OPERATION "KEDEM"

The objective of this operation, which took place on July 17 1948, was to break into the Old City from two directions: From the New Gate in the north and the Zion Gate in the south.

One of the I.D.F battalions of the Etzioni Brigade attacked from the direction of Mount Zion, two ETZEL companies were ordered to break through the northern section of the wall in the area of the New Gate and one LEHI company was to penetrate through a break in the wall between Jaffa Gate and the New Gate. A heavy bombardment by the Arab Legion prevented the Etzioni and LEHI forces from executing their missions. The ETZEL soldiers broke through the New Gate and took cover in a niche in the wall, but they were not successful in occupying the vital post situated in the angle of the north-west wall.

The time of the second cease-fire drew near and the ETZEL commander suggested to the Jerusalem Region commanding officer to remain in place even after the cease-fire took effect and to try to create a bridge-head inside the wall as a "fait accompli". The proposal was not accepted because the Jerusalem regional commander considered this to be contrary to the Security Council's resolution.

At 05:45 a.m. the cease-fire took effect and the force left the Old City for its position in Notre Dame.