

BLACK PAPER

THE
BRITISH TERROR
IN
PALESTINE

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Foreword

Public opinion in this country is unfamiliar with the appalling "details" of His Majesty's policy and his soldiers' behavior in Palestine. The American press, obviously reluctant to report facts which might embarrass the British ally, has been either withholding these "details" or else soft-pedalling them to such an extent that the brutal and revolting deeds of the occupation forces are simmered down to a few regrettable incidents—and "incidents," nowadays, are a normal occurrence in a world marked by political complications. It is so much simpler—and, one may say, more tempting—to condemn, and to elaborate on, the activities of the Hebrew "terrorists," that is, the Underground resisting a ruthless invader.

As these pages record, the crimes being perpetrated by the British military against the Hebrews in Palestine are very much like those committed by the Nazis in Europe. Except for the absence of the gas-chambers and the crematoria—for which the British should perhaps be thanked—the details are the same. Hebrews are being beaten, tortured, robbed, killed. Hebrews are compelled to stand still while fun-seeking British soldiers smear their faces with iodine to mark them as suspects, while they bundle men, women and children into trucks headed for barbed-wire enclosures and inflict upon them all the humiliations of Nazi philosophy and methods.

When one looks with an open mind at what the British are doing in Palestine for the past quarter of a century. Using the pretext of determined to finish the work started by Hitler, and, for that matter, to destroy the civilization which the Hebrews have created in Palestine for the past quarter of a century. Using the pretext of fighting the "terrorists," the British authorities are carrying out a gigantic pogrom, destroying museums, hospitals, industrial institutions, etc., let alone the thefts and robberies systematically being committed by individual soldiers. Some Hebrew settlements, established at the price of sweat and blood, have been turned into near-

Lidices. Simultaneously the happy survivors of the Oswiecims and Treblinkas are being forcibly removed from the ships which brought them to their National Home and thrown into new concentration camps in Cyprus.

No wonder that many are now coming to the conclusion that the method used by Hitler to solve the Jewish problem in Europe had very influential admirers in London, and that is why His Majesty's Government not only did not do anything to stop the massacres, but put every obstacle in the way of others who tried to save those who still could be saved.

It must be remembered that the anti-Hebrew character of the Palestine Administration is not a recent development. It dates from the earliest days of the British regime in the Holy Land, when incidents of unmistakable portent—several of which are included here—set the tone of British policy.

But while heretofore acts patterned after Gestapo brutality were just occasional happenings, today they have become a part of well-planned official policy. This was to have been expected after Bevin's notorious speech in the House of Commons in which he threatened the Hebrews with a growth of anti-Hebrew feeling among the occupation forces in Palestine, a threat which has no precedent in the history of any civilized nation. The Sixth Airborne Division and other units stationed in Palestine promptly reacted in accordance with the threat, as did General Barker in his infamous order.

It is irrelevant whether Britain's brutal anti-Semitic policy (understood naturally as hostility toward the Hebrews, not toward the Arabs) is an ideological product or whether it is engineered by considerations of expediency to justify its imperialistic policy in the Near East; the fact remains: the *present* British government, so far as her policy in Palestine is concerned, is manifestly the most anti-Semitic government in the world.

This Black Paper is another historical signpost in the Hebrew fight for independence. But more than that, it is an indelible blot upon England's honor. For no matter how the Palestine question resolves itself, the honorable, democratic and fair-playing tradition of England will go down in the history of the Hebrew people as something which died in the wreckage of Yagur, as something strangled to death by the tear-gas fumes on Cyprus-bound deportation vessels, as something hissed out of this world by the dying echo of the six-million Hebrews in Europe.

SIEGE AND SEIZURE

On June 29, 1946, British occupation forces began a campaign of terror in Palestine. The following account is from the PALESTINE POST which, like all Palestinian newspapers, is subject to British censorship.

Scores of offices and shops were found badly damaged when they were reopened this morning after yesterday's military searches during the all-day curfew. Losses were estimated at hundreds of thousands of Pounds. Forty-eight cases of looting were reported to the police.

Safes were blown open both in offices and in business establishments searched. The safe of Bizur Ltd., which is in the Jewish Agency Building, was blown open and losses there alone in cash and mortgage documents are estimated at many thousands of pounds.

Safes were also blown open in the Jewish Agency office, and that of the War Needs Fund. Some LP.1,100 were removed from the former and LP.800 in cash and LP.550 in cheques from the latter. Shops and lawyers' offices have turned in similar complaints.

Wizo Funds Missing

Some LP.900 raised by the Wizo at a recent garden party were missing as and World Wizo with some LP.250 Hasheeva Lane. Two safes, belonging to the Palestine Foundation Fund and World Wizo with some LP.250 in each were removed from the building. Forty electric irons intended as a gift for refugee women and cloth for children's garments worth LP.200 were also taken from that social aid institution. Card indexes with lists of donors were torn up in both the Wizo and Palestine Foundation Fund offices.

Chemicals worth LP.700 were taken from the Fried shop at 40 Rehov Lilienblum, samples worth LP.300

from the Export-Import office in Nahlat Benjamin, food and drinks worth LP.500 from the Schik Restaurant at 26 Rehov Montefiore, and cash and goods from the Moghrabi shop opposite the Ophir Cinema, where troops were billeted during the curfew.

There was structural damage estimated at LP.2,000 to 3,000 at 40 Rehov Lilienblum, where private offices were searched and where a safe was inexpertly blown up, bringing the walls down.

In some offices doors were forced while watchmen with keys stood by. Petty cash boxes in all the offices searched were emptied.

Type for a novel and a book of short stories in the Am Oved Press was scattered, and two forms of type in the Davar press were chipped with a sharp instrument. A flat bed press was damaged.

The articles discovered by the searchers were three revolvers, one sporting rifle, two bundles of battle dress, two bottles of chloroform with atomizers, a morse-code transmitter with key, a knife and a pair of barbed wire shackles, in the basement of the Agricultural Workers' Society.

Some LP.480 are missing from the Leibovitz shop at 63 Rehov Nahlat Benjamin and wine worth LP.100 from the Meyer shop in Rehov Hacarmel.

There were no British troops in town all day today. It is understood that documents from the District Offices here were removed to Jaffa today, for security reasons.

How the British Won Their "Victory"

On Saturday, July 6, a mass meeting took place in Haifa at which members of the despoiled settlements—they who say "We are ashamed to be at liberty"—spoke about their experiences.

A young woman from Mizra, in Emek-yizrael, said:

"Thousands of soldiers and scores of tanks surrounded our village while we were still asleep after a week's hard labor. Members who did not wish to give their names battled with their fists but they were taken away. There was a little fellow there who had to be dragged away by ten soldiers to the automobile. Every woman was carried away by two soldiers. Particularly horrible were the experiences of the children who came to us just a few months ago from Buchenwald and Oswiecim, especially when they suddenly heard the Nazi *Horst Wessel* song from the lips of the British soldiers."

A young man of Gevah, another beautiful, serene settlement in the Emek, told us:

"The attack did not come to us as a surprise. We knew what to expect. We stood against the tanks with quiet nerves. We put up barricades in full sight of thousands of soldiers.

"At four o'clock in the morning the alarm bell of the settlement sounded, and four minutes later our members were dressed and ready . . .

"They (the soldiers) broke in with their full force, taking full advantage of the opportunity to show their might to the 'Jewish Nazis' . . . A 13-year-old girl, who was also locked up in the barbed wire area, cried out: 'This is what the Nazis did to us before they took us away to the gas chambers.' She had just arrived from Bergen-Belsen . . . One hundred and sixty men were arrested. The loot of the triumphant army was—as we have ascertained to date: 28 fountain pens, 8 wrist-watches, 5 cameras, 20 swim suits."

"In Shaar Ha-amakim," a girl from that settlement told the meeting, "the gate was destroyed by a bomb. In Tel Yosef they broke the gate with the aid of a mammoth tank. Above our heads army planes were buzzing with messages to the troops. Officers and soldiers were shooting wildly. Wounded friends fainted from loss of blood because we were not allowed to help them."

—S. YITZHAQI,

Jewish Morning Journal, July 17, 1946

The Havoc Wrought by the British in the Settlements

The news came without any warning about noon, Saturday, July 6th (The British like to conduct their surprise "operations" in Palestine on the Sabbath): The British forces, thousands of soldiers with their tanks and artillery and even stench-bombs, had finally evacuated the colony of Meshek Yagur, after having held this fine settlement in their clutches for seven whole days.

Together with a score of other journalists, I had visited this settlement a few days earlier and saw the havoc which the British soldiers had wrought there. A pogrom! No other word can adequately describe the "operation." I also talked with women and children in the settlement—all the men had been arrested—and I learned the story of their bitter suffering. Because of the presence of the army, however, the women were obviously unwilling to describe all that they had undergone.

Now that the ravaged settlement has been evacuated, and the eyes and ears of "our comrades of yesterday" are far away we can hear everything and see all that has transpired.

Throughout the marvelous buildings, set up with sweat and love in the course of twenty-four years, there are the earmarks of a pogrom carried out in the familiar manner. The barn, the granary, the spacious chicken-coops, the fields and gardens, lie in ruins. The men-folk have been taken away. This was Yagur's punishment for the resistance of its builders to the onslaught of the brutal power that sought to break into the settlement and look for weapons which had been prepared for the *defense* of the community.

Until the very moment of evacuation the military continued smashing tables and walls, closets and beds. Their drills tore through the concrete floors and the roofs. Was this all done just to find arms? No! For we saw broken, torn and charred articles which had nothing to do with weapons, certainly not with the desire "to break the Jewish terror."

Here is Room No. 46: The soldiers have taken all the books from the book-cases and burned them. Dictionaries, volumes on art and science, literature in various languages, all were used for fuel under the cauldrons in which the army prepared coffee and

soup for the soldiers . . . Here is something else: Day and night the soldiers used the settlement's large radio. They sang, danced and even held a masquerade to the tunes of music that came over it. But before leaving the settlement they hacked the radio into pieces. Looking for arms?

From the store-rooms the soldiers took everything that pleased their fancy. "There isn't a corner in the entire settlement," say the women, "where the hands of the soldiers did not break and smash."

