

The Role of Libyan Resisters in the War of Palestine 1948

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Abstract

The first Arab-Palestinian war 1948 was considered the most serious stages which the Palestinian issue went through .it came as a reaction to the United Nations Resolution of the division of Palestine in 1947 and the declaration of Britain of withdrawal from Palestine as well as the readiness of the Zionists to announce the establishment of their entity. Seven of the independent Arab countries , representing the Arab League , decided to send their troops to Palestine to thwart the Zionist plan and to hinder the establishment of a Zionist entity on the land of Palestine . As with regard to Libya , which was dependent to the military authority of Britain and France at that time after the expulsion of the Italians during the second world war , its people decided to participate in the Holy Jihad throughout the volunteers who formed the first battalion of two hundred Mujahids . Their number was raised to , after short time , to 476 . The Libyan volunteers were distributed to Arab armies. Omar Al-Mukhtar first battalion and the third one are attached to the Egyptian army . it took Falooja and the surrounding villages as a operational field . They achieved important achievement . The Libyan Battalion fought side by side with the Syrian army . It took Gaza as its operational field . Some Libyan volunteers fought with the Iraqi army. They fought in Natalia , Tool Karametc . The Libyan Mujahideen had participated in various battles. Thus the Libyans , Though their limited capabilities and their limited number , they had done a wonderful in the war.

Keywords: Mujahids , Resisters, Libyans , Palestine

1. Introduction

The Palestinian issue entered into its work dangerous stages and critical condition. Developments and events were so swift that resulted in the less of Palestine and making its people homeless. The colonization policy had come up with the establishment of the Zionist state. After the UN has issued its resolution to divide Palestine on the 29th of Nov. 1947, Britain declared that it will withdraw from Palestine and on the 14th of May, 1948, the British started their withdrawal. A part of their forces withdraw to the British bases in Suez channel, another part to the west of Jordan and a third part sailed from Haifa to Cyprus, Malta and Britain. The British commissioner, Sir Catingham, left Jerusalem in the morning of that day to Britain to end the British mandation on Palestine (Al-Ghori, 1955; Abdul Munim, 1968).

After Britain was obliged to withdraw its mandation on Palestine, it took all measures to foster its existence in Libya. It believed that Tripoli and Burka would compensate its loses in Palestine and enable it to keep controlling transportation lines in the Mediterranean as well as the ability to drop (when necessary) its troops in any region in the Middle East. (Broshin,1988). At the midnight of the 14th and 15th of May, 1948, David Bin Ghoren stood in Tel Aviv Museum Hall, with the Jew Synagogue Party Members, representatives of Jewish people and Zionist Movement and reporters to declare the establishment of the state of Israel in Palestine to be open for Jewish immigrations. A provisional government was formed, and Haieem Wiseman was elected its President. His first task was to call foreign states to recognize his government (Alkhuli, 1970).

As for Arab countries, they resorted to the military solution. On the 15th of May, 1948 troops from Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon moved to Palestine (Al-Juburi, 1970).

2. Arab Preparation for the War of 1948

Arab troops that fought in Palestine were divided as follows:

2.1 Arab public troops:

The Arab public troops that fought the Zionist army in the period extending between the declaration of the dividing resolution on the 29th of May and 1948 consisted of four groups as follows:

1. Salvation Army: This army was founded in accordance with a resolution issued by the Arab League which had sustained it and provided it with weapons. It consisted of volunteers from the Arab countries who arrived at the end of 1947 to the camps of Katna, near Damascus, and got initial and rapid training then merged with one of the fighting groups that were eight in number. Its operations were carried out in two regions;
 - The Middle Region: The majority of the groups in the salvation army worked under the command of Fawzi Al-Qawuqji.⁽¹⁾¹
 - The North Region: This was command by Adib Al-Shishakli ⁽¹⁾², who used AL-Sufsaf village of AL-Jaleel as his headquarters and remained the commander until Qawukji arrived at AL-Jaleel and became the commander after AL-Shishakli withdrew from Palestine. Groups of volunteers consisted of three battalions from Tunisia, Lybia and Sudan (Presidency of General Staff of Israel Army, 1984).
2. The Voluntary Army: it mostly consisted of Ikhwan AL-muslimeen (The Muslim Brothers). The Egyptian government however rejected the Egyptian volunteers before 15, May 1948. It agreed later on to send voluntary units and provided them with weapons as well as officers to train and lead them. The Arab League sustained it. (Presidency of General Staff of Israel Army, 1984).
3. AL-Muqadas Jihad Army: it was organized by the Arab corporation of Palestine. It included in its formation Palestinian Mujahedeen. Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni⁽¹⁾³, was appointed as their leader. He was martyred in AL-Qastel battle on the eighth of April 1948. The units of this army are divided to two main groups, the first the main army whose individuals were armed. Their number is 5-7 thousands soldiers. The second includes the Mujahedeen who lived in their village, and they were about ten thousand (Abdul Munim, 1968).
4. Local army: it consisted of Arab youths who were capable of getting training in police units or in British units working in Palestine. They formed fighting groups. Each is associated with a local leader. It could do important attacks on colonies alone or in association with AL-Muqadas Jihad Army. They attacked the Zionist colonies, lines of communication and enemy caravans. They were mine laying, making ambushes in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Haifa (Afriki, 1948)

2.2 The Arab Armies

The Arab armies included the armies of the seven countries consisting the Arab Assembly 1948, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen. These armies lacked the freedom of mobility as well as weapons and organization and numbered ability which made it possible for them to stand against Zionist attack. The Jordanian army was led by British officers. The Egyptian and Iraqi armies were subordinated to two parts signed with Britain. The Syrian and Lebanon were recently emerged from the French rule. They were weak. The Saudi and Yemeni were weak and their weapons are limited. Some Arab leaders tried to get modern weapons but they failed (AL-Tall 1959). The Egyptian army entered the battle with two brigades supported by fifteen fighters, and some surveillance planes. The force was supported by another similar force. The Iraqi army consisted of two brigades doubled after the cease fire with a squad of planes. The Syrian army consisted of three fighting brigades. It had an ammunition which was sufficient for one week

¹ Adib Bin Hassan Al-Shishakli: 1909-1964. Born in Hama. Graduated from War School- Damascus. He participated in the liberation battle against the French 1945. He was one of the pioneers in Yarmouk battalion in Salvation army in 1948. He became the chief of staffs of Syria in 1951, then presidency of Syrian Arab Republic 1953. (Zarkali 1969)

² Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni: born in 8/4/1908 in Istanbul. He studied in College of Science-American University-Egypt. He was enrolled in the Arab-Palestinian party in Jerusalem. He participated in the Palestinian revolution 1936-1938. He toured Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Germany and returned to Palestine. He became the head of high Arab corporation, then a leader to the Jihad Muqadas Army. He martyred in Qastel on the 8th, 4, 1948. (Aga, 1982; Zahuiddin 2001).

³ Wadi Abi Swairij Danjoor: it is situated to the west of the town Iraq swaidan towards the west of Faluja untill the meeting of Gaza plain with the sea (Araibi, 1968).

only. The Lebanon army consisted of four brigades, artillery and armors. The Jordanian army was doubled during 1948-1949. The number of British officers increased to 45 officers and 180 non-commissioned officers. The chief of its staff was the British John Bajiot Ghlob. There were five Arab officers only (AL-Arif 1952; AL-Tall 1959). On the 13th of April 1948 the Arab Assembly decided that Arab armies should enter Palestine by the end of the British domain in May 1948 (Abdul Munim 1968) on the 30th of April the chief staffs of Arab army of (Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon) met together to put final military plans for Palestine. The secretary general of Arab Assembly attending the meeting. The leadership of the Arab armies was under king Abdullah of Jordan, Some of Arab states objected king Abdullah's desire strongly, however later on, they yielded to his petition. The British General Ghlob was the chief staff of the Jordanian army. The military orders were issued by the general leader king Abdullah and implemented by the British leader (AL-Tall 1959; Abubaseer ,1971). On the 10th of May 1948 the Arab Assembly held a meeting in order to assign the final resolution in Damascus (Abdul Munim 1968).

