

## TIMELINE: Fight to Survive

**1948** On May 14, the armies of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Transjordan and Egypt pour into the Jewish State.

**1948** On May 15, the Jordanian Arab Legion bombards Jerusalem with over 10,000 artillery shells, destroying 2,000 homes and causing 1,200 casualties.

**1948** On May 19th, a delegation from the Jordan Valley settlements pleads for reinforcements. There are none available. The same day the Egyptians, moving toward Tel Aviv from the south, open their attack on Kibbutz Yad Mordechai.

**1948** May 22 is considered the worst day. One high-ranking Israeli officer says: “Another 72 hours and it will all be over.”

**1948** On May 23, the situation improves. The first Messerschmitts from Czechoslovakia arrive. The Jewish defenders of Jerusalem manage to hold off the Arab Legion. In the south, Kibbutz Yad Mordechai puts up a stalwart defense. It delays the Egyptian advance by 5 crucial days.

**1948** On May 24, the 7th Brigade attacks the Arab-held Latrun Fortress, which controls the road to Jerusalem. The attack ends in disaster with 200 Israeli casualties.

**1948** On May 28, the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem surrenders to the Arab Legion.

**1948** On May 30, a second effort to capture Latrun also fails.

**1948** On June 2, David Ben-Gurion learns of a hilly route around the main road to Jerusalem. He immediately orders the path expanded. The route is completed before a UN-imposed truce. It's called the Burma Road. It enables supplies to reach the city.

**1948** On June 10, only hours before the truce, Col. Mickey Marcus, an American soldier serving as a volunteer, is accidentally killed when he is mistaken for the enemy.

**1948** On June 11, the truce takes effect. It marks the end of the first round. Both sides will spend the next 28 days preparing for the second round of fighting.