



HISTORY OF ISRAEL

[War of Independence — Part 1]

DECEMBER 7 1947 UN Vote

DECEMBER 30 1947 Haifa Oil Refinery attack, 39 Jewish workers killed

JANUARY 10 1948 K'far Szold attacked

LATE MARCH 1948 Arabs block road to Jerusalem & K'far Etzion

FEBRUARY 22 1948 Truck bomb kills 58 (Ben Yehudah Street, Jerusalem)

APRIL 2 1948 Operation Nachshon begins; Kastel on road to Jerusalem captured

APRIL 4-15 1948 Mishmar HaEmek withstands attack

APRIL 22 1948 Haifa captured

APRIL 28 1948 Operation Yiftach to control Northern Galilee

MAY 13 1948 Jaffa captured

MAY 14 1948 Independence declared

By March, the tide of battle seemed to be turning against the Jews. As a result of these military setbacks, the United States began to waiver in its support of the Partition Plan. In early April, the Jews launched their first major offensive, called "Operation Nachshon". The purpose of the mission was to capture a corridor along the road to Jerusalem, and thus secure that route. The major action along the road was the fight for Kastel (which the Haganah won after a fierce battle on April 10). In the North, the Arabs attacked Mishmar Ha'emek, and were defeated.

In mid-April, the Haganah launched operation "Yiftach," whose goal was the liberation of the upper Galilee. On April 18, the Palmach captured Tiberias. On April 21, as the British withdrew from Haifa proper, a brief battle for the city ensued, and was quickly won by the Haganah. By May 10, the Arab parts of Safed were captured. On May 13, Jaffa was captured.

On May 14, the Etzion bloc fell to attackers from the Arab Legion. The period leading up to independence was one of successful consolidation. All of the areas in the Galilee allotted as the Jewish State were firmly under Jewish control, as well as some areas that were to have been part of the Arab State. The coastal plain was secure, as was Jewish Jerusalem.



“ Severe Disciplinary measures will be taken against those breeding the rule of reprisals. It must be emphasized that our aim is defense and not worsening the relations with that part of the Arab community that wants peace with us. — **Order from the Commander of the Jewish Alexandroni Brigade to his soldiers.**”

“ For two thousand years we have waited for our deliverance. Now that it is here it is so great and wonderful it surpasses human words. Jews, Mazal Tov, Good luck! — **Golda Meir After UN Vote**”



“ Military Force alone will not ensure our victory. In this era war is not fought only by armies. Moreover our struggle is more difficult For a war has been declared not only against a Jewish army but the entire Yishuv. — **David Ben Gurion December 1947**”



From the moment the United Nations voted on partition, war erupted in Eretz Yisrael. During the month of December, wealthy Arabs fled mixed areas. On January 10, 1947, Arabs attacked the settlement of Kfar Szold, but were thwarted. Jewish settlements throughout the country were isolated and major efforts were expended in order to resupply them, as the road to Jerusalem was often blocked.