

HERE'S my STORY

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SECURITY CLEARANCE OF ANOTHER KIND

RABBI AVRAHAM ZELIG GOLD

The story I am about to tell was related to me by my grandfather — David Eli Rosengard. It is an amazing story which my grandfather told many times, and my family remembers it as vividly as I do.

My grandfather was a doctor, who held the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. armed forces. Shortly after the Korean War broke out in 1950, he was ordered to the South Pacific, where American soldiers were falling ill from a mysterious stomach ailment. (I do not recall the location exactly, but I do know that it was on an island in the South Pacific, possibly Guam, but I am not sure.)

As my grandfather related the story, the situation was quite serious and it went on for a considerable period of time, so there was very real concern about what was happening to these soldiers.

Before going over to investigate, my grandfather decided to get a blessing from the Lubavitcher Rebbe. As a physician living and practicing in Boston, he had cared for the family of Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky — who later became the Rebbe's secretary — and it was Rabbi Krinsky who arranged the audience for him.

When my grandfather came into the Rebbe's office, the Rebbe — who had previously worked



Dr. David Rosengard

as an electrical engineer at the Brooklyn Navy Yard — took out a military map of the region where the soldiers were falling ill. And he told my grandfather that right there secret nuclear testing was being done. It was likely that the soldiers were consuming shellfish (which are filter-feeders) and, as a result, were getting sick from ingesting toxins that were bioproducts of the testing.

The Rebbe then instructed my father to go to the beach after a high tide and conduct tests — and there he would find evidence of what was causing the mysterious illness. The Rebbe was

continued on reverse



**EVENTS. IDEAS.
PERSONALITIES.**

Marking 70 years from the anniversary of the Rebbe's leadership, each week, JEM will be focusing on one event, idea or personality in the Rebbe's life.



continued from reverse

very precise in his instructions, which amazed my grandfather.

But when my grandfather arrived at the site, he did not immediately do what the Rebbe advised. A week or two passed with the health situation among the soldiers not improving, and then my grandfather recalled what the Rebbe had told him: "Go to this location and you will have your answer."

He arranged for a test of samples taken of the ocean water and also of the various types of mollusks and crustaceans found in it. The test proved that the Rebbe had been absolutely right — it clearly identified the toxin that was making the soldiers ill.

Once the problem was solved, my grandfather decided to report all this to his commanding officer, who found it hard to accept what my father was telling him — that secret nuclear testing was causing the problem. He was flabbergasted by this information and just couldn't acknowledge that such a thing was possible.

But a week or so later, a newspaper cover-story confirmed exactly what the Rebbe had told my grandfather about the secret nuclear testing. And what I find fascinating is that the top military brass of the US armed forces seemed not to know what was going on in that region, but the Rebbe did.

My grandfather's story clearly proves that the Rebbe had information that was even higher than top secret. There's something called

"classified" and there's something called "top secret" to which very few people in the government have access. But the Rebbe went beyond that. I firmly believe that the Rebbe's Torah knowledge gave him access to spiritual channels that laid bare all those secrets, so that he could tell the military what was going on even when they did not know.

In conclusion, I have to say I am sorry that I have not done justice to this story. My grandfather often spoke about what had happened, describing everything in great detail. We used to have a VHS tape of him speaking about it for hours at a Chabad House and, before it was lost, I saw it several times. I also heard my grandfather relate this story many times before he passed away in 2009. And he always gave credit to the Rebbe for saving many lives.

Rabbi Avraham Zelig Gold is a shochet who resides in the Boro Park section of Brooklyn, New York. He was interviewed in July of 2018.

This week in....

לע"נ ר' ישראל יעקב וזוגתו מרת קריינא ע"ה לאקשין

> **5722 - 1962**, at a *farbrengen* commemorating the Alter Rebbe's birthday, the Rebbe spoke about an important approaching milestone: 150 years since the passing of the Alter Rebbe. In order to connect to the Alter Rebbe on this special occasion, the Rebbe suggested that the books of the Alter Rebbe, the Tanya and Shulchan Aruch, be studied in their entirety by the community, with each individual volunteering to study one portion of each book by heart. The Rebbe also suggested to give additional money to charities dedicated to furthering the Alter Rebbe's teachings during the four months leading up to the *yahrzeit*.¹ 18 Elul

1. Torat Menachem vol. 34 page 258

MY ENCOUNTER
with the **REBBE**

While we have done our utmost to authenticate these stories, they reflect the listener's recollection and interpretation of the Rebbe's words.

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Elul 20, 5774

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