos whilst the men wasted away."* (Ros)



2011 Reunion on Kibbutz Kissufim

L to R: Rosalind, Geoff, Henry, Roz, kibbutznik, Leo, Zvi, Miriam, kibbutznik, Ed

Memories for a lifetime were formed at Kissufim; memories of youth merging into adulthood, of friendships, of sharing and contributing ...

One question remains: Whatever happened to

**Emmanuel = עִמָּנוּאֵל = 'God is with us' ?**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Names of Participants in Kissufim**

#### **From Australia**

Edwin Adamek; Zvi Berkovic; Henry Bishopverder; Roz Bishopverder; Peter Cohen (Keeda); Phillip Crant; Diane Fabian; Alexi Ferster (Marmot); Maria Fiszman (Price); David Golomb Z"l; Miriam Gottlieb (Barasch); Paul Gottlieb; Peter Klein; Clara Kosch Z"l; Les Lipman; Leo Rogovin (Regev); Dov Rosenfeld; Geoff Williamson; Aviva Ziegler.

#### **From the United Kingdom**

Derek; Rosalind Camlett (Williamson); Mike Hudson; Mavis Isador Z"l; Angela Shafer Z"l; Les Wagner (friend of Mike Hudson).

#### **From the USA**

Bill from Hawaii; Philip from Chicago ('Seppy' = septic tank, the Yank!); Randy; Stephanie – from USA (Crant) Z"l.

#### **From Chile**

Bernardo; Alberto Rubenstein (Tito); Emmanuel Smirnoff ('Manual Labour').

#### **From Canada**

Helen Brizzoni.

#### **From France**

Jean Claude.

#### **From Germany**

Fella Cederbaum.

#### **From Holland**

Arjen Keuskamp (Arieh) Z"l; Dutch couple?

## Appendix 2

### Newspaper articles

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263004328?searchTerm=Australian%20Jewish%20Times>

The Australian Jewish News Friday 2 June 1967, page 1



***ECAJ policy***

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry has advised the Jewish community that arrangements have been made with the Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand, both at Federal level and in each State of the Commonwealth, for joint consultation and action as required in connection with the current Middle East crisis.

The situation is being kept under constant review and all necessary political and other action will be taken as and when required.

Individual organisations are requested not to indulge in unilateral action, which can only have the effect of reducing the impact of any united action which may become necessary from time to time.



<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263004334?searchTerm=Australian%20Jewish%20Times>

The Australian Jewish News Friday 2 June 1967, page 2

**URGENT CALL  
to Australian Jewish Youth**

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry and The Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand calls on all young Jews and Jewesses prepared to answer the request of the World Zionist Organisation for working hands to take the place of Israel's working Youth who have been mobilised for defence to register with the offices of the Jewish Board of Deputies or State Zionist Councils in their respective States. Young people under 21 can only register for such work if they have the written consent of their Parents. Registrations will only be accepted subject to the Australian National Service regulations, and must be made in person at one of the above offices from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Next Monday to Friday or at the State Zionist Council offices THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 4th., between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Nathan Beller**  
Acting President, Executive Council  
of Australian Jewry

**Nathan Jacobson**  
President, Zionist Federation of  
Australia & N.Z.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/131658934?searchTerm=Australian%20Jewish%20Times>

The Canberra Times 6 June 1967 page 1

**Australians  
'ready to go'**

Civilian volunteers from Australia could be in Israel within two weeks as replacements for specialised workers who had been mobilised, a spokesman for the Australian Jewish community said last night.

Speaking to The Canberra Times from Melbourne, Mr I. J. Leibler said the Executive Council of Australian Jewry had accepted registration from hundreds of men and women who were prepared to pay their fares to Israel and work without pay to allow more Israelis to be mobilised.

The Australians would not be asked to fight and would most likely replace doctors, nurses, transport drivers and technicians.

They would stay in Israel for up to four months, depending on availability of transport.

Mr Leibler said a specially-convened meeting of the Australian Jewish community in Melbourne last night was sorting applications.

The first groups could be in Israel within two weeks, depending on the amount of air transport available.

"There are dozens who would like to be their tonight", he said.

The Australian Jewish Times 15 June 1967, page 2

... technique and an uncer-  
... tain when did not really  
... live up to the promise of its  
... program.

... shall be ours for ever.  
... The beautiful photography  
... and a few scenes are memor-  
... able.

... of her previous films, director  
... Henry Verneuil projected his  
... tragedy excitingly, almost to  
... perfection.

**YOUTH:  
PART OF  
MASS RALLY**

Dr. R. Zimmin, chairman of the Zionist Youth Council, a member of the first Mercy Flight of doctors and ambulance drivers who left Sydney for Israel last Friday, was the speaker of the youth meeting at Beth Habonim which preceded the Mass Rally recently.

