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.
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.

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.