

Sereni, Enzo

(1905--1944), One of the Palestinian parachutists sent into occupied Europe by the *Yishuv*.

Born in Rome, Sereni became a Zionist activist at a young age. In 1925 he earned a doctorate in philosophy. Two years later he settled in Palestine, eventually helping to found Kibbutz Givat Brenner. During the early 1930s, Sereni traveled to Germany several times, first to help the Zionist youth movements there, and then to work on *Youth Aliya* and the Jewish Agency's transfer agreement, which helped German Jews immigrate to Palestine.

When World War II broke out, Sereni volunteered for the British army. In 1941 he was sent to Iraq, where he prepared young Jews for underground work and for immigration to Palestine. In 1943 Sereni was appointed intermediary between the Palestinian parachutists and their British trainers. Despite the fact that he was almost 40, Sereni insisted on being one of the parachutists himself, and not just a behind the scenes organizer. In May 1944 he parachuted into northern Italy, where he was caught by the Germans. They imprisoned him in Dachau, where he became a leader among the prisoners. He was executed in November 1944. (see also Parachutists, Jewish.)