

بیرایر
BURAYR
1948 MASSACRE

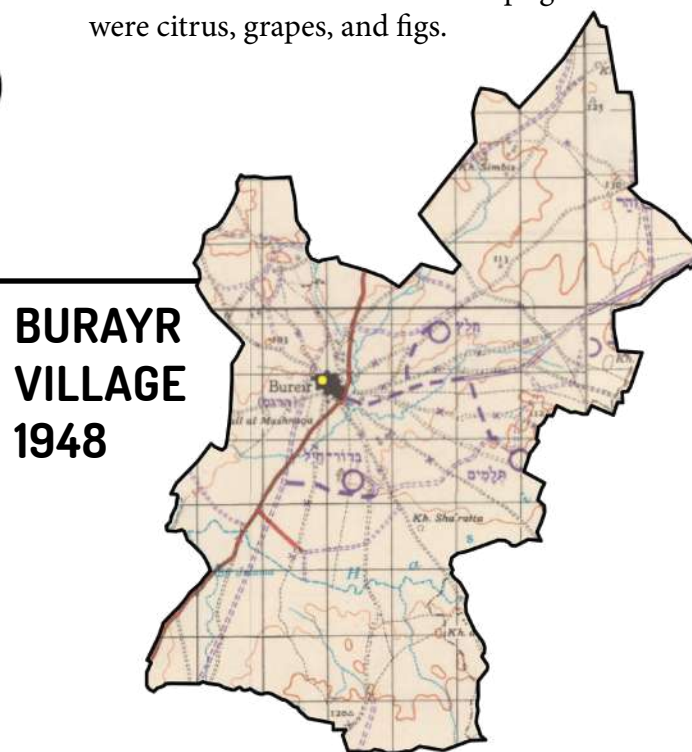
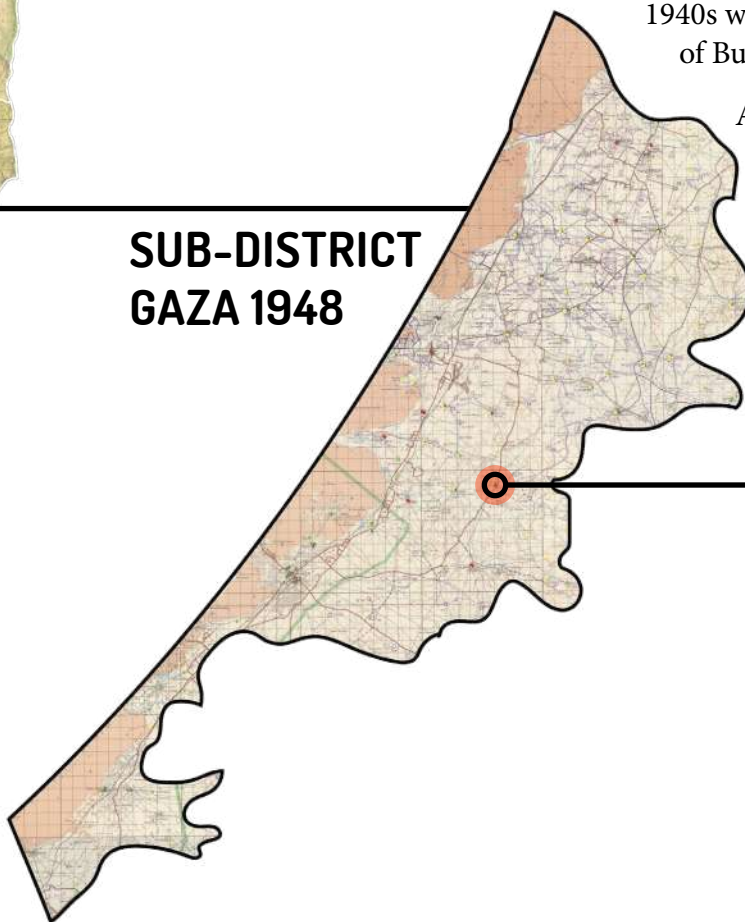
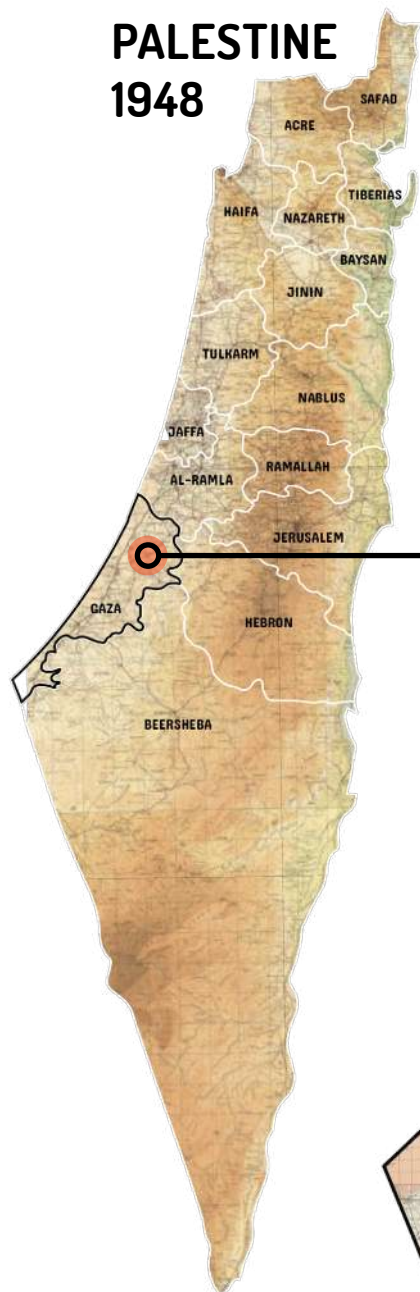
BURAYR HISTORY

Burayr was a Palestinian Arab village in the Gaza Subdistrict until 1948.

