

ISRAEL BLASTS TERRORIST BASES

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- In what Israeli officials described as "counter-attack" in retaliation for "bloody attacks and murderous acts," Israeli Air Force planes bombed Palestinian terrorist bases over a wide area in Lebanon on April 22. No Israeli casualties were reported.

In a statement released after the attack went into effect in the afternoon, Israel justified the action on the grounds that "terrorist organizations whose centers, headquarters and bases are in Lebanon, have recently carried out against Israeli citizens bloody attacks and murderous acts in Israel and abroad in Europe. These reached a climax this morning when terrorist mines killed an Israeli army officer."

The officer was killed and another soldier wounded when their vehicle hit an anti-tank mine in southern Lebanon. Their names were not immediately released. The statement also referred to the killing of Yaacov Bar-Simantov, an Israeli diplomat in Paris. The Israeli government has

held the Palestine Liberation Organization responsible for the Paris murder.

The Israeli strike was in retaliation for terrorist actions across the Lebanese Israel border. Israel has long held that the cease-fire across the border included actions against Israeli nationals and institutions not only across the border, but anywhere, including Europe. This included infiltration attempts by Palestinian terrorists via Syria and Jordan. Israeli Cabinet ministers and military officials vowed that these and other acts would not go unanswered. According to the announcement of the Israeli raid into Lebanon, the bombers hit terrorist targets south of Beirut, and northeast Sidon which has served as operational bases for terrorist attacks and sabotage operations against Israel.

Beirut radiobroadcasts reported widespread air attacks on refugee camps in Beirut, the port of Damour and elsewhere in southern Lebanon and on radar installations and other Palestinian targets along the coast.

*Lag Ba'Omer
- The Bonfire Day*

BY DR. DAVID GEFFEN

After the celebration of Israel's Independence Day, the wood hoarders go to work throughout the neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Children of all sizes and from all walks of life can be seen dragging old logs and misshapen planks of wood through the streets. Frequently it is hard to believe that children so small can move objects so large. Squirreling these treasures away in hundreds of hiding places, these wood hoarders are preparing for the Lag ba'Omer bonfires.

Each year I am astonished anew as the collection proceeds. Lag ba'Omer, when I was a lad in the United States, was a day of athletic contests. Here in Jerusalem the night of Lag ba'Omer is aglow with bonfires, which dot the hillsides and the empty lots in the various neighborhoods. The biggest, annually, is usually in Bayit Vegan, where the base is about two stories high before it is lit. Then the flames literally leap up to the heavens.

In many Jerusalem neighborhoods the Lag ba'Omer bonfire is a time for families to get together and have a leisurely cookout. The kids plan the menu and do all the cooking - the parents are their guests. Sitting around the medura (campfire), singing fills the air and it's a time to reminisce and to plan, a time to be joyful and wistful. The Lag ba'Omer bonfire provides wonderful opportunity for all these feelings and is a time of togetherness.

The lighting of fires of Lag ba'Omer relates to the tradition that this day marks the anniversary of the death of Rabbi Shimeon Bar Yohai, considered to be the author of the mystical treatise the Zohar. His yahrzeit (anniversary) is marked with the "hilule de Rebbe Shimon" - the special hymns in praise of this great rabbinical leader and thinker. To accompany these hymns custom has it that fires are lit as a mass tribute in his memory. Through the years this tradition has grown and become more widespread.

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