

Subject Files

Political Advisor to the Chief of Staff

Incidents in Galilee (31 October - 2 November 1948)

ca. 02/11/1948

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G A L I L E E

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>INCIDENTS</u>
<u>1948</u> 21 October	GALILEE SALIENT	On and prior to 21 October 1948, the Arab Army of Liberation under Fawzi Faukji Pasha, occupied a salient south of the Lebanese border extending into Palestine approximately 28 kilometers deep and 25 kilometers wide. Israeli forces occupied positions around the east, south and west perimeter of this salient.
	SH ABBAD HILL	Israeli forces occupied HILL SH ABBAD (2000-2904) directly astride the Truce Line on the east side of the salient. On this date they re-inforced this position with additional troops.
	TYRE, LEBANON	At 2200Z hours an unidentified plane bombed the city of Tyre, Lebanon.
22 October	SH ABBAD & HOULE	At 0300 hours an Israeli patrol from SH ABBAD advanced upon the Arab village of HOULE (1983-2905). Arab troops at HOULE repulsed the Israeli patrol, attacked and captured SH ABBAD. Meeting between UNMOS Tiberias and Beirut to investigate SH ABBAD-HOULE incident. Israeli liaison officer made statement at meeting: "That if Arabs had not ceased fire and withdrawn by 0800 hours 23 October, Israeli forces would launch a full-scale counter attack.
23 October	EILABUN - KAFR MANDA - TARBIKHA	During early morning hours Israeli forces attacked the Arab held villages of EILABUN (1788-2498), KAFR MANDA (1718-2461), and TARBIKHA (1779-2765) - located on the southeast, southwest and northwest corners respectively, of the Arab held salient.

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1948		
23 October (continued)	AL MANARA - HILLS NOS. 696, 744 and 760 - BLIDA.	During morning Arab forces shelled the Israeli kibbutz of AL MANARA (2012-2890), and BLIDA (1986-2828) with artillery and mortars. The Arabs attacked and captured HILL NO. 696 (2014-2842), HILL NO. 744 (2012-2857) and HILL NO. 760 (2016-2868).
	HILLS NOS. 696, 744 & 760	On night 23-24 October Arab forces withdrew from HILLS NOS. 696, 744 and 760.
	SH ABBAD, AL MANARA - HILLS 696, 744 & 760	Conference between UNMOS Tiberias and Beirut ordered a "Cease-fire" effective 1300Z; also directed that Arab forces begin withdrawal to positions held prior to the attack. The withdrawal to be completed by daylight 24 October. Arabs agreed to honor "Cease-fire" and withdrawal order. Israeli liaison officer agreed to honor "Cease-fire" order at hour designated, but refused to recognize the UNMOS order to permit Arabs until daylight following day to complete withdrawal, stating: "If the Arabs had not completed their withdrawal within one hour after "Cease-fire" hour, they would drive them out." At 1250Z hours, ten minutes prior to effective time of "Cease-fire", Israeli forces opened heavy fire with all available weapons, continuing the fire until dark, long after "cease-fire" hour was effective. At 1200Z hours, Arab forces complied with "Cease-fire" order, their guns remaining silent for three hours. At 1600Z Arab commander advised Israeli Commander thru UNMOS that unless Israeli forces ceased fire within 15 minutes, Arabs would resume fire. Israeli forces refused. Fighting became general all along sector.

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24 October	SH ABBAD - AL MANARA - HILLS 696, 744 & 760	UNMOS report Kaukji's forces withdrew as ordered.
	HOULE - BLIDA - MEISS EJ JEBEL	During night 23-24 October, Israeli planes bombed HOULE (1983- 2905), BLIDA (1986-2828) and MEISS EJ JEBEL (1990-2860). From 0800 until 1000 hours, Israeli forces continued firing upon Arab positions.
	SH ABBAD & HOULE	During afternoon Israeli forces re-occupied SH ABBAD, and from that point fired upon village of HOULE. At 1700 hours Arab forces at HOULE counter attacked and re- captured SH ABBAD and southern ridge of AL MANARA (2012-2890).
	HILLS NOS. 696, 744 & 747	On night 24 October, Arab forces re-captured HILLS NOS. 696, 744 and captured HILL NO. 747.
25 October	EILABUN - KA FR MANDA - TARBIKHA	During the early morning hours Israeli forces again attacked the villages of EILABUN, KA FR MANDA and TARBIKHA.
26 October	SH ABBAD - HILLS NOS. 696, 744, 747 and 760	Meeting between UNMOS Tiberias and Beirut ordered Kaukji's forces to withdraw from Israeli territory. Lebanese commander refused unless Israelis agreed to refrain from aggressive action in the area.
27 October	SH ABBAD - HILLS NOS. 696, 744, 747 and 760	Sector quiet. Lebanese forces still occupy positions in Israeli territory.

