

GLOSSARY

AFZ – the Anti-Fascist Women's Front

Akiba ben Joseph – celebrated teacher from the time of Bar Kohba's uprising against the Romans; or abbreviation for the Akiba Agudat Hanoar Haivri (Akiba Association of Jewish Youth), a youth scouting movement of general Zionists (Akiba teaches the youth in the national spirit to take part in the building of Erez Yisrael.

Aliyah – (Hebrew) rise, ascent. Moving into Palestine, that is, later Israel, because, according to tradition, for Jews, going to Palestine meant exaltation. Aliyah means more than immigration: it is the main ideal of Zionism and the primary goal of its realisation. It means personal participation in the rebuilding of the Jewish homeland and the individual's rise to a higher level of self-fulfilment as a member of a reborn nation." (EJ, 1971: 633).

Anti-Semitism – racial, national and religious hatred of Jews. This phenomenon can be observed from ancient times until the present day. The result of anti-Semitic propaganda was the concept of the "final solution to the Jewish question" in World War Two and the destruction

of six million Jews. The term was introduced sometime around 1880.

Appello – (Italian) assembly, roll call

Appellplatz – (German) assembly place for roll call

Arbeitskommando – (German) labour command

Aron Hakodesh – The Torah Ark, the sacred cabinet which contains the Torah scrolls in a synagogue.

Ashkenazi – an adjective which derives from the geographical term Ashkenaz which is what Germany has been called in Hebrew literature since the middle ages. The Ashkenazi are a branch of the Jewish people who speak either Yiddish or German, or some central European or eastern European languages. Ashkenazi, the inhabitants of the German-speaking region, who spread in migrations to eastern and later also to southern Europe, are, in some ways, different from the Sephardim, in the liturgical and lingual sense, because they differently pronounce both some of the vowels and some of the consonants of the Hebrew orthography.

Aufseherin – (German) woman SS-overseer, attendant

- B'nai Brith* – an organisation which engages in humanitarian and cultural-educational work. Because of its elitist organisation and lodges, it is often identified with Masonic organisations
- Bar Mitzvah* – (literally son of law); religious coming-of-age ceremony for a Jewish man who has turned 13. It is performed in the synagogue when the boy is called out to stand before the Torah. With this act the man becomes a full member of the community, responsible for his actions before God. It is very festively celebrated in all homes.
- Bat Mitzvah* – religious coming-of-age ceremony for girls at twelve years of age. Festively celebrated in the home.
- Bersaglieri* – (Italian) high-mobility infantry unit of the Italian Army
- Blockälteste(r)* – (German) barracks chief (male or female)
- Blocksperr* – (German) ban on leaving the barracks
- Cantor* – (Latin) (Hebrew hazan) in Jewish religious services the singer of prayers
- Confino libero* – (Italian) free confinement: free movement within a restricted territory
- Coprifuoco* – (Italian) covering up the fire, figuratively: curfew
- Daskalica* – (Bulgarian) teacher
- Diaspora* – dispersion, emigration of people, scattering; in Hebrew: *galut* (persecution)
- Endlösung (Die)* – The Final Solution; Fascist term for the systemic destruction of the Jewish people.
- Erez* – (Hebrew) country; often used as a synonym for Israel
- Gabai* – A person who assists in the running of a synagogue and ensures that the needs are met, or an assistant to a rabbi. The gabbai's obligations might also include maintaining a Jewish cemetery.
- Ghetto* – (Italian) a part of town in which Jews lived under the orders of the authorities. Ghettos were locked up at night and because they were overpopulated life in them was unhealthy. The term was first introduced in Italy.
- Häftling* – (German) prisoner
- Hagana* – (Hebrew) defence, or Hagana acmit – self-defence, Jewish defence in Palestine organised after the first Arab riots in Jaffa in 1921. After the state of Israel was formed in 1948 it became the regular army and its name was incorporated in the name of the official army of the new state, Zeva Haganah le Izrael.
- Halutz, (plural halutzim)* – (Hebrew) a pioneer who is preparing for the return to Erez Yisrael.
- Hamisha Asar Bishvat* – (Hebrew) Holiday also known as Tu-Bishvar, Hamishoshi, Frutas or the New Year of the Trees. Celebrated on the fifteenth day of Shevat (January-February).
- Hanukkah* – (Hebrew) feast of light, it is celebrated for eight days beginning the 25th day of the month of Kislev (December-January) in memory of the struggle for liberation from the Hellenic occupying forces in the third century BC.

Hasharah – (hebr.) preparation for emigration to Palestine; young people prepared for work learning agricultural and trade skills. Trade courses were held in the city, while courses in agriculture were held in villages, on larger farms. There were several hasharahs in Yugoslavia.

