Knife attack in Tel Aviv

50 YEARS LATER

SELMA

Iron Dome in the North

Israel thwarts terrorist attack; Iran brass killed

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel reportedly has deployed Iron Dome anti-missile defense systems in its North preparing for possible retaliation for an alleged Israeli airstrike on Syria.

The move was reported Monday evening, Jan. 19, by Sky News Arabia, which cited unnamed Israeli sources.

The Israeli Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor denied the strikes.

An Iranian general and at least five Hezbollah members were killed in Sunday’s airstrike in Quneitra.

The Israel Defense Forces has neither confirmed nor den...
**Sid and Esther Shafner, circa 1946**

**DACHAU**

Dan Dranoff, the beautiful young lady they mistook for a German, welcomed the liberators, thank you liberator, in broken English.

**Sid Shafner helped liberate Dachau**

They cried, ‘Thank you liberator, thank you liberator,’ in broken English.

*Regis University, Dec. 21, 2014*

**HONORED**

Regis University, Dec. 21, 2014

When he told his son he never graduated due to WW II, Robyn set the wheels in motion—and Regis pulled everything together in three short months.

**Sid, a Philadelphia native, enlisted in the army right after Pearl Harbor.** He initially served in the Signal Corps and was assigned to the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow Division) at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

They landed in Marseilles, France, nine months later on Dec. 10, 1944. "I was in the reconnaissance unit," he says. "My platoon consisted of seven Jews, four men to a jeep — 28 men in total. Each jeep had a 30-caliber machine gun on the front passenger's side.

"We went north from Marseille through Lyon and Dijon, France, and stopped in Alsace-Lorraine, just up the Rhine River near Strasbourg, France."

The Germans were on the east and north sides of the road on both sides. And Sid's platoon was on the west side.

"We played volleyball with the Germans," he says with a slight laugh. "This means they were throwing artillery at us and we were throwing it back at them. That's volleyball."

Right after Christmas, 1944, the soldiers prepared for their first battle — capturing Schweinfurt and Wurzburg, Germany. There they received orders to investigate a fire in a nearby village.

"A house was on fire but there was no sign of life inside," Sid says. "When we drove into the next village, we ran into an ambush.

Out of the 28 men in his platoon, 12 survived the skirmish. The rest were killed, and some "may have been taken prisoner," he suspects.

Crippled by the ambush, they found shelter in a hayloft near a farmhouse. "We couldn't engage with the Germans because we only had 12 men," Sid explains. "We didn't know how many Germans were out there but we could hear them taking our jeeps."

Finally the farm's owner came and started climbing the ladder to the hayloft. He was carrying a pitchfork.

"At first we thought it was a weapon," Sid says. "So I grabbed him by the neck and asked him if the Germans were still around. I warned him if he led us to, I would kill him."

The farmer assured that the Germans were gone. The men descended the ladder, clumsily impeded by their rifles. "We were like sitting ducks on that ladder, without protection."

In the morning, the soldiers jumped in one remaining jeep. The motor was running. Twelve men crowded in the jeep and proceeded east to Nuremberg. Replacement units met them.

"After Nuremberg, we went toward Munich. On the way we encountered a 15-year-old Hitler Youth up a tree. He aimed at the tank behind us, but the sergeant in the neck and killed him."

"He shot the boy and he fell out the tree. He had a gun, brass knuckles and a knife. I guess he thought he was going to win the war with those weapons."

"Sid paused.

"We hated to kill a boy his age, you know? But he killed one of ours. It was either us or them. This was our motto."

The soldiers were ordered to destroy each bridge and see whether it had been destroyed. The bridge was intact — but Sid will never forget what followed.

"Our own airplanes started attacking them because they were Germans," Sid says, his eyes relaxed and cleaned our equipment," he explains.

"We flew out of our jeeps and undershirt, we were MCPs, modified civies, fire-friendly. But the Americans kept burning us. The whole thing might have lasted two or three minutes."

"Sid sprang into the jeep and turned on the radio. 'I'm not one to use profanity,' he says. 'But I used very profane language to get them to stop shooting! And they stopped."

"According to the map, the next stop on the road to Munich was a small village called Dachau. As we got closer, I had one ever heard of it. Afterward, no one could remember it."

Sid has heard rumors about concentration camps, but until this time American gunfire suddenly attracted "hundreds of people, all directions," Sid says. "All hell broke loose.

"It was April 29, 1945. "Young people wearing striped pajamas started yelling, 'We're preparing to fight but not for this!' The sight of them completely surprised us."

"Finally two youngsters about 12, 13 who seemed in pretty good shape came up to me. They spoke English and I could understand what my grandparents taught me Yiddish."

"I asked them, 'What's going on?' One of them said, 'Come, come, come here! There's a camp down the road! And people are being killed out there! And people are trapped inside our camp."

"I asked, 'Are you serious? We're soldiers. I don't understand what you're telling us about a camp and bodies in a train.' The other man cried, 'It's true, it's true, help us!'"

Sid called for his commanding officer, two jeeps behind him and told him what the kids said. "He ordered me to ask them whether they were telling the truth because we didn't have time to fool around. They said yes, they were telling the truth."

"The commander got on his radio, called headquarters and told them they had to hurry up. At the time the 101st Airborne had only 12 of us, but we got permission to go to the camp. It was noon when we got to the camp."

