

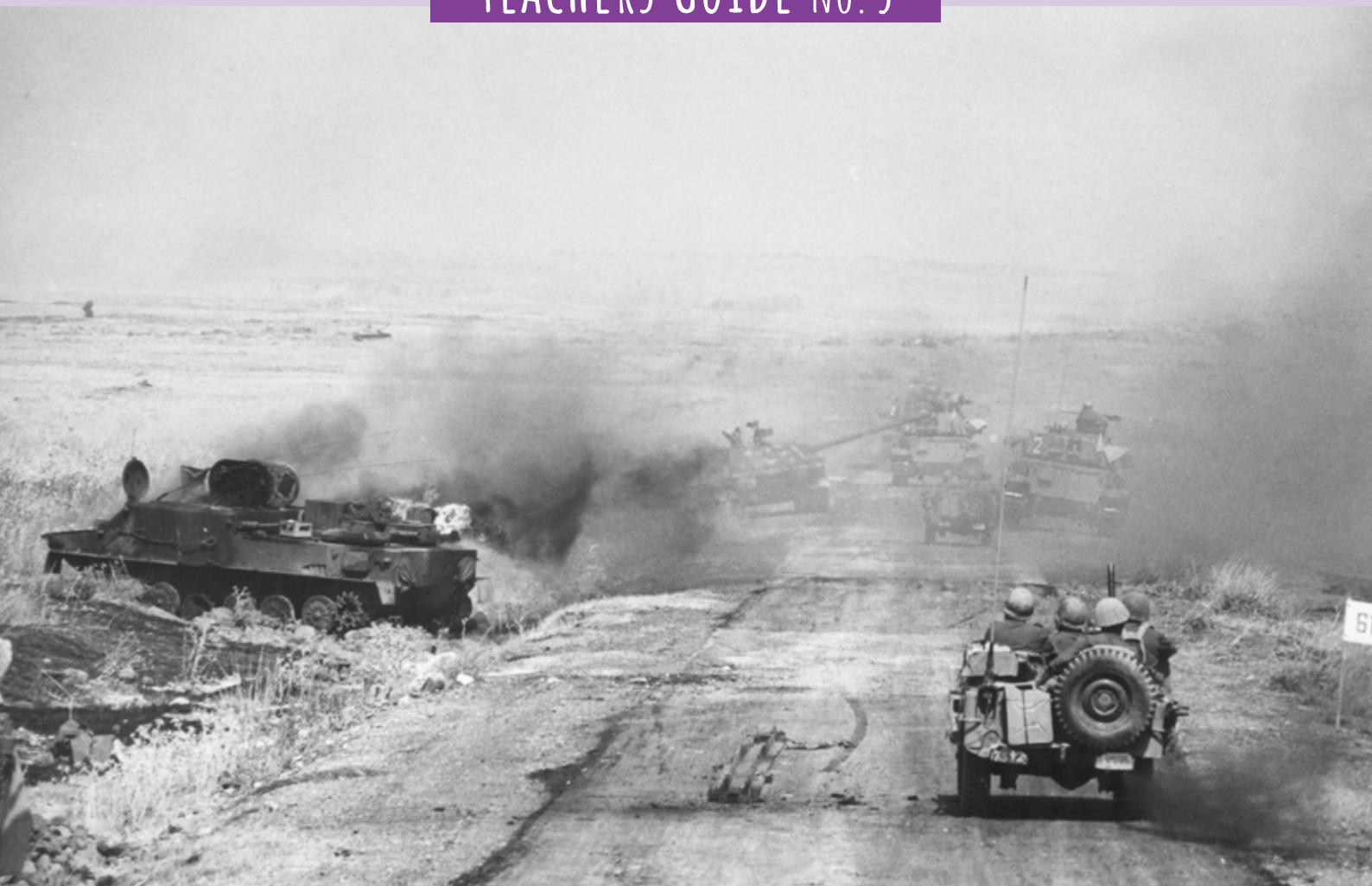


UnitEd

אל עמי - אל שמואל
אל עמי - אל שמואל
זהות | צינות | מורשת | אחדות

50 YEARS TO YOM KIPPUR WAR

TEACHERS GUIDE NO. 5



Lesson Scope

This lesson will focus on the role of individual soldiers and how their courage and fortitude under fire and other challenging conditions cumulatively helped turn the tide of the war. Students will develop an appreciation of how the outcome of wars often comes down to the aggregate of many individual and small acts of courage.

part 5 - Individual Heroes

The content of the workshop

This lesson will focus on the bravery & daring of certain soldiers, who operated under fire and other challenging conditions. By their actions they helped turn the direction of the war.

