



This letter, written by Ed Harris, who is studying in Machon Shlomo in Israel, was received by Alan Richard

Dear Alan,

I've never done this before. I've never written the same letter to 30 different people; that's how many I have on my list. By the time I'm finished, it could grow to a few more. I apologize to those to whom I have not yet written; I apologize to those to whom I am late in responding. I apologize to all of you for the impersonal xeroxed copy but I'm afraid without resorting to this step I wouldn't have been able to reach many of you until I returned to the States in mid-June. The simple fact is that the 12 hour Yeshiva days don't leave much time to write. I sent out a few letters during the war, but I had a difficult time trying to express myself. Now that it's over and I'm feeling a bit more relaxed, I'm finding it much easier.

Physically, I feel great. Tonight, for the first time in months, I went for a run around Har Nof. The air was surprisingly warm, and it seems like Spring has arrived or, at least, is not far behind. (I was told that it snowed yesterday in New York.)

Thank G-d, my learning continues to go well. Each day I'm finding that my ability to understand these difficult Hebrew texts improves. Slowly but surely, my ability to read is also improving. Spiritually, I feel like I've made many steps forward, but living in a religious community makes it a little difficult to judge exactly how far I've come. I suppose, once I get back, it will be easier for me to see where I stand.

It goes without saying, that the big news is the end of the war. Given my situation, it probably doesn't surprise you that I view the entire situation from a religious perspective. I can't express how grateful I am to HaShem (HaShem is Hebrew for "The Name" i.e. G-d) for saving Israel.

As January 15th approached, there was much speculation as to what might happen. For example, one of my rabbis, who has a Political Science background and is very intelligent, told us his worst case scenario: If Iraq attacked, Israel would respond immediately. Because Jordan would not allow them to fly over their air space, Israel would have to bomb Jordan's anti-aircraft military installations. Jordan would attack Israel. For attacking Iraq, Syria would attack Israel, the Palestinians would start a major revolt in the West Bank, which would include a rash of terrorist attacks. At the same time, thousands of Soviet Jews arrive each month with no place to live. Israel faces its worst drought in 70 years. He just kept going and going... Needless to say, I left that class reeling.

While the speculation was taking its toll on me psychologically, war preparations didn't make me feel much better. The Rabbis started giving us lectures on the Jewish perspective of war. They also handed out our gas masks, and showed us how to put them on. We had to buy tape and plastic to seal our rooms. Also plastic buckets and chemicals which would serve as makeshift toilets, because if they used gas, we might not be able to leave our rooms for a long time.

The first attack came in the middle of the night. There were 6 of us in my room, half delirious, scrambling to get our masks on. Due to the adrenaline overflow and our inexpertise at using the masks, most of us pulled the straps too tightly and nearly broke our jaws. After an hour of intense pain, I thought for sure that I'd have to get braces again. Most of the radio reports were in Hebrew, so I had no idea what was going on. When the ann-

ouncers had no new information to report, they played music that sounded like a death march. I suppose they thought it would relax us, but everyone agreed that it was haunting to say the least, evoking that eerie feeling you get when you hear those ambulance sirens in World War II movies.

The explosions were muffled, but strong enough to give our window pane a pretty good shake. We just sat and stared at each other. Some prayed. I tried, but was too numb. I just sat on my bed, shivering and thinking of how I used to be a kid, ride bicycles and trade baseball cards. Now I was seriously contemplating death by Thorax.

The news the next day was bad, but certainly not as bad as it could have been. Many injuries and many buildings destroyed, but no deaths. A large percentage of the injuries were from people who had injected themselves with the gas antidote which came with the gas mask kit. It wasn't only because people were scared, but because we were all instructed to soak a towel with ammonia and put it against the bottom of the door. The ammonia was so strong that it made our eyes water, even with the gas masks on. This is one of the symptoms of a gas attack. Put it all together, and you can see how some people really thought they were being gassed to death.

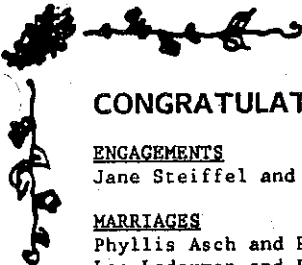
As the war progressed and the Scuds continued * fall, we began to hear reports of amazing miracles. I think the clearest example of how G-d was protecting Israel, was in the fact that of the 39 missiles that landed, only 1 person died directly due to the blast of a Scud. Several elderly people died of heart attacks, and a few suffocated by not using their masks properly (over a thousand were injured), but in terms of actual, direct impact, only one person died. And to those who claimed that Scuds weren't lethal weapons, the tragic deaths of 28 American soldiers was sobering proof as to just how deadly they could be.

