

23.4.53

004 03496

2/1/53

(1) DEE/18
01/11/53



מרכז ההסברה

ISRAEL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

11 EAST 70TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS

INFILTRATORS MURDER MOTHER, TWO INFANTS

Mrs. Susan Kanas, 32, and her two children, 18-month-old Binyamin and four-year-old Soshana, were murdered in their sleep at 1.30 this morning in Moshav Yahud, south of Petah Tikva. Her eldest child, Asher, was slightly injured in the ear from a fragment of the Mills bomb which was thrown by marauders into the centre of the room where Mrs. Kanas, her six children and her mother were sleeping.

The tracks led as far as the police station in the Jordan village of Rantis, where they were lost, the Army spokesman announced tonight.

Half-an-hour later, a private car driven by Dr. M. Wertheim, of Haifa, on his way to Haifa on the Lydda-Petah Tikva road, was fired on with automatic weapons near the cross-roads of Rantiya village.

Five bullets hit the bonnet of the vehicle. No one was hurt, and the car sped on to report the attack.

The Kanas house is situated on the extreme eastern side of the village. All the family were in the same room except for the father, who works in the Negev on weekdays.

The room was dimly lit by a kerosene lamp permitting the murderers to throw the bomb with precision. Mrs. Kanas and the children were asleep on the floor, and the grandmother on a bed.

The three victims were lying in the centre of the room and took the full blast of the bomb, thus saving the others. The grandmother was unconscious for several hours after the attack.

The scene was horrifying. Mrs. Kanas was disfigured, but was found alive, and died some time later at the Tel Ha-shomer Hospital. Her two youngest children, who were lying near her, died instantly. The whole room was a shambles.

Village Angered

Asher, the older son, was the first to reach the police station. He broke into the building screaming hysterically, just as many constables were returning from the festive gathering here marking the end of the town's 75th anniversary celebrations.

This morning, neighbours took the children into their care, while one man went to the Negev to break the news to Mr. Kanias. There was a sense of deep mourning in the village, mingled with violent anger.

Jerusalem Post, October 14, 1953

LYDDA-BOUND BUS ATTACKED

A civilian bus travelling southward from Beit Arif to Lydda, was fired upon on Sunday night it was learned yesterday. Two bullets hit the vehicle, one penetrating the front tyre and the other piercing the window near the driver's seat. Passengers sought cover in a nearby ditch.

A hand grenade thrown at the bus missed its target.

Yesterday morning, police of the Coastal Plain sub-district discovered 20 Stengun cartridge cases and grenade fragments 40 meters from the scene of the attack. Tracks led to Jordan territory.

Jerusalem Post, October 6, 1953

TWO KILLED IN LYDDA AREA BY MARAUDERS

Two young men were killed and a third wounded last night in the Lydda area by four men thought to be infiltrators. One escaped unharmed. One of the victims died in the hospital.

Israel is pressing for an emergency meeting of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission. Clear tracks led for nine kilometres from the scene of the murder to within 200 metres from the armistice lines. They were so clear that dogs were not needed.

The four youths, cousins, were walking from their home in Kfar Ahiezer early in the evening, when four men, armed with Stenguns, appeared from behind the trees of an olive grove and ordered them to raise their hands. The youths did as they were told.

The marauders approached the four men and then, when only a metre or so away, opened fire on them. Two fell immediately while two others managed to escape and warn the police.

One escaped by pushing away the Stengun pointed at him. He broke free unharmed, but his companion was slightly injured.

The police immediately went to the scene, accompanied by a doctor. They found Shalom Yitzhak, 24, dead. Yefet Shalom, 16, severely injured in the chest, was taken to Assaf Harofe Hospital where he died this morning. The two who escaped were Yeshayahu Shalom, 17, and Eliyahu Shalom, 15.

Jerusalem Post, September 9, 1953

TWO SHOT IN CAPITAL

Two watchmen were wounded by marauders in Jerusalem early yesterday morning. One of them guarding a Solel Boneh hut on Mt. Zion. His condition is not serious, Itim reports.

