**Israeli Men Win 2 Villages As Latrun Battle Develops**
By The Associated Press.
*New York Times 1857-Current;* May 29, 1948; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 1

# *Israeli Men Win 2 Villages As Latrun Battle Develops*

## *Flanking Move Gains Ground in Critical Area—Egyptians Say Fliers Blocked Another Bid to Force Road Open*

By The Associated Press.

CAIRO, Egypt, May 28—Arab Legion and Israeli commanders fed armor and artillery into the mounting battle for Latrun tonight after hungry, outnumbered Israeli fighters in Jerusalem's Old City surrendered to King Abdullah's siege forces.

The victory of the Trans-Jordan troops in the Old City was not a decisive one. The battle for a bigger prize—all of Jerusalem—was being fought out fourteen miles west of the Holy City on the vital highway from Tel Aviv.

Israel's army announced that its troops had captured the Arab villages of Beit Jiz and Beit Susin, immediately south of the highway and a little more than a mile from Latrun.

An Egyptian Defense Ministry communiqué said tonight that Egyptian bombers attacked and dispersed Israeli troop concentrations that were attempting to open the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road at Bab el Wad, eleven miles west of the Holy City. Bab el Wad is four miles east of Latrun. The number of planes or troops involved was not given. The communiqué also said that Egyptian planes raided Jewish settlements between Tel Aviv and Gaza.

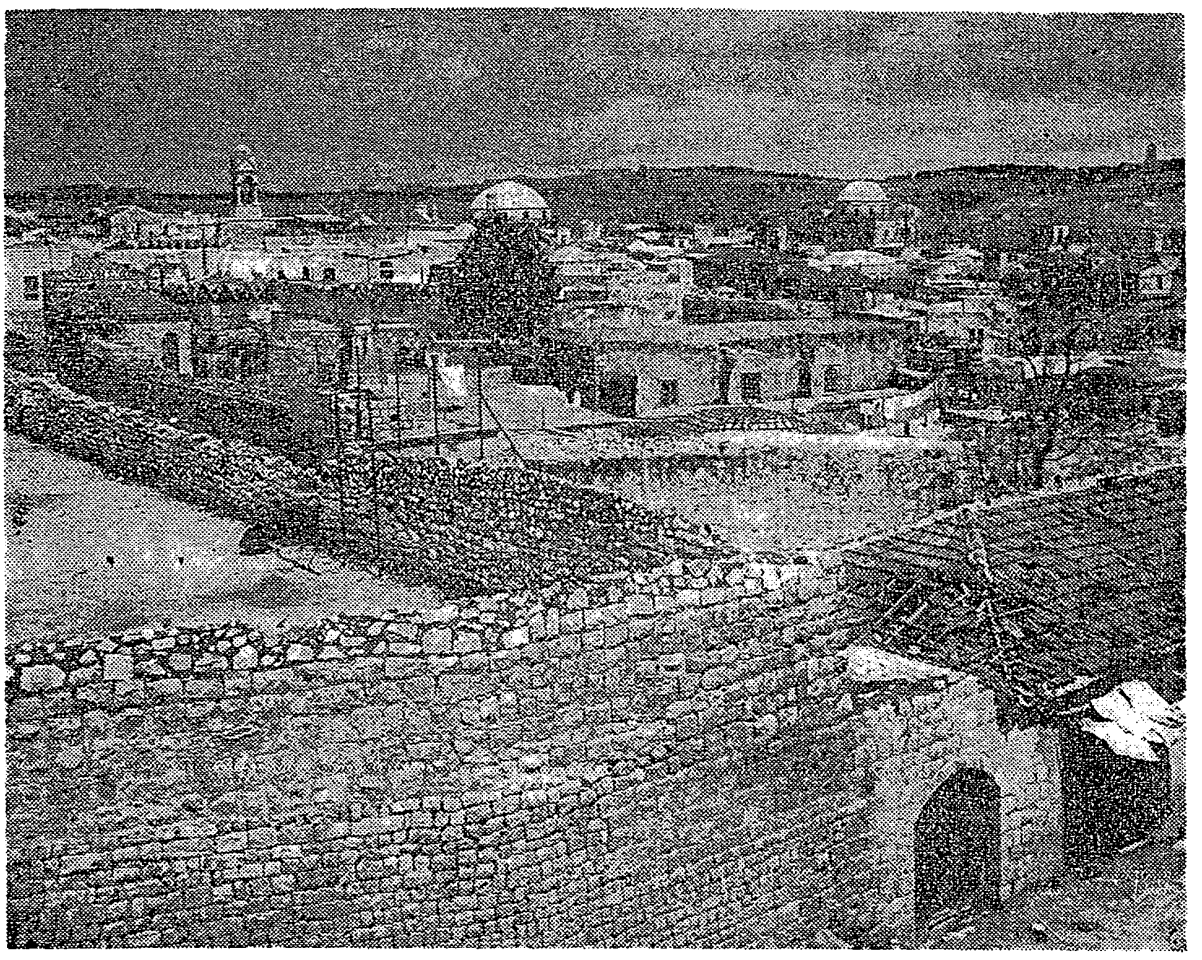
The communiqué said that Egyptian reconnaisance planes observed a "large" formation of Israeli troops concentrated west of Bab el Wad. It added that Egyptian planes kept the enemy forces "under continuous attack."

The Egyptians also claimed high explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped on the settlements of Hulda, eighteen miles southeast of Tel Aviv, and Abu Shusha, seventeen miles southeast of Tel Aviv. Direct hits were scored and fires were started that could be seen at a high altitude from Gaza and El Majdal, the communiqué said.