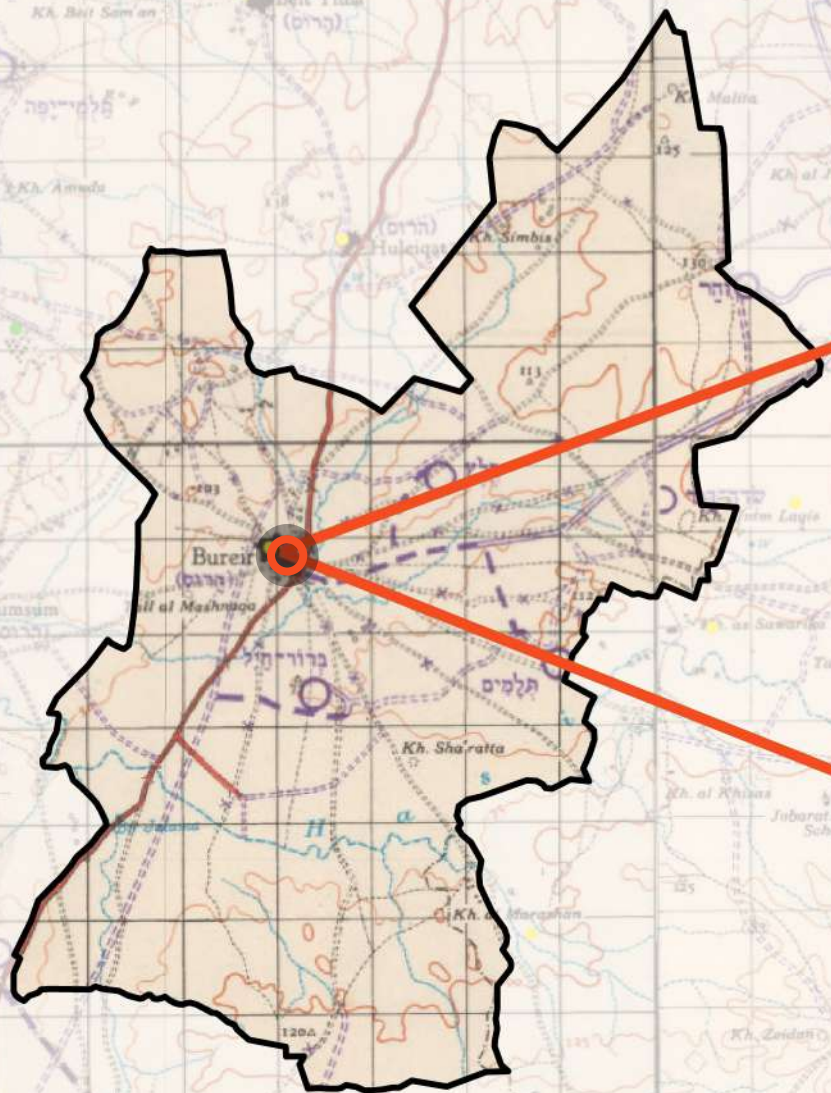
It was located 18 kilometers (11 mi) northeast of Gaza City. Its population in 1948 was 3,178 and mostly Muslim.

The village had 44,220 dunams of land. Of this, 409 dunams were plantations and irrigable land, 43,319 used for cereals, and 130 dunams were built-up land. Burayr had a mosque in the center of the village along with a clinic and grain mill. There were two primary schools—one for girls and one for boys—founded in 1920. Water was supplied by three wells inside the village and, toward the end of the British Mandate, villagers had drilled artesian wells. The local economy boosted in the 1940s when the Iraqi Petroleum Company discovered oil in the vicinity of Burayr and drilled an oil well.

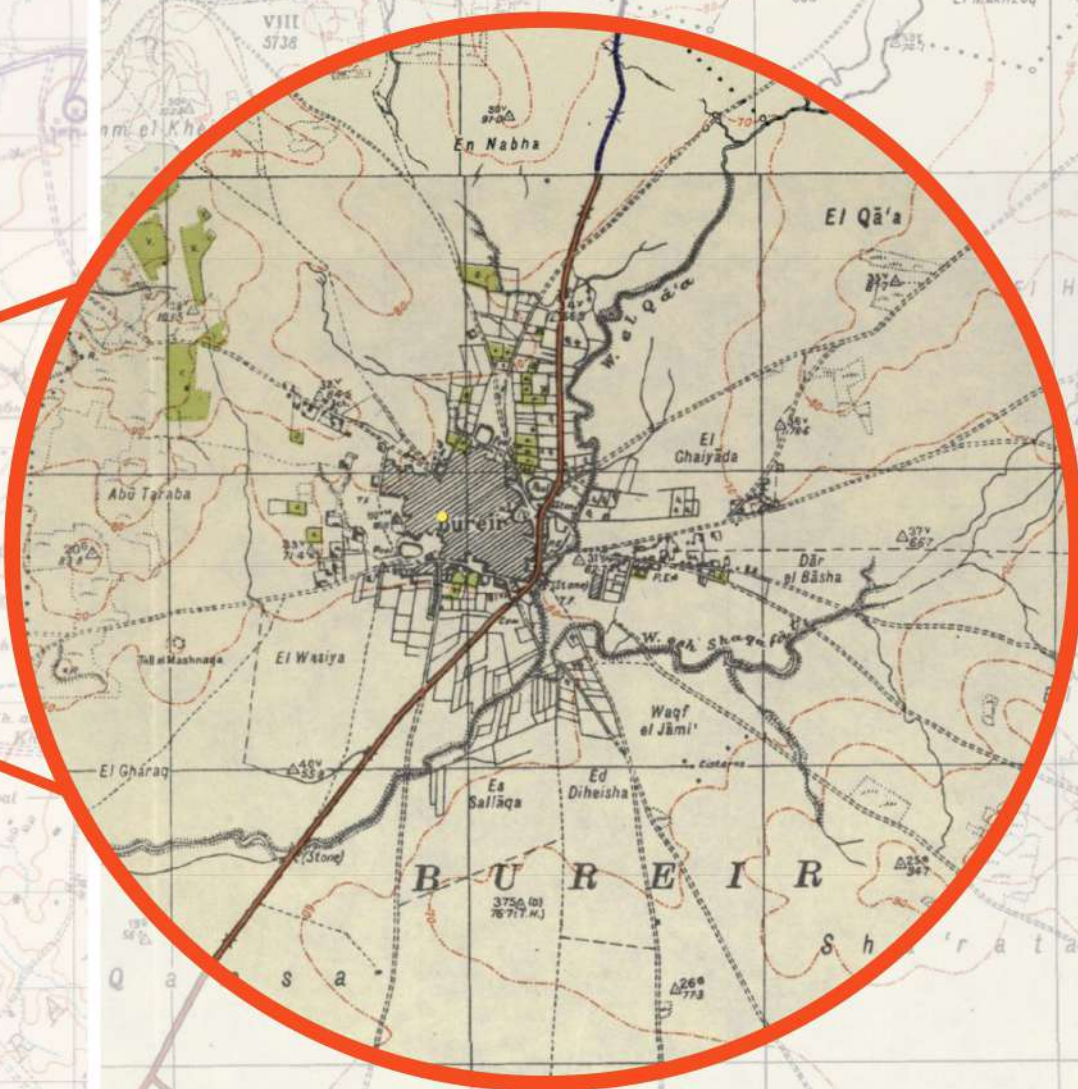
A weekly Wednesday market in Burayr attracted other villagers and Bedouins. Agriculture and animal husbandry employed most of the residents. The main crops grown in Burayr were citrus, grapes, and figs.



BURAYR VILLAGE 1948



BURAYR VILLAGE CENTER 1948



ZIONISM

Following the infamous Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 and the onset of the British Mandate on Palestine in 1922, to secure the establishment of a free independent Palestine, Palestine witnessed a flood of Jewish European settlers, carrying with them the Zionist ideology of colonial settlement in Palestine. Zionism is a settler-colonial ideology that advocates for an exclusively Jewish ethnostate built on Palestinian land and the total removal of the people of the land, the Palestinians, by any and all means. Zionism is inherently racist in its exclusivity and anti-Palestinian because it is only feasible through the ethnic cleansing and constant uprooting of the Palestinian people, which is seen throughout massacres of over 500 Palestinian villages in and around 1948 and continued into today with Israeli state-lead violence on the Palestinian people and illegal annexation of Palestinian lands.