The second was slightly hurt after an exchange of fire with infiltrators in the Bayit v'Gan suburb, the Army spokesman announced yesterday.

Jerusalem Post, September 9, 1953

INFILTRATORS FAIL IN TORAH THEFT ATTEMPT

Infiltrators tried to steal two Torah scrolls from the clubroom of Kibbutz Sdei Eliahu (Beisan Valley) and personal belongings from the living quarters early this morning. When they were challenged and fired upon, they made off, abandoning most of their loot, including the scrolls. Tracks of three men leading to the border were found this morning.

Another infiltration attempt was made last night at Ma'agan, on Lake Kinneret. Here, infiltrators left behind three mules they were about to steal, and fled across the Yarmuk River.

Jerusalem Post, September 7, 1953

MAN MURDERED IN MIGDAL ASCALON

The owner of a restaurant in Migdal Ascalon, Yeshayahu Frankman, 52, was murdered, and his 25-year-old daughter Zippora was severely wounded, when unknown persons opened automatic fire on them at 11.25 last night.

The victim and his daughter and son were returning home through an unlit lane when two men suddenly confronted them with the cry of "hands up" and immediately opened fire. The son, Zeev, managed to escape unharmed.

Frankman's body was brought to the Tel Hashomer Hospital, while his daughter was moved to the Kaplan Hospital here.

Jerusalem Post, August 18, 1953

ATTACK ON CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

A dastardly attack was perpetrated early yesterday morning on Kiryat-Yearim, the village for retarded children near Abu Gosh in the Jerusalem corridor.

Infiltrators threw two hand grenades into one of the sleeping barracks in which the children live, and only by miracle nobody was hurt. One of the grenades fell on the balcony of the barrack, the other actually landed on the floor of one of the rooms. Some damage was done to the living quarters of the director of the village, and some grenade splinters struck the bed of his son, who luckily was away from home on that night.

Davar, August 12, 1953

THREE ISRAEL SOLDIERS SLAIN AT BEIT GOVRIN

Three Israel soldiers were killed on Saturday night in a Jordan ambush near Beit Govrin, the Army spokesman announced yesterday.

The incident occurred at 11 p.m. while they were walking along the road near the village. Suddenly automatic fire broke out from both sides of the road. The soldiers were killed on the spot and their arms were stolen.

Israel has lodged a strong complaint with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission and has requested an emergency meeting.

An attempt by armed infiltrators to attack the village of Beit Arif, in

the Lydda area on Saturday night, was foiled when local watchmen opened fire on the grenade-throwing marauders and put them to flight, the Army spokesman has announced.

On the previous night, a similar attack was attempted against Kfar Agur, in the Beit Govrin area. There, too, the attackers were routed by the local watchmen.

On Thursday night, watchmen of Dvir, in the same area, routed a band of infiltrators.

Jerusalem Post, August 10, 1953

WATCHMAN MURDERED, ANOTHER WOUNDED IN ATTACK BY INFILTRATORS

One watchman was killed and another was seriously wounded when automatic fire was opened early Friday morning from short range on the two watchmen at Bet Nekofa near Kiryat Anavim. The arms of both were stolen. Police dogs followed the tracks of two men to the armistice line east of Bet Nekofa.

Davar, June 21, 1953

LEGIONNAIRES THROW STONES FROM OLD CITY WALL

Friday night, at 7:30, stones were thrown by Jordan Legionnaires from the Old City walls on inhabitants of the Fast Hotel building. Hinga Hushani and her daughter were both stoned and had to be treated in Ziv hospital. When at 10:15 a policeman came to make inquiries about the incident, some more stones were thrown from the wall, but this time nobody was hurt.

