

## TIMELINE: Hashomer

**1904** Israel Shochat, a recent immigrant from Bessarabia, tours Palestine. He is shocked to discover that Jews rely on Arab protection.

**1907** On September 9, Shochat creates Bar-Giora, an organization whose purpose is to reestablish Jewish defense in the Land of Israel.

**1907** Bar-Giora establishes its home base in Sejera, a settlement in the Lower Galilee.

**1908** The Ottoman Sultan is ousted as the Young Turks take control. This leads to a rise in Arab nationalist sentiments, which increases anti-Zionist feeling.

**1909** On April 12, Shochat calls a meeting in the village of Mes'cha in the Lower Galilee where he establishes a larger organization to deal with the growing security issues. It's called Hashomer (The Watchman). Hashomer grows quickly.

**1910** Hashomer expands into the Shomron when it takes over security for the town of Hadera.

**1911** Starting that year, a number of Hashomer's members are killed by Arabs, sparking a crisis within the organization that almost leads to a split.

**1913** Hashomer reaches its peak.

**1914** With the outbreak of World War I, the Turks exile Hashomer's leader Israel Shochat.

**1919** Shochat returns and hopes to renew Hashomer. But the general attitude is that the group is no longer needed and the British will provide security.