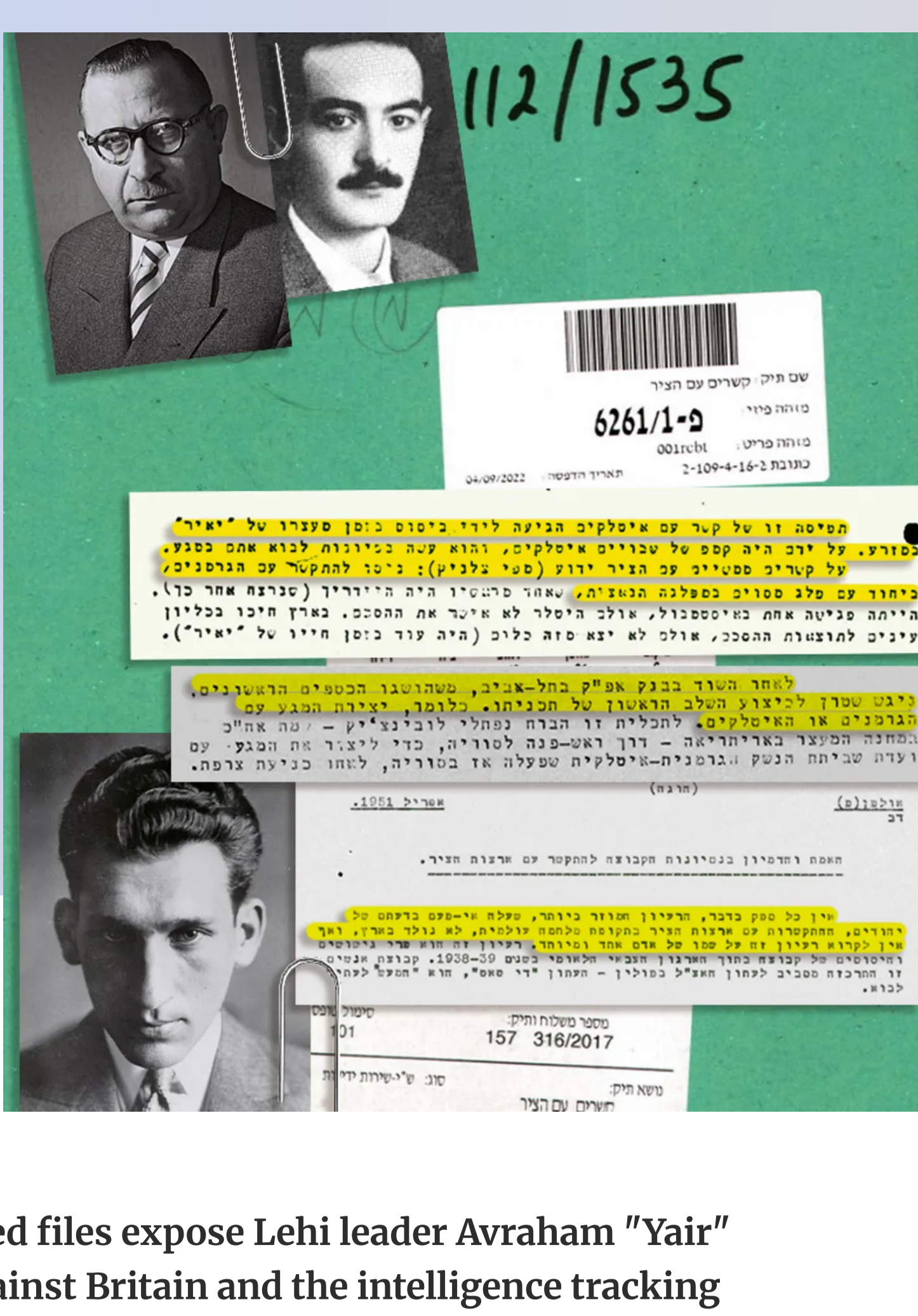


Declassified Files Expose Jewish Pre-state Underground Militia's Contacts With Nazi Germany



Top, from left to right: Natan Yellin-Mor, Naftali Lubenchik. Bottom: Avraham "Yair" Stern, leader of Lehi, and the newly declassified files. Credit: The State Archives, Ishtar online, David Eider / The National Library. Photo editing: Masha Zur Gluzman

Stern's Nazi gamble: newly declassified files expose Lehi leader Avraham "Yair" Stern's strategy to enlist Germany against Britain and the intelligence tracking that followed

By Ofer Aderet

In May 1941, Elyahu Golomb, founder and de facto commander of the Haganah, the pre-independence army of the Jews in then-British Mandatory Palestine, spoke in a small forum: "I have information... about suspicion regarding a group of Jews who have connections with the enemy," he said. At the time, during World War II, the enemy

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7 Stanley Heller · 03:38

treacherous actions of Stern, Shamir and the rest of this crew who wanted to ally with the greatest enemy of Jews. Three years after Kristalnacht this deluded band believed the British were the worst enemies of Jews (Britain which had taken in 10,000 Jewish children in the Kindertransport).

