

E.H.

## Uszer Ilan (Szwarcbaum)



He was the son of Reb [Abram] Mordka and Kajla [née Szyf] Szwarcbaum. He emigrated to Palestine on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1920. He was sent, at once, to work building the Tiberias-Zemach road, where he remained for about nine months. For some three months, he then worked in the Mitzpa *moshava* [rural settlement]. His employer was a convert to Judaism, who had settled in this *moshava*.

When the national [viz. Zionist] institutions announced policemen were needed, Szwarcbaum left his workplace and joined the police force.

Upon leaving the police, he tried his luck and opened a carbonated beverages kiosk in Tel-Aviv, on the corner of King George and Allenby Streets. He immediately became sick of this business. After one month, he relinquished his “kiosk” and moved to Jerusalem, where he entered was employed as a worker in the Kimchi and Menkarski restaurant.

One may judge how lowly the working conditions were at the time from the fact that, for over one year, Szwarcbaum’s [monthly] wages, for working from 6:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. were literally just one [Palestinian] pound and fifty pence a month!

At the suggestion of one of his Częstochowa friends, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1924, he joined the Haifa police force and, based on his two-years’ experience in the police force, he was granted the rank of sergeant. On 27<sup>th</sup> March 1927, he began working in the police as a photographer.

During the riots of 1929, when the butcher Rotman was killed by the Arab rioters in the lower city<sup>1</sup> and the Jews living there began to abandon it, the Jewish policemen resolved to safeguard the peace of the Jewish residents and urged them not to abandon the location.

Constables Szwarcbaum, Klajnman and Szul<sup>2</sup> (Jurkewicz’s son-in-law) particularly distinguished themselves in their influence. However, in one of the encounters with the Arab rioters, Szwarcbaum and another constable named Yehuda were wounded.

In the bloody events of 1936-1938, Uszer Ilan again took upon himself the guarding duties - even though he could well have sufficed with his position as police photographer.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March<sup>3</sup>, when Uszer Ilan was walking with his wife in Kiryat Motzkin<sup>4</sup>, he was run over by a motorcycle and was seriously injured.

In 1938, he visited Częstochowa, and was able to see his parents before they were annihilated.

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<sup>1</sup> [TN: Built on Mount Carmel, Haifa has a lower and an upper part.]

<sup>2</sup> [TN: שזול in the original Hebrew. The spelling in Latin characters is uncertain.]

<sup>3</sup> [TN: Year not specified; presumably between 1936-1938.]

<sup>4</sup> [TN: Next to Haifa.]

When the State of Israel was established, Ilan joined the Israeli Police Force, in which he served until his retirement on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1957.