

the details of partition, which implied a certain lack of resolution to carry out the proposed partition scheme.<sup>90</sup>

At the same time new military measures designed to crush the renewal of rebellion were carried out and on 12 September Lieutenant-General Wavell replaced Dill as General Officer Commanding (GOC).

The opportunity to carry out measures against the political leadership of the new phase of the Rebellion presented itself when L.Y. Andrews, District Commissioner of Galilee, and his police escort were assassinated at Nazareth. Despite their public condemnation of the act the Arab Higher Committee and all National Committees were declared illegal and the Mufti was deprived of his offices as President of the Supreme Muslim Council and as Chairman of the *Waqf* Committee. Several members of the Higher Committees were deported to Seychelles. Hundreds of political activists and suspected rebels were arrested. The Mufti remained secure in the sanctuary of the *Haram* and Jamal Husseini avoided arrest and left Palestine. A prohibition was laid on the local press to mention or comment on the events of 1 October.<sup>91</sup>

On 2 October, a strike of protest against the arrests was observed in Jerusalem and on the following two days it spread to many other parts of Palestine. Two days later, Hajj Amin issued a manifesto calling on the Arabs to return to work, thus bringing the strike to an end. A period of calm followed and on 14 October the Mufti, in spite of police precautions, managed to escape to Lebanon.

On the night of 14-15 October the lull was suddenly and violently broke. Two attacks were made on Jewish buses in the vicinity of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements were subjected to sporadic shooting, the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) pipeline was damaged just west of the Jordan River and the escaping oil-ignited, telephone lines were cut, a passenger train was derailed and a troop train was heavily fired upon in the mountains south west of Jerusalem and a police patrol was heavily ambushed near Hebron.<sup>92</sup> Curfew was immediately imposed on Jerusalem. On the following night a large party of Arab rebels penetrated the premises of the Lydda airport and completely burned out the wooden buildings housing the customs and passport offices and the wireless installation. A twenty-three hour curfew was imposed on Lydda for four days, two houses were demolished and a collective fine of £P 5,000 was imposed. The second phase of the rebellion was already under way. Emergency regulations were soon declared, and police posts were established in various villages at the cost of the inhabitants. As early as November 1937, troops entering villages were fired on and some of the villagers attempted to resist and threw

stones whereupon the troops returned the fire'.<sup>93</sup>

The renewal of the rebellion dealt a severe blow to Partition and to 'Abdullah and his moderate Palestinian friends whose influence in Palestine is now negligible'.<sup>94</sup> On 8 December the Cabinet after prolonged discussions resolved 'to inform the (Partition) Commission that it was open to them to represent that no scheme of partition that they could devise was likely to prove workable'.<sup>95</sup> Arab opposition to partition induced the Jews to stand even more firmly with the Government in a common front against the renewed Arab Rebellion. In an interview with Parkinson Dr Brodetsky informed him, that 'the Arabs had approached the Jews with proposals for some kind of agreement between the Arabs and Jews on the basis that the connection with Great Britain would be completely severed. This the Jews rejected out of hand as they regarded the connection with Great Britain as essential'.<sup>96</sup> As soon as the rebellion was renewed the Jews demanded the formation of Jewish armed units to fight along side of British forces against the Arab rebels. The previous policy of self-restraint was abandoned, and scores of Arabs were killed and injured by Jews, as a result of Jewish reprisals.<sup>97</sup>

The strong punitive measures taken in the wake of the resurgence of violence in mid-October induced some village chieftains to deny aid to the nascent rebel bands, and thus cut them off from the essential link between them and their supporters in the villages, who were their basic source of supplies, information and cover. The rebels who were growing in numbers saw in the tendency of some village notables to co-operate with the Government a serious threat and soon regained the initiative by intimidating the collaborators.

Despite the Government's repressive measures, the rebels were attracting and training more recruits,<sup>98</sup> and the organisation of the renewed rebellion showed some improvement over that of 1936. To begin with Rebel Headquarters called *al-Lujnah al-Markaziyya lil-Jihad* were instituted at Damascus under the active administration of Darwaza and the guidance of the Mufti from Lebanon. Rebel Headquarters were responsible for effecting co-ordination and co-operation between the largely independent rebel formations headed by a local military leader and assisted by platoon leaders. These formations were led by Palestinians and maintained the closest contact with the peasants and the villages in their respective areas of operation. The most prominent leaders, of the second phase of the rebellion were 'Abdul Rahim al-Hajj Mukammad (Tulkasen), 'Aref 'Abdul Razeq (Nablus), 'Abdul Qader Husseini (Jerusalem), and later Yusuf Abu Durra (Galilee).