About 300 representatives of every major Jewish youth organisation listened to the telegram of the World Zionist Congress read by Dr. Zimmin, calling the Jewish youth to increase Aliyah.

After the meeting the youth walked in groups from Beth Habonim to Central Synagogue to take part in the Mass Rally.



2—The Australian Jewish Times, Thurs., June 15, 1967



## FIRST VOLUNTEERS LEAVE FOR ISRAEL

**A team of seven doctors, one nurse and five heavy transport and ambulance drivers left Sydney last Friday for Israel as the first group of volunteers.**

**The next groups consisting of young workers to help with the harvest and factory work to replace those Israelis who were called up in the Army are waiting for direct flight from Sydney to Lydda.**

Leader of the first group was Dr. L. Jacks (40) who was in Israel four years ago and worked as an anaesthetist. He left in Sydney his wife and four children aged 11, 9 and twins of 7.

Dr. B. C. Milroy, MBBCS, LRCP, MRCS, FRACS (30) is the only Jewish plastic surgeon in Sydney. He worked in Israel in the Haddassah Hospital for one year, before.

Dr. R. H. Gray (25) is a physician at Sydney Hospital. Dr. M. Pozniak (39) a well-

known communal worker, and former president of Hakoah will work in Israel as an anaesthetist. Dr. K. Singer (34) another anaesthetist and Dr. M. Speigelman (25) are single. Dr. Speigelman works in the Camperdown Children's Hospital.

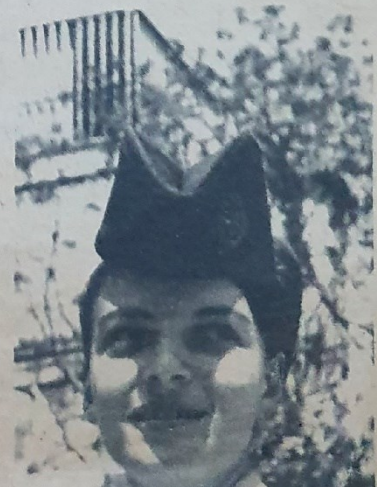
Dr. R. Zimmin (24) is chairman of the Zionist Youth Council. He left for Israel with his wife who will work with him as a nurse.

The federal head of Betar,

Peter Cohen (24), is a university student but also a qualified truck and ambulance driver. He was a member of the first group.

CONTINUED ON P.12

## LIEUTENANT T'CHIA GOREN



# FIRST VOLUNTEERS LEAVE FOR ISRAEL

CONT. FROM P.3

The oldest of the group is Mr. J. Harrison (47) who has a married daughter in Kibbutz Yod Vata near Eliat. He gave up his job as a telecommunication technician to act as a JP in the Community Centre during the emergency. His wife, facing a possible operation, hopes to follow him shortly.

Edwin Adamek (22) has a bookkeeper's diploma but is a qualified truck driver. A. P. Butterfield (22) married with two children is a heavy equipment operator, he is a Canadian.

A. M. Avney (36) sold out his business to go to work in Israel as a heavy transport driver. Jeff Williamson (21),

leader of the Sydney Betar, is an economics student at the University of Sydney. He is ready to drive ambulance or trucks in Israel.

The group, which was organised in 48 hours, is reported to have arrived in Israel safely and are already working in the Tel Aviv Hospital.



Three of the boys who left Sydney with the first emergency flight to drive ambulances and trucks are Peter Cohen, Edwin Adamek and Jeff Williamson, pictured at Mascot Airport.

Dr. L. Jacks, leader of the medical team is pictured being interviewed by the Press before departure.

## STOP PRESS:

### 2 synagogues contribute

The annual meeting of the North Shore Synagogue passed a resolution unanimously to call on their members to contribute \$50 per family as a voluntary levy towards the emergency appeal.

It was decided to pay \$10,000 in advance. The money has already been forwarded to the appeal committee.

The Cremorne congregation has given \$1,000 from synagogue, part of which was set aside to engage a chazan for the high holidays. The congregation decided to conduct the service themselves this year.



Australian Jewish Times 15 June 1967

# Sydney doctors on Israel mercy flight

By STUART GORDON  
**A 14-member Jewish medical mercy team left Sydney on Friday for Israel.**



## Non-combat volunteers

The N.S.W. Jewish Community Emergency Committee had made no call for volunteers to serve in Israel in any military capacity or in support of any military activity, Mr. G. Y. Falk said last week.

Mr. Falk, President of the Committee, stressed this in a statement released to both the daily and Jewish Press.

He said: "We have received approximately 400 applications (up to last Friday) from Jews and non Jews who are anxious to assist the civilian population who have been stricken as a result of the war."

"From these volunteers we are organising mercy teams comprising doctors, nurses and others trained in the care and treatment of the sick and wounded."