Let's be plain. The headline blandly talks about "contacts". Stern sent emissaries to offer Hitler Jewish aid, a military force to fight the Allies. Imagine if Stern had succeeded attracting thousands of recruits into a Nazi aligned military force. Perhaps his army could have helped Rommel, tipping the balance during some crucial North African battle. If the Nazi armies entered Jerusalem they'd surely be grateful to the Stern and the Jews of the Yishuv (sarcasm).

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Stanley Heller → Stanley Heller · 03:40

And let's not pretty up his motives. The man was a fascist. He wanted to be king of Israel, an Israel organized on a totalitarian basis. In September 1940 Mussolini's aircraft bombed Tel Aviv and killed over 100 people. Rather than being horrified Stern was thrilled. It "proved" to him that the fascists would win the war.

He was an ignominious in terms of German/Nazi politics. The article writes that Stern in 1941 turned to appeal to the supposed Nazi "school of thought, [that] supported strengthening the Jewish settlement." Absurd. The wing that had flirted with Zionism and a Jewish state building (von Mildenstein) had been defeated in favor of the openly murderous Reinhard Heydrich wing as early as 1936.

For a follow up story why not have a picture of the 1978 Israeli stamp honoring would be Nazi quisling Avraham Stern with a story about how such a disgusting stamp could have been issued by a "Jewish state."

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Stanley Heller → Stanley Heller · 16:03

By accident I left out the first words in my analysis of the article above. I left out, "This piece while factual is rather bloodless in its inability to condemn the ravings and" treacherous actions of Stern, Shamir and the rest of this crew who wanted to ally with the greatest enemy of Jews. etc. etc.

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Robert RttS → Stanley Heller · 20:49

You seem to have missed the point entirely. Lehi saw an opportunity for collaboration with Nazi Germany based on a shared hatred of Diaspora Jews and a shared goal of eliminating them. They were pursuing Herzl's original vision of Zionism allied with the anti-semitic countries, who would be Zionism's "best friends."

"And let's not pretty up his motives. The man was a fascist. He wanted to be king of Israel, an Israel organized on a totalitarian basis."

A man ahead of his time. Imagine how happy and proud he would be to see the Israel of 2026 striding swiftly towards the realization of his vision.

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6 Mhwoik · 15.04.2026 | 19:30

As has come to our attention these days more and more, Zionism was not the only political force among Jews in prewar Poland and in Eastern Europe. Many factions opposed it, dominant among them, the Bund. As history has shown us, Zionism did save many Jews yet what might have transpired if Jews had united, somehow formed an effective guerilla army to fight the Nazis? We will never know.

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5 Ben Alofs · 15.04.2026 | 15:02

It was the pioneering Lenni Brenner who in 1983 exposed the attempts undertaken by the Zionist movement to collaborate with the Nazis and the Italian Fascists in the 1930s and later attempts by Stern and his associates to seek an alliance with the Nazis against the British.

See "Zionism in the Age of the Dictators. A reappraisal" (1983) and "51 Documents. Zionist collaboration with the Nazis" (2002).

This article concentrates on the attempts by Stern to seek an alliance with the Third Reich. But mainstream Zionism broke the worldwide Jewish boycott against the Nazi State in the 1930s by signing the Ha'avara Agreement. The Nazis approved of the Zionist attempts to create a Jewish (supremacist) state.

There is a direct historic link between this and the present Judeo-Nazification of the State of Israel. For a deeper understanding of this Tony Greenstein's magnum opus "Zionism During The Holocaust: the Weaponisation of Memory in the Service of State and Nation" (2022) is essential reading.

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4 Unpleasant truth · 15.04.2026 | 00:35

The weakness of the article is not that it says too much, but rather that it does not push certain implications far enough. It could have been more explicit about the hierarchy of the evidence, about the distinction between tactic, ideology, and retrospective justification, and about the work of memorial rehabilitation from which some Lehi figures benefited after the creation of the state. It could also have sharpened its analysis of the language of "rescue," since that language, as it appears in the file, often seems to serve as a cover for a logic of instrumentalizing European Jews in the service of a political-territorial project.