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1948		
27 October (continued)	ENTIRE FRONT	United Nations Chief of Staff directed SUNMO Beirut to inform Lebanese Army that withdrawal order must be issued immediately to Kaukji's forces occupying Israeli territory.
28 October	NAHARIYA	During early morning hours Israeli forces assembled strong troop and armored re-inforcements at NAHARIYA (159-268).
	ENTIRE FRONT	At 0715Z hours, United Nations Chief of Staff directed SUNMO Beirut to inform Lebanese that Kaukji's forces must withdraw to own side of Truce Line. At 1000Z SUNMO Beirut reported to UN Chief of Staff that Lebanese Chief of Staff had issued orders to Kaukji's forces to withdraw. At 1300Z hours meeting between UNMOS Tiberias and Beirut to effect withdrawal of Kaukji's forces. During meeting Israeli liaison officer requested UNMOS to leave the area immediately "for their own safety". Also gave UNMOS from BEIRUT definite routes to follow thru Lebanese lines. As SUNMO Tiberias was leaving, he observed 5 bombers circling over Arab area and dropping bombs. At 1500Z hours two bombers dropped bombs on Arab position at MR 1940-2635.

MR 1940-2635

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1948		
28 October (continued)	TARSHIHA - MEIRUN - SAFSAF & JISH	During evening Israeli planes bombed TARSHIHA (1735-1682), MEIRUN (1913-2652), SAFSAF (1920-2685) and JISH (192-270). At 1800Z Israeli forces shelled TARSHIHA with artillery until midnight followed by full-scale attack.
	QADAS	During evening Israeli forces launched probing attack with armored cars and infantry towards QADAS (1998-2798).
29 October	ENTIRE FRONT	0700Z hours Chief of Staff sent message to SUNMOS Beirut and Tel Aviv for immediate action. "Inform Israeli and Lebanese Chiefs of Staff that the military operations now being conducted along the Lebanese front are a grave and in- excusable violation of the Truce. All forces involved must cease fire by 291000Z. Return to posi- tions of 211200Z on own side of Truce Lines must be completed by 300500Z. This message also sent to the Acting Mediator". 1200Z - Lebanese reply to 0700Z message was to the effect that since Israelis had already occupied several Arab positions and were continuing their advances, it was difficult to restrain local com- manders from counter attacking in order to stop the Israelis. 1444Z - Israeli reply to 0700Z message was a complete chrono- logical report on incidents on

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1948		
29 October (continued)	ENTIRE FRONT (continued)	<p>Lebanese front and ended by saying: "Before Chief of Staff, Israeli Army can consider issue of an order to discontinue present operations initiated as a last resort with a view to forcing enemy to withdraw from positions occupied in violation of Truce, he feels entitled to inquire what guarantees can be offered against re-occurrence of such violations."</p> <p>Letter from Israeli HQ to United Nations Chief of Staff, stated: "Observers were ordered out of Galilee area for their own safety, since Lebanese were extensively bombing Israeli positions". Letter continues to outline situation in Galilee for previous several days, and closes by saying: "Any action taken by our forces against them (Lebanese) is purely defensive and cannot possibly be characterized as retaliatory."</p>
	TARSHIHA	<p>At 1335 hours two Israeli C-47 planes and one pursuit plane dropped ten bombs on TARSHIHA. At 1800 hours two Israeli C-47 planes flying west to east dropped one bomb on TARSHIHA and continued eastward over Arab territory.</p>
30 October	NAHARIYA - MEIRUN & TARSHIHA	<p>During early morning hours Israeli armored cars and infantry reinforcements assembled at NAHARIYA (159-268) moved towards the Arab lines at TARSHIHA. By 1100 hours Israeli forces had captured MEIRUN (1913-2652) and SASA (1872-2705) on the east side of the salient, and later in the day captured TARSHIHA on the western side, and continued a full-scale offensive all along the entire front.</p>

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30 October (continued)	ENTIRE FRONT	<p>At 0731Z hours message from UN Chief of Staff to SUNMOS Tel Aviv and Beirut cites answers given by both Israeli and Lebanese to message 0700Z of 29 October, and continues: "Question of guarantees raised by both High Commanders may be considered not before but after "cease-fire" which must be immediate and unconditional. The refusal in present circumstances to comply with a request for simultaneous cease fire under control of UNMOS is a violation of terms of the Truce. I have accordingly decided that all forces involved must cease fire by 301300Z."</p> <p>1130Z from SUNMO Beirut: Commander-in-Chief Lebanese Army gave order to cease fire today at 1300Z.</p> <p>1150Z Israeli reply: "The Chief of Staff has decided to refer whole matter to the Provisional Government of Israel".</p> <p>1841Z - Message from Mohn: "Israeli government has accepted cease-fire and army was issued cease-fire orders effective 310800Z."</p> <p>Lebanese informed of "Cease-Fire" 210800Z. SUNMO Beirut reported Lebanese obeyed 201300Z cease-fire order but were forced to reopen fire for defensive reasons due to continued Israeli attacks.</p> <p>During the night the Arab Army of Liberation evacuated all areas held by them in the Palestine salient, and withdrew north across the border into Lebanon.</p>

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31 October	ENTIRE FRONT	Cease-fire order was effective.
2 November	INVASION OF LEBANESE TERRITORY	Israeli forces having occupied the entire Galilee Salient, continued their advance across the Lebanese border and occupied positions at QUANTARA (LL 1935-2975), EL QOUSSA IRA (LL 1235-1512), AALMANE (LL 1242-1521), BEIR SIRIANE (LL 1282-1510), HILL 613 (LL 1362-1508) and HILL 204 (LL 2112-2948).

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