

Alexander Bodian (family name may have been Bodyanikov) – Born 1913 in Boorshoof/Borska (?), East Poland – 15 km from Russian border; 18 km from Rumanian border; town of 8,000, 40% Jewish

Parents - Henrick (Henry) Bodian (served in Austrian army in WWI) and Yael Bodian – Killed as they were escaping to Romania, as was **older sister Anna**;

older brother – Dr. Julius Bodian, married to Tamar Klein. Both were doctors. Ukrainians kept them alive to take care of Ukrainian partisans, then hung them at the end of the war.

Before the War – Father station master till 1920, then became a bookkeeper; family more secular; Till late 1920s, relationship between Jews and Christians good; Alex had many non-Jewish friends. Became involved in and a leader of Betar when he was 16. Group grew from 4 or 5 to 300; At 19, went to university in Bratislava, but only stayed for 3 months. Because of Betar, decided to go to Palestine. Took him 4 years to illegally immigrate to Palestine. Went in 1937 via Lvov to Katowice to Vilna, then train to Vienna, then to Yugoslavia near Trieste. Ship (the Draga) to Palestine took 5 weeks. Went to Haifa because friends and family there. Worked as carpenter building British army buildings, then built roads. Then joined Betar Resistance Movement to fight British.

During the War – 1940 joined the British army; was in a Jewish unit with 340 soldiers stationed in Egypt then the western desert. 1943 his unit went with the British 8th Army and participated in invasion of Salerno. At end of war, stationed near Venice; witnessed refugee camps, found that all of his maternal 1st cousins (39) from Poland died. Released from British Army in 1945; was a staff sergeant.

After the War - Went back to Haifa and was taxi driver, then partner in a tourist business. Met his wife (a survivor) in Haifa (Her parents, Eva and Moishe Fooks, were killed in Treblinka). Married in 1948. In Hagganah; fought in War for Independence keeping roads clear from Haifa to Tel Aviv. Left Israel in 1959 because wife diagnosed with leukemia and climate better in Australia for her. Though he did not return, he considered Israel his home. Had two girls, Chava and Yael, and 8 grandchildren.