A few minutes before the evacuation the soldiers evidently received some sort of command to restore a semblance of order. They replaced several pictures. The photograph of H. N. Bialik is back—hanging upside down. The photograph of A. Z. Rabino-witch hangs with its face to the wall, as though to spare the late venerable author the sight of the havoc the "cultured" people had wrought. Other pictures had been put back on other walls, their frames broken and the glass smashed.

"Worse than anything else," a woman of Yagur said, "were the commands. We were not armed, not even with stones nor sticks in our hands. Arrayed against us were mighty tanks, thousands of rifles and stench-bombs . . . When the men were arrested the women and children were locked up in a ghetto, behind barbed wire. We were warned that whoever would leave this ghetto would be shot; whoever would use too much water would be punished. Why did they have to be so rigorous with women and children when the place was full of soldiers? Why?"

As soon as the military left the settlement life was taken up anew. The telephone is working again. From the surrounding settlements several hundred young people have come to help in the fields, in the barns, to repair the ruins of Yagur, landmark of an Empire in a program of oppression.

* * *

In Atlit, where the British are detaining today not "illegal" immigrants, but citizens of Palestine whose guilt consists in their being Hebrews, there were, on July 7th, about 900 young men who came largely from the colonies of Emek and from Haifa. They didn't want to give their names because the British have no right to make raids on workers and colonists who cannot be accused of any crime.

A young British soldier stands off to one side, apathetic and sad.

"It seems that you are not in a good mood," I said to him.

"You're right, my friend," he answered slowly. "It's a dirty job here in Palestine, catching innocent people and torturing them. Believe me, I'm pretty much ashamed."

One of the older farmers said bitterly, "Here in the concentration camp we feel that the soil is burning beneath our feet. All the big nations of the world want to prevent hunger; they want the farmers to go on with their sacred task, but we, the Hebrew farmers in Palestine, are forcibly taken away from the soil, from the barn, from the chicken-coops. Their tanks play havoc with our fields, and it will take a long time before the earth will yield its fruits again."

Aroused and insulted in particular are the Hebrew veterans.

"You can see," one of them said, "I am still wearing the uniform of the British Army. Dozens of us are still on terminal leave, and others have been released only a few days ago. We were in their army four or five years, giving our blood for them. Now they want to take our finger-prints as though we were criminals."

One of the veterans showed me his military notebook where all the awards he had received during his five years of service were meticulously noted. "And this is how they repay me for it," he cried out, this time in English so that the officer could understand.

I looked at the Britisher, but he had turned his face away.

—S. Yitzhaqi, Jewish Morning Journal, (August 14, 1946)

Detainees Describe Tortures in British Camps

(Palestinian Press—July 8, 1946)

Under the pressure of universal public opinion the press authorities of the British Army finally brought foreign and local correspondents face to face with the prisoners in Raffa to get from them personally the story of the suffering which they had endured in Atlit following their arrest. The Raffa jail, on the Palestine-Egyptian border, was established to accommodate the overflow from Atlit and Latrun.

The government denied the charges of several prisoners who claimed that they had been tortured during the interrogations in Atlit.

Mordecai Shatner of Ain Harod, a member of the Vaad Leumi, Hebrew National Council, was the first to appear before the correspondents in the presence of the camp commanders. Replying to questions put to him by the correspondents Shatner said: "I was beaten and brutally treated. I had the privilege to report all this to the Commander-in-Chief, General Barker, who made an investigation of mine and other claims which demanded an examination by a doctor. I am glad to reply that following a brief hunger strike and the aid which we received from the Yishuv this cruel treatment ceased. As far as I know, similar cruelty was reported in Raffa."

Replying to a question of a foreign correspondent as to whether he had been tortured Shatner replied: "It is difficult for me to distinguish between being brutally beaten up and being tortured." He said that soldiers and police had beaten him, seven or eight of them pulled his hair, threw him to the ground, gagged him with handkerchiefs, twisted his arms behind his back and kicked him with their feet.

Shatner refused to tell publicly to the correspondents, among whom there were women, about certain shameful and cruel treatment (meaning the sex organs). He also declined to show the marks of the brutalities on his body. A physician, he said, had treated him and he, the doctor, could tell them all the details. He was tortured because he had refused to allow his finger prints to be taken because he was not a criminal. To a question asked by an American correspondent he said that he did not know why he had been arrested and why he was being detained.

Shatner also said that during the interrogation at Atlit a police inspector whose name he did not know but whom he would easily recognize, had said to him, "We shall destroy the Jewish race. Might is right."

At the request of journalists, Kestenbaum, another detainee, showed wounds on the ribs and on the left side of his chest which had been bandaged by an Army doctor. There were signs of lesser wounds on his arms. He also described in detail how a British constable had beaten him while others had twisted his arms and kept his head close to the ground. British soldiers who were holding his hands kept laughing all the time that he was being beaten.

The Yellow Badge in Tel Aviv

A Study in British Vandalism

It is a matter of record that in Tel Aviv the houses were searched in the absence of their residents who had been removed to barbed wire cages under the broiling sun to await their turns to be examined.

Unguarded, soldiers and police carried off everything that appealed to them. From hundreds of homes, it was reported immediately after the occupation, most movable valuables such as fountain pens, watches and cameras had disappeared.

Extensive damage was caused by sheer malice and Jew-hatred: closets were broken open; clothes were ripped to shreds and kitchenware was smashed; automobile tires were slashed and sand was poured into the motors of the machines.

In the poorer Jewish quarters the young men whose documents were in order were freed, but first a "yellow badge," a smear of iodine and yellow ink, was placed on their foreheads. One young man who resisted this branding was murderously beaten after his hands had been twisted behind him and his forehead had been marked with a row of yellow blots.

Hundreds of others were bloodily beaten with whips and gun butts.

TO AMUSE THE SOLDIERS

Here is an unbelievable fact which the rigorous Palestine censors permitted to be made known. In and around Keren Hate-manim the poor section of the Yemenites, soldiers, under the command of senior officials, dragged residents out of their hovels and after forcing them to stand in the hot sun for two hours shouted, "Line up, immediately!"

Then the brutal beating began. Scores of Jews, regardless of age, were forced to run back and forth for no reason except the old Nazi reason of amusing the soldiers, letting them enjoy the sight of Jews being tortured.

As the men ran, the soldiers mercilessly beat them, shouting, "King David," and other more familiar insults in German, in best Nazi fashion. Dr. Moshe Wald, a high official of the Tel Aviv municipal council who lives in the neighborhood of *Kerem Hate-manim* was horribly beaten. So was a Jewish police officer. Another Jewish policeman who had been bicycling on a mission

for the British police was stopped by soldiers who shouted "Jew," and beat him. Three other policemen were dragged off, accompanied by a tank, for investigation.

At the "Second Investigation Command," where the police questioned each person, hardly a Jew had escaped both villification and a heavy beating. One young man received a staggering blow over his heart and his arm automatically shot out, his fist smashing into his aggressor's face. He was instantly attacked by a dozen soldiers, and finally the "presumptuous Jew" was carried off, dying, to an unknown destination.

In the school-yard on Hatabor Street the prisoners who were waiting to show their documents were forced to run around the enclosure while carrying a dozen bricks, to the amusement of the soldiers.

An elderly man who came up before the police for a second interrogation held out his Nazi passport from the ghetto and shouted, "Here is my passport, Mr. Officer! I fought in the ghettos and the Underground against the Nazis for four years; I saved English fliers from death . . . I came here just a few weeks ago . . ." The officer lowered his eyes and ordered that the Jew be taken to his home.

DOCTORS ARE BEATEN TOO

The fate of those who were on the streets with special permits from General Cassels or from Intelligence officers, was especially horrible. The soldiers didn't stop to ask for permits, they just yelled "Bloody Jew," and began their beatings. A Ha'aretz reporter who carried permits for the press, from the General Staff and from the Intelligence Office arrived at his home very close to death. The soldiers claimed that all three passes were forgeries and dragged him to the "Second Investigation Command" in the building of the Habimah Theatre.

Dr. Freudenthal, a famous eye specialist who lives on Rabbi Kook Street, was terribly injured. Young Major Fardo, renowned officer of the Hebrew Brigade, was taken from his home on Mazah Street by a squad of soldiers under the command of a lieutenant of the Airborne Division. They beat Major Fardo's face, threw him to the sidewalk and trampled him underfoot. The Major lay on the sidewalk as the lieutenant and his friends disappeared.

Even after the occupation was officially terminated soldiers continued their macabre amusement. They lined up all the men of 12 Obadiah Street and beat them with clubs and iron rods.

Approximately 400 suits against "Persons unknown" for robbery and theft were lodged with the Tel Aviv police within two hours after the military occupation had ended.

Despite orders that soldiers find the proprietors of stores and have the shops unlocked, most of them were blown open. More than 5000 pounds worth of merchandise was stolen from a large store on Shaas Street. From other business houses, especially liquor shops, the thefts totalled thousands of pounds. The official response to suits brought by the robbed, was the countercharge that the Jews themselves had done the damage during the two hours they had been allotted in which to purchase food.

Azriel Schwartz, a well-known journalist who commented to an officer about the soldiers' robbery of the stores, was viciously beaten and forced to run barefoot and half-naked along the streets to the Investigation Command as punishment for his "presumptuousness" in insulting the British Army.

VANDALISM IN THE MUSEUM

The spirit of vengeance against the Jews was especially evident in the Museum of Tel Aviv. Although the curator of the Museum had sent the keys of the building to the Army, the door was broken down, and windows were shattered. The soldiers, ostensibly hunting for weapons, swarmed over the building removing and slashing valuable paintings, among them two priceless Gobelins. Six chests of old coins disappeared; statues were smashed. And at high noon, to climax their wantonness, hundreds of electric lights in the building were turned on and left burning. It is hard to believe that this sort of Nazi defiling would be re-enacted by Great Britain in Palestine.

Acts of vandalism were also reported in the central bus station of Tel Aviv where the soldiers ripped and slashed everything that fell into their hands including hundreds of trunks and valises belonging to passengers.

Thousands of bricks were smashed in a brick factory, slowing up building construction. In the Nussbaum Coffee House on the seashore 400 pounds worth of liquor was stolen and 200 pounds worth of phonograph records was smashed. All of the "lost and found" articles in the Police station were also stolen. As a mark of "patriotism," while looting a cigarette house, the English soldiers only stole the English cigarettes. The Jewish-made cigarettes they scattered and trampled underfoot.

