

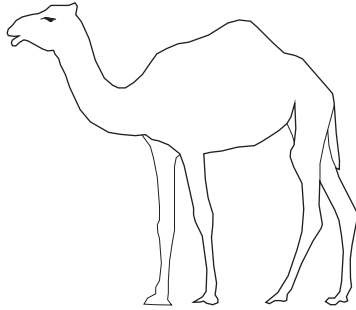


*What Isn't There*

*village histories from:*

**All That Remains: The Palestinian Villages Occupied And Depopulated**

**By Israel In 1948.** by Walid Khalidi (Beirut: The Institute For Palestine Studies, 1992.)



### CAMEL

*We were sorry for the camels. Although we often cursed them, when they were to be taken away from us, we found that we had become quite attached to our ugly, ungainly mounts. The Arabs would not treat them as kindly as we had done, and we reckoned they were entitled to a long spell in country that suited them better than the rough and slippery mountain tracks of Palestine.*

## AL HARAM

*Location: PGR: 131177*

*Distance from Jaffa (km): 16*

*Average elevation (meters): 25*

*Population: 1931: 333 / 1944-45: 880 (520 Arabs, 360 Jews)*

### Al Haram Before 1948

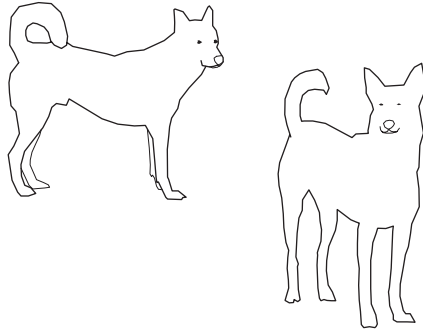
The village was situated on a low sandstone hill on the central coastal plain, overlooking the Mediterranean seashore. Built around the shrine of al-Hasan ibn ‘Ali (d. A.D. 1081), a descent of the second Muslim caliph ‘Umar ibn al-Khattab, the village also was known as Sayyiduna ‘Ali (“our lord ‘Ali”). Traditionally, people from all over Palestine came to the shrine during the summer to pray, perform rituals, and collect souvenirs. Al-Haram’s population was predominantly Muslim. The village houses were made of stone or adobe brick and were built close together. An elementary school, founded in 1921, had an enrollment of sixty-eight students by the mid-1940s. Agriculture was the mainstay of the economy; in 1944/45, 136 dunums of village land were devoted to citrus and bananas and 2,096 dunums were allocated to cereals; 257 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards. In addition to agriculture, the residents engaged in fishing. P.241

### Occupation and Depopulation

Al-Haram was probably seized by Zionist troops some time before the end of the British Mandate on 15 May 1948. By this time, Zionist forces were in control of the whole coastal area between Haifa and Tel Aviv (see Abu Kishk, Jaffa District). P.241

### February 2013

*The call to prayer still brought them to the mosque, even though they didn’t live there anymore.*



#### CANAANI DOG

*A mutt is what the Canaan dog was to most observers until an Austrian biologist came to Palestine in the 1930s and started looking for dogs that could serve the nascent Jewish defense forces. Rudolphina Menzel identified them as a native breed that tolerated the climate well and named them after the biblical Land of Canaan.*