"In addition there are some able to drive trucks and ambulances to assist in the present state of emergency," Mr. Falk said.

## Catholic press pro-Israel

Israel's right as a nation to live without harassment should be guaranteed, "The Catholic Weekly" said in an editorial last week.

The editorial headed "Middle East War Has Lesson for World" said the tragic thing about the conflict is that it will serve to prove yet once more that violence solves nothing.

"The Catholic Weekly" said that Catholics join the Holy Father in his prayers for a peaceful settlement of this bitter conflict in the Holy Land, echoing his prayer at Nazareth three years ago.

"The war cannot now be stopped, but it can be impeded, and an international ruling firmly and impartially enforced — if necessary by armed intervention — and Israel's right as a nation to live without harassment guaranteed."

"This is not time for allocating responsibility for this conflict — the truth will emerge in due course. But the border raids, the guerilla warfare, the terrorism and the artillery duels along the borders of Israel and her neighbours over the years indicated

...It comprises seven doctors, a nurse and five ambulance drivers.

The doctors include a plastic surgeon and three anaesthetists.

The team left for Israel via London and Rome and was expected to reach Lybia by Monday.

Members of the mercy team will work among Israel's civilian population. Information reaching Sydney last week reported heavy civilian casualties in Jerusalem.

Reports said casualties totaled more than 500 following Jordanian shelling of the city. The mercy team was called from hundreds of volunteers registered with the N.S.W. Jewish Community Emergency Committee for civilian work in Israel.

It was accompanied on the BOAC flight to London by a group of Israeli nationals returning to their families.

All members of the mercy team paid their own fares, estimated at \$850.

## BLESSED

Hundreds of relatives, friends, communal leaders and officials, headed by Mr. G. Y. Falk, farewelled the mercy team at Mascot airport.

As the mercy team entered the tarmac area, a board the plane after clearing customs it was blessed by Rabbi Dr. Giffithall, of Kingsford Maroubra Synagogue.

Relatives of members of the mercy team showed little emotion as last-minute farewells were made. Rather, strain showed on some younger members of the team who had assisted at the Community Centre, Darlinghurst, and had little sleep during the previous nights.

Wives, children aged from one year, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters were at Mascot to say Au Revoir!

A Bellevue Hill doctor, now working in London, left for Israel early last week. He is Dr. George Fromberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fromberg, who has been working in the London Chest Hospital.

## AGENCY

The Jewish Agency in cable to the Zionist Federation urgently requested doctors to volunteer for civilian service in Israel.

The cable said surgeons and anaesthetists are needed in particular.

Immediately it arrived from Jerusalem, Sydney doctors were acquainted of its contents through the Fellowship of Jewish Doctors.

The Jewish Agency had also requested drivers with international licences to drive buses and mechanical earthmoving equipment and electronic, radio and telex operators and technicians.

It requested that volunteers be single or married without children.

Volunteers should be prepared to stay for an extended period of at least 3-4 months, the Jewish Agency cable said.

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## These went

● Dr. L. M. Jacks, 40, married with four children, will lead the medical team and also the main group. He is an anaesthetist and worked in this capacity in Israel when there four years ago.

● Dr. B. C. Milroy, 30, married, two children, a plastic surgeon who spent a year at the Hadassah University Hospital.

● Dr. K. Singer, 34, single, anaesthetist.

● Dr. R. H. Grey, 25, single.

● Dr. M. Pozniak, 36, married, three children, anaesthetist. Dr. Pozniak is a well-known Sydney Zionist leader and worker, a former President of Hakoah Soccer Club.

● Dr. M. Spiegelman, 25, single.

● Dr. R. Zimin, 24, married, and his wife, Mrs. S. Zimin, 23, a nurse. Dr. Zimin is a Zionist youth leader and chairman of the Zionist Youth Council.

● Ambulance drivers are: ● Peter Cohen, 24, single, a third-year B.Sc. student and Federal head of Betar.

● Mr. J. Harrison, 47, married, telecommunications technician. Mr. Harrison has a married daughter living on Kibbutz Yot Vata, close to Eilat.

● Edwin Adamek, 22, single, book-keeper.

● Mr. A. P. Butterfield, 22, married, two children. He is a Canadian national.

● Mr. A. M. Avey, single, 36.

● Geoff Williamson, 21, single, is the Sydney leader of Betar. He is an economics student.

# EMERGENCY CALLS BY LEADERS

Federal presidents of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), Women's International Zionist Organisation (WIZO), the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and B'nai B'rith, this week called on their members to support the Australian-wide Emergency Appeal.

WIZO Federal president, Mrs. Hannah Kessler, in her message called upon all Jewish women to "enter upon a period of personal austerity and self-denial so as to give utmost financial and physical support to Israel's cause."

