



(Broadcast, 11 April, 1948)

Friday night you heard the official report of the "Haganah" Command concerning the capture of the Kastel. But you heard not a thing concerning the capture of the village of Dir-Yassin. You did not hear of the battle which developed wherein, for the first time, soldiers of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel, and the Palmach participated. There seems to be no end to the greed of small-minded men whose job it is to write the "official" communiques. But that greed cannot erase facts, facts which were written in blood and stamped with conquest and victory.

We broadcast herewith the contents of two communiques which reached us by radio from the Jerusalem headquarters of the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

COMMUNIQUE No. 1 -- 9 April, 1948. 11:50 a.m.

Our combat units, together with units of the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel, this morning attacked and captured the Arab village of Dir-Yassin, west of Jerusalem. Dir-Yassin has served as a base for a powerful band of rioters and their snipers disrupted communications between the Hebrew quarters in the western part of town. According to reports which reached us, Iraqi and Syrian troops had arrived in the village and their task was to attack the Hebrew quarters.

At two in the morning our soldiers set out in four columns in the direction of Dir-Yassin. After the units had arrived at pre-arranged points, the signal to attack was given at 4:30 a.m. Despite the incessant fire directed against them by the enemy, who was well entrenched, our units advanced in military order, stormed and succeeded in capturing most of the enemy strongholds. After the women and children had been cleared out the strongholds were blown-up and tens of the enemy's men were buried under the debris. While the attack was in progress a loudspeaker warned the women and children to seek shelter on the mountain slopes. Many saved their lives that way.

The battle is continuing. Two of our armoured cars which advanced into the village were forced to a standstill by a trench 1 1/2 meters deep. An engineering unit of ours succeeded, despite the heavy fire directed against it, in filling up the trench. In the ensuing face-to-face battle our soldiers succeeded in capturing house after house and took possession of the entire village. The remnants of the gangs which escaped in panic entrenched themselves in a house a small distance away from the village and on the road to the Kastel. In the meantime, heavy Arab reinforcements arrived. From Ain-Karem there arrived a gang which took up its position on a mountain ledge, opposite Tel-Hoff, and opened fire with heavy machine-guns. While the firing was in progress, two units of the Palmach, fully armed, joined our men in battle. I repeat -- at the entrance to Dir-Yassin units of the Palmach joined the units of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel and fought shoulder to shoulder against the common foe.

During the course of the entire battle orderly communications were maintained between the base and the units in the front. Reinforcements in men, ammunition and food are being sent. Our losses thus far are two dead, three seriously wounded and several slightly injured. The enemy's losses, according to a mild estimate, amount to tens of dead. An armoured ambulance of the Magen David Adom entered the line of fire and removed the injured. Our soldiers took prisoners who have been brought back to the base.

The above communique was received at 11:50 a.m. and was signed by the Jerusalem command of the Irgun and the PFI.

At 19:00 o'clock that same evening a second communique was received from Jerusalem:

The village of Dir-Yassin has been completely captured and is in our hands. Our casualties are four dead, four seriously wounded and twenty-eight slightly injured. Up to now we have counted two hundred and forty Arab dead. The battle, continues the communique, was a house-to-house battle. We took prisoners. We have undertaken to hold the village for 48 hours after which we shall relinquish it to the Haganah.

THE VOICE OF FIGHTING ZION
Broadcasting Station of the
IRGUN ZVAI LEUMI
b'Eretz Israel

(Broadcast, 14 April, 1948)

You have read the "strong words of denunciation" uttered by the Jerusalem "Haganah" Commander in connection with the capture of Dir-Yassin. You have heard it proclaimed that this attack was entirely lacking in military value; that this attack was in contradiction to the general plan for the defence of Jerusalem; that this action was directed against a "peaceful village" which should never have been attacked. All these things were said by the "Haganah" Commander and "Haganah spokesmen" after Dir-Yassin was captured, after one of the most difficult, most hazardous and most important of all actions in the battle to free Jerusalem from the British-Arab siege, had been executed.

Now, citizen of the Hebrew homeland, listen well and hear what that same Jerusalem Commander of the Haganah had to say concerning the plan to capture Dir-Yassin before this plan was put into action. Listen and note what was written by that same Haganah Commander to our Jerusalem Commander. Listen and you will see the repetition of the King David episode, with certain changes of course, but with the same lying, cowardice and disgusting hypocrisy which was so characteristic of that well-known affair.

