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LETRE DATEE DU 11 JUILLET 1968, ADRESSEE AU PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL DE
SECURITE PAR LE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES PAR INTERIM DU LIBAN

Dans la lettre que je vous ai adressée le 12 mai 1968 (document S/8583 du 13 mai 1968), j'ai porté à votre attention l'attaque gratuite d'Israël contre le village libanais de HOULA.

Le 12 mai 1968, le Liban a déposé une plainte auprès de la Commission mixte d'armistice israélo-libanaise. Une enquête a été menée par le capitaine de l'armée belge J. Legrand, observateur militaire de l'ONU. Cette enquête a fait l'objet d'un rapport daté du 17 mai 1968 adressé au Président de la Commission mixte d'armistice israélo-libanaise.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint le texte complet du rapport susmentionné.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre ainsi que le rapport qui y est joint comme documents du Conseil de sécurité.

Veuillez agréer, etc.

Le Chargé d'affaires a.i.,
(Signé) Souheil CHAMMAS



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UNITED NATIONS

ISRAEL-LEBANESE MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION

Beirut, 17 May 1968

To: Chairman, ILMAC
From: Capt. J. Legrand, Belgian Army, UNMO
Subject: Report of one-sided investigation conducted on 12 May 1968
in connexion with Lebanese Complaint No. L-32/68 of 12 May 1968

1. Text of Complaint

Message No. 54/68 of 12 May 1968:

"A salvo of 45 rounds of mortar coming from Cheikh Abbad, BP 33, causing one female killed, 2 wounded and also the killing of 7 bulls, 3 goats, 1 she-ass and much damage in the buildings, was fired during the night of 11/12 May 1968 around 2300 hours (LT). You are requested to send an Observer to examine the damages, and to consider this message as a complaint."

2. Present

United Nations	-	Capt. J. Legrand, UNMO
Lebanon	-	Capt. Harrouk, of the Lebanese Delegation.

3. Map Used

METULLA 1/100.000 Palestine Series.

4. Preamble

at HULA
The investigation commenced on 12 May 1968 at 1145Z and was interrupted the same day at 1420Z.

The investigation recommenced at 0800Z on 17 May at the ILMAC office, Beirut, and was concluded on the same day and at the same place at 0815Z on receipt of the medical certificates (see Annexes D, E, F and G).

The area of the incident is part of HULA village (approx. MR 1985-2906) which is built on a ridge (direction East-West), part of a chain of hills (direction North-South) with the following hill tops: MANARA (approx. MR 2910-2892) and Sheikh Abbad (approx. MR 2005-2905).

The ADL is marked on the ground by Border Pillar 32 and Border Pillar 33. A steep cliff, cultivated and planted with olive trees, can be noticed between the South-Southeast outskirts of HULA village and the main road MEISS EL JEBEL (approx. MR 1995-2860) - TEL NAHAS (approx. MR 2028-3004).

The HULA village consists of an important group of dwellings around a mosque (see Annex A, "A" Zone), while other houses are spread out between the main road and the village itself (see Annex A, "B" Zone).

- (a) The investigating UNMO, together with the Lebanese LO, first visited the house of HUSSEIN SELIM ALI HUSSEIN, where a shell had hit the eastern balcony, allegedly killing two goats and causing severe damages to the doors, windows and various household items in the house.
- (b) The UNMO then proceeded to the dwelling of FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB, age 60, widow of YOUSSEF AHMOUD. Two hits near the eastern and south-eastern walls allegedly fatally injured FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB and slightly injured her son, ALI YOUSSEF AHMOUD, age 19. Three cows were also allegedly killed in the vicinity of this house and another one was injured. The tailfins of 2 mortar shells were allegedly found on the spot in craters and shown to the UNMO.
- (c) The investigating UNMO was shown a third house. In the vicinity of this dwelling about 10 shells allegedly killed a sho-ass and a bull, also injuring a cow. A gable of this house was seriously cracked.
- (d) The investigating UNMO then visited the fourth house. FATIMA ABRAHAM CANAOUI, a 45-year-old woman, had allegedly been injured at the threshold. She was admitted to MARJAYOUN Hospital and could not be interrogated. In front of this house, besides two craters caused by an explosion, an iron electric-power post was shown to the investigating UNMO. Two hits, allegedly made by bullets, were seen. One of them could be easily identified, as it was recent, of circular shape, 10-mm. in diameter. The jagged metal at point of impact indicated that this bullet may have come from East to West.
- (e) The UNMO searched all fields and gardens situated South-East of the village, especially those in the cliff. Craters were shown, in which tailfins of mortar shell or steel fragments were found. Two white nylon parachutes, identified as used in mortar flaring shells, were found, as well as 2 tailfins and 2 bodies of flaring shells.