Now is the time to stand up and be counted, she said. Mr. Max Wassner (JNF) in his call said: "In these hours of destiny I call on all devoted workers of the JNF who have made vital contributions to the upbuilding of Israel during the decades of faithful service to rally to the call of the Emergency Appeal for Israel."

"In helping to safeguard Israel's fruitful acres, its forests and meadows, settlements and orchards, so painfully won in years of back-breaking toil."

N.C.J.W. Federal President, Mrs. B. Cohen, pledged her members' "solidarity to our sisters and brothers guarding so heroically the borders of our beloved Homeland. I'm sure our members will not be found wanting."

Mrs. Kessler said that for the last 47 years WIZO, as a voluntary service organisation has greatly contributed towards the up-building of the Jewish Homeland on its rightful ancient soil. Today a clarion call goes out to all Jewish women to be at one with our sisters in Israel.

WIZO Headquarters in Tel Aviv have advised by cable that institutions have opened their gates to receive vast numbers of children whose parents have been called up for Army Service. Finance is low and demands are heavy. All Jewish organisations have agreed to forego individual action and to unite under the banner of the Communal Emergency Appeal for

## HOME BALL IS "OFF"

The 1967 Home Ball on June 28 has been postponed. President of the Sir Moses Montefiore Home Ladies Committee, Mrs. H. Joseph, announced the postponement on Friday.

She said her committee had decided to postpone the ball, although the 21-day State of Emergency would have ended by the time of the function.

We felt it would not be right to have a social function so soon after all the suffering of the Israeli people, she said.

## BUS OUTING



South Head Talmud Torah and the 2nd North Bondi (A-Link (headmaster) Peter Kofis) Brownie Pack recently and Vera Kuns together with co-organised a bus trip for 40 children to Robbin Head, Koala Park and Koola Park.

The outing was held during the recent school holidays. Children were under the guidance of South Head Tal-

## Charge of sabotage

Israeli violinist appeal concert

## Israeli violinist appeal concert

## Aluminium

# SHOWING THE WAY —Youth volunteers leave—

"I am very proud of my generation," Leo Rogovin, leader of the first volunteer youth group, said at a farewell reception last Sunday.

"The tradition has to be carried not only in the state of emergency; Israel needs young people," he said and expressed the hope that the Sydney Jewish youth would be good ambassadors of Australian Jewry.

Leaders of the community and relatives and friends of the departing youth gathered at the Goodman Hall of Central Synagogue to bid farewell to the 22 young girls and boys, who since June left Sydney and arrived in Israel to work in kibbutzim and factories.

Amongst them were leaders of the Zionist youth organisations and children of prominent leaders.

Richard Gridgen, chairman of the Youth Exchange Committee, spoke on behalf of the youth who will stay behind. "We hope to carry on with the work and here to go to Israel on a voluntary basis," said the young men and women.

Mr. G. Falk, president of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, wished them good luck and a safe return.

Mrs. Hannah Kessler, Executive Director of WIZO, spoke of the big contribution of the youth.

Mr. H. B. Newman, senior adviser of the Sydney Jewish community and vice-president of the Zionist Council, expressed the appreciation of the Jewish community for their departure.

"From North to South, East to West we are one people, the Jewish people, a great people," he said.

Amongst the group were: Henry Engelstein, civil engineering student; David Libovitch, arts student; Miriam Kessler, secretary; Sam Rogovin, research clerk; Joseph Wake, Phillips Winstone, daughter of JNF State president of NSW; Benur leaders: Henry Berkovics, Paul and

Miriam Gornish (mother and sister), Dov Rosenfeld. The women leaders: Phillip Grant, Ludwig Kowalski, Peter Nadelman, Judith Waddell and Karl Yerke; and Benur Advisors: Sharon Eaton, Judith Gordon.

The group included Miriam Engoron, daughter of Hahinch president; Alexandra Perle, daughter of the president of

the NSW State Zionist Council; David Frankel, Bronia Geller; Peter Merz, son of United Israel Appeal chairman; Neima Levy, from the Benur Youth Centre; Les Lipman; Leslie Maffei, daughter of the president of the District Branch; District Council of Australia and New Zealand; Warwick Pollard and Aviva Ziegler.

The group left Sydney on the first direct flight of BOAC to Lydda since the crisis.



Picture shows Leo Rogovin, leader of the group of young volunteers at the Goodman Hall last Sunday when they were farewelled by leaders of the Jewish community, with Mr. B. Forster, Mr. H. B. Newman, Mr. F. Adol (half obscured) and Mr. G. Falk.

Showing the Way – Youth volunteers leave –

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Amongst them were members of the Zionist youth organisations and children of communal leaders.

**Roland Gridiger**, chairman of the Youth Emergency Committee, spoke on behalf of the youth who will stay behind. We hope to carry on with the work and hope to go to Israel on Aliyah, Sherut Ha'am and student academies, he said.

