Al-Farradiyya

Al-Farradiyya: A Depopulated Palestinian Village in the Safad District

Al-Farradiyya was a Palestinian village in the Safad District, located about 8 kilometres southwest of the city of Safad, at an average elevation of approximately 375 metres above sea level. The village came under Israeli control during Operation Hiram on 30 October 1948, but many of its inhabitants remained there until the final expulsion was carried out in February 1949, in the context of the Nakba and the occupation of Palestine in 1948.

Basic Information

Item	Information
Subdistrict	Safed
Distance from district center	8 km South West of Safad
Average Elevation	375 meters above sea level
Population in 1931	465 inhabitants - Official census
Number of Houses in 1931	101 houses - Official census
Population in 1944/1945	670 inhabitants - Government of Palestine statistics
Estimated Population in 1948	777 inhabitants - a later demographic estimate, not an official census
Total Land Area in 1945	19,747 dunams
Attack and Depopulation	During the Nakba, al-Farradiyya became a place of refuge for residents of nearby Palestinian villages. In early May 1948, people from Akbara and al-Zahiriyya al-Tahta sought refuge there after fleeing Zionist military operations associated with Operation Yiftach in the Safad area.
Final Israeli Control	30 October 1948
Military Operation	Hiram
Military Unit	Golani Brigade
Cause of Depopulation	Expulsion by Zionist troops

Location and History

Al-Farradiyya stood on the southern slope of Mount Zabud, and the main Nazareth–Safad road passed directly to its north. Springs flowing from Mount al-Jarmaq to the north supplied the village with abundant water.

Sources suggest that al-Farradiyya may have stood on the site of a locality known in the Roman period as Parod. The Arab geographer al-Muqaddasi, who lived in the tenth century CE, referred to it as “al-Faradhiyya” and described it as a large

village known for its fruit orchards, vineyards, and abundant water.

In 1596, al-Farradiyya was part of the Jira subdistrict of the Safad district, with an estimated population of about 237. Its inhabitants paid taxes on wheat, barley, goats, beehives, pastureland, and other products.

In the late nineteenth century, al-Farradiyya was described as a stone-built village situated on a plain. Its population was estimated at about 150, and the inhabitants cultivated small gardens, figs, and olives.

Population

The population of al-Farradiyya was 362 in the 1922 census and rose to 465 in the 1931 census, when 101 houses were recorded. In the 1944/1945 Village Statistics, the village population was 670 Arabs.

The sources indicate that most of the village inhabitants were Muslims. The reviewed sources do not provide sufficient evidence to confirm the frequently repeated claim that all the inhabitants were Muslims except for one Christian, and that statement has therefore not been adopted here.

Palestine Remembered gives an estimated population of 777 for 1948 and an estimated 4,773 refugees and descendants in 1998. These figures are estimates and do not represent official censuses conducted by the Government of Palestine.

Population of al-Farradiyya

Year	Population	Nature of Figure
1596	237	Historical estimate
Late nineteenth century	About 150	Historical estimate
1922	362	Official census
1931	465	Official census

Year	Population	Nature of Figure
1944/1945	670	Government of Palestine statistics
1948	777	Estimate published by Palestine Remembered
1998	4,773	Estimate of refugees and their descendants
The figures for 1948 and 1998 are estimates and are not official British Mandate censuses.		

Number of Houses

Recorded and estimated number of houses in al-Farradiyya

Year	Number of Houses	Nature of Figure
1931	101	Official census
1948	168	Estimate published by Palestine Remembered
The 1948 figure is an estimate and does not represent an official housing census.		

Land of Al-Farradiyya

According to the 1944/1945 statistics, the total land area of al-Farradiyya was 19,747 dunams. Arabs owned 15,228 dunams, while 4,519 dunams were classified as public land. The statistics record no Jewish land ownership within the village boundaries.

Total	19,747
Ownership Category	**Area in Dunams**
Arab ownership	15,228
Jewish ownership	0
Public land	4,519

Agriculture and Land Use

Al-Farradiyya had a prosperous agricultural sector. Its inhabitants cultivated cereals, orchards, and fruit trees, including figs, olives, grapes, and other crops.

According to the detailed 1944/1945 land-use table published by PalQuest, 4,183 dunams were devoted to cereals, including 4,137 dunams of Arab-owned land and 46 dunams of public land. A further 1,182 dunams were classified as irrigated or plantation land, all of them Arab-owned.

There is a discrepancy in the sources: the narrative text reproduced from Walid Khalidi's *All That Remains* gives 4,147 dunams for cereals, while the detailed statistical table gives 4,183 dunams. The latter figure is used below because it is broken down by ownership category and is consistent with the total land figures.

Palestine Remembered also reports that approximately 703 dunams were planted with olive trees.

Total	**15,228**	**4,519**	**19,747**
Type of Use	**Arab**	**Public**	**Total**
Cereals	4,137	46	4,183
Irrigated and plantation land	1,182	0	1,182
Built-up area	25	0	25
Uncultivable land	9,884	4,473	14,357

The Model Agricultural Farm

Al-Farradiyya was known for an experimental model farm covering about 300 dunams of village land. It was established to improve varieties of apples, figs, grapes, apricots, pears, and almonds, as well as to develop new types of seeds.

The farm included a nursery where approximately 2,000 trees were cultivated for distribution to farmers. The centre also provided agricultural extension services to

farmers in the Safad and Acre districts, including advice on poultry breeding and beekeeping.

The centre was supervised by a Palestinian agricultural engineer who had pursued higher studies at the University of Montpellier in France and began working at the centre in 1932.

