

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1¹

Secret—Urgent

Northern District Command/Intelligence Battalion 123/Intelligence

Battalion 131, 122, 121/Intelligence

31 October 1948

Information report from 10/30 (8:00 hours)—to 10/31 (8:00 hours)

Enemy status: The enemy withdrew from the al-Birwa and Majd al-Krum region on the evening of 10/29.

Orders for the operation: in keeping with the standing orders for Operation Hiram following the surrender of Majd al-Krum.

Actions taken by our forces: Following the arrival of a delegation of the residents of Majd al-Krum, al-Bi'na, Dayr al-Asad, and Nahaf at the barricade around our forces in the Birwa area on 10/29, the battalion commander arrived with a platoon from the first company and a platoon from the second company and a platoon from the third company. On the morning of 10/30 al-Jamal position was secured to guarantee the safety of the platoons that had advanced beyond the barricade. Following a cautious advance accompanied by Arab guides we reached the road and entered Majd al-Krum.

After we entered, our forces observed a column of armored vehicles on the road coming from the direction of al-Rama—which appeared to be French-made—and which fired on Majd al-Krum. Our forces returned fire, and withdrew to points to the west of Majd al-Krum. After the armored column entered Majd al-Krum it became clear it was a detachment from Battalion 12 which had received orders while in al-Rama (11:00 hours) to advance quickly from there to Majd al-Krum.

At 12:30 the notable of the village of Majd al-Krum accepted the conditions for a cease-fire and at 14:25 they signed the agreement in front of the battalion officer.

Our casualties: One wounded from the first company who was wounded in the exchange of fire with Battalion 12 near Majd al-Krum.

Our plan: To transfer control over the Majd al-Krum area to the forces belonging to Company 122.

Status of enemy forces: Nothing worth mentioning.

Miscellaneous items: Majd al-Krum has about 1,800 residents according to a first estimate. During the withdrawal [of the Arab Liberation army] a number of women and children fled to the neighboring Christian village of al-Bi'na. A number of men also fled to the neighboring mountains, as we were informed at the time of surrender. There is a large number of men of military service age in the village, as well as refugees from areas which had been occupied previously.

In accordance with the surrender terms of Majd al-Krum, we gave them until the morning of 10/31 (8:00 hours) to gradually turn in their weapons.

Signed by:

Hanan Levi

Intelligence Officer/Battalion 123

Appendix 2¹

Secret—Urgent

Haifa District/Intelligence Battalion 123

Battalion 131, 121, 122/Intelligence

31 October 1948

Daily report from 10/30 (8:00 hours) to 10/31 (8:00 hours)

Assessment of our forces: Majd al-Krum region

Our forces left Majd al-Krum today. A detachment of 3rd Company left at 11:00 and re-joined the company in Acre. The remainder left . . . after the arrival of Battalion 122 and its commander at 16:15.

Actions by our forces: An overnight curfew was imposed on Majd al-Krum. By 8 o'clock in the morning the Arabs had not surrendered their weapons, as they were asked to do. We gave them until 12:00, and they turned in twenty rifles, most of them German-made and some others French and British-made, along with their ammunition. After pressure was applied and threats made, they turned in another fifteen rifles with their ammunition.

At 16:15 the commander of Battalion 122 and his men arrived to relieve us. They took control of the situation and immediately chose 1,000 Arab laborers to repair the road leading to Acre. At 17:00 the road had been repaired and cars passed through. Sappers also disarmed mines on the road to Birwa, and ditches were filled in.

Miscellaneous:

It appeared, on the basis of the interrogation of inhabitants of the village, that the Arab [Liberation] Army had withdrawn from the village on Friday evening. The village surrendered the following day. The village has about 2,000 inhabitants. Some gang members remained, including Hajj 'Abid, who is one of the mufti's men, who was in charge of weapons. The other important gang members were: Husni, who is the deputy of the aforementioned individual, and mayor [mukhtar] of the village, and Muhyi al-Din, and Hasan bin

‘Ali Mahmud Isma‘il and his brother, and Muhammad ‘Abd al-Rahman. The last person mentioned has two sons who are gang members, one of whom remained in the village, and the other fled with the army. Hajj ‘Abid was insolent and arrogant when he handed in arms. . . . Some villagers fled to the mountains, and will try to return in the coming days. Also, some weapons were hidden in the forests and orchards in the region.