- (f) The UNMO proceeded finally to the village cemetery where FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB had been buried shortly before the arrival in HULA of the investigating UNMO. The tomb was opened, but, in respect to religious customs, the body could not be removed. Only the upper part of the face was visible. The body was photographed.
- (g) Several photographs were taken. In addition to examining the victims and the damages already mentioned, the investigating UNMO counted altogether 45 hits or craters allegedly made by explosions, 30 of them could be identified clearly.
- (h) After all the above, the investigating UNMO proceeded to the mukhtar's house in order to interrogate the witnesses.

5. Statements of Witnesses

a. First Witness

HUSSEIN SELIM ALI HUSSEIN, 40 years old, made the following statement in Arabic, which was translated into French by Capt. Harrouk:

"This night, at about 0005 hours, local time, I heard explosions so I came out of the house, but cannot tell you at what time exactly. There were more than 30 explosions nearby. After the shooting, I found out that two goats which were in the garden in front of us had been hit; one was killed, the other one mortally wounded."

The above statement was read back to the witness, who concurred. No questions were asked.

b. Second Witness

ALI YOUSSEF AHMOUD, age 19, made the following statement in Arabic, which was translated into French by Capt. Harrouk:

"During the shelling of this night, my mother, who was frightened by the first shots, ran out of the house and was hit in the legs while she was two metres from the door. She died a while later. I was following her and was slightly hit myself by a fragment under the left breast, as you can see."

The above statement was read back to the witness, who concurred.

Questions asked by the investigating UNMO:

Q.1 - Your mother's name and age?

A.1 - FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB, 60 years old, widow of my father, YOUSSEF AHMOUD.

Q.2 - Are there other victims or damages?

A.2 - Holes in the walls, 3 cows were killed and another one injured.

Questions and answers were read back to the witness who confirmed them as correct.

c. Third Witness

MOHAMMED MUSSA MUSTAPHA ABOU ZERLI, age 35, made the following statement in Arabic, which was translated into French by Capt. Harrouk:

"This night I heard first some bursts of machine gun, followed by a lighting of the ground by means of a parachute flare-bomb. Later, about 40 explosions and again a flare-bomb. The shelling lasted about 15 minutes."

The above statement was read back to the witness, who concurred. No questions were asked.

d. Fourth Witness

MOHAMMED ALI KASSIM KOUTAICHE, mukhtar of HULA village, made the following statement in Arabic, which was translated into French by Capt. Harrouk:

"Due to the shelling of last night, one woman was killed, her son, ALI YOUSSEF, was injured, and another woman hurt on the right leg. Four cows, one bull, one she-ass and two goats were killed; three cows were injured. The house of HUSSEIN SELIM was badly damaged, the wall of another house was severely damaged."

The above statement was read back to the witness, who concurred.

Questions by the investigating UNMO:

Q.1 - At what time did the shelling take place?

A.1 - About midnight, a little before or after 0000 LT.

Q.2 - How long did it last?

A.2 - About 15 minutes, maybe a little less. A flare-shell was fired at the beginning and another one at the end.

Q.3 - Has the origin of the shelling been located?

A.3 - Yes, from Sheikh Abbad.

