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FIGHTING BACK

**STAN ANDREWS
AND THE BIRTH OF
THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE**



A WICKED SON BOOK
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Stan Andrews and the Birth of the Israeli Air Force
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resting place—now a modern neighborhood—and to show him the path that the plane would have taken in the last moments of its flight. We are grateful for the time he gave us and hopeful that his immensely important search for Stan and Bob may yet be successful. We were also moved to learn from Baruch that he had insisted that Stan be officially listed as the first case officer assigned to the search for Bob, given all that Stan had done between July and October 1948 to find out what had happened to his missing friend.

We appreciate all those who read earlier drafts of the manuscript and who provided valuable feedback and suggestions. We include in this list Russ Roberts (who has given advice and guidance throughout the process), Tal Keinan, Gary Belsky, and Neil Fine. We could not be more grateful to the legendary editor Claire Wachtel, who transformed the book by helping us sharpen our focus on the things we should be writing about, while overcoming the classic writer's unwillingness to kill darlings. It was an extraordinary privilege to be able to work with Claire.

The team at Wicked Son has been an absolute pleasure to deal with at every step of the way—led by the remarkable Adam Bellow. Adam set a joyful tone right at the beginning, emailing Jeff to set up their first phone call with the comment that “this will be an easy conversation as I’ve already decided to publish your book.” We were privileged to have been able to work with Aleigha Kely, who kept this project perfectly on track in a kind and tactful manner, and Aleah Taboclaon, whose copy-editing saved us from more than one obscure, yet embarrassing, factual error. (Who knew that Filipino whiskey was made from fermented palm sap and not cactus?)

In some ways this work began in 1995, the year we started our research on *I Am Brother's Keeper*, when we first discovered Stan. It became more intensely focused in 2005, when Joseph Jacobson responded to our letter to the editor in New Jersey. No doubt we have forgotten the contributions of others who have helped us over the years and for that we apologize. Writing this book has been a true labor of love for the two of us—an epic journey that only the luckiest of writers get to take. We could not be more grateful to those who lent a helping hand