

שערי נאולה

הגדה של פסח

עם פירוש תוספת רי"ד

לרבינו ישעי' הזקן הראשון דטראני זצ"ל

וגם פי'

זכר לפסח עם קונטרס בית גדיא

ועוד כמה מעלות טובות הנזכרים בשער השני

מאת

מנחם מאיר קרענגיל מקראקא.

בנה זמני, 'יש'ו'ן' לס"ק.



KRAKAU

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1896.



EXODUS FROM EGYPT: “LESHANA HABA’AH BNEY CHORIN”

The Haggada from which I conduct the Seder is a genuine book dated 1896. I inherited it from my father, Meshulam Salo Ringer, who received it from his father for his ‘aliya (immigration) to Eretz Yisrael-Palestine. Sadly, his parents stayed in Krakow, Poland and later were exterminated by the Nazis in Auschwitz.

This particular Haggada book served my father for the Passover Seder in Egypt during WWII. He voluntarily joined and served in the British Navy as the first Jewish-Palestinian engineering officer. He was married by then to my mother Miriam, and had a baby, my brother Adam. He was sent to Alexandria Naval base, and was posted as the mechanical engineer of the torpedo boats unit. He participated in combat operations against the Nazis in the Mediterranean arena and in the Aegean Sea.

Years later, I remember finding an operation order among his documents which reminded me of the famous movie “The Guns of Navarone.” He was decorated with two medals of honour for taking part in those operations. All, unfortunately, were lost.

I was born in Egypt during the war, in February, 1945. I was named Alexander after the city in which I was born. My circumcision turned out to be a public ceremony on the base, and was attended by more Gentiles than Jews. I can imagine how difficult it was for my mother Miriam to take care of her two children while father participated in naval operations.

My first exodus from Egypt was at the end of 1945. The war had ended and my parents decided to return home to Haifa, where they would build a new life.

We took the train from Kantara via Gaza, up to Haifa, a journey of over 10 hours. Salo (Meshulam) continued serving in the Royal Navy in Haifa as Lieut (E) R.N.V.R. Ringer. He was posted to the HMS Stag until June 1946. He then joined the Hagganah (defence) military organization, which was the basis for Zahal – the IDF, in our war for Independence in May, 1948.

In 1950, after the war, our sister Amira was born. My father and a business partner established a metal factory called Kad to produce milk cans. The factory supplied the growing demand of the developing milk production industry for many years.

After a dozen years, the demand for milk cans finally decreased. My father adapted the factory to produce innovative products such as washing machines, quality sun heaters, testing and tuning equipment for diesel engines, and in-the-wall flushing systems.

In 1967, just short of his 60th birthday, my father died as a result of an accident some eight years before.

My second exodus from Egypt took place in late 1973, after serving there myself as a wound-dresser during the Yom Kippur War. I was stationed south-west of Faid Air Base on the west bank of the Suez Canal.

During our advance deep into Egyptian territory, we found some wounded Egyptian infantry soldiers lying in a trench in the middle of nowhere, crying for help. We offered them water and dressed their wounds. I remember taking one of them who lost his ear in our ambulance to the main medical centre in Faid. The airfield offered better intensive care than we could give him on the battlefield.

Our armoured regiment took up positions in front of the retreating Egyptian army, and after a cease-fire was signed with the defeated Egyptians, we returned to Israel.

It was close to the end of the war. In March, 1979, a peace treaty was signed between Israel and Egypt, but I never returned there.

Last Pesach, we read our family Haggada and prayed for the exodus and freedom from captivity of our three soldier-sons – Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser. In July, 2008, Ehud and Eldad were returned to Israel from Lebanon in coffins. Gilad remains in Hamas captivity. I hope that by next Pesach, while reading our family Haggada again, we’ll be able to mark Gilad’s exodus and celebrate his freedom from captivity, to fulfill the phrase from the Haggadah – “Leshana haba’ah bney chorin” – “Next year, free people.”

Note: Serving in the navy is a time-honored tradition for the Ringer family. Alex Ringer’s father served in the Royal Navy, while his brother Adam served in the Israeli Navy. Now his grandson, Ya’ir, is expressing a desire to be a naval officer when the time comes. Ya’ir is eight years old.

Alex Ringer is a graphic designer and photographer based in Israel and you may recall his splendid photography for the Get Cooking section in the last issue of Menorah.



A group of Jewish officers in Alexandria. Salo Ringer is pictured first left on the middle row.

The Seder on Pesach Eve is a festive meal conducted on the first night of Passover. It is truly a memorable day for me and my family. Sitting together at the decorated table, we read and sing the Passover Haggada – the ancient book which tells the exodus story from Egypt. Then we enjoy the traditional dishes my wife always prepares for the meal.

BY ALEX RINGER

Naval Form B.1311

NAVAL IDENTITY CARD No. 88043

Surname: RINGER

Other Names: SALO

Rank (at time of issue): Temp. Lieut. (E)

Ship (at time of issue): HMS "STAR" (Anti)

Place of Birth: Poland

Year of Birth: 1909

Issued by: NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE PALESTINIAN PORTS

At: Haifa

Date: 7/8/42.

NAVAL IDENTITY CARD No. 88043

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