Operation Hametz

Operation Hametz (Clean-up Campaign), which commenced on April 27, 1948, had two objectives:

To surround and defeat Jaffa, and to open the road to Lydda airport.

The conquest of Jaffa was not included in the operation plans, because it was assumed that when the British left the city the population would be forced to surrender, as a result of the siege.

Three Hagana brigades participated in the campaign: Alexandroni, Givati and Kiryati.

The campaign commenced on the night of the 27-28 April, 1948, at the same time as the ETZEL conquered Mamshiya.

During the campaign the Tel Litvinsky military base (Tel Hashomer) and the Salame and Yazur villages, which served as principal bases for the Arab forces in the region, were taken, as well as Hiriya and Sakiya.

At the request of the Hagana, an ETZEL mortar unit assisted in the conquest of Salame. However, the attack on Tel A-Rish failed and many Hagana men of the Givati Brigade were killed and wounded.

On April 30, after its residents had fled in masse, the Iraqi commander of Jaffa left the city with his men and their weapons.

On May 13, representatives of the Arabs of Jaffa signed a surrender agreement with the Hagana commander.

The British left Jaffa, upon termination of the Mandate, and Hagana and ETZEL units victoriously entered the city.