Without identifying any particu-

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The Jewish quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem as seen from the southwest wall
The New York Times (by Gossett, Jerusalem)

# ISRAELI UNITS GAIN IN LATRUN BATTLE

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lar area, the Egyptian communiqué said:

"Our land forces made wide-scale mopping-up operations, forcing the enemy out of resistance pockets and inflicting considerable casualties."

Egyptian planes also attacked the settlement of Khulda, inflicting damages, the communiqué said, and successfully strafed six armored cars and two other vehicles near Khulda.

A Tel Aviv dispatch said there were indications that the Latrun engagement might be the decisive one in the Palestine war.

### Israeli Flanking Movement

The Israeli fighters began the offensive Monday and met a heavy concentration of Arab forces. Beit Jiz and Beit Susin fell to the Israeli troops after they swept south of the highway in a flanking move last night.

To open communications to the 80,000 to 90,000 besieged in the modern sections of Jerusalem the Israeli forces must not only clear Latrun but also must gain command of the heights overlooking Bab el Wad gorge. There has been intermittent fighting along the four-mile stretch of highway between Latrun and Bab el Wad since the United Nations voted for partition Nov. 29, but none of the engagements heretofore has been on the scale of the present one.

The rival forces threw aircraft into the fighting which is spreading over the hills where Richard the Lion Hearted was turned back from his crusade.

Israeli army headquarters announced that one Iraqi two-engine plane of the Anson type was shot down in the Latrun area yesterday.

An Arab communiqué from Baghdad said that Iraqi planes bombed an Israeli column advancing toward Latrun and inflicted heavy losses on Israeli troops.

### Arab Town in North Won

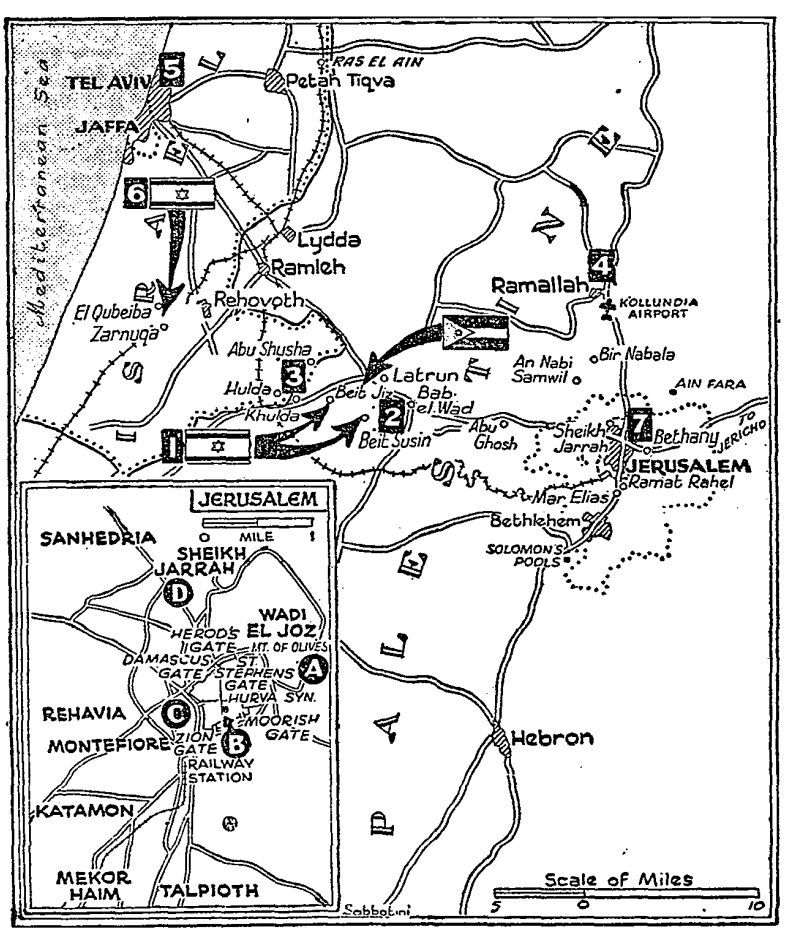
Israeli forces claimed a victory in northern Palestine. They said that Israeli troops captured the Arab town of Zir'in, six miles north of Jenin and on one of the boundary lines set up in the United Nations partition scheme. Jenin is the northern pivot of the triangle running through Nablus and Tulkarm where the strength of the Arab irregular volunteer army was concentrated.

Israeli sources in Haifa said their troops encountered little resistance in Zir'in. The capture of the town strengthens the Israeli flank south of Afula, the first all-Jewish town north of Jenin.

On the upper Jordan front, Israeli sources said they shot down two twin-engined Iraqi planes. The Zionist radio, Voice of Galilee, said Israeli planes raided the Qnaitra area east of the Sea of Galilee in Syria. An Arab troop concentration center is located there.

Israeli ground forces, in night penetrations, attacked Baniyas, a mile inside Syria, the broadcast said. Arab residents were reported to have evacuated Baniyas after the raid.

An Egyptian communiqué said Egyptian patrols had raided a Negeb settlement, sixteen miles northeast of Gaza.




The New York Times — May 29, 1948

Israeli forces, battling to clear the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road, reported the capture of Beit Susin and Beit Jiz (1). Egyptian fliers claimed to have broken up an Israeli attack west of Bab el Wad (2); they also bombed Hulda and Abu Shusha (3). Israeli planes struck Ramallah (4) as Tel Aviv (5) drove off Egyptian aircraft. The Israeli grip on the coastal area was made virtually complete by the occupation of Zarnuqa and El Qubeiba (6). After a Haganah attack launched from the Mount of Olives (A on inset) had been beaten back at Bethany (7), the beleaguered Jews in the Old City (B) surrendered. Trans-Jordan's Arab Legion pressed an assault toward the heart of the New City (C) and shelled Israeli positions near the Sheikh Jarrah district (D).

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