

Fighting Terror In Jenin

In the Jenin operation and on other occasions, local Arabs were forced to drive "mine-sweeping taxis" ahead of... vehicles in areas where Palestinian Arab terrorists were believed to have planted mines, in order "to reduce landmine casualties."

"When the troops left, there was little else remaining of the once-busy village except a pile of mangled masonry," The New York Times reported.

Under Emergency Regulation 19b, the... government could demolish any house located in a village where terrorists resided, even if that particular house had no direct connection to terrorist activity.

[The government official] later recalled: "When we thought that a village was harboring rebels, we'd go there and mark one of the large houses.

"Then, if an incident was traced to that village, we'd blow up the house we'd marked."

The [government official] defended the practice: "The provision is drastic, but the situation has demanded drastic powers."

The [government official] was furious over what he called the "grossly exaggerated accusations" that ... critics were circulating concerning ... anti-terror tactics

The... documents also record discussions among officials of the Colonial Office concerning the rightness or wrongness of the anti-terror methods used....

[Another official stated]: "... lives are being lost and I don't think that we, from [our] security..., can protest squeamishly about measures taken by the men in the frontline."

[Yet another official] defended the tactics on the grounds that [they]... were confronted "not with a chivalrous opponent playing the game according to the rules, but with gangsters and murderers."

All quotes are from "How the British fought Arab terror in Jenin" *The Jerusalem Post*; April 19, 2002; Rafael Medoff

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