

TIMELINE: Jabotinsky Part 2 – The Jewish Legion

1916 Jabotinsky encounters violent opposition while pursuing his idea for a Jewish legion to fight the Turks.

1916 In January, Lt. Col. John Henry Patterson, commander of the Zion Mule Corps., returns to England. He makes important contacts for Jabotinsky.

1916 In November, 120 members of the Zion Mule Corps. return to London. They will form the core of the future Jewish Legion.

1916 In December, a new British government takes over. It is much friendlier to Jabotinsky's legion idea.

1917 In March, the Russian monarchy is overthrown. This removes an important obstacle to Jewish support for a legion.

1917 In July, the British war office announces the upcoming formation of a Jewish infantry regiment, later known as the Judean regiment.

1918 In February, the Jewish Legion leaves for Egypt and Palestine. It fights well on the Palestine front.

1918 After WWI ends in November, an anti-Semitic British military administration in Palestine persecutes and demobilizes the Jewish Legion.

1919 Jabotinsky calls a conference of Palestine Zionists to discuss the creation of a defense force. They agree to form the Haganah and make Jabotinsky its leader.

1920 In April, Arabs riot in Jerusalem. The Haganah led by Jabotinsky stops the violence from spreading beyond the Old City.

1920 Jabotinsky and the Jewish defenders of Jerusalem are arrested. Jabotinsky is sentenced to 15 years hard labor. His men are also sentenced to long prison terms.

1920 In July, Jabotinsky and his comrades are amnestied by Sir Herbert Samuel. However, Arab rapists are also released.

1921 In February, after a campaign to clear his name and that of his comrades, Jabotinsky has the verdict of guilty successfully expunged.