

Al-Mukhayzin



Al-Mukhayzin - Depopulated Palestinian Village of the Ramla Subdistrict

Al-Mukhayzin was a Palestinian village in the Ramla Subdistrict, situated on level ground in the southern coastal plain. PalQuest places it approximately 15 kilometers from Ramla, at an average elevation of about 75 meters above sea level.

A tributary of Wadi al-Sarar ran along the eastern side of the village. A dirt road approximately three kilometers long connected al-Mukhayzin with the main Jerusalem–Gaza road, while other tracks linked it with neighboring Palestinian

villages.

Item	Information
Subdistrict	Ramla
Historical Administrative Classification	Lydda District / Ramla Subdistrict in PalQuest's classification
Distance from Ramla	Approximately 15 km according to PalQuest; Palestine Remembered gives approximately 10 km
Direction	Southwest of Ramla
Average Elevation	75 meters
Population in 1931	79, all Muslims, living in 19 houses
Arab Population in 1944/1945	200
Jewish Population within the Statistical Unit in 1944/1945	110
Total Statistical-Unit Population in 1944/1945	310
Estimated Arab Population in 1948	232 according to Salman Abu Sitta – a later estimate, not an official 1948 census
Total Land Area	12,548 dunums
Occupation / Depopulation Date	20 April 1948 in Khalidi's account; Salman Abu Sitta records 19 April
Military Operation	Jerusalem corridor operations; Operation Har'el is the strongest immediate context if the 20 April date is accepted
Military Unit	Not conclusively established; Palestine Remembered attributes the attack to the Giv'ati Brigade
Cause of Displacement	Military assault and takeover of the village during operations aimed at securing the route between the coast and Jerusalem
Extent of Destruction	The village was largely leveled; no reliable numerical destruction percentage is available
Settlement on Village Land before 1948	Chafetz Chayyim – 1944

Item	Information
Post-1948 Settlements on Village Land	Revadim – 1948; Yad Binyamin – 1949; Beyt Chilqiyya – 1953

Origin of the Name

Al-Mukhayzin began as a cluster of grain-storage structures built by a group belonging to the Arab al-Wuhaydat tribe.

The village name derives from this function: *al-Mukhayzin* is a diminutive form of the Arabic word for storehouse or warehouse.

Arab al-Wuhaydat and the Establishment of the Village

The historic Palestinian community of al-Mukhayzin was associated with Arab al-Wuhaydat, whose members established the early grain stores and settled at the site.

As settlement developed, a small village grew around them. Most houses were constructed of adobe, although some were built of stone and cement.

The Palestine Index Gazetteer classified al-Mukhayzin as a hamlet or agricultural settlement during the Mandate period.

Location and Roads

Al-Mukhayzin stood on flat terrain in Palestine's southern coastal plain, with a branch of Wadi al-Sarar passing beside its eastern edge.

A three-kilometer dirt road connected the village to the Jerusalem–Gaza highway, and additional tracks connected it to neighboring villages.

Its proximity to routes linking the coast and Jerusalem later contributed to its strategic importance during the 1948 fighting.

Village Layout and Houses

The village had a rectangular plan and extended toward the northwest.

It remained relatively small; the official 1931 census recorded 19 occupied houses.

Most dwellings were built of adobe, with some stone-and-cement construction.

Population in 1931

The official 1931 Census of Palestine recorded **79 inhabitants** in al-Mukhayzin, all Muslims, living in **19 houses**.

Year	Population	Qualification
1931	79	Official Census of Palestine; all inhabitants were Muslims
1944/1945	200 Arabs	The Palestinian population of the village within the statistical unit
1944/1945	110 Jews	Jewish population within the al-Mukhayzin statistical land unit
1944/1945	310 total	Combined Arab and Jewish population of the statistical unit; not the Palestinian village population alone
1948	232 Arabs	Later estimate in Salman Abu Sitta's Register, not an official census

Correcting the 310 Population Figure

Some later sources state simply that al-Mukhayzin had 310 inhabitants in 1945.

