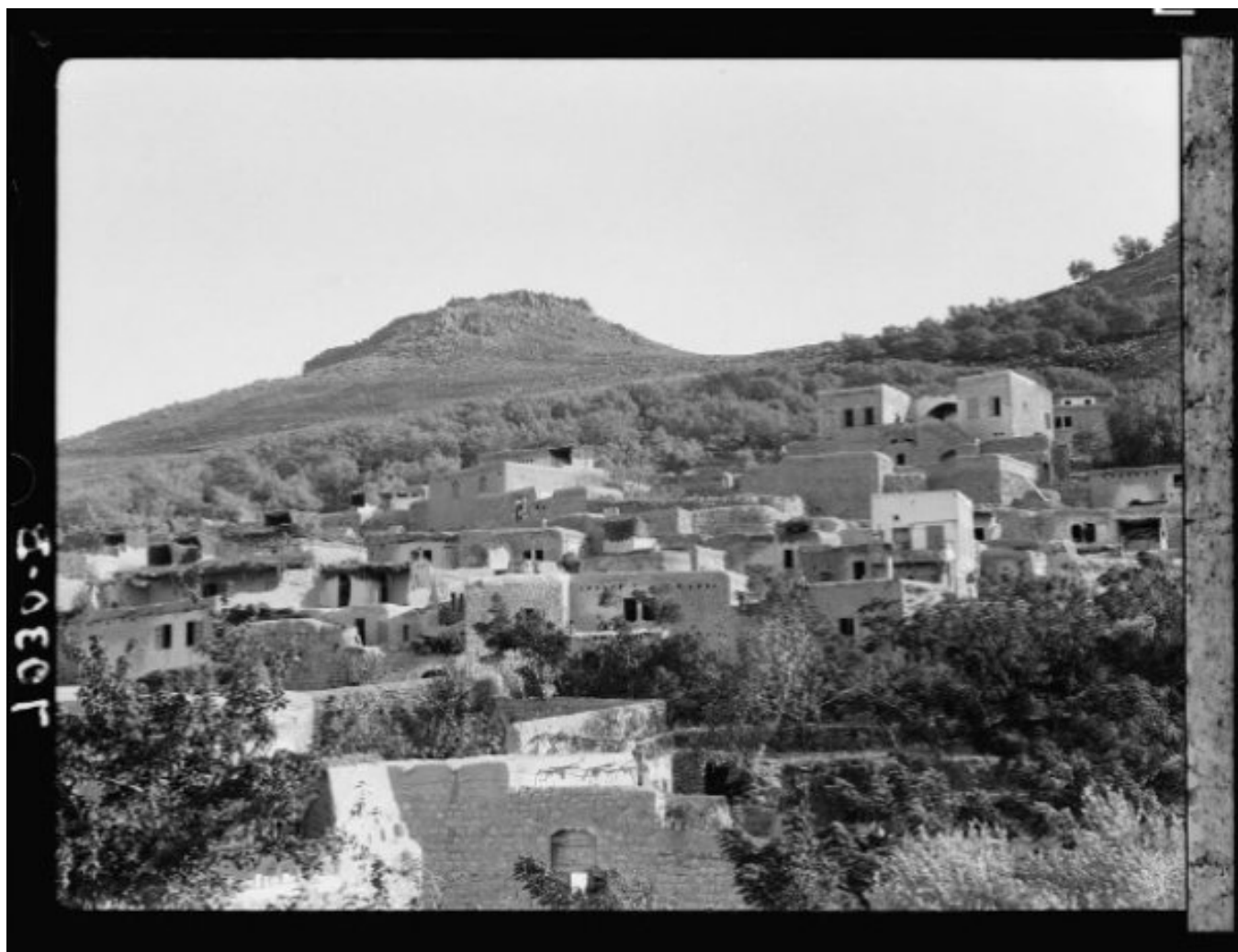


Hittin



Estimated population in 1948: 1,380

Date of occupation and depopulation: 17 July 1948

Military operation: Operation Dekel

Military unit: Seventh Brigade

Israeli settlements subsequently established on village land: Arbel and Kfar Zeitim

.Hittin was located approximately 8 kilometres northwest of Tiberias

Hittin was a Palestinian village in the Tiberias Subdistrict. Its inhabitants were displaced and the village was largely destroyed during Israel's occupation of Palestine—the Nakba—in 1948.