Davar, June 21, 1953

WATCHMAN MURDERED IN BAYIT VAGAN

A watchman was murdered and his rifle stolen when a gang of Arab infiltrators opened intense automatic fire on him and his companion at 2.30 a.m. on Friday at Bayit Vagan, west of Jerusalem, the Army spokesman announced on Friday morning. The second watchman, who returned the fire, was uninjured.

The spokesman noted that the attack was carried out along lines

similar to those used a week ago when two Israel soldiers were killed in the Judean hills.

It is clear, the spokesman said, that this act was committed by an organized Jordan gang which had undergone vigorous military training aimed at preparing its activities for one purpose — murder and sabotage.

ITIM reports that the murdered watchman, Shlomo Feld, 54, was killed at his observation post on the roof of a hut used to store building supplies. The second man, who was in the hut when the shooting began, said that he looked through the window and saw the gang fleeing across an open field.

He opened fire on them to which they replied while escaping.

After the attack had died down, he found Feld's body on the roof. Police, who were summoned immediately, began an investigation, using bloodhounds.

Feld, who lives in the Katamon quarter of Jerusalem, leaves a widow and two children.

Jerusalem Post, July 18, 1953

WOMAN KILLED IN ANOTHER MURDEROUS ATTACK ON KFAR HESS

The wave of murders in the border villages, perpetrated by trained infiltrators from Jordan continues unabated for three days now. The Jordan authorities have refrained from undertaking any measures to stop these organized attacks on the Jewish border villages.

The victim of the latest attack was a farmer family in Kfar Hess, which was attacked early Thursday morning. Shoshana Helfman, 33, was murdered in her sleep, and her husband, Zvi, was seriously wounded. The police which followed the tracks got to the armistice line.

Commenting on the renewed wave of murderous attacks and other cases of violence, an army spokesman said that the latest developments point to two possibilities: Jordan is either uninterested, or incapable of coping with the situation.

This time again there are clear indications that the attack was carried out with the clear intention to murder Jews. The tracks have revealed that the gang was composed of three men who came from across the border, passed the Arab village of Tirah — and approached Kfar Hess through the corn fields. These were not thieves; these were people well

trained and familiar with Kfar Hess. Before they opened fire they took good care to eliminate the watchdog from the yard, as well as the neighbours' dogs. Later inquiries revealed that only the chains remained but the dogs were gone. The timing of the attack was also well chosen; the attackers were in time to cross the border in darkness and their retreat was timed before sunrise. The attack on Kfar Hess was not different from the one of a day earlier against Mishmar Ayalon and two days ago against Mishmar Ayalon.

So far, the inhabitants of Kfar Hess have behaved in a most restrained manner, considering that earlier murders have not yet been forgotten. Two young men were killed only recently on the road leading to Kfar Hess, and the member of a neighboring settlement was murdered only a few days before.

For many months now, Kfar Hess has been the scene of repeated assaults and thefts, but lately these attacks have revealed a new intention - murder.

This settlement is dedicated to a life of peace and work, but it will never permit its life and property to be in danger. The inhabitants are loyal to the order of the government which forbids any acts of reprisal. But the people on the other side would do well to pay attention to the fact that even this small village has enough power to react to these murderous attacks. The villagers will not take these any more, and should they continue, they will demand from the government, that it does not stand in their way, but that it permits them to act in order to prevent further attacks upon them.

Davar, June 12, 1953

MARAUDERS STRIKE 12 HOURS AFTER ACCORD

Twelve hours after the signature of the Israel-Jordan Agreement to combat infiltration, marauders bombed two houses and killed a farmer in the Tirat Yehuda smallholders village about four kilometres north-west of Lydda Airport at 12.30 this morning. As the brigands withdrew in the moonless night making their way through vegetable fields and over a hilltop, toward Rantis village across the armistice lines, guards at Tirat Yehuda and the village of Maoz, inhabited by Habani immigrants from Hadramaut, fired after them. The Arabs replied with grenades and automatic fire.

