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**ERETZ ISRAEL
BULLETIN 127**

**WORLD ALLIANCE FOR THE CORRECTION
OF THE SIN OF THE SPIES**

**“LIVING IN ERETZ ISRAEL IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ALL THE
MITZVOT OF THE TORAH” (SIFRE, PARASHAT REE)**

LEARN THE LESSON AND DO NOT FOLLOW ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SPIES

**IN ADDITION TO BEING OUR NATION'S HOLIEST TZADDIK
AND TALMID CHACHAM, MOSHE RABENU WAS THE
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI ARMY.**

Out of his exalted Kedusha, he had to leave his wife and move his tent outside the camp of the people, yet he led the nation in war. (Joshua, 12:6) Rashi tells us that in the war with Amalek, Moshe's arms grew tired, and needed support in punishment for not having led the battle himself. (Exodus, 17:12) This connection between Gedolei Yisrael and the army appears again and again in our history.

Joshua, Samson, and King David, were all leaders of the nation, guardians of the Torah, and the commanders of Israel's armies. Rabbi Akiva supported the battles of Bar Kochva, and even carried his weapons. (Laws of Kings and Their Wars, 11:3) And the Rambam tells us that the Mashiach will restore all of Israel to Torah, and fight Israel's wars. (Ibid, 11:4) Though wars are only waged out of necessity, if the occasion demands, the Torah commands us to war. (Ibid. 5:1,2. And, Ramban, Supplement to Sefer Ha Mitzvot of the Rambam, Positive Command 4) Tzahal, the Israel Defense Forces, is a precept of Torah! (Kol Yehuda, Pg.145) Rav Tzvi Yehuda taught us to see this relationship between Torah and war in its true light. It was Hashem, he said, in His aspect of the Master of Wars, (Exodus, 15:3. Also, First Blessing before the Morning Shema) who brings the Geula, as the Gemara states: War is also the beginning of redemption. (Megilla 17B)

"Come and possess. How is this precept performed?" Rav Tzvi Yehuda asked. "If need be, through the waging of war to conquer the land - whether this be enjoyable to us, or whether it goes against our nature and spirit. Baruch Hashem, we don't choose between Mitzvot, like certain 'Orthodox' Jews do. If it were possible to conquer the Land without spilling blood, certainly this would be better. This is obvious. However, until the End of Days, when, Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, (Isaiah, 2:4) sometimes we have no choice but to act with our soldiers and army. We actualize this commandment, to hold the Land of Israel in our hands, and not to leave it under the rule of any other nation, (Ramban. Supplement to the Sefer HaMitzvot of the Rambam, Positive Command # 4.) through our military actions, even in light of the unpleasant consequences which war involves." (From Sefer Torat Eretz Yisrael)

PLEASE HASHEM SAVE US FROM THE SIN OF THE SPIES WHO SPOKE LASHON HARA AGAINST ERETZ ISRAEL. LET US CORRECT THE SIN OF “THEY DESPISED THE DESIRABLE LAND” (TEHILLIM 106) FOR IN THIS WAY WE BRING CLOSER THE COMPLETE GEULA WHEN YOUR NAME WILL BE SANCTIFIED IN THE WORLD AND YOUR NATION ISRAEL SHALL BE EXALTED AND YOUR BEIT HA MIKDASH REBUILT MAY THIS BE SOON IN OUR DAYS, AMEN YEHI RATZON