



THE LEADERS IN THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Israel's War of Independence was the first war between the State of Israel and its neighboring Arab countries. It started on the eve of the establishment of the State (May 14, 1948) and continued until January 1949. The war broke out following the rejection of the United Nations' Partition Plan, Resolution 181 of the General Assembly (November 29, 1947), by the Arab states and the Arab Higher Committee.

Israeli forces were led and commanded by many brave men. Here are just some of them.



DAVID BEN-GURION was the primary national founder of the State of Israel and the first Prime Minister of Israel.

He was the preeminent leader of the Jewish community in British Mandate Palestine from 1935 until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, which he led until 1963 with a short break in 1954-55. Ben-Gurion led Israel during the 1948 Arab–Israeli War and united the various Jewish militias into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).



YISRAEL GALILI was an Israeli politician, government minister and member of Knesset.

He was appointed Chief of Staff of the Haganah in 1946 and served in that capacity until June 1948.



YAAKOV DORI was the first

Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). He was also the President of the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology. When the IDF was formed, Dori took over as its first Chief of Staff.



YIGAEEL YADIN was an Israeli

archeologist, soldier and politician. He was the second Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces and Deputy Prime Minister from 1977 to 1981. He served as Israel's Head of Operations during the War of Independence and was responsible for many of the key decisions made during the course of that war.



DAVID DANIEL “MICKY” MARCUS was a United States

Army colonel who assisted Israel during the War of Independence, and became Israel's first modern general. He was killed by friendly fire when he was mistaken for an enemy infiltrator while returning to Israeli positions at night.



YIGAL ALLON was an Israeli

politician, a commander of the Palmach, and a general in the IDF. He served as one of the leaders of the Achdut HaAvoda party and the Israeli Labor party, and acting Prime Minister of Israel. He was a Knesset member and government minister from the third Knesset to the ninth.



YITZHAK RABIN was an

Israeli politician, statesman and general. He was the fifth Prime Minister of Israel, serving two terms in office, 1974–77, and 1992 until his assassination in 1995. As a teenager, he joined the Palmach, eventually rising through its ranks to become its chief of operations during Israel's War of Independence. He joined the newly formed Israel Defense Forces in late 1948 and continued to rise as a promising officer.



DAVID SHALTIEL was an

Israeli military and intelligence officer, later also diplomat, most well known for being the Jerusalem district commander of the Haganah during the War of Independence.



MOSHE DAYAN was an Israeli

military leader and politician. As commander of the Jerusalem front in the War of Independence, Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces (1953–58) during the 1956 Suez Crisis, but mainly as Defense Minister during the Six-Day War in 1967, he became a fighting symbol of the new State of Israel. In 1947, Dayan was appointed to the Haganah General Staff working on Arab affairs, in particular recruiting agents to gain information about irregular Arab forces in Palestine.



SHIMON AVIDAN was an

Israeli soldier and officer, the commander of the Givati Brigade during the War of Independence. During the war, he was the operational commander of Operation Nachshon, Operation Barak, Operation Pleshet and Operation An-Far. His troops also fought at Nitzanim as well as joining Operation Death to the Invader and Operation Yoav.



MOSHE CARMEL was an

Israeli soldier and politician who served as Minister of Transportation for eight years.

During the War of Independence, he was commander of the Carmeli Brigade, which was especially known for Operation Hiram, aimed at capturing the Upper Galilee region from the Arab Liberation Army (ALA) forces led by Fawzi al-Qawuqji and a Syrian battalion. The operation, which lasted just 60 hours (October 29–31), was marked by heavy fighting between Arabs and Jews and ended just before the ceasefire with the neighboring Arab countries went into effect.



YITZHAK SADEH was the

commander of the Palmach and one of the founders of the Israel Defense Forces. At the beginning of 1948, Sadeh was in command of the Haganah training camp at Mishmar HaEmek. In early April he successfully defended the kibbutz against a full-scale attack by the Arab Liberation Army. In the counter-attack that followed, his troops conquered a large section of the Jezreel Valley. At the end of April, he commanded two Brigades in a series of attacks on strategic areas in and around Jerusalem, Operation Yevusi. ■