The students will absorb how the outcome of war is frequently determined by many small individual acts of bravery.

We will learn about bravery & daring by meeting Shmuel Askarov & Hillel Unsдорfer.



Lesson Objective

The objectives of the workshop

A.

Students will learn about the organizational structure in IDF of different combat units: Division; Brigade; Battalions; Company; and Platoon.

B.

Students will learn about the concept of bravery and what it means

C.

Students will learn about the concept of bravery from 2 perspectives: personal daring (Shmuel Askarov) moral daring (Hillel Unsдорfer & the decision to surrender)

D.

The students will absorb how the outcome of war is frequently determined by many small individual acts of bravery



Lesson Plan

First Section: Introduction – bravery

- **Slides 2-4** the teacher will explain the army structure, beginning with division
- **Slide 5** the teacher will open discussion re bravery, will ask the students & write on the board: possible questions: what is bravery? Who is a hero? Names of heroes?
- **Slide 6** Discussion Conclusion: dictionary definition of bravery & words of Avigdor Kahalani
- **Slide 7** in the film – commanders describe what is bravery
- **Slide 8** from prayer – the blessing “encircles Israel with bravery”

Second Section – bravery of individuals

There are 2 stories of bravery in this section (The teacher can choose either one or both – based on the amount of time available for the class):


1. (slides 9-16) **Bravery of Shmulik Askarov**
2. (slides 17-23) **Bravery of Hillel Unsdorfer**

- **First section: Bravery of Shmuel Askarov** (slides 9-16)
Students will learn about the battles that Askarov participated in , how Askarov, who was hospitalized, sneaked out of the hospital in order to return to battle.
- At the end he fought under Brigadier General Yossi ben Hannan, who himself returned from his honeymoon abroad.
- During the fighting against Syria, Askarov was wounded again & was not expected to survive. But he did survive. This part of the lesson teaches about personal bravery.
- **Slide 9** introduction: students will look at the map of the Golan where Askarov fought & the situation of the forces on the first day of the war.
- **Slide 10-16** the story of Askarov’s bravery

- **Second section: Bravery of Hillel Unsdorfer** (slides 17-23)
This section will open with the presentation of the soldiers' dilemma – whether to surrender or not
- During the surrender one of the soldiers, in a heroic act, carried the Sefer Torah from the Beit Knesset of the base into captivity. In this way the students will learn about the significance of symbolism in war.
- This section teaches about moral bravery.
- **Slide 17** shows the position of the outpost
- **Slide 18** are the sounds of war (from an outpost of the Egyptian border), listen to a few minutes from the film in order to enliven the situation in combat. The film ends with the words “to surrender or not to surrender”
- **Slide 19** will open class discussion - to surrender or not
- **Slide 20** supports the discussion of why to surrender.
- Following several days of hard combat during which there were heavy losses the decision was made to surrender. This decision was made when it became obvious that rescue forces would not arrive.
- **slide 21** bravery of Rav Hillel Unsdorfer – surrender holding the Sefer Torah
- **Slides 22-23** additional photos of Rav Hillel Unsdorfer
- **Slide 24** students will focus also on the general importance of symbols & their significance in war as related to the words of Benjamin Zeev Herzl.
- Soldiers fought for their flags, or in the incidence of Hillel Unsdorfer, for the Sefer Torah (and everything it symbolizes).
- During the surrender in an act of bravery one of the soldiers , Hillel Unsdorfer, who eventually became a Rav, carried the Sefer Torah from the Beit Knesset of the base into captivity.
- **Depending on time & the level of the classes. It's possible to enlarge upon the role of battalion flags during the American Civil War or the significance of Verdun to the French during WWI)**
- **Slide 25** We will end the lesson with conclusions
- **Slide 26** & with the Prayer for the Welfare of IDF Soldiers & the security forces

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YOM KIPPUR WAR:
Individual Heroes - unit 5



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Each soldier is part of a platoon of about 30 people
 Each platoon is part of a company numbering about 90 soldiers.
 Each company is part of a battalion numbering about 270 soldiers
 Each battalion is part of a brigade numbering about 1080 soldiers
 Each brigade is part of a division numbering about 3240 soldiers