Britain's 1917 Balfour Declaration promised a national home for Jews in Palestine with the allusion of a Palestinian state to be established at a later time amidst remaining land. The latter never happened. The subsequent British Mandate granted full political and civil rights in Palestine to the Jewish minority (which constituted 8% of Palestine population and owned 2% of its land) and the Jewish Diaspora, yet failed to recognize the political rights of the indigenous Palestinian Arab majority who comprised 92% of the population. At the end of the British Mandate which created the problem in the first place, the UN made a proposal (UN resolution 181 on November 29, 1947) to divide Palestine into two parts, 55% to be ruled by the Jewish minority and 45% to be ruled by the Arab Palestinian majority with Jerusalem to be Corpus Separatum. At the time the Jewish settlers were 30% of the population and controlled only 6% of land in Palestine. Half of the population in the region to be ruled by Jews were Palestinian. No forced displacement of population was allowed. The Partition Plan was only a proposal, not binding and it was dropped by the UN in March 1948. The British, whose purpose in Palestine included protecting the indigenous Palestinian population, were not only responsible for officializing the Zionist land project but also failed to support Palestinian justice amidst colonization and to protect them from the depopulation and massacres of Palestinians.



ETHNIC CLEANSING

The UN recommendation to divide Palestine into two states heralded a new period of conflict and suffering in Palestine with an uneven battlefield.

In order to enforce this new Jewish state, Jewish terrorist organizations formed with the intention of removing Palestinian lives from villages desired by this new state: using massacres as a weapon for ethnic cleansing.

These massacres and subsequent intimidations were led by groups such as the Haganah, Irgun, and Lehi (Stern Gang) and resulted in the massive expulsion of Palestinians from their homes, businesses and land in both cities and rural areas.

Ethnic cleansing was made possible by the great disparity between the strength of the Jewish forces and the native inhabitants of Palestine. The former had 185,000 able-bodied Jewish males aged 16-50, mostly military-trained, and many were veterans of WWII. Jewish armaments were superior to those held by Palestinians. More importantly, Jews had small arms and armored vehicles factories and an unlimited amount of locally-produced ammunition.

On the Palestinian side, Britain manipulated rations of ammunitions to the armies of Egypt and (particularly) Jordan. The Palestinians had about 2,500 militia men dispersed among a dozen towns and several hundred villages. They had old rifles, few machine guns, no artillery and no tanks. They had no central command and no wireless communications. At best they were only able to mount defensive operations, rushing to a village after hearing cries for help.

The well-armed and seasoned Israeli troops greatly outnumbered the defenders of the Palestinian civilian population who had a poor and scattered defense.

At this time, the total strength of the Zionist militia was 65,000, many were well trained and led by veteran European officers of WWII. The Zionists also were able to manufacture ammunition and armored vehicles and, as such, were not harmed by the arms embargo imposed by Britain. On the other hand, the Palestinians were defenseless, without a single command, wireless or armor. The Arab irregular volunteers who came to help were a motley, ineffective group which caused more damage than gave support. This contradicts Israel's claim that, in expelling Palestinians, it was acting in self defense and that the refugees' exodus was an accident of war, not an Israeli plan.

In the first three months of 1948, Jewish terrorists carried out numerous operations, blowing up buses and Palestinian homes. Ethnic cleansing became apparent, as Palestinians were murdered and expelled from their lands for the mere reason of their identity and ownership over desired land. The UN Council for Human Rights defines ethnic cleansing as a regime's desire to impose ethnic rule on a mixed area with the use of acts of expulsion and other violent means. Ethnic cleansing has come to be considered a crime against humanity, punishable by international law.

ZIONIST PROPOGANDA

The Israeli state has yet to acknowledge the history of ethnic cleansing committed by Jewish terrorist groups who would later form the Israeli army (IDF). Since 1948 and continued today, Zionism and the Israeli state perpetuates propaganda in order to dehumanize Palestinians and deflect accountability over human rights violations; justifying its colonial presence. Zionist propaganda is designed to exploit the fear of antisemitism, perpetuating a narrative that the crimes of Israeli violence onto Palestinians is merely a result of Israel's need to defend itself; casting the perpetual identity of victim-hood necessary in accomplishing settler colonialism within modern times.

Zionism based its claim on the myth that Palestine is a "Land without People", in order to make it so by expulsion and massacres. Zionism recruits God to support their claim that they were the Chosen People and that God grants them Palestine.



While Britain occupied Palestine and formed the British Mandate, the Jewish Zionist movement infiltrated Palestinian lands as they planned to enforce a state of Israel.

One Zionist militia was the Haganah, who would become the core of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). Between 1920 and 1948, the Haganah was a Jewish terrorist organization that executed raids and massacres over Palestinian villages, resulting in an ethnic cleansing executed through a combination of brute force and intimidation to local villagers.

Since 1945, the Haganah designed and implemented four general military plans, ultimately leading to the creation of Israel and the dispossession of the Palestinians:

THE HAGANAH & THE ZIONIST AGENDA

PLAN A: drawn up in February 1945 to complement the political aim of a unilateral declaration of independence. It was designed to suppress Palestinian Arab resistance to the Zionist take-over of parts of Palestine.

PLAN B: produced in September 1945, emerged in May 1947 and designed to replace Plan A in the context of new developments such as Britain's submission of the problem of Palestine to the United Nations and growing opposition from surrounding Arab states to the Zionist partition plan.

PLAN C: produced in May 1946, emerged in November/December 1947, in the wake of the UN Partition Plan. It was designed to disrupt Arab defensive operations, and occupy Arab lands situated between isolated Jewish colonies. This was accompanied by a psychological campaign to demoralize the Arab population. By the end of March 1947, Zionist military operations carried out under Plan C resulted in the depopulation of 30 Palestinian villages with a population of about 22,000 people.

PLAN D: of March 1948, This plan was guided by a series of specific operational plans, the broad outlines of which were considered as early as 1944, Plan D was drawn up to expand Jewish-held areas beyond those allocated to the proposed Jewish State in the UN Partition Plan. Its overall objective was to seize as much territory as possible in advance of the termination of the British Mandate — when the Zionist leaders planned to declare their state.

HAGANAH'S PLAN D

The new Plan had wide-ranging objectives. It was the Plan that was finally implemented.

They included:

- Seizing and controlling all government services, including post, telephone, police stations, roads, railways, airports and ports, and denying such services to the enemy.
- Launching pre-planned counter-attacks on enemy-bases in the heart of his territory wherever it is, including outside Palestine.
- Occupying [Arab] important high-ground positions within the [Hebrew] state according to the Partition Plan or beyond.
- Occupying [Arab] front line positions within their territories.
- Applying economic pressure on the enemy by besieging 'some' of his cities to force him to abandon his activities - i.e. to leave.
- Occupying and controlling the enemy's bases in rural and urban areas.