—S. Yitzhaqi, Jewish Morning Journal, (August 14, 1946)

London Admits It

“... it seems that anti-Semitism is being deliberately encouraged among British troops in Palestine by senior military officers, and that men very near the top are well in the forefront of the campaign. There is no excuse for that . . .

“The increasing tendency among the military to treat all Jews as bitter enemies, and Palestine as enemy-occupied territory, is unfair to the great majority of the Jewish people and if persisted in will give our administration an extremely bad name. It will also make a final solution much more difficult to achieve.”

—London *News Chronicle* (Sept. 18, 1946)

Prejudice Is the Law

Martial law rule is making Palestine unlivable, Jeffery Hoare, *News Chronicle* correspondent, writes in a dispatch from Jerusalem declaring that “at the risk of being thrown out of Palestine” he must say that “the attitude of the military authorities these days, to every one, without exception, is unbearably high handed and dangerous.” They have converted Jerusalem into a “jungle of barbed wire where civilians are at the mercy of sentries,” Mr. Hoare writes.

Unless there is some radical change in attitude and more reasonable instructions are given, “there is grave danger that some innocent people will be shot by the guards” Mr. Hoare warns. “If restrictions and dangers beset journalists, what of the inhabitants of Palestine’s towns and villages? Civil authorities are being steadily defeated in their campaign for moderation and the Army, with no experience in police or public security measures, has the final say in methods being used in this country.”

At present, Mr. Hoare says, the Army is searching Jewish settlements in the Negev and bars the press from witnessing the searches. “These singularly ill-timed and futile operations are taking place at a moment when for the first time in two months, Palestine is relatively quiet and peaceful. They are obviously achieving no useful purpose and their only result can be further stirring up of public sentiment.”

—Palcor (August 29, 1946)

OPERATION "IGLOO"

What can be expected of a Government whose memory is so faulty that "Dunquerque" is meaningless and "Balfour" unheard of?

There is something frightening and humiliating in the contemplation of this uneven war waged by a mighty empire with most of the world's resources at its disposal against a few thousand homeless and dispossessed. If this does not shock the world's conscience, then one wonders what human tragedies could stir it.

SAUL K. PADOVER, (PM, Aug. 13)

On Tuesday, August 13, 1946, fifteen months after the collapse of Nazi Germany, England deployed the combined might of cruisers and destroyers, armored troops and tanks in "Operation Igloo"—a co-ordinated land and sea offensive designed to render the enemy helpless . . .

The strategy called for dividing the enemy forces, cutting off all reinforcements, and then proceeding against the isolated units one at a time and in full force.

Objective number one was the enemy transport *Yagur*, tied to the pier in the harbor of Haifa.

In times of war, headquarters issues careful communiques which contain only such statements as will not give aid or comfort to the enemy. Consequently, a military press statement was released to the effect that:

"H.M. Government has announced its intention of allowing no further illegal immigrants to land in Palestine. A statement to this effect was made at 0330 hours this morning.

"In accordance with this policy the first Infantry Division initiated 'Operation Igloo' at 0445 hours to transfer to Cyprus the recent arrivals who were arrested by the Royal Navy on 12 August on board the two vessels *Yagur* and *Ariece-Salom* or *Henrietta Szold*."

The word "Igloo" refers to the homes which the eskimos of the frozen north build out of blocks of ice. The enemy, on the other hand, insists that Igloo derives from a Hebrew word meaning "They shall be driven out."

The operation against the *Yagur* went according to plan. The weeping men, women and children, allowed to view the Promised Land but not to enter it, were easily overcome by the well-armed soldiers and sailors of H.M. Government. However, the more than 500 passengers aboard the *Henrietta Szold* put up tremendous resistance. Operation Igloo was thrown off schedule. Three hundred armed men were immediately alerted to move against the 28 infants, 180 children, 140 women (19 of them pregnant), and the 196 men—all former prisoners in Nazi concentration camps.

Many neutrals demonstrated sympathy with the enemy. A citizen from the Island of Malta was ordered to use the tugboat of which he was captain to help transfer the Jews to the British transport which was to carry them to Cyprus. He refused, saying, "I don't do that kind of work. Not that." The captain of a Belgian ship, which entered the port at this moment, pulled down the British-Palestinian flag flying at the masthead of his ship and hoisted in its place the Jewish flag with the Star of David.

Meanwhile, enemy reinforcements had challenged the British military curfew. Two separate bands moved upon the port area. Troops blocked the road of the larger group and opened fire. The enemy was forced to retreat after three of its number were killed and eight wounded. The dead included one man, Emil Malets, a girl of nineteen, Avigail Weinbard, and a boy of fifteen, Zeev Carmi.

Operation Igloo was off to a successful start.

As the weeks passed, however, the struggle became increasingly bitter. Children were torn from the arms of their ailing mothers. Bombs were exploded in ships. And many a weary Jew who had lived through five years of Dachau and Buchenwald discovered too late that the British had "liberated" him only to destroy him.

Enemy resistance is becoming more desperate. Passengers on intercepted vessels cast themselves into the water in spite of machine gun fire, and attempt to swim to shore. Some drown, a few escape. Most of them, however, are caught and held for transportation to Cyprus.

H.M. Government reports that Operation Igloo carries on.

(Compiled from the Palestine Press)

The Press Reports ...

**Excerpts from news reports
in Palestine and abroad,
an eye-witness indictment
of the British terror and the
forces behind it.**

Two Hebrew boys, David Mizrachi, 14, and Abraham Mizrachi, 16, were shot and wounded last night when one of a group of British soldiers alighted from a military truck and deliberately open fired on persons walking along the street. The shooting occurred near the Menora Ex-Servicemen's Club in the center of the city.

—JTA (Sept. 17, 1946)

* * *

Thirty cases of looting and one case of hold-up and robbery by British soldiers were reported to the Tel Aviv police this morning. The hold-up victim was a Hebrew iron monger who was robbed of his gold watch and chain by a group of soldiers who accosted him in the street.

—PALCOR (Sept. 11, 1946)

* * *

The Hebrew press published a demand that all troops of Gen. Wladislaw Anders' Polish Army be withdrawn from Hebrew settlements throughout Palestine, following the murder of a second Hebrew within several days by Polish soldiers.

The latest shooting, of Moshe Monobla, 21-year-old Hebrew soldier awaiting discharge from the British Army, occurred last night in the Hebrew settlement of Rehovoth. Monobla was killed by a Polish officer named Piaskowski as he was about to enter a local movie house. The officer has been arrested. Earlier, a Hebrew woman was shot and killed by a Polish soldier.

—JTA (Sept. 9, 1946)

Hebrew men, women and children, ranging in age from nine to fifty, have been accosted and beaten by bands of armed British soldiers in the streets of Jerusalem after dark. The Red Mogen David disclosed that its central first aid station in Jerusalem treated seventeen victims of such attacks during the month of August.

According to reports, groups of soldiers lay in wait for lone passers-by, attacked them and ran away before help could be summoned. None of the victims were armed.

—PALCOR (Sept. 3, 1946)

* * *

The tiny settlement of Ruhama, on the fringe of the Negev, which was destroyed twice in the past by Arab marauders, only to be rebuilt by Jewish pioneers, has been deliberately stripped of its defense arms and razed by British troops of the Sixth Airborne Division. For the past six days the troops have been on a rampage of looting and destruction unprecedented in any previous British searches of Jewish settlements, eyewitnesses reported here.

According to reports of eyewitnesses who left Ruhama on Aug. 30, British troops using scrapers and bull-dozers have damaged every dwelling and farm building in the settlement. The floor of the communal dining room has been ripped up completely and a trench, the length of the building was dug in the earth beneath the floor. Holes were drilled in the walls and in the steps outside, and the entire entrance was demolished. Floors, walls, baths and cupboards in childrens' houses were also smashed. The grain silo was dismantled in such a way that it will be impossible to use its materials for rebuilding it. The hut of the secretariat was completely demolished. The water supply system was damaged causing serious shortage

of water, and the communal bake oven was smashed. Soldiers maliciously bashed in the radiator of the settlement's only tractor. With knives, they ripped up cushions and pillows and scattered the feathers outside. A box of linens outside the laundry was set afire. A pile of manure fertilizer, which the settlers had purchased from Arabs in the neighborhood for five hundred pounds sterling, was burned down. When the settlers protested the officer in charge replied that they must reveal their arms or everything in the settlement would be ploughed over or burned.

On the pretext of searching for arms the troops broke into dwellings and plundered entire stocks of clothing. Thefts were especially numerous at night when even towels and women's dresses were stolen and a tin of chocolate biscuits was taken from a children's room. One soldier who tried forcibly to wrest fruit from a children's room, was resisted by a girl in charge. When she screamed he hit her. An ex-serviceman settler was beaten for protesting when his military kit, received on demobilization, was being taken away. The eyewitnesses state that all military uniforms which the Government reported were seized at Ruhama, belonged either to discharged servicemen among the settlers or were purchased by the settlement from Army surplus stores on the open market.

As a result of the operation, most settlers have only the clothes on their backs, and all are suffering from the acute shortage of food and drinking water. The commanding officer refused to permit supplies to be brought in from outside, but offered the settlers Army rations. They replied that they would rather starve than share the food of the soldiers who were destroying their home.

—Palcor (Jerusalem, Sept. 3, 1946)

The Hebrew press today published reports of the extensive destruction at Doroith and Rukhama. They revealed that no single room which was searched in the two communities was left intact. All floors and cellars were ripped up, sometimes to a depth of six feet, and walls and ceilings were knocked down.

Communal buildings and stores suffered most severely, the papers reported. A new meteorological station was reduced to a pile of rubble, the water reservoir is now unusable and a children's nursery was flattened out by a bulldozer. Communal supplies of clothing have been cut in strips, business office machines such as typewriters and adding machines have been smashed. In addition the troops ripped up a flag brought from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp by a Palestine youth group.

—JTA (Sept. 3, 1946)

British Agent Incites Arabs

The strange story of an Englishman, disguised as an Arab and delivering an anti-Jewish harangue before a group of Beduin tribesmen near Beisan was reported in Davar, laborite daily. He was arrested by a Jewish constable but was released a short while later by the police officer to whom the constable turned him over.