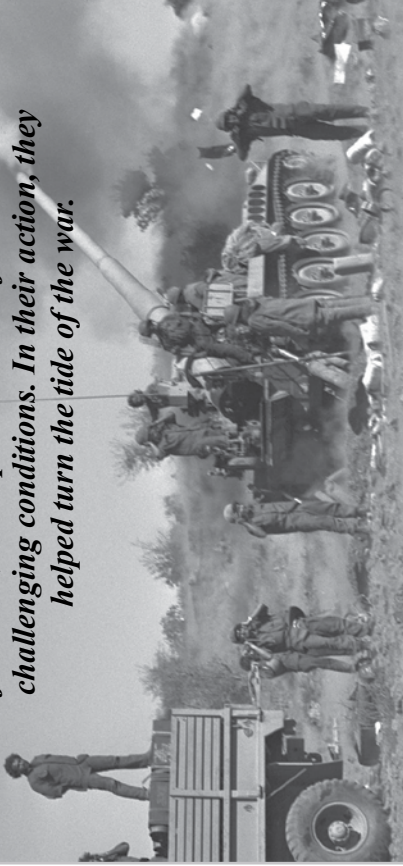
The lone soldier who acts bravely can influence the outcome of the war

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    graph TD
        platoon[platoon  
X 30-35] --> company[company]
        company --> battalion[battalion]
        battalion --> brigade[brigade]
        brigade --> division[division]
    
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This lesson will focus on the bravery and courage of soldiers, who operated under fire and other challenging conditions. In their action, they helped turn the tide of the war.



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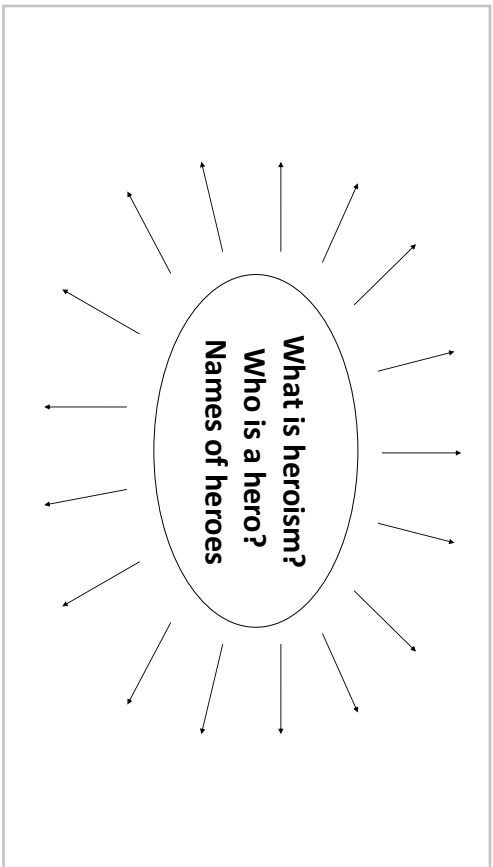
Each division has about 20,000 soldiers

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    graph TD
        division[division] --> SF[Special forces]
        division --> EB[Engineering Battalion]
        division --> AR[Artillery regiment]
        division --> RB[Regional brigade]
        division --> AB[Armored brigade]
        division --> IB[Infantry Brigade]
    
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Heroism

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Valor dictionary definition

1. Power, strength, force, intensity.
"And let not the hero glory in his prowess"
2. Big plots, bold action.
"And he gave up all the words of Asa and all his prowess and all that he had done"

"Heroes are those who faced the fire and returned fire. They are the warriors running in the trenches or standing in the first tank. Heroes are those who were touched by the fire and did not let it win..."

The names of many commanders and soldiers in history are engraved in the rocks of eternity as an example and a model for carrying out the mission. **Some of them took their heroism to their death and for some the silence after the fact emphasized it.**

"There is no warrior in the fire who does not fear it. But there are warriors who will not let the fire paralyze them. Thanks to the sense of responsibility and mission, they will overcome fear and strive to carry out the mission through fire and water" (Avigdor Kahalani - Leadership in the circles of life)

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Ozer Israel bigvura

Every morning we pray the dawn blessings:
"ברוך אתה ה' אלקינו מלך העולם אומר ישראל בברוך"

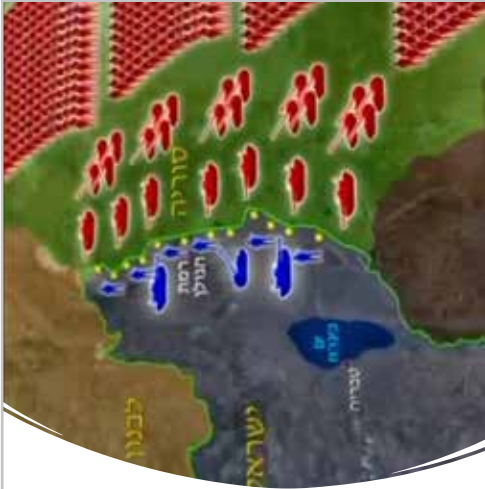
One of the interpretations is that God gave the people of Israel the measure of divine heroism.
Rabbi Kook explains about this blessing: The young people of Israel must be trained for the war because by their physical fitness and courage they strengthen the measure of bravery and resilience in the people of Israel, similar to the soldiers of King David who added strength and bravery to the people of Israel through their courage.

