

## Foreigner and Citizen Side by Side

by Bethany Slater

"I think that when you see 6 million Jews are killed, how can you not go?"

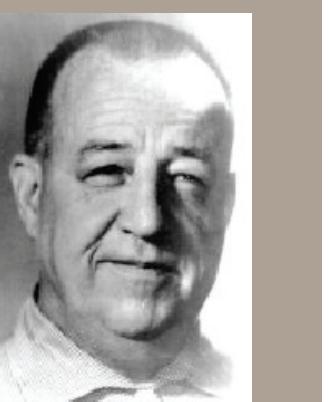
- Duke (aka. Augustine Labaczewski)

Duke served in the US Merchant Marines during WWII and remained a seaman until the 1990's. His best friend growing up was his neighbor in Philadelphia, a Jewish kid named Mike Pearlstein. When they got back from the war, Pearlstein decided to join Mahal - a group of volunteers from outside Israel who joined the Israeli army and air force during 1948. Pearlstein volunteered to work on the Alia Bet ships that picked up Holocaust survivors in Europe and tried to get them past the British blockade and into Palestine between 1947-48. Pearlstein asked his friend Duke, a Christian, if he wanted to come too. Duke volunteered and together they joined on as crew of the SS Tradewinds. He was one of nineteen Christians to join the Alia Bet effort.

Duke was so moved by his experience on board that once he got to Israel he joined Palmah - one of the Israeli Army Units. He saw action in the Galilee near Tiberius. Duke spoke of his feelings during his first meeting with Holocaust Survivors fleeing Europe, "The only thing I could feel was that we had to win, losing was not an option." When the Independence War was over Duke returned to the United States. Because the US administration insisted on remaining neutral during the war, due to their pro-Arab policy at that time, they not only continued to enforce an embargo on all weapons sales to Israel but also threatened to remove the citizenship of Americans who volunteered to fight. Duke, along with other US citizens who volunteered, had to travel back to the US with forged documents so the FBI wouldn't question them about the Israel stamp in their passports.

Duke was never prosecuted for his involvement in the Independence War but another Christian American, Charlie Winters, spent 18 months in prison for helping Israel. Ironically he is actually the only American to spend time in jail, though a few other Jewish-Americans paid fines for their involvement and lost their civil rights. Charlie sold three surplus B-17 bombers to Israel. He had been using them to fly fruits and vegetables from Puerto Rico as part of his business. His were the only heavy bombers the infant country would have during the war. Each plane flew over 50 missions in six months manned by American WWII veterans. After Charlie's death in 1984, in accordance with his wishes, his body was taken to Jerusalem and buried in a Christian cemetery owned by the Alliance Church.

These are only two stories from the sixty-six American Christians who assisted Israel at its birth. A few supplied military hardware and sailed on immigration ships, the rest fought with the Israeli army in the infantry and as air force pilots. Several died in action for a country that was not their own. They did so, not as strangers and foreigners, but "as fellow heirs in the covenants of promise" and "citizens of the household of God" (Eph. 2:12, 19).



Charlie Winters.  
picture from israelvets.com

## Scientific and Hi-Tech Innovation

(excerpted from *Jerusalem Post* May 9, 2008 by Judy Siegel-Itzkovich and by David Shamah)

Lacking natural resources that bless various countries, Israel has had to depend on the brains of its citizens to produce a wealth of ideas and the resulting economic growth. The nation is one of the world's leaders in the per capita registration of US patents by its scientists, doctors and engineers and citations of their studies in articles published in scientific journals.

Israeli scientific achievements are astonishing. Five years ago, Britain's Baroness Susan Greenfield - director of the Royal Institution, a peer in the House of Lords and one of the world's greatest brain researchers - said that Israel's scientific achievements are "absolutely mind-boggling."

Among the many excellent researchers are Hershko and Ciechanover who received their chemistry Nobel Prize for their many years of work discovering the "Ubiquitin System," which explains the mechanism involved in the breakdown of proteins in all cells. This discovery has not only led to the development of a drug for bone marrow cancer, but it has sparked worldwide study of the ubiquitin system and potential treatments for a wide variety of diseases.

Hadassah Hospital doctors in Jerusalem were the first in the world to identify a gene linked to post-traumatic stress disorder and in 2005 they developed a simple blood test to predict who was at high risk to develop PTSD.



## INNOVATIONS

## AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### A Few Diplomatic Success Stories Not Commonly Known

(Excerpted from *Herb Keinon, Jerusalem Post, May 9, 2008*)

#### Instant recognition

Israel's first significant diplomatic achievement took place just 11 minutes after David Ben-Gurion declared the country's independence - US president Harry Truman, against the overwhelming advice of his foreign policy advisers, including near-mythic secretary of state George Marshall, recognized the new nation.

#### In the hi-tech

many have already heard of the rags-to-riches saga of four kids right out of their Israeli army service who came up with the idea for the first instant messenger, ICQ. They sold out their company, Mirabilis, in 1998 to America Online for \$407 million. Before ICQ, instant messaging as a concept was restricted to geeky UNIX system administrator types. Their version was designed for use by the "common" Windows user. Now, there are dozens of instant messaging programs - just about all of which owe their existence to ICQ.

The guts of your PC laptop - the miniature processor that lets it run full-sized applications at blazing speed - was made using technology developed at Intel's research centers in Israel. The Pentium M processor is the heart of Intel's Centrino processor family - the processor used in most lightweight laptops today.

And Intel has never tried to hide the Pentium M's roots for "marketing" purposes. The working name for the first generation of Ms was the Banias, followed by the upgraded model, dual-core Yonah, which runs the latest and most powerful software at top processor speeds. I wonder how many of those they're using in Saudi Arabia?

Linking hi-tech and the medical profession is Given's "camera in a pill." Given was one of the first to develop a product to help doctors diagnose maladies using mini cameras - that you can eat. Patients swallow a tiny color camera that transmits data via probes attached to the body. A computer reconstructs the image of the patient's insides on the screen. It's a painless way for doctors to do internal exams - and the pills even come in fruit flavors.

Peace Treaties with Neighbors  
When Egyptian president Anwar Sadat stepped off the plane at Ben-Gurion Airport in November 1977, the seemingly impenetrable wall of complete Arab rejection of Israel began to



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### Comments