"And the sight of the camp... was unbelievable."

Sid looked away. "We didn't talk to the media with us. We did what we could to make things as comfortable for those inmates who could still stand."

"When did he realize that the Jews were killed?" asks Robyn. "I didn't."

"Did you see a bunch of people in pajamas speaking a strange language of Yiddish or Polish? They were dancing for joy, thanking us in broken English, 'Thank you liberator, thank you liberator! In broken English."

"Before long a medical battalion arrived at the concentration camp. The medical troopers to care for the prisoners as best they could and cleaned them up. They were absolutely covered with typhus and other diseases. Sid made a mistake in giving them some of our chocolate. We thought chocolate would make them feel better. They were absolutely shrunken and they couldn't digest it. It made them sick."

For Sid and his fellow survivors, instinctive trainingbuffered the chaos. It took a while to fully comprehend the horror in front of their eyes.

"When things calmed down a bit I returned to the village," Sid says. "I happened to see a 17-year-old kid crying in front of a tree. He could speak English. I couldn't speak Yiddish. I was killing kids but he took me seriously. "He replied, 'What's the matter with you? I'm Jewish and the child of Jews. I ought to be speaking Yiddish.'"

"One young man was Marcel Schatz, the son of the second boy they stayed with for a year."

"The division received orders to march into Munich and capture the town, which was relatively easy."

"The next step was to go to the Rhine and Ley.

"Around May 7 or 8, we were informed that the war was over," Sid says. "We were out of danger, we relaxed and cleaned our equipment," he says.

Sid also had time to reflect on Dachau and its implications. His realizations and anger mounted over time, but he was still on active duty.

"A rumor circulated about concentration camp guards who remade their uniforms into civilian clothes, he says. "We were ordered to follow them up a mountain and apprehend them."

The two young men from Dachau accompanied the Rainbow Division. When they were demobilized, they looked under their armpits for the "V for Victory," they instigated, Sid recalls.

"We found about a dozen guards alive who were responsible for the SS insignia. Every one of them was tattooed and taken into the woods and killed them."

(Sid learned that the SS guards were the only ones allowed to maintain pass used by "The Sound of Music" Van Trapp Family Singers to flee the Nazis. "Can you believe that?"

*January 23, 2015 • INTERMOUNTAIN JEWISH NEWS • 17*
V IENNA (JTA) — The Austrian government is looking into expatriating the childhood homes of notable Jews in what it regards as a step toward reviving the interior Ministry’s Jewish heritage program.

Trying to ensure the house is not turned into a museum or, worse yet, sold or sold to the government, the Interior Ministry may seize the home of Austrian film director Robert Flaherty, who directed the 1921 film “Nanook of the North.”

The house, which drew neo-Nazis, has stood empty for the past three years, according to a source close to the authorities.

“Why is it that every time the public notices an empty house, they hear of the man’s case, he defended himself?” Flaherty’s daughter, Roberta Flaherty, told the International Jewish News. “I am also Jewish. I saw that justice was being done. I am not a sentimental person.”

The house is located in the district of Meidling in a quiet part of the city with a large Jewish population.

Flaherty was born on Jan. 31, 1905, in Vienna. The family was Jewish, and Flaherty’s parents were from Yemen.

Flaherty’s father, Charles Flaherty, was a writer and journalist who had worked for the Vienna newspaper Die Presse.

Flaherty’s mother, Frieda Flaherty, was a singer and actress who had performed in the Vienna opera and on stage.

Flaherty was known for his documentaries, including “Nanook of the North,” which was released in 1922.

In 1938, Flaherty was forced to leave Austria due to the Nazi occupation of the country.

He later moved to the United States, where he continued to work as a filmmaker.

Flaherty was a member of the Jewish community in Vienna and had close ties to other Jewish filmmakers and writers.

Flaherty’s daughter, Roberta Flaherty, told the International Jewish News that her father was a soldier.

“Until you dig deeper and really understand his experiences, you will never understand his answer,” she said.

Flaherty’s case has been brought to the attention of the Austrian government, which has expressed interest in preserving the house.

The government has set up a task force to look into the issue and has offered to provide financial support for the maintenance of the property.

Flaherty’s daughter said she was happy to be known as ‘Mr. Flaherty.’

“I will be travelling Motzai Shabbos/Saturday night, but I will be available online, and I will be answering questions via social media,” she said.

Flaherty’s daughter also expressed gratitude to Roberta Flaherty, the filmmaker, for her outreach efforts on her behalf.

“I am fully aware of what they had suffered at this point, and I was happy to be involved in the army kitchen and brought it to the theater, and I never had a chance,” he said.

Flaherty’s daughter said she was happy to be known as ‘Mr. Flaherty’ and that she had no idea these people were alive.

“I sold I saw the army post office to contact their relatives,” she said.

Flaherty’s daughter said she was happy to be known as ‘Mr. Flaherty’ and that she had no idea these people were alive.

“I sold I saw the army post office to contact their relatives,” she said.

Flaherty’s daughter said she was happy to be known as ‘Mr. Flaherty’ and that she had no idea these people were alive.

“I sold I saw the army post office to contact their relatives,” she said.

Flaherty’s daughter said she was happy to be known as ‘Mr. Flaherty’ and that she had no idea these people were alive.

“I sold I saw the army post office to contact their relatives,” she said.