I'm sure you all saw the picture of the guy who was buried up to his head in large slabs of concrete -- how could he have survived? There were reports of "near misses", Scuds that "just happened" to land in the middle of the street, instead of falling on hundreds of apartments a little to the left or to the right. One Scud landed on an empty bomb shelter, which were kind of hard to find during war. I heard that a library in Tel Aviv was completely demolished. All that remained standing was a stack of religious books. The official that reported this news (himself very anti-religious) could not hold back his own dismay as to how only the rows of religious books survived. One of the most amazing miracles is the fact that less than 100 allied soldiers died. A week before the ground war "Newsweek" predicted up to 20,000 casualties. How could the experts have been so wrong?

When I sit back and think of what could have been I am overwhelmed with gratitude to Hashem for saving Israel and leading the American Army to victory. I am also grateful for the chance to be here, learning in Yeshiva, when such open miracles are taking place. I pray that they continue.

Hope to see you in June.

Ed



CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Jane Steiffel and David Sperling

MARRIAGES

Phyllis Asch and Rabbi Edgar Gross
 Lea Lederman and Frank Dickstein
 Debbie Spear and Jonathan Fischer
 Viola Pirie and Sandy Lechner
 Dr. Ilene Reeman and Joshua Wurzburger

BIRTHS

Robin and Steve Apple, on the birth of a boy, Jeremy Ryan
 Kaila and Barry Friedman, on the birth of a girl, Chanah
 Susan and David Glassberg, on the birth of a boy, Daniel Simon
 Debbie and John Logue, on the birth of a boy
 Nancy and Richard Schneyer, on the birth of a girl, Rebecca Jennie
 Jan and Roger Wallach, on the birth of a boy, Aron Daniel
 Sandy and Marc Weiner, on the birth of a boy, Bezalel Chaim (Max)

TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM to live and/or study in Israel
 Mitchell Barnett

REFUAH SHELEMA

Edward Epstein
 Ariel Chaim Stronberg



 * **Beginners Shabbat Luncheons** *
 * **June 1, July 6, Aug 3, Sept 7** *
 * **cost \$15** *
 * **Beginners Schmooze 8:15 PM** *
 * **June 3** *

 * **Beginners Friday Night Service** *
 * **1st & 3rd Friday of each month** *
 * **Rabbi Joseph Schwarz officiating** *
 * **Dinners** *
 * **3rd Shabbat of month** *
 * **Home Hospitality** *
 * **1st Shabbat of month** *

 * **HOLIDAY SERVICES** *
 * **Rosh Hashana** *
 * **Sun evening, Sept 8, 7:10 PM** *
 * **Mon morning, Sept 9, 9:00 AM** *
 * **Mon evening, Sept 9, 7:10 PM** *
 * **Tue morning, Sept 10, 9:00 AM** *
 * **Yom Kippur** *
 * **Kol Nidre, Tue, Sept 17, 6:55 PM** *
 * **Yom Kippur, Wed, Sept 18, 9:00 AM** *

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Shabbat, May 18th (SAMIDBAR)
 Shabbat morning services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:20 followed by the Talmud class at.....7:05 p.m.
 Bible Class.....8:10 p.m.
 Daf Yomi.....8:15 p.m.
 Mincha.....7:10 p.m.
 Midnight Bible Classes.....11:20 p.m.

Sunday, May 19th
 Hashkoma Minyan.....4:55 p.m.
 Main Minyan.....8:45 p.m.
 Daf Yomi.....7:00 p.m.
 Kindla Yom Tov candles not before.....8:52 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Yom Tov.....8:00 p.m.

Monday, May 20th
 Yom Tov morning services including yiskor.....8:00 & 8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:10 followed by the Talmud class at.....6:45 p.m.
 Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishet.....7:45 p.m.
 Ma'lat Nachay.....

Friday, May 24th
 Kindla Shabbat candles.....7:56 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:35 & 8:05 p.m.

Shabbat May 25th (NASO)
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:25 followed by the Talmud class at.....7:10 p.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes.....6:25 p.m.
 Mincha.....8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:10 p.m.

Monday, May 27th Memorial day
 Daily morning services.....7:10 & 8:30 a.m.

Friday, May 31st
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:02 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:40 & 8:10 p.m.