Hashomer Hatzair – (Hebrew) Young guard, a Zionist youth organisation of socialist orientation. Its aim was to educate young people for the building of the Jewish homeland on biblical soil.

Haver – (Hebrew) friend; comrade; haver (fem.), haverim (m.pl), haverot (f.pl)

Hazan – see Cantor

Heder – (Hebrew) room. Heder is a school for the first level of traditional Jewish education. Sephards call this school “meldar”. “These educational institutions were founded in 63 BC in Judea, and the initiator was Rabbi Joshua ben Gamla. He introduced the obligation to select teachers for children of seven years of age and older in every province and in every city. Later, up until World War One, even children younger than seven came to the heder. The classes were held all day, from early morning until eight or nine in the evening. In three months the boys would learn the Hebrew script. On the fourth month they would start to read the Humash (Thora), and then the Mishna and Talmud.” (Danon, 1996: 216).

Hehalutz – (Hebrew) international organisation of halutzim; all halutzim

preparing for the aliyah would become members.

Holocaust – (Greek holos, entire; kaus-tos, burnt) the destruction of Jews in World War II by killing in gas chambers and burning their bodies in crematoriums

Honved – (Hungarian) literally homeland defender; a specifically Hungarian army within the Austro-Hungarian Empire, distinct from the Austrian *Landwehr*. The term Honvéd continued to be the name of the Hungarian military after the end of World War I and the dissolution of the empire.

Hora (hava) – (Hebrew) traditional Jewish dance

Hupa – (Hebrew) canopy, a part of the wedding ceremony when the bride and the groom stand under a canopy

I. G. Farbenindustrie – Interessengemeinschaft der Farbenindustrie, (German) An interest association of the German industry of paints manufacturers; an industrial concern which used Jewish prisoners as free labour

Jugendaliyah – (German) Aliyat hanoar, youth aliyah

Kaddish – word (in Aramaic, the then spoken language of the Jews); a prayer for the dead. “Kaddish is an ancient prayer, which was created in Palestine, from where it spread to all countries of the galut. (Diaspora). Except for the last verse, which is in Hebrew, the original language of the Kaddish is Aramaic, so it would be understandable to ordinary people who didn’t

- know Hebrew (...) The essence of the Kaddish is an expression of loyalty to God and the acceptance of his judgement, in line with the principle that a person has the obligation to express his gratitude even for the misfortune that has come upon him as he expresses his gratitude for the good." (Danon, 1996: 179, 180–181). The prayer is said by the son or by the closest relative.
- Kal** – see synagogue.
- Kapo** – (Italian.) head, chief; an inmate-supervisor.
- Ken** – (Hebrew) nest, a Zionist youth group.
- Ketuba** – (Hebrew) a written marital contract.
- Kibbutz** – (Hebrew) a farm with collective ownership of land, resources and products. The organisation of work is based on an agreement, volunteering and equality of kibbutz members. The first kibbutz, Degania, was founded in 1909. Kibbutzim also play a defence role.
- Kibbutznik** – member of a kibbutz.
- Kiddush** – Name of prayer used to sanctify the Sabbath and holidays, based on the biblical commandment "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath," Moses II, 20:7.
- Kipa** – (Hebrew) a small cap that Jews wear in the synagogue and during prayer, while religious Jews wear the kipa all the time.
- Kolkhoz** – collective farm in the Soviet Union.
- Kosher** – (Hebrew) confirming to religious regulations in selecting and preparing food (kasher: clean, permitted).
- Kvuca (mishomar)** – (Hebrew) company, an organisational unit of the ken, group, small community.
- Ladino** – Jewish-Spanish language, or Judaeo-espagnol, or judezmo. Medieval Spanish language that the Sephardim spoke and preserved. Enriched by Hebrew, Turkish and Slavic words.
- Laissez-passer (French); Lasciapassare (Italian)** – pass.
- Luftwaffe** – (German) German Air Force.
- Maccabi** – (Hebrew) a frequently used name for Jewish sports associations which were named after Judas Maccabaeus, a Jewish hero from the 2nd century BC.
- Madrih** – (Hebrew) educator.
- Magen David** – (Hebrew) David's shield. The six-pointed Star of David, a hexagram; one of the symbols of Judaism; today also on the Israeli flag. (a term also used is Solomon's Seal).
- Matzah** – (Hebrew) unleavened bread which is made for Pesah when no food containing any leavening or any other product fermentation is allowed for a period of eight days.
- Megillah** – (Hebrew) scroll, a short name for the biblical Book of Ester which is read for Purim.
- Menahel** – (Hebrew) youth leader.
- Menorah** – (Hebrew) seven branched candlestick; a symbol of Judaism. The menorah was adopted as the official emblem of today's Israel.
- Mezuzah** – (Hebrew) a scroll with an excerpt from the Bible which is placed on the right side of the doorpost.

