

human habitation was discovered in the caves of al-Wad, al-Tabun, and al-Sukhul during an excavation in the 1930s. About 3 km northeast, at the entrance to Wadi Falah, evidence of a human presence during the Neolithic period was unearthed in a cave. Excavations close to the east revealed a site that had been occupied from the second millennium B.C. to the seventh century A.D. In a Hellenistic source the site is named Adarus, a colony of Sidon.

The Arab geographer Yaqut al-Hamawi (d. 1228) referred to the village in his *Mu'jam al-Buldan*, describing it as a fortress called al-Ahmar ("red"). [Cited in Le Strange 1965:403] In 1218 the Crusaders built a town and a large fortress on the site of Adarus. They called the fortress *Castellum Peregrinorum*, "castle of the pilgrims." 'Atlit remained in the Crusaders' hands until 1291, when its defenders abandoned it in the wake of the general withdrawal of their forces from the coastal area of Palestine. In 1296 descendants of the 'Uwayrat tribe (a Tartar tribe) settled in 'Atlit and its vicinity. [D 7/ 2:595-97] In 1596 'Atlit had a farm that paid taxes to the Ottoman government. [Al-Bakhit and al-Hamud 1989a:17] In the early nineteenth century the British traveler Buckingham saw the ruins of the village from a distance. [Buckingham 1821:121-22] Later in that century, another traveler (Thomson) said that the village of 'Atlit was built inside the ruins of the Crusader village. [Thomson 1880:65-66] The authors of the *Survey of Western Palestine* said it was a hamlet built of adobe bricks. Its inhabitants, who numbered about 200, tilled 20 *faddans* (1 *faddan* = 100-250 dunums; see Glossary). [SWP (1881) 1:281]

In 1903 Jewish settlers established a settlement near 'Atlit and gave it the same name. During World War I the Jewish settlement became a center for Nili (*Netzach Yisra'el Lo Yeshaqqer*, "the strength of Israel will not lie"), a pro-British, Zionist intelligence organization. In the 1920s the Palestinian village of 'Atlit was a member of a regional cooperative association that was dedicated to the improvement of peasant life and included some 25 villages in Haifa District. [Zayid 1990:230] By 1938 the population in both the village and the settlement of 'Atlit had grown to 732, comprised of 508 Arabs and 224 Jews. By 1944/45, however, the number of Arab inhabitants had fallen to 150, including 90 Muslims and 60 Christians. As for the land, only 15 dunums remained in Arab hands; 3 dunums were planted in cereals and 11 dunums were irrigated or used for orchards. The village had a railway station. In the 1930s C. N. Johns excavated the Crusader town and fortress for the Department of Antiquities in Palestine. More recent exploration has shown that the north harbor of the town may be Hellenistic in origin. A Muslim cemetery east of the Crusader castle has an Arabic inscription dating to 1800. [Ronen and Olami 1978]

Occupation and Depopulation

The *History of the Haganah* refers to 'Atlit as a base of Haganah activity and a source for recruits, who lived in the Jewish settlement there. Another Israeli source (historian Benny Morris) fails to list it among the villages captured and depopulated during 1948. It is not clear when the Arab village of 'Atlit fell into Zionist hands or by what means. [S:1311, 1531]