3. The attitude of Libya of war

The Zionist movement did some activities in Libya before the end of the Second World War taking the advantage of the political circumstances in the country and the Jewish division attached to the British army. The Libyan were worried about such activities. The Jewish escort appeared together with the Zionist flags and teaching them the Zionist cantos. This led to strikes in 1948 (Abda; Qasmiya, 1975).

In June 1948 demonstrations exploded in Tripoli which 400 Tunisian volunteers were on their way to Palestine. This resulted in many incidents against the Jews. The Libyan Jews were desperate due to a second massacre in 1948 which resulted as that of 1945 in many casualties (Atengeir, 1995). Some of American newspapers criticized the disturbance in the Arab Homeland claiming that such disturbances were made by Arab regions. The differences among Arab countries will stand against the division resolution (Iraqi books and documents House, 1948, No.9). After the end of Second World War and the defeat of Italy, Libya was under the British and French occupation. Therefore it had official role in the Palestinian issue. However Libya participated actively in 1948 war through their fighting in Palestine. They fought side by side with their brothers to save Palestine (Shalof, 1982). The first battalion of volunteers was formed in 1948 of 200 mujahids. The number was doubled to reach 476 (AL-Hui ,2000). On their way to Palestine, they stopped in Cairo to listen to chief of the Arab Assembly who addressed them by saying "you are the nucleus who will go to the honor field to fight against the Zionist enemy in Palestine". The Moroccan Leader Abdul karim Al-khitabi addressed them saying "The Arab Assembly will send numerous mujahedeen from all over the Arab Homeland". He argued them for courage and martyrdom in Palestine (Shalof, 1982). The number of mujahedeen increased till it reached 20,000 volunteers in Al-Nakab battles. They were a mixture of Egyptians, Sudanese, Libyans who were trained in special camps in Marsa Matrouh (AL-Arif 1952).

4. The war status 1948

It is possible to divide it into four stages:

4.1 The initial fighting from tenth-15th of May 1948. The attitude was:

1. The Northern front: In which the Lebanese army entered Palestine towards AL-Malikia village which the Israeli forces occupied on 15th May 1948 and the Lebanese army liberated it on the sixth of May 1948 where a Syrian unit attacked the village and regained it. Thus the route of AL-Hula plain was open.
2. The Eastern front:
 - A. The Syrian sector: Syrian Army occupied Samakh on the southern bank of Tabariya lake. The fall of Samakh within the hands of the Syrian forces led to the departure of Israeli families in the Jordan valley.
 - B. The Iraqi sector: on the 15th of May 1948 an Iraqi brigade attacked Geisher colony and withdrew to Nablus where the Iraqi reinforcements were there.
 - C. The Jordanian sector: The Jordanian army occupied Qalandia and Prophet Jacob and encircled the Jewish quarter in old Jerusalem on the 15th of May. The Jordanian forces took sheikh Jarah as their headquarters. The Jewish quarter surrendered (Abdul Munim ,1968).
3. The Southern front: The Egyptian army entered Palestine in two columns: the first took the coastal route and the second took the inner route. The first attacked Danjoor colony from Rafah and Kfar Darum. They occupied

them and force from the same column entered Gaza. The army marched till Dair Snaid on the 19th of May. Another Egyptian force occupied Majdal and SwaidanIraq. Thus the Egyptian army occupied the route leading to the southern colonies. The first column, after the occupation of Isdood stopped to face a counter attack on 3rd June. The Egyptian army, after reaching a distance of 32 Kms from Tel Aviv, had to withdraw (AL-Tall 1959).

4.2 *The first cease fire 29/5/1948:*

When besieging new Jerusalem Jews called for aid from Tel Aviv. The Jews demonstrated and asked for throwing the army away. Britain addressed the Security Council to stop fighting for four days and it was obliged not to sent the weapons and soldiers to Palestine. Military punishment as well economic punishment would be enforced on the violators. On the 29th of May 1948, as it became clear to the USA that the situation was for the benefit of the Arabs, it pushed the Security Council for cease fire. Thus Britain wanted to assist the Jews to bring more weapons and ammunition (Abu Baseer).