Nothing in the village was stolen. The victim, Moshe Stark, 26, had been studying Hebrew in his bed by the light of an oil lamp, when the attackers threw a grenade through the window of one room in his two-roomed house and fired into his bedroom.

Three houses away, the marauders exploded a dynamite charge under the corner of Mordecai Eigner's home. A wall collapsed over Mr. Eigner's bed, which was buried under rubble and glass splinters, but he was out on guard duty. Mrs. Eigner, who had been awakened by the barking of dogs and rose to close a window, and their three children aged three, four and five, who were sleeping in the next room, were unhurt.

In the shrapnel-scarred room where Mr. Stark had been killed, the Attaches stood over a pool of blood.

Army and police officers told the foreign officers that between three and six infiltrators had crossed the lines. They skirted past the village of Maoz without being detected, and moved across the fields between Tirat Yehuda and neighbouring Deir Tarif, which was attacked a fortnight ago. This time they had moved towards Tirat Yehuda.

Mrs. Eigner said that she had been awakened by the barking of dogs. She looked at the clock and saw that it was 12.30 and assumed that her husband, who had been on guard duty, was coming home. She got up to close the window in her room when suddenly her house was shaken by an explosion. The oil lamp was extinguished and the house was plunged into darkness. She hurried into her children's room and found them unhurt.

Grenade Through Window

The two-roomed house in which Mr. Stark lived alone was attacked a few minutes later. First, a grenade was thrown through the window of an unfurnished room and exploded in the doorway, and immediately afterwards, shots were fired through the window of the second room, furnished with a cot and a table. Mr. Stark, a survivor of the Auschwitz concentration camp who came here from Hungary four years ago, was found mortally wounded on the floor. Beside his bed lay a Hebrew text book.

The village guards opened fire from a number of positions and aimed at the pass through which the infiltrators normally must cross. Fire was returned from the hilltop east of the village.

During this exchange of fire, the marauders withdrew. Near Maoz, between the village and the armistice lines, the bush-haired, bearded immigrants from Hadramaut who were on guard duty, heard the shuffle of the bootclad marauders and fired at them. The Arabs returned the fire and threw a Mills grenade at them, but it did not explode.

An Arab tracker and police dogs this morning followed the trail of the killers from Tirat Yehuda past Maoz and then across the Migdal Zedek-Beit Nabala road towards the village of Rantis over the armistice lines.

Jerusalem Post, 10 June 1953

LEGION KIDNAPS, FREE TRACTORIST

At the very moment that local Israel and Jordan Commanders were continuing their meetings yesterday morning, in accordance with Monday's agreement, a Jewish tractorist was kidnapped from Neve Yamin, a settlement near Kfar Saba, the Army spokesman reported.

While the tractorist was ploughing, eight Arab Legion soldiers approached and took him across the armistice lines. After about half an hour he was freed and returned to the settlement.

A Beduin of the el Rhazail tribe near Beersheba was shot dead when he tried to prevent five marauders from stealing his cow on Monday night.

The victim, Ali Abu Kam, 40, was killed instantly when two shots were fired at him by marauders who escaped across the border.

In Kafr Hakormim near Rehovot, on Monday night, infiltrators stole IL.800-worth of household goods, leaving behind a box of Egyptian matches.

Jerusalem Post, 10 June 1953

MAN MURDERED BY MARAUDERS IN SOUTH JERUSALEM

A young man was killed and a young woman wounded by rifle fire when they were walking in an open field near a southern quarter of Jerusalem shortly after midnight on Saturday, the Army spokesman announced yesterday. Police discovered tracks leading to the border.

The murdered man was Shlomo Shapiro, 25, a driving instructor, and the woman is Mrs. Shoshana Maimoni-Hazal, 22.

She told police that they were on their way to the Mekor Haim Quarter, where she lives with her parents. They stopped near one of the houses which borders on an open field leading to the village of Bet Safafa.

