

SZYMONOWICZ ABRAHAM Z"L

Life Story:

Son of Azriel and Ryvka, born in Kutno on August 3, 1930, immigrated to Israel in 1936, from Poland. He studied until the fourth grade at an elementary school in Ramat Gan and moved to a school in the Borochov neighborhood, where he studied in the fifth grade. An 11-year-old member of the *HaShomer HaZair* youth movement and from the age of 15 – as a trainer. He studied seventh grade at the New High School and eighth grade at Beit HaKerem Seminary in Jerusalem. Showed up for full service in March. He was previously a member of the *Haganah* for three and a half years, from the age of 14 (in the Hebrew Youth Battalions), twice disqualified for combat service, but entered a combat unit in *Palmach*. He joined the *HaShomer HaZair* training in Shoval, served in *Palmach* and trained, despite his health condition, which did not allow him to do so. Until the last battle in which he fell, he did not take part in any one operation.

He fell on June 3, 1948 in Ashdod. When the retreat began, his platoon was ordered to cover the retreat, but a large portion of the men did not advance – and only Abraham and with him a few, remained for cover. He was wounded in the leg; his friends withdrew and he was left lying wounded in the field, along with another wounded man and they were found dead the next day.

From his letters

5/25/48

– – – I'm currently in Mishmar HaNegev. I moved here from the training camp where I was all the time, even though we thought we would move to Shoval, where we used to have conscript training. Our time is divided into two. A week of training and a week of working in the fields. This week we are working in the fields. We work in fortifications (excavations). The work is hard and especially because many warts growing on my hands. It's hard for me to bend my arms because it hurts. Here we live more or less in a state of training. There are no commanders and military discipline here and all the other "wisecracks" we had in the depot (in the camp); we are mostly in a kibbutz, not ours, but a kibbutz. – – –



Szymonowicz Abraham

25.3.48

– – – Yesterday I was at the recruitment station where I checked in, to be granted a leave of absence to return home. We were sent to one person, but he was not at home. We will try to take care of this immediately, because in two weeks we will finish the exams. It is said that without an authorization, it will be impossible to leave the city for those who must enlist, as one could think I am a fugitive, fleeing the city. I, of course, continue to visit the activities of the movement in the city, although I visit regular activities and I do not come for other purposes like choir of the *Ken*¹, parties, etc. but still, I do not want to stop my relationship with the movement. First, I think I have no need to prepare day and night for exams. Second, I am released this way for three hours a week from exam preparation; Third, even if this had been a major obstacle to my studies, I would have attended the activities. After all, we argued about that before I left.

Do not be afraid to visit the city in terms of security. You probably imagine we are constantly shot at, in Jerusalem, and that the whole city has become a big battlefield, but that is not true.

26.3.48

"Strength" be with me!

– – – Although I would very much like to see you, I think it is not worthwhile to travel because it is like being escorted and the way is risky. You know that victims often fall on the way to Jerusalem. If they had sent you, I would understand, but just to visit me?...

¹ TN: Hebrew, "Nest", youth section of the *HaShomer HaZair*.