Yasur



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| Item | Information |
|---|---|
| Subdistrict | Gaza |
| Distance from district center | 40 km northeast of Gaza |
| Average Elevation | 50 m above sea level |
| Population in 1931 | 654 |
| Number of Houses in 1931 | 129 |
| Population in 1944/1945 | 1,070 |
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Item	Information
Estimated Population in 1948	About 1,241 – a later demographic estimate, not an official census
Total Land Area in 1945	16,390 dunams
Attack and Depopulation	The First Battalion of the Giv'ati Brigade occupied the village on the night of 10–11 June 1948, just before the first truce took effect, in one of the small thrusts to capture individual villages or positions launched in the wake of Operation Barak, according to the History of the War of Independence as cited by Khalidi. The available sources do not detail what happened to its inhabitants when it was occupied.
Final Israeli Control	The night of 10–11 June 1948, just before the first truce took effect, according to the History of the War of Independence as cited by Khalidi
Military Operation	Operation Barak – PalQuest lists Yasur among the villages affected by it, but the village was captured in small thrusts launched in the wake of the operation, on the night of 10–11 June 1948
Military Unit	The First Battalion of the Giv'ati Brigade
Cause of Depopulation	Direct military assault by Israeli occupation forces to capture the village; the available sources do not detail how the inhabitants left
Settlements Documented on Village Lands	Talmey Yechi'el (1949) and Bene Ayish (1958)

Yasur: A Depopulated Palestinian Village in the Gaza District

Yasur was a depopulated Palestinian village in the Gaza District, located approximately 40 kilometers northeast of Gaza City on a low plateau in Palestine's coastal plain, at an average elevation of about 50 meters above sea level.

The Government of Palestine's 1944/1945 statistics recorded a population of 1,070 and a total land area of 16,390 dunums. During the Nakba and the occupation of Palestine in 1948, the First Battalion of the Giv'ati Brigade captured Yasur shortly before the First Truce. Walid Khalidi dates its capture to the night of 10–11 June

1948. Its Palestinian inhabitants were displaced and most of the village was subsequently destroyed.

Location of Yasur

- Yasur was located approximately 40 kilometers northeast of Gaza.
- Its average elevation was about 50 meters above sea level.
- The village stood on a plateau in Palestine's coastal plain.
- Secondary roads connected it with a main road leading southwest to al-Majdal and another leading northeast toward Ramla.
- Wadi al-Zurayq passed south of the village and formed part of the drainage system leading toward Wadi Suqrir.

Yasur Through History

During the Mamluk period, Yasur served as one of the postal stations on the route between Gaza and Damascus. The station was later transferred to the nearby village of Bayt Daras.

In 1596, Yasur was a village in the nahiya of Gaza within the liwa' of Gaza and had an estimated population of 303 according to Ottoman records cited by Walid Khalidi.

The inhabitants paid taxes on wheat, barley, fruit, and sesame, as well as goats, beehives, and buffaloes.

By the late nineteenth century, Yasur was described as a relatively densely built village. Its adobe houses stood close together and were separated by narrow, winding alleys, while extensive orchards lay to the north and east.

The Built Environment and Facilities of Yasur

The inhabitants of Yasur in the period immediately preceding the Nakba were predominantly Muslim. A mosque stood in the center of the village, along with

several small shops and an elementary school.

The villagers relied on wells for domestic water and irrigation. Some of the wells used for agriculture ranged from approximately 25 to 40 meters in depth.

The built-up area covered about 35 dunums according to the 1944/1945 statistics.

Education in Yasur

An elementary school opened in Yasur in 1923. Walid Khalidi records that enrollment reached 132 pupils by the mid-1940s.

A separate educational table on Palestine Remembered gives a figure of 123 pupils in 1945. The sources therefore differ slightly on enrollment, while agreeing that the boys' school was established in 1923.

Land Ownership in Yasur

The total land area recorded for Yasur in the 1944/1945 statistics was 16,390 dunums.

The Arabic Palestine Remembered table uses the categories “Palestinian,” “Transferred to Zionists,” and “Masha'.” These terms are preserved below to reflect the terminology of that source. The Government of Palestine statistics, as reproduced by PalQuest, classify the corresponding categories as “Arab,” “Jewish,” and “Public.”

Total	**16,390**
Ownership Category	**Area in Dunums**
Palestinian	13,102
Transferred to Zionists	2,871
Masha' / Communal	417

Land Use in Yasur in 1944/1945

Most of Yasur's land was classified as cultivable. A total of 14,290 dunums was devoted to cereals, including 12,173 dunums of Arab land and 2,117 dunums of Jewish land.

Citrus and bananas covered 1,377 dunums, including 636 dunums of Arab land and 741 dunums of Jewish land. Plantations and irrigable land covered another 193 dunums, consisting of 180 dunums of Arab land and 13 dunums of Jewish land.

Total	**13,102**	**2,871**	**417**	**16,390**
Land Use	**Arab**	**Jewish**	**Public**	**Total**
Citrus and Bananas	636	741	0	1,377
Plantations and Irrigable Land	180	13	0	193
Cereals	12,173	2,117	0	14,290
Built-up Area	35	0	0	35
Non-Cultivable Land	78	0	417	495

Economic Life in Yasur

Agriculture formed the basis of Yasur's economy. The inhabitants cultivated cereals, citrus fruit, olives, and vegetables.

Cereal cultivation was largely rainfed, while citrus groves and vegetables were irrigated with water drawn from wells, some of which were between 25 and 40 meters deep.

Several small shops also operated in the village and served the everyday needs of its inhabitants.

Population of Yasur

The 1922 census recorded 456 inhabitants in Yasur. The population increased to 654 in the 1931 census, when 129 occupied houses were recorded.