4.3 *The second fighting stage 9-17/7/1948:*

1. The Eastern front:
 - A. The Syrian front. The Israeli forces could regain the bridge which the Syrian forces succeeded in making it. It began to fulfill the plan on the 9th of July but it failed.
 - B. The Iraqi sector: The Iraqi army decided to reinforce its control on the Jenin especially the hills surrounding it. But the Iraqi army decided to withdraw from Majdal Sadiq village. The orders were issued to the Ras AL-Aein regiment to withdraw to Kafr Qasim on the 12th of July 1948.
 - C. The Jordanian sector: The Jordanian army was controlling the Lid and Ramla. The Lid airport was about 10 Kms from Tel Aviv. The Israeli forces made an attack on the Lid on the 9th of July and occupied it and also the Ramla town on the 22th of July. The Palestinian forces did not succeed to occupy AL-Quds (Abdul Munim 1968; AL-Arif 1952).
2. The Southern front: The Israeli forces were trying to open the road towards AL-Nakab and cut the roads of support on the Egyptian forces. They failed and they decided to occupy the Faluja on July 17th, but they failed as well (Ali, 1982).

4.4 *The second cease fire 18/7/1948:*

The United States submitted a project to the United Nations calling for all governments and all those who were concerned to cease fire according to the article 40 of the decrees of the United Nations and to guarantee peace according to the resolution issued by the Security Council on 29th May 1948 to be implemented soon. They issued instructions to the cease fire committee and they agreed. Thus the resolution was issued on 15th of July 1948. The political committee of the Arab Assembly agreed upon it (Abdul Munim 1968).

5. **The Attitude of Libya during the war**

5.1 *Libyan Mujahedeen with Arabian Armies*

1. With the Egyptian army:

The first Libyan battalion took place in Palestine. It was named Omar AL-Mukhtar. It was dispersed on three places: Nussairat camp, Faluja and Wadi Abuswairij Al-Danjoor ⁽¹⁴⁾. The chief commanded Mohammed Najeeb, the Egyptian leader, sent a force of volunteers (210) armed persons under the leadership of the Captain Suroor Rustam, mainly Libyans and Egyptians. They succeeded to occupy Iraq swaidan. On the 5th of May and they occupied the police center there on the 12th May. The Jews tried to occupy this center before the entry of the Egyptian army. They attacked the center but the volunteers (Egyptians, Libyans and

⁴ Ahmed Mohammed Abdulaziz born in 1907 in Khartoom, graduated from the war school in Cairo 1928, he joined the civilians and participated in the battles of Palestine. He was an active warrior. He martyred in Faluja erroneously from the Egyptian camp. He was buried in Gaza. He had an essay entitled "Policy and war" (Al-Zarkali, 1969).

Palestinian) stood against the attack. They got two armored vehicles, and a number of rifles and killed 100 Jews including their leader (AL-Arif, 1952). On the 21th May 1948 the leader Ahmed Abdulaziz ⁽¹⁵⁾ reached the Iraq swaidan. He became the leader of Fidayeen which included Omar Al-Mukhtar battalion of Libya. This leader distributed the battalion into companies then to squads then to groups. The Mujahedeen moved to Bear AL-Saba. The army attacked the Israeli colonists at the suburbs of the town and succeeded to regain the flocks of sheep stole by the Israeli from the Arab territories. The Mujahedeen succeeded in killing 13 of the Jews in a quick and sudden battle with the enemy without any loss on their part. This led the chief of the town to slaughter the sheep on this occasion. (Shalof, 1985)

As regards the third Libyan battalion it consisted of Libyan Mujahedeen who were transferred from Marsa Matrouh in the same route taken by Omar AL-Mukhtar battalion and reached Majdal. They camped in Barbara. It had many battles against the Israeli forces taking the support of the fourth Egyptian battalion under the leadership of the brigadier Mohammed Najeeb (The president of Egypt later on). The commander of the battalion Ahmed Attiya urged them never to hand their weapons during the cease fire. This battalion was badly armed with old weapons as the Egyptian army (Farooq army) (Shalof 1985). These who followed this subject found out that eight officers together with a precious vice minister were accused of bad weapons and ammunition. They were under investigation (Iraqi books and documents house,1948,No.37).

