

Philipp was born 7 June 1912 in Edmonton, Middlesex. He was the eldest son of Albert Montefiore Hyamson OBE and Marie Rose nee Lavey. His younger siblings were Theodore, Vivien and Miriam.

Philipp's father Albert was a British civil servant and historian who served as chief immigration officer in the British Mandate of Palestine from 1921 to 1934. Albert Hyamson was born in London and educated at Swansea Grammar School and Beaufort College, St Leonards. He entered the Civil Service in 1895, where he initially worked at the Post Office. During the First World War, Hyamson was one of the most active Zionist writers in the UK. His work had been published by the Anglo-Zionist lobby group, the British Palestine Committee, the Zionist leadership in London and the British press. Lloyd George even claimed that one of Hyamson's articles in the *New Statesman* had stimulated his interest in Zionism.

In April 1917, Hyamson was made the editor of *The Zionist Review* and in October of that year Ze'ev Jabotinsky proposed a Jewish Bureau for the UK government's Department of Information, however as Jabotinsky was preoccupied with organising the Jewish Legion, the role fell to Hyamson. His work at the Bureau in December 1917 involved distributing news items that illustrated the British government's support for Zionism and the growing support for Zionism among the world's Jews. At the same time, Hyamson became a senior member of a new committee created by the London Zionist Federation designed to publicise the Zionist message.

Sir Herbert Samuel, the British High Commissioner of Palestine, made Hyamson Commissioner for Migration of the British Mandate for Palestine in 1921 which put him in charge of the Palestinian Administration's immigration department. His attempts to administer British immigration quotas earned him a bad reputation and he was known as a 'Jewish anti-semiter'. He worked late into the night on immigration applications, deciding many of them personally.

In the summer of 1926 Hyamson went on a tour of centres of Jewish population in Eastern Europe to investigate the conditions of the countries sending the largest numbers of immigrants to Palestine. In 1928, he published a travel guide, *Palestine Old and New*, which The Times described as "the work of a Zionist but one who is a born traveller, with an eye for scenery and a taste for romance."

Hyamson was made an OBE in the Birthday Honours list of 1931. The Mandate's Department of Immigration and Travel was reorganised in 1934 due to the increasing pressure of immigration from Germany. According to Edwin Samuel, Hyamson's insistence on doing as much work as possible himself had led to an application backlog of nine months. Hyamson returned to England in 1934.

In 1942 Hyamson published *Palestine: A Policy*, his work outlining his case against political Zionism and for a 'spiritual Zionism'. He was one of the original members of The Jewish Fellowship, founded on 7 November 1944, to campaign against (political) Zionism from a Jewish perspective.

In April 1945, Hyamson was one of three Jews (the others being Jewish Fellowship members Emile Marmorstein and Rabbi Dr Israel Mattuck), and three Christians (Col. Newcombe, Arab specialist Nevill Barbour and Ralph Beaumont MP) as well as three Arabs to draw up 'A Constitution for Palestine.' This was, according to Newcombe, a 'logical and moderate plea written in a matter of fact and convincing way' that attempted to show a non-Zionist solution to the Palestine problem composed by Christians, Jews and Muslims. The document broadly reiterated the Hyamson-Newcombe proposal, where an independent Palestinian state would be characterised by control of their own municipal authorities. However, the document did not refer to, or support, the more contentious clauses of the MacDonald White Paper of 1939, specifically clause 10(6) which called for an independent Palestinian state, and clause 10(7) which gave Arabs control over immigration. Although Hyamson and his Jewish colleagues were in agreement with the White Paper, these clauses were omitted so the Constitution would appeal to more Jews.

Wikipedia



Passport issued by Hyamson in 1929

Courtesy ourpassports.com

Theodore

Philipp's brother Theodore predeceased him on 15 February 1942. Theodore was a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, 45 Army Troops Company serving in the Far East.

After school he joined Metro-Vickers Company as a school apprentice in January 1934 and became a college apprentice in August 1938. On completion of his apprenticeship he joined the staff of the N. Transformer Department. He joined the Royal Engineers in November 1939 and was posted to Singapore. The Japanese over ran the island where captured wounded soldiers were killed where they lay. Many who were injured but captured were also murdered. It is thought that Theodore was one of those who were killed by the advancing Japanese army.

Philipp

Philipp attended St George's school in Jerusalem from the age of nine until he was twelve when the family returned from Palestine. He then attended Perse School in Cambridge, followed by university graduating with B.Sc. with Honours. He worked for Imperial Chemical Industries before the war and the 1939 Register shows that Philipp was living in Bristol working as an accountancy clerk.

Philipp was killed in a V1 attack on London and is buried at Golders Green Jewish Cemetery. He was 32 years old.