Khirbet al-Manshiyya

Al-Manshiyya – Depopulated Palestinian Village of the Tulkarm District

Al-Manshiyya, also known as Khirbat Manshiyya, was a depopulated Palestinian village in the Tulkarm District. It stood on a low, gradually sloping hill in the middle of a broad plain approximately 12.5 kilometers northwest of Tulkarm, at an average elevation of about 25 meters above sea level.

The village lay close to the administrative boundary between the Tulkarm and Haifa subdistricts and approximately 3 kilometers east of the main coastal

highway. Its inhabitants depended primarily on agriculture, especially grain cultivation, and obtained drinking and irrigation water from several nearby wells.

The villagers left al-Manshiyya on or about 15 April 1948 amid the pressure and fear created by the Haganah's campaign to empty Arab communities from the coastal region. Although an agreement was reportedly reached under which neighboring Jewish settlements would protect village property and permit the inhabitants to return after the war, Haganah units began systematically demolishing the village houses before the end of April.

Location and Geography

Al-Manshiyya stood on a low, gradually sloping hill in a broad plain in the northwestern part of the Tulkarm Subdistrict.

It lay approximately 12.5 kilometers northwest of Tulkarm at an average elevation of about 25 meters above sea level.

The village was close to the administrative boundary between the Tulkarm and Haifa subdistricts and approximately 3 kilometers east of the main coastal highway.

A secondary road connected al-Manshiyya with the coastal highway, while similar roads linked it with neighboring villages.

The road toward Qaqun ran south from the village, and some houses were built parallel to it.

Name and Origin of the Inhabitants

The village appears in the sources as al-Manshiyya and is also known as Khirbat Manshiyya.

Walid Khalidi does not provide a specific linguistic explanation for the name.

The villagers themselves traced their origins to 'Abasan in the Gaza District.

Built Environment

Al-Manshiyya had a generally rectangular layout.

Some houses extended along the road leading south toward Qaqun, while the remainder formed the main village cluster on the low hill.

The official PalQuest land-use display does not provide a reliable separate built-up acreage, so no unsupported figure is added.

Population

The inhabitants of al-Manshiyya were Muslims.

Year	Population	Note
1922	94	Official Census of Palestine: 50 males and 44 females, all Muslims
1931	Not available separately	Al-Manshiyya was enumerated together with 'Attil, al-Jalama, and Zalafa, so no secure village-specific figure is available
1945	260	Official statistics; all inhabitants were Palestinian Arab Muslims
1948	About 302	Later demographic estimate, not an official Mandate census
1998	About 1,852 refugees and descendants	Later estimate published by Palestine Remembered

In the 1931 census, al-Manshiyya was grouped with 'Attil, al-Jalama, and Zalafa in a single statistical unit totaling 2,207 persons living in 473 houses.

Neither the combined population nor the combined house count should be assigned to al-Manshiyya alone.

Education and Religious Institutions

Walid Khalidi and PalQuest do not provide clear documentation of an independent school or a specifically identified mosque in al-Manshiyya before the Nakba.

No specific educational or religious institution is therefore attributed to the village without stronger village-level Palestinian documentation.

Water Resources

The inhabitants obtained drinking and irrigation water from several wells surrounding the village site.

These wells supported limited irrigated cultivation, while grain farming remained the dominant agricultural activity.

Economic Life and Agriculture

Agriculture formed the foundation of al-Manshiyya's economy.

Grain was the principal crop, while villagers also cultivated watermelons and other fruits.

Only very small areas were devoted to citrus, bananas, plantations, and irrigated cultivation in 1944/45, while cereals occupied the overwhelming majority of cultivated land.

Wooded areas extended west and south of the village.

Land Ownership, 1944/45

The total land area of al-Manshiyya was 16,770 dunams.

Total	16,770
Official Ownership Category	**Area in Dunams**
Arab	12,520
Jewish	3,835
Public	415

The official figures balance exactly: 12,520 + 3,835 + 415 = 16,770 dunams.

Palestine Remembered presents the same figures using its own terminology: 12,520 dunams “Palestinian,” 3,835 dunams “Transferred to Zionists,” and 415 dunams “Communal/Public.”

The wording “Transferred to Zionists” should be preserved when reproducing that source's classification rather than automatically replacing it with the official “Jewish” category.

Land Use, 1944/45

Grand Total	12,520	3,835	415	16,770
Land Use	**Arab**	**Jewish**	**Public**	**Total**
Citrus and bananas	1	87	0	88
Plantations and irrigable land	12	28	0	40
Cereals	12,485	3,720	0	16,205
Total cultivable/cultivated land	12,498	3,835	0	16,333
Non-cultivable land	22	0	415	437

The official table balances exactly: 16,333 dunams of cultivated or cultivable land plus 437 dunams of non-cultivable land equal the total village area of 16,770 dunams.

