

## TIMELINE: Haganah

**1920** The Haganah – the word means “defense” – comes into being in early 1920. It is organized by Vladimir Jabotinsky at the request of the Zionist Commission, led by Chaim Weizmann, which sees that the Jewish community in Palestine needs an organization to deal with Arab violence.

**1920** In April, Arabs riot. The British sentence Jabotinsky and his men, who defended against the attacks. With Jabotinsky imprisoned, the Labor party *Achdut Ha'avoda*, led by David Ben-Gurion, restarts the Haganah later that year.

**1929** When Arab riots against break out, the Haganah is not adequately prepared. Some Haganah officers break off in protest at the Haganah's failure to provide an organized defense and create a second defense group, Haganah B, in 1931. This becomes the Irgun.

**1936** In April, Arabs riot again. Despite a more serious approach to defense, the Haganah and Zionist leadership are still not ready.

**1936** Jewish Agency chairman David Ben-Gurion decides on a policy of restraint, or in Hebrew, “Havlagah,” meaning Jews will only act in defense against Arab attack. He believes this policy will win British sympathy and support.

**1936** Mid-year the policy of Havlagah is modified when Haganah field commander Yitzhak Sadeh together with Eliyahu Cohen organize Nodedet, or “Wandering Troop,” which uses ambushes and mobile patrols to target Arabs in their bases and villages.

**1938** British Capt. Orde Wingate leads the Special Night Squads – special assault units of Jewish commandos to combat Arab attackers.

**1941** In May, Yitzhak Sadeh and the Haganah establish the Palmach.

**1944** Starting in November until the Spring of 1945, the Haganah, at the request of David Ben-Gurion, engages in a campaign called the “Season” in which it hunts down Irgun members and hands them over to the British.

**1945** In October, the Haganah switches gears and joins with the Irgun and LEHI in the United Hebrew Resistance. It carries out its first attack that month.

**1946** The Haganah steps away from the United Hebrew Resistance.

**1948** The Haganah makes up the core of Israel's army when the state is declared.