- Minyan* – (Hebrew) number, the quorum of ten men over the age of 13 required to hold a service in the synagogue.
- Mitzva* – (Hebrew) religious command, a good deed.
- Moshava* – (Hebrew) settlement; in Jewish colonisation this is a non-collective farm where every person has his own land; in youth organisations it refers to a camp.
- Musulman (camp slang)* – meaning a person who is at the end of his life from exhaustion. The word probably comes from the German words Muschl (shell) and Mann (man). Meaning: a shell keeps its form even after it loses its contents.
- Numerus Clausus* – (Latin) regulation legally limiting the number of Jews who can enrol in universities and schools to a certain percentage.
- Nyilas* – (Hungarian) Hungarian ultrarightists, Fascists of the Arrow Cross.
- Ole, ola (female) olim (plural)* – new immigrants in Israel.
- Omama* – (Hungarian) grandmother.
- OZNA* – *Odsek zaštite narode (Department for protection of the people)* – Yugoslav security organisation formed during the war for counter-intelligence duties. Formed in September 1943 by the Supreme Commander it assumed the duties of the Anti-Fifth-Column Commission of April 1943. Later became the central security organisation covering all of Yugoslavia.
- Pagnocca* – (Italian) round bread roll used in the army.
- Pesah* – (Hebrew) Passover, a holiday celebrated in memory of the exodus from Egypt. It begins on the 15th day of the month of Nisan (March-April) and lasts eight days. It is also called Hag aaviv (the holiday of the spring) and Hag amatzot (the holiday of unleavened bread), because Jews must eat matzah. The holiday is celebrated according to a strictly defined ritual.
- Prefettura* – (Italian) the office of a prefect.
- Purim* – a holiday which is celebrated in memory of the Jews' stay in Persia and events described in the biblical Book of Esther. It is celebrated on the 14th day of the month Adar (February-March).
- Quaestor* – (Italian, *questore*) Senior rank in Italian police.
- Questura* – Police administrative section in each Italian province.
- Rabbi* – (rav; teacher). "A common foreign word used for Jewish clerics, which was created in Western Europe from the word rabbi: my teacher, my master. In essence a Rabbi is not a clerical person, nor a priest, but one of the titles that is awarded after completing yeshivah. In Jewish communities the rabbis performed their duties, interpreted laws, even passed judgements on a non-professional basis, as authorised experts, experts in Jewish humanities. The rabbi profession, as a paid community employee in some societies and states is of more recent date." (Verber, 1988: 339).
- Revir* – (German) region, area; in the camp the name for hospital.

- Righteous* – One of the nine tasks of *Yad Vashem*, according to the Law on remembrance of martyrs and heroes passed on August 19, 1953 in Knesset, is to eternalise the memory “of the righteous of all nations who put their lives at stake to save Jews.” The Righteous is a rough translation of the expression “*Hasidei umot haolam*,” while a literal translation would be “the Righteous of the world”.
- Rosh* – (Hebrew) head, chief, leader (of *ken*, *moshava*, *kibbutz*).
- Rosh Hashanah* – (Hebrew) holiday, the Jewish New Year. It is celebrated on the first and second day of the month of *Tishri* (September-October).
- Sabbath, Shabbat* – (Hebrew) Saturday, seventh day of the week, the day of full rest, when no work is allowed.
- Seder* – (Hebrew) seder; order; festive dinner, an introductory ceremony to the celebration of *Pesah*.
- Sephardim* – (Hebrew) descendants of Jews who were expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in the fifteenth century.
- Shalom (Shalom Alehem)* – (Hebrew) Peace, peace to you, traditional greeting.
- Shamas* – Synagogue official who provides various services, often one who manages day-to-day affairs.
- Shoah* – (Hebrew) Hebrew word for the Holocaust.
- Shofar* – A ram’s horn used in ancient times as a signaling trumpet, and still blown in synagogues on *Rosh Hashana* and at the end of *Yom Kippur*.
- Shomer* – (Hebrew) guard.
- Shtetl* – (Yiddish) a small town or in Poland and Russia with a majority Jewish population.
- SKOJ* – Communist Youth League of Yugoslavia.
- Sokol* – Youth movement and physical fitness organisation, originating in Czechoslovakia in 1862 and eventually spreading through Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine, Bulgaria Macedonia and Russia.
- Sonderkommando* – (German) special command, prisoners working in the gas chamber or crematorium during exterminations.
- Sukkot* – (Hebrew) the festival of tabernacles or booths (*sukkah*; booth, hut, tent). Once they freed themselves from Egyptian slavery the Jews wandered around the desert for 40 years and dwelt in tents. In memory of this kind of accommodation, on *Sukkot*, Jews spend seven days in huts. The festival lasts nine days. It is celebrated in autumn.
- Synagogue* – (Greek) Jewish place of worship. The word *synagogue* appears for the first time in *Septuaginta*, the translation of the Old Testament into Greek in the third century BC. and stands for community, group of people, municipality. Somewhat later the word *synagogue* refers only to a community of religious character, that is, a place in which religious services are performed. The Hebrew term *bek hakneset* also has a long history (Aramaic: *bet hakenishta*) the house of assembly, which could often be heard in Bosnia. Among

