

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ISRAELI MILITARY

Preview prior to the War of
Independence and "Revolt" by
the Irgun

Buildup of Israeli Military

Reaction

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Event

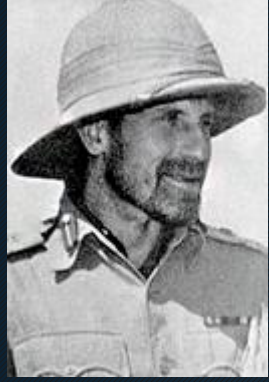
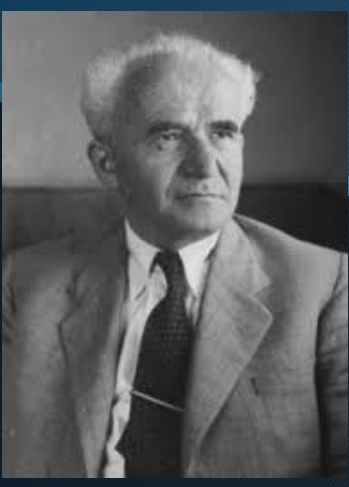
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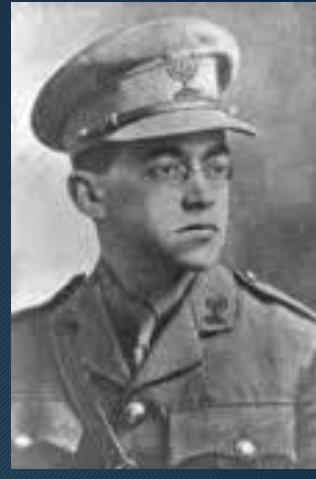
Founding of the Haganah

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Havlagah- Restraint

“ Jewish National Council of Palestine

“ Not with pouring innocent blood our holies' blood would be forgiven, but with new methods to promote our project and a never ending aiming at new actions for our freedom. For our deep sorrow Jerusalem had seen revenge actions at Arabs, which had stained the honor of the Jewish settlement and put in danger the peace of Jerusalem. The national council gathering... **horrified about these crimes**, subverting the moral basics of Judaism and Zionism, spreading hatred in this region's nations and can bring a tragedy for the Jewish settlement and the whole land.

Havlagah- Restraint

“ Yitzhak HaLevi Herzog,
the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi
“ We are now standing in a very
hard position... I said to one man
who came to argue with me; If I
will be shot and become a
moribund, I would command all
of Israel and the Yishuv to be
careful and to **abstain any**
revenge actions. We should not
learn the way of the violent non-

Jews. What have we reached for
two years? A great
achievement, Kiddush Hashem,
and here in the Land of Israel the
Yishuv showed for two years a
pure spirit, gave an expression
for this Jewish institute, yes this is
a great achievement...

Havlagah- Restraint

“ Berl Katznelson, one of Mapai's leaders

“ Havlagah means, our weapon will be pure. We learn weapon, we carry weapon, we resist those who come to attack us, but we do not want our weapon to be stained with blood of innocents... Havlagah is both a political and a moral system, caused by our history and reality, our behavior and the conditions of our fight. If we were not loyal to ourselves and adopted a different strategy, we would have lost the fight a long time ago



Irgun Tzvai Leumi

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Irgun Tzvai Leumi

March 1938, David Raziel wrote in the underground newspaper "By the Sword" a constitutive article for the Irgun overall, The actions of the Haganah alone will never be a true victory. If the goal of the war is to break the will of the enemy – and this cannot be attained without destroying his spirit – clearly we cannot be satisfied with solely defensive operations.... Such a method of defense, that allows the enemy to attack at will, to reorganize and attack again ... and does not intend to remove the enemy's ability to attack a second time – is called passive defense, and ends in downfall and destruction ... whoever does not wish to be beaten has no choice but to attack. The fighting side, that does not intend to oppress but to save its liberty and honor, he too has only one way available – the way of attack. Defensiveness by way of offensiveness, in order to deprive the enemy the option of attacking, is called active defense.

Early Activity of the Irgun

“ After an Arab shooting at Carmel school in Tel Aviv, which resulted in the death of a Jewish child, Irgun members attacked an Arab neighborhood near Kerem Hatemanim in Tel Aviv, killing one Arab man and injuring another.

