

الدوايمة

ED DAWAYIMA

1948 MASSACRE

INTRODUCTION

The depopulation of 560 Palestinian towns and villages in 1948 by Zionist militia and Israeli army could not have happened without an organized campaign of massacres and atrocities, of which 156 were recorded in Table 3.2 Atlas of Palestine 1917- 1966 at: <https://www.plands.org/en/maps-atlases/atlases/atlas-of-palestine-1917-1966>

The Zionist invasion which started in April 1948 led to the depopulation of 220 towns and villages in 6 weeks till 14 May 1948, before the state of Israel was declared while Palestine was supposedly under the British Mandate protection before any regular Arab force could intervene,

That massacres were a weapon of ethnic cleansing, is described here: <https://mondoweiss.net/2020/06/massacres-as-a-weapon-of-ethnic-cleansing-during-the-nakba/>

The massacres have common features:

1. Attacking a village even though a peace agreement between the settlers and the people of the village was agreed before the attack.
2. Attacking the village before a state was declared while Palestine was under the protection of the British Mandate till 14 May 1948, thus causing the depopulation of 220 towns and villages, which comprise half the total refugees today.
3. Attacking the village in a military formation and in far superior numbers to defenders, (a battalion of two to three hundred Israeli soldiers with superior arms against a dozen Palestinian farmers armed with old rifles).
4. Attacking the village from 3 directions leaving the fourth open for the expulsion towards the fourth direction. The fourth escape route was directed towards the north in Galilee, to the east in central Palestine and to the south in southern Palestine.

5. After the village was taken, for no military reason, men, women, children were killed. Random, brutal killing. Going from house to house killing people. Killing passers by in the street or the road.
6. Deliberate terror. Grabbing a child and splitting his head with an axe. Telling his mother go and tell others. (Abu Shusha, Dawayima).
7. Finding women huddled in a cave or a hiding place and terrorizing them. Taking men away, killing them and throwing bodies in a well (Dawayima, Safsaf).
8. Killing many men in groups and forcing survivors to dig trenches and bury them there. (Tantoura, Bi'na, Majd el Kuroum, Eilaboun).
9. Expulsion: Forced march of the survivors towards another village, not yet occupied, against two rows of Zionist soldiers, shooting at their feet and over their heads. (Abu Shusha, Lydda).
10. Searching the survivors for valuables, looting women's Jewelry during the march, to the extent of ripping the ears for ear rings and cutting fingers for rings. (Safsaf, Ayn el Zeitoun).
11. Preventing return of the expelled refugees, by shooting the returnees, poisoning wells with Typhoid and Cholera, looting their property, burning crops and demolishing their houses.

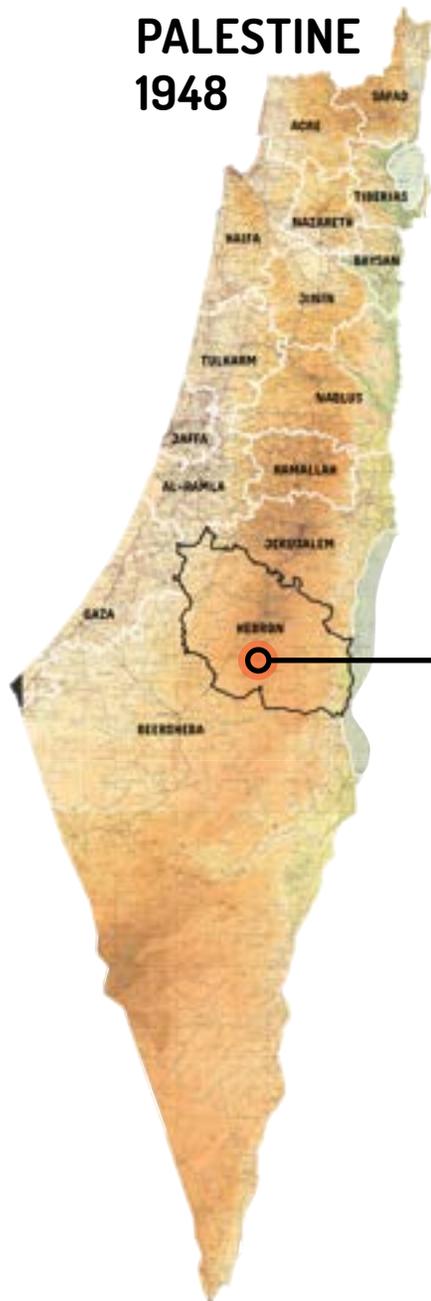
All massacres are barbarous. But nothing exceeds the determined barbarity of the massacre of Ed Dawayima described here.

DAWAYIMA HISTORY

Ed Dawayima was a Palestinian Arab village in the Hebron (Khalil) subdistrict until 1948.

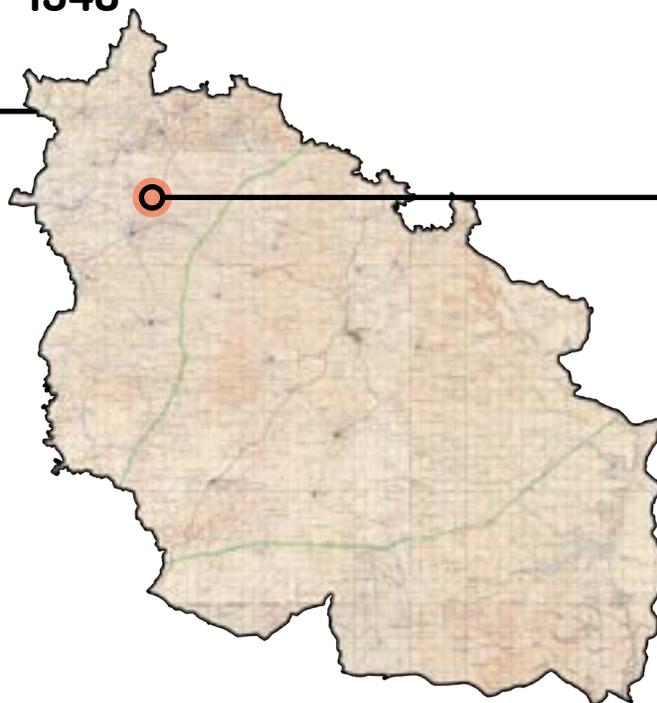
Ed Dawayima was a Palestinian village that sat on top of a wide rocky hill in the western part of the Hebron Mountains. Some scholars have estimated that the Dawayima is located in the spot of the village of Bishkeh mentioned in the Old Testament (Joshua 15:39), meaning high or rocky.

In 1948, the village had a population of 4,304 which consisted of several clans and families. Dawayima was shaped like a star, allowing businesses to expand in all directions. There was a mosque in the center of the village. Shops were scattered inside neighborhoods near the village center, whose houses were built of stone and mud and separated from each other by narrow paths and alleys. Village economy was mostly based on agriculture, as the fertile land of Dawayima grew wheat, barley, corn, lentils, olives, figs, grapes and pomegranates among other fruits and vegetables. The village had good trade relations with Hebron, Gaza, and surrounding villages as well as the cities of Jaffa and Haifa. Ed Dawayima had several holy and archaeological significant sites, and was home to a thriving and growing population.

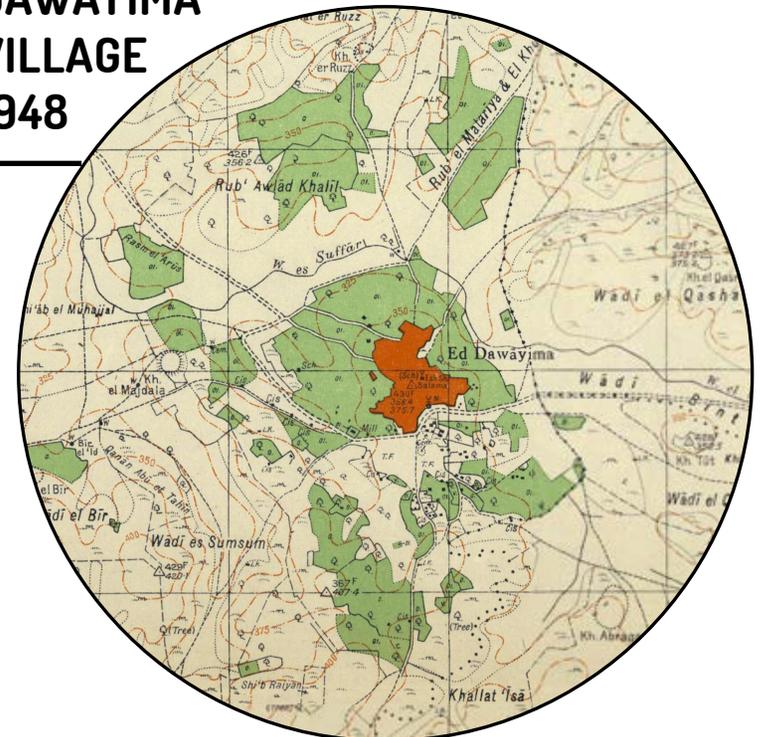


**PALESTINE
1948**

**SUB-DISTRICT
HEBRON (AL-KHALIL)
1948**



**DAWAYIMA
VILLAGE
1948**



ZIONISM

Following the infamous Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 and the onset of the British Mandate on Palestine in 1922, to secure the establishment of a free independent Palestine, Palestine witnessed a flood of Jewish European settlers, carrying with them the Zionist ideology of colonial settlement in Palestine. Zionism is a settler-colonial ideology that advocates for an exclusively Jewish ethnostate built on Palestinian land and the total removal of the people of the land, the Palestinians, by any and all means. Zionism is inherently racist in its exclusivity and anti-Palestinian because it is only feasible through the ethnic cleansing and constant uprooting of the Palestinian people, which is seen throughout massacres of over 500 Palestinian villages in and around 1948 and continued into today with Israeli state-lead violence on the Palestinian people and illegal annexation of Palestinian lands.

Britain's 1917 Balfour Declaration promised a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine with the allusion of a Palestinian state to be established. The latter never happened. The subsequent British Mandate granted full political and civil rights in Palestine to the Jewish minority (which constituted 5% of Palestine population and owned 2% of its land), yet failed to recognize the political rights of the indigenous Palestinian Arab majority who comprised 95% of the population. At the end of the British Mandate which created the problem in the first place, the UN made a proposal (UN resolution 181 on November 29, 1947) to divide Palestine into two parts, 55% to be ruled by the Jewish minority and 45% to be ruled by the Arab Palestinian majority with Jerusalem to be Corpus Separatum. At the time the Jewish immigrant settlers were 30% of the population and controlled only 6% of land in Palestine. Half of the population in the region to be ruled by Jewish people were Palestinian. No forced displacement of population was allowed. The Partition Plan was only a proposal, not binding and it was dropped by the UN in March 1948. The British, whose duty in Palestine included protecting the indigenous Palestinian population, were not only responsible for officializing the Zionist land project but also failed to support Palestinian right for independence and freedom from colonization and to protect them from the depopulation and massacres of Palestinians.



ETHNIC CLEANSING

The UN recommendation to divide Palestine into two states heralded a new period of conflict and suffering in Palestine with an uneven battlefield.

In order to enforce this new Jewish state, Jewish terrorist organizations formed with the intention of removing Palestinian lives from villages desired by this new state: using massacres as a weapon for ethnic cleansing.

These massacres and subsequent intimidations were led by groups such as the Haganah, Irgun, and Lehi (Stern Gang) and resulted in the massive expulsion of Palestinians from their homes, businesses and land in both cities and rural areas.

Ethnic cleansing was made possible by the great disparity between the strength of the Jewish forces and the native inhabitants of Palestine. The former had 185,000 able-bodied Jewish males aged 16-50, mostly military-trained, and many were veterans of WWII. Jewish armaments were superior to those held by Palestinians. More importantly, Jewish soldiers had small arms and armored vehicles factories and an unlimited amount of locally-produced ammunition.