2. The second Libyan battalion and the Syrian army: the second Libyan battalion was transferred via a Greek ship Sizostrips from Marsa Matrouh towards Beirut according to the will of the Arab Assembly. They were transferred from Beirut to Syria. It took from Qatna as a base for it and, it was mixed together with the Syrian forces and thereafter come to be known as the ninth battalion of Morocco (Shalof, 1985). They participated with the 14th battalion under the leadership of Omer AL-Qabani who was wounded during one of the battles (Araibi, 1968). These volunteers suffered a lot during their trip to Egypt till they reached Syria. 100 volunteers entered Gaza (Palestinian, Libyan, Jordanian, Egyptian and Syrian) who were in Qatna camp under the leadership of Abdulhaq Al-Gazawi. They took Gaza airport as their headquarters Other 100 volunteers (Libyan, Palestinian, Syrian and Jordanian) with the colonel Ahid Al-sakhin (Al-Arif, 1952). Among the Arab Libyan who were under Syrian leadership were Ali Sultan ⁽¹⁶⁾, Ayaad AL-Muthbil ⁽¹⁷⁾, Musbah AL-Ma'adini ⁽¹⁸⁾. They got decorations of excellency due to their heroic attitude ⁽¹⁹⁾.
3. The Libyan Mujahedeen with the Iraqi army:
The Arab leadership for the armies considered the Iraqi forces as forces of tactics in order to make any circumlocution: the rightwing the Lebanese and the Syrian armies together with the Salvation army, the leftwing consists of the Egyptian army Saudi and Jordanian. Its ultimate goal is Tel Aviv (Iraqi books and documents house,1948 No.16). After the stopping of fighting with the Israeli forces, the situation resulted in a resentment, some of them decided to join another Arab army in order to continue fighting since the aim was the same: liberation of Palestine. Tens of Libyan fighter joined the Iraqi army under the leadership of the chief corporal Faraj bu dra'a ⁽¹¹⁰⁾, joined the Iraqi army near Tulkaram and Netanya and Hafeera. The group includes: Mustafa AL-sanfar ⁽¹¹¹⁾, Mohammed Abid AL-nabbi B'aew ⁽¹¹²⁾, Qais AbuThra'a ⁽¹¹³⁾, Fathalla AL-

⁵ Ali Sultan, born in Bengazi 1922, illiterate- lived in Bengazi participated in the battles of Khiyam, Quneitra, Bin Yas, Maitroon and Bintjubail, joined the army 1948 in Syria (AL-Jiboo. File13,2000).

⁶ Ayaad AL-Mithbil, born in Shihat 1927, intermediate level of schooling, Bengazi, western Waibat, participated in the battles of Marijyou, Qunaitra, Jabal Ali and Golan (AL-Jibbo, File52, 2000).

⁷ Misbah Al-Ma'adini, born in Misrata 1908, lived in Bengazi, participated in the battles of Bi'r Al-Saba', Mashlooz, (Al-Jibbo, File16, 2000).

⁸ Captain Jum'a Mohammed Kirroget awarded the decoration of excellency of Palestine 1948 and Al-Ikhlās, the silver star, and the Syrian army decorations (The Documents of the Mujahedeen Libyans ,1972).

⁹ Faraj bu dra'a. Born in Bengazi , 1915, lived in Bengazi. Participated in the battles Dair AL-Balah, Ramat Raheel, Tel Hnaifish (Jibbo, File31, 2000).

¹⁰ Mustafa AL-Sanfar. Born in Bengazi, 1930, English and Italian languages. Lived in Bengazi. Volunteered in 1948. Participated in the battles: Dair AL-Balah, Shlooz, Bier AL-Saba'a (Jibbo, File 116, 2000).