## AL NABI RUBIN

*Location: PGR: 1241448*

*Distance from al-Ramla (km): 14.5*

*Average elevation (meters): less than 25*

*Population: 1931: n.a / 1944-45: 1,420*

### **Al Nabi Before 1948**

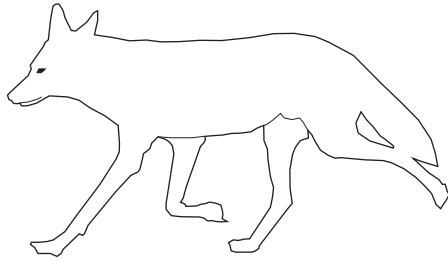
The village was located on the south bank of the Rubin River, 3 km away from the Mediterranean. For Palestinians al-Nabi Rubin had great significance because it was the site of a shrine for al-Nabi (the prophet) Rubin, who was honored with an annual mawsim (pilgrimage season), during which Islamic and popular celebrations were held. The village's land area, most of which was covered by sand dunes, was the second largest in the district after that of Yibna, and was designated as an Islamic waqf (pious endowment). Shops as well as a movie theatre were built in the neighborhood of the shrine. Water was provided by wells and springs. The population of al-Nabi Rubin was predominantly Muslim. The villagers worked in agriculture and animal husbandry; they also catered to the visitors during the mawsim. They cultivated mostly grain, followed by citrus and other fruits, such as figs and grapes. Eucalyptus and chinaberry trees grew along the river bank and covered large portions of village land. P.403

### **Occupation and Depopulation**

Circumstantial evidence indicates that the village was occupied during the second stage of the Israeli army's Operation Barak. Israeli historian Benny Morris reports that the villages were expelled on 1 June 1948, three days before the villagers so nearby Yibna were forced to leave their homes. The expulsions were in keeping with the practice of the Giv'ati Brigade under its commander Shim'on Avidan and in accordance with Haganah's Plan Dalet. [M:xvii; see M:127] P.403April [see M:118]

### **February 2013**

*They were on weekend picnic nearby and wandered over to look at the ruins, but they didn't know what they were.*



#### GOLDEN JACKAL

*Although similar to a small grey wolf, the golden jackal is distinguished by its lighter tread, its more slender build, its sharper muzzle and its shorter tail. Its winter fur also differs from the wolf's by its more fulvous-reddish colour. Some authors have put forth that because of the general scarcity and elusiveness of foxes in Israel, the author of the Book of Judges may have actually been describing the much more common golden jackals when narrating how Samson tied torches to the tails of 300 foxes to make them destroy the vineyards of the Philistines*

## KAFR BIR'IM

*Location: PGR: 189272*

*Distance from Safad (km): 11.5*

*Average elevation (meters): 750*

*Population: 1931: 554 / 1944-45: 710*

### **Kafr Bir'im Before 1948**

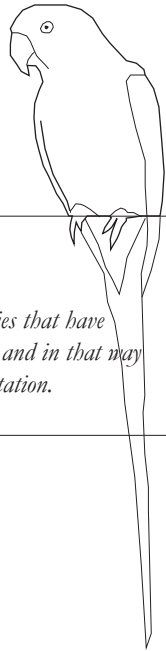
The village stood on a rocky hill only a little higher than the surrounding area, and faced north and west. A secondary road linked it to a number of villages in the west and east and led to the coastal highway and the highway to Safad. The village's name may have been a corruption of the name of the Canaanite town of Periya'm. In the late nineteenth century, Kafr Bir'im was described as a stone-built village, surrounded by gardens, olive trees, and vineyards. The population was estimated to be between 300 and 500. [SWP (1881) I:198] Agriculture, irrigated from the abundant springs, was the primary occupation of the villagers, who were especially active in olive and fruit cultivation. In 1944/45 a total of 3,718 dunums was allocated to cereals and 1,101 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards. Kafr Bir'im was an archaeological site that contained the remains of olive presses, a synagogue, tombs, and cisterns. P460

### **Occupation and Depopulation**

Kafr Bir'im surrendered in early November 1948, when Galilee fell to Israeli forces during Operation Hiram (see 'Arab al-Samniyya, Acre District). Its residents, along with those of the other border villages, were "temporarily" expelled for "security reasons". Some of those expelled across the border were later allowed to return to Israel, but not to their village. Others found hiding in caves near the village were transported to the village of Jish (3 km to the southeast) and settled in its previously emptied houses. The Israeli Supreme Court ruled in July 1952 that there was no reason to prevent their return. The army, however, leveled the village in 1953. P461

### **February 2013**

*She had trouble opening the door to the church, although her family had always held the keys.*



