

Haganah Razes 14 Arab Houses; Zionists Absolve Britain in Blast

Panel Finds No Evidence Linking Security Forces to Jerusalem Bombing—Agency Protests Week-Long Road Curfew

By DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JERUSALEM, March 15—The Haganah, Zionist militia, demolished fourteen Arab houses and damaged ten others last night in Ghubaiya et-Taha, in the Haifa district. There were no casualties, as the village had been evacuated after a Jewish attack on Friday.

In what appears to be new strategy, concentration on the destruction of property, which the Jews believe impresses Arabs even more than a loss of lives, the Haganah has in the last three days carried out five such "punitive" operations.

The legal panel of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and the Jewish National Council that has been investigating the Ben Yehuda Street bombing will report tomorrow that there is nothing in the evidence to support the theory that the bombing was carried out by any member of the security force or under British sponsorship.

A spokesman of the Jewish Agency protested today that the seven-day curfew on road traffic, which was imposed on Jewish settlements in Upper Galilee after the Haganah raid on al-Husseiniya on Saturday was "inconsistent with the neutrality" that British security forces had professed to maintain.

Cites Attitude on Arabs

He asserted that no punitive action had been taken against the Arabs after their raids on the Jewish colonies of Kfar-Szoid, Dan, Yechiam and Tirat Zvi or as a result of Arab incursions across the frontiers.

The Haganah radio said that the curfew, prolonged to one week from forty-eight hours, was the longest yet imposed. It added the ban would deprive twenty-five Jewish settlements of essential supplies and cut off Haifa from part of its food supply.

Following a meeting, the Jerusalem consular corps said in a statement that the consuls had decided to call the attention of their Governments to breaches of immunity normally accorded to consular representatives. These are preventing a normal discharge of consular duties, the statement added.

The officials mentioned fatalities among their members, and "in the most recent instance, the fraudulent use of a consular car in the bomb outrage at the Jewish Agency," perpetrated by Arabs.

The statement continued, "The consular corps vigorously condemns this wanton abuse of those principles of international law and of immunity which are accepted by civilized peoples the world over;

it particularly deplures and is profoundly shocked that the national colors of a foreign power should be employed."

Jack Keegan, manager of Trans World Airline in Palestine, confirmed that TWA was suspending operations at the Lydda airport because one of its planes was fired at over Tel Aviv. He said he had protested directly to the Jewish Agency and was told that the shots "must have been fired by the Arabs or the British." The airline has asked the United States consulate to take up the matter with the Agency.

Police reports indicate that the country had what passes for a quiet day in Palestine. Four Jews were killed and three Jews and two Arabs injured in minor incidents.

A British policeman was killed and two soldiers were injured by a booby trap that exploded when they entered a Jewish house in Haifa. Another soldier was injured by rifle fire after he had confiscated a home-made Sten gun and ammunition in an Arab garage in Haifa.

The secret radio of the Stern Group, Zionist terrorists, broadcast advice to newspaper correspondents and the United States consulate. An announcer said:

"Sam Brewer of THE NEW YORK TIMES: Is your admiration of the British based on fear, or are you just plain dumb? Get wise to yourself, bud. Where is the famous American guts?"

"Jerry Caminada of The London Times: Quit covering. Come out from behind that British brass. We won't bite you.

"Marice Fagence of The London Daily Herald: How could one man live in Palestine so long and know so little about it? Listen and learn."

British Move Troops on Schedule

JERUSALEM, March 15 (AP)—In the drive to relieve Gath, a Jewish settlement near Gaza, the Haganah blasted ten buildings in the Arab village of Faluja, including the municipal and postoffice buildings, Jewish sources said today.

The British announced that they were moving troops out of the country fast enough to complete withdrawal on Aug. 1.

Already moved out are 145,000 tons of stores, including 2,000 tons of ammunition and 1,800 Army and Royal Air Force vehicles. The Army destroyed 1,500 tons of ammunition.

The announcement said "several thousand British troops have been withdrawn or their units disbanded." The Army pledged that no arms or ammunition would be sold or left behind.