

## LT. PNUEL (NACHMAN FALC)

Nachman, son of Sara and Yechiel Falc, was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Shevat 5685 (February 5, 1925). He was a student of the *Am HaSefer* school. From his youth he belonged to *Beitar*. After immigrating to Israel, he joined the *Beitar* youth branch in Tel Aviv. He was modest in his demeanor, devoted to his comrades and iron-willed, and thanks to these character traits he was privileged to be admitted before many of his comrades in the *Irgun (Etzel)*. He was sixteen years old when he enlisted in the British Army, hiding his young age since he was then two years too young in order to be accepted for military service. He was one of the activists in the war for the Hebrew emblem and was even imprisoned for a while due to it.



Falc Nachman

On the Italian front, Nachman was badly injured in the leg and had to walk for a year with the help of crutches. Only thanks to his iron-will power did he overcome his ailment and began to walk without support. Upon his release from the army as a cripple, he was among the first of the Margolin settlement nucleus, established by discharged soldiers, but for fear of being a burden on his comrades he announced that he would actually join only upon his full recovery. In the meantime, he returned to work at the *Irgun (Etzel)*, where he took a course for commanders and began training people and occupied other positions. But his wish was to go into battle despite his handicap. Several times, he renewed his request to be transferred to a combat corps, and his joy knew no bound when he was granted his request. Upon launching attacks, he made efforts to prove himself, though it was difficult for him to walk which caused him severe pain.

From one of the attacks on the city of Ramle, Lieutenant Pnuel did not return. Our Nachman was then declared missing.

Four years later, his bones were recovered and on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Iyar 5712 (May 6, 1952) he was laid to rest in a mass grave in Kiryat Shaul<sup>1</sup>.

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With the outbreak of World War II, thousands of members of the Jewish community in the country volunteered for the British Army – for services and combat units. Among them were the *Beitar* who volunteered for the combat units (in *Bufs*).

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<sup>1</sup> TN: Cemetery, north of Tel Aviv.

Nachman, who was then about sixteen years old, changed his year of birth to be accepted into the service, claimed that he had already turned eighteen.

At the end of 1943, with the transformation of the *Buff's* into Palestine battalions which included Jewish and Arab companies – the soldiers were given a new emblem with the inscription: "Palestine (E. I.)" in Hebrew, Latin and Arabic letters. Dozens of *Beitar* and *Haganah* members refused to wear this emblem as long as it was not engraved with the full spelling "*Eretz Israel*" (there was no opposition on their part to the English and Arabic inscriptions – but the argument was against the inscription "Palestine" in Hebrew letters).

Yechiel KADISHAI