Signed by

Intelligence Officer

[Name illegible]

Appendix 3¹

Operations Officer 1 Haifa District Intelligence Officer
District 9 Operations Officer Operation /29/
Northern Front/Intelligence 1 November 1948
Subject: Intelligence

Below are excerpts from reports by battalion intelligence officers:

Battalion 122

There are young Arab men of military service age throughout the occupied area. It seems that when the Liberation Army withdrew quickly it left large quantities of weapons with the inhabitants. It appears that many Arabs who belonged to the Liberation Army were unable to withdraw and changed clothes at the last moment. Consequently, there is a pressing need to carry out a swift and precise combing operation and to investigate and search for arms and for members of the Liberation Army.

Battalion 123

According to what was discovered in the interrogation of inhabitants of Majd al-Krum, the Arab [Liberation] Army withdrew from the village on the evening of 29 October, and the village surrendered the next day. The village has about 2,000 inhabitants. Some gang members remained, including the mayor [mukhtar] Hajj 'Abid, who is one of the Mufti's men, who is the leader of the gangs and is in charge of weapons. The other important gang members are: Husni, who is the deputy of the aforementioned individual and is hiding in the village, and Muhyi al-Din and Hasan Abu 'Ali Mahmud Isma'il and his brother, and Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman who has two sons, one of whom remained in the village, and the other fled with the army. Hajj 'Abid and his deputy are also in charge of a munitions depot containing explosives and bombs and they know where they are hidden. Hajj 'Abid was insolent and arrogant when he handed in arms. . . . Some villagers,

particularly the young men, fled to the mountains, and will try to return in the coming days. Also, most of the weapons were hidden in nearby forests and orchards.

We came across a letter dated 10/27 written by an Arab intelligence officer from the Yarmuk Brigade which belongs to the Liberation Army [sic] addressed to a member of the general staff asking him to dispatch explosives for the battle. This could be interpreted to mean that the Arabs had intended to launch an attack on that date. We also found a report written in the Latin alphabet listing the arms available on 10/10 which indicates there were 56 German, 22 French, and 16 British rifles.

Haifa District Intelligence Officer

Appendix 4¹

Secret

Occupied Territories Administration Command General Staff Command/Baruch
Northern Front

18 November 1948

Lieutenant Colonel Schnurman No. 179

Subject: Majd al-Krum

1. It appears this locale has been neglected by your men. There is no military governor, not even an officer, there. During the visit by [United Nations] observers to the locale on 10 November, the residents made many accusations that we had committed atrocities of plunder and murder. No doubt, if a proper remedy had been applied, I would not have heard of these accusations. These reports will cause a lot of damage when they are transmitted to Paris, where they will be exaggerated.
2. We would like to draw your attention to the situation, which requires a speedy remedy.

Col. Baruch

Chief Liaison Officer with the United Nations

Appendix 5¹

Minister of Defense Military Government of the Administered Areas
Chief of Staff
10 February 1949

Subject: The Adoption of Measures Against the Infiltrators

1. Pursuant to our conversation of 4 January 1949, orders were issued for the conduct of combing operations and ascertaining the identities of the residents from time to time.
2. During January combing operations were conducted in eleven villages, resulting in:
1,038 individuals being exiled beyond the borders;
20 individuals being transferred to a prisoner of war camp;
69 individuals being arrested so that they could continue to be interrogated; and
128 individuals being moved to other villages.
3. Combing operations were carried out in the villages shown below:

Location	Results of Operation			
	Expelled	Moved to POW camp	Arrested to continue interrogation	Moved to another village
Shafa 'Amr	42	5		
'Tblin	15	6	67	
Kabul	128	1	1	
Majd al-Krum	536			
Al-Bi'na	59	5		

(Continued)

(Continued)

Location	Results of Operation			
	Expelled	Moved to POW camp	Arrested to continue interrogation	Moved to another village
Dayr al-Asad	8			
Mi'lya	28			
Tarshiha	90	3		
Saffuriyya	14			
Farradiyya & Kufr 'Inan	54			
al-Mujaydil	64		1	128
Total	1038	20	69	128

4. Regarding the reorganization of army forces in the north, operations were suspended and then resumed on 4 February 1949.

(signed by)

Gen. Elimelech Avnir

Commander of military government in the administered areas.

Appendix 6¹

Haifa District Command
10 January 1949

Report on Combing Operation in Majd al-Krum

Date of Combing Operation: 9 January 1949

Objective: To arrest infiltrators and criminals in the village.

Participating forces:

A company from the Minorities Division, a platoon from Battalion 123, ten military police, a sergeant, two female soldiers, nine policemen, a police officer, and two representatives of the military government.

The village was surrounded by the company from the Minorities Division. After 3:00 all entrances and exits to and from the villages were blocked.

At 7:00 forces from the Israeli police and military police and a platoon from Battalion 123 arrived.

Village notables were ordered to gather all men twelve years of age and older within half an hour. At 8:00 a curfew was declared, and five combing operation patrols were sent to look for men who were hiding. Each patrol consisted of a policeman, a military policeman and two soldiers. Then intelligence agents and policemen began interrogating the men. The identities of 506 men were checked.

After ascertaining their identities, 355 men were expelled outside the borders.

Summary:

Coordination among forces was good, except in the two following cases:

1. The transport vehicles did not arrive on [the desired] time, consequently an additional 300 individuals were not transported.
2. Two soldiers from the platoon belonging to Battalion 123 took several objects from one of the shops.

After a brief investigation the objects taken were returned to their owners. The above-mentioned soldiers will be tried.

Haifa District Intelligence Officer

Tsvi Rabinovich

Appendix 7¹

12 January 1949

Military Government of Western Galilee

Subject: Report On the Combing Operation in the Village of Majd Al-Krum On 9 January 1949

Regarding my letter no. 25 of 10 January 1949 concerning the matter above, I would like to draw your attention to the following issues:

1. The conduct of the soldiers towards the inhabitants was extremely boorish. The entire operation was accompanied by curses, insults, and physical abuse on the part of the soldiers, beginning with the officer in charge of the operation, Tsvi Rabinovitch. After checking the identity of each inhabitant, if it was decided that someone was to be expelled, even if merely for being a refugee, he was brought out of the interrogation room with blows and kicks.

The boorishness of the soldiers was at its worst in dealing with the mayor (mukhtar) of the village, Hajj 'Abd al-Salim. Despite the fact that the above-mentioned person was sick that day, he came to the square to be interrogated. The police officer, Mr. Shuwaili, released him. While he was at home, soldiers entered the house and without listening to what he had to say or to his entreaties they fell on him, hitting him with the butts of their rifles and they kicked him in the stomach. As a result of that he suffered an inflammation in his stomach membrane and from a blow to his liver, which necessitated taking him to the hospital in Nazareth where he now lies in a critical condition.

2. During the operation, soldiers from the platoon belonging to Battalion 123 broke into two shops and robbed them. Private homes were also looted, including an alarm clock, clothes and a variety of small items, despite repeated warnings to officer Shlomo not to harm the furniture and the contents of the houses.

Following the operation, I ordered the military police to search the soldiers, and we found most of the stolen items, which were returned to their owners. However, there are still some items missing, and complaints regarding this will be sent to those concerned.

In my opinion we should not keep quiet about this behavior and those responsible should be brought to trial.

Please refer to my letters no. 34 and 44 dated January 10.

(Signed)

Shlomo [No surname]