Jewish Soldiers in World War II

International Conference
Tel Aviv University
December 8-10, 2014

Monday, 8 December, 2014, 18:15-20:00
Auditorium 001, Webb Building

Tuesday and Wednesday, 9-10 December, 2014
Room 496, Gilman Building

Entrance to the University:
Ramniceanu Gate (4) or Frenkel Gate (7)

Lectures will be delivered in English.
Monday, 8 December, 2014
Auditorium 001, Webb Building

18:15-20:00 Opening Evening
Chair: Simha Goldin, Tel Aviv University
Prof. Eyal Zisser, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University
Aron Shai, Rector, Tel Aviv University
A Forgotten Jewish Chinese General
Moshe Ya’alon, Minister of Defense
The Legacy of Jewish Soldiers in World War II and its Influence on the Israel Defense Forces

Tuesday, 9 December, 2014
Room 496, Gilman Building

9:00-10:00 Keynote Address
Chair: Motti Golani, Tel Aviv University
Derek Jonathan Penslar, University of Oxford, University of Toronto
World War II as a “Jewish War”

10:00-11:30 Partisans and Resistance
Chair: Derek Jonathan Penslar, University of Oxford, University of Toronto
Oto Luthar, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
The Rab Brigade and its Jewish Battalion as an Autonomous Yugoslav Partisan Unit
Tsilla Hershco, Bar-Ilan University
The Jewish Resistance in France during World War II: Dilemmas, Ambiguities and Impact on the Historical Memory
Françoise S. Ouzan, Tel Aviv University
From the Jewish Resistance in France to the Jewish State: Intersecting Roads

11:30-12:00 Break

12:00-13:30 Literature and Correspondence as Historical Source
Chair: Haim Fireberg, Tel Aviv University
Leonid Smilovitsky, Tel Aviv University
Creation of a collection of Wartime Correspondence in the Diaspora Research Centre at Tel Aviv University

Wednesday, 10 December, 2014
Room 496, Gilman Building

9:00-10:30 Jewish Soldiers in the Red Army
Chair: Haim Saadoun, The Open University of Israel; The Documentation Center of North African Jewry during WWII, The Ben-Zvi Institute
Zvi Gitelman, University of Michigan
Why They Fought: Soviet and Other Jewish Soldiers in World War II
Aya Ruzycki, Humboldt University in Berlin
The Unsung Heroines: Four Jewish Women in the Soviet Army in the Second World War
Kiril Feferman, Russian Holocaust Center, Moscow
Not Quite Comrades: The Recruitment of “Western” Jews into the Red Army, 1940-1942

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 The Middle East Arena
Chair: Françoise S. Ouzan, Tel Aviv University
Haim Saadoun, The Open University of Israel; The Documentation Center of North African Jewry during WWII, The Ben-Zvi Institute
The Encounter between Jewish Soldiers and Jewish North African Communities

Uri Cohen, Tel Aviv University
Captives and Captivity: The Hebrew Soldier in World War II and the Cultures of War
Raquel Stepak, Tel Aviv University
Different Approaches towards the Involvement of Authors in the Land of Israel in the War Effort

13:30-15:00 Break

15:00-16:30 Personal Stories
Chair: Zvi Kan-Tor, The Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War II, Latrun
Peter Usher, Retired Geographer, Independent Scholar, Canada
Honour and Survival: A Canadian Jewish Airman in World War II
Lea Prais, Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Studies
Children and Youth at the Jewish Family Camps in the Forests of Western Belorussia
(Lecture will be delivered in Hebrew)
Benny Michelsohn, The Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War II, Latrun
Commandant Victor Mirkin – Hero of the French Army
Astrid Zajdband, University of Sussex  
*Rabbis in the Ranks: British Forces and its German Rabbis*

Anat Granit Hacohen, Independent Scholar, Tel Aviv  
Hebrew Women Join (the) Forces: *Jewish Women from Palestine in the British Forces during World War II*

12:30-14:00  Break

14:00-15:45  *The Image of WWII Jewish Fighters in Israeli Documentary Films*  (Session will be conducted in Hebrew)  
Haim Fireberg, Tel Aviv University  
Zvi Kan-Tor, The Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War 2, Latrun

15:45-16:00  Break

16:00-17:00  *Concluding Lecture*  (Lecture will be delivered in Hebrew)  
Chair: Dina Porat, Tel Aviv University  
Tamar Ketko, Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and Arts, Tel Aviv  
*The Ethics of Educated Memory*

*Academic Steering Committee: Prof. Dina Porat, Prof. Motti Golani, Dr. Simha Goldin*