The 1944/45 statistics, however, divide this figure into **200 Arabs and 110 Jews**.

The Palestinian village population was therefore 200, while 310 represents the total population of the larger statistical unit that also included Jewish residents associated with land on which Chafetz Chayyim had been established.

Estimated Population in 1948

Salman Abu Sitta's Register gives an estimated **232 Arab inhabitants** for al-Mukhayzin in 1948.

This is a retrospective demographic estimate, not a census conducted in 1948.

Later Palestinian refugee statistics reproduced by Palestine Remembered give an estimated **1,425 refugees and descendants in 1998** originating from al-Mukhayzin.

Land Ownership in 1944/1945

The complete al-Mukhayzin statistical land unit covered **12,548 dunums**.

Total	12,548
Official 1944/45 Ownership Category	Area in Dunums
Arab	10,942
Jewish	1,380
Public	226

The official statistical categories are Arab, Jewish, and Public.

The Palestinian Encyclopedia separately describes the 1,380 dunums as land that had “transferred to Zionists.” The distinction between the official statistical terminology and the encyclopedia's wording is retained here.

Land Use in 1944/1945

Total	10,942	1,380	226	12,548
Use	Arab	Jewish	Public	Total
Cereals	10,936	1,380	0	12,316
Non-Cultivable	6	0	226	232

Approximately 12,316 dunums—about 98 percent of the statistical land unit—were classified as cultivated or cultivable cereal land.

Economic Life

The villagers depended primarily on rain-fed agriculture.

Cereal cultivation was the dominant activity, supplemented by vegetables and fruit trees.

The more than ten thousand Arab-owned dunums devoted to cereals illustrate the strongly agricultural character of al-Mukhayzin before the Nakba.

Water and Services

Al-Mukhayzin stood on an archaeological site containing a well, a pool, cisterns, architectural remains, and pottery fragments.

The principal sources do not record a substantial set of public institutions in the village, which remained a small rural agricultural settlement.

Archaeological Site

The village was built over an older site containing a well, an artificial pool, architectural fragments, and pottery remains.

These features indicate earlier settlement or use of the location before the modern village established by Arab al-Wuhaydat.

Chafetz Chayyim before the Nakba

Chafetz Chayyim was established in **1944** on land traditionally regarded as belonging to al-Mukhayzin.

This explains the presence of 110 Jewish residents within the 1944/45 statistical unit and 1,380 dunums in the Jewish ownership category.

Chafetz Chayyim should therefore not be described as a post-1948 settlement; it was already present on village land before the Nakba.

The Attack on al-Mukhayzin

The principal sources do not provide a complete operational account of every stage of the attack on al-Mukhayzin.

Walid Khalidi suggests that the village may have been occupied during one of the operations that followed Operation Nachshon in the Jerusalem corridor, as Zionist forces attempted to secure the route connecting Jerusalem with the coast.

The occupation date cited by Khalidi from Benny Morris is **20 April 1948**.

This date falls during the phase known as Operation Har'el, which immediately followed Operation Nachshon.

Operation Nachshon and Operation Har'el

Operation Nachshon began on 3 April 1948 and continued until 15 April, with the objective of opening and securing the Tel Aviv–Jerusalem road.

PalQuest includes al-Mukhayzin among the localities affected during this wider campaign.

Operation Har'el followed between 16 and 21 April and continued military operations intended to secure the Jerusalem corridor.

If the 20 April occupation date is accepted, al-Mukhayzin's final capture falls chronologically within the Har'el phase.

Difference over the Occupation Date

The principal sources differ by one day:

- Walid Khalidi, citing the date given by Benny Morris: **20 April 1948**.

- Salman Abu Sitta's Register: **19 April 1948**.