While they were talking, they heard a rustling sound, and when Shapiro called out "Who's there?" three shots rang out. Shapiro fell

bleeding and lost consciousness immediately. The woman, who was wounded in the leg, shouted for about half an hour until Emanuel Zuckerman, who lives nearby, heard her. He came to her assistance and then notified police. She was taken to Ziv Hospital.

The police found a hand grenade in the courtyard of the house near which the couple had been standing, they believe that the murderers had intended to throw the grenade into the house, but had been interrupted by the couple. Mrs. Erika Leider, who lives in the neighbourhood, told police that before she heard the shots, someone had banged on the door, and apparently tried to break in.

Another incident took place yesterday morning, when two Jerusalem residents who were picking fruit near the railroad tracks were fired upon, the Army spokesman also reported. They are Shimeon Kaduri, 50, who was seriously wounded in the leg and Najji Karkuli 32, who received a light wound in the back of the head.

Kaduri told police that while they were walking near the armistice lines, several metres inside Israel territory, they noticed three Arabs in military uniform with kaffiyas on their heads. The Arabs ordered them to come closer, but when, instead, they tried to get away, they opened fire on them. From the description given, police think that the infiltrators were Arab Legionnaires.

At midnight on Friday, automatic fire was opened on a post on Mt. Zion from Arab Legion positions. Two hours later there was firing in the direction of the Deir Abu Tor quarter, the Army spokesman announced.

Marauders harvested over IL.5,000-worth of barley belonging to Kibbutz Tsur Maon in the Negev last night. The thieves escaped over the border with their loot.

Jerusalem Post, 8 June 1953

MAN KILLED, POLICE CAR AMBUSHED

A police tender was under automatic fire from an ambush on the Acre-Safad road at 1.30 this morning and a man living in the Circassian village of Ribaniya, north of Safad, was shot dead about an hour later.

The tender was attacked not far from Farradiya village. The constables returned the fire, and in darkness combed the area as well as they could. No one was hurt. After hearing the shots, villagers from Farradiya arrived at the scene of the shooting in order to help the police.

The villager was murdered by unknown persons about 200 metres outside the settlement. A man knocked at the door of his home and called to him to come out. He left the house carrying his rifle, and soon after two shots were heard.

Jerusalem Post, June 8, 1953

INFILTRATOR DEAD IN NEGEV CLASH

One infiltrator was killed and six others put to flight when an Israel unit clashed with the gang near Lakhish in the northern Negev at 8 o'clock on Friday evening an Army spokesman announced last night.

The brief engagement took place seven kilometres inside Israel territory and the gang escaped in the easterly direction towards the Hebron area. Hand grenades and ammunition were found near the dead man. The Israel unit suffered no losses.

Jerusalem Post, May 31, 1953

JORDAN MARAUDERS MURDER WOMAN, INJURE 7 OTHERS

A mother of seven children was killed, and three other women, a man and three children were wounded in organized attacks by Jordan irregulars on three villages near the border at midnight last night. They used dynamite, grenades and automatic weapons and were intent on killing and looting.

The attacks were carried out simultaneously on the three new immigrant villages which are near Ben Shemen.

At Beit Naballa, a grenade thrown into the house of David Namdar, killed his wife Tamar, 30, wounded him and two of their seven children. The woman's youngest child is four months old.

The murderers, after hurling a grenade into a second house which was empty, broke in and looted goods valued at LL.1,500.

In the second settlement, Beit Arif, the attackers detonated three kilograms of TNT under the pillars of a house, which was almost completely destroyed. Its occupants, Zadok Yaish, his wife and five children escaped

with slight injuries. Police said today that the charge was placed by expert sappers.

Into a second house the Jordanians flung a grenade, injuring no one. In a third house, another grenade injured Naomi Chasbit 25, and her eight-year-old daughter.

At the third settlement, Beit Arif Bet, Saudia Sayad was injured in a similar manner when three houses were lobbed with grenades.

Throughout the fighting the marauders covered the villages with heavy automatic fire, which was returned by the settlers. Police this morning found tracks of "many" men leading towards the armistice lines.