The Jewish constable, who was on duty at Beisan, saw a gathering in a Beduin tent. When he approached he heard an anti-Jewish address being delivered in Arabic inside, but not in the local dialect. He arrested the speaker on suspicion and on the way to the police station discovered that he was an Englishman in Arab dress.

—Palcor (Tel-Aviv, Sept. 3, 1946)

Charges of looting were lodged against troops of the Sixth Airborne Division by Jewish settlers of Dorot and Ruchama who showed correspondents evidence of anti-Semitic insults, personal abuse and wilful destruction of property by British troops and police who carried out minute searches of the tiny Negev settlements.

Correspondents who had been barred by the military commander from witnessing the searches, were told by settlers at Dorot that British soldiers had cursed the Jews and that one police inspector had shouted, "I'm sorry this place can't be made a second Bergen-Belsen" (Nazi death camp in the British occupation zone of Germany). At Ruchama the settlers related how when a curfew was imposed all persons were ordered into their houses by British soldiers who gave the Nazi salute and shouted "Heil Hitler." The correspondents were shown, in the presence of a Lt. Colonel, a signboard, allegedly left behind by the troops, bearing the words "Jewish bastards."

At Ruchama the correspondents were told that occupants of a tent, near where an empty fifty-gallon oil drum, suspected of being an arms cache, was found, were forced to stand in the sun without food or water, from early morning until 4:30 p.m. when fingerprint experts arrived. At Dorot the settlers told how fifteen alleged curfew violators were taken to a remote spot and compelled to stand at attention in the burning sun with their arms stretched above their heads, holding heavy stones for ten to fifteen minutes. When, fatigued, they tried to lower their arms, they were cursed. One refugee who had been released from Athlit transit camp only two weeks before, fainted from exhaustion and was left lying on the ground without medical attention. Mothers nursing

their infants were disturbed by soldiers and pushed about the field.

The settlers complained that the troops deliberately damaged their bus and tractor by throwing sand in the motors and that numerous expensive garage tools were missing. In addition the settlers listed, with the officer in charge, money, watches, cameras and even towels which were missing from their rooms after the troops ended their search.

—Palcor (Jerusalem, Aug. 30, 1946)

* * *

Charging repeated cases of assaults from ambush against peaceful Hebrew workers by personnel of the RAF field at Ramat David, a delegation of Hebrew settlers from the Nahalal area protested to the air field commander today against the wounding of David Frish, of Ayanoth, while he was working in a vegetable garden. Frish was struck in the head by two shots fired by an RAF sentry from the near-by air field.

—PALCOR (Aug. 29, 1946)

* * *

Under an amendment to the Cyprus immigration law promulgated Aug. 19th, firearms may be used to halt escaped Jews or to break up gatherings, which are "liable to disturb the peace."

—JTA (Aug. 20, 1946)

Lieut. Benjamin Woodworth was acquitted by a military court on charges of killing Abraham Rosenberg in Tel Aviv on June 19.

Lt. Woodworth shot and killed Rosenberg while the latter was walking with relatives and friends on a main thoroughfare in Tel Aviv shortly before midnight, only a few minutes after a 24-hour curfew on Tel Aviv had been lifted. In accordance with Army procedure Lt. General Sir Evelyn Barker, Commander in Chief of Palestine forces, must pass sentence on Lt. Woodworth. At the time it was reported that he had shouted "This is in retaliation for the kidnapping of a British officer."

Compiled from JTA and Palcor
(Aug. 20-22, 1946)

* * *

Unprovoked assaults, by bands of British soldiers on passers-by in the Hebrew quarters of Jerusalem, and an attack on a Kupat Cholim (Histadrut Sick Fund) convalescent camp near Nathania were reported August 19.

Abraham Rigler, 45-year-old tailor, was seriously injured in the head when four armed soldiers waylaid him in the Geula quarter of Jerusalem and beat him with rifle butts.

Eight British soldiers hurled stones at the Kupat Cholim camp and tried to break into the dwellings but were repulsed. In fleeing, however, they attacked and seriously injured a Hebrew bus driver.

—PALCOR (Aug. 19, 1946)

* * *

Three Hebrews, including one woman, died today from wounds received when British troops at Haifa opened fire on a Jewish demonstration early this morning, protesting the deportation of more than 1,300 Hebrew visaless immigrants to the Island of Cyprus.

—JTA (Aug. 13, 1946)

The British Army's most recent punitive expedition in Palestine started here without any warning on the morning of July 30. This all Jewish city of 200,000 inhabitants was subjected to a military flood for four days and filled with tank units, machine-gun nests and barbed wire barriers in the streets. Searches and arrests were made in all quarters, in every street and in every house.

During a two-hour break in the curfew on Thursday August 2, to permit the people to buy food, your correspondent saw a British lieutenant give the order for a machine-gun to be shot at a starving crowd rushing for bread. One man was seriously wounded in this shooting. The next day shortly before the curfew ended the same officer saw a man sitting deep in the courtyard of the building where he worked, with his baby daughter beside him. Brandishing his revolver the officer rushed up and forced the man back into the tiny staff barracks.

There were endless shootings throughout the four days and the truckloads of men and women taken to prison surrounded by motorized tank units, made a marked impression on the inhabitants. Tel-Aviv was indeed a city invaded by enemy forces.

The troops searched not only homes but hospitals as well. Every patient was examined to determine that he was genuinely ill. Even the bodies in the hospital mortuary were examined but nothing suspicious was found.

One building that was severely wrecked was the headquarters of the leftist Association for Peoples' culture on Nakhlat Benjamin Street. The stage was destroyed, furniture broken, flags torn and library books scattered. Statues of Karl Marx, and Mikhail Kalinin, late president of the USSR, were also broken. A wireless set was taken away and many other things were confiscated according to the director of the organization.

"I am sure that if any other large city like Tel-Aviv were placed under

such an ordeal violent outbreaks and disturbances would be unavoidable," said Mayor Rokeach in an interview.

The Palestine Post said editorially: "Instead of an apparently endless curfew, Jerusalem (the King David Hotel bombing) was really the prelude to a 72-hour inquisition in Tel-Aviv which has had few precedents in the history of civilized society. All previous military swoops in Palestine were rehearsals compared to this. It is particularly significant that such tactics were not even used in Germany where the finding and punishment of the mass murderers among the Nazis was a prerequisite to world peace. The need to find and punish the Nazis was certainly not less urgent than the need to uncover and punish Palestine's terrorists."

—World News Services,
(Tel-Aviv, Aug. 9, 1946)

* * *

An Eyewitness Account
by HUGO MENDELSON
(Palcor Correspondent and
Photographer)

Tel Aviv's 200,000 residents are facing starvation today owing to the complete severance of all communications with countryside fresh food supplies and the stoppage of all seaborne traffic, as twenty thousand British troops of the Sixth Airborne Division and the First Infantry Division, supplemented by police, end their second day of block to block searches "for terrorists." Mayor Rokeach and city officials are pleading with the military to open the roads to fresh food supplies.

These lines are being written in Tel Aviv where I, along with other correspondents, was invited by the British to observe the searches. I will file this from Jerusalem this evening.

I have seen men and women dragged out of their homes and herded into huge open air cages where they are forced to stand for hours under the parching sun of the hamsin (desert wind) season to be satisfactorily identified or sent to Latrun for further identification. So far, 25,000 persons have been thus identified and at this rate the operation will probably last for eight days.

Life in this, one of the largest mercantile and industrial cities in the Levant, is completely throttled. The city is divided into four military zones, directed from local brigade headquarters set up in theatres and high school buildings which have been requisitioned by the military. The brigade headquarters are in turn directed from police headquarters in the adjacent Arab city of Jaffa where Major General Cassels, in command of the operations, has set up his staff.

The searches began before dawn yesterday after the clamping of a shoot-on-sight curfew which is lifted between five p.m. and seven p.m. daily to allow people to buy food and other necessities which are speedily being exhausted.

As the mobile concentration camps move slowly from block to block, heavily armed British troops comb all shops and business premises, though under orders to use a minimum amount of force in entering establishments. The military recalls the storm of indignation as a result of the wanton destruction of the WIZO offices here during the June 29 raids, but nevertheless, troops are ordered to batter down doors when keys are not available. As a precaution, shopkeepers whose homes are in other parts of the city, have been advised to move to their shops during the next curfew break in order to be on hand when the troops arrive.

Tel Aviv's sick, in their homes and in hospitals, are not exempt from searches and questioning. All are ex-



With her pack on her back a former inmate of a Nazi concentration camp is now being forcibly removed to a British concentration camp in Cyprus.



"Illegal" immigrant who jumped overboard from a refugee ship to avoid British internment, being dragged unconscious back to boat.

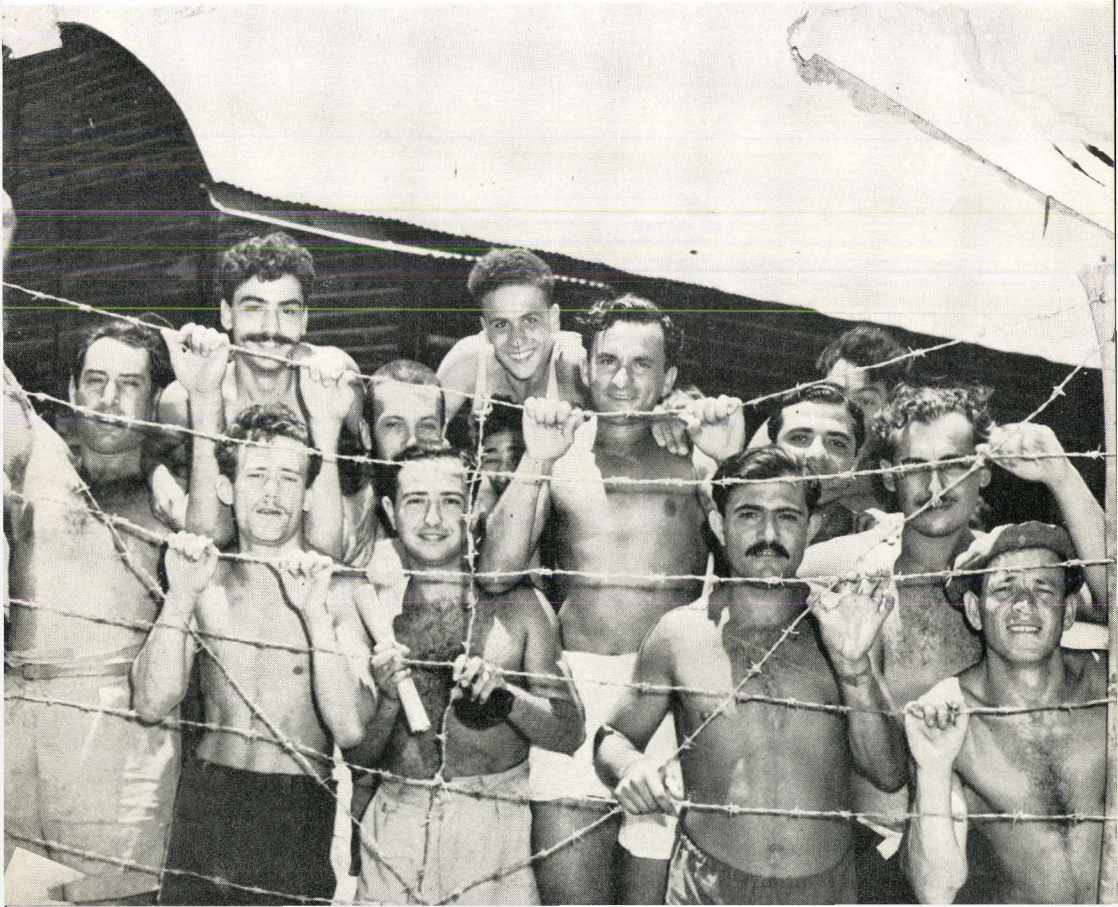
Men, women and children rounded up
in the middle of the night to be
searched.