#### RINGNECKED PARROT

*This non-migrating species is one of few parrot species that have successfully adapted to living in 'disturbed habitats', and in that way withstood the onslaught of urbanisation and deforestation.*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose-ringed\\_Parakeet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rose-ringed_Parakeet)

## AL ULMANIYYA

*Location: PGR: 205275*

*Distance from Safad (km): 14.5*

*Average elevation (meters): 75*

*Population: 1931: 432 (includes 'Arab al-Zubayd) / 1944-45: 260*

### Al 'Ulmaniyya Before 1948

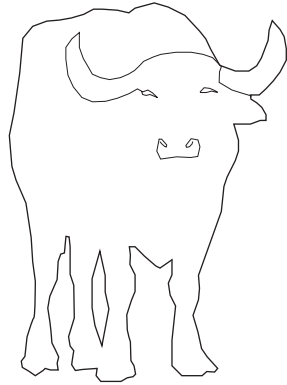
The village was located in the southwestern part of the al-Hula Plain, near the western shore of Lake al-Hula. A secondary road linked it to a highway leading to Safad. In 1596, al 'Ulmaniyya was a village in the nahiya of Jira (liwa' of Safad) with a population of fifty-five. It paid taxes on a number of crops, including wheat and barley. Produce and property such as goats, beehives, water buffalos, and orchards were also taxed. [Hut. And Abd.: 178] In modern times al 'Ulmaniyya was oriented north-to-south. The population of al-'Ulmaniyya was predominantly Muslim. Agriculture, especially grain cultivation, was the mainstay of the economy. The villagers also raised livestock. There were traces of earlier habitation in the village, and to the northwest were artificial caves that had been cut into the rock. P.502

### Occupation and Depopulation

Israeli historian Benny Morris provides two accounts of the depopulation of al 'Ulmaniyya. The first states that the villagers left in the wake of a Haganah "retaliatory strike" (actually a massacre) on the nearby village of al-Husayniyya on 18 January 1948. The other account, based on Israeli military intelligence, states that they evacuated their village three month later, on 20 April, just after the beginning of Operation Yiftach. This is said to have occurred either in response to a direct attack or to the threat of an attack. The two reports are not necessarily incompatible, however, and may imply that the first evacuation was partial or temporary. But the second displacement was most likely final, since practically the whole of eastern Galilee was depopulated during Operation Yiftach. [M:56, 123-24]. P.502

### February 2013

*The orchards were ordered in rows.*



#### WATER BUFFALO

*The wealth of Arabic toponymy is astounding in its beauty, its sensitivity to the landscape, and its delicacy of observation and choice of images. Its metaphors have a poetic quality...Perusal of a list of the lost names allows one a glimpse at the world and the culture of the Arab inhabitants of the land. These names too can be divided into a number of categories. In one we have the names describing the topographical and physical characteristics of the sites: Jabal Muntar (Lookout Mountain); Jabal Tawil (Long Mountain) Khirbet Ruseis (Ruin of the Pebble)...A third category, animal names, encompasses hundreds...The animal in these names include lion, panther, bear, water buffalo, wolf, fox, hyena...*

Meron Benvenisti, Sacred Landscape: Buried History of the Holy Land Since 1948.

(Berkeley: University of California Press) 2000. P. 49-50.

## JAMMASIN AL GHARBI

*Location: PGR: 13116*

*Distance from Jaffa (km): 6.5*

*Average elevation (meters): 50*

*Population: 1931: 974 (971 Arabs, 3 Jews) / 1944-45: 1,040*

### **Jammasin Al Gharbi Before 1948**

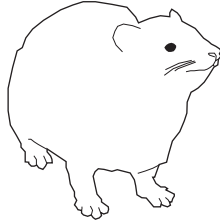
The village was situated 2.5 km from the seashore on the central coastal plain and was bordered by marshlands. (...) By the eighteenth century the people of Jammasin, all of whom were Muslims, had settled in the area. A typical village abode was a khus (a conical or pyramidal hut made of tree logs and branches [Sirhan 1989:154]), although some houses were built of adobe brick. (...)The children attended school in the village of al-Shaykh Muwannis. The villagers earned their living primarily by raising buffalos, marketing their meat and milk in Jaffa, and using the beasts as draft animals. In 1944/45 a total of 202 dunums was devoted to citrus and bananas and 173 dunums were allocated to cereals; 151 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards. P.244

