

TIMELINE: Military Stirrings

1907 Bar-Giora, a secretive Jewish self-defense group, is founded in Jaffa by Israel Shochat and Yitzhak Ben-Tzvi. It is named after a Jewish rebel who fought the Romans.

1909 Hashomer, “The Watchman,” is founded by Bar-Giora members to meet growing demands for security. The larger group almost immediately improves the status of Jews in the Land of Israel.

1915 The Zion Mule Corps. is created and participates in the Gallipoli campaign in World War I.

1916 Aaron Aaronsohn founds NILI, a pro-British spy ring in Palestine. The name is an acronym for Netzach Yisrael Lo’Yishaker – “the eternity of Israel will not lie.”

1917 The 38th Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers is announced in *The London Gazette*. This would be followed by the creation of the 39th and 40th Battalion in 1918. They would become known as the Jewish Legion.

1917 The Turks discover the spy group NILI. One of the leaders of the group, Sarah Aaronsohn, kills herself rather than reveal information under torture.

1917 General Edmund Allenby captures Beersheba from the Turks, thanks in part to information provided to the British by NILI.

1918 The Jewish Legion takes part in the Jordan offensive. It successfully seizes Umm Esh Ford, helping to cut off communication between the 4th Ottoman Army and the 7th and 8th Ottoman Armies.

1921 The last of the Jewish Legion is disbanded.