These are some of the "terrorists" from
whom the British army has to be pro-
tected.

Holding on to barbed wire enclosure—
yet, their faces show they have not lost
hope in the future of a free Palestine.





Again behind barbed wire—but this time
not in Bergen-Belsen, but in Cyprus.

Huddled together in fear of British terror
in Palestine.





Wounded Hebrew arrested by British soldiers in Palestine.

amed by military doctors to ascertain whether they are shamming. Patients with plaster casts are carefully X-rayed to see whether the plaster conceals real disabilities and the nature of these disabilities.

Curfew passes are issued only to "approved" persons, between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily, from headquarters in Jaffa, where all eligibles are escorted by police. Persons without passes have been warned they will be shot on sight if they are found out of doors at any time except during curfew breaks.

—Palcor (Tel-Aviv, July 31, 1946)

From a Nazi Fraternalizer

Sir Evelyn Barker, General Officer in Command in Palestine, who ordered his troops to show "contempt and loathing" for Palestine's Jews and to "strike at their pockets—a way which this race understands as any," was "removed from his earlier command of British forces at Schleswig-Holstein owing to his cooperation with local Nazis and Junkers," "Hapeol," a weekly published by Hechalutz (Pioneers for Palestine) Organization of Stockholm, Sweden, charges in its July 1, issue just received here. The weekly charges that "after this (his removal) he was transferred to Palestine for actions against Jews." It is significant that this issue of Hapeol went to press before General Barker undertook the June 29 raids on Jewish settlements.

(Jerusalem, July 31, Palcor)

Charges that Hebrew curfew violators in this city are being bullied, beaten and tortured were today made by the Jerusalem Hebrew Community Council. The Council called upon the government to stop such practices which it said involved all sections of the Hebrew population including the aged and even children of five and six.

The *Palestine Post* yesterday quoted the sworn statement of a Hebrew formerly detained at the Talbich barracks, who charged that Hebrew curfew violators were separated from the Arabs and denied food and water for long periods. The affidavit declared that a group of 200 Hebrews were segregated from the Arabs and taken to another room where they were beaten by soldiers with fists, clubs and rifle butts, while other troops stood guard with tommyguns, because they had requested food.

Later, they were herded into a cellar which was used as a collective cell and were permitted to lie on the floor but were required to spring to attention whenever a guard entered the cellar. At other times, the newspaper declared, Hebrews were beaten by a group of soldiers, some of whom threatened them with guns while they shouted anti-Hebrew insults. Many of these incidents occurred in the presence of responsible officers and non-commissioned officers, the *Post* reported.

Earlier, the newspaper *Mishmar* published the statement of 20 elderly Hebrews who were arrested and beaten severely. It also told of the arrest of all the residents in one house because a soldier alleged that he had seen one man on the roof. It was reported that many Hebrews have been arrested for leaving their homes to go to out-houses in the rear of the buildings.

JTA—(July 31, 1946)

Red and Black

The Sixth Airborne soldiers are known by Jewish Palestine children as "Kaloniath," (poppies) because of their red berets with black tassles. Following their shooting down of Jewish children in the streets of Tel Aviv last year, that name took on a new meaning. Jewish children now say "they are like poppies, their berets are red and their hearts are black."

The Sixth Airborne Division has been accused by Jews and Arabs of reckless wilful hit and run driving. They have staged numerous "impromptu" raids on Jewish settlements for which the Army later apologized.

—Palcor (July 30, 1946)

* * *

Censored stories of anti-Semitic hooliganism by British troops and officers against Jews in Jerusalem have appeared in the Palestine press July 27, 28, 29.

Jewish curfew violators in Jerusalem have been beaten up by non-commissioned officers and other soldiers, sometimes in the presence of commissioned officers, at the military detention barracks in the Talbieh district

of Jerusalem, near the railway station. Young men and boys have been accosted even after curfew hours by soldiers who asked them if they were Jews. On giving an affirmative reply, the youths were taken to the barracks where all were beaten, and where some fainted after running a gauntlet of sticks and belt buckles. Many were kept all night, and most of the next morning, without food and water and were made to stand at attention most of the night. Nearly all were punched and hit and dared not strike back because sentries faced them with tommy guns. The prisoners were compelled to shout at the top of their voices "Yes, the English are good," in response to questions, "Are the English good?" Soldiers sauntering in and out of the detention room shouted at them: "You killed our girls at the King David."

Those who did not instantly reply to the question "Are the English good?" were given "special treatment" which consisted of "permitting them" to lie down on the floor, only to order them to attention whenever a guard peeped in. Among the Jews kicked and beaten, was a petty officer of the Royal Navy.

* * *

. . . They plundered a barbershop and even stole a working man's coat which he had left in the shop over the Sabbath. They took away literally everything that was not nailed down, and smashed the show window to pieces. Somebody tied a rope across the entrance, hung up a Union Jack with the inscription, "This is the British triumph in Tel Aviv."

Above this same shop, at 40 Lilienblum Street, they wrought havoc in the law offices in the building. They did not take away the files, which they simply threw out on the floor,

but got into the cash boxes and robbed hundreds of pounds. From a show window on Montefiori Street they took away valuable English books —after having smashed the window. From a soda stand they took away English cigarettes and chocolates. Like hungry wolves they threw themselves on everything consumable; whatever they left behind they trampled with their boots in the familiar manner of notorious hoodlums.

And why all this? Because simultaneously with the warrant to look for weapons *there was established a curfew which locked in the entire city and placed goods and property in the hands of military men who sat and ate and drank, not having anything else to do. And what is most important, these men had been contaminated with the disease of anti-Semitism.*

. . . Among the victims of the British are many veterans who had fought at the front. Among those arrested in the settlement of Sha'ar Ha-Amakim was a young man from New York who came to study at the Haifa Technological Institute and who was in the settlement visiting his sister. This young man has many citations for his bravery in the war as a sergeant in the air force; he participated many times in the bombing of Berlin.

by MIRIAM SHIR
—The Day (July 17, 1946)

* * *

Rabbi Jehuda Leib Fishman, 73-year-old leader of the Mizrahi, religious Zionist party, and member of the Jewish Agency, was arrested in Jerusalem June 29. On July 12, when he was released from Latrun camp, the aged Mizrahi leader criticized the British for having arrested him on the Sabbath, declaring that although he had been detained by Czarist police in Russia and by Turkish authorities in Palestine, on both occasions the police had taken special pains to avoid

violating his religious precepts by forcing him to ride on Saturday.

When he told the arresting officers that he wished to walk as his religious practices forbade him to take a vehicle on the Sabbath they agreed, Rabbi Fishman said, but when he went outside his house soldiers seized him and flung him into a car. One of them punched him in the face, while another hit his arm which is still swollen.

—JTA and Paltcor
(Jerusalem, July 14, 1946)

* * *

The Haganah radio, "Voice of Israel," said today that Yagour, which has been partially destroyed by troops searching for arms, has become another "Lidice." "The government will have to ruin all the Jewish settlements, as it has ruined Yagour, if it intends to find arms," the broadcast continued, "but our reply will come."

A JTA correspondent who has just visited Yagour, today wrote the following description of what he saw there:

"What was several days ago one of the biggest kibbutzim (collective settlements) in Palestine, peaceful and flourishing, is today the biggest center of military operations in the Middle East. Nothing has been spared, even the kindergarten rooms, on the walls of which hang children's drawings.

"Lt. Col. West, who is in charge of the operations at Yagour, praised his soldiers' restraint, telling correspondents: 'Not a single shot was fired, gentlemen. Not a single shot.' He failed, however, to tell how one settler was dragged to a truck by six soldiers, while a seventh pricked him with a bayonet. Nor how a woman was pulled from a truck by her hair. Nor how the colony's doctor and a 92-year-old resident were arrested.

"After the arms that had been found were exhibited and photographed by news cameramen, we were shown around the remainder of the settlement. We were happy to note that the entire settlement had not been demolished: the dining room was not blown up, only severely damaged with the windows smashed and the floor broken through in seven different places; pneumatic drills have been used to rip into all cupboards and walls of houses, and even children's rooms have been ransacked."

—JTA (Haifa, July 4, 1946)

* * *

The Athlit clearance camp, which has sheltered thousands of legal and "illegal" immigrants in recent years, has been converted into a huge concentration camp where hundreds of Jews arrested since the week-end are being subjected to inhuman tortures, according to reliable information obtained today.

Investigators from the "Special Squad," have been sent to Athlit from Jerusalem to interrogate the prisoners. In order to "soften up" their victims, the investigators first beat them with a variety of weapons, make them stand for hours with large rocks tied under their arms and in some cases have struck them in the genitals. The interrogations begin when the investigators feel the prisoners have been sufficiently weakened.