Plan D outlined a strategy of total war. The Plan called for the “encirclement of the village and conducting a search inside it. In the event of resistance, the armed force must be wiped out and the population must be expelled outside the borders of the state.”

In cities, the plan called for “occupation and control of all isolated Arab neighborhoods and encirclement of Arab municipal area[s] and termination of its vital services (water, electricity, fuel, etc.).... [I]n case of resistance, the population will be expelled.” Plan D also called for the “destruction of villages (setting fire to, blowing up and planting mines in the debris)” - to prevent the return of refugees.

Plan D was put into action on or around April 2, 1948. By this time, the size of Zionist forces had reached 65,000, several times greater than the number of Arab defenders, whether they were the villagers, the Muslim Brothers coming from Egypt or the motley assortment of Arab Liberation Army (ALA). The lack of serious action by the British to protect civilians encouraged Ben Gurion to ratchet up the scale of offensive operations. In a series of simultaneous offensives, all the spaces and strategic points separating Jewish colonies were occupied by Zionist forces.

What ensued was a series of strategic massacre operations on Palestinian villages in the lead-up to an Israeli State Independence, causing a massive ethnic cleansing under the name of this new Jewish state.

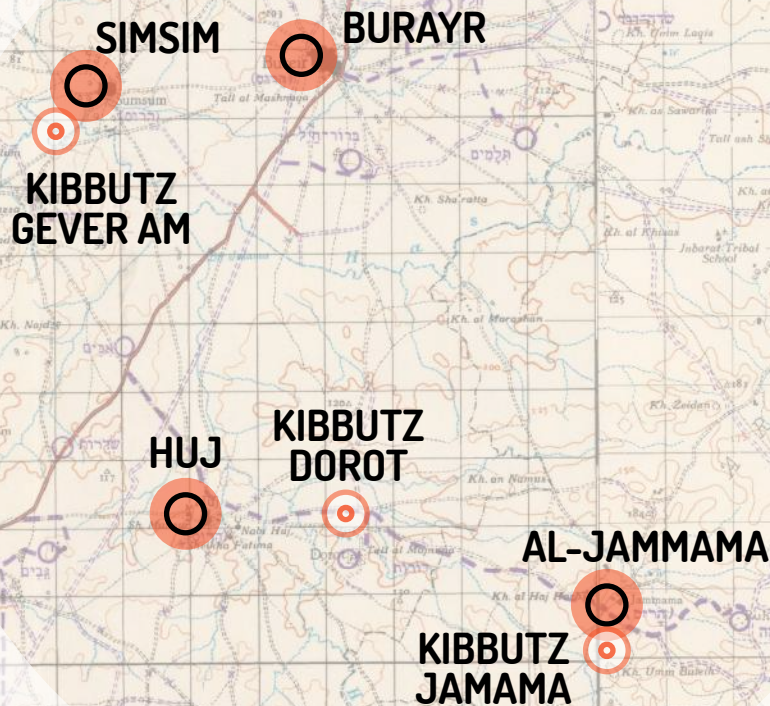
JEWISH LAND PURCHASES

In the early 1920's, following the Balfour Declaration which betrayed Palestinian national rights and the appointment of the Zionist Herbert Samuel as the High Commissioner of Palestine, Jewish Kibbutzim were beginning to be established on Palestinian land.

Many Kibbutzim were built on land that was purchased by the Jewish National Fund (JNF), under laws promulgated by the Zionist High Commissioner, relaxing inherited Ottoman Land Law to allow alienation of Palestinian land. The JNF was founded in 1901 in order to buy and develop land in Ottoman Palestine for Jewish settlement under a Zionist colonial agenda.

In the Gaza subdistrict, few Kibbutzim were built surrounding the village that would become relevant to the Burayr massacre and land confiscation. Kibbutz Gever Am was built on Palestinian village Simsim land, just west of Burayr, in the late 1940s. Also in that time, Kibbutz Jamama and Bir T'i'bia were re-established, as was Kibbutz Dorot east of the Palestinian village Huj. The rise of these Kibbutz settlements in Palestine built fear and apprehension in Palestinian inhabitants, in view of the massacres which had been committed in the north.

In 1946, 500 dunams (donum= 1000m²) of land located 1.5km east of Burayr was sold to the Jewish National Fund (JNF). It is alleged that this land was under the custody of Ahmad Aref Al Hussein, Gaza Mufti, and given to land dealers who made the deal with the JNF. This land, named Al Waker (the pit, the hiding place), would later become a Jewish military outpost used to execute the massacre on Burayr.



1948

FEB 14

APRIL 9

APRIL 18

APRIL 19

APRIL 20

MAY 9

MAY 10

MAY 11

MAY 12

MAY 13

MAY 14

MAY 15

MAY 27

MAY 28

MAY 30

MAY 31

JUNE 9

JUNE 10

JANUARY 29, 1948

» 1ST INVASION OF BURAYR

On January 29, 1948, Jewish militia (Haganah) tried to enter the village from the north, through the main road going through the village, in five armored vehicles, but were driven away by the defenders without casualties.



1948
JAN 29 APRIL 9 APRIL 18 APRIL 19 APRIL 20 MAY 9 MAY 10 MAY 11 MAY 12 MAY 13 MAY 14 MAY 15 MAY 27 MAY 28 MAY 30 MAY 31 JUNE 9 JUNE 10

FEBRUARY 14, 1948

**» FAILED
BARRICADE**

On February 14, a Jewish convoy exchanged fire with the local Palestinian defenders and withdrew, probably as a test of strength. The villagers built a protective barricade at the entrance of Burayr, but it was dismantled by British troops the next day.