Listen! You are about to hear a letter which the Haganah Commander in Jerusalem dispatched to the Jerusalem Commander of the Irgun Zvai Leumi on April 7, 1948:

To Y -- from MM-2; i.e., the Haganah, Jerusalem District Commander:

"It has come to my knowledge that you are preparing an attack on Dir Yassin. I would call your attention to the fact that the capture and occupation of Dir Yassin is a direct link in our general plan. I have no objection to your execution of the plan provided you can hold the village. If you are unable to do so I would warn you against blowing up the village since it will bring in its wake the desertion of the village by its inhabitants and its occupation by foreign forces. This will make things more difficult and a second capture of the village will necessitate heavy casualties on our part. A nother fact I would point out to you is that should the village become occupied by foreign forces it will disrupt our plan to..." and then follows, what for security reasons we cannot disclose.

This then is the letter written by the Haganah Commander on 7 April, 1948.

Have you heard well? You will probably say: Unbelievable! We too have not yet been able to fathom the hypocrisy which surrounds this disgraceful episode. But this hypocrisy is a fact. The Haganah Commander emphatically declared on 7 April that it is his intention to capture Dir Yassin since it is of importance to his general plan. But when Dir Yassin is captured by soldiers of the Irgun and FFI -- stormed and captured at a precious cost -- this same "Haganah" Commander says that this attack was of no military value and was carried out only to satisfy the propaganda needs of the "dissidents". The "Haganah" Commander asks that the village houses not be blown up since that might bring on the occupation of the ruins by "foreign forces"; but when our soldiers risk their lives, despite the heavy fire directed against them from every house and every quarter, and capture and hold on to the village in order to turn it over to the "Haganah" as requested and as promised -- the "Haganah" Commander showers recriminations and insults on the conquerors who turned over to him the required base without the "Haganah" suffering even one casualty. The "Haganah" feared that a second capture of the village would necessitate more men and more casualties. But the fear was groundless. There was no need for a second capture. The soldiers of the Irgun and FFI did not allow "foreign forces" to occupy the village; the soldiers of the Irgun and FFI held on to it until the "Haganah" men came and took up their posts therein even as their Commander had desired. And it was not only to Dir Yassin that the "Haganah" entered after we had cleared it of the enemy. It appears that Kelovya too was occupied by the "Haganah" after it was deserted -- and it was deserted as a direct result of the attack on Dir Yassin. It is possible that in a few days the "Haganah" will occupy Beit Iksef which too has been deserted by its inhabitants as a direct result of the attack on Dir Yassin. It is possible that tomorrow the "Haganah" will occupy Malcha which three days ago was left by its villagers as a direct result of the attack on Dir Yassin, the same Malcha which served as a principal base for attacks by brigands against Kiryat Shmona and Neveh Shannah; which

threatened Beit-Vagan; Malcha which was a connecting link between Ein-Karem and Beit-Saffafa; Malcha whose evacuation disconnects Ein-Karem, the most dangerous of Arab settlements in which bands have entrenched themselves. It is possible that tomorrow the "Haganah" will enter Malcha and boast that it is its genius that changed the look of things in besieged Jerusalem. But the truth is that Kolonya, Beit-Ikasa, Malcha and a whole string of Arab villages which served as valuable bases for the Arab bands and were the cause of much danger to our Jerusalem -- the truth is that all these places were left as a direct result of the capture of Dir-Yassin, as a direct result of the Irgun and FFI attack. The truth is that with one blow we changed the strategic position of our capital and made the enemy flee far away from her approaches. And the "Haganah" Commander instead of thanking us for blazing a trail for him with our sweat and blood, instead of recognizing the fact that we broke the belt of strangulation which had been put around Jerusalem; that same Commander of the "Haganah" who recommended the capture of Dir Yassin in his letter, now showers Hebrew fighters with cauldrons of abuse because that is what the party he serves dictates, because that is what is demanded by the miserable Agency, who crowns Abdullah, the slave of Nazi-Britain, King over the Arabs in Eretz Israel and sends him (Abdullah) a report on Dir Yassin and condolences for the Arab casualties.

Now that we have brought before you all the facts, would you now tell us Hebrew citizens:

Is there yet a greater disgrace in our lives than this disgraceful hypocrisy?

And can one hope that with these hypocrites, these liars, these cowards, there can arise a fighting-unity, a unity of the truth? Can we hope that Abdullah's condolences will indeed bring on our liberation from our enemies and their schemes?

The story of Dir Yassin is a story written by conquerors, fighters and liberators and a story by the hypocrites. The Dir Yassin episode requires an accounting from each one of us for the nation is faced with a war for survival. And if Might and Justice are needed in every war, they are necessary tenfold in a war for survival.

Following are some reports on events from the Jerusalem front:

1. It is known from Arab sources that after the capture of Dir Yassin there were demonstrations within the Old City, for the first time in four months of war, wherein demands were voiced for peace with the Jews.
2. Yesterday morning, after a Jewish convoy to Mt. Scopus had been attacked our soldiers attacked concentrations of Arabs in Sheik-Jirach and inflicted 15 casualties.