Many of the detainees are reported to have been so badly battered that they will remain invalids for life. Among the most seriously wounded is Berl Repetur, Haifa labor leader and director of the Solel Boneh, the Jewish construction cooperative, who was highly praised by the British for military installations he built in Palestine and neighboring countries during the war.

Residents of Adjoining Villages Hear Cries from Camp

Residents of settlements adjoining Athlit report that they have heard piercing cries coming from the camp, but they were unable to render any assistance, as the camp is heavily guarded.

Another concentration camp, to accommodate the overflow from Athlit and Latrun prison, has been established at Raffa on the Palestine-Egyptian border.

According to an official communique issued late last night, 2,718 Jews had been arrested as of that time. Of them, 59 were women. It said that four Jews had been killed and eighty wounded, and large quantities of documents and arms captured. Twenty-five settlements have been raided.

—JTA (July 2, 1946)

* * *

The colony of Yagur is undergoing deliberate demolition. Troops are uprooting trees, ploughing up fields and ransacking houses in their hunt for weapons. Several buildings were literally torn apart by explosives.

As a result of destruction of its water lines by the troops, the colony was without water until late today when settlers from nearby Kvutzat Neshet were allowed to bring in water and some food. The only persons remaining in the colony are children under ten and their nurses. All others were taken to detention camps.

Late yesterday 11 men received bayonet wounds when troops invaded the village of Cesaria and arrested all male residents. Several women suffered scalp wounds when they were grabbed by the hair to prevent them from interfering with the troops.

At Afikin, near Tiberias, several settlers were also hurt, while Geva and Ein Harod reported 40 injured. Sev-

eral other colonies are still surrounded or occupied, but no information has been received from them because troops cut telephone lines.

—JTA (Jerusalem, July 1, 1946)

* * *

The headquarters of the Histadruth in Tel Aviv, which was the scene of one of yesterday's raids, was a shambles this afternoon when troops withdrew and reporters were allowed to enter the building.

Windows were smashed, doors broken, desks and chairs overturned, cabinets torn down and wall panels defaced.

Many valuable documents, as well as fountain pens, clocks, adding machines and other office equipment were taken. Eleven JNF collection cans filled with coins disappeared.

The printing plant of Davar, largest daily in Palestine, was also badly damaged. Type for two books was wantonly upset. The wall of a neighboring house collapsed when troops used explosives to blast open a safe. An adjoining barbershop looks like a victim of the blitz.

Today more than 100 residents of Tel Aviv submitted complaints to the authorities that money and valuables were taken from them during the raids.

—JTA (Tel-Aviv, June 30, 1946)

* * *

Dear A——:

In the past I have written you of life in our colony, Caesarea. It has been about all the small happenings that go to make the day's routine. This time I am unhappy to say that I have big happenings to write about.

On the morning of Saturday, June 29, several military cars approached the gate of the courtyard. Upon reaching the gate, the cars stopped, and a very young officer, hardly more than

a boy, got out and demanded we submit someone whose name we had never even heard of. He gave us 15 minutes to consult with one another and find the man. Of course, he did not get anything. The convoy then drove off.

This was a bad sign. . . . When the cars left, a very tense feeling was in the air. Everything that could be prepared for an emergency was prepared. A general meeting was called immediately, at which the women were informed how things should run in case the men were arrested. The whole day passed in a feverish activity, and giving instructions to the women on how to work the motors for water and electricity, how to run the workshops, machines, etc.

Alarm Is Given

On Sunday, at the break of dawn, the guard heard the sound of a convoy of heavy cars approaching the colony from the hills to the north-east. . . . The bell awakened everyone from their beds; in a few seconds all of us were posted in various points of the settlement.

We saw that we were surrounded by tanks, Bren gun carriers, armored cars, and all sorts of instruments for searching and destruction. The soldiers got out of the cars with their weapons, and began opening their cans and drinking tea. At the same time the women carried breakfast from the diningroom to the men at their posts. From all sides, were heard sounds of derision, scorn, mockery and laughter from the soldiers at the appearance of the food for our men.

When the soldiers started loading their pistols and raising their bayonets, the tension reached its height. Suddenly, in answer to some signal, the fence was broken and the army crashed into the courtyard from all sides. It was a bestial, wild attack. They rushed forward, with their guns, toward the posts. The group in the boat building yard was the first to suffer. Without warning, the men were

pounced on, beaten with guns, and kicked; the women who surrounded the men so as to prevent them from being taken by the soldiers were also beaten.

After a short struggle, in which the cries of the wounded were mingled with the blood-thirsty shouts of the soldiers, we heard the commander cry in English: "Turn your rifles." Immediately they stormed toward us with their bayonets, and blood began to flow. They stabbed all who looked tall and strong. Some were pricked in the chest, some in the back, some in the feet, and at the point of the bayonets, all the men were pushed to the gate.

The women carried the wounded to the first-aid station, but before they had time to dress the wounds, the soldiers savagely broke into the station and pulled all the wounded to their trucks.

The same thing happened near the hen roosts.

There they also dealt in a villainous manner with the women. Among them, there was one girl who had recently come from France and she had spent two years in a German concentration camp. She was a girl who showed strange and shocking traces of the suffering she had experienced. Now, she was savagely beaten about the head with a gun; she was kicked at while sitting quietly, frozen with fear. Afterwards she was taken, dreadfully shaken up, to her room, where she lay ill for 10 days. The only words she uttered during the first days were: "To be killed . . . I could have remained there."

Another girl who was sitting near the same place, was kicked in the face and one of their "heroes" with bay-

onet drawn, pricked her between the legs and in the sides several times, and in between blows, he rubbed his bayonet in the sand. During the whole time, he laughed with devilish glee. They stepped upon Shoshana's breast when they wanted to reach her husband with their bayonets. They pulled one of the women by the hair to the concentration place, and thus they plucked handfuls of hair from her head. She struggled with them fiercely, like a lioness. Now she is the guiding-spirit in our "women collective."

The march of our men passed near the children's houses. The children stared, terrified by the dreadful sights of their parents being led, wounded and bleeding, outside. The women were ordered to sit together in a circle, facing in toward the center. They sat and sang loudly—and you can imagine what kind of singing it was, with the sun beating down on their heads, the sand burning, with the sweat, the tears, and the pains in their bodies. And you can imagine how our men appeared, shivering with rage and humiliation, as they looked at their home from which they were departing. Even the ruthless soldiers were ashamed when they caught sight of these glances.

This is our reward after years of fighting together during the war. Many of those arrested were members of the Jewish Brigade who had come back for their discharge.

The tanks and armored cars took the men to Athlit and left the women alone in the colony.

Shalom chaver, (peace, comrade)

B—
(PM)

The Palestine Administration

a Police State

The following is a digest of an article by Allen Raymond which appeared in the August 1, 1946, issue of the New York HERALD TRIBUNE:

Few if any legal safeguards to the life, liberty or property of any Jew or Arab exist today in Palestine, the land to which an Anglo-American committee of inquiry has recommended that 100,000 Jewish refugees from European tyranny be sent as soon as possible. A good many of these people, for whose transportation into a promised land the American taxpayer may be asked to pay, are likely to be dropped from the frying pan into the fire.

* * *

For the government of Palestine, as administered since 1937 under an Order in Council from London, is about as perfect an example of the absolute police state as can be found anywhere on earth . . .

With two such forces to cope with, the harassed mandatory government of Palestine has allowed itself through the years to be jockeyed into a standard of government that is utterly tyrannical. Under its current laws, if strictly applied, a large proportion of its subject population is liable to death, life imprisonment or deportation. Imprisonment for life may be imposed for the possession of firearms or the wearing of uniforms or parts of uniforms of the armed forces of the government. Males in Palestine who own guns or who wear at least parts of old army clothing are either in the majority or fairly close to it.

Just a few excerpts from these so-called defense laws, which have been made more drastic instead of less drastic in 1946—supposedly a year of peace—will show their nature.

1. Any person in Palestine may be arrested at any time by any British soldier or Palestinian policeman, and held in jail for seven

days if the soldier or policeman suspects such a person of an offense against defense regulations.

2. Any policeman or any soldier may seize and hold any goods or articles he finds upon anybody if he suspects that they are being used or going to be used against the public order or safety.

3. Any commissioned officer or any police officer of or above the rank of inspector, or any soldier or any policeman generally or specifically authorized by a commissioned officer or a police officer above the rank of inspector may search any premises whatever, and may enter them forcibly if necessary. Searches of any premises may be carried out by police or military in the absence of their owners or usual occupants.

4. Any military commander may by order direct the forfeiture to the government, without compensation, of any house or land if he suspects that a firearm has been illegally discharged from it, or if it is situated in any area, town, village, quarter or street, the inhabitants of which, or some of the inhabitants of which, have committed or abetted an offense against the regulations, involving violence. Any such house or structure may also be destroyed without compensation.

* * *

The most amazing thing about these so-called defense regulations of Palestine is the way they have been broadened in 1946 to provide for group responsibility before military courts for individual offenses punishable by death or life imprisonment. Thus, under Article 57 of the 1946 regulations, it is forbidden (a) to discharge any firearm at any person or any group or body of persons, and (b) to be a member of any group or body of persons, any one of whom has committed while a member of the group or body, or is committing, an offense against this regulation. The punishment for being a member of a "group or body" any member of which either has taken a pot shot at anybody with a rifle, or is doing it at the moment, may be "death or such lower punishment as the court may order. . . ."

. . . During my brief stay in Palestine I have seen an exasperated government put 200,000 persons under house arrest, and after throwing cordons of troops around various areas, cart nearly 3,000 persons off to concentration camps, including the most prominent leaders of the Jewish community.

"A Mockery of the Law"

JERUSALEM. Of 3,489 men and women detained since the big search of the Jewish Agency offices and of settlements throughout Palestine on June 29 only four, I understand, have been formally charged and will be brought before civil or military courts. This is a situation which is creating profound concern among senior officials of the Palestine Government's Advocate-General's branch and officers of the military courts.

All but 500 of the detainees have now been released after varying periods in Latrun and Rafag camps in "administrative" detention, without being informed whether or when they will be formally charged and given an opportunity of defending themselves.

This week Judge L. A. W. Orr, after acquitting a Jewish youth charged with distributing terrorist leaflets, was informed by a police officer in court that the youth would be returned to the detention camp as an "administrative detainee."