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The heroism of Shmuel Askarov in Ramat Hagolan

Syria	Israel	First day of fighting
Tens of thousands	600	warriors
700	177	tanks
1,000	44	Artillery cans



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During the battles he knew how to overcome moments of crisis and encourage his soldiers. His courage and leadership skills served as a source of strength for his subordinates.

For this act he was awarded the decoration of courage

Medal of Courage Its shape is triangular with crossed swords embracing olive leaves.

It was inspired by the verse:

"עֲבוֹר עוֹר וְרוּשֵׁיךָ לִי"
(Job, 12, 16)



SHMULIK ASKAROV
Battalion Commander
In BARAK brigade



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On the first day of war, with the outbreak of fighting, Major Shmuel Askarov moved at the head of a force of 7 tanks to block the "Kudna" axis in the Golan Heights. Upon arriving at the location, he engaged in a battle with dozens of enemy tanks, until he was wounded and taken to the hospital.

On the third day of the war, he escaped from the hospital while wounded and returned to his unit. He organized a new force of 13 tanks from the remnants of the men in his unit, and again went to battle in the area of Mount Harmomi, where he was seriously wounded.

SHMULIK ASKAROV
Battalion Commander
In BARAK brigade



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At the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, on Saturday October 6, 1973, Y. Tishrei Tashpat Shmulik was at the head of an independent force in the Golan, in front of the main breakout site of the Syrians. Under his command were 7 tanks, of which 4 were immediately damaged. From here, Shmulik will do most of the containment phase on the opening day with only 3 tanks, with hundreds of Syrian armored vehicles in front of him. Shmulik's force blocks and destroys dozens of armored vehicles, with Shmulik's tank alone, together with gunner Yitzhak Hamo, destroying more than 30 tanks, and dozens of other Syrian armored vehicles. He and the two tanks left with him switch positions frequently. The movement and dust they create helps them "play" as if they were a bigger force. 5 hours of exhausting and abrasive fighting have already passed. His tank managed to take 4 hits and miraculously continues to operate. Night falls. Suddenly he encounters a T-62 tank within 50 m of him! He orders the gunner Yitzhak Hamo to fire immediately, but Hamo and the Syrian tank fire almost simultaneously. Both tanks are damaged. The Syrian tank catches fire. Shmulik is thrown from the tank by the force of the impact and lands near him, wounded by shrapnel all over his chest and neck. His brother-in-law, the gunner, helps evacuate him to the evacuation APC. The trip to Nafah lasted nearly two hours, because he had to maneuver to avoid running into the Syrians. Later he was evacuated to the hospital in Safed.

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The injury, which was defined as moderate, was very frightening because some of the fragments were also in the neck. He feared that an incorrect movement of the head or of a fragment could lead to the cutting of the aorta and death.

15

Fourth day of the war - the battles are very difficult. Joining the organizing force straight from Nepal, from Homayoon, Lt. Col. Yossi Ben-Hanan. He receives the command as battalion commander. Yossi is a good friend of Shmulik and orders him to return to the hospital. Shmulik is not going back to the hospital.

Together with Yossi, they join the fighting in the battle in the Bacha valley at its most critical moment.

This was the moment in the battle when the force of Lt. Col. Avigdor Kahalani remained in his position without ammunition. He already wanted to withdraw his force. But Yanish, his commander, assigns a huge human and historical responsibility: "Hold your positions for another 3 minutes!" Indeed, history: at the end of the 3 minutes, the 11-tank force of Yossi Ben-Hanan and Shmulik Askarov arrives, intervenes between Kahalani's tanks at the front of the battle and on the Syrian flank, a move that surprises the Syrians, unsettles them and throws them off balance.

This fateful stage lasted 5 hours. Almost touching each other, the tanks of Shmulik and his good friend Yossi Ben-Hanan are fighting.

5 hours until our observation of the rear of the Syrian force reports: "The Syrians are retreating!" The decisive battle was decided. The north was saved.



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Two days later on the third day of fighting, Askarov escaped from the hospital together with Yossi Eldor and returned to his battalion at the front while still wounded and bandaged.