### **Occupation and Depopulation**

Al-Jammasin al-Gharbi was probably taken by Zionist troops some time before the end of the British Mandate on 15 May 1948. By this time. Zionist forces were in control of the whole coastal area between Haifa and Tel Aviv (see Abu Kishk and al-Mas'udiyya, Jaffa District). P.244

### **February 2013**

*He said he didn't want us to film there but then invited us in to discuss the problems with the condo developers.*



#### ROCK HYRAX

*We paused at the head of the valley for a rest and a smoke, and I examined the rocks ahead with my field-glasses for any signs of life. But the valley seemed lifeless and deserted; the only sounds were the self-important and rather ridiculous tinkle of the diminutive stream, and the wind and the grass moving together with a stealthy sibilant whisper. [...] I trained my field-glasses on the big huddle of rocks they indicated, but it was some seconds before I saw the hyrax. He was squatting on a ledge of rock, surveying the valley with a haughty expression on his face. He was about the size of a large rabbit, but with short, thick legs and a rather blunt, lion-like face. His ears were small and neat, and he appeared to have no tail at all.*

## AL TABIGHA

*Location: PGR: 201252*

*Distance from Tiberias (km): 9*

*Average elevation (meters): -200 (below sea level)*

*Population: 1931: 245 (includes Khan al-Minya) / 1944-45: 330*

### **Al Tabigha Before 1948**

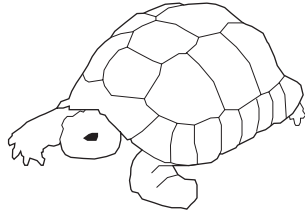
The village of Al Tabigha was situated on flat terrain on the northwestern shore of Lake Tiberias. There were many springs in and near the village; al Tabigha was identified with the site of the classical village of Heptapegon (whose Greek name meant “the seven springs”). Although there was some fishing, agriculture was the mainstay of economic life. Olive trees were planted in the northern part of the land, separated from the site by a small wooded area, and banana groves occupied seven dunums. Palm trees also grew south of the village. In 1944/45, a total of 2,728 dunums were allotted to cereals, and 287 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards.

### **Occupation and Depopulation**

Al Tabigha was occupied, its inhabitants expelled, and its houses partially destroyed, on or shortly after 4 May 1948. This occurred during Operation Broom (Matate), which had been designed by the Palmach to “sweep” Arabs out of the area in the Jordan Valley east of Safad. The orders given to company commanders stated that this village and two others should be attacked, “their inhabitants expelled and the[ir] houses blown up.” of heavy Jewish settlement and it was imperative to “clear’ it of its Arab inhabitants by 15 May 1948. The village probably suffered the same fate as nearby Tabsur, whose remaining villager were expelled by the Haganah on 3 April [see M:118]

### **February 2013**

*They had come to see the place where Jesus fed the multitudes with 5 loaves and 2 fish.*



#### SPUR-THIGHED TORTOISE

*The males follow the females with great interest, encircling them, biting them in the limbs, ramming them, and trying to mount them. During copulation, the male opens his mouth, showing his red tongue and making squeaking sounds. One or two days before egg-laying, the female takes on an aggressive, dominant behavior, mounting another animal as for copulation and making the same squeaking sound the male produces during copulation. The purpose for this behavior is to produce respect in the tortoise community, so that the female will not be disturbed by the others during egg laying.*