On the Palestinian side, Britain manipulated rations of ammunitions to the armies of Egypt and (particularly) Jordan. The Palestinians had about 2,500 militia men dispersed among a dozen towns and several hundred villages. They had old rifles, few machine guns, no artillery and no tanks. They had no central command and no wireless communications. At best they were only able to mount defensive operations, rushing to a village after hearing cries for help.

The well-armed and seasoned Israeli troops greatly outnumbered the defenders of the Palestinian civilian population who had a poor and scattered defense.

In April 1948, the total strength of the Zionist militia was 65,000, many were well trained and led by veteran European officers of WWII. The Zionists also were able to manufacture ammunition and armored vehicles and, as such, were not harmed by the arms embargo imposed by Britain. On the other hand, the Palestinians were defenseless, without a single command, wireless or armor. The Arab irregular volunteers who came to help were a motley, ineffective group which caused more damage than gave support. This contradicts Israel's claim that, in expelling Palestinians, it was acting in self defense and that the refugees' exodus was an accident of war, not an Israeli plan.

In the first three months of 1948, Jewish terrorists carried out numerous operations, blowing up buses and Palestinian homes. Ethnic cleansing became apparent, as Palestinians were murdered and expelled from their lands for the mere reason of their identity and ownership over desired land. The UN Council for Human Rights defines ethnic cleansing as a regime's desire to impose ethnic rule on a mixed area with the use of acts of expulsion and other violent means. Ethnic cleansing has come to be considered a crime against humanity, punishable by international law.

ZIONIST PROPOGANDA

The Zionist colonization of Palestine is a project that is so loaded with myths, lies, deception, falsification and complemented with a witch hunt and vilification for all those who expose them.

It started with 19th century myth that Palestine was an empty land. That was instigated by Europeans who wanted to get rid of their Jewish compatriots by calling for their “restoration” to their imagined empty country, Palestine.

That myth continued although French, German and notably British scholars wrote volumes and drew maps of over a thousand Palestinian towns and villages in Palestine. These same villages were recorded in the books, seventeen centuries earlier, by Palestinian Bishop Eusebius in 313 AD

That did not stop Gold Meir to say infamously in 1969, that “there is no such thing as Palestinians”.

It turned out that the myth that Palestine was “empty” was a PLAN to make it empty by ethnic cleansing and massacres of its Palestinian inhabitants.

Hence, the call for the “return” of the Jewish people to ‘their country’. the land of “Milk and Honey”, as this Jewish National Fund (JNF) poster, distributed in 1930, shows to lure European Jews to immigrate to Palestine.

They came, particularly after WWII, in armed formations of over 100,000 soldiers to depopulate hundreds of Palestinian towns and villages, commit dozens of massacres and turn survivors to refugees, denied the right to return home, till today.



Figure 7.1. The pictorial stamps-map of Eretz Yisrael drawn by Sapoznikov, 1930 (Central Zionist Archive, KKL 11, Gotkovski stamp collection)



While Britain occupied Palestine and formed the British Mandate, the Zionist movement infiltrated Palestinian lands as they planned to enforce a state of Israel.

One Zionist militia was the Haganah, who would become the core of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). Between 1920 and 1948, the Haganah was a Jewish terrorist organization that executed raids and massacres over Palestinian villages, resulting in an ethnic cleansing executed through a combination of brute force and intimidation to local villagers.

Since 1945, the Haganah designed and implemented four general military plans, ultimately leading to the creation of Israel and the dispossession of the Palestinians:

THE HAGANAH & THE ZIONIST AGENDA

PLAN A: drawn up in February 1945 to complement the political aim of a unilateral declaration of independence. It was designed to suppress Palestinian Arab resistance to the Zionist take-over of parts of Palestine.

PLAN B: produced in September 1945, emerged in May 1947 and designed to replace Plan A in the context of new developments such as Britain's submission of the problem of Palestine to the United Nations and growing opposition from surrounding Arab states to the Zionist partition plan.

PLAN C: produced in May 1946, emerged in November/December 1947, in the wake of the UN Partition Plan. It was designed to disrupt Arab defensive operations, and occupy Arab lands situated between isolated Jewish colonies. This was accompanied by a psychological campaign to demoralize the Arab population. By the end of March 1947, Zionist military operations carried out under Plan C resulted in the depopulation of 30 Palestinian villages with a population of about 22,000 people.

PLAN D: of March 1948, This plan was guided by a series of specific operational plans, the broad outlines of which were considered as early as 1944, Plan D was drawn up to expand Jewish-held areas beyond those allocated to the proposed Jewish State in the UN Partition Plan. Its overall objective was to seize as much territory as possible in advance of the termination of the British Mandate — when the Zionist leaders planned to declare their state.

HAGANAH'S PLAN D

The new Plan had wide-ranging objectives. It was the Plan that was finally implemented.

They included:

- Seizing and controlling all government services, including post, telephone, police stations, roads, railways, airports and ports, and denying such services to the enemy.
- Launching pre-planned counter-attacks on enemy-bases in the heart of his territory wherever it is, including outside Palestine.
- Occupying [Arab] important high-ground positions within the [Hebrew] state according to the Partition Plan or beyond.
- Occupying [Arab] front line positions within their territories.
- Applying economic pressure on the enemy by besieging 'some' of his cities to force him to abandon his activities - i.e. to leave.
- Occupying and controlling the enemy's bases in rural and urban areas.

Plan D outlined a strategy of total war. The Plan called for the “encirclement of the village and conducting a search inside it. In the event of resistance, the armed force must be wiped out and the population must be expelled outside the borders of the state.”

In cities, the plan called for “occupation and control of all isolated Arab neighborhoods and encirclement of Arab municipal area[s] and termination of its vital services (water, electricity, fuel, etc.).... [I]n case of resistance, the population will be expelled.” Plan D also called for the “destruction of villages (setting fire to, blowing up and planting mines in the debris)” - to prevent the return of refugees.

Plan D was put into action on or around April 2, 1948. By this time, the size of Zionist forces had reached 65,000, several times greater than the number of Arab defenders, whether they were the villagers, the Muslim Brothers coming from Egypt or the motley assortment of Arab Liberation Army (ALA). The lack of serious action by the British to protect civilians encouraged Ben Gurion to ratchet up the scale of offensive operations. In a series of simultaneous offensives, all the spaces and strategic points separating Jewish colonies were occupied by Zionist forces.

What ensued was a series of strategic massacre operations on Palestinian villages in the lead-up to an Israeli State Independence, causing a massive ethnic cleansing under the name of this new Jewish state.

MAY 14, 1948

ISRAELI STATE DECLARED

Leading up to Israel's declared independence, the Haganah systemically massacred hundreds of Palestinian villages. Ethnic cleansing in the form of murder and mass expulsion paved the way for statehood, as the Israeli independence was declared on May 14: the same day as massacres in Abu Shusha and other villages. Many have ended up in the Gaza Strip refugee camps till today.

The Haganah rebranded themselves as Israel Defense Army (IDF), the irony of the term "defense" notwithstanding. It reached a strength of 120,000 soldiers divided into 9 brigades, which carried out 31 "military operations" in 1948.

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THE PALESTINE POST

JERUSALEM
SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1948

PRICE: 15 MILLS
VOL. XXXII, No. 611

THE PALESTINE POST
THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT has returned to The Palestine Post office, Hamsel Street, Jerusalem, Tel. 423.

STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Tel Aviv was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was riddled from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acco town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history. For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Haganah men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Arab forces and the Truce Council would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State. The Security Council met yesterday in a special session to consider action on the invasion of Palestine by member states of the U.N. In the afternoon, Jerusalem was subjected to a bombardment of the Jewish State. The High Commissioner in the hour, President Ben-Gurion, announced in Washington that the Government of Israel had decided to recognize the new State.

JEWS TAKE OVER SECURITY ZONES

The battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day yesterday and yesterday. The pockets of small-arm fire and explosions of mortar shells were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a "cease fire" were thwarted by the Arab representatives who failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to reoccupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was completed without incident.

Egyptian Air Force Spiffires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kol Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 800 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the aircraft to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air Force plane piloted by a Jew was shot down. The pilot was killed. The third raid, which occurred shortly before midnight, but the planes were driven off, with one crashing in the desert.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio reported.

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

A country-wide blackout was ordered by Air Field Operations Headquarters in Washington, D.C., yesterday afternoon. David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister, broadcast from Tel Aviv to the people of America yesterday morning. As he spoke, Egyptian planes were bombing the city.

In the north, the settlement of Kfar Etzion and Shari Haganah and Dan had been shelled, but no further details were available.

Admission of Jewish refugees to the Jewish State was taken up by the Jewish Agency on Friday morning, shortly after the High Commissioner had offered to place the Haganah forces under British command. The field was evacuated, and the settlement of Ataroth, which was being evacuated, was burnt by Arab forces yesterday.

Proclamation by Head of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael," the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben-Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.

The first act of the Council of Government, as announced yesterday, was to abolish the British Mandate over Palestine.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction so far to the recognition had been overwhelmingly favourable. He said the step had been discussed with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lovett before action was taken, and it had their complete support.

Mr. Ross said that the President had decided several days ago to grant American recognition to the new State.



JULY 18, 1948

»» 2ND TRUCE DECLARED

A truce was declared on July 18, 1948 but was broken by Zionists on October 15, 1948.

In the following few weeks, particularly in the second half of October and the first half of November, Zionists swept over large areas of Palestine in both the northern and southern regions.



 Land occupied from July-October 1948

 Land occupied over two weeks: October 22- November 5, 1948



OCTOBER 15, 1948

»» TRUCE BROKEN

In the south, the Israeli invasion army occupied large areas, which were not defended by any regular force. Some villages were nominally defended by a few young men with WWI rifles and no training. There was an Egyptian force in the coastal region, but it was vastly outnumbered and outpowered, and withdrew.

EARLY NOVEMBER

»» LAND CONQUERED

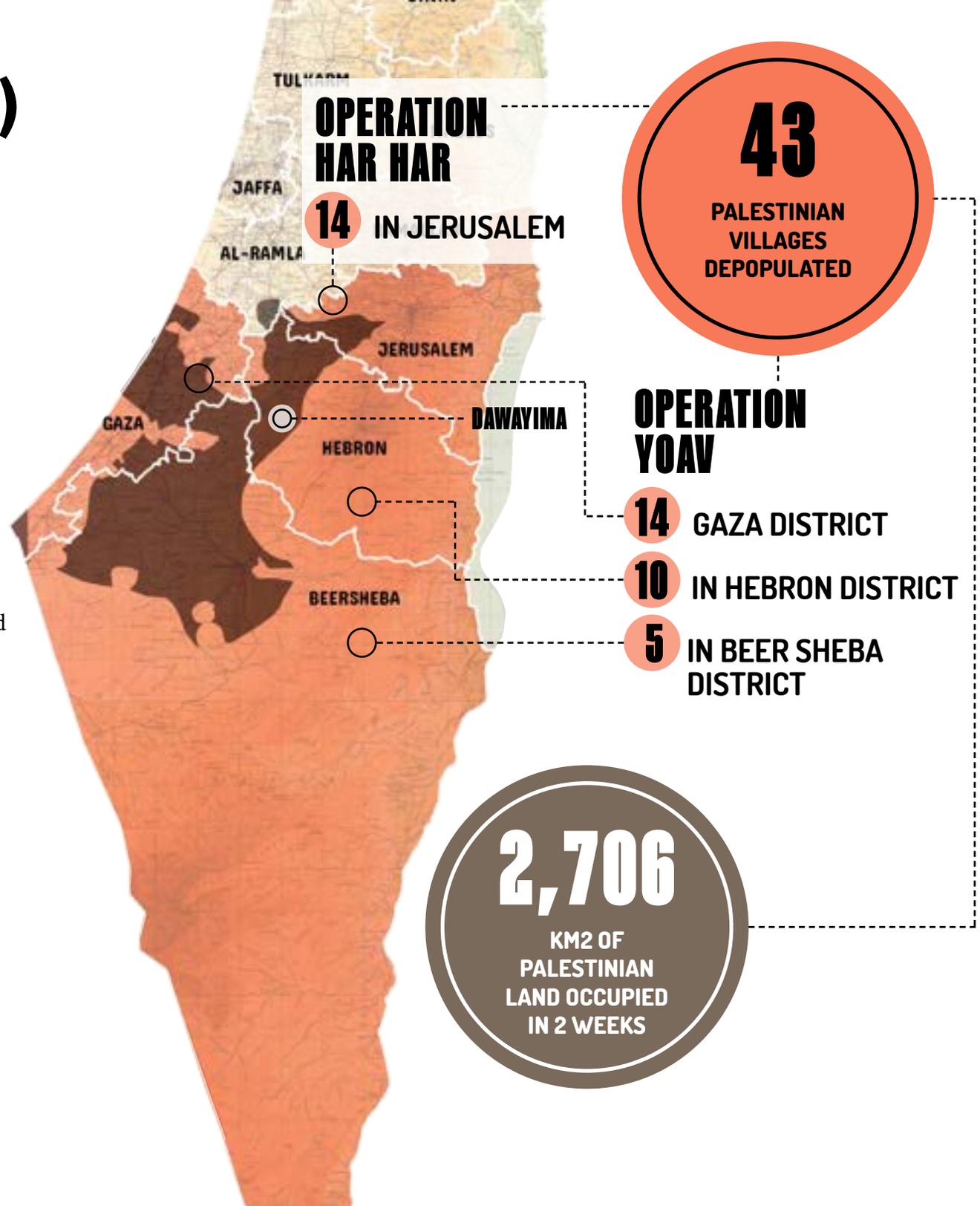
By the end of October and the beginning of November 1948, the Israeli army conquered and occupied approximately 2706 km² of southern Palestine in less than two weeks. All of this territory had been allocated for the Palestinian Arab state according to the Partition Plan.