Q.4 - Was the night bright?

A.4 - Yes, it was a clear moonlit night.

Questions and answers were read back to the witness who confirmed them as correct.

(N.B.: The Lebanese LO asked the witness the following question, which he requested to be included in the report: Q. Did you see suspicious or unknown people in the village yesterday or during the week? A. No.)

6. Physical Evidence

a. Material evidence seen by the UNMO

1. The body of FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB, whose tomb was re-opened at the request of the investigating UNMO; ALI YOUSSEF AHMOUD's wound; FATIMA ABRAHAM GANAOUI's wound, being treated in MARJAYOUN Hospital (approx. MR 1360-1585).

2. The bodies of 4 cows, 1 bull, 1 she-ass, 2 goats, all showing several injuries, and 3 wounded cows.

3. 45 hits or craters; tailfins or fragments of mortar shells (81 mm., or 3") were found in or nearby 30 of these craters;

Two white, silken parachutes of flare-shells;

Twenty tailfins of explosive shells;

Many fragments of exploded shells;

Two tailfins and 2 bodies of flare-shells; printed letters, in Hebrew, were seen on the body of the flare-shells.

Etched letters were clearly read on two tailfins of explosive shells, and on the two tailfins of flare-shells after having cleaned them (see Annex C);

Two severely damaged houses;

An electric-power post showing alleged prints of bullets.

b. Documentary evidence

1. Doctor's certificate for FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB (Annex D).

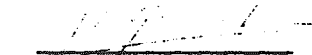
2. Doctor's certificate for FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB (Annex E).