Israeli Settlements on Village Lands

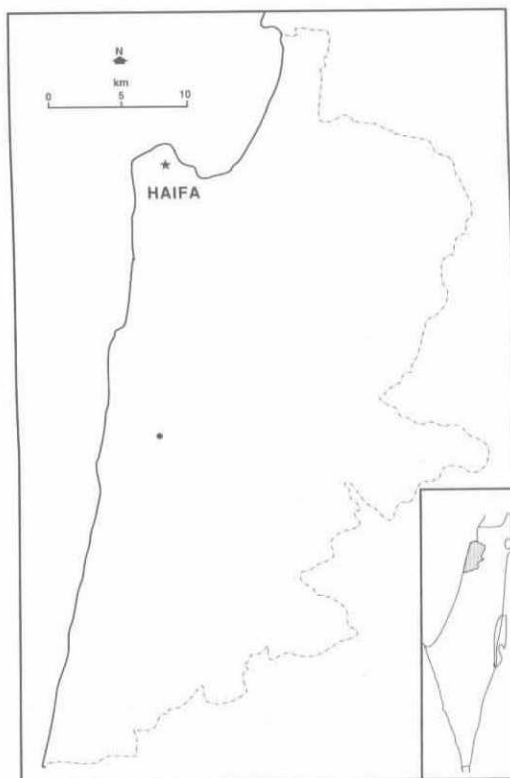
The Zionists established the settlement of 'Atlit (145232) in 1903 and Newe Yam (143231) in 1939. Both are now on village lands.

The Village Today

No traces of Arab houses are left. A railroad station that used to serve the village is still in use. A prison in the vicinity was used by Israel in 1989 for holding Lebanese and Palestinian detainees.

'Ayn Ghazal

عَيْن غَزَال



Location:

PGR: 147226
Distance from Haifa (km): 21

Average elevation (meters): 110

Land ownership and use in 1944/45 (dunums):

Ownership:		Use:	
Arab:	14,628	cultivable:	10,382
Jewish:	424	(% of total)	(57)
Public:	3,027	built-up:	130
Total:	18,079		

Population:

1931: 1,439 (includes al-Sawamir)
1944/45: 2,170

Number of houses (1931): 247 (includes al-Sawamir)

'Ayn Ghazal Before 1948

The village was situated on the edges of a wadi on the higher slopes of Mount Carmel. It was near the highway between Haifa and Tel Aviv, a location that accorded it special



Rubble on the village site. (May 1987) [AYN GHAZAL]



The shrine of Shaykh Shahada. (May 1987) [AYN GHAZAL]

importance during the war of 1948. In the late nineteenth century, 'Ayn Ghazal was a small village built of stone and mud. The village's 450 residents cultivated 35 *faddans* (1 *faddan* = 100–250 dunums; see Glossary). [SWP (1881) II:41] The villagers were Muslims and maintained a shrine for a local sage named Shaykh Shahada. The village had an elementary school for boys that was founded around 1886, during the Ottoman period. It also had an elementary school for girls and a cultural and athletic club. Water from a nearby well, drilled in the 1940s, was pumped into the village via a pipeline. The village economy was based on livestock breeding and agriculture; in 1944/45 olive trees were planted on about 1,400 dunums, and a total of 8,472 dunums was allocated to cereals. The village's proximity to the city of Haifa made it possible for part of the population to work in the service sector of the port and in its commercial section.

Occupation and Depopulation

The *New York Times* quoted a Jewish newspaper as saying that there was an attack on the village on 14 March 1948, in which four houses were razed to the ground. The British police stated that one Arab woman was killed and five men were wounded in the attack. The Palestinian newspaper *Filastin* had reported an attack on 'Ayn Ghazal a few days earlier, on 10 March, without giving further details. Two months later, on 20 May, another attack took place. An informant told a reporter for the Associated Press that 'Ayn Ghazal was stormed by the Haganah after snipers halted traffic on the Haifa–Tel Aviv road. No mention was made of casualties. [F:11/3/48; NYT:15/3/48, 21/5/48]

'Ayn Ghazal, Jaba', and Ijzim constituted the Little Triangle south of Haifa, which resisted a number of Israeli attacks in subsequent months and formed a pocket that was not occupied until the end of July 1948. Three main attempts were made to capture the villages. The first two attempts, on 18 June and 8 July, were successfully repulsed by the villages' defenders. In the third, the Israeli army took advantage of the second truce to strike with a special force drawn from units of the Golani, Carmeli, and Alexandroni brigades. The operation began on 24 July and involved massive