

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