



A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Jonathan Roth



Though *Pesach* break was lots of fun, it's great to be back in *yeshiva* again to begin the spring semester. We began the semester with a couple of trips. Our first trip, this past Sunday, was to *Gush Etzion*.

Our first stop was *Efrat* where Rav Binny, our *Rosh Yeshiva*, resides. He showed us where he did reserve duty for the army and was caught up in a firefight with Arab terrorists who were firing from an Arab school building! There wasn't much for Rav Binny or his unit to do lest they accidentally kill a few Arab children. Although the situation was looking grim, eventually sharp shooters came and saved the day

We then went to *Kfar Etzion* where we watched a video about the development of the area. There were several attempts to settle this mountainous land. However each time they tried, they would get attacked by Arabs. The Arabs would shoot at them and destroy their convoy trucks that brought them supplies. The first few attempts to establish the settlement ended with the settlers abandoning it. However on the third attempt to settle the land, the settlers fought valiantly against the many Arabs surrounding them. For several years four settlements were held by the Jews, who managed to hold the Arabs off for a while, but they were eventually defeated, on the day before the State was declared. Two hundred fifty out of two hundred fifty four settlers were murdered. The great miracle of this settlement is that although the settlers were defeated, many attribute the fact that we have a Jewish Jerusalem today to those brave fighters in *Gush Etzion*.

Although many Arabs surround the *Gush Etzion* region today, it remains a thriving Jewish settlement. The region is a beautiful area with much Torah learning done at the constantly growing *Gush yeshiva*.