

TIMELINE: Step Ashore

1945 The official Zionist leadership turns its attention to defeating the 1939 British White Paper. The main thrust of Zionist strategy is to bring survivors of the Holocaust to the Land of Israel in spite of British immigration quotas.

1945 On June 18, a month after Germany's unconditional surrender, the Jewish Agency applies to the Mandatory government for 100,000 immigration permits for survivors.

1945 On July 26, Britain elects a Labour Government led by Prime Minister Clement Attlee. The Labour Party had issued pro-Zionist declarations in opposition. Once in power, the Labor government will reverse its position.

1945 Starting in October 1945 and lasting until August 1946, the Jewish Agency-led Haganah joins with the underground groups Irgun and LEHI in a revolt against the British.

1946 In the spring, the Mossad for Aliyah Bet succeeds in pressuring the British to permit over 1000 Jewish refugees aboard the SS Fede to enter Palestine.

1946 After the SS Fede incident, the British become more determined to stop illegal immigration. Thirty-nine ships of the Royal Navy and police will be sent to capture refugee boats. A new headquarters to fight immigration is set up within the Imperial General Staff and the 1st Infantry Division, made up of 10,000 men, is sent to reinforce units already in Palestine.

1946 The Mossad for Aliyah Bet increases its activities. In that year 22 ships sail from Europe; 11 sail from Italy and the remainder from Yugoslavia, France, Greece, Romania and Belgium.

1946 Starting in August, the British send captured refugees to detention camps in Cyprus.

1947 In February, Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin announces his intention to refer the problem of Palestine to the UN.

1947 July marks the low point for England when it captures the ship the Exodus and sends its refugees back to Germany, creating an international outcry.

1947 On September 26, Britain's colonial secretary Arthur Creech Jones announces Britain's intention to leave Palestine.

1947 On November 29, the UN votes for partition.