

***“Letter to World Zionist Organization’s Executive Committee”,  
Israel Shochat (1912)***

The “Hashomer” organization, working now for five years in the Land of Israel, has from the start established its purpose – to help to defend Jewish settlement in the Land from its neighbors, but our goal is not limited to a small group of Jewish youngsters defending property and settlements. Our purpose is, in tandem with this, to awaken in the hearts of every farmer and worker the feeling and the realization that they alone can defend themselves and their property, and in order to make this a reality we have done what was in our power, and the results so far attained are well-known.

...

Our goal isn’t a temporary one born of a moment in time, but one of great historical purpose, a mission whose value will stand for generations. We, on our side, are prepared to dedicate our time, energy and effort for the good of defense. And we turn to you as well, that you will help us in our work in both a material and spiritual sense.

*Source: Toldot Hahaganah [History of the Haganah], Vol. II, Hasifriyah Hatzionit, Jerusalem, 1954-1972, p. 235.*

***“Letter to Julian W. Mack”, Aaron Aaronsohn (1916)***

As long as our lives, at least, were safe under the Turkish misrule, I did not feel the right to take a hand in the destruction of the Turks. But when it became clear to me, above the shadow of a possible doubt, that our lives depended on the caprices of a Djemal, or any other Turk suffering from sadism, then I felt the strong duty to draw the conclusions, and that I did. I went over, mentally at least, to the “enemy” from that moment. If I did not cooperate with the English before then, it was simply because of mere material impossibility. But at that time already, before my conscience, I undertook to work with them. To do all in my power to rid our country of the Turkish scourge. What I undertook to do, I still was going to do in a private capacity, but I knew for a certainty, that all our Jewish people in Palestine would approve of me. I did not like to have them share the responsibility, but I was sure of the moral support.

*Source: The Aaronsohn Saga, Shmuel Katz, Gefen Publishing House, Jerusalem, 2007, p. 107.*

***“Story of the Jewish Legion”,  
Vladimir “Ze’ev” Jabotinsky (1928)***

I went to Bordeaux – and there, one wet morning, I read in a poster pasted on a wall that Turkey had joined the Central Powers and begun military operations. ... I believe that it was always clear to me – from birth so to speak – that if ever a war should occur between England and Turkey, the right thing for the Jews would be to form a regiment of their own and participate in the conquest of Palestine – although before that day in Bordeaux I had never thought about it distinctly. As a matter of fact, the idea is a very normal idea which would have occurred, under such circumstances, to any normal person ...

*Source: The Story of the Jewish Legion, Vladimir Jabotinsky, Bernard Ackerman Inc., New York, 1945, p. 29.*