"The police must make up their minds whether they intend to bring these people before a proper court of law or detain them administratively," said the judge. "You are making a mockery of the law."

I understand that Palestine's Chief Justice, Sir William FitzGerald, now in London, is making serious representations to the Colonial Office.

—J. L. Hays, London *Sunday Times*, (Sept. 22, 1946)

Children Are Not Spared

NIGHT CABLE TEL AVIV, Received Washington, Oct. 21, 1945, 11:45 A.M.

"We parents of 18 boys and 2 girls sentenced sixteenth of October by Palestine Military Court to various imprisonment sentences

mostly 7 years, beg your aid to rouse American public opinion during next 10 days prior ratification sentence by Officer Commanding British Troops Palestine. Our children aged 15 to 20 were arrested August 16th, at Shuni, while camping in woods. Though nothing found on them were taken to Acco Prison. Later police discovered arms cached vicinity camp. No civilians present at discovery. 26 prosecution witnesses failed establish slightest connection between children and arms. Though notebooks found in cache handwriting and fingerprints don't correspond children's. Children denied all knowledge arms and protested illegality their trial. Yesterday same Court discharged Arab Ahmed Suliman Ali of Nimrin accused rifle on roof his house who claimed police planted rifle, but gave our children total 118 years for unproved offense. We demand annulment of outrageous discriminatory political sentence. Please help in name all parents."

Grandmother of one.

Emergency Regulations

"... To visualize the state of mind of the Hebrews in Palestine, take a look at the laws as they affect the rights of man in this land," writes the Jerusalem correspondent of the N. Y. Post, Richard Mowrer.

"Under emergency regulations in effect today you are guilty until proven innocent. There is no habeas corpus. Any policeman, any British soldier of any rank, can arrest you on mere suspicion. You can be detained without a charge being preferred against you and without a trial.

"You can be held indefinitely. You can be deported from the country. Emergency regulations as amended Jan. 28 of this year affect Hebrews more than the Arabs because of the insertion of paragraphs regarding illegal immigration. By this law if you give shelter to your own mother, knowing she is an illegal immigrant, you are liable to eight years' imprisonment, \$1,000 fine, or both.

"As far as the immigration laws are concerned, Hebrews are placed between morality and legality—morality of doing everything they can to assist those who escaped the fate of 6,000,000 Hebrews murdered in Europe—and the legality of the Palestine laws.

"Few if any hesitate. Despite the drastic regulations designed to curb terrorism (you are liable to a death sentence merely for belonging to a group whose members committed an offense against the emergency regulations) Hebrews are convinced that moral righteousness is on their side. The passive ones acquiesce to terrorism as apparently the only means of attracting the world's attention to the plight of the Hebrews. Others perpetrate terrorism . . .

"Looking back, Palestine Hebrews see there are two measures: One for them, one for the others. But in the Holy Land vigorous and proud nationalism has developed. "We Jews are not better, but we are not worse than anybody else," they say. So what happens next? . . .

"A little more of what has been perpetrated already is likely to precipitate violence and open war. Maybe that's the idea."

Deportation—A Means Tried and True

Two hundred seventy-nine prisoners who were deported from Palestine to a concentration camp in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, to exist on starvation rations, unsanitary conditions and unbearable tropical climate, have informed the British Inspector of the Camp that they will begin a "hunger strike" in August unless they are released or brought to trial, Mr. Samuel Merlin, Secretary General of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation revealed.

Mr. Merlin also announced that the International Red Cross in Geneva has instructed its representative in Cairo to visit the camp and to ascertain from British authorities whether food parcels may be sent the prisoners.

The Hebrew Committee was informed via cable, through their Turkish representative, that "the two hundred seventy-nine political deportees complain of hunger rations, lack of medicines; their families destitute; they request your political and financial help." Similar information was received by the Committee via London and South Africa.

These political prisoners, all Palestinian citizens, were arrested and deported from Palestine more than a year ago without any

definite charges made against them and without the regular privileges of a trial. For many months their whereabouts remained unknown. Months later it was learned, through an official communication sent to Congressman Andrew L. Somers (N. Y.), Chairman of the American League for a Free Palestine, in answer to his inquiries, that the camp was situated in the African desert. From letters received by the Hebrew Committee from some of the deportees it was revealed that they were being given hunger rations and were exhausted by the unbearable climate which no one unaccustomed to the tropics can endure for any length of time.

The 279 prisoners are from among the choice elements and "intelligentsia" of Palestine—poets, journalists, editors, publishers, social workers, leaders of political parties, etc. Among them is Aryeh Ben-Eliezer, a member of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, who left this country in 1943 for Palestine at the request of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe for the purpose of facilitating the rescue of Balkan Jews to Palestine. Mr. Ben-Eliezer was the bearer of many letters of recommendation from leading Americans from all walks of life, including members of Congress, Mayor LaGuardia of New York, and outstanding writers.

* * *

Addis Ababa, 15th May 1946

To,

The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, Washington.

Dear Sir:

In the beginning of the year 1942, a Palestinian Hebrew, named Naphtali Lubintzik, went for a job to Syria. The Palestinian C.I.D. reached out a long arm and arrested him there, not having a single piece of evidence against him, as is their usual way. He was brought hand-cuffed from Syria and was put into detention camp Mazra together with many other Hebrew innocents. A short time after that he was transferred to Acre Prison with six other Mazra detainees, where all of them "served" about two and a half years, without being brought before a judge against their strong protest.

Now I do not know if you could imagine a dirtier place than Acre Prison. An ancient tower, built by the crusaders on the Acre beach, surrounded with grim walls and containing many stinking

cells with iron bars. Seven hundred Arabic criminals are confined there, all of whom are dangerous murderers and thieves. It is a known fact in Palestine that a tough criminal is sent straight to Acre, the regime there being very hard. You are allowed to go out from your dark cell only for one and a half hours a day, in which time you have to go to lavatory, have a quick wash and walk a bit in order to stretch your numb limbs. Twenty-two and a half hours a day you are locked up, and all you have to do is hear the sneers of the instigated Arabs and count the paces from wall to wall. During two years Lubintzik was never allowed to see his wife and his old father and he had to be content with writing letters to them only twice a month, but nevertheless passing very strong censorship, after which they reached Tel-Aviv in three weeks' time.

Officially Lubintzik was held under Para. 15-B, which gives the political detainees some privileges over plain criminals; as: smoking, civilian clothes, visits once a week and freedom to be out of doors until 9 o'clock in the evening. While being in Acre prison he was deprived of everything except his own clothes and was in continuous danger of his life, being among 700 Arabic murderers. Food was insufficient and colorless, and this hard life of his in Acre prison took a heavy toll of his health, until he got the illness of Gastritis.

On the 19th of October, 1944, he was transferred hand-cuffed from his prison, by the means of a plane, to Eritrea. There he took part in the two weeks hunger strike which broke out against the desire of the Military authorities to force non-Kosher meat on the exiles. By the end of January 1945, he was transferred with all the inhabitants of the camp to Summit, Sudan. The hot climate there and the rough conditions did not help to improve his health. He used to be all the time on a diet, if I could term "diet," the miserable food he had in the camp.

In October, 1945, he was transferred to Asmara, Eritrea, where his condition became worse until, in April, 1946, he died in exile, on a strange soil far away from his fatherland for which he fought according to his ideology and which he had not seen for more than four and a half years.

Lubintzik is one of hundreds who suffer because they demand the right of a Free Hebrew State into which the millions of Hebrews in the Diaspora could take refuge and build anew their shattered life. He lost his life through the cruelty of the Palestinian

British Administration, which one year after the fall of Nazism and its concentration camps continues to practice the same Nazi regime on the main victims of Hitler. Only ten of his friends were allowed to accompany him on his last way, and this—under heavy guard of British soldiers armed with machine guns. His funeral was sad and monotonous as were his four and a half years in prison, and his dead body in exile shouts to heaven as shout hundreds of living Hebrew detainees, as shout six millions of murdered Hebrews in European gas chambers who could have led a happy life in Palestine, were it not for the anti-Semitic British policy in our fatherland.

May his soul rest in peace.

Yours,

The Murders on Dizengoff Street

On February 2, 1942, two nailed coffins were delivered to the *Hevra Kadisha* (Jewish Burial Society) in Tel Aviv. With the coffins came police orders that the bodies were to be neither examined nor cleansed in accordance with Jewish law.

All that the public knew about this incident came from a terse newspaper report: "Abraham Amper and Zelig Zaq, two of the men arrested at 30 Dizengoff Street, died of their wounds in the government hospital at Jaffa."

This is the full story:

On Tuesday, January 27th, in his rented room on the third floor of 30 Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, Zelig Zaq and three friends—Abraham Amper, Moshe Savurai and Ya'akov Libshtein—were talking over their recent encounters with the Gestapo in Nazi Europe and the British police in Palestine.

At about 4 o'clock Libshtein went to the lavatory. As he closed the door behind him, he heard the front doorbell ring sharply. Mrs. Messer, who owned the apartment where Zaq had rented the room, opened the door. There stood Morton of the C.I.D., a Sergeant Woodward and another British police sergeant, each with a revolver in his hand. They brushed Mrs. Messer aside and made for Zaq's room. Caught by surprise, the three men inside put up their hands.

Morton wordlessly pointed his revolver at Abraham Amper and shot him in the abdomen three times in succession, then he turned and shot Zaq. Savurai, attempting to break through, was wounded in the shoulder, and as he fell Morton fired at his head.

A squad of British detectives, headed by a man named Wilkin, ran into the room. They kicked the bleeding men, and as they searched their clothes, they spat upon them and cursed all the "bloody Jews."

In the meantime Ya'akov, hearing the shots, made for the narrow lavatory window. As he climbed down the ivy-covered drain pipe, bullets from the guns of detectives stationed outside began to spatter about him, and, although one struck him in the thigh, he managed to climb all the way down. When he hit the pavement, he was dragged to the rear of the house, where he was kicked and his head ground into the dirt.

There was a brief respite when Chief Inspector Giles of the C.I.D., Major Harrington, Hackett, and other high police officials arrived. They found the condition of the four wounded men on the sidewalk much to their satisfaction.