The Government of Palestine's 1944/1945 statistics recorded 1,070 inhabitants.

The figures of 1,241 inhabitants for 1948 and 7,622 refugees for 1998 published by Palestine Remembered are later estimates and are not official Government of Palestine censuses.

Population of Yasur

Year	Population	Nature of Figure
1596	303	Historical figure based on Ottoman records
1922	456	Official census under the British Mandate
1931	654	Official census under the British Mandate
1944/1945	1,070	Government of Palestine statistics
1948	1,241	Estimate published by Palestine Remembered
1998	7,622	Estimated refugee population published by Palestine Remembered
Official censuses and statistics should be distinguished from later estimates.		

Number of Houses in Yasur

The 1931 census recorded 129 occupied houses in Yasur. The figure of 244 houses for 1948 published by Palestine Remembered is a later estimate rather than an official Government of Palestine census figure.

Number of Houses in Yasur

Year	Number of Houses	Nature of Figure
1931	129	Official census
1948	244	Estimate published by Palestine Remembered
The officially documented house count is the figure recorded in the 1931 census.		

Operation Barak and the Later Attack on Yasur

Operation Barak began on 9 May 1948 and was conducted primarily by the Giv'ati

Brigade within the framework of Plan Dalet. It targeted villages and areas in the southern coastal plain and west of Ramla.

PalQuest lists Yasur among the villages affected by Operation Barak. However, Walid Khalidi's village entry makes clear that the attack that directly resulted in the capture of Yasur occurred later, as part of a series of smaller attacks carried out after Operation Barak and immediately before the First Truce.

The most precise formulation is therefore that Yasur's capture occurred in the continuation of military operations following Operation Barak rather than during the operation's principal phase in the first half of May.

The Occupation of Yasur and the Displacement of Its Inhabitants During the Nakba

According to Walid Khalidi and PalQuest, several villages and positions that remained outside Israeli control were targeted immediately before the First Truce. One of these attacks was directed at Yasur and carried out by the First Battalion of the Giv'ati Brigade.

Khalidi dates the capture of the village to the night of 10–11 June 1948, during the final hours before the First Truce took effect.

Palestine Remembered, by contrast, gives 9 June 1948 as the occupation date while likewise identifying the First Battalion of the Giv'ati Brigade as the attacking force. Because of this discrepancy, the night of 10–11 June is used here as the Khalidi/PalQuest date, while the alternative date is acknowledged as the account given by the second source.

The assault and occupation resulted in the displacement of Yasur's Palestinian population during the Nakba, and the inhabitants were prevented from returning to their homes and lands.

Occupation and Depopulation Chronology

Stage	Date	Details
Beginning of the military operation	9 May 1948	The Haganah launched Operation Barak, mainly with the Giv'ati Brigade and with the participation of the Palmach's Negev Brigade, to 'clear' the southern and western ends of its zone of control before 15 May; any villagers who remained in a village after its occupation were subject to expulsion, according to PalQuest, which lists Yasur among the villages affected by the operation. The available sources do not mention an attack on Yasur in May.
Final occupation	Night of 10–11 June 1948	Just before the first truce took effect, many operations were planned for the one remaining night and most were implemented, among them an operation by the First Battalion of the Giv'ati Brigade to capture Yasur, according to the History of the War of Independence as cited by Khalidi. These small thrusts to capture individual villages or positions came in the wake of Operation Barak.
Settlement on village lands	1949	The settlement of Talmey Yechi'el was established on village lands.
Settlement on village lands	1958	The settlement of Bene Ayish was established on village lands.

Yasur and the Name Hatzor

An Israeli military account cited by Walid Khalidi states that Yasur was subsequently renamed “Hatzor.”

Khalidi, however, considers this likely to be a reference to Hatzor Ashdod, which had been founded in 1937 before the Nakba on land traditionally belonging to the Palestinian village of al-Batani al-Gharbi, more than two kilometers northwest of Yasur.

Hatzor Ashdod should therefore not be listed as a settlement established on Yasur's lands.

Settlements Established on the Lands of Yasur

Walid Khalidi identifies two Israeli settlements established on the lands of Yasur after the Nakba:

- Talmei Yehiel: established in 1949 on the lands of Yasur.
- Bnei Ayish: established in 1958 on the lands of Yasur.

People of Yasur After Displacement

Palestinian local documentation indicates that people from Yasur were dispersed after the Nakba across the Gaza Strip, Jordan, and other parts of the Palestinian diaspora.

In Jordan, descendants of the village established the Yasur Charitable Society in 2004. The society states that it was officially registered with the Jordanian Ministry of Social Development on 24 March 2004 to serve families originating from Yasur, strengthen social ties, and provide community assistance and development projects.

The Site of Yasur After the Nakba

According to Walid Khalidi's field description, the former village site became a closed and fenced military zone. A sign identifying an aircraft-parts industrial company stood near the entrance.

Khalidi recorded one undemolished house approximately ten meters from the entrance, with a demolished house and cactuses nearby.

A dirt road ran along the southern boundary of the fence, bordered by cactuses and olive and almond trees, while eucalyptus trees had been planted both inside and outside the fenced area.

This description is based on fieldwork conducted for Walid Khalidi's *All That Remains* and should not necessarily be treated as a field survey updated to the

present day.

Sources

- PalQuest – Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question: Yasur
- PalQuest – Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question: Operation Barak
- Institute for Palestine Studies: Walid Khalidi, *All That Remains*
- Palestine Remembered: Yasur – Gaza District
- Palestine Remembered: Yasur entry from *All That Remains*
- Yasur Charitable Society: About the Society and its establishment