Education and Village Landmarks

Al-Farradiyya had an elementary school for boys. Palestine Remembered states that the highest class available was the fourth elementary grade. Students wishing to continue their education had to attend schools outside the village.

The village also contained the shrine of Shaykh Mansur, described by Walid Khalidi as a religious scholar. Remains of water-powered grain mills and an old water channel were also located near the village.

- An elementary school for boys.
- The experimental model agricultural farm.
- The shrine of Shaykh Mansur.
- Water-powered grain mills.
- An old water channel.

The Nakba and the Occupation of Al-Farradiyya

During the Nakba, al-Farradiyya became a place of refuge for residents of nearby Palestinian villages. In early May 1948, people from Akbara and al-Zahiriyya al-Tahta sought refuge there after fleeing Zionist military operations associated with Operation Yiftach in the Safad area.

Operation Hiram and the Capture of the Village

Operation Hiram began on 28 October 1948 and continued until 31 October. Its objective was to seize control of the Upper and Central Galilee. Several Israeli

brigades participated in the operation, including the Golani, Carmeli, Oded, Sheva, and Givati brigades.

Al-Farradiyya came under Israeli control on 30 October 1948 during Operation Hiram. PalQuest, drawing on Walid Khalidi’s documentation, indicates that the village apparently was not subjected to a direct assault on that day. Golani Brigade units advanced northward from Eilabun toward Sa'sa', and al-Farradiyya became surrounded by Israeli forces from several directions.

Palestine Remembered, however, identifies Operation Hiram as the military operation associated with the occupation of the village and lists the Golani Brigade as the attacking unit. Because the sources differ in their level of detail, it is more accurate to state that al-Farradiyya came under Israeli control during the advance of forces participating in Operation Hiram, with the Golani Brigade documented as operating in its immediate vicinity, without asserting with certainty that the brigade directly stormed the village itself.

Residents Remaining after October 1948

The establishment of Israeli control over the area in October 1948 did not result in the immediate displacement of all the inhabitants of al-Farradiyya. Many residents remained in their homes for several months after Operation Hiram.

During December 1948 and January 1949, pressure increased to remove the remaining inhabitants. PalQuest, in its presentation of Walid Khalidi’s research and citing information attributed to Israeli historian Benny Morris, reports that on 15 December 1948 a committee adopted a proposal to expel 261 people who remained in al-Farradiyya and Kafr Inan.

This information is included because it is reported by PalQuest, a Palestinian source used in this article, rather than through direct reliance on an Israeli source.

Final Expulsion in February 1949

The remaining inhabitants of al-Farradiyya were expelled in February 1949. The

sources indicate that some were transferred to another village under Israeli control, while others were sent to the Triangle area in the West Bank.

Palestine Remembered gives 1 February 1949 as the date of occupation and depopulation, while PalQuest makes a clearer distinction between the village coming under Israeli control on 30 October 1948 and the final expulsion of its inhabitants in February 1949. This article therefore distinguishes between the date of military control and the date of final displacement.

Fate of the Population and Buildings

The Palestinian inhabitants of al-Farradiyya were displaced during the Nakba and became refugees and internally displaced Palestinians. After the village was emptied, most of its buildings were destroyed, leaving piles of stones from demolished houses and a limited number of scattered remains.

Occupation and Depopulation Chronology

Stage	Date	Details
The Nakba and the Occupation of Al-Farradiyya	May 1948	During the Nakba, al-Farradiyya became a place of refuge for residents of nearby Palestinian villages. In early May 1948, people from Akbara and al-Zahiriyya al-Tahta sought refuge there after fleeing Zionist military operations associated with Operation Yiftach in the Safad area.
Operation Hiram and the Capture of the Village	28 October 1948	Operation Hiram began on 28 October 1948 and continued until 31 October. Its objective was to seize control of the Upper and Central Galilee.
Final Expulsion in February 1949	February 1949	The remaining inhabitants of al-Farradiyya were expelled in February 1949. The sources indicate that some were transferred to another village under Israeli control, while others were sent to the Triangle area in the West Bank.

Israeli Settlements Established on the Lands of Al-Farradiyya

Parod

Parod was established in 1949 on the lands of al-Farradiyya, approximately 300 metres east of the destroyed village site.

Shefer

Shefer was established in 1950 on the lands of al-Farradiyya, north of the village site.

Kaddarim

Kaddarim was established in 1980 east of the village site and was later relocated to a site southeast of the village in 1987.

- Parod, established in 1949.
- Shefer, established in 1950.
- Kaddarim, established in 1980 and relocated southeast in 1987.

The Site of Al-Farradiyya Today

According to the field description documented by Walid Khalidi, the village site became deserted and was covered with thorny wild vegetation, trees, and piles of stones from the destroyed houses. Cactus plants also grew in the surrounding lands.

Parts of the surrounding land were used for grazing, while other areas were planted with trees and converted into recreational spaces. This description reflects the period in which the original field documentation was conducted and should not be interpreted as a field survey of the site in 2026.

Sources

- PalQuest – Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question: Al-Farradiyya.
- PalQuest: Operation Hiram.
- Palestine Remembered: Al-Farradiyya, Safad District.
- Walid Khalidi, *All That Remains*: Historical account of al-Farradiyya, reproduced by Palestine Remembered.
- Government of Palestine, Department of Statistics, *Village Statistics, 1945*, as reproduced in PalQuest and the Palestinian sources cited above.
- Walid Khalidi, *All That Remains*, entry on al-Farradiyya, as reproduced by PalQuest and Palestine Remembered.


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