

*The Story of Rafi Mokady**

This morning, on the 44th anniversary of the Six Day War, we bring the story of the daughter and granddaughter of Major Rafi Mokady, Commander of the Reconnaissance Company of Brigade 8, who fell in the war. His family wanted to make a commemorative film in Rafi's honor but during the production they discovered that Rafi had not been killed like they had since been told, but rather died after being left behind, in the battlefield, for eight days.

June 10, 1967. The state of Israel shifts from the cloud of war to victory. Shoshana Mokady, wife of Major Rafi Mokady, the Commander of the Recon Company of Brigade 8, hasn't yet heard from her husband whose role was to lead the tanks of the Brigade in the breakthrough battle of the Golan Heights. "Where are the Brigade subunits? Where did they go? Why isn't Rafi calling?" She recalls her worries. "By now, many of the men have come back; And those who haven't, were at least heard from."

On June 17, 1967, seven days after the war had ended, Rafi was found near the Syrian post 8173. 44 years later, his daughter and granddaughter, Orna and Yael, are presenting a documentary about Rafi. During their research for the film they discovered for the first time the complexity of the circumstances that had led to Rafi's death. They exposed that Rafi, a senior IDF officer, had been left behind in the battlefield, for eight days.

On June 9, during the battle, the Tank Battalion Commander is injured. Mokady takes command over the Battalion and repeatedly directs the tanks to turn north in order to prevent additional confrontation with hostile troops. Together with the tank crew Rafi advances north so that the tanks will follow him. Suddenly, while opposite the Syrian post, his tank is hit and its engine shuts down. The only way left to protect the tank is to use a weapon which can only be operated from outside the tank, while standing on the hull, exposed. Rafi goes up there to protect the tank. All of a sudden the tank gunner notes his Commander has disappeared from the hull of the tank: "I look up, I raise my head, I don't see Rafi. Good God, I didn't know what to think. God forbid he fell or something happened..."

* Translated from the Hebrew transcript of the story broadcast on **Galei Tzahal – Israel Army Radio**, June 5, 2011 [www.glz.co.il/NewsArticle.aspx?newsid=84214]

The tank crew leaves the area on foot and in the next 2 days slight searches for Rafi and for the communications officer from the tank are carried out. Few crews from the Recon Company search for their Commander but after a short while are ordered to call off the search.

Shoshana and Rafi's friend, David Karmeli, who haven't yet heard anything about what happened to Rafi, contact the Brigade Commander. Only then, several days after Rafi was wounded, the penny drops. The IDF, in an unusual step, appoints Rafi's friend, David Karmeli, who hasn't even been in reserve duty during the war, as head of the search team. "I wasn't an army man and wasn't close to anything military," he says. "All of a sudden, I am the leader of a search for a senior IDF officer in a battlefield of a brigade that has just left the field".

Rafi was found in the battlefield area, eight days after the battle had ended.

Based on their research findings, the directors changed the main plot of the film about Rafi. They believe iF YOU PULL NORTH will shed new light on unknown aspects of the Six Day War. They are not angry at the IDF or the state of Israel, but rather wish to deliver to the present generation of IDF soldiers the values which guided Rafi's actions during the battle. "The film isn't meant to blame anyone. Its purpose is to tell Rafi Mokady's true story," they say. "Since the values of loyalty and friendship are at the core of this story, we hope our film will contribute to prevention of the occurrence of similar events in the future."