1948

JAN 29 FEB 14

APRIL 20

MAY 9 MAY 10

MAY 11 MAY 12

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MAY 15

MAY 27 MAY 28

MAY 30 MAY 31

JUNE 9 JUNE 10

APRIL 9, 1948

» DEIR YASSIN MASSACRE

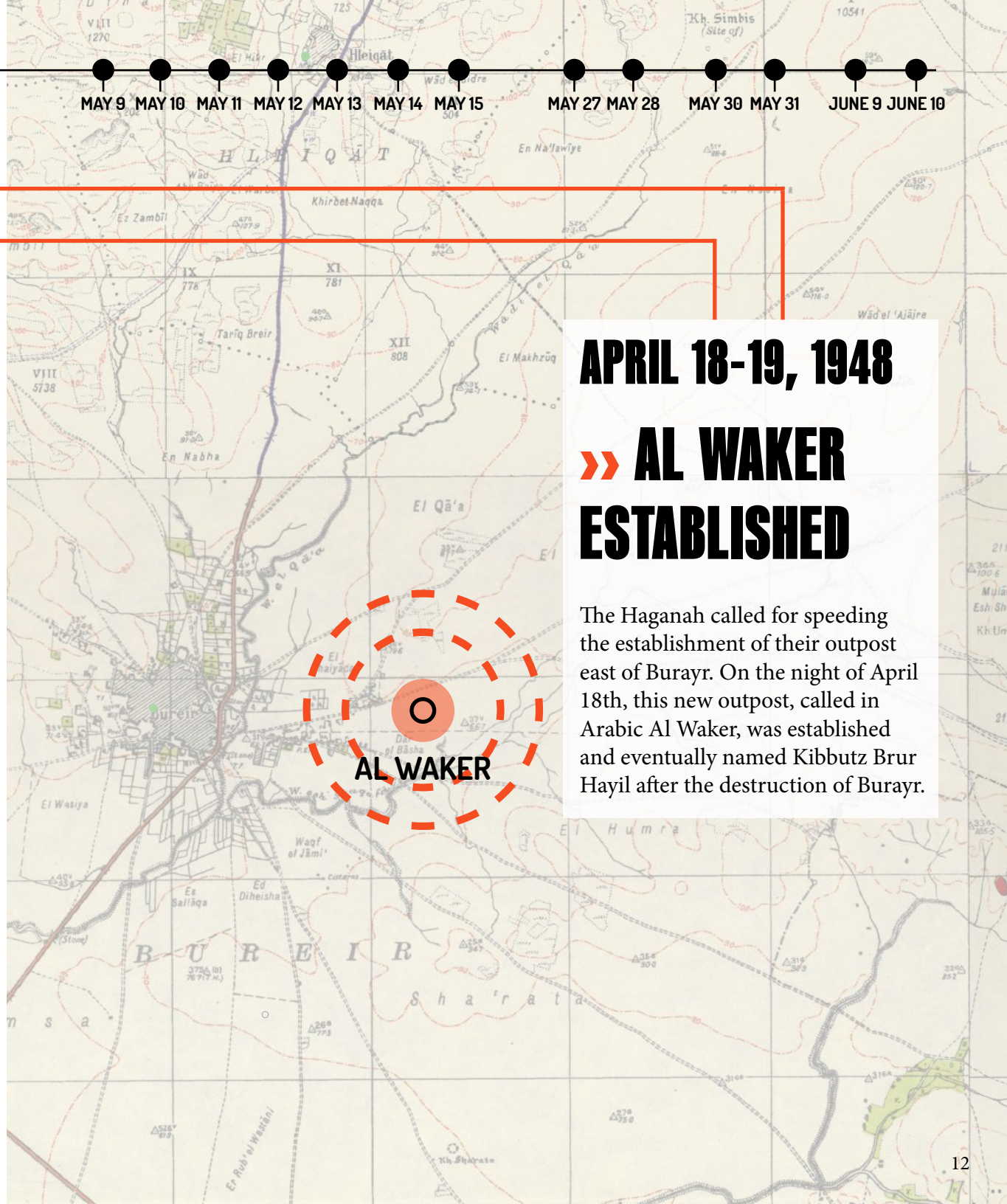
Zionist forces committed one of the most infamous massacres of the war in the village of Deir Yassin on the western outskirts of Jerusalem. This is one of the most known massacres, although attacks on several other Palestinian villages also occurred during this time.



APRIL 18-19, 1948

» AL WAKER ESTABLISHED

The Haganah called for speeding the establishment of their outpost east of Burayr. On the night of April 18th, this new outpost, called in Arabic Al Waker, was established and eventually named Kibbutz Brur Hayil after the destruction of Burayr.



1948

JAN 29 FEB 14

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JUNE 9 JUNE 10

APRIL 20, 1948

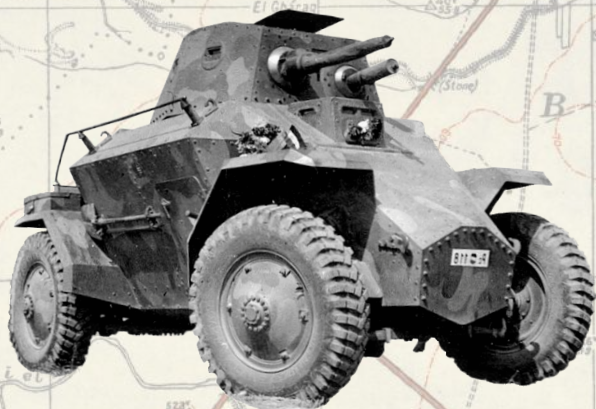
» CONVOYS ENTER

On April 20th, protected by the British, these Jewish forces started crossing the road through Burayr in military convoys: armoured vehicles and jeeps. On this day, they killed 4 Palestinians: Mahmoud al Arbid, Mohd Okel, Mohd Abu Elhaj, and Mohd Serhan.

The Haganah wanted to extend water pipelines from Gevar Am to the south, in order to build more settlements through Burayr land. The British tried to pressure Burayr inhabitants to accept, but they refused to give up their land.



**KIBBUTZ
GEVAR AM**



AL WAKER



BURAYR



MAY 9-12, 1948

»» OPERATION BARAK

Operation Barak took place from May 9-12, when the Haganah attacked the villages of Bash-shit and Beit Daras, Batani al Sharqi, neighbouring Batani al Gharbi, Sawafir Shamaliya, Nabi Rubin, Barqa and more. Villagers were expelled from Ibdis, Julis and Beit Affa.

On May 12th, the Haganah arrived from the north in armoured vehicles at Al Waker, and also circling Burayr from the east and south.

On this day, before the final attack, Jewish soldiers disguised in British uniforms came to Burayr, trying to convince villagers to let their military convoys pass through. Their aim was to examine Burayr's defenses, preparing for their plans of invasion the following day.

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MAY 27

MAY 28

MAY 30

MAY 31

JUNE 9

JUNE 10

MAY 13, 1948

» BURAYR MASSACRE



HAGANAH FROM THE WEST

VILLAGERS SEEK SAFETY IN VILLAGE CENTER

HAGANAH FROM THE EAST

HAGANAH FROM THE SOUTH

» DAWN

The Haganah's attack on Burayr began at dawn on May 13th. Burayr villagers woke up to the sound of mortars and machine guns, attacking them from Al Waker and all other directions. Overhead, a Jewish plane circled the village, that plane was given to the Haganah by the British.

The Burayr villagers soon realized they were surrounded from 3 directions: south, east and west, leaving the north side open. They rushed to the center of the village seeking safety as artillery fire intensified from al Waker.



MAY 13

NOON

MASSACRE BEGINS

RUTHLESS KILLINGS

BURAYR IN FLAMES

1948

JAN 29 FEB 14

APRIL 9 APRIL 18 APRIL 19 APRIL 20

MAY 9 MAY 10 MAY 11 MAY 12

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MAY 13, 1948

» BURAYR MASSACRE

» NOON

The battle was intense. Thirty eight defenders from the village and Muslim Brothers volunteers, in the school at the western approaches of the village, fought valiantly until their ammunition finished. They were all killed by the Givati and Negev Brigades of the Haganah. There was no more resistance to the attackers.

At noon, an airplane dropped leaflets on the village. They read "To Burayr inhabitants: Givati and Negev Brigades conquered the school defense post. You must raise white flags and deliver all rifles to the command center at the school in half an hour or else we will hit you with heavy artillery. Signed Nahum Sarig. Commander Negev Brigade."

