

ABRAHAM MENASHE KAC

From the earliest years, he was active in the *Poalei-Zion* Party and the "*Yungt*"¹. As a young man, he emigrated to Belgium and also there remained true to his nationalist spirit, helped establish a Hebrew supplementary school, a Jewish library and was an active Zionist. His daughter and grandchildren were raised in the Jewish spirit.

During the terrible years of the Hitlerite occupation, his sister Chana and her husband Abraham-Isaac were deported from Belgium to Auschwitz. Their two children, a boy and a girl, were transferred to a village where they were sheltered by a Belgian Christian family, and also got a pronounced religious education, according to the New Testament.

After his release, survivor Abraham Menashe Kac sought out his sister's two under-grown orphans, but they refused to talk to him. The children only trusted and believed the crucifix and their parents in the village. Abraham-Menashe used many means, until he managed to bring the children to Brussels, buy gifts, have them stay at home for a few days, until they gained a little confidence in their uncle. A messenger from *Eretz Israel*, whom Abraham Menashe trusted, advised to send him the children to *Eretz Israel*. First – on a tour. It did not take long, and they wrote enthusiastic letters from the country, did not want to come back to Belgium and even asked their uncle why he was staying there... Menashe really came to see them. The son had already served in the army when the war of liberation broke out after the proclamation of the Jewish state. He was killed by an Arab bullet – but for Menashe it was a bit of a consolation that the estranged child who, after the liberation,

¹ TN: Youth organization of *Poalei Zion*.

went to sleep with a camera under his pillow, left and gave his life for the Jewish people and country. The girl, Malka, got married and lives today in Haifa with her husband and children.

Abraham Menashe died in Brussels on February 10, 1964.

We will always remember his beautiful figure.

Chenoch H. HOFFMAN, Paris