

How it all began...

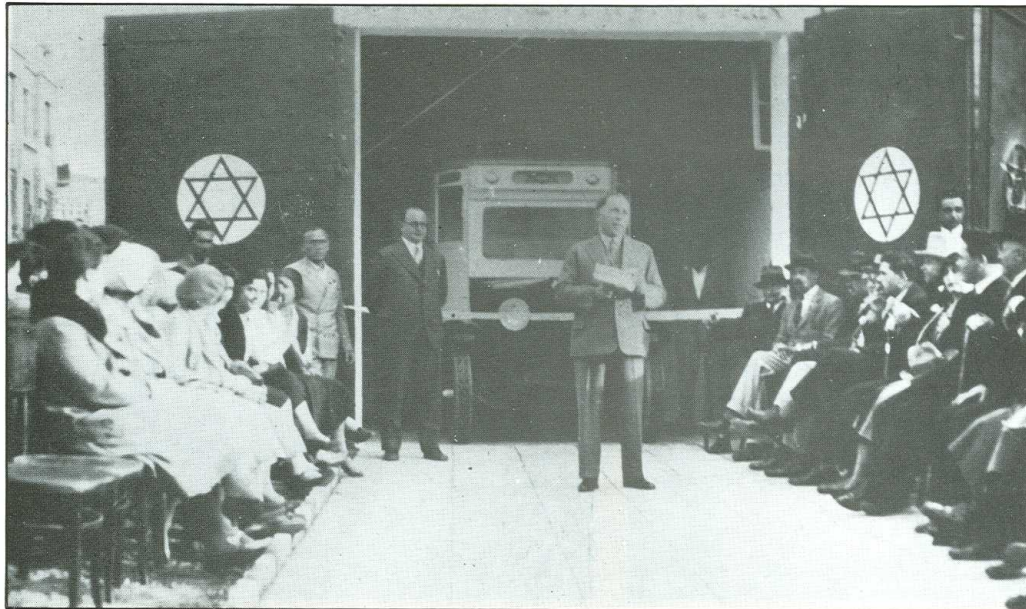
In 1918, the last year of the First World War, more than 1,500 young Jewish men and women in Palestine (the country's Jewish population was then about 60,000) enlisted in an all-Jewish volunteer fighting unit — the Jewish Legion. Five hundred of the volunteers were young women and girls who enrolled in an auxiliary service of the Legion to provide medical care for the wounded soldiers. Modelled on the Red Cross, the service was given the name *Magen David Adom*. A selected number of its members served in military hospitals, and their emblem, the Red Shield of David, was recognized by the British Military Government. Shortly after the end of the War, the service was disbanded.

It is in 1930 that Magen David Adom's continuous history commences. The country, by then under British Mandate, had no First Aid services and no ambulance services. To fill the urgent need, seven public-spirited men established a First Aid Society bearing the name Magen David Adom. The 'headquarters building' was a small store in the center of Tel Aviv. MDA's one and only ambulance answered all calls.



Magen David Adom recruitment poster in World War 1

Magen David Adom's first ambulance is dedicated in Tel Aviv in 1931



...and Today



A network of modern and functional MDA First Aid Stations spans the country today.

Above, left: The ambulance port of the MDA Station in Kiryat Shmone, in northern Galilee.

Above, right: The new MDA Station in Kiryat Tivon

Photo at right: The MDA First Aid Station at Jerusalem's Western Wall, a site visited by hundreds of thousands of worshippers and tourists



Below: The MDA Central First Aid Station in Jerusalem.

In foreground, the helicopter landing pad for the rapid evacuation of injured and wounded