## QAQUN

*Location: PGR: 149196*

*Distance from Tulkarm (km): 6*

*Average elevation (meters): 25*

*Population: 1931: 1,367 / 1944-45: 1,970*

### Qaqun Before 1948

The village stood on a hill overlooking the Qaqun Plain. Qaqun was considered an important historical site that included a fortress built by the Crusaders. (...) An elementary school for boys was established in the village during the British Mandate. Agriculture was based on watermelons, vegetables (such as cucumbers), olives, citrus, and grain. In 1944/45 a total of 713 dunums was devoted to citrus and bananas and 34,376 dunums were allocated to cereals; 210 additional dunums were irrigated or used for orchards, of which 80 dunums were planted with olive trees. The remains of the Crusader/Mamluk fortress and the Mamluk mosque, as well as architectural fragments of other structures, could be seen in the village. P.559

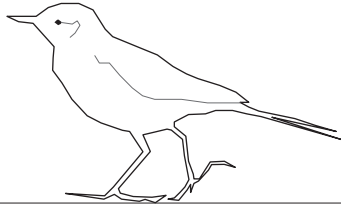
### Occupation and Depopulation

Qaqun was the victim of a “hit-and-run” raid carried out by the Irgun Zvai Lemi on 6 March 1948, according to the History of the Haganah. Haganah intelligence officers...agreed to “expel or subdue” Qaqun and a handful of other villages on the coastal plain...But it appears that this plan was not implemented immediately (...) The History of the War of Independence states that the village was attacked on the night of 4-5 June 1948, mainly by the Third Battalion of the Alexandroni Brigade. (...) The New York Times called the battle “one of the bloodiest to date” (...) skirmishes continued around Qaqun for several days. [M:119; NYT:6/6/48, 7/6/48, 8/6/48; T: 182-83] P.559-560

### February 2013

*Eitan was the only one we met that considered the loss.*





#### CITRINE WAGTAIL

*Of the still more extensive genus of Wagtails or Warblers, Palestine offers an interesting collection; but none of them occur with much frequency. Most readers will remember that there is little allusion in Scripture to the singing of birds.*

## KHIRBET AL ZABABIDA

*Location: PGR: 134184*

*Distance from Tulkarm (km): 20*

*Average elevation (meters): 25*

*Population: 1931: n.a / 1944-45: n.a*

### **Khirbet al-Zababida Before 1948**

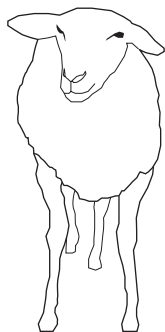
The village stood on a low hill that was 1km from the seashore. It overlooked the Wadi al Faliq Basin, to the north, and an artificial canal, to the east, that flowed in a north-south direction and that was designed to drain the nearby marshland. A wide expanse of sand dunes bordered it on the west and beyond it lay the coast. A secondary road linked Khirbet al Zababida to the town of Qalqilya to the southeast. In 1944/45 a total of 344 dunams of village land was devoted to citrus and bananas and 3,839 dunams were allocated to cereals; 215 additional dunams were irrigated or used for orchards.

### **Occupation and Depopulation**

The village was located in a region that was the focus of Zionist attacks in the early weeks of the war. The coastal stretch north of Tel Aviv was an area of heavy Jewish settlement and it was imperative to “clear” it of its Arab inhabitants by 15 May 1948. The village probably suffered the same fate as nearby Tabsur, whose remaining villager were expelled by the Haganah on 3 April [see M:118]

### **February 2013**

*He stopped throwing his knives and we were invited in to meet the rest of the circus performers.*



## SHEEP

*Only the orange peel is ours.  
Behind me was the desert.  
I saw you on briar-covered mountains;  
You were a shepherdess without sheep,  
Pursued among the ruins.  
You were my garden  
When I was away from home.  
I would knock on the door, my heart,  
For on my heart  
The doors and windows, cement and stones are laid.*