**Mr. G. Falk**, president of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, wished them good luck and a safe return.

**Mrs. Hannah Kessler**, Federal president of WIZO, spoke of the big contribution of the youth.

**Mr. H. B. Newman**, senior citizen of the Sydney Jewish Community and vice-president of the Zionist Council, presented members of the group with a token gift emphasising the significance of their venture.

"From North to South, East to West, we are one people, the Jewish people, a great people," he said.

Leaving with the group were Henry Engelman, civil engineering student; David Gilomb, arts student; Klara Koch, secretary; Leo Rogovin, research clerk; Joseph Waks; Philippa Winstone, daughter of JNF State president of NSW; Betar leaders Henry Berkovitch, Paul and Miriam Gottlieb (brother and sister), Dov Rosenfeld; Habonim leaders Phillip Grant, Ludwig Kowalski, Peter Nothnian, Judith Widder and Karl Yorke; and B'nei Akiva leaders Sharon Eaton, Lynette Gordon.

The group included Maria Fiszman, daughter of Hakoah president; Alexandra Ferster, daughter of the president of the NSW State Zionist Council; David Frankel; Bronia Gelber; Peter Klein, son of United Israel Appeal chairman; Niona Levy, from the B'nai B'rith youth; Les Lipman; Leslie Muller, daughter of the president of the B'nai B'rith District Grand Lodge of Australia and New Zealand; Warwick Pollard and Aviva Ziegler.

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The Australian Jewish News Friday 3 August 1967, page 1

## AUST. VOLUNTEERS HAPPY ON KIBBUTZ

From DAN WOLPE

Mr. Fred Weiden, chairman of the ZFANZ Youth Department, who recently returned from Israel, reports that at Kibbutz Yezre'el there are now 19 new Olim from Australia and New Zealand, and over 42 volunteers.

He reported that the Kibbutz is doing its utmost towards these Chaverim by providing all necessities for the volunteers.

They are working on seasonal farming to be done at this period of the year.

Kibbutz Yezre'el is situated in the western part of Emek Yezreel (Valley of Yezreel) on the old Jordanian border and on the western slopes of the Gibsa Mountains.

Kibbutz Yezre'el was established on the 15th of AV 5708 (August, 1948) by a group of youngsters out of the Palmach. Later on more groups joined the Kibbutz from the sister movement of Ichud Habnonim in Israel from Hanoar Haovev.

In 1958, a decision was made to absorb the first group of Olim from Australia and South Africa. Since that time Kibbutz Yezre'el has been known as an Anglo-Saxon Kibbutz.

Although the population there is divided — 50 per cent Sabras, 30 per cent Aussies and about 30 per cent South Africans—we might say that after the war, at the beginning of June, 1967, the percentage of Anglo-Saxons increased highly in the Kibbutz.

Dr. Scherweiss gave a characteristically profound and beautifully analytical appraisal of the three great figures whose deaths were being honoured.

The Australian volunteers have started an Ulpan Ivrit, and different trips are being organised each weekend to visit the different captured areas, the Syrian Heights and the western bank of the River Jordan.

Also inquiries are being made for students who would like to stay in Israel to finish their studies there, at different universities, as well as at the Technion in Haifa.

The Kibbutz is going to celebrate its 19th anniversary next month, but this year it will be only a modest one. Probably next year, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, a big celebration will take place.

Among the groups on the Kibbutz, there are nine senior members of Habnonim Sydney: Henry Engelman, Ludwig Kowalski, Peter Nachman, Jack Stern, Joseph Waack (Pepper), Judy Widder, Karl Yorke and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Ziman.

Letters reaching us here from our Chaverim emphasise how happy they are to be there, and thank all those who took part in organising these groups, especially members of the State Zionist Council of NSW.



# "CELEBRATION" AT HERZL EVENING

Sunday night's Herzl-Bialik-Jabotinsky function will take the form of a "celebration" rather than a commemoration, a spokesman for the NSW State Zionist Council said this week.

The function, at Central Synagogue's Goodman Hall, will present a "reminder of the inspiration given to the

Jewish people by the three men — Herzl, Bialik and Jabotinsky—and at the same time rejoice in Israel's 20th Anniversary".

Sunday's "celebration" is part of the SZC's Israel's 20th Anniversary celebration program.

A tribute to the three leaders will be presented in a short "paper" by Mr. H. Nagley, principal of Moriah College.

Readings from the works of Herzl, Bialik and Jabotinsky will be given by young Sydney Jews, Evelyn Cornelius (English), Henry Szeps (Yiddish) and Stephen Link (Hebrew).

Highlight of the evening is sure to be the personal appearance of television personality, Barry Jones, who will inter-

view four young people, David Frankel, Miriam Gottlieb, Geoff Williamson and Karl York.