At this stage, the battles in the south and center of the Golan Heights were very difficult and the Syrian army occupied a large part of the south of the height and reached the Nafqah camp.

Before he left, he was met by the head of the Northern Command, Uri Bar-On, and was ordered to return to the hospital.

Askarov answered him - I am now the commander of the Barak Brigade and I give orders here.



16

At the climax of this battle, which was the turning point of the war in the north, Shmulik Askarov, who was still wounded, received a second and fatal wound: a bullet from an assault rifle or medium machine gun pierced his head, just above his left eye-brow and exited the back of his head and through his helmet. It was reported that Shmulik was killed. He was evacuated to the emergency room and laid between the dead soldiers. His moving leg startled the medic who called a helicopter to take him to the hospital. During the evacuation by helicopter he died and he was revived by the medic. This is how he was held, fighting for his life, until he arrived at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, where he was operated on, and basically re-born. Since then, he marks to himself the date October 9, 1973, 13 Tishrei, Tashpad, in the Battle of the Bacha Valley, as the date of death and rebirth.



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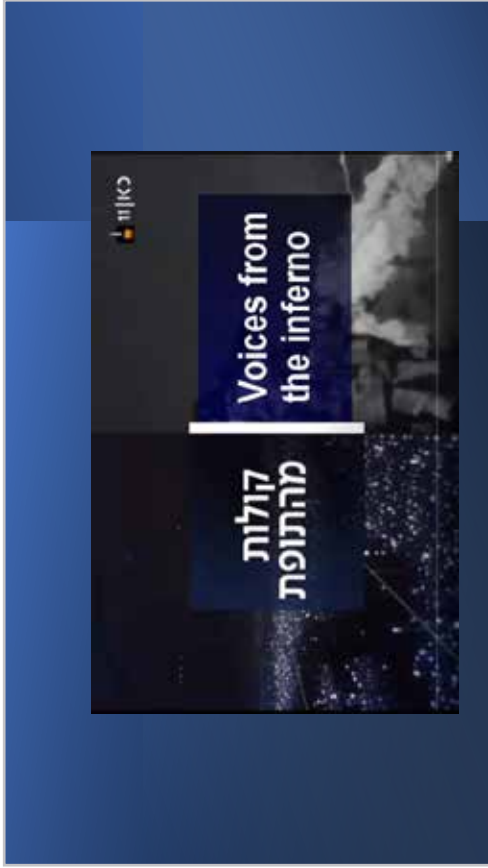


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NOTES:

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37 of the outpost's fighters were captured by the Egyptians. The surrender was recorded on global television networks. The image that burned the most in the Israeli public was of one of the outpost's soldiers, Hillel Onsdorfer, carrying the outposts' Torah book on the way to captivity.

The late Hillel Onsdorfer was a Nahal soldier who fought in the Yom Kippur War at the dock post and was captured with the Torah scroll in his hands.

The dock soldiers were in Egyptian captivity for about five weeks and were returned to Israel as part of a prisoner exchange.

23



How do you feel about this photo?

22



24



The symbolism of surrendering with the Torah book:
 The Torah is a distinct symbol of the Jewish people. Walking with it into captivity, symbolizes that even when the situation is dire, God is with us.

Benjamin Ze'ev Herzl:

"What is the flag? It is nothing but a pole and a rag of cloth stuck to it.

No, sir, a flag is more than that."

"With the flag you lead the people to the place you want,

Even to the Land of the Chosen".

"For that flag they will live and die, only for it alone they will give their souls, if they are educated for it".

NOTES:

Prayer for the peace of the soldiers of the IDF and the security forces

מי ששבר את הרוח
ברבבות ארצות
הוא כר את חילי צבא
האנשי כחות הכפוח.
העומדים על מעמד אדום ונעי אלקינו
מגבול הלבנו ועד מדבר מצרים.
מן הים הפזול עד לבוא הטריבה
לנבל מקום שיהיו.
בצבחה בארץ יובם.
תורה את ארבעת המוקים עליו
קופים קופים קופים
המלך צה וצבחה
ועל נתי ומעלה.
ושלח ברבה והצלחה בכל מעשה ידיו.
ועשרים בקר. ושעה ובקורת גזחון.
ולקיים בקים בתחוב
לעלה אלקים הכול עמכם
לעולם ועד.
וצמור אמן



את חילי צבא הנחה לישראל

conclusions

- Sometimes a collection of small and personal acts of courage change the overall picture
- The value of loyalty and sticking to a goal is of great importance.
- Heroism is the ability to do the maximum, above and beyond, in the given situation
- The role of symbols in the life of the individual and the nation is immeasurable