Both nevertheless place the fall of al-Mukhayzin in the same late-April Jerusalem-corridor campaign immediately following Operation Nachshon.

Military Unit

Khalidi's al-Mukhayzin entry does not conclusively identify the particular unit that entered the village.

Palestine Remembered attributes the attack to the **Giv'ati Brigade**.

This attribution requires qualification: Giv'ati participated in Operation Nachshon, while the widely cited 20 April occupation date falls within the Operation Har'el phase.

The most accurate formulation is therefore:

Military unit: not conclusively established; Palestine Remembered attributes the attack to the Giv'ati Brigade, while the occupation chronology places the final capture within the Har'el operational phase.

Cause of Displacement

Palestinian documentation records a **military assault** as the cause of depopulation, within operations aimed at securing the Jerusalem corridor and the road linking the coast with Jerusalem.

Khalidi's account does not provide a detailed independent narrative of what happened to every family when the village fell.

The article therefore limits itself to the documented conclusion that the village was depopulated in the course of military assault and takeover in April 1948.

Occupation Chronology

Stage	Date	Details
Al-Mukhayzin before the Nakba	Until 1948	A small Arab al-Wuhaydat agricultural village dependent primarily on rain-fed cereal cultivation and connected with the Jerusalem–Gaza road.
Operation Nachshon	3–15 April 1948	A major offensive began to open the Jerusalem corridor; PalQuest lists al-Mukhayzin among affected localities.
Beginning of Operation Har'el	16 April 1948	Operations aimed at consolidating control of the corridor continued after Nachshon.
Abu Sitta Occupation Date	19 April 1948	This is the date recorded in Salman Abu Sitta's Register.
Khalidi/Morris Occupation Date	20 April 1948	The most widely reproduced date; chronologically it places the village's final capture within Operation Har'el.
Destruction	After occupation	The village was subsequently leveled; the sources used do not establish a separate precise demolition date.

Extent of Destruction

Al-Mukhayzin was extensively destroyed after its inhabitants were displaced.

Khalidi's field description states that the village was leveled so thoroughly that the original built-up area was replaced by cultivated and plowed fields, with only a mound of stone and rubble remaining at the southern edge.

No reliable numerical destruction percentage exists, so the article does not assign an unsupported figure such as 100 percent.

Settlements on al-Mukhayzin Land

A distinction must be made between the settlement established before the Nakba and those established after the Palestinian village was depopulated:

Settlement	Year	Note
Chafetz Chayyim	1944	Established before the Nakba on land traditionally considered part of al-Mukhayzin
Revadim	1948	Established on al-Mukhayzin land after the village's depopulation
Yad Binyamin	1949	Established on village land
Beyt Chilqiyya	1953	Established on village land

Al-Mukhayzin Today

The surviving-site description available for al-Mukhayzin derives from historical fieldwork incorporated into Walid Khalidi's *All That Remains* and should not be treated as direct 2026 field verification.

According to that description, the village had been leveled, leaving mainly cultivated and plowed fields.

A mound of stones and rubble approximately two and a half meters high remained at the southern edge of the site.

An orange grove had also been planted near the rubble mound on the southern side.

The original Palestinian built environment therefore no longer survives as a recognizable village, while the former village lands are divided among agriculture and settlements established before and after 1948.

Sources

- [PalQuest – Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question: al-Mukhayzin](#)
- [PalQuest – Operation Nachshon](#)
- [PalQuest – Operation Nachshon and Operation Har'el to Open the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Road](#)

- [Institute for Palestine Studies – Walid Khalidi, All That Remains](#)
- [Palestine Remembered – al-Mukhayzin entry from All That Remains](#)
- [Palestine Remembered – al-Mukhayzin Statistics and Land Data](#)
- [Palestinian Encyclopedia – al-Mukhayzin](#)
- [Salman Abu Sitta – Register of Depopulated Palestinian Localities: al-Mukhayzin](#)