

PHILIP METRES

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ARAB POPULATION (2)

(for Nahiba Halaby Gordon)

“Outside those enclosures, normal life”

*In Yafa I attended Tabeetha School for Girls
named after the girl brought back from death*

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha
full of good works and almsdeeds

A pink pen mark along the left margin highlighting the passage.

“All public Offices...must be kept intact
and all documents and registers therein”

*we escaped in April 1948
shortly after Yafa fell
the Haganah destroyed all public documents*

And it came to pass in those days that she was sick, and died

“must be kept safely and in good condition”

Then Peter went with them and all the widows stood by weeping

“so that any claims of residents”

And prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise

*the registrar of the Tabeetha School
saved a few registers*

And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up

*2006 she showed me the register
I could see my name:*

And it was known throughout all Joppa

Nahida Halaby