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3 Brendan Ryan · 14.04.2026 | 20:34

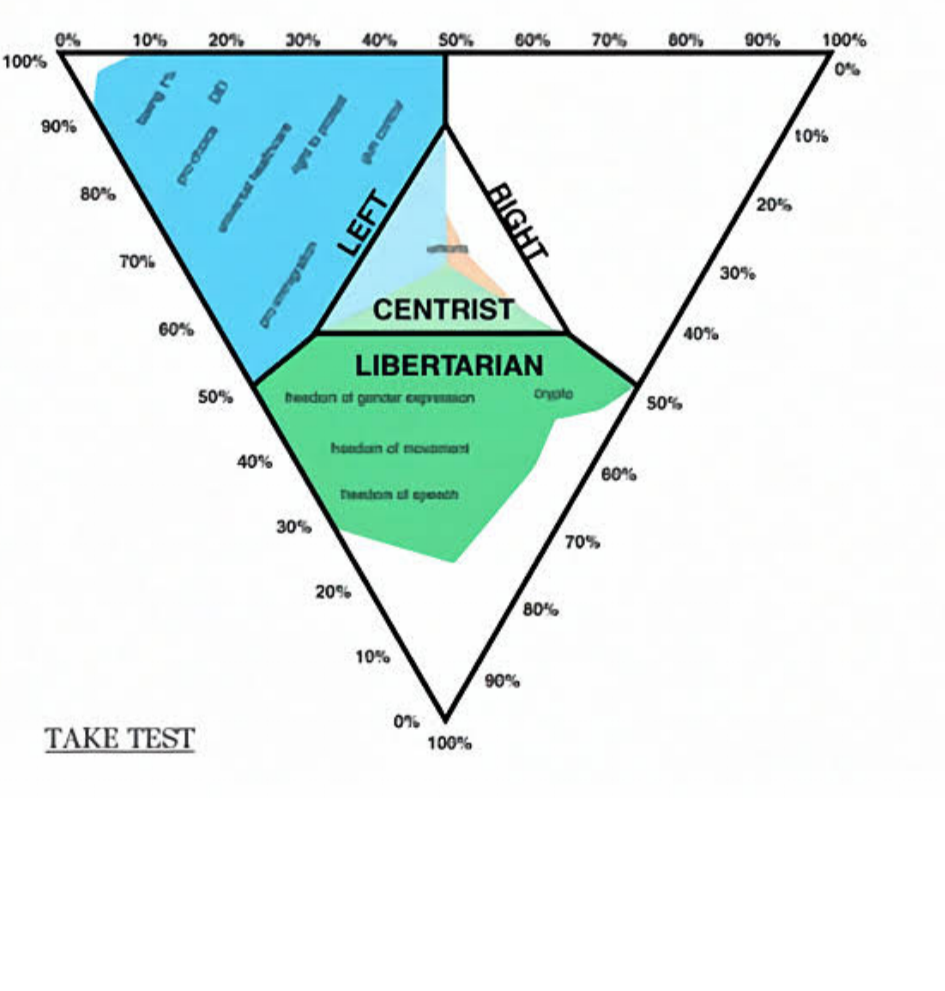
Didn't Ken Livingston, former UK Labour MP, suggest something like this had happened and get suspended by the UK Labour Party because of it?

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DJ → Brendan Ryan · 15.04.2026 | 00:45

Times of Israel back in 2016 has an article "Top historians take down Ken Livingstone's claim that 'Hitler supported Zionism'". His comments weren't that controversial and just used as a vehicle to smear him. Doing so helped remove a Corbyn ally. Removing Corbyn using a later smear campaign allowed Keir Starmer to become Labour leader. When leaders on both sides of the political divide support the same ideology, it doesn't matter who becomes PM.

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2 Moritz · 14.04.2026 | 15:05

So another evidence that nazism and nazism know no religious boundaries

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1 DJ · 14.04.2026 | 09:59

How much of the ideology that "Britain helped people" and "Britain is a traitor" remains until today when Amalekites are still invoked as an enemy? How would revenge for this perceived historic injustice be perpetrated when bombing isn't practical and UK support is beneficial? In the UK we now have a Parliament stacked with Zionists who cooperate on Israeli matters while they disagree on domestic policy and destroy the nation. Some might be getting satisfaction from this 'revenge' whether it is by accident or design.

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