3. Doctor's certificate for ALI YOUSSEF HAMOUD (Annex F).

4. Doctor's certificate for FATIMA IBRAHIM GHANAWI (Annex G).

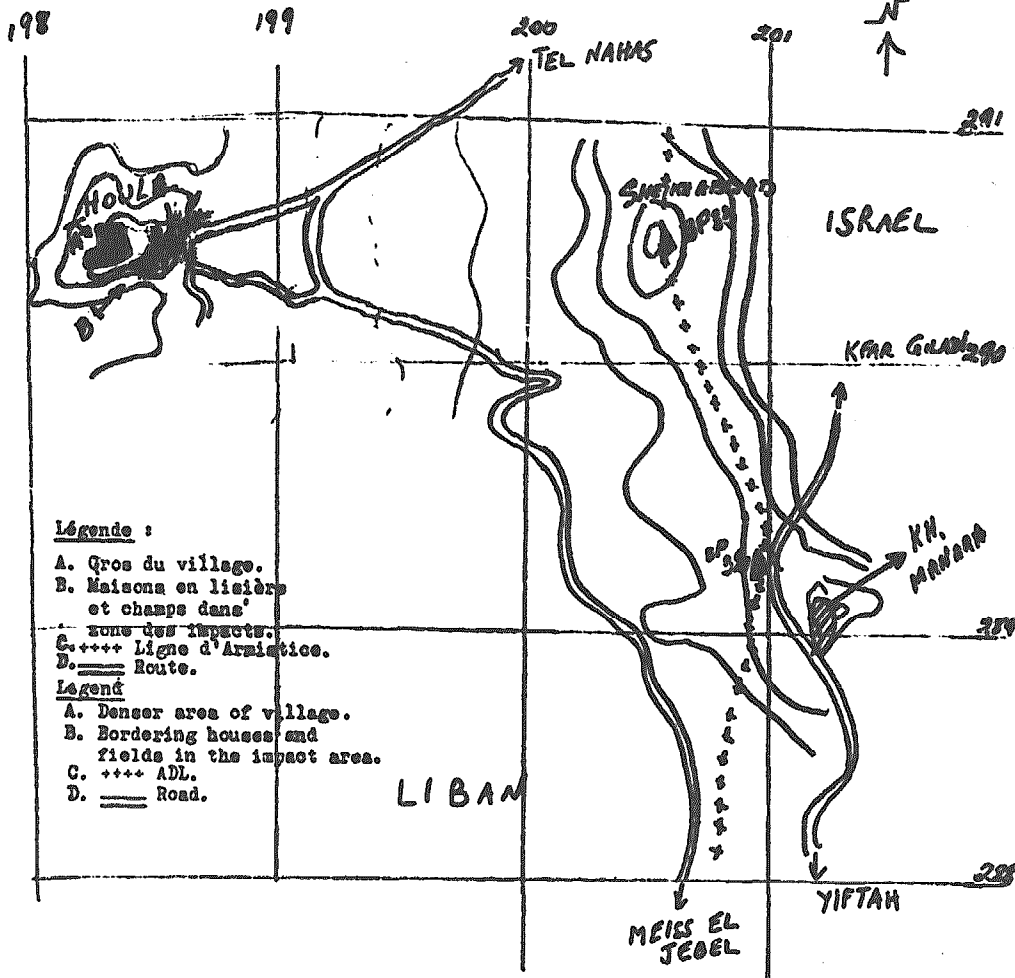
7. Summary of Investigation

- a. Investigation commenced on 12 May at 1145Z, was interrupted the same day at 1420Z, recommenced at 0800Z on 17 May 1968 and concluded on 17 May at 0815Z.
- b. Scene of the incident: approx. MR 1985-2906.
- c. Four witnesses were interrogated.
- d. Photographs were taken.
- e. Evidence was produced as in paragraph 6.
- f. Documentary evidence: doctor's certificates are attached as Annexes D, E, F, G.
- g. Trace of Map 1/20.000 of the general area of the incident is attached as Annex A.
- h. Locality sketch, not to scale, is attached as Annex B.
- i. Sketch of tailfin with inscriptions is attached as Annex C.


Capt. J. Legrand
Belgian Army, UNMO

Noted by Chairman


Lt-Col. R. Allard de Grandmaison



Scale - Echelle 1/20.000

(Trace of Map METULLA 1/100.000 - Palestine Series)
 (d'après la carte METULLA 1/100.000 de la série PALESTINE)

Lebanese Complaint
Plainte du Liban 1-32/68

ANNEX B
ANNEXE

198

199

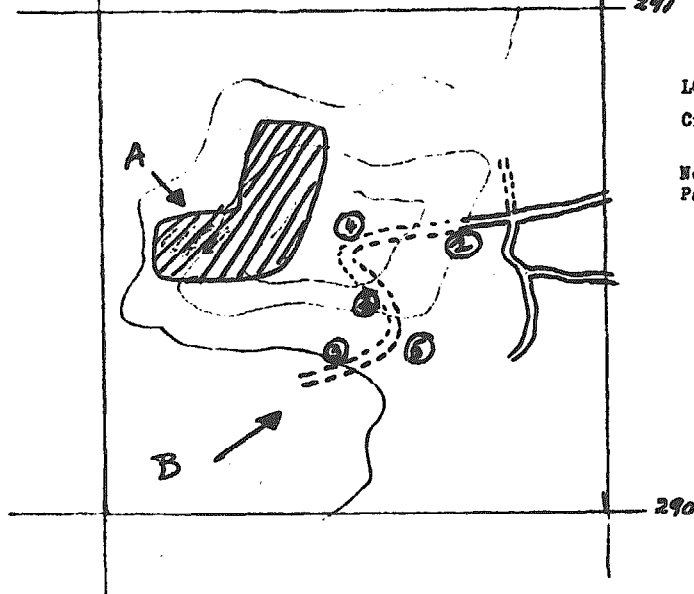
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LOCALITY SKETCH

Croquis sommaire du village

Not to Scale
Pas à échelle



Legend

Showing "B" Zone of HOULA village. Spots indicated (see preamble) are:

- (1) House of HUSSEIN SELIM ALI HUSSEIN.
- (2) House of FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB.
- (3) House and garden (see paragraph 4 (e)).
- (4) House of FATIMA ABRAHAM GANAQUL.
- (5) Fields and gardens (see paragraph 4 (e)).

