

SIERADZKI ELIJAHU (ALEX)



Eliyahu Sieradzki

Son of Abraham and Chana, he was born on the 11th of March 1929 in Brussels, Belgium, to a family that emigrated from Kutno, in Poland. He learned at a French school and also received a Jewish education. In the Second World War, the family was destroyed by the Nazis, and he and his sister became refugees. He learned Hebrew from the volunteer teachers of the Hebrew Brigade serving at this time in Belgium, after the defeat of the enemy, and, with their help, he emigrated to *Eretz* in the year 1945. He studied at the "Youth Aliyah" school, in Kfar Ruppin for one year and after that, he went to work. He adapted quickly to the life in *Eretz* and was liked by his friends for his cheerfulness and playfulness. As a member of the *Haganah*, from the beginning he participated in the defense of Tel Aviv during the War of Independence, and in attacks in and around Jaffa. After that, he was accepted into a unit of *Mishmar HaAm*¹ in Sharona², which was considered to be the first unit of the regular army within the framework of the "*Haganah*". From that, he volunteered to serve in a bomb disposal unit in the Tel Aviv area, and, finishing the course, he went into action. He participated in a big battle on an Arab stronghold in the Sachneh district of Jaffa. After failure of the offensive due to the British helping the Arabs, he destroyed a fortified house and enemy cell nearby and, in spite of enemy fire, volunteered to rescue our wounded men from the site of the battle. He participated in reconnoitering attacks on Lod and Ramle, the clearing of enemy mines from the Zerifin camp and the fortification and mining of the defense line between Kfar Ono³ and Zafriya.

During the first truce, some troops of the guarding force accidentally entered one of our mine fields near Kfar Ono and some of them were wounded. Eliyahu came to their help and while doing that he stepped on a mine and was blown to pieces on the 17th of June 1948. He was laid to eternal rest in the Nahalat Yitzhak cemetery on the 20th of June 1948.

(From the book "Yizkor" – Accounts of the life and the death of the fallen during the Israel War of Independence, published by the Israeli Government, Ministry of Defense, 1956)

¹ TN: "The People's Guard", a peacekeeping force at the time of Independence.

² TN: AKA "German Colony", a district of Tel Aviv center.

³ TN: now Kyriat Ono.