The village lands are also associated with the Battle of Hittin of 1187, in which the Ayyubid forces led by Salah al-Din defeated the Crusader armies, a victory that consolidated Ayyubid control over much of Palestine

The village stood at the edge of a small valley on the northern slope of Mount Hittin, overlooking the plain where the historic battle took place. Orchards, olive groves, and cultivated fields surrounded the village. Its northwestern centre contained a small market, an elementary school, and a mosque serving its entirely Muslim population. The shrine of the Prophet Shu'ayb, an important Druze pilgrimage site, stood to the southwest of the village

Boundaries of Hittin

:Hittin lay amid the following Palestinian villages, localities, and lands

- .To the north: [Khirbat al-Wa'ra al-Sawda](#) •
- .To the northwest: [Eilabun](#) •
- .To the northeast: Wadi al-Hamam •
- .To the east: al-Majdal •
- .To the southeast: Tiberias •
- .To the west and southwest: [Nimrin](#) •
- .To the south lay the broader lands extending towards [Lubya](#) •

Land Ownership in Hittin

*Land area in dunams	Ownership category
22,086	Palestinian ownership
147	Jewish ownership

*Land area in dunams	Ownership category
531	Public land
22,764	Total

.One dunam equals approximately 1,000 square metres *

Land Use in Hittin, 1944/45

Total *((dunams	Public land *((dunams	Jewish ownership *((dunams	Palestinian ownership *((dunams	Land-use category
1,964	0	28	1,936	Irrigated land and orchards
10,462	186	23	10,253	Cereal cultivation
70	0	0	70	Built-up area
12,426	186	51	12,189	Cultivable land
10,268	345	96	9,827	Uncultivated land

.One dunam equals approximately 1,000 square metres *

The village's olive groves covered approximately 200 dunams in 1942/43. This area formed part of the land classified as orchards and should therefore not be added separately to the .land-use totals

Population of Hittin

*Population	Year
889	1922
931	1931
1,190	1945

*Population	Year
1,380	1948
8,477	Estimated refugee population in 1998

The 1948 population and the 1998 refugee population are demographic estimates rather than contemporary *
.census counts

Number of Houses in Hittin

Number of houses	Year
190	1931
(estimated) 281	1948

Hittin: The Village Name

Several interpretations have been proposed for the name Hittin. The village may have stood near the site of the ancient settlement identified as Siddim or Ziddim. By the third century BCE, the locality was reportedly known as Kefar Hattin, interpreted as “the village of grain,” possibly in reference to cereal cultivation in the surrounding plain. Its later Arabic name, Hittin, preserved an older form of the place–name. These identifications remain historical and .archaeological hypotheses rather than conclusively established facts

Archaeological and Religious Landmarks in Hittin

- Hittin and its surroundings contain archaeological remains from several historical periods. Ruins, building remains, caves, and rock–cut features have been reported at nearby sites, including Khirbat al-’Ayka and Madyan, as well as in the vicinity of .Wadi al–Hamam
- Religious landmarks associated with the village and its surroundings included the shrine of the Prophet Shu’ayb and the locally remembered shrines of al–Sitt Zahra

.and al-'Ajami

The village mosque was commonly known as al-Jami' al-'Umari. Local tradition • attributes its original construction to the early Islamic period and its restoration to Salah al-Din after the Battle of Hittin. Firm documentary evidence for these • particular construction accounts remains limited

Local accounts also refer to several khans dating from the Ottoman period, when • Hittin occupied a position near routes used by merchants and caravans travelling • between Syria and Egypt

Economic Life in Hittin

The village economy was based principally on agriculture and livestock raising. •

.Wheat, barley, olives, fruit, and other crops were among its principal products

Fertile soil, adequate rainfall, and accessible groundwater supported a productive • agricultural economy. In 1944/45, 10,462 dunams were devoted to cereal • cultivation, while 1,964 dunams were irrigated or used for orchards

In 1945, Hittin had a population of 1,190 and a total land area of 22,764 dunams, • of which 22,086 dunams were recorded under Palestinian ownership

Occupation and Depopulation of Hittin

The inhabitants of Hittin first became directly involved in the fighting on 9 June 1948, when Palestinians from Hittin took part in repelling an attack on the neighbouring village of Lubya shortly before the first truce. Oral testimony collected from former villagers also records that an armoured force advancing towards Hittin from the direction of Mitzpa was resisted for several • hours and forced to withdraw

After the first truce ended, the Seventh Brigade launched a renewed offensive in the area as part of Operation Dekel. Following the occupation of Nazareth on 16 July and the withdrawal of Arab Liberation Army fighters from the vicinity, most of Hittin's inhabitants left during the night of 16–17 July. A small group of defenders initially remained before also withdrawing

northwards. The village was occupied on 17 July 1948, immediately before the second truce
.took effect

Many displaced residents initially remained near the village in the hope of returning. They were
subsequently prevented from doing so, and most eventually sought refuge in Lebanon and
.elsewhere

Israeli Settlements on the Land of Hittin

Arbel was established to the north of the village site in 1949, while Kfar Zeitim was established
to the northeast in 1950. Both were established on land belonging to Hittin. The earlier
settlements of Kfar Hittim and Mitzpa were located nearby but were not established on Hittin's
.registered village land

Hittin Today

The village site is now overgrown with grass and scattered with piles of stone from destroyed
buildings. The abandoned mosque remains standing, although parts of its structure and arches
have deteriorated. Fig, mulberry, eucalyptus, and cactus plants grow around the site. The
surrounding plain is cultivated, while sections of the hill land are used for grazing. The shrine of
.the Prophet Shu'ayb remains an important Druze pilgrimage site

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