Légende

Montrant la Zone "B" du village de HOULA. Les points indiqués (voir préambule) sont :

- (1) Maison de HUSSEIN SELIM ALI HUSSEIN.
- (2) Maison de FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB.
- (3) Maison et jardin (voir paragraphe 4 (e)).
- (4) Maison de FATIMA ABRAHAM GANAQUL.
- (5) Champs et jardins (voir paragraphe 4 (e)).

Lebanese Complaint
Plainte du Liban

L-32/68

a. Bombe explosive

Explosive shell

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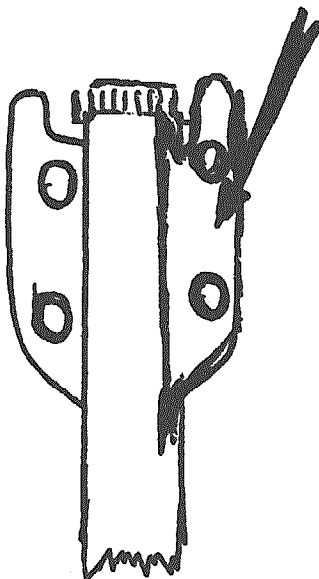
b. Bombe éclairante

Flare shell

3 / ∅ □
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Υ Π - 1 - 67.

Position des inscriptions

Place of the inscriptions



(Translation from French)

Republic of Lebanon
Lebanese Army
South-Lebanon Region
Central Sector
Tibnine Infirmary

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Colonel (medical) WEHBE, Chief Doctor of the TIENINE hospital certifies that during the night of 11/12 May 1968 at approx. 2 o'clock a.m. I examined FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB aged approx. 62 years, wife of YOUSSEF HAMMOUD of HOULE, South Lebanon region, and noted that she was suffering of open fractures with total tearing of muscles and blood vessels in both legs as a result of a large wound caused by fire-arms (shell fragments).

The wounded person was immediately evacuated to the Government Hospital in Saida where she died at approx. 6 a.m. 12/5/68 due to haemorrhagic shock caused by wounds from shell fragments.

Tibnine, 13/5/68

(sgd.) Colonel (medical) Wehbe

(seal affixed)

(Translation from French)

On Sunday 12/5/68 at 5 a.m. a military ambulance brought to the Saida hospital the patient named FATIMA MOHAMMED AYOUB. Upon examination, she suffered from many deep wounds and traumatization in both legs and hips which caused a great loss of blood with state of shock.

She died one half hour later caused by a state of acute shock and the large quantity of blood she lost.

(signed) Dr Khalil el Chami

(seal affixed)

(Translation from French)

Republic of Lebanon
Lebanese Army
South-Lebanon Region
Central Sector
Tibnine Infirmary

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Colonel (Medical) WEHBE, Chief doctor of the TIBNINE Hospital, certifies that during the night of 11/12/5/68 at approx. 2 a.m., I examined ALI YOUSSEF HAMMOUD, son of the deceased woman FATIMA M. AYOUB, aged 19 years approximately, of HOULA, and I noted that he had sustained superficial wounds caused by fire-arms (shell fragments) on the left forearm and the left inferior part of the thoracic cage. His health condition requires a period of 10 days rest with treatment.

Tibnine, 13/5/68

(sgd.) Colonel (Medical) Wehbe

(seal affixed)

(Translation from French)

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL
MARJAYOUN

MEDICAL REPORT

The undersigned, Doctor EMILE CHEDID, certifies that, after examination at MARJAYOUN on 12/5/1968, of the patient FATHME IBRAHIM GHANAWI, aged 45 years, of the village of HOULA, I found her suffering, at the level of the external right buttock, of a wound two centimetres in length and 5 centimetres in depth, approximately.

This wound is jagged with darkish edges caused by a shell fragment.

This person requires total rest and full hospitalization for a period of 15 days.

MARJAYOUN, 12/5/1968

(sgd.) Dr Emile Shadid