“ On August 17, the Irgun responded to shootings by Arabs from the Jaffa-Jerusalem train towards Jews that were waiting by the train block on Herzl Street in Tel Aviv. The same day, when a Jewish child was injured by the shooting, Irgun members attacked a train on the same route, killing one Arab and injuring five.



LEHI / Stern Gang

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LEHI / Stern Gang

An article titled "Terror" in the Lehi underground newspaper *He Khazit* (*The Front*) argued as follows:

“Neither Jewish ethics nor Jewish tradition can disqualify terrorism as a means of combat. We are very far from having any moral qualms as far as our national war goes. We have before us the command of the Torah, whose morality surpasses that of any other body of laws in the world: "Ye shall blot them out to the last man." But first and foremost, terrorism is for us a part of the political battle being conducted under the present circumstances, and it has a great part to play: speaking in a clear voice to the whole world, as well as to our wretched brethren outside this land, it proclaims our war against the occupier. We are particularly far from this sort of hesitation in regard to an enemy whose moral perversion is admitted by all. ^[28]



18 Principles of Rebirth

The nation: The Jewish people is a covenanted people, the originator of monotheism, formulator of the prophetic teachings, standard bearer of human culture, guardian of glorious patrimony. The Jewish people is schooled in self-sacrifice and suffering; its vision, survivability and faith in redemption are indestructible.

The homeland: The homeland in the Land of Israel within the borders delineated in the Bible ("To your descendants, I shall give this land, from the River of Egypt to the great Euphrates River." Genesis 15:18) This is the land of the living, where the entire nation shall live in safety.

The nation and its land: Israel conquered the land with the sword. There it became a great nation and only there it will be reborn. Hence Israel alone has a right to that land. This is an absolute right. It has never expired and never will.

The Goals:

Redemption of the land.

Establishment of sovereignty.

Revival of the nation. There is no sovereignty without the redemption of the land, and there is no national revival without sovereignty

Israel Defense Forces: Ruach Tzahal - Code of Ethics

- The tradition of the IDF and its military heritage as the Israel Defense Forces.
- The tradition of the State of Israel, its democratic principles, laws and institutions.
- The tradition of the Jewish People throughout their history.
- Universal moral values based on the value and dignity of human life.

From These Sources Come Three Fundamental Values:

(1) Defense of the State, its Citizens and Residents

The purpose of the IDF is to protect the existence of the state of Israel, its independence, and the security of its citizens and residents.

(2) Patriotism and Loyalty to the State

Service in the IDF is based on patriotism, commitment and devotion to the democratic State of Israel and to its citizens and residents.

(3) Human Dignity

The IDF and its soldiers are obligated to preserve human dignity. All humans are to be valued, regardless of race, creed, nationality, gender, status or role

- (1) At military swearing-in ceremonies, soldiers may pledge an oath on either the Tanakh, Bible or Koran. Jews, Muslims and Christians all serve together in the IDF with no discrimination based on religious faith.
- (2) Since 1948, women have served side-by-side with male soldiers. The Equality Amendment to the Military Service Law states that “the right of women to serve in any role in the IDF is equal to the right of men.” Each year, 1,500 female combat soldiers are drafted into the IDF and 88 percent of all positions are open to women.
- (3) Israel is one of 24 countries that allow gay individuals to openly serve in their armed forces. Sexual orientation does not stand as a barrier to receiving promotions or joining elite units.
- (4) In 2001, the Women’s Affairs Advisor to the Chief of Staff was created in an effort to empower women and maximize the capabilities and opportunities of women serving in the IDF.
- (5) While there is a compulsory military draft for Israelis, hundreds of Jews from around the world volunteer to serve the state of Israel every year.
- (6) Additional vacation time is allotted to soldiers of all faiths and religious practices. For example, Bedouin and Druze soldiers are granted time off from the army to celebrate the religious holiday of Eid al-Adha with friends and family.
- (7) In 2011, the IDF proudly welcomed its first-ever female major general, Orna Barbivai, who was promoted as commander of the Manpower Directorate. She holds the IDF’s second-highest rank, reporting directly to Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, IDF chief of staff.