Shabbat, June 1st (DEHAALOTZCHA)
 Shabbat Morning services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:10 followed by the Talmud class at.....7:15 p.m.
 Bible Class.....7:00 p.m.
 Mincha.....8:00 p.m.
 Daily Mincha and Maariv.....8:15 p.m.

Friday, June 7th
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:07 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat, June 8th (SHELACH LECHA)
 Shabbat Morning services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:15 followed by the Talmud class at.....7:10 p.m.
 Bible Class.....7:05 p.m.
 Mincha.....8:05 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:20 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday
 June 12 & 13
 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz
 Morning Services.....7 & 7:40 p.m.

Friday, June 14th
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:10 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat June 15th Korach
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:40 followed by the Talmud class at.....7:25 p.m.
 Bible Class.....7:10 p.m.
 Mincha.....8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:20 p.m.

Friday, June 21
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:12 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat June 22 (RUKKAT)
 Rosh Chodesh Tamuz
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:40 followed by the Talmud class at.....7:25 p.m.
 Bible Class.....7:10 p.m.
 Mincha.....8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:20 p.m.

Friday, June 28
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:13 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:45 p.m. & 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat June 29 BALAK
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi at 6:40 p.m. followed by the Talmud class at 7:25 p.m.
 Bible Class.....7:10 p.m.

Mincha.....8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:20 p.m.

Sunday, June 30
 Fast of Tamuz
 Fast begins.....4:15 a.m.
 Morning services.....7 & 8:30 a.m.
 Mincha.....8:10 p.m.
 Fast concludes.....9:02 p.m.

Friday, July 5
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:12 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat, July 6 (PINCHAS)
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes.....7:10 p.m.
 Mincha.....8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:20 p.m.

Friday July 12
 Rosh Chodesh Av
 Morning Services.....7 & 7:40 a.m.
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:09 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:45 & 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat, July 13 (MAATOT/HASEI)
 Hashkoma minyan.....7:45 a.m.
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes.....7:10 p.m.
 Mincha.....8:10 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:20 p.m.

Friday, July 19
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:05 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:45 & 8:15 p.m.

Shabbat July 20 DEVORIM SHABBAT HAZON
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi.....8:00 a.m.
 Mincha.....5:30 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:10 p.m.
 Eve of Tisha B'Av
 Fast begins.....8:23 p.m.

Sunday July 21
 Tisha B'Av
 Morning Services.....7 & 8:30 a.m.

Mincha.....7:55 p.m.
 Fast concludes.....8:53 p.m.

Friday, July 26
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....8:00 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:40 & 8:10 p.m.

Shabbat July 27 (VAETCHANAN NACHAMU)
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes.....7:00 p.m.

Mincha.....8:00 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....8:05 p.m.

Friday, August 2
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....7:53 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:35 & 8:05 p.m.

Shabbat August 3 EKEV
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes.....7:10 p.m.
 Mincha.....7:50 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....7:55 p.m.

Friday, August 9
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....7:44 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....6:30 & 7:55 p.m.
 Last week of early Mincha

Shabbat August 10 REEH
 Rosh Chodesh Elul
 Hashkoma Minyan.....7:45 a.m.
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes.....7:10 p.m.
 Mincha.....7:45 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....7:50 p.m.

Sunday, August 11
 Rosh Chodesh Elul
 Morning services.....7 & 8:30 a.m.

Friday, August 16
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....7:35 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:45 p.m.

Shabbat August 17 SHOPTIM
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes.....6:35 p.m.
 Mincha.....7:35 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....7:40 p.m.

Friday, August 23
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....7:25 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:35 p.m.

Shabbat August 24 KITZUR
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Daf Yomi and Bible Classes.....6:25 p.m.
 Mincha.....7:25 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 30
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....7:14 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:25 p.m.

Shabbat August 31 KI TAVO
 Shabbat Morning Services.....8:45 a.m.
 Talmud and Bible Classes.....6:15 p.m.
 Mincha.....7:15 p.m.
 Daily Mincha Maariv.....7:15 p.m.
 Early Selichot.....10:15 p.m.
 Rabbi will speak.....11:30 p.m.
 Selichot.....12:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 1
 Morning Services.....7:15 & 8:30 a.m.

Monday, September 2
 Morning Services.....6:45 & 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday - Friday September 3-6
 morning services.....6:45 & 7:30 a.m.

Friday September 6
 Kindla Shabbat Candles.....7:03 p.m.
 Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat.....7:15 p.m.