The four were among the first Sydney Jews to volunteer for civilian service in Israel during the Six-Day War.

SZC officials suggest that Barry Jones might find the topic interesting enough to include the panel on a future ATN Channel 7 program, "Encounter".

Tickets for the evening can be obtained at agencies listed in the advertisement on page 7.

## Presentation for JNF girls



All seven JNF Queen

## FATAH'S ROCKETS

CAIRO: El Fatah, the Arab terrorist organisation, claimed this week to be using guided rockets in sabotage raids inside Israeli-occupied territory.

# SYDNEY REMEMBERS THREE GREAT ZIONIST LEADERS



About 700 people attended the Herzl-Bialik-Jabotinsky Anniversary program organised by the State Zionist Council of New South Wales.

A unique feature of the evening was an unofficial "Encounter" of Barry Jones, popular TV and radio personality, with five university students who were amongst the first Sydney volunteers for Israel last June.

Karl Yorke, Miriam Gottlieb, Geoff Williamson, David Frankel and Maria Fizman discussed with Mr. Jones their opinion on questions of the concept of their Jewishness, their experiences and feelings before and during their visit in Israel.

Honesty, intelligence and fresh humour characterised their answers.

Mr. Jones, in his opening remarks, spoke with great interest of the problems facing Israel: would giving up territories preserve Israel or destroy it? Can Israel retain democracy and remain a Jewish State in the future? were amongst the problems he touched upon.

Mr. Bernard Ferster, presi-

dent of the State Zionist Council, opened the evening. Mr. S. Ben-Haim, Consul-General for Israel, in his address spoke of the three great Zionists, Herzl, Bialik and Jabotinsky — Herzl, whose dreams came true in almost practical detail; Bialik, a pioneer of the Hebrew language; and Jabotinsky, a man of strength, who at the same time was also the epitome of anti-militarisation. Their memory will not fade, not only because of their greatness, but also because the reflection of their dreams and works can be seen in life in Israel, he stressed.

Herzl awakened people to their own ability and strength, was preoccupied with democ-

racy and drew attention to the help of underdeveloped people in Africa.

"We can still dream of many wonderful things we can do together," he said.

Mr. B. Ferster gave a short summary of the 27th World Zionist Congress.

Guest speaker of the evening, Moriah College headmaster, Mr. H. Nagley, gave an inspiring historical appraisal of the three great Zionists.

"Do the times produce the man or do the men produce history?" he asked, and at the conclusion of his speech, he said Herzl, Bialik and Jabotinsky were products of their time who helped to mould that "old new land of Israel".

Recitations in Yiddish by

## Nasser's credo

"To concede an inch of occupied Arab territory is impossible and not in my power; to agree on negotiations with Israel is impossible and I do not

Mr. Henry Szepe, in Ivrit by Mr. S. Link, and in English by Evelyn Cornelius, from Bialik and Herzl, were well received by the audience.

The memorial evening concluded with the film premiere of Israel's 20th Anniversary Independence Day Parade.

Barry Jones is pictured with the five young volunteers, Karl Yorke, Miriam Gottlieb, Geoff Williamson, David Frankel and Maria Fizman in their "Encounter" at the Herzl-Bialik-Jabotinsky anniversary of the State Zionist Council.

—CPS Photo

## MISSILE BAN

(JCMS) It became known last week that the French embargo on the supply of Mirage jets to Israel also applies to the air-to-air missile made by the Matra company, some of which were fired by Israel in the Six-Day War.

However, Israeli sources say they are not interested in further purchases of Matra missiles, which are too heavy

The Australian Jewish News Friday 20 December 1968, page 23

# VOLUNTEERS HONOURED

"Australian and New Zealand volunteers formed an outstanding group both in their proportionate number and in the devotion of their effort from the Suez to the Golan Heights, in kibbutzim moshavim, salvage units, pipeline projects, hospitals, schools and elsewhere."

This was said by Mr. Yehuda Paz, Director of the Volunteer Division in Israel, and was quoted by Mr. R. Zablud when he chaired a rally at the Caulfield Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, December 15.

The rally was organised by the State Zionist Council of Victoria to pay tribute to the volunteers for their service to Israel in the Six-Day War.

Mr. W. Duffield handed certificates of honour to the volunteers present and to the parents or near relatives of those still in Israel.

Inscribed in both English and Hebrew, the certificates

are signed by Colonel M. Bar-On, Chairman of the Youth Department of the Jewish Agency in Israel; Mr. L. A. Pincus, Chairman World Zionist Organisation, and by Mr. N. Jacobson, President, Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand.