DAWN

MASSACRE BEGINS

RUTHLESS KILLINGS

BURAYR IN FLAMES

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MAY 13, 1948

»» BURAYR MASSACRE

»» MASSACRE BEGINS

Burayr villagers, who were taking refuge in the village center, were terrified. The Deir Yassin massacre was still fresh in their minds, and they feared the same fate. With their defense now collapsed, the villagers started to flee northwards on the only road left open.

Haganah soldiers entered the village in tanks, bulldozers and armored vehicles. They began the massacre in Burayr. The Haganah shot and killed every person, woman, child, or old man they saw in the street. They collected groups of civilians and machine gunned them together. They blew up Burayr's mosque. That was a direct order by the Israeli officer Mordechai Bar-On.

MAY 13

DAWN

NOON

RUTHLESS KILLINGS

BURAYR IN FLAMES

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MAY 13, 1948

»» BURAYR MASSACRE

BEFORE LEAVING HAGANAH SOLDIERS LOOTED BURAYR HOUSES AND TOOK WHAT THEY COULD FIND: HORSES, CHICKENS AND OTHER ANIMALS, A TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO SALEM OBAID AND TABATIBI.

THEY WENT TO THE FAMILY HOUSE OF DAR AL ALOUL. ONE AFTER THE NEXT, THE SOLDIERS SEARCHED VILLAGE HOUSES AND KILLED THE MEN THEY FOUND.

THE BODIES OF THOSE KILLED IN THE STREETS, LIKE AL JADA' IN ZAWIT AL SHURAF AND ZUZAYZI' AL KHATIB, WERE LEFT IN PLACE OR THROWN IN PITS.



»» RUTHLESS KILLINGS

Haganah soldiers began entering houses at the edge of the village and worked their way toward the village center, finding no resistance.

ONE TEENAGE GIRL WAS RAPED AND MURDERED.

THEY TARGETED MEN, AND ALSO KILLED FOUR WOMEN, FIVE CHILDREN, EIGHT PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 60

THEY THREW HAND GRENADES AT HOMES WHERE FAMILIES WERE FOUND HUDDLED TOGETHER.

MAY 13

DAWN

NOON

MASSACRE BEGINS

BURAYR IN FLAMES

“ We broke their walls and incinerated their houses and broke and destroyed and smashed and killed that cold way, no thought at all about life or human beings or the meaning of feeling, as we watched the bullets smash skulls and saw the brain ooze out of a bleeding horror that had once been a man. But there was no feeling! No hate, or horror or disgust or pleasure or anything! Just killing stray dogs, say, or a sick donkey, or just squashing flies. We kicked the doors open and smashed through dank-smelling holes that are their homes, and broke into their poor primitiveness of stupid savages that wanted war! ”

- ZIV ZIPPER, THE ZIPPER DIARIES, HAARETZ, MAY 3, 2003

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MAY 13, 1948

» BURAYR MASSACRE

**SURVIVING
VILLAGERS
EXPELLED
NORTH**

» EXODUS

Villagers who survived the massacre fled north, the only direction left open by the Haganah that day. They traveled on foot to Huleigat and Majdal.

MAY 13

DAWN

NOON

MASSACRE
BEGINS

BURAYR
IN FLAMES

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» BURAYR MASSACRE

» BURAYR IN FLAMES

The Haganah then torched the village, lighting fire to hay stored on rooftops and burning the wheat harvest fields. The fire was raging for three days and could be seen from afar. A list was drawn of 125 people killed, including 20 combatants and the rest were village civilians.



DAWN

NOON

MASSACRE
BEGINS

RUTHLESS
KILLINGS

55/125 BURAYR MASSACRE VICTIMS

الله يرحمهم

MOHAMMED MUSTAFA ALI HUSSAIN (ABO ZAKI)
(35 YEARS) KILLED DURING DEFENDING THE FAMILY WATER WELL.

ABDUH EL MASRY
(40 YEARS) (EGYPTIAN) KILLED DURING HIS ATTEMPT TO SAVE (ABO ZAKI)

MOHAMMED SALMAN KHAYR EDINE
(40 YEARS)

MOHAMMED ALI ISSA
(35 YEARS)

BOTH WERE INJURED, THEN WERE KILLED BY THE SOLDIERS IN FRONT OF THEIR OLD WOMEN RELATIVE IN THE HOUSE OF AL QUWIADER.

RAJAB YOSIF EL MANYARAWY
(20 YEARS), KILLED IN QUWAIDER HOUSE.

MOHAMMED ISMAEIL ATTALLAH
(30 YEARS), KILLED IN WADI EL SAQIA (THE SAQIA VALLEY).

ABED EL QADER MAHMOUD ABO ATTA
(80 YEARS), KILLED IN HIS HOUSE.

AL ABED ABO HAIKAL
(60 YEARS), KILLED DURING HIS WAY TO HIS FIELD.

MOHAMMED ABO HAIKAL
(55 YEARS), KILLED DURING HIS WAY TO HIS FIELD.

KHALIL BAKER
(65 YEARS), KILLED IN THE CENTER OF BURYR.

ABED EL LATIF ABO DAYER
(22 YEARS), INJURED AND DIED IN AL FAR HOUSE.

RAJAB AWAD HAMDAN
(35 YEARS)

SHA'ABAN AWAD HAMDAN
(30 YEARS).

BOTH KILLED IN THEIR HOUSE, SOUTH EAST OF THE VILLAGE.

SERRYA SHA'ALAN
(60 YEARS)

MARYAM MAHMOUD SALAMA
(25 YEARS)

THE TWO WIVES OF YOSIF ABO HAMD
KILLED IN THEIR HOUSE, THE FIRST WAS MENTALLY DISABLED.

MAHMOUD MOSA EL OTOL
(40 YEARS).

MOHAMMED MOSA EL OTOL
(35 YEARS).

ABED EL RAZAQ MOSA EL OTOL
(22 YEARS) KILLED IN THEIR HOME.

ABED QADER SALEH SALAMA
(18 YEARS).

SALAMA SALEH SALAMA
(40 YEARS).

HASAN JADALLAH AWAD
(60 YEARS).

RAJAB HASAN JADALLAH AWAD
(27 YEARS).

MOHAMMED HASAN JADALLAH AWAD
(18 YEARS).

KILLED IN THE HOUSE OF HASAN JADALLAH AWAD.

MUSBAH ABO SUKHAYLA
(45 YEARS).

KHALID EL ABED AWAD
(30 YEARS).

HASAN AHMED THAHER
(40 YEARS).

MAHMOUD MOHAMMED ABO MEGHNEM THAHER
(18 YEARS).

EZ'EEZE MOSA EL KHATEEB
(45 YEARS).

MOHAMMED MAHMOUD ABO SAFIYA
(45 YEARS).

UNKNOWN WORKER
FROM ZARNOOQA WAS WORKING FOR ABO SAFIYA FAMILY.

MOHAMMED ISMAEIL EL KHATEEB
(40 YEARS).

