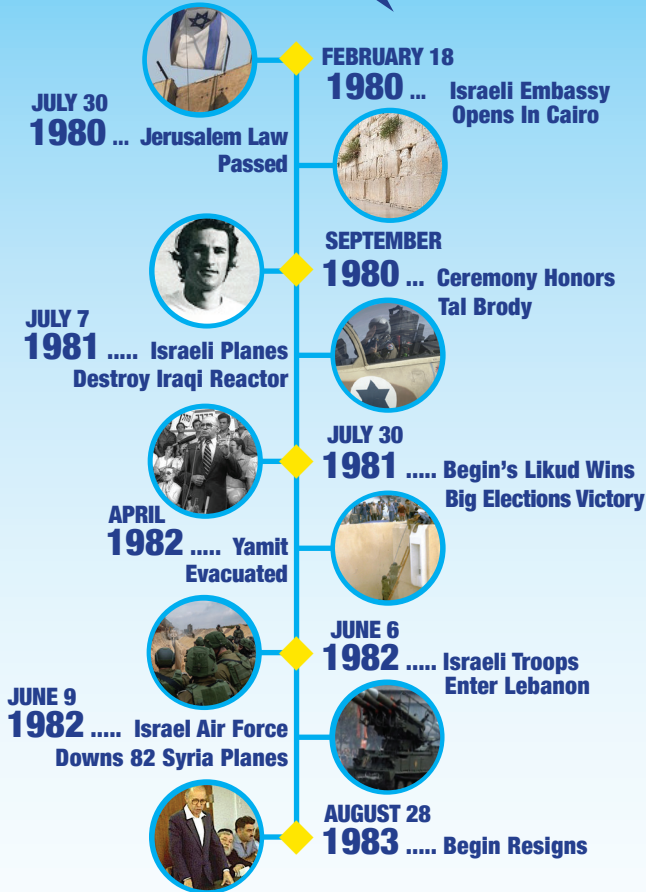


HISTORY OF ISRAEL

[THE EARLY 80s: FIRST LEBANON WAR]

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there was a gap in radar coverage. The aircraft flew low over the Iraqi desert to avoid being discovered on radar. As they neared the plant, the F-16s climbed to 6,900 feet and began a dive at the plant.



At 3,600 feet, the planes released their Mark-84 bombs. Eight of the sixteen weapons hit their target, and the plant was effectively destroyed. The F-16 pilots were: Ze'ev Raz, Amos Yadlin, Dobbi Yaffe, Hagai Katz, Amir Nachumi, Itach Spector, Relik Shafir, and Ilan Ramon. The youngest, Ilan Ramon went on to become Israel's first astronaut, who was tragically killed in the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster.

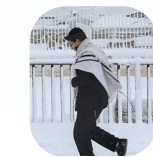
During this period, there were increased attacks on Israeli settlements in the North, originating from PLO bases in Lebanon. In response, the Israeli government decided it needed to take decisive action against the PLO in Lebanon. On June 6, 1982, Israel launched a massive assault against the PLO in southern Lebanon. That attack led to a short but decisive confrontation with Syria, in which Syria lost 81 planes and all of its anti-aircraft defenses.



On February 18, 1980, Israel opened its embassy in Cairo. Israel had reached a peace agreement with Egypt, one that came at the cost of a total pullout from Sinai, including the town of Yamit. However, peace with Egypt did not bring Israel peace with its other neighbors.

One of Israel's most significant concerns was Iraq's construction of a nuclear reactor capable of producing an atomic bomb. After failing to halt the Iraqi project through diplomatic means, the Israeli government decided it had no choice but to destroy the nuclear plant.

On June 7, 1981, Israeli F-15 and F-16 planes took off headed to Iraq. The F-15s were used to cover the flight, while the F-16s carried fuel. The Israeli planes flew over parts of Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and entered Iraq from the Saudi border, where



1980
Huge Snowstorm
in Jerusalem and
Galilee (March)



1981
Zubin Mehta
Becomes Director of
Israeli Philharmonic



1981
First Worldwide
Gathering of
Holocaust Survivors



1983
Simon & Garfunkel
Perform in Israel