the Bosnia-Herzegovina Jews it was customary to call the synagogue "hram" or temple and kal (this last was used only by the Sephardim." (Gotovac, 1987: 11).

Tallit – (Hebrew) a prayer cloak worn by men during prayer.

Talmud – (Hebrew) learning. This is the Jewish "post-biblical encyclopaedia of specific quality, created between the second and fourth centuries. It is, first of all, a collection of comments based on various interpretations of the Bible, but it also contains comprehensive material on religious and secular Jewish customs. It contains elements of theology, ethics, agronomy, medicine, hygiene, law, history, mathematics, astronomy, and so on. The Talmud regulated the Jews' way of life in post-biblical times all the way up to the emancipation in the 19th century. The Talmud played a crucial role in preserving Jewish national unity in the Diaspora. Because of its strictness and moral pedantry, because of its emphasised Judaocentric stance and strong opposition to the pro-zealot striving of Christianity, for centuries Talmud was attacked, slandered and forged within and outside Judaism." (Baleti, 1982. 34).

Temple – (Hebrew) temple, Jewish place of worship.

Torah – (Hebrew) the five Books of Moses which, according to Jewish tradition, are the foundation of the Jewish religion.

Trumpeldor – Zionist right-wing politician.

Ustasha – Croatian far-right organisation put in charge of the Independent State of Croatia by the Axis Powers in 1941. They pursued Nazi and Fascist policies. The Ustasha were subsequently expelled by the Communist Yugoslav Partisans in 1945. At the time they were founded in 1929, the Ustasas were nationalist political organisations which committed terrorist acts. When they came to power they also had military formations which numbered some 76,000 at their peak in 1944.

VVN (Vereinigung der Nazi Verfolgten) – Association of the Victims of Nazi Persecution.

Wehrmacht – German armed forces.

WIZO – acronym for: Women's International Zionist Organisation.

Yad Vashem – (Hebrew) "Hand and name" (yad, hand; shem, name), a monument and archive in Jerusalem on the killing of Jews in World War II which was established under the decision of Knesset in 1953 by passing a special Law on the Commemoration of martyrs and heroes – Yad Vashem. "The point of the legislation adopted is to erect an eternal monument in the minds of Jews in memory of the millions of innocent victims, fighters, of the inexpressible riches of the Jewish cultural values that were created for centuries and which were destroyed by criminal Nazism" (Alkalaj, 1971).

Yashar koach – (Hebrew) literally first time. In the temple it is used during the reading of the Tora, that is when congratulating on a task well done, something like 'Good work' or 'Well done'.

Yeshiva – (Hebrew) a high religious school attended after completion of

the first religious school (heder - Ashkenazi, meldar - Sephardim). „The expression 'yeshiva' was used in Talmud for the oldest Jewish institution which primarily focuses on studying the Thora, Talmud, Jewish regulations and the development of Jewish thought.” (Danon, 1996: 217).

Yiddish – the language spoken by the Ashkenazi Jews from Germany, Central and Eastern Europe. “It was created based on some dialects of Middle-High German from the tenth century which had been fixed at that level of development. Later the lexis was expanded with Hebrew and Aramaic words and, later again, following the arrival in Slavic countries, also with Slavic (Polish, Ukrainian and other) words. It is

written in Hebrew script, which is specially adapted to the phonetics of the language.” (Verber, Glossary in the catalogue Jews on Yugoslav Soil, pg. 337).

Yom Kippur – a holy day, Day of Atonement, celebrated on the 10th day of the month of Tishri; a 24-hour long fast.

Zählappell – (German) the counting of lined-up prisoners at a certain place.

Zionism – named after the hill of Zion, where the Jerusalem temple was built; in a figurative sense it stands for Jerusalem as a religious and cultural centre of the Jews. A national-political movement which aspires to national revival and the gathering of Jews in a restored national state like that they inhabited in biblical times.