# AL SHAJARA

*Location: PGR: 187239*

*Distance from Tiberias (km): 14*

*Average elevation (meters): 250*

*Population: 1931: 584 / 1944-45: 770*

## Al Shajara Before 1948

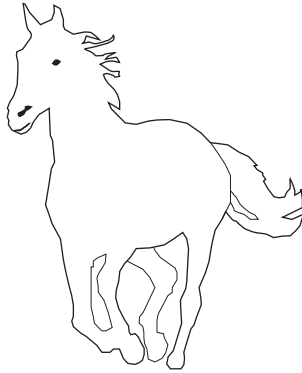
The village was located on the eastern slope of a moderately elevated hill. (...) Al Shajara was the fourth largest village in the Tiberias district in terms of area. The majority of its houses were clustered together in the northeastern part of the site, with most of the others scattered throughout the western part. Woodlands and fields of wild grass covered the foothills facing the village in the south. Of the 770 people in al-Shajara, 720 were Muslims and 50 were Christians. The village had an elementary school that was established during the British Mandate. The villagers relied on agriculture for their living. In 1944/45 they allocated a total of 2,102 dunums to cereals; 544 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards. P.540-41

## Occupation and Depopulation

In mid-February 1948, as a battle flared between Arab and Haganah forces in the Baysan Valley, the Haganah forces carried out a diversionary attack on al-Shajara. (...) The village was captured on 6 May 1948 in the aftermath of the fall of Tiberias as a prelude to the attack on Baysan. The attack was part of a Haganah effort to consolidate its hold on lower Galilee before 15 May. An unspecified number of villagers were killed during the attack; the Haganah account states that the village's "inhabitants fled leaving their dead behind." The battle lasted a whole day, but by nightfall, al-Shajara remained in the hands of Haganah forces, according to the History of the Haganah [NYT:7/5/48; S:1419, 1584]. P.541

## February 2013

*They told us adopted their son from Guatamala and the girls were conceived in vitro with a surrogate in India.*



## HORSE

*He felt for the house key as if he was touching  
His limbs, and was comforted. And he said to the boy,  
As they crossed a fence of thorns:  
My son, remember! In this place the English crucified  
Your father on the thorns of a cactus for two nights,  
And he confessed to nothing. You will grow older, O  
My son, and you will tell the tale to those who inherit the rifles,  
The tale of blood on steel.*

*-Why have you left the horse alone?  
-To keep the house company, my son,  
For houses die when their inhabitants are gone.*

## SARAFAND AL KHARAB

*Location:* PGR: 131149

*Distance from al-Ramla (km):* 7

*Average elevation (meters):* 50

*Population: 1931: 974 (971 Arabs, 3 Jews) / 1944-45: 1,040*

### **Sarafand al Kharab Before 1948**

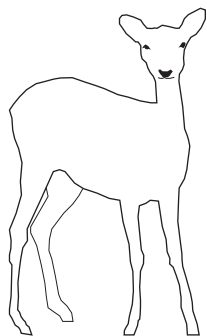
The village stood on a flat spot in the middle of the coastal plain. The village may have acquired the name Sarafand al-Kharab (Sarafand of the ruins) in the early nineteenth century. (...) During the late 1920s Sarafand al-Kharab was briefly reduced to ruins once again, after British forces burned it. After some time, however, the village recovered and was rebuilt. There were 110 Christians among the 1,040 villagers; the rest were Muslims. In 1920 the villagers built their own school... A girls' school was also established in 1945 and had 46 students in that year. Citrus fruits constituted the principal crop; in 1944/45 a total of 3,148 dunums was devoted to citrus and bananas and 268 dunums allocated to cereals; 49 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards. P.413

### **Occupation and Depopulation**

Israeli historian Benny Morris indicates that the villagers, fearing a Jewish attack, fled on 20 April 1948. An additional factor that prompted the villagers to leave was the Giv'ati Brigade's Operation Nachson (see Bayt Naqquba, Jerusalem District) on 9 April. But the village may not have come under Israeli occupation until mid-May (around the same time as its sister village of Sarafand al'Amar and neighboring Bir Salim were occupied). [M:xvii; NYT:13/4/48; see M: 126-127] P.413

### **February 2013**

*The soldier was coming home and stopped to talk to us and the two boys who were playing soccer. After, the boys took us to the field where the village was.*