ALL KILLED IN ZAWAYAT EL SHEIKH ABED EL HAY.

AL ABED AMMONA SABAH
(40 YEARS), KILLED IN HIS HOUSE.

EID MOHAMMED EL ALLOL
(40 YEARS).

KHADRA SALIM EL ALLOL
(35 YEARS), WIFE OF EID.

RAJAB EID EL ALLOL
(5 YEARS).

REZIQ EID EL ALLOL
(11 YEARS)

MARYAM BAKER EL ALLOL
(70 YEARS), EID'S MOTHER.

KILLED IN THEIR HOUSE WHILE THEY WERE SLEEPING.

RAMADAN AHMED EL ALLOL
(40 YEARS).

GHALIA RAMADAN EL ALLOL
(15 YEARS) HIS DAUGHTER.

MOHAMMED ABED EL RAHMAN EL ALLOL
(30 YEARS), KILLED IN THE HOUSE OF RAMADAN EL ALLOL.

MOHAMMED ABO HAZA'A
(50 YEARS).

HALIMA MOHAMMED ABO HAZA'A
(20 YEARS).

ALI MOHAMMED ABO HAZA'A
(23 YEARS).

EL HAJ EL BALLY
(65 YEARS) FROM JABALIA, KILLED IN THE HOUSE OF MOHAMMED ABO HAZA'A.

MOHAMMED ATTALLAH EL FAHEL (EL SHAIKH)
(40 YEARS), KILLED IN THE MAQALDA NEIGHBORHOOD.

ABO ATTA QUWAIDER
(55 YEARS), FROM GAZA.

THE SON OF ABO ATTA QUWAIDER
(16 YEARS), KILLED IN SHA'ABAN EL TURK COURTYARD.

HASAN MOHAMMED HASAN EL HASASNA
(45 YEARS), KILLED IN HIS HOUSE.

YOSIF ABO ARQOUB
(60 YEARS), KILLED IN HIS HOUSE.

ABED SALAM MUSTAFA EL KHATEEB
(15 YEARS), KILLED IN HIS HOUSE.

SALIM EL GHAZAWI
(50 YEARS) FROM GAZA, KILLED IN HIS HOUSE.

IN ADDITION ABOUT 20 VOLUNTEERS FROM GAZA AND ARAB COUNTRIES WERE KILLED WHILE DEFENDING THE SCHOOL.

THE FOLLOWING MARTYRS WERE KILLED BEFORE THE ATTACK:

MAHMOUD ALI EL ARABEED
(30 YEARS).

MOHAMMED KHALIL SARHAN
(40 YEARS).

MOHAMMED MUSTAFA ABO AWKAL
(35 YEARS).

MOHAMMED SALIM ABO EL HAJ
(35 YEARS), KILLED BY MINES ON THE ROADS OF THE FIELD.

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MAY 15, 1948

» ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE + BURAYR AFTERMATH



A few hours after the Burayr massacre, the Jewish People's Council met in Tel Aviv. Those present were there to draft the Declaration of Independence for the new State of Israel. In this declaration, the Arab citizens of the state were promised full and equal citizenship and representation in all state structures.

However, the villagers who survived the Burayr massacre—promised to be equal citizens of the new state—were denied any rights, and their forceful expulsion meant they had no place in the state-in-making. They were forced from lands which legally belonged to them, the land of their patrimony, now seized by Jewish European settlers as these settlers formed the state of Israel.

In the following weeks, the soldiers returned to Burayr and demolished the houses, filled and destroyed the wells, cut the trees and orchards, bulldozed all the landscape to destroy its features. Now that the villagers were murdered or expelled, this final act was to erase visual evidence of Palestinian life on the land. To prevent people returning to their homes, they planted mines at key locations.

After the massacre, young men from Burayr would discreetly return to the village in order to bury the dead, look for their missing family members and any remaining crops to feed their remaining animals. They still believed they would return to their homes. Many encountered the land mines and others were shot by Israeli soldiers who saw them.

Burayr survivors had fled to the north, and spent months attempting to return to their village in circles. Many have ended up in the Gaza Strip refugee camps till today.

1948
JAN 29 FEB 14 APRIL 9 APRIL 18 APRIL 19 APRIL 20 MAY 9 MAY 10 MAY 11 MAY 12 MAY 13 MAY 14 MAY 15

MAY 30-31

Beit Tima, north of Burayr, was conquered by the Negev Brigade's 7th Battalion; approximately 20 Palestinians were killed, and the granary and water well were destroyed.

BEIT TIMA

MID MAY

Huleiqat and Kaukaba villagers fled in response to the nearby Burayr massacre.

KAUKABA

HULAIQAT

JUNE 9-10

Simsim Massacre, Jewish soldiers burning houses and blew up granaries.

SIMSIM

BURAYR

MAY 27-28

Negev Brigade units raided al Muharraqa and Kaufakha, south of Burayr, driving out or expelling their inhabitants. The villagers of Kaufakha had earlier repeatedly asked to surrender, accept Jewish rule and be allowed to stay, to no avail.

HUJ

KAUFAKHA

MAY 31

The brigade expelled the villagers of Huj, seven kilometers south of Burayr, to the Gaza Strip. Huj had traditionally been friendly to Jews; in 1946, its inhabitants had hidden Haganah men from a British dragnet.

AL-MUHARRAQA

MAY- JUNE, 1948

» CLUSTER OF MASSACRES

Many features of the Burayr massacre were replicated in other villages, as a part of the Zionist Invasion of Palestine - an ethnic cleansing done in preparation for creating the State of Israel.