¹¹ Mohammed Abdulnabbi Ba'ew. Born in Bengazi 1921. Intermediate school. Lived in Bengazi. Volunteered in 1948 from Bangazi. Participated in the battles of Bait Laham, Ramat Raheel, Dair AL-Balah (AL-Jibbo, File 9,2000).

¹² Qais Abu Thra'a. Born in Bengazi 1927, illiterate, lived in Bengazi. Participated in the battles of Iraq swaidan. Date of joining: 11/10/1947 (AL-Jibbo, File 30,2000).

¹³ Fathalla AL-barrani. Born in Bengazi 1921, illiterate. Participated in Iraq swaidan, Bir AL-Saba', Bait Laham, Dair Al-Balah. (Al-Jibbo, File 274, 2000).

Barrani ⁽¹¹⁴⁾, Fathi Taloba, Abdulfatah Bashtoon ⁽¹¹⁵⁾, Faraj Al-Manuti, Masoad Farnar AL-Zawi, Salim AL-Zaiti together with one Mujahid from Tunis Bin Mahdiya. These volunteers joined AL-Karmal in AL-Seela castle. They got trained there- Iraqi training. They are under the Iraqi commander Mustafa Abdulqadir. They participated in Tal-Hinafish. Some Arab volunteers participated with them. Two of the Libyan Mujahedeen were wounded: Faraj AL-Minuti and Mustafa AL-Sinfar. (Shalof 1985).

5.2 The battles which the Libyan Mujahedeen participated:

1. Abusweirij AL-Danjoor: Omar AL-Mukhtar battalion participated in the first battle against the Israeli army. Information received by the Libyan indicated that seven Israeli armored vehicles would pass through AL-Danjoor route to the palace close to Faluja on the end of May 1948. The battalion was distributed in the valley in the exact time of the passing of the army. They were armed with guns. When the armored vehicles reached the valley, the Libyan Mujahedeen attacked them. They got the seven armored vehicles killed four Israelis and took two as captives. They were delivered to the Egyptian army at the presence of captain Mohammed Suroor Rustum. This is the first victory in the battles. (Shalof, 1982).
2. Qabat Raheel Battle: On the 5th August 1948 the Libyan Mujahedeen took the spot of Shurfaot village against the Israeli army. The guard was done in rotation day and night when the battalion reached Bait Laham a battle took place there lasted for two hours where the Mujahedeen stood in their sites. The result was a loss of 33 killed from the enemy, the capture of various light weapons, guns, and pistols. The Mujahedeen lost 15 martyred and 12 wounded (Shalof 1982).
3. Ramat Raheel battle: The Libyan mujahedeen participated in Ramat Raheel ⁽¹¹⁶⁾ battle together with the other Palestinian volunteers who belonged to the sacred Jihad, Egyptian volunteers, Jordanian army. Ranan, the commander in chief of the Jewish Argon forces in his report mentioned to Manahem Beghen that the battle of Ramat Raheel which started on 14th May was a serious battle in which the Arabs used armoured vehicles got from the Israeli forces in Kfar Aseyan (The armoured vehicles in Danjoor valley) and a tank from the Arab army gave support to the militants. The company of Haganah and Irgon together with the Shtern in which the number of its men was about 400 under the leadership of Mosheah Danyal. The mujahedeen were able to kill all the Jews and control part of the colony. The Jewish forces fell either killed, wounded or captives including the leader. When the Libyan battalion arrived the battle had already started in Ramat Raheel. The Palestinian attacked it several times under the leadership of Mohammed Abu Diya who fell martyred. The leader Ahmed Abdulaziz decided to attack it. He chose three Libyan mujahedeen to make surveillance and after delivering the information the order was issued to the artillery of the Fidayeen to occupy the colony. The Libyan mujahedeen had to attack the main entrance from Bait Laham, the second entrance was taken by the Egyptians and the third entrance was the share of the jihad army supported by a company from the Jordanian army. Though the enemy's resistance from the floors of the building, the second building was occupied by the Arab mujahedeen (Shalof 1985).

