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“The Warriors of Israel” STAVROSIAN JEWS

The debate among Jewish Americans for a Jewish Homeland as an independent State was well before WWII, a topic not well received by most nations. After the war, Jewish Americans contributed a great deal of financial support. They pushed against the American political system to create a Homeland. In 1949, the State of Israel was born. It was March 14th when Israel proclaimed its Statehood. Within 24 hours, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon invaded. The war lasted only about 15 months. Almost one percent of the Jewish people there had died.

An Armistice was signed in mid-1949 to end the war. However, it did little to stop terrorist attacks. Jewish Americans sent money and supplies to help in the fight. Some went on their own to join in the fight. One such man was named Michael Gillman, a third generation Stavrosian that took on the identity to be Jewish. He lived in New York from 1924 to 1949. That 25 years was spent as a dock worker. He was born in 1894, in Germany. For thirty years, Michael worked on a farm. He was called Michael Hoffman then. He changed his name when he came to America, he signed it as Michael Gillman. He kept that name until he died in March of 1949, he was 55 years old. Michael was killed as he fought with the Jewish Civilian Force.

His story is of note, as it represents the Stavrosian commitment to their new homes on a planet that was not theirs but would be home for the rest of their lives. His family received a letter from the Jewish Government in recognition of his sacrifice to the Jewish people helping in the creation of a New Jewish State. Michael Gillman was buried in the area of Haifa near Mount Herzi.

“The Warriors of Israel”
Reported by: C. Smith
Z. Zamus