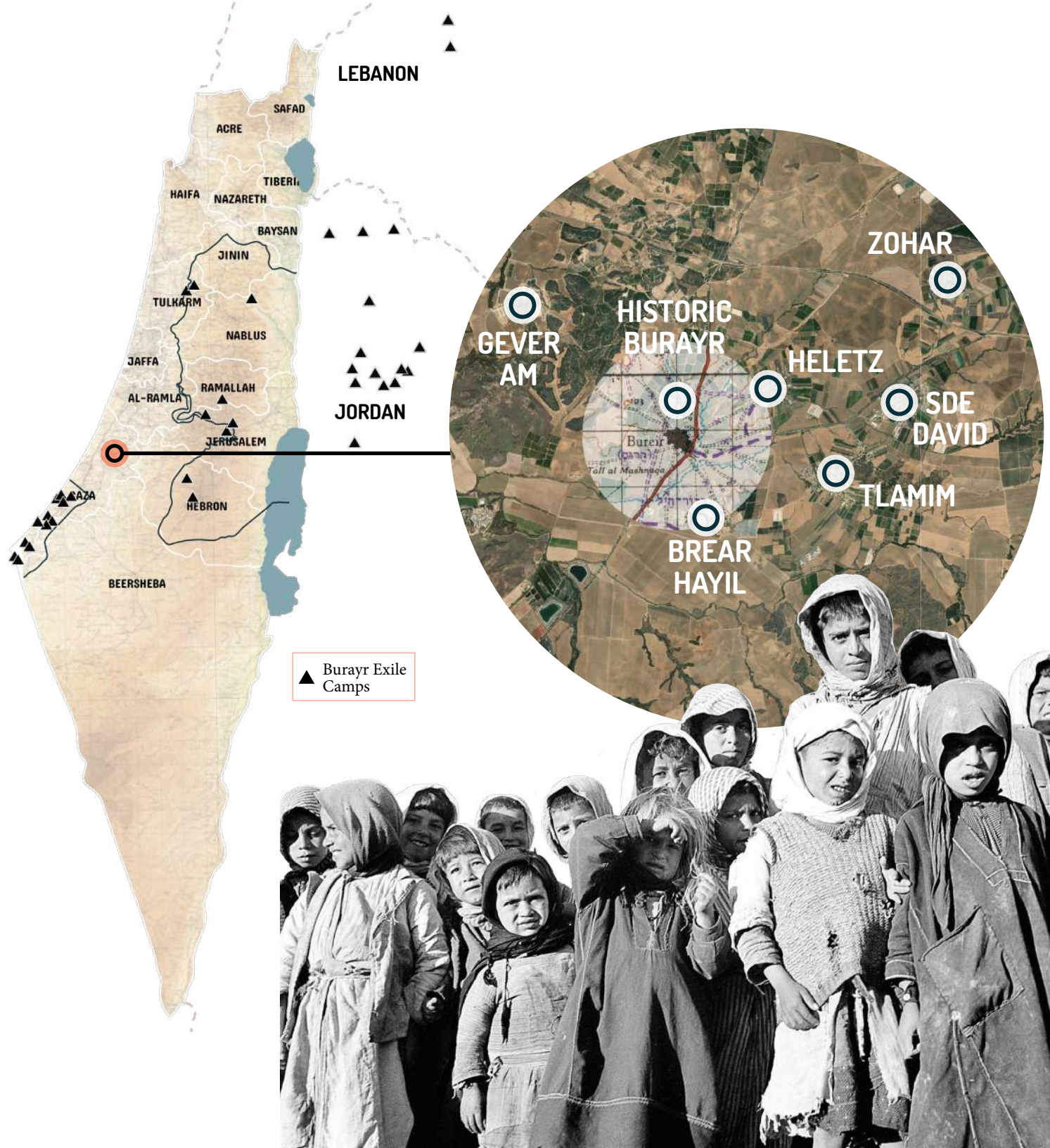
By the beginning of June, several villages in the Gaza district were obliterated by the Israeli Haganah. These include Najd, Burayr, Simsim, Huleiqat, Kaukaba, Muharraqa, Kaufakha, Beit Tima and Huj. On the land of Huj, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would later build his private residence called Havat Hashikmim, a ranch that covers 5,000 dunams of the village's fields.

BURAYR TODAY

Following its massacre in 1948, some Israeli settlements were built on Burayr village land. These include the Israeli settlements of Tlamim and Heletz established in 1950, settlement Sde David established in 1955 and settlement Zohar in 1956.

In 1989, on a field visit, the Burayr village site was described as: “Scattered cactuses as well as some lotus and sycamore trees grow on the site. One can see remnants of houses, including an insubstantial portion of a cement wall, among some eucalyptus trees at the entrance of one house. Some village streets are still visible. The lands around the site are cultivated.”

In 2008, there were 22,764 registered refugees from Burayr, most of which reside in the Gaza Strip. A small number resides in the West Bank (Palestine), Jordan, and Lebanon.



BURAYR TODAY

Today, the land of Burayr is unrecognizable. All old structures and civilian infrastructure are gone, leaving an empty field in its place.

PALESTINIANS
MASSACRED

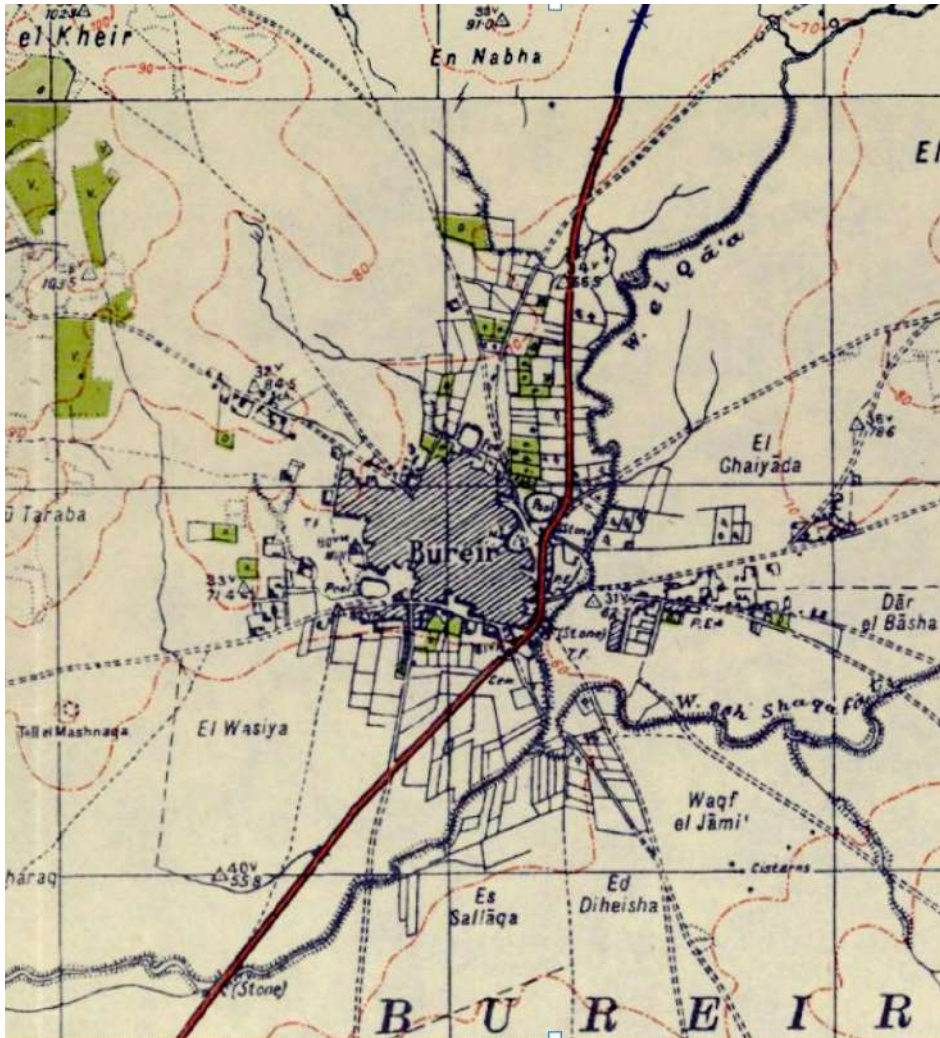
125
IN 1948

LAND
STOLEN

44,220
DUNUMS

EST. BURAYR
REFUGEES

30,000
AS OF 2020



1948



SATELLITE TODAY

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