¹⁴ Abdulfatah Bashtoon. Born in Bengazi 1928, official in the oil establishment. Lived in Bengazi. Participated Bir AL-Saba', Tall Hanifish, AL-Majdal, Ramate Raheel. 1/1/1948.(AL-Jibbo, File 2, 2000).

¹⁵ Ramat Raheel, a Jewish colony situated between Jerusalem and Bait Laham. It consists of two buildings of three floors like fortress especially prepared for defense against any attack. It consists of cells and tunnel under ground (Shalof 1985).

¹⁶The names of Libyan, Egyptian, Sudanese, Palestinian, Syrian and Yamani martyrs were engraved on a monument in the Raheel and the Libyan names were:

Name	Place of martyring	Date	Notes
Ibrahim Zoobi	Ramat Raheel	25-5-1948	
Al-Bashir AL-Najih	Ramat Raheel	26-5-1948	Lieutenant
Saleh AL-Qoul	Ramat Raheel	28-5-1948	
Abdulhameed AL-Haj Meylad	Ramat Raheel	29-5-1948	
Abdullah Abu Raheem	Ramat Raheel	28-5-1948	Lieutenant
Abdullah Mohammed	Ramat Raheel	28-5-1948	
Abdullah Awedh	Southern of Jerusalem	5/1948	

The result of this battle was ten Libyan were killed ⁽¹¹⁷⁾ and 30 wounded and nine Egyptian were killed, from the Syrians and Jordanians lost the same number (Araibi 1968), after the liberation of the colony the Jordanian soldiers withdrew according to an order issued by their leadership (Murad, 1972). The leader Ahmed Abdulaziz called and informed the resolution of the superior Arab leadership to withdraw from Ramat Raheel beyond the line agreed upon with the international monitors. The withdraws was on the 30th of May 1948. The Libyan mujahedeen withdrew carrying two martyrs and a number of wounded (Araibi, 1968). The resolution of withdraws without any justifications were doubtful and it reached to the degree of accusing the Arab leadership of treason (Murad, 1972).

4. Jabal Al-Mukkabir Battle: The leadership of the light forces issued an order to the Libyan mujahedeen in the Shurfat village to move to the Sur Baher to support the Palestinian army. It had become clear later on that the Zionists occupied AL-Mukkabir mount and the fighters withdrew from it under the shelling of the enemy. After asking for the help of the Egyptian artillery, the Arab mujahedeen made a counter attack to regain the Mukkabir after killing 40 of the Jews against a number of martyrs and two Libyans and some other were wounded. (Shalof, 1985).

5.3 Withdrawal from Palestine and coming back to Libya

The number of the Jewish army increased between 15th May to 15th October 1948 and converted from defense to attack and began their ten blows attacks. This resulted in the encirclement of the Egyptian battalion in Faluja and the withdrawals of the forces from Asdood and Majdal, the surrender of Bir Al-saba' and the detachment of the armies of Hebron – Bait Laham (Aswad, 1981). Due to this situation the Libyans of Omar Al-Mukhtar requested that they were ready to participate in Fidayeen missions in the village of Malha, Saya, Ain Karim. Request was rejected due to the armistice which was obligatory (AL-Tall,1959). In That February 1949 the Libyan mujahedeen were informed that the Egyptian army left Faluja under the supervision of the international monitors which meant that their departure of Palestine would be imminent. The Libyan mujahedeen collected in Omar AL-Mukhtar battalion and informed that they would withdraw under the supervision of the international monitors towards ALArish. After reaching the Heitscup camps, a delegate from the Arab Assembly met them headed by the Secretary General Abdulrahman Azzam who thanked them. He pointed out that Omar Al-Mukhtar was the first battalion which got the honor of participation in the battle of Palestine. It made many victories and gave a lot of martyrs. They were given the rewards and testimonies ⁽¹¹⁸⁾ being the first fighters in Palestine for the year 1948-1949. The orders were issued that they should be back to Libya (Shalof, 1958).

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