The scene of the battle was visited this morning by U.N. Observers, and the military attaches of the U.S., Britain and France, who were accompanied by Police and Army officers.

The Beit Neballa settlement yesterday sent a delegation to the Knesset with a request to strengthen security measures in their area. A POST Reporter who visited the villages found the settlers in deep mourning.

The body of the dead woman, and the wounded were taken to the Assaf Harofe Hospital.

Jerusalem Post, May 27, 1953

AMERICAN VISITOR AND HOST SHOT DEAD

A father of five children and his niece, a visitor from New York, were found murdered in the former's home in a western quarter of Jerusalem at 6 o'clock yesterday evening. The man is Zvi Genauer, 33, a student of the Mir yeshiva, and his niece is Devora Genauer, 24.

They were shot dead by infiltrators in the early hours of the morning. The woman was slain in bed, while the man was found dead sitting in the kitchen. He had been studying Gemara, and a bullet hole was found in the volume. Mr. Genauer came to Israel a year ago with his family.

Miss Genauer, who has been here for four months, was about to return to the U.S. to be married. She had been living at a pension but stayed at her uncle's flat on Sunday since Mrs. Genauer and the two older children had gone to Haifa on that day. The three other children, aged from two to five were unharmed, and evidently knew nothing of the tragedy, it is learned; it seems they thought the two were still sleeping. Police found the bedroom disheveled and a clothes closet ransacked. A package of clothes was found in the yard. The police medical officer determined that seven shots had been fired into the victims' bodies.

Jerusalem Post, April 21, 1953

LEGION TURNS DOWN PROBE ON MURDERS

The investigation of the double murder committed by marauders in Jerusalem on Independence Day halted at the border when the Arab Legion refused to allow Israel police to enter Jordan territory in search of the three men whose tracks were found on Tuesday, leading toward the village of Bet Ikka.

Further examination of the house where Zvi Genauer and his niece, Devora Genauer, were murdered has revealed that a large number of valuables were looted, including three American passports belonging to the members of the family.

The Genauer's charwoman, Mrs. Rivke Leider, testified to the police that the marauders had stolen household articles, clothing, 10 pairs of shoes, a radio, gramophone, cutlery and sheets.

THE JERUSALEM POST, April 23, 1953.

JORDAN LEGION OPENS SHOOTING WAR IN JERUSALEM

Six Jewish Civilians Wounded.

Jordan's guerilla warfare on the Israel border struck at the heart of Jerusalem yesterday evening, when for two hours fire was exchanged across the demarcation line from the Sheikh Jarrah quarter in the north to Deir Abu Tor in the south. The flare-up began at six o'clock when Arab Legionnaires fired into the Musrara Quarter wounding an Israeli pedestrian.

Altogether six Jews were wounded, of whom only two were detained in hospital. They are Masud Lugas, 21, and David Alus, 25. They were operated on at the Sha'are Zedek Hospital and their condition is reported to be satisfactory. Lugas, whose brother Haim also received light injuries, was hit on the steps leading from Mamilla Road to the Hotel East and Alus (of Ness Ziona) was shot while on his way to a bus stop.

A policeman in Musrara was injured, and Haim Rosenberg, 32, received superficial injuries at the foot of Mamilla Road. Both went home after first-aid treatment.

The small number of Jewish casualties was attributed, according to an Army spokesman, to prompt police action in clearing streets in the neighbourhood.

Students living in the Musrara hostel, which was hit by bullets from Legion posts on the Wall, were fired upon while crossing their court-yard.

Two of the U.N. observer officers attached to the Israel-Jordan MAC and General Riley's aide arranged for the cease-fire to be enforced on both sides at 8 p.m., by which time darkness had fallen. At 8.15, however, Legionnaires in the Deir Abu Tor quarter violated the cease-fire, but the Israel guards did not reply, and Israel registered a complaint with the U.N.

THE JERUSALEM POST, April 23, 1953.