#### PERSIAN FALLOW DEER

*The Deer of Syria are born on the highest mountains, on Amanus, on Libanus, and on Carmel. And when they want to cross the sea the herd goes down to the beaches and waits until the wind drops; and as soon as they observe that there is a favourable and gentle breeze, then they brave the open sea. And they swim in single file, holding on to one another, the ones behind supporting their chins on the rumps of those in front [...see below] takes the last place in the line, and resting itself upon the one next in front of it in the whole troop, brings up the rear.*

Aelian, *On the Characteristics of Animals*, trs. A. F. Scholfield, 5:56, Loeb Classical Library, Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1958, vol. 1, pp. 357-9 (and it is translated, obviously, from the Greek original, and I have kept the funny capitalization of 'Deer'.)

## DAYR AL HAWA

*Location:* PGR: 153128

*Distance from Jerusalem (km):* 18.5

*Average elevation (meters):* 650

*Population:* 1931: 47 [D 8/2:181] / 1944-45: 60

### Dayr al Hawa Before 1948

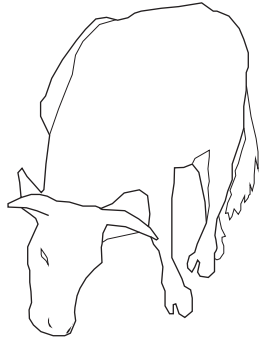
The village stood on a high mountain top, overlooking wide expanses of land to the west, north, and south. A secondary road linked it to another secondary road that led to Bethlehem. The village had a rectangular layout, with new construction extending in a northwest-southeast direction, in conformity with the topography of the land. Its houses were built of mud and stone and were crowded together, separated only by narrow alleys. Most of its agricultural lands were mountainous, except for the valley floors where grain was planted. Fruit trees, which yielded apples, olives, figs, and almonds, were planted on the slopes. All of these crops were rainfed. Dayr al-Hawa was built on an archaeological site. Some of the building stones and columns from the site had been used to construct the village houses. P.285

### Occupation and Depopulation

Dayr al-Hawa was one of the villages to be captured at the beginning of Operation ha-Har toward the end of the second truce of the war. It was occupied on the night of 18-19 October 1948 (or perhaps the following night) by the Fourth Battalion of the Har-el Brigade. No mention is made of the fate of the civilian population, but Israeli historian Benny Morris states that the commander of the operation, Yigal Allon, probably made it clear to his officers that no civilian communities should remain in the area captured during the operation. [M:xviii; T:311; see M:219] P.286

### February 2013

*The deer were somewhere nearby and he was trying to track them with a radio.*



### COW

*How many horses have they got in this town? How many young men? Nobody knows! They haven't bothered to count 'em! That's peace for you! I've been in places where they haven't had a war for seventy years and you know what? The people haven't even been given names! They don't know who they are! It takes a war to fix that. In a war, everyone registers, everyone's name's on a list. Their shoes are stacked, their corn's in the bag, you count it all up – cattle, men, et cetera – and you take it away!*

## WADI AL-HAMAM

*Location: PGR: 196248*

*Distance from Tiberias (km): 5.5*

*Average elevation (meters): 98*

*Population: 1931: n.a. / 1944-45: n.a*

### Wadi al-Hamam Before 1948

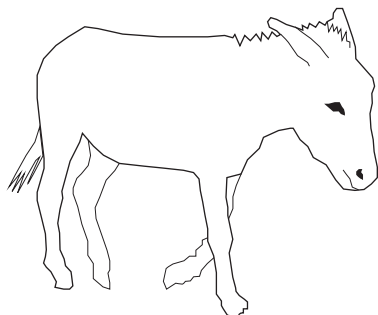
The village was located on the northern bank of a wadi that bore the same name: Wadi al-Hamam (“Valley of the Pigeons”). It was about 3 km west of the shore of Lake Tiberias. A dirt path linked it to a highway leading to the village of al-Majdal on the lake. A small fort, known as Qal’at al-Hamam or Qal’at ibn Ma’ni, was nearby. The English traveler Richard Pococke visited the wadi in 1737 [Pococke (1945) II:66-69], as did Burckhardt almost a century later. [Burckhardt 1822:320] Both reported seeing the fort but made no mention of a village. According to later sources, however, the Bedouin of the area had settled near the wadi.

