200 ARABS KILLED, STRONGHOLD TAKEN

Irgun and Stern Groups Unite to Win Deir Yasin—Kastel Is Recaptured by Haganah

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Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JERUSALEM, April 9—A combined force of Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Stern group, Jewish extremist underground forces, captured the Arab village of Deir Yasin on the western outskirts of Jerusalem today. In house-to-house fighting the Jews killed more than 200 Arabs, half of them women and children.

At the same time a Haganah counter-attack three miles away drove an Arab force, estimated by the Haganah at 2,500 men, out of the strategic village of Kastel on a hill overlooking the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv convoy road. This village was captured after a six-hour fight during which it repeatedly changed hands. The Jews, who first seized Kastel last Saturday, had been forced out yesterday.

Tonight Fawzi el-Kawukji, commander of the Arab "Liberation Army," was reported, although without confirmation, to be leading large forces of Syrians, Iraqis and Palestinians in an attempt to retake Kastel. The Arabs were equipped with several French 75-mm field guns, many mortars and at least eight armored cars.

On the scene of this, the greatest Arab-Jewish battle to date, the Arabs claimed that 110 Jews had been killed yesterday. On the other hand, Jews said that Arab casualties ran into the hundreds.

3 Galilee Points Seized

In southern Galilee units of the Haganah in the besieged settlement of Mishmar Haemek, a model colony of Jewish Socialists, ended a two-day truce by breaking out and occupying three Arab villages, Abu Shusha, Abu Zureik and Naaieh.

Still other forces of the Haganah were reported to have evacuated Khulda and Deir Muheisan, villages just west of Latrun on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road, yesterday, and to have driven 600 Iraqis out of the near-by Wadi Sarrar camp this morning.

The capture of Deir Yasin, situated on a hill overlooking the birthplace of John the Baptist, marked the first cooperative effort since 1942 between the Irgun and Stern groups, although the Jewish Agency for Palestine does not recognize these terrorist groups. Twenty men of the gency's Haganah militia reinforced fifty-five Irgunists and forty-five Sternists who seized the village.

This engagement marked the formal entry of the Irgunists and Sternists into the battle against the Arabs. Previously both groups had concentrated against the British.

In addition to killing more than 200 Arabs, they took forty prisoners.

The Jews carried off some seventy women and children who were turned over later to the British Army in Jerusalem.

Victors Describe Battle

The Irgunists and Sternists escorted a party of United States correspondents to a house at Givat Shaul, near Deir Yasin, tonight and offered them tea and cookies and amplified details of the operation.

The spokesman said that the village had become a concentration point for Arabs, including Syrians and Iraqi, planning to attack the western suburbs of Jerusalem. If, as he expected, the Haganah took over occupation of the village, it would help to cover the convoy route from the coast.

The spokesman said he regretted the casualties among the women and children at Deir Yasin but asserted that they were inevitable because almost every house had to be reduced by force. Ten houses were blown up. At others the attackers blew open the doors and threw in hand grenades

One hundred men in four groups attacked at 4:30 o'clock in the morning, the spokesman said. The Irgunists wore uniforms of a secret design and they used automatic weapons and rifles.

An Arabic-speaking Jew, the spokesman said, shouted over a loudspeaker from an armored car used in the attack, that Arab women and children should take refuge in the caves. Some of them, he said, did so.

Arab Snipers in Hills

"Within two hours," the spokesman said, "the village was under control.

He conceded that many of the attackers had become casualties—four dead, seven seriously wounded and thirty slightly wounded.

A Jewish plane today dropped six bombs near Enab police station and damaged a wireless mast. Six other bombs fell in open ground. Another Jewish plane yesterday bombed Beersheba in the Gaza district, killing a 12-year-old Arab boy.

Yesterday at Tiberias a three-week-old local truce was broken by a sudden outbreak of sniping. Three Jews and three Arabs were killed, nine Jews and five Arabs wounded.

In a general effort to reduce violence, the British Army ordered a curfew on all nonofficial road traffic from 6:30 P. M. until 5 A. M., to begin Sunday, in a large part of Palestine. The districts affected are Galilee, Haifa, Samaria, Lydda and rural Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Apart from the fighting at Kastel and Deir Yasin the police today reported twelve Jews and seven Arabs killed, and nineteen Jews and nine Arabs wounded in widespread incidents. One British soldier was killed.

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