Palestine Remembered's simplified display lists the entire 437-dunam non-arable category under its Palestinian column. The official table shows that only 22 dunams

were Arab land, while 415 were Public.

Public land is therefore kept separate above.

Conditions before Depopulation

Al-Manshiyya lay in a coastal region where pressure on Palestinian communities increased rapidly during the spring of 1948.

Walid Khalidi, citing Benny Morris, records that on 13 April 1948 Haganah leader Israel Galili wrote to the Jewish National Fund stressing the security importance of establishing settlements at several sites on Haganah-controlled territory, including al-Manshiyya.

This indicates that the future settlement of the village site was already under discussion before the population had completely departed.

Depopulation of Al-Manshiyya

On or about **15 April 1948**, the inhabitants of al-Manshiyya left their village and moved eastward.

Khalidi, citing Morris, reproduces the later account of a local Haganah intelligence officer who claimed that he had urged the villagers to remain and accept Haganah protection.

According to the same account, an agreement was reached as they departed under which neighboring Jewish settlements would safeguard their property and permit them to return after the war.

The agreement should not be understood as a guarantee that was subsequently honored, because developments later in April moved in the opposite direction.

Destruction and Prevention of Return

By the end of April 1948, Haganah units had begun systematically demolishing the houses of al-Manshiyya with assistance from neighboring Jewish settlements.

Khalidi records that the Haganah General Staff had decided that the coastal zone stretching from Tel Aviv to Hadera should be emptied of its Arab inhabitants by 15 May.

The villagers' departure therefore did not preserve their homes or facilitate their return; it was followed by demolition of the village and the permanent prevention of return.

“Coastal Clearing” – A Formal Operation?

Palestine Remembered and several later indexes classify al-Manshiyya under the label “Coastal Clearing.”

Khalidi's village-specific narrative, however, does not identify a formally named military operation at al-Manshiyya with a defined starting date, ending date, and village-specific assault force.

What the source securely documents is a **broader Haganah policy and campaign to empty the Arab population from the coastal region** before 15 May.

“Coastal Clearing” is therefore retained here as an indexing label for the wider campaign rather than presented as a securely documented village-specific military operation.

Military Unit

The military organization securely documented in the principal sources is the **Haganah**.

The al-Manshiyya entry does not identify a particular brigade or battalion as having stormed the village on 15 April, nor does it describe a major direct battle on that date.

The subsequent demolition at the end of April is attributed to Haganah units assisted by neighboring Jewish settlements.

Al-Manshiyya should therefore not be assigned to the Alexandroni Brigade or any specific battalion without explicit village-level evidence.

Occupation and Depopulation Chronology

Stage	Date	Details
Increasing Haganah pressure in the coastal region	Spring 1948	A broader policy developed to empty Arab communities from the coastal zone between Tel Aviv and Hadera.
Settlement planning for the site	13 April 1948	Khalidi, citing Morris, records that Israel Galili stressed the security importance of establishing a settlement at al-Manshiyya.
Depopulation	About 15 April 1948	The villagers moved eastward; an agreement was reportedly reached to protect their property and allow their return after the war.
Effective Haganah control	April 1948	The site passed into Haganah control after the villagers left; the source does not describe a separate major battle.
Systematic demolition	By the end of April 1948	Haganah units began demolishing the village houses with assistance from neighboring Jewish settlements.
Regional objective	By 15 May 1948	The Haganah General Staff sought to leave the coastal zone from Tel Aviv to Hadera without Arab communities.

Israeli Settlements on Village Lands

Al-Manshiyya is notable because Jewish settlements had already been established on land traditionally regarded as belonging to the village before the Nakba.

En ha-Horesh was founded in 1931 on land traditionally considered part of al-Manshiyya.

Giv'at Chayyim was established in 1932, also on village land.

After the Nakba, **Ahituv** was established in 1951 on al-Manshiyya's land east of the village site.

Some Arabic versions of Palestine Remembered display 1915 as the founding year of Ahituv. PalQuest and Khalidi give 1951, which is the date used in this article.

Al-Manshiyya Today

According to the field description published in Walid Khalidi's *All That Remains*, a paved street bisected the former village site.

Giv'at Chayyim extended along both sides of the street, with a large cow barn at its southern end.

Cactuses grew near the former village entrance.

Stones taken from the demolished Palestinian houses were being used as borders for flower beds, particularly along the street.

The surrounding land was cultivated with cotton, pistachios, and fruit trees at the time of the survey.

This description should not be treated as a comprehensive field verification of conditions in 2026. Fieldwork for *All That Remains* was conducted between 1987 and 1990 and therefore records the site's condition during that survey period.

Sources

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- PalQuest – المنشية، قضاء طولكرم

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