### Occupation and Depopulation

n.a.

### February 2013

*The boys were on Tiyul and proud to tell us the names of the local flora and fauna.*



### DONKEY

*You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour. Deuteronomy 5:21*

## SAFSAF

*Location: PGR: 192268*

*Distance from Safad (km): 7*

*Average elevation (meters): 750*

*Population: 1931: 662 / 1944-45: 910*

### Safsaf Before 1948

The village, situated on a low hill that inclined slightly to the southwest, was linked by a spur to a highway leading to Safad. Its name, Safsaf, meant “willow” in Arabic. The village was called Safsafa in Roman times. In the late nineteenth century, travelers reported that Safsaf was a small village situated on a plain, with a population of about 100. All of the residents of Safsaf were Muslims. A mosque and several shops were located in the village center, and an elementary school was established during the British Mandate. Agriculture, the chief economic activity, was both irrigated from springs and rain fed. Fruits and olives were cultivated on the land north of the village. P.491

### Occupation and Depopulation

Safsaf was the first village to be occupied during Operation Hiram (see ‘Arab al-Samniyya, Acre District). In the early months of the war, the village had been the headquarters of the Arab Liberation Army’s (ALA) Second Yarmuk Battalion. (...) It fell sometime before dawn on 29 October 1948, and was the scene of one of the several massacres committed during the operation. One villager told Palestinian historian Nafez Nazzal: “...about seventy of our men were blindfolded and shot to death, one after the other, in front of us. The soldiers took their bodies and threw them on the cement covering of the villages spring and dumped sand on them.” In later days, Israeli troops visited the village, telling the inhabitants that they should forget what had occurred and could stay in their homes. But they began to leave under cover of night, about for a time, until Safsaf was empty. [N:93-95] P.490

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*We had seen this before, the orthodox men coming to bathe in the mikvah.*



## MUREX

*The extraction and trade of Tyrian Purple has been recorded since the 4th c. BC. Pliny the Elder, the famous Roman historian and scientist, has left us a description of how it was made:*

*After the snails are fished from the sea, the dye-bearing vein is extracted and crushed. For every hundred pounds of the juice, 20 ounces of salt are added, and left for three days. It is then set to boil slowly in vessels of tin [or lead], to concentrate the dye, for up to ten days. Then the cloth to be dyed is immersed into the boiling mixture. The boiling is continued until the cloth is dyed to the satisfactory shade. Red shades are considered inferior to blackish ones. Finally the cloth is left to soak until it has fully imbibed the colour.*

## ARAB SUQRIR

*Location: PGR: 121136*

*Distance from Gaza (km): 38*

*Average elevation (meters): less than 25/*

*Population: 1931: 530/ 1944-45: 390*

### Arab Suqrir before 1948

The village was situated in a flat area on the coastal plain northeast of Isdud. Its name may have been a corruption of the Canaanite name Shakrun. In 1596, 'Arab Suqrir was a village in the nahiya of Gaza, with a population of fifty-five. It paid taxes on a number of crops, including wheat, barley and sesame, as well as other types of produce such as goats and beehives. In 1944/45 a total of 553 dunums of their land was devoted to citrus and bananas and 10,232 dunums were allotted to cereals; 489 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards.

### Occupation and Depopulation

'Arab Suqrir was the subject of the first Haganah operational proposal to level a village, made on 11 January 1948. An intelligence report of that date recommends: "The village should be destroyed completely and some males from the same village should be murdered."

Israeli historian Benny Morris states that the village was not physically destroyed until 24-28 of August, during Operation Nikayon ("Cleansing"). A Giva'ti intelligence officer claimed that most inhabitants had left by the time most of the orders had been implemented, so the units blew up stone houses and burned huts, and "ten Arabs who tried to escape were killed." P. 81

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*From the top of the hill we saw the port beyond the containers.*