

Village Statistics 1945

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Once again the Department of Land Settlement was called upon to provide, as a matter of urgency, a revision of the 'Village Statistics' of 1943. At the same time, the Department of Statistics was instructed to supply figures on population. Both Departments cooperated in the preparation of this information which eventually emerged in the form of the 'Village Statistics 1945' with which we are now dealing. This was the last such publication issued by the Palestine Government before the termination of the Mandate on 14 May 1948.

The difference between the 1943 and 1945 editions is that whereas the former gave only particulars as between Jews and non-Jews, the latter was more detailed and included information on estimated population by community as at the end of 1944 and land holdings broken up according to Arabs, Jews, Public (government, municipalities and local councils) and Others.

The village names appearing in the 'Village Statistics' are in accordance with the Administrative Divisions (Amendment) Proclamation 1945 as published in the *Palestine Gazette* No. 1415 dated 7 June 1945. This Proclamation divided Palestine into six districts (Galilee, Haifa, Samaria, Jerusalem, Lydda and Gaza) comprising sixteen sub-districts, each sub-district consisting of a number of town and village units.

The following examples explain the system adopted where more than one name appeared on the same line:

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| (a) Where a territorial unit included two or more administrative units which were not territorially separated from one another and were of equal importance — | Sur Bahir and Umm Tuba |
| (b) A unit which included a <i>Khirbet</i> ('hamlet') or a previously declared village which was no longer recognized as a separate village entity — | Beit Kahil (includes Khirbet Jamrura) |
| (c) Change of name — | 'Ein hash Shofat
(Previously Ji'ara) |
| (d) An entity known by two names — | Khirbet Samah (Eilon) |

The limits of towns were as defined under the Urban Property Tax Ordinance; and village built-up areas were those lands classified in category 4 under the Rural Property Tax Ordinance.