A Magen David ambulance drew up. After briefly examining the men and bandaging them, the ambulance doctor pleaded to administer morphine and asked that the wounded be transferred to Hadassah Hospital. Both requests were denied, and Wilkin sent the ambulance away empty.

Toward evening, police trucks arrived and carted the four men to the government hospital in Jaffa. Amper and Zaq were in a critical state, Morton's bullets having pierced their livers and intestines.

Zaq was operated on at eight o'clock and Amper at nine, but it was too late. Libshtein and Savurai vainly begged to donate their blood. On Sunday morning, February 1st, after four days of agony, the murder of Amper and Zaq was completely successful.

—Compiled from the Palestine Underground Press

"In the Name of His Majesty"

(Excerpt from a chapter of a forthcoming book, *A Nation Is Born*, by Mr. Ben-Ami.)

A large yellow envelope attracted my attention. The foreign stamp said "Cairo, Egypt," no return address. Opening it, I was startled at the sight of over thirty hand-written pages. I looked for the signature at the end. *Mordecai Petchou*.

Mordecai Petchou . . . Yes, I remembered him. He was the young fellow I had known in Jerusalem several years ago, a graduate of the Teachers College there, an intelligent, well-educated boy. He was very orthodox, grew a beard according to the strict orthodox law, an unusual thing for a man of his age even in Jerusalem. I had met him several times in homes of friends and we had had some interesting conversations on a variety of subjects. How had he ever found my address in New York?

The dateline was August 25, 1939. Acre, Palestine. The letter read in part as follows:

I have found your address from friends. I am writing this letter from the Acre prison. It will be smuggled out and a friend will mail it from Egypt, so that it will not be stopped by the censor. You must have acquaintances by now among newspaper people. Please have them publicize its contents. I would be especially grateful if you would send a copy of it to someone in England. I should like its contents made known to the members of Parliament and the British people. I want you to know that I have not changed my attitude towards the English people and in spite of what has happened to me, I do not believe they are aware of and probably will refuse to believe, what happened here. The people involved in the tortures of myself, of Tzvi Aharonowitz, of Benjamin Zeroni in Jerusalem, of Esther Cohen and other girls in Tel Aviv cannot be representative of the English people. I do not believe that these deeds are committed with their knowledge or the sanction of the whole British government.

I do believe, however, that the local police in Palestine know of it. I believe, moreover, that they have given a free hand to a group of sadists to indulge in tortures that the Spanish Inquisition, and the Nazi Gestapo, would not have been ashamed to imitate. Please,

write to someone in England and appeal to him to publicize these facts. I know that the English people have always been friends of the Hebrew people. The Balfour Declaration was given by a man who sincerely believed that it would end the homelessness of the Hebrews. And our other sincere friends, Patterson, Wedgwood, Locker-Lampson, Kenworthy, Cazalet. They are Britishers who have become part of our struggle for freedom. No, this beastliness cannot be condoned by Englishmen. It is being perpetrated by beasts, in human form, who have been given a free hand by some narrow-minded, 'civil servant' in Jerusalem. They compose a gang, led by several English police constables, a few Arabs, and even a Jewish physician from Jerusalem, who takes care of their victims. This must be stopped. If continued, it will launch the Hebrew youth here into a blood-feud with the British that will never die out. It will reflect on the reputation and standing of the British as a people. It may ultimately add their names to those of Torquemado, Chmielnitzky, Petlura and Himmler . . . Please, therefore, read the following lines, despite the horror that they might cause you, and do not rest until their contents reach the people in England, so that they may act before it is too late . . .

Police-Lt. Kerns, of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Palestine Police, arrested me on the morning of July 16th, about five weeks ago. He stopped me on the corner of King George and Ben Yehuda Streets in Jerusalem, as I was walking to work. He took me to my home and office to witness his searching of my desk and belongings, confiscating whatever he considered might be of interest to him. When we left my room Kerns told me to shut the door tightly, since it would be a long time before I would return . . .

Kerns took me to his office in the Russian Compound and placed me in a chair in front of his desk. He seemed to be content with the results of his search and was smiling, rubbing his hands constantly.

"Do you know B.Z.K.?" he asked me.

"No, I do not," I answered.

"Come, come my boy," he said. "How can you lie to me? I have seen you with him on the street. Are you a member of the Irgun?"

"I do not know what Irgun means, and I am not a member of it."

"So, you don't want to talk. Well, well, we shall see . . . But really you should not be so stubborn . . ."

He had me transferred to one of the barracks in the court and placed me in the last, most-isolated room, at the end of the building. I waited there, alone, for an hour. Then Kerns returned with another British policeman. He had a number of papers in his hand. He started anew:

"Are you a member of the Irgun?"

"No, I told you that before."

"Do you know these people?" He read off a list of names.

"No, I do not."

"You are lying," he said angrily, beginning to lose patience. "Are they members of the Irgun?"

"I do not know them."

"Listen," he said, changing his tone. "Nobody knows that you are here. Tell me the truth and I'll set you free immediately. What do you know about the Irgun?"

"I do not know anything."

"All right. Who are these people? Read this list."

I looked at the list and said, "I do not know them."

Before I had time to finish my sentence, they struck me over the head and ears with their fists. The other policeman stood behind me. I tried to protect my head by raising my hands. Kerns kicked me in the stomach. I fell to the floor, and they started to hit me with their boots. I crouched and tried to protect my genitals. I did not always succeed. The floor was now wet with urine and blood. Kerns tired, and stopped, but ordered his associate to continue. The other policeman dragged me out of the corner where I had sought protection and hit me in the neck. As I raised my hands, Kerns kicked me in the groin . . . As I bent forward, his accomplice hit me with the side of his open hand over my neck. I fainted.

I was awakened by a pain caused by a burning cigarette Kerns applied to my ear. He realized by now that I was on the verge of collapse and said to his friend, "All right." They called in an Arab policeman to guard me.

An hour later Kerns returned with eight English policemen and an Arab. He told me to get up. I feigned unconsciousness. They tried to push and lift me, but to no avail. He ordered a mattress brought in. They put me on it and stripped me. Kerns bent over and asked again if I was a member of the Irgun, if I knew the

people on the list, but I did not answer. They tied my feet with my belt. One of them lifted them, a second struck them with a round stick, a third moistened them from time to time. I did not budge or cry out. Kerns told them to stop, and examined my pulse. As it was still beating, they renewed the blows, this time accompanying them by boxing my head and body. Kerns spoke to me again:

"This is only the beginning. If you do not speak, we will torture you more . . ." He ordered water brought in and poured it over my head. And they continued. Another one joined in. He kept hitting me with a strap on the genitals. I could not stand the pain and started to struggle with the strapping. I freed my hands and pulled the cloth that gagged my mouth. Kerns told them to stop and asked me if I wanted to talk. I said, "No." They began again. They stuffed my nose with their fingers and poured water into my mouth, when I turned my head they poured it in my ears. I vomited. Drops of blood came out. They stopped and looked hesitatingly to Kerns. He said, "That is nothing. We will torture you until you will be almost dead, but you will not die."

"Do you want to compel me to lie to you?" I asked.

He struck me in the face, shouting, "Say yes." The torture was started again.

Half an hour later, another Englishman came in. "How long is it since you started?" he inquired of Kerns.

"Fifteen minutes," Kerns said, jumping to his feet, saluting.

"Then you will have to stop." And he left the room. They unstrapped me and tried to put me on my feet. I could not stand and sank to my knees. They pushed and dragged me, but I could not get up. They pulled me by the hair . . . Eventually with the aid of the mattress, they transferred me to another room. I was naked, and they covered me with blankets. Kerns tried to talk to me, but I did not answer or open my eyes. They all returned in the afternoon. Kerns asked how I was. I did not answer. An Arab prisoner was called in, and he took me on his back to the other room.

Kerns began again, "Who are the people on the list?"

I shook my head in the negative.

"We will soon see if you know them or not."

The Arab policeman struck me on the face and head. Blood began pouring from my nose. They put me on the floor and tied my feet. The entire procedure was repeated. This time they all worked

on me together. They pulled my beard, and made me open my mouth. They stuffed rags into it and poured water into my nose. Two were standing on my outstretched arms. One was on my stomach, rocking himself continuously. Another kept striking me between the legs with a white rubber whip. All this time Kerns kept saying, "Say yes, say yes."

After a short while, one started singing an English song. They all joined in, increasing their tempo, laughing, without stopping their torture. The pain on my feet was unbearable. I tried to free myself, to change my position. I felt a pain in my right shoulder. I looked and saw a queer projection, probably the shoulder bone out of place, bulging under the skin . . . They stopped and pulled my arm several times until it snapped into place.

This and worse went on for three days. Then they let me alone for a few days.

On the sixth day, Kerns came back. "If you do not tell me the truth, I will send you to prison for a long time." I did not talk. He left angrily, saying he would return with friends.

On Monday, July 23rd, he returned alone.

"If you tell me the truth, I will not come back again."

"I have always spoken the truth."

"Will you swear?"

"One must not swear. My religion forbids it."

"You may be faithful to others, to me you surely lie."

"I do not lie."

He called a policeman and told him to bring my belongings. They found only my suit and underwear. All my other belongings and money were missing. So was my Zizzith. He sent the policeman back, stressing that the Zizzith must be found. They found it full of blood and desecrated. He ordered that they have it washed and returned to me clean. Before leaving, he told me that I was at his mercy, and that he could punish me at any time, if I told anyone what had been done to me.

I was transferred to the regular prison, and put in solitary confinement for eleven days. At the end my wounds seemed to become dangerously worse, and my neck was operated on. Then I was sent to the prison at Acre.

I have dictated this letter to a friend. I cannot use my hands. But I am feeling better. I probably will not be able to discover

what happened to me internally, until I am released and my own physician examines me thoroughly.

I have met here with the other boys who were also tortured by Kerns, and they told me that he did the same thing to two girls in Tel Aviv. While beating them, he pinched their breasts with a mechanical pleyer. He constantly threatened that they would be turned over to the soldiers.

This is an abbreviated story of what happened here in the past five weeks. Now you will understand why it is so urgent that English public opinion learn about it, and put an end to the activities of these brutes . . .”

I have never publicized this letter. The war broke out while it was on its way, and the Irgun had stopped its activities. Lt. Kerns, it may be added, was killed in August by a land mine which exploded in front of his home in Jerusalem.