

# The Colonel Gave His Life to Save Others

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In July of 1976, when, in a swift display of military precision, courage, and sheer daring, Israeli commandos rescued 102 Jewish hostages from Uganda, in Central Africa. Perhaps you may remember the events that made world news. They had been passengers on a plane that had been hijacked by a group of Palestinian terrorists and flown to a safe haven protected by the madman, dictator Idi Amin. The hostages were probably as good as dead if something could not be done to save them. Well, something was done.

To rescue the hostages, a raiding party from Israel was selected and honed to a strike force specially trained in air-assault operations. They were among the finest military men in the world, led by thirty-year-old Colonel Jonathan Netanyahu, who had moved to Israel from the United States when he was only two.

Deep in the desert at the isolated military base, they practiced the raid again, and again, and again, having the group rescue time down to fifty-five minutes.

Once the team landed in Uganda, the cargo plane's huge tail ramp dropped out and out came a large black Mercedes Benz limousine, closely followed by two land rovers filled with Israeli commandos dressed in Palestinian uniforms. In the back of the limousine was a bulky Israeli officer dressed like dictator Idi Amin.

The license plate on the limousine was identical to that of Amin's official car. As the party drove up to the terminal building, the Ugandan guards snapped to attention, allowing the Israeli commandos to get within a few yards of the building before the first shots were fired.

Bullets were soon raining down on the airport like hail in a thunderstorm. Within ten to twenty minutes, the shooting was over. The commandos ordered the hostages to the planes that were waiting in a takeoff position, engines still running. As the hostages ran to the planes, great fireballs erupted in the distance as Israeli commandos blew up the eleven parked MIG jets that would have been scrambled to intercept the escaping Israeli planes. As the hostages and commandos rushed onto the huge Hercules, the rear hatch slammed shut. Fifty-three minutes after the raid began, the planes began moving into position for takeoff. The hostages were saved.

The rescue, however, did not go letter perfect. Three hostages lost their lives and one Israeli commando lost his life—the assault-force commander, Colonel Jonathan Netanyahu. A sniper in the control tower killed him with a bullet in the back. The colonel gave his life to save others.

- As great as this mission was, it pales in comparison to the greatest rescue in history—the saving of mankind by God. Mankind found itself lost in life, held hostage by evil, helpless and hopeless. Jesus risked Himself—even gave His life—to rescue mankind. His is the greatest of all acts.