## POSTHUMOUS AWARDS

They state: "In 1967, with Israel surrounded by hatred and threatened by annihilation, you joined the ranks of the young Jewish volunteers who rose as one from the four corners of the earth to participate in the defence of the Jewish State and the redemption of our Holy City of Jerusalem. On behalf of Israel and the Jewish People, we salute you."

Mr. Duffield said that there were about 240 volunteers from Australia and New Zealand. Of these about 120 were from Melbourne. Some of the volunteers had decided to stay in Israel.

Two young volunteers, Max Haber and Norman Rosenbaum lost their lives in Israel and are buried there. Their parents received the posthumous certificates of honour.

A new film entitled "Standing By" showed in the first half, volunteers from all over the world demonstrating support for Israel and included Australians registering at Beth Weizmann as well as the rally at the Myer Music Bowl. The second half of the film showed the volunteers working in Israel.

On behalf of the volunteers, Mr. J. Woolf described the tremendous emotional response to the Six-Day War crisis which afforded inner strength and unity to the Jewish People. He thanked the State Zionist Council of Victoria for the presentation of the Certificates.

## SHATLEM CELEBRATE

On Saturday night, December 14, the Shatlem group held their last function for 1968 at the National Mutual Theatre in Collins Street. They combined a farewell for Mesdames Woolf and Stern who are leaving for Israel with a Chanukah celebration.

Mrs. Y. Har-Chen compered the evening's artistic programme, and the evening's artistic programme, and the audience of over 100 actively participated in all the chorus singing.

A talented trio, consisting of Pam Hiceman (guitar) and Rona Winikoff and Melvin Black (singers) gave renditions of popular English, Hebrew and Yiddish songs. They were followed by the Habonim dancers dressed in colourful costumes, who presented several Israeli folk-dances.

Melvin Black recited some witty monologues with an English cum Yiddish flavour.

The Chipmonks, a swinging

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/263190170?searchTerm=Jewish%20News%20volunteers%201967>

The Australian Jewish News Friday 1 August 1985, page 4

### **Sydney Jewish history through Board Leader's eyes (excerpt)**

“Undoubtedly, the hardest work came during the period of the Six-Day War Emergency Campaign, when the Board of Deputies swung into immediate and effective action. “We organised a meeting at the Central Synagogue, which attracted more than 6000 people, and an action committee consisting of presidents of more than 50 organisations. “We attracted considerable funds both from the Jewish and general community and processed more than 400 volunteers for Israel (133 of these being non-Jewish,” Gerald said.

“Within 14 days, 73 medical team volunteers were sent from Sydney to Israel.

“It was an arduous time for the community, but we proved our strength and in this regard the invaluable assistance of Sir Asher Joel, Syd Einfeld and the late Louis Klein and the communal professional staff co-ordinated by Vera Doff of the State Zionist Council had to be seen to be believed,” he said.

# WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

## Volunteers remember '67 war

TARA WAINGARTEN

WITH THE recent call for volunteers to work in Israel, memories of similar efforts in 1967 and 1973 came flooding back to many Australian Jews.

The first wave of volunteers from Sydney and Melbourne left last Sunday, seven in all, to work on kibbutzim, moshavim, hospitals and in a civilian capacity on military bases.

The call for volunteers came from the World Zionist Organisation's Youth Division in Jerusalem, the same body that called for volunteers during the Six-Day and Yom Kippur wars.

Betar leader Jonathon Rose, 21, was one of the volunteers to leave in the first wave. A third-year Arts student at the University of NSW, he said he hoped to be back for the beginning of the university year but can stay longer, if needed.

Mr Rose said he decided to volunteer for the program because he "didn't feel right sitting in Australia while Israel is in such threat".

"I don't see any personal danger by going there but it is obviously in the back of my mind. I think I will feel a lot better within myself just being there and knowing I can contribute something," he said.

The sense of having contributed something is still very strong in 1967 volunteer Peter Klein's mind.

Mr Klein is now managing director of the *Australian Jewish News*. He was just 19 when he went as a volunteer worker two weeks after the Six-Day War cease-fire.

His parents were active supporters of Israel and Jewish causes. His late father Louis Klein was later president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

"The priorities at the time were for plastic surgeons, then doctors

and nurses and, lastly, truck drivers. I had never driven a truck before, but I got a C class licence and went to Israel," he said.

"The volunteer movement back then had a different dimension. 'Sixty-seven was the coming of age of Diaspora Jewry's involvement with Israel. The war brought home the importance of Israel in a very dramatic way, especially for my age group and the desire to go was there."



Peter Klein in 1967, wearing his army auxiliary uniform.

Mr Klein spent his first six weeks in Israel working on a kibbutz and then spent another six weeks driving a truck for the army, which was in then-occupied Syria. His job was to drive army personnel around in captured Russian trucks.

"All the instructions were written in Russian so you had to press every button and pull every lever until it worked," he said.

The next three months were spent in the Sinai driving ammunition trucks at the main air-force base.

"It was a very exciting time. Kids from all over the world were there, it was quite an amazing experience. We felt part of what

was going on and played an important role," he said.

Mr Klein said that he strongly relates to the volunteers of today but believes that there must be a different feeling for them.

"War was already over before I got on the plane and while there was some concern about my safety, I was going to a country that had won a war.

"Today they are going for the same reasons, but at a time of threat and danger. They have the same feelings of wanting to demonstrate their support of Israel, but if anything, it has more meaning to volunteer today than it might have had to us in '67.

"We were just giving vent to our feelings of pride and relief in Israel's overcoming of her problems and obstacles. Now she is at her most critical stage."

Maria Fiszman was on the first civilian flight to land in Israel after the cease-fire in 1967. She was just 18 years old and "very Zionist", she said.

"I grew up in a home that had a high priority for Israel and I have always been of the belief that Jews will have freedom only if Israel exists, so the decision to go was not difficult."

For nine months Ms Fiszman worked on a kibbutz doing "absolutely everything".

"When we first arrived we were worried that we'd be a burden more than a help but Israel had a good infrastructure to absorb the volunteers and the people were pleased to have us. Of course we were happy to be contributing," she said.

Seeing other young volunteers leaving for Israel now, Ms Fiszman said she is struggling to stay in Australia. "I wish I could go. It's the first time I've felt my age. Going to Israel to help is the right thing to do and I am very proud of them."

In June 1967, seven doctors, a



One of the most famous scenes of the '67 war: Israeli soldiers just after the liberation of Jerusalem look in awe at the Western Wall.

nurse and five ambulance drivers went to Israel as part of "Sydney medical mercy team" to volunteer in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv hospitals. A similar group from Melbourne also went. The doctors included a plastic surgeon and three anaesthetists. In total, about 160 Jewish doctors around the world flew to Israel in 1967 to assist with casualties.

Former NSW Fellowship of Jewish Doctors president Dr Mark Spigelman of Woollahra was one of the first medical volunteers to go to Israel in 1967.

At the time he was working the night shift at a hospital when he said he heard on the radio at 2am an Iraqi general say: "We are going to wipe out the Jews in

Israel and then the Jews in the rest of the world."

Dr Spigelman said: "I got so angry that a man could threaten me because I was Jewish so the next day I took leave, got my passport and volunteered to go to Israel."

He was assigned to a neurosurgical unit, as a junior doctor, in a hospital in Tel Aviv where he worked mainly with members of the Israeli Tank Corps. "The tank men had to stick their head out of the turret of the tank, so we often had to pull pieces of shrapnel out of them."

Dr Spigelman spent three months in Israel during 1967 and

(Continued on page 39)

page 39

bers of the peace movement and the 'Bring the Frigates Home Coalition'.

"We are still waiting for them to come here. If peace is the real goal this is the place to protest for it."

### VOLUNTEERS

(Continued from page 10)

returned during the Yom Kippur War of 1973. "It was an extremely good period of my life. I was doing something useful and the people of Israel appreciated the solidarity shown by the Diaspora Jews."

Dr Spigelman joked that when he was there he was one of "the

casualties" — he met his wife in Israel.

Dr Spigelman's son recently returned from spending a year in Israel and has many friends in the volunteer group that departed last week.

"He has shown interest in going back and I can't exactly stop him with my history," Dr Spigelman said.

"Psychologically this is the worst war, although there have been few casualties, but it's not that we need to help Israel, we need to support its citizens."

Melbourne surgeon Harry Frydenberg, 23 at the time and recently qualified as an MD, got together with a few medico friends from his Habonim days and joined Israel's volunteer program to take the place of reservists who had been called up to military service.

"We were expecting war to break out any day and I remember we had a clandestine meeting at the Royal Children's Hospital

and decided to go on volunteer service as a group."

There were some anxious days when he announced his decision to go to Israel to his parents. "They were very concerned but they didn't stop me. My mother was in Wizo and she had a strong love of Israel and Zionism. How could they say 'no', when that's the way they brought me up?"

Dr Frydenberg was assigned to Donor Hospital near Jaffa where he ended up working till the end of the war and for three months afterwards.

His role was to work as part of a team replacing doctors who had been called up to the army. "We weren't treating wounded military personnel or anything like that," he remembers.

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The Australian Jewish News Friday 18 April 2008, page 15

### **VOLUNTEERS IN ISRAEL IN 1967**

I AM collecting stories and memoirs for a book about volunteers to Israel in 1967, the men and women who travelled there to support the endangered Jewish State. Many were Australians, and several became my friends. Time is passing, and the record must be compiled before it is lost. Please contact me if you participated and, if you know someone who participated, would you pass this message on to him or her, or let me know how I might contact them.

**MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN**  
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