YOAV (TEN PLAGUES)

43 Palestinian villages were attacked and depopulated at this time. Fourteen of these villages, in Jerusalem District, were decimated by an Israeli military offensive called “Ha Har.” The rest of the villages were expelled by the military offensive called “Yoav,” otherwise named “the Ten Plagues.” Of these, ten villages were in Al Khalil (Hebron) District, including the village of Dawayima. Another fourteen were in the Gaza District, and five were part of the Beer Sheba District, including the district capital, Beer Sheba town.

This extraordinary and swift conquest of vast territory was done with terror and bloodshed. We record 4 massacres and one atrocity with many separate cases of killing, looting, rape and destruction.

One of the most savage massacres in this area occurred in the village of Dawayima.



1948

OCT 23

OCT 24

OCT 25

OCT 26

OCT 28

OCT 29

OCT 30

OCT 31

NOV 2

NOV 5

NOV 8

FALUJA

BEIT JIBRIN

AL QUBAYBA

DAWAYIMA

»» DAWAYIMA

Ed Dawayima was located at the eastern extremity of the area occupied during this period of Israeli invasion.

The people of Dawayima came to the aid of their neighbours when Israelis attacked, and they prepared to defend themselves, as it became clear they were also in imminent danger.

Al Maghaz, a strategic location 11 km southwest of Al Dawayima, was a key position held by Israeli forces. At first, Israeli forces were repelled by Egyptian forces and volunteers from Dawayima. But after the volunteers returned home, they were shocked to learn that the Egyptian forces had inexplicably abandoned the site at night. The Israelis immediately reoccupied it, leaving Dawayima utterly exposed and vulnerable on the western front.

AL MAGHAZ



1948

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FALUJA

BEIT JIBRIN

AL QUBAYBA

DAWAYIMA

OCTOBER 23-25, 1948

» NEIGHBORING VILLAGES FALL

The people of Dawayima watched helplessly as neighboring villages fell one after the other, invaded and attacked by Israeli forces who were well-organized and well-armed. Palestinian defenders were simple farmers defending their families with their bodies and old rifles. Bayt Jibrin fell on October 23, then Qubayba on October 24. Terrified families from these villages, and from even as far as Faluja, fled towards Dawayima.

The Egyptian withdrawal from Al Maghaz was followed by the withdrawal of 200 Sudanese soldiers from the northwestern village of Al Qubayba on the night of October 25th. The Sudanese unit was ordered to march toward Al Khalil (Hebron).



1948

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OCTOBER 26, 1948

» VILLAGERS MEET

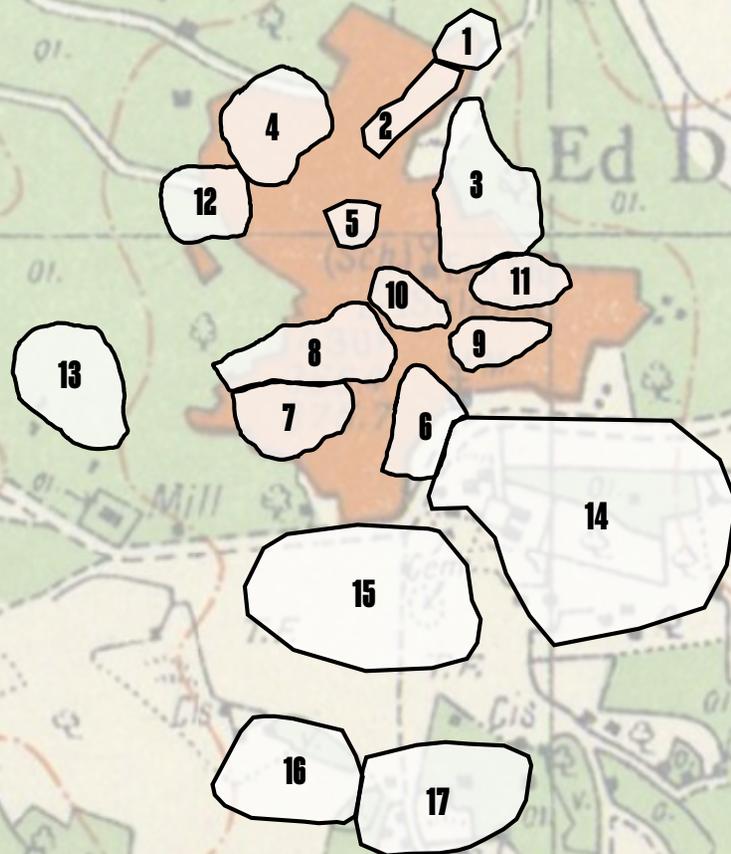
The villagers of Dawayima met the following day to consider their fate. They were utterly alone and abandoned, with Israeli invasion forces were nearby waiting to pounce on them.

The prevailing opinion among the main families was to seek help. A delegation went to Al Khalil to meet the Egyptian and Jordanian military commands but found no one willing to meet with them. They returned home demoralized.

Upon realizing that no one was coming to their defense, terror stricken villagers began to flee. Some packed a few belongings and took the women, elderly, and children on their donkeys and camels eastward, toward the caves, which are common in the area, or to neighbouring villages that were still standing.

DAWAYIMA FAMILIES

- 1 Al Ghawanima
- 2 Al Jawawida
- 3 Al Adariba
- 4 Al Khudour
- 5 Al Kharsa
- 6 Abu Subeih
- 7 Al Absiya
- 8 'Asha
- 9 Al Ayassa & Al Sabateen
- 10 Al Manasera
- 11 Al Abadeen & Al Zaatera
- 12 Al Muqousi
- 13 Al Abadeen
- 14 Hudeib
- 15 Market- Souq Al Jum'a
- 16 Al Aqtash & Al Sabateen
- 17 Mu'ailaish, Al 'Ameri & Al Hujouj



1948

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OCTOBER 26, 1948

» APPREHENSION

Although Egyptian forces had withdrawn, a single unit in Al Faluja and Iraq Al Manshiya stayed and defended their positions. The Commanding Officer was Assayed Taha. His second in command was Jamal Abd El Nasser, whose integrity and bravery still resonates today.



1948

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OCTOBER 28, 1948

» INTENT TO KILL

At sunset on Thursday October 28th, a military Jeep with an officer and three soldiers approached the village. People rushed to meet it believing it was an advanced force to help them. Speaking Arabic, the officer asked them about their defense positions. He looked in his binoculars to see where the Israelis were. He instructed them to remain calm, as help was coming. But these soldiers were an undercover Israeli Reconnaissance party.

The Israeli intent to kill was apparent from the onset of the Yoav offensive. Israeli historian Yair Auoron wrote in Haaretz, “Yigal Alon, the commander of the southern front, recalled: “Tonight the brigade will take the revenge Tonight, all the days of grief of the besieged alliance will be avenged.”



1948
OCT 23 OCT 24 OCT 25 OCT 26 OCT 28 OCT 30 OCT 31 NOV 2 NOV 5 NOV 8

OCTOBER 29, 1948

» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

» MORNING

On Friday morning, October 29th, those who remained headed to Dawayima's weekly market, as was their habit to buy and sell supplies. An unknown man appeared on horseback, agitated, shouting incoherently, and galloping left and right before racing off. It was an unnerving occurrence, which some would later recall as an omen.

A long convoy of armoured vehicles was then spotted on the outskirts of the village and 20 armoured vehicles approached along the al Ghafar road from Al Qubayba.

It was a force of about **100-150 soldiers** who were members of the notorious Battalion 89 of the 8th Brigade, sometimes known as Moshe Dayan's battalion, although it was formed and commanded by Itzhak Sade. The commander of the southern front was Yigal Alon who vowed not to leave a single Palestinian village intact in the south of Palestine.



OCT 29

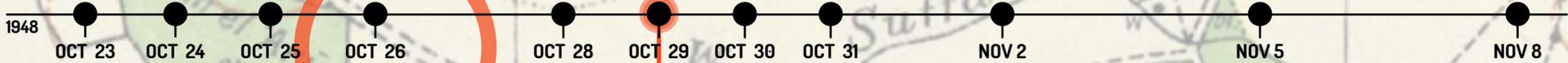
COMPANY
ABC

HOME
INVASIONS

WORSHIPPERS
IN MOSQUE

CAVES

LAST STAND



OCTOBER 29, 1948

» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

- Major Killing and Burial
- Attack Command Center

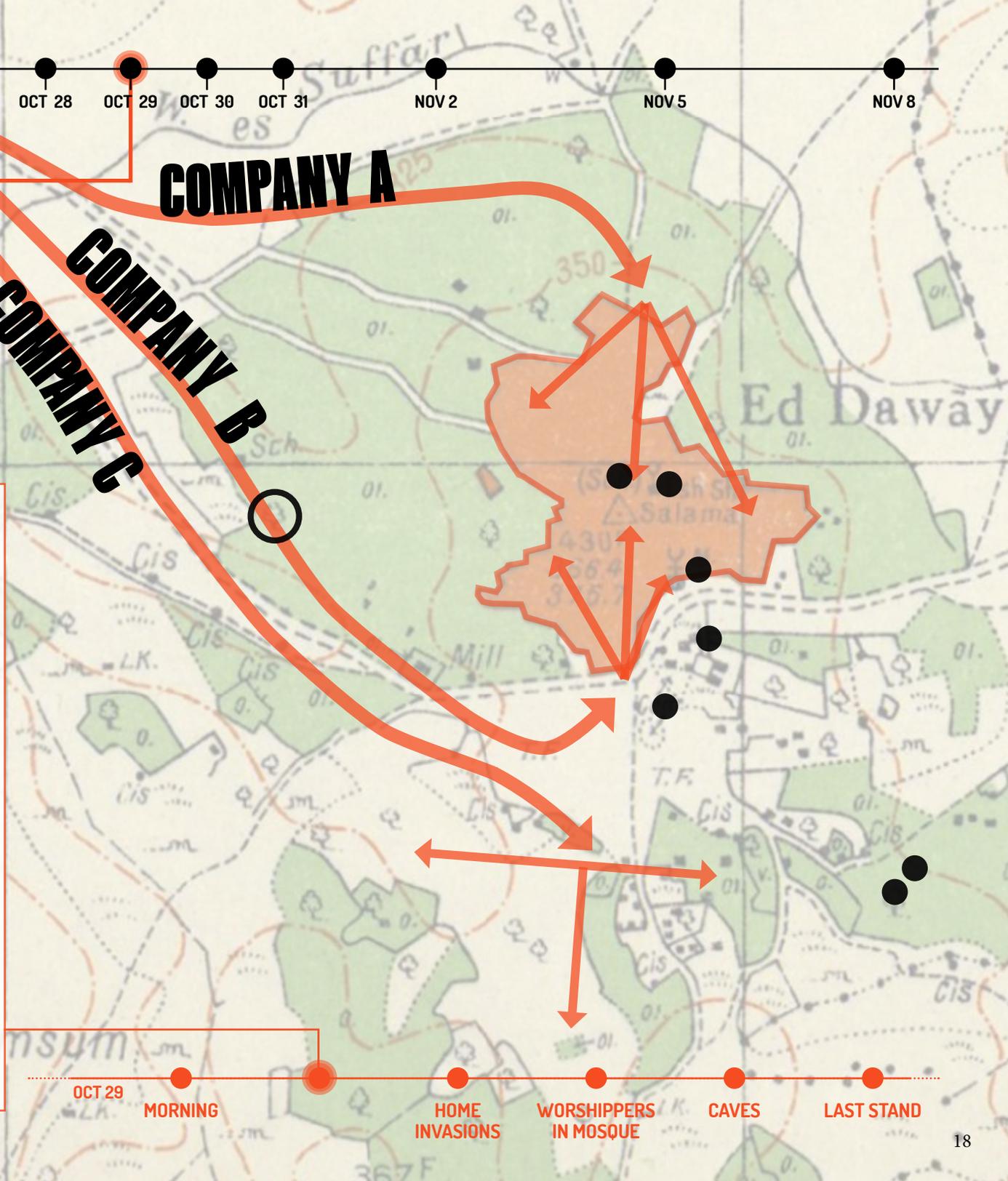
» COMPANIES A,B,C

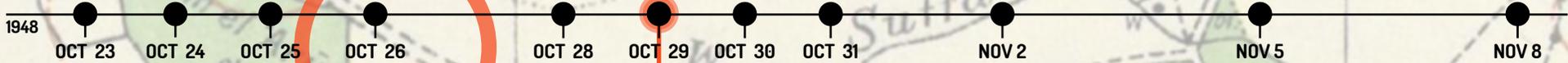
Around 10.30 or 11.00 am, the Israeli force stopped at Rasm al Arous to survey their surroundings through binoculars. In this position, they would not have been visible to the villagers, as they were separated by undulating land and thick groves. The Israeli force then split into three.

The commander of the force was Dov Chesis of the Eighty Ninth Battalion of the 8th Armored Brigade.

The Sapper (explosives expert) was the Bulgarian Yaakov (Sika) Aharoni. The officer responsible for the whole operation was the Russian Yaakov (Yashka) Eliav. The acting commanding officer was Ephraim Brill, assisted by Naphtali Erbeil. Abraham Vared was one of the foot soldiers.

COMPANY A
COMPANY B
COMPANY C





OCTOBER 29, 1948

COMPANY A

» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

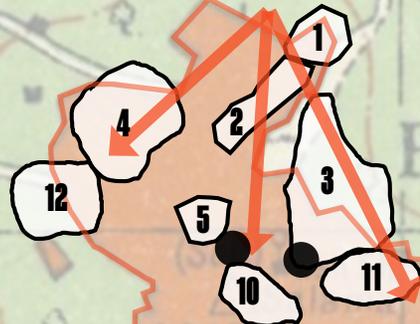
» COMPANY A

Commanded by Uri (later Brigadier General Reserve serving in Suez in 1969), advanced to attack the village from the north.

MURDERED THE FAMILIES OF:

- 1** Al Ghawanima
- 2** Al Jawawida
- 3** Al Adariba
- 4** Al Khudour
- 5** Al Kharsa
- 10** Al Manasera
- 11** Al Abadeen & Al Zaatera
- 12** Al Muqousi

- Major Killing and Burial
- Attack Command Center



1948
OCT 23 OCT 24 OCT 25 OCT 26 OCT 28 OCT 30 OCT 31 NOV 2 NOV 5 NOV 8

OCTOBER 29, 1948

» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE



» HOME INVASIONS

They spread in the alleys from every direction, bursting into homes, killing every person they found, regardless of age and gender. Their power over defenseless villages was total, and they were merciless.

S Kaplan was one of Israeli soldiers who participated in the attack. Although he did not approve of the savagery he witnessed, he did nothing to stop it, and wrote about it days later to a friend.



OCT 29 MORNING COMPANY ABC WORSHIPPERS IN MOSQUE CAVES LAST STAND

1948
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OCTOBER 29, 1948

» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

» COMPANY B

Commanded by Haim Shabtai (Diko), advanced to attack the center.

MURDERED THE FAMILIES OF:

- 6 Abu Subeih
- 7 Al Absiya
- 8 'Asha
- 9 Al Ayassa & Al Sabateen
- 13 Al Abadeen
- 14 Hudeib
- 15 Market- Souq Al Jum'a

- Major Killing and Burial
- Attack Command Center



COMPANY B

OCT 29

MORNING

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INVASIONS

WORSHIPPERS
IN MOSQUE

CAVES

LAST STAND

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OCTOBER 29, 1948

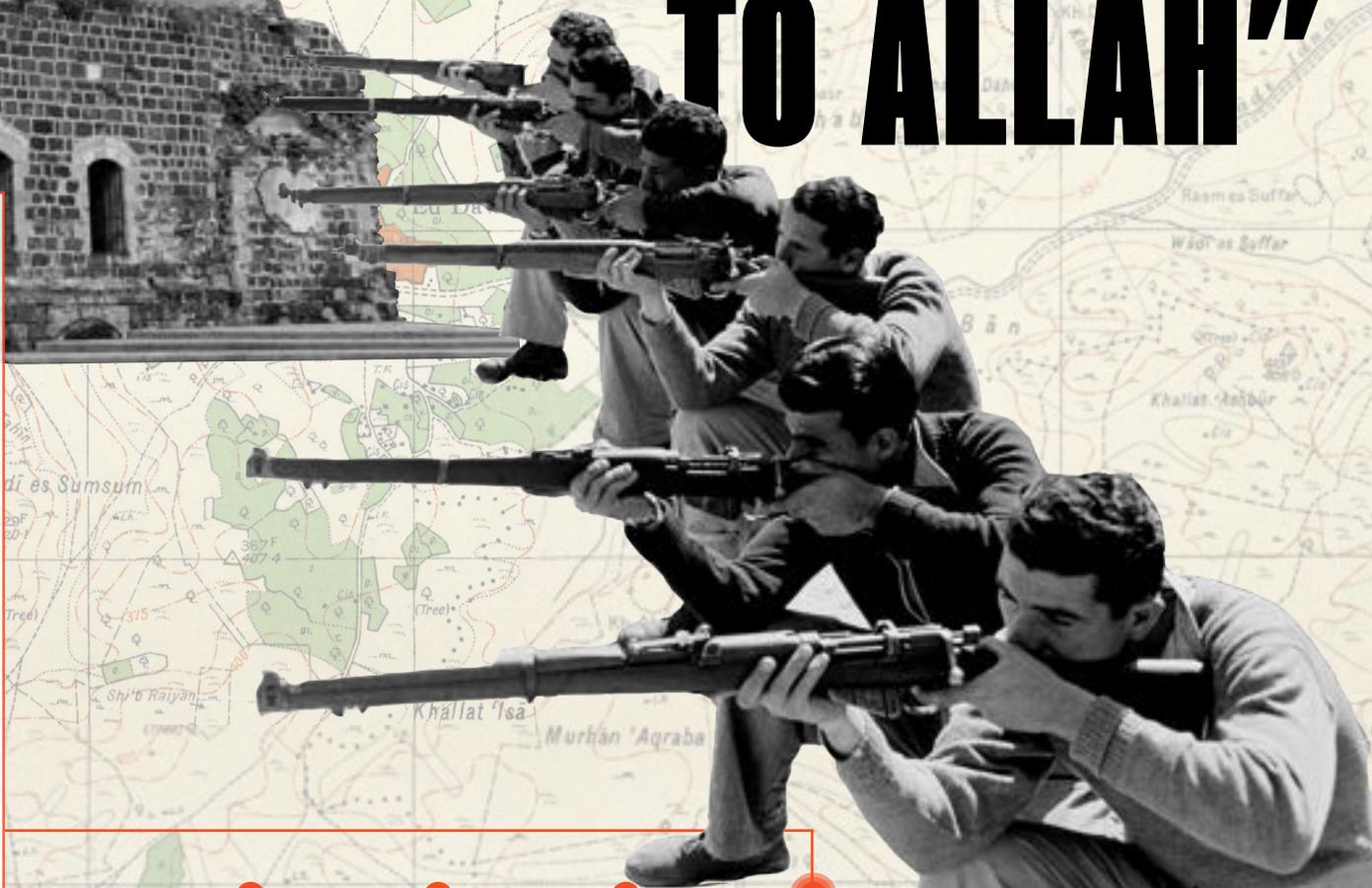
» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

“YOU MUST DIE SO GO TO ALLAH”

» WORSHIPPERS IN MOSQUE

Company B entered al Zawiya mosque where 65 old and impaired men were at their Friday prayers. Ten year old Khalil mohamad Mahmoud Salim Hudaib would later recount what he witnessed.

At noon Friday, just after Friday prayer, Khalil hid with his parents in their house next to the mosque and watched as soldiers jumped out of their cars and headed to the mosque. The old mystics of the Darawish religious order, pleaded with them, “do not kill us.” The soldiers laughed. Their leader said: “Arabim, you must die, so go to Allah.”



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» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

» WORSHIPPERS IN MOSQUE

The worshippers yelled the shahadah, a testament Muslims make before death—I testify there is one God and Mohammad is his God’s prophet. The Mosque Imam (Sheikh Mohammad Mutlaq Al Ghwanimah) screamed as he was hit, “Akh.. ya Allah.” A shot rang out and the imam fell on the floor.

One Darwish cried, “ya Allah. Allahu Akbar...”. A soldier mocked him, “go, die because you are akbar (great),” then he shot him.

A soldier ordered another worshiper, “Get in the car. Soon you will rest forever like your friends.”

No one dared open their door until it was dark. When they finally emerged from their hiding, they found bodies of their friends strewn in the mosque and courtyard. Others testified that worshippers who were taken away were found murdered outside the village.



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>> COMPANY B

Commanded by Haim Shabtai (Diko), advanced to attack the center. An Arab woman with a days-old infant was used for cleaning the back yard where the soldiers eat. She serviced them for a day or two, after which they shot her and the infant. The soldier tells that the commanders who are cultured and polite, considered good guys in society, have become vile murderers, and this occurs not in the storm of battle and heated response, but rather from a system of expulsion and destruction.



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There was no battle and no resistance (and no Egyptians). The first conquerors killed from eighty to a hundred Arabs [including] women and children. The children were killed by smashing of their skulls with bludgeons. There was not a house without dead. The second wave of the [Israeli] army was a platoon that the soldier giving testimony belongs to.

In the town the remaining male and female Arabs were put into houses and were then locked in without receiving food or drink. Later explosive engineers came to blow up houses. One commander ordered an engineer to put two elderly women into the house that was to be blown up. The engineer refused and said he is willing to receive orders only from his [own] commander. So then [his] commander ordered the soldiers to put the women in and the evil deed was performed.

One soldier boasted that he raped an Arab woman and afterwards shot her. An Arab woman with a days-old infant was used for cleaning the back yard where the soldiers eat. She serviced them for a day or two, after which they shot her and the infant. The soldier tells that the commanders who are cultured and polite, considered good guys in society, have become vile murderers, and this occurs not in the storm of battle and heated response, but rather from a system of expulsion and destruction. The fewer Arabs remain – the better. This principle is the main political motive of [the] expulsions and acts of horror which no-one objects to, not in the field command nor amongst the highest military command. I myself was at the front for two weeks and heard boasting stories of soldiers and commanders, of how they excelled in the acts of hunting and “fucking” [sic]. To fuck an Arab, just like that, and in any circumstance, is considered an impressive mission and there is competition on winning this [trophy]. 

- Letter by Sh. Kaplan sent to Al-Hamishmar in 1948, published by Yair Auron in Haaretz on February 5th 2016

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» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

COMPANY C

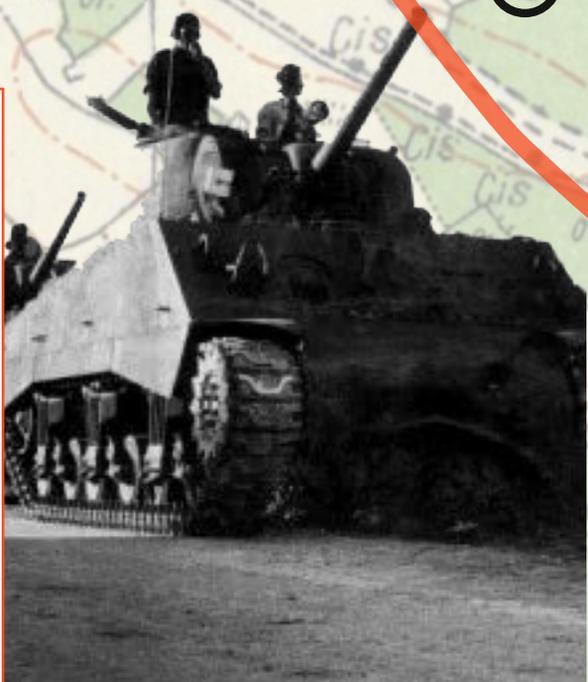
» COMPANY C

Commanded by Haim Shabtai (Diko), advanced to attack the center.

MURDERED THE FAMILIES OF:

- 16** Al Aqtash & Al Sabateen
- 17** Mu'ailaish, Al 'Ameri & Al Hujoouj

- Major Killing and Burial
- Attack Command Center



OCT 29 MORNING HOME INVASIONS WORSHIPPERS IN MOSQUE CAVES LAST STAND

1948
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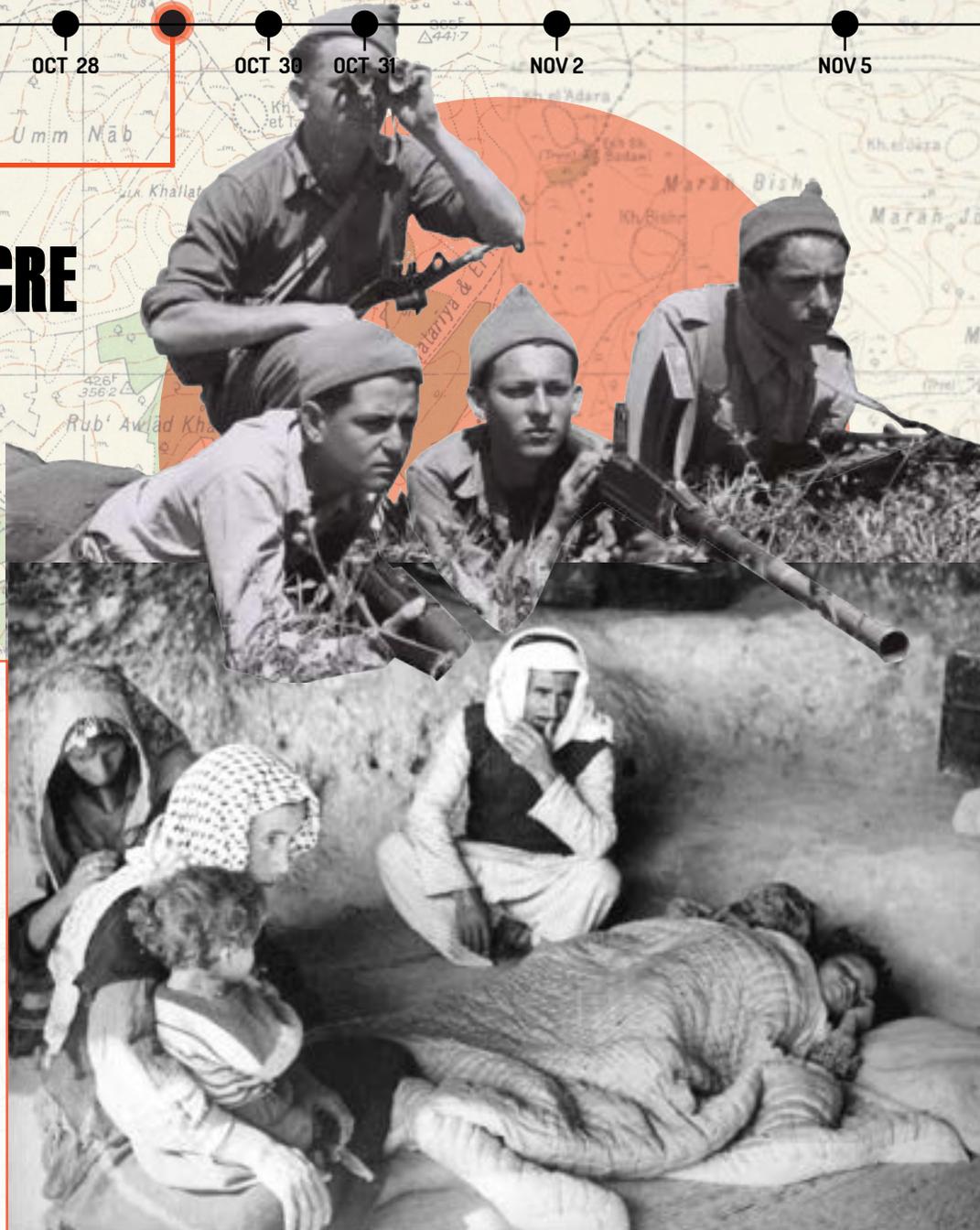
» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE

» CAVES

Those who managed to escape went east in the direction of Bayt Awwa and even to Dura which is much further east. Others hid in nearby caves a few kilometers to the south. Thirty-five families hid in a cave known as Tor Az Zagh. But they were tracked by two Israeli vehicles.

As the soldiers approached, the villagers hid close to the walls of the cave in silence.

A child cried. The patrol cars stopped, reversed and followed the sound. Pointing machine guns at the cave, they ordered everyone out, lined them up in two rows, men in one, women and children in the other.



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»» CAVES: SURVIVOR ACCOUNTS

RAHMA AHMAD MUSLEH

65 YEARS OLD FROM AL QUBAYBA

They were hiding against the walls of the cave holding their children in great fear of impending death. No body dared to be heard crying. The Israeli soldiers came to the cave opening, pointed their guns to them and shouted “out, out”. Ibrahim Joudeh Al Ameri hoisted his white Kuffeiya (headdress) and held it high as a sign of surrender. He left the cave followed by men, women and children, trembling with fear, not knowing their destiny. One woman, Libqa Dakhallah Al Amery, buried herself among the bags of clothes they carried, and did not go out. She survived.

One man Mohd Hussein Muslih took advantage of the confusion and jumped off the line and ran fast, followed by constant bursts of machine guns but he survived. Another man who survived was Ismail Al Ameri.

The Israeli soldiers ordered the people to walk fast near a well. They were lined up in two lines, men and women, surrounded by soldiers. Three of them approached the women’s line, and snatched three girls from the line. The girls pleaded with them to be left alone. Women screamed and wailed, shouting and pleading, “leave the girls”. The soldiers machine gunned the women and took the girls away.

The Israeli officer ordered, “shoot them”. A hail of bullets showered every lying body. Screams, cries of pain, shouts, last minute prayers filled the sight and sound.

Lying down, the witness’s infant (Naifa) cried. She breastfed her to be quiet and covered herself. When she raised her head, a bullet whizzed by, instantly killing her infant. She froze and did not move until she heard sound of soldiers’ steps leaving.

After some quiet, she tried to stand up but could not. Dead bodies surrounded her, in different shapes, some on back, some on belly, some kneeling.

She found her brother, unconscious, hit in 7 places but alive. Later she found her husband in the nearby village of Bayt Awwa.



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» SURVIVOR ACCOUNTS

ZULEIKHA ABDALLAH HUDEIB

60 YEARS OLD

She was in Al Zagh cave with her children (2 girls and a boy) and her husband. Following a hail of bullets she fell to the ground, pretending to be dead, until the soldiers left. One of her daughters had been killed. Bleeding bodies were strewn everywhere. She saw children who had hidden under bodies emerge bloody, crying and screaming for their mothers and fathers. Zuleikha found her boy Mohamed wounded in the arm.

She looked for her husband in the men's side, and finally found him on the brink of death. She called his name, "Salem, Salem," and he slowly opened his eyes, whispering "Zuleikha, How are the children?"

"They are ok," she said.

"Cover me with my aba [cloak]. Take the children and run before the Israelis come back and kill you," he said.

She covered him, put their dead daughter in his arms, took the other children, and ran to Bayt Awwa.

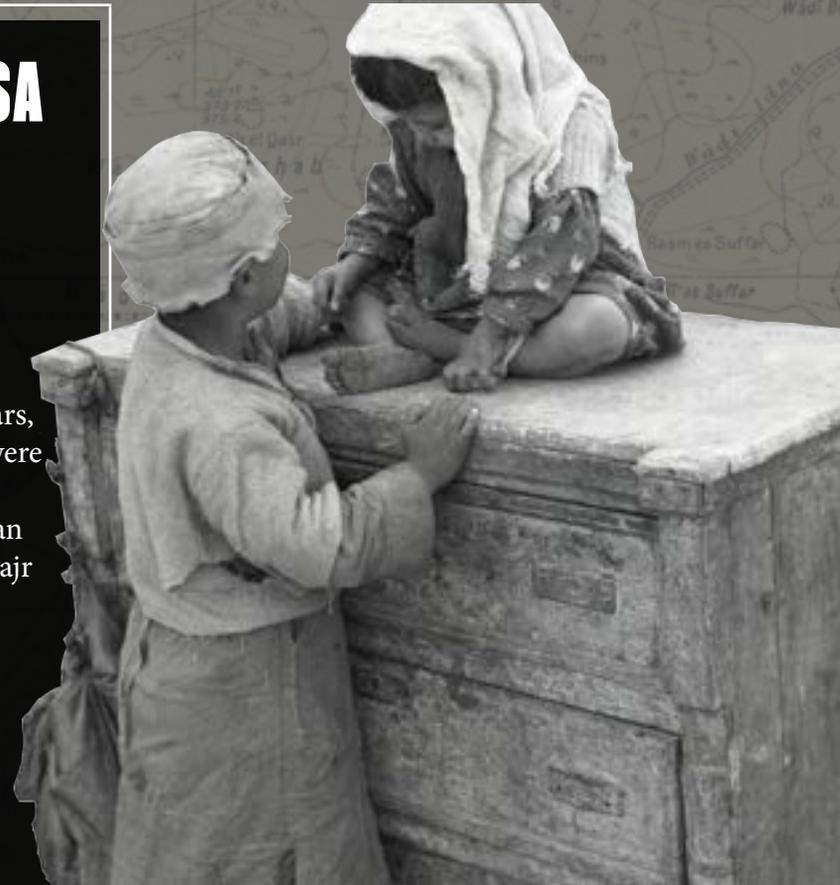
HAJ ABDULLAH MOUSA HAJJI

65 YEARS OLD

He was hiding between rocks near the Zagh massacre site. He saw the Israelis carrying three girls in one of the two cars, heading towards the village. The girls were screaming. They reached a place called Mrah El Kawn where they questioned an old man named Mahmoud Mohd Al Hajr Al Sabateen.

The old man pleaded, "Haram Alikum [Shame on you], taking these girls. Take me instead."

At that moment, the soldiers were surprised by a lone Palestinian fighter who fired on them. They immediately killed the girls and chased the fighter, though they did not find him.



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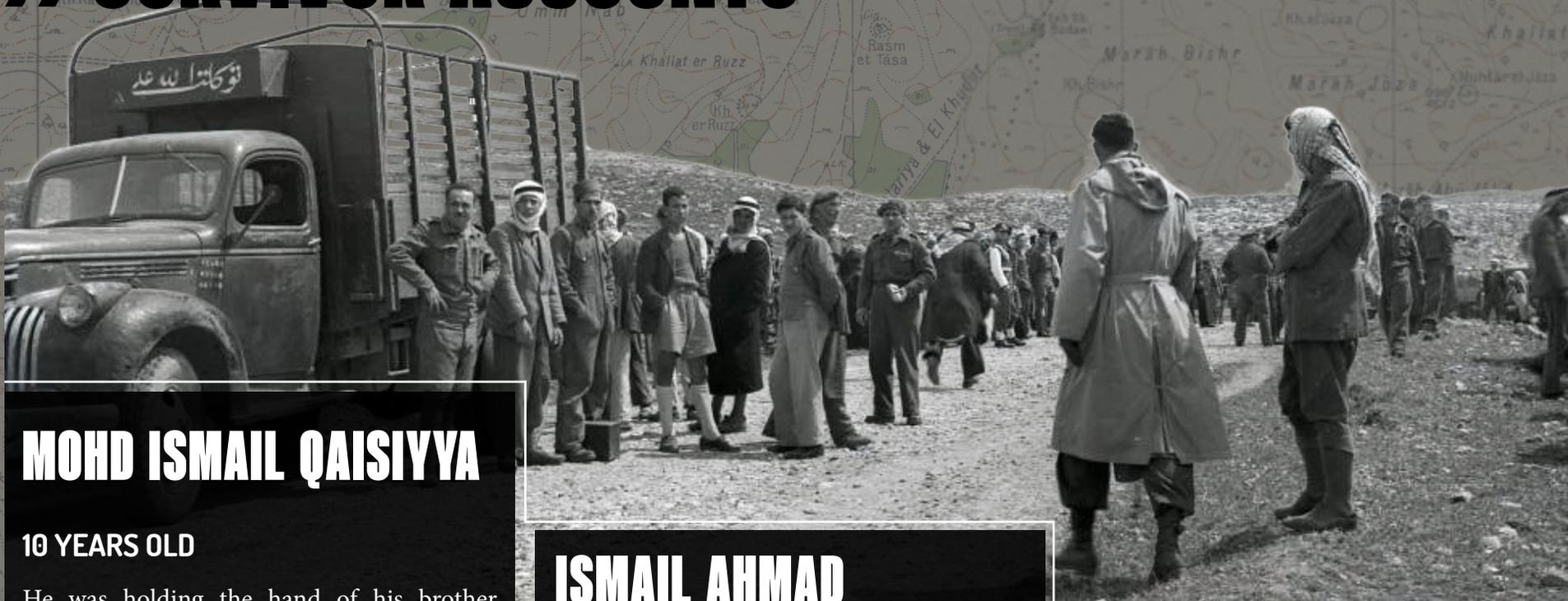
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» SURVIVOR ACCOUNTS



MOHD ISMAIL QAISIYYA

10 YEARS OLD

He was holding the hand of his brother Khalil and his older sister (12 years) with their mother, father and grandmother and other people. The Israelis shot them and he fell on the ground, his head bleeding. When the Israelis left, he found his mother, infant brother, and grandmother—all dead. He went to look for his father in the men's line and found his father, also dead. His brother and sister were missing, but they were later reunited in Dura.

Another witness found an infant, still alive, sucking the breast of his dead mother. The

ISMAIL AHMAD SHEHADEH ABD EL JAWAD AL AMERI

8 YEARS OLD

He was hit in the head, so was his sister (10 years old). His father came at night and took them to Al Khalil hospital, where he underwent an operation to extract the bullet from his head. He survived, but lost his left eye.

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» DAWAYIMA MASSACRE



1936-1939 Revolt leaders

Mukhtar Hassan Hudaib pointing to the well where dead bodies were dumped. (Hadashot report 1984)

» LAST STAND

Some villagers fought valiantly against great odds. Survivors recall the story of the elderly Othman Abdel Qader Al Khudour.

He knew he had no chance, but he was determined "to give his home its due of defense"

His son tried to dissuade him and take away the rifle but he pulled it back. He put his bullet belt on his shoulder and rushed to meet the advancing tanks in the south of the village. Hiding behind a wall, he fired at the soldiers and hit some. They directed their machine guns at him in a hail of bullets. He hid and jumped from one place to another. Salem Haj Abdel Aziz Al Hajer pleaded with him to run away. He told him "do not worry son, you go. I am staying."

He then moved swiftly to the north of the village, jumping from an alley to another shooting at the tanks that had penetrated the houses. His body was found riddled with bullets in a place called Al Budd. The soldiers came down from their tanks and bludgeoned his body. Later at night, young men crept into the darkness and buried him with 4 of his comrades in a common grave.

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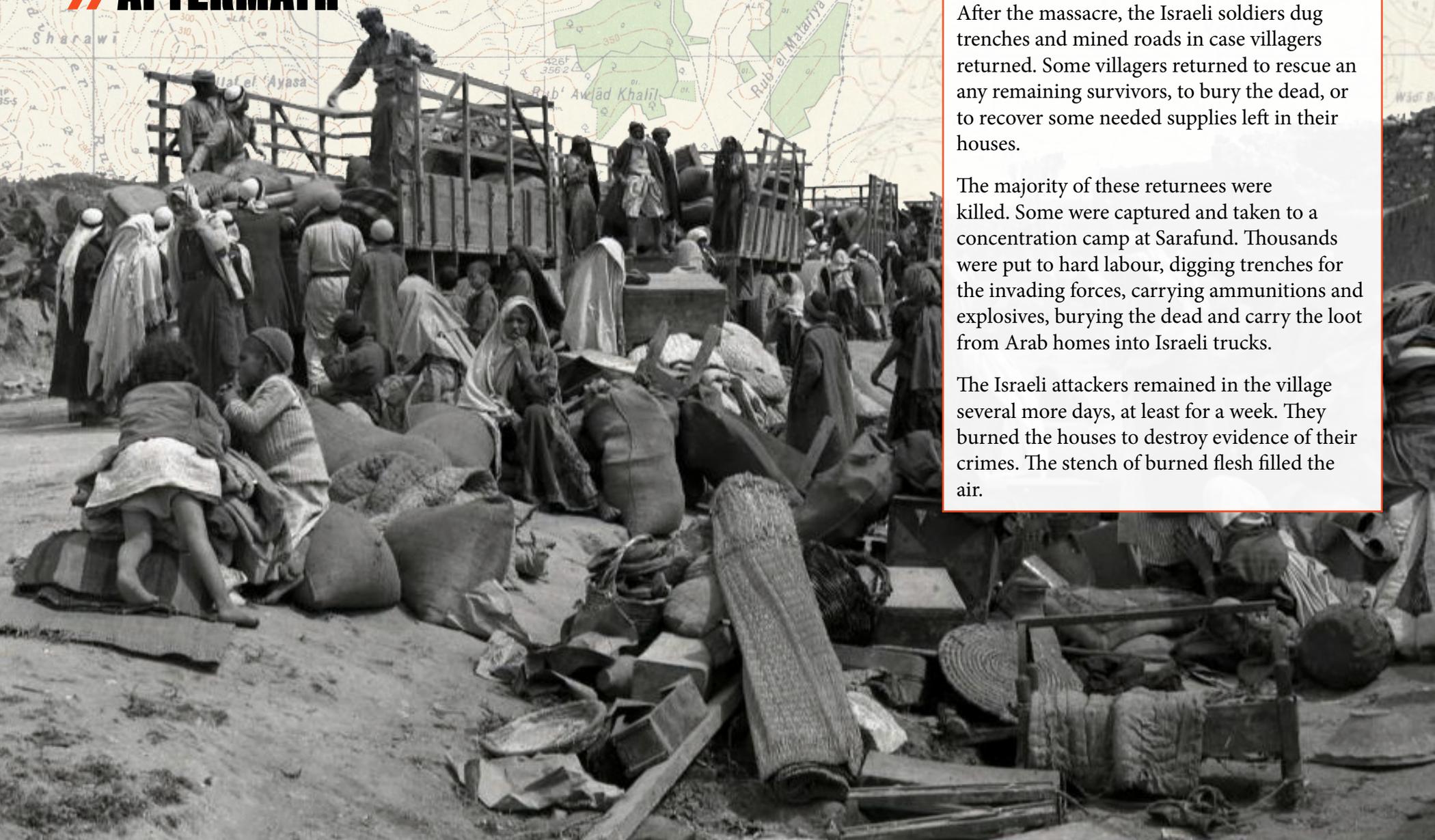
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OCTOBER 29, 1948**» AFTERMATH****» AFTERMATH**

After the massacre, the Israeli soldiers dug trenches and mined roads in case villagers returned. Some villagers returned to rescue any remaining survivors, to bury the dead, or to recover some needed supplies left in their houses.

The majority of these returnees were killed. Some were captured and taken to a concentration camp at Sarafund. Thousands were put to hard labour, digging trenches for the invading forces, carrying ammunitions and explosives, burying the dead and carry the loot from Arab homes into Israeli trucks.

The Israeli attackers remained in the village several more days, at least for a week. They burned the houses to destroy evidence of their crimes. The stench of burned flesh filled the air.



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» CONCEALING THE CRIMES

The Egyptian Authorities reported the massacre to the United Nations, who sent UN Truce Observers to investigate. However, the Israelis obstructed the inspection trip several times, lying the road from Qubayba was mined by Arabs.

NOVEMBER 2, 1948

After several days in which the Israelis burned houses and removed or buried as much debris or bodies as possible, two Israeli officers accompanied Capt Jaquet (French) on a casual visit to the village on 2 November—Report Exhibit C. He noted nothing unusual, as the evidence had already been ‘cleaned up.’

NOVEMBER 5, 1948

On 5 November, Capt Ivey (USA) and Capt Jaquet (French) wanted to visit the site but given no permission “as the road was mined.”

NOVEMBER 8, 1948

On November 8th, Warrant Officer J Van Wassenhove (Belgian) and Colonel Sore (French) visited the site with Israeli officers. This was the first detailed report.

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They found no places for mines before or now. About 15 houses were still smoking/burning, with the roofs caved in. There was a peculiar smell of bone/flesh burning. The (Israeli) officer told them they were “burnt to get the vermin out.”

In the middle of the town they were stopped because “there will be an explosion ..which had vermin in it and that is why they had to blow it up.”



» CONCEALING THE CRIMES

The Egyptian Authorities reported the... to the UN, who sent UN Truce Observers... investigate. However, the Israelis obstructed the int... several times, claiming the road from Q... mined by Arabs.

OCTOBER 2, 1948

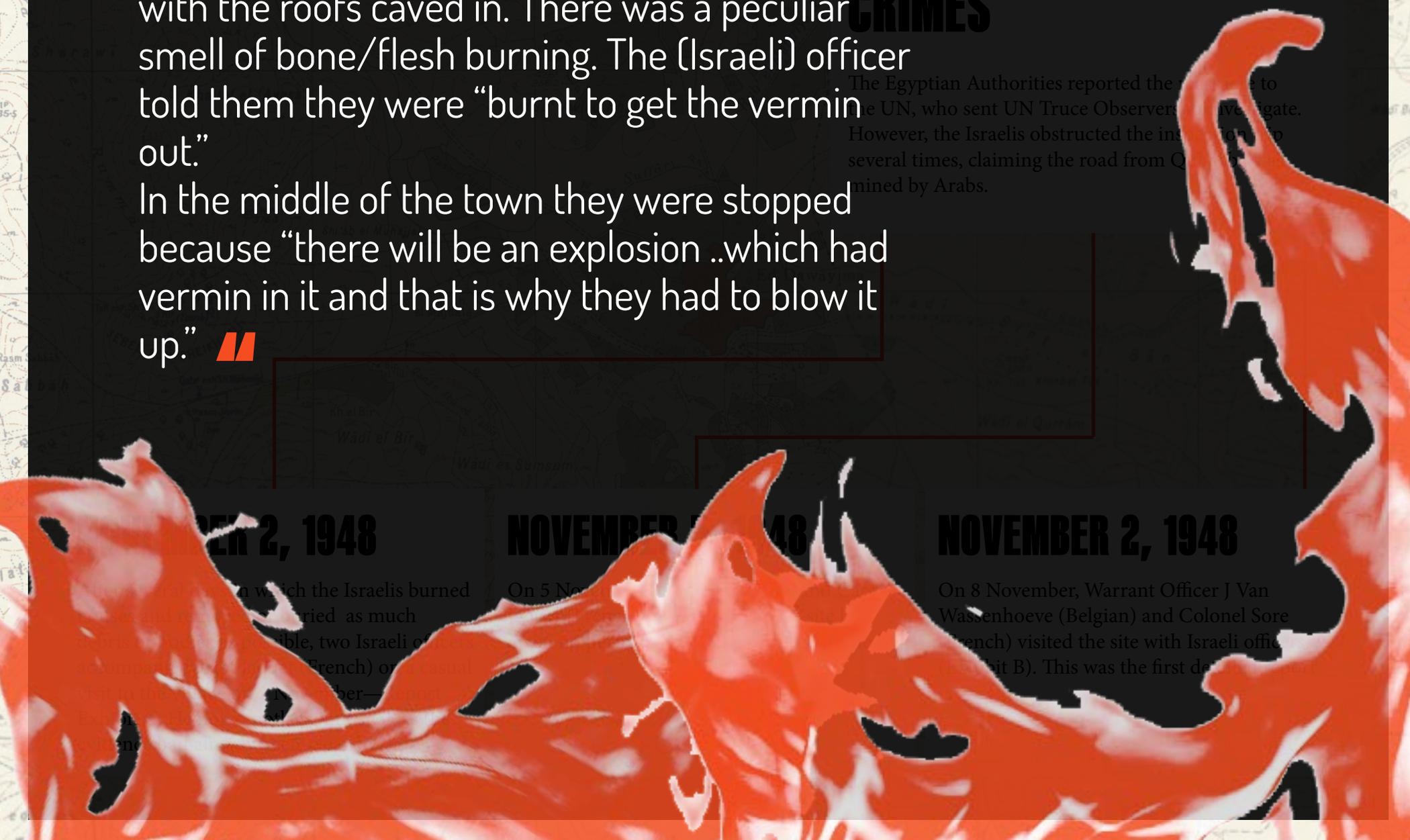
In which the Israelis burned... as much... able, two Israeli of... (French) or... ber—

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On 5 Nov

NOVEMBER 2, 1948

On 8 November, Warrant Officer J Van Wassenhoeve (Belgian) and Colonel Sore (French) visited the site with Israeli offic... (sit B). This was the first de



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» ABBA EBAN DENIES DAWAYMA EXISTED



UNITED NATIONS

THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Alleged truce violation by Jewish forces – Letter from Israel

DUAL DISTRIBUTION

Letter from the Representative of the Provisional Government of Israel dated 8 November 1948 addressed to the President of the Security Council concerning letter from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States (document S/1068)

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Document S/1068 in which the Secretary-General of the Arab League refers to alleged atrocities committed by Jewish forces in Upper Galilee. Reference to this letter was made at the 377th meeting of the Security Council by Mr. Fuad Arnoun, representative of Lebanon (S.P.V/377:56).

It is obvious that lurid and sensational events, such as those described by the Secretary-General of the Arab League, could not take place without there being some knowledge of where they took place. The Security Council should therefore be informed that no such place as DAWAYMA exists anywhere in any part of Galilee. The Secretary-General of the Arab League, by inventing a record of non-existent events in non-existent places in frivolously using the Security Council as a platform for irresponsible propaganda.

The only locality in Palestinian territory known as DAWAYMA is in the south of the country between Beit Jibrin and Dahariya east of Hebron. The Secretary-General of the Arab League has alleged no atrocities in that locality, which had been completely abandoned by its civilian population before it was occupied by Israeli forces in the operations which followed the Egyptian truce violation on October 14th.

I am instructed to point out that the Secretary-General of the Arab League has more than once despatched to the Security Council atrocity stories relating to territory administered by the Provisional Government of Israel. None of these on investigation has proved to have had the least substance or foundation.

In this connection the Government of Israel desires to point out that the civilian population in all parts of Palestine has suffered deeply from the effects of the war, and that the responsibility for this suffering devolves in the last resort upon those who instigated that war. The responsibility of the Arab League for this resort to armed force, which has since had many tragic consequences for hosts of innocent people, was clearly confessed by Azzam Pasha himself in his communication to the Security Council, document S/743, dated May 16th, 1948.

(Signed) Asbeey S. Eban,
Representative of the Provisional
Government of Israel at the United
Nations.

IN A TYPICAL FALSIFICATION, KNOWN TO BE THE TRADE MARK OF THE ZIONIST ORATOR, ABBA EBAN, HE DENIED THAT DAWAYMA EXISTED, HENCE NO MASSACRE TOOK PLACE AND THAT THE ARAB STORY OF THE MASSACRE WAS "LURID AND SENSATIONAL."

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» UNITED NATIONS BLIND EYE

Israeli soldiers deflected their crimes from United Nations Officers who ultimately turned a blind eye. One UN officer saw a burnt “carbonized” body. The Israeli officers acted “astonished and bothered about it.” They said all Arabs left the town.

UN officers wanted to see “the other side” of the town (the back of the mosque). The Israeli Liaison officer did not allow this because “the troops were there.”

One Israeli officer told a UN officer that they never went to the mosque because it would be unethical, with claims that they respect tradition.

UN officers asked to see “the other side” but the Israelis refused because “the road was blocked.”

The gentle words of the United Nations report indicate that the Israelis were trying to cover up a horrendous crime. The massacre was discussed as a war ‘incident’, with no representation of the victims. No further action was taken by any party: no detailed investigation, no remedy, no punishment of the criminals.

THE SMELL OF BURNT BODIES



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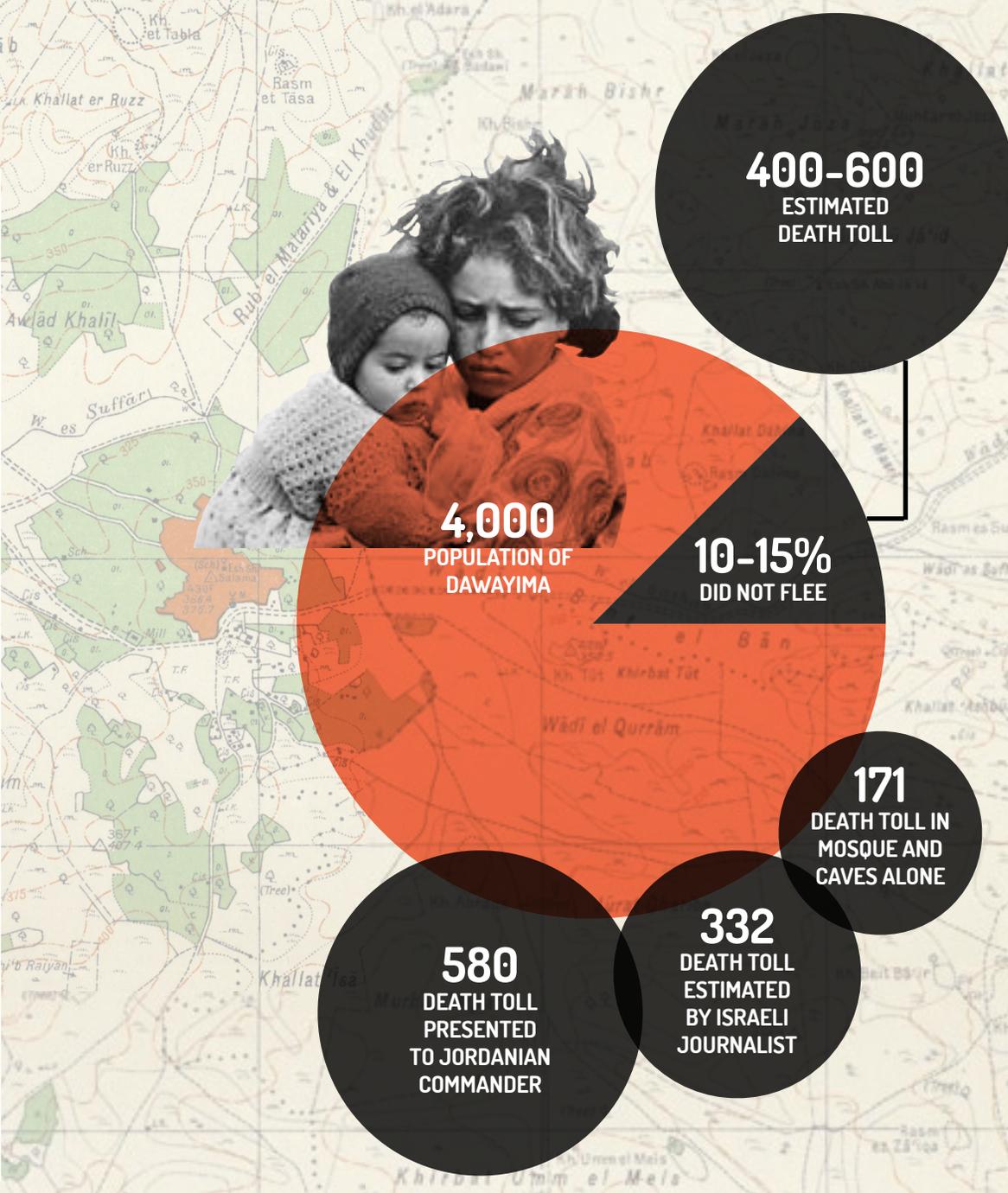
» DEATH TOLL: WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

How can you calculate the death toll of a massacre; those who were killed in the streets, those who were buried in the rubble, those who were thrown in wells or those who were burnt and turned into ashes?

Some conflicting numbers have been speculated. Dayawima Mukhtar Hassan Mahmoud Hudaib presented a number of 580 killed and submitted it to the Jordanian commander in Al Khalil, Ibrahim Krishan. A lone Israeli journalist Yoella Har Shefi visited the site with the Mukhtar in 1984 and estimated the number to be a modest 332. Author Hassan Abu Sbeih listed 171 names killed in the Mosque and Tor al Zagh cave alone.

The population of Dawayima was 4,000. If 10 -15% of the population did not flee, that would mean about 400-600 were present during the massacre. No one was found alive after the attack.

What is the point of finding an accurate number? When criminals are killing anyone in sight, what is the value difference between a death toll of 100 or 1,000? This was genocide in its full ugly meaning.

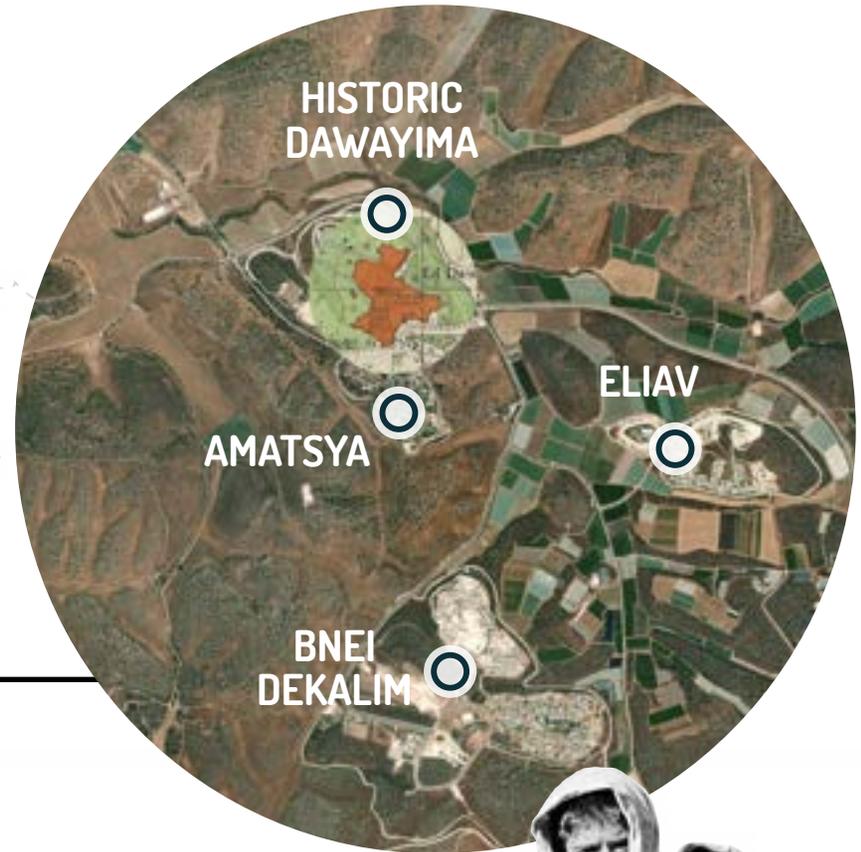
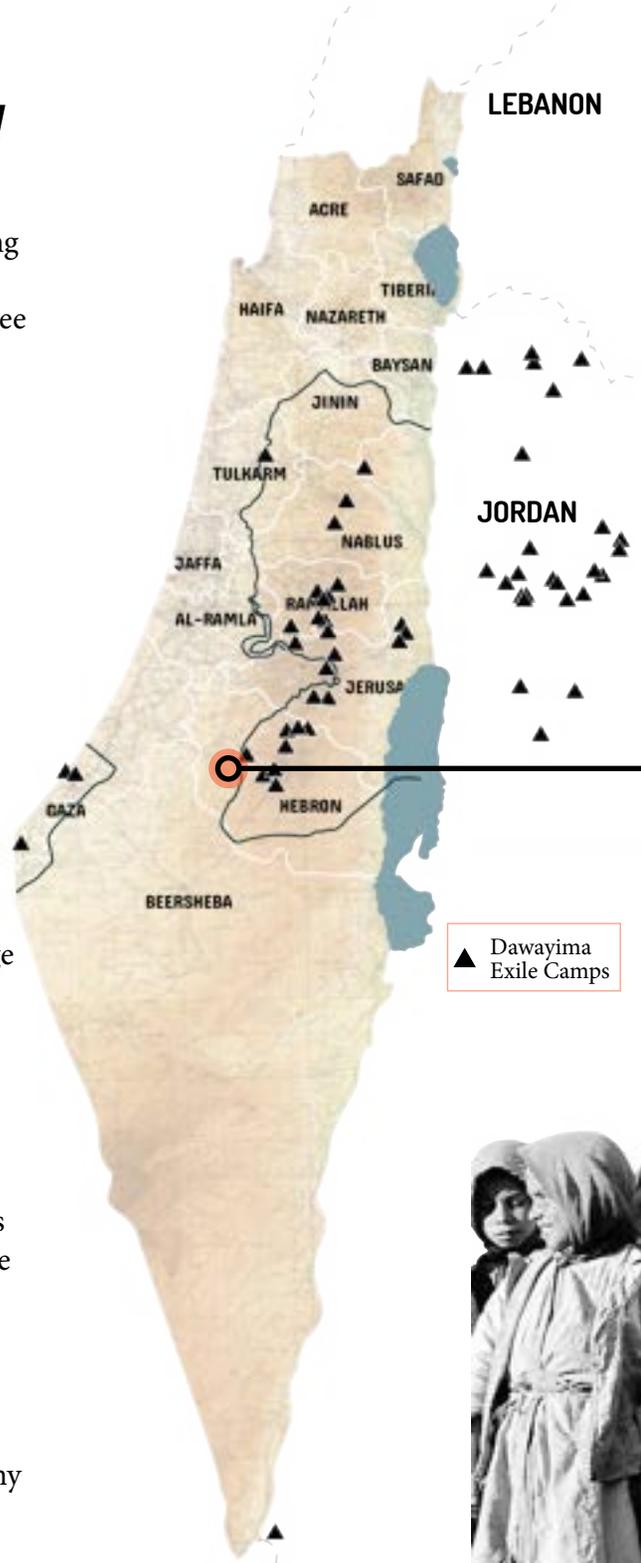


DAWAYIMA TODAY

Panic and fear prompted the remaining villagers to flee, running fast for the caves until ultimately landing in refugee camps. According to UNRWA's 2008 refugee census, the population of the village in the camps was 43,604. And they are distributed within Gaza, the West Bank, Hebron, Jordan and Lebanon. In order to preserve the identity of the village and strengthen the relations between its people, the Dawayima Society for Social Development was established in the early 1980s.

Israel's Amatsya colony was founded in 1955 and built on the ruins of Dawayima, near the cave of Hazaneh, which still contains the remains of a mill and an oil mill. Dawayima's village site was fenced and flattened to the ground. In the center is a cowshed, a chicken coop and a bean for cereals. The southern section contains stone Terrances and the remains of a house. Its eastern part occupies one of the colony's neighborhoods. Cactus grows with many carob and olive trees on the slopes of the site.

Israeli archeologists have visited the site and wrote a long "archeological" study of the site over 2,000 years with not one mention of the massacre or any remaining bones of its victims.



DAWAYIMA TODAY

Today, the land of Dawayima is unrecognizable and it's many village descendants are scattered around the region's refugee camps and across the world within diaspora. But they have never forfeited their Right of Return to their home.

**DAWAYIMA
DEATH TOLL**

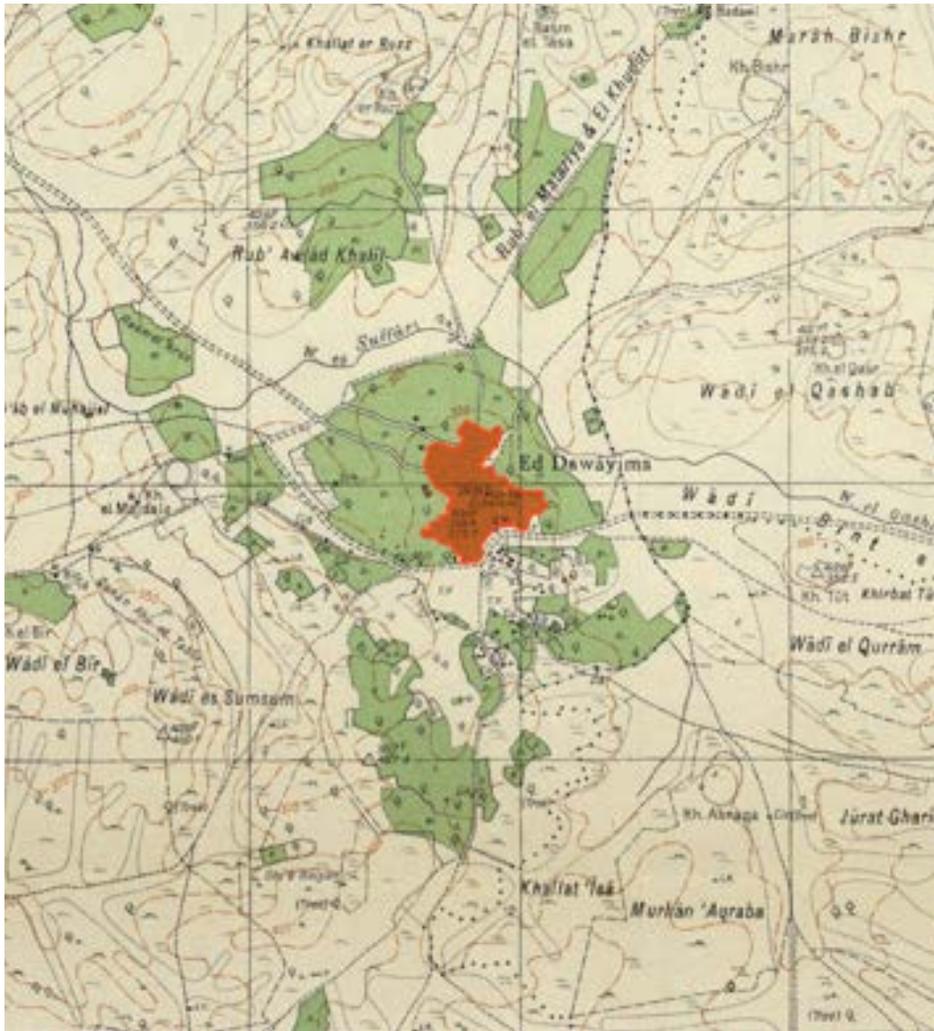
~600
IN 1948

**LAND
STOLEN**

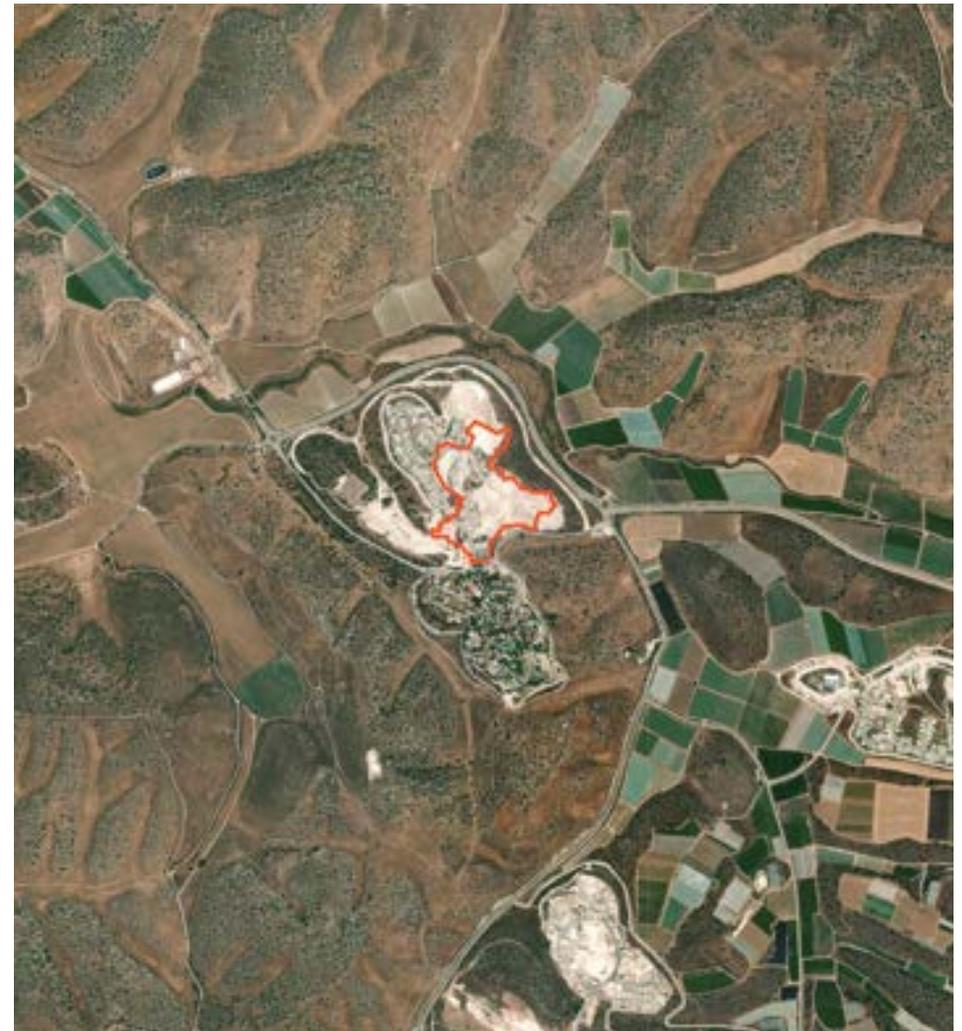
60,585
DUNUMS

**EST. DAWAYIMA
REFUGEES**

62,374
AS OF 2019



1948



SATELLITE TODAY

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There are many other references, testimonies on the web and youtube.

CREDITS:

Dr. Salman Abu Sitta

Daleen Saah

Palestine Land Society, 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Thanks are due to Ahmad Adarbeh of Dawayima who supplied his extensive Birzeit investigation and other material, to Mohamad Rajab Abu Khadra also of Dawayima who supplied a detailed house plan of Dawayima and names of owners, used in this report and to my friend Susan Abulhawa.