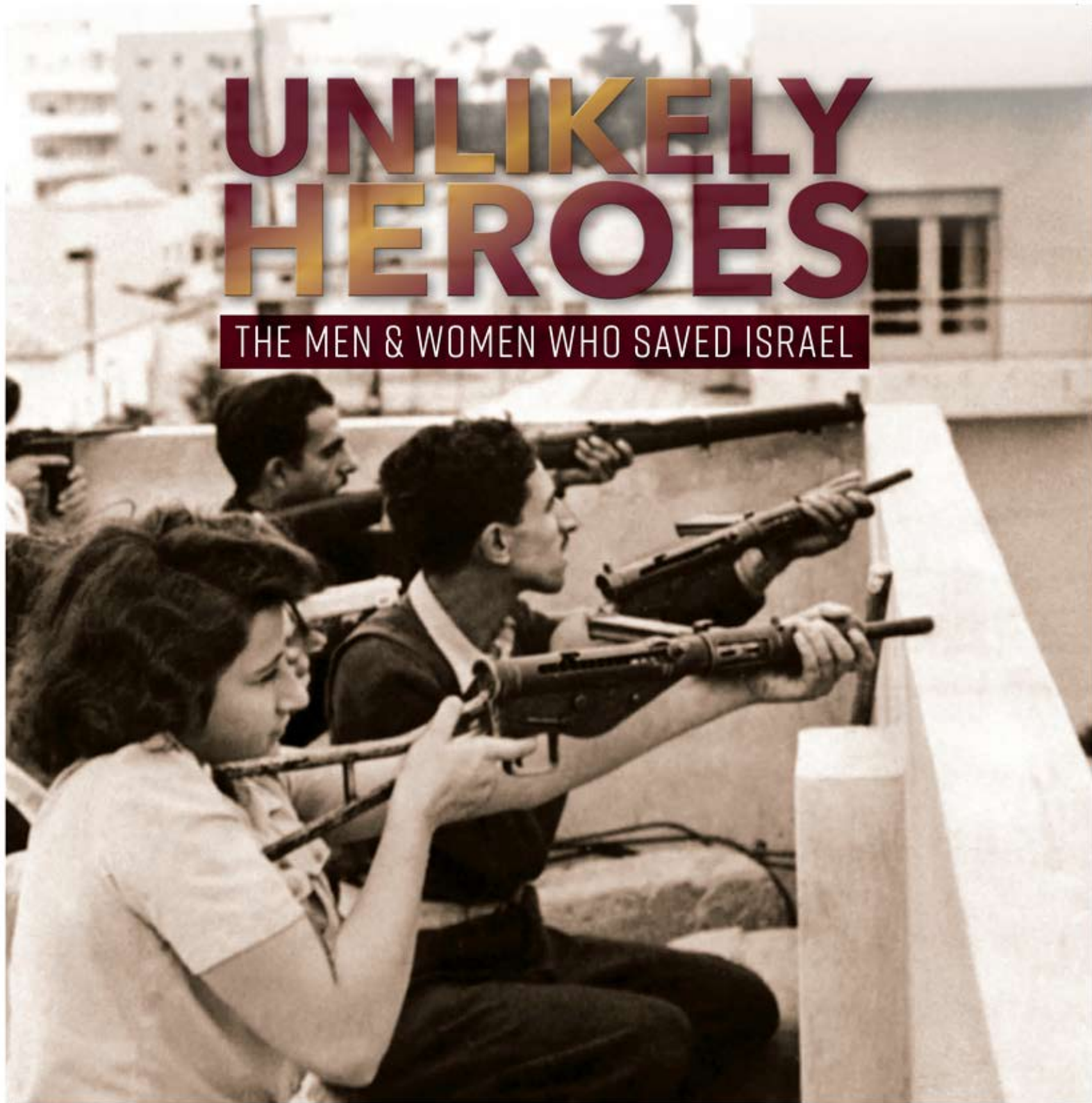


# UNLIKELY HEROES

THE MEN & WOMEN WHO SAVED ISRAEL





## PAUL KAYE

Smuggled Holocaust refugees in small boats under the noses of the British. When told he could be hanged for his actions, he replied: "Let's Go!"



# Through the Eyes of History



Following in the tradition of acclaimed filmmaker Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*, Jeff Hoffman's *Unlikely Heroes: The Men & Women who Saved Israel* captures the history of Jewish independence in the first person. In production, this film begins with the testimonies of some of the most unlikely heroes, both men and women, who helped Israel rise out of the ashes of the Holocaust to become a sovereign nation.

Riveting and truly inspirational, *Unlikely Heroes* presents for the first time proprietary interviews with the courageous individuals who fought for Israel's independence in its darkest hours. The David and Goliath nature of Israel gaining its independence, as well the biblical implications of the Jewish People returning to the Promised Land, will appeal to both Christians and Jews worldwide.

Above: Illegal immigrant ship, captured by the British Navy, held in Haifa harbor (1947)



## Givati Brigade

In addition to what we will produce for *Unlikely Heroes*, we have enough footage and unique stories to create numerous additional episodes. The tales are fascinating.

Jerry Gross from Montreal, pictured in 1947. Books could be written about Jerry's stories of his exploits defending Israel. For example, he relates how he and a fellow soldier were ordered to attack a strategically located Arab village. Faced with an impossible task, he devised a plan to encircle the Arab village with alarm clocks, set for an appointed time. The unsuspecting Arabs awoke to the noise, firing their weapons with abandon, exposing their positions to deadly gunfire. When the dust settled, Jerry and his fellow soldier had won the day and lived to tell about it.



Above Left: Underground bullet factory | Above Right: Haganah troops | Lower Right: Jerry Gross

# Stories That Will Inspire Generations

*Unlikely Heroes*, as history in the first person, tells the story of how both men and women from over fifty countries displayed remarkable courage as they fought and sacrificed for Israel and her independence. Firsthand accounts of their selfless bravery include the smuggling of essential war materials into Israel, as well as the rescuing of refugees in Europe who would later contribute to Israel's survival.

Young men and women sacrificed their comfortable lives to assist survivors of the Holocaust, smuggling them into Palestine on rickety ships and banana boats to evade the British Blockade. The film also reveals how Israel's independence was funded and supported by individuals from around the world.



The inspiring exploits also include the little-known underground bullet factory hidden beneath the noses of the British army that produced over 4 million bullets for Israel's War of Independence. There will also be personal accounts of how the former Nazi aircraft and weapons were dropped undercover throughout Palestine. In addition, you will learn how individuals secretly acquired planes, weapons, and ammunition from North America and Czechoslovakia, the latter also training Jewish and non-Jewish pilots to fly fighter planes at military airstrips in the European countryside.

The viewer will also discover how the early paramilitary Jewish defense forces, such as Haganah and the Irgun, began working internationally to recruit pilots, sailors, and soldiers to train and fight for Israel. Alongside those with military experience,

Above: Golani Brigade



volunteers as young as fourteen joined the wave of support, many finding themselves almost immediately in the midst of battle with little to no training.

Touching on subjects ranging from the early 20th century until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 (such as the Balfour act and the civil war in Palestine), the film begins with a fast-paced summary of the historical factors that led up to the Jewish displacement after the Holocaust. The archival footage, narration, and on-camera interviews provide background for the crisis that faced the Jewish people in the aftermath of WWII and the looming threat of war in Palestine.

*Unlikely Heroes* details in the most personal terms how people of all faiths rallied for Israel and for the sake of humanity, giving new meaning to the phrase Ein Briera—no alternative.



Top Row Left: Danny Shapira, Israeli pilot | Center Hugo Morom, Jewish Czech pilot | Right: Shaul Sapir, Jewish spy disguised as an Arab  
Lower Row Left: Rudolph Sonneborn | Right: Jewish desert unit

## View Rare Proprietary Footage

- 61 video interviews consisting of first-person accounts that have never been seen before, in any media venue, and all are proprietary.
- Numerous historic, never-before-seen documents.
- Approximately 5,000 rare stills of Palestine in the 1940s, focusing on the War of Independence.
- Archival footage of the era.
- Location footage of the airfields and battlefields of Israel during the War of Independence.



Above: Israel Air Force Command (1948)



## JEFF HOFFMAN

*Producer/Director/Director of Photography*

For over thirty-five years, as a dual-citizen of the US and Canada, Jeff has filmed in virtually every state and province. He has also filmed in Mexico, Europe, Israel and both Poles. As Co-Producer as well as Cinematographer, he has extensive credits in feature films, international television, documentaries and commercials. He has garnered experience worldwide from Easter Island to Antarctica, throughout the Far East and Europe.

His clients range from Canadian and German Television, The big 3 US Networks, Disney, and Nickelodeon. He has worked on *Pee-Wee's Playhouse*, Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, as well as acclaimed documentaries, *The Corporation*, the most successful Canadian Documentary in Canadian History, *Ayn Rand: A Sense of Life*, (Academy Award Nomination), and Steve Laffey's, *Fixing America* movie.

For German TV networks ZDF and ARD, Jeff was the Director of Photography and Co-Producer for "Go West, Sing West," and "Songs of the South." Hosted by Dale Robertson and Ken Curtis, the 26 Half hours featured the history and music of the American west and the American south. Performances by Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, the Sons of the Pioneers, as well as jazz, cajun and blues artists in New Orleans and the deep south provided these series with much depth and authenticity.



## MARC GOLD

*Producer/Financier/Filmmaker*

With his Fresh Cats Productions, Marc has financed and produced five feature films. Marc follows his passion, whether inspirational films or horror, which is why he is spearheading *Unlikely Heroes*. According to Marc, "Having served in the armed forces, I wish I could have lived at the time, so I could have volunteered to fight for Israel." In addition to this film, Marc is currently working on a full slate of feature films, as well as scripted and non-scripted television and alternative media projects.

Marc Gold

Producer

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# A FEW OF THE HEROIC MEN & WOMEN

Jeff Hoffman traveled the world interviewing the heroes like the ones featured on this page. Their average age is now 93. Three have died. Their courageous stories should not be lost to history but serve as an inspiration to all.



**Jesse Slade** – a Native American, went into battle wearing a Navajo charm bracelet, a cross and a Mezuzah. He reasoned, "You can't be too careful."



**MARCIA WOLMAN** – As a young Zionist from South Africa, Marcia joined the Haganah as a meteorologist for the Air Force.



**SHLOMO HILLEL** – Helped build the secret underground bullet factory under a kibbutz/bakery. If caught by the British, he could have received the death penalty.



**GIDDY LICHTMAN** – Shot down Egyptian Spitfire stopping advance to Tel-Aviv. "I was risking my citizenship and possibly jail time. I was going to help my people out."

IF YOU DON'T WANT HISTORY TO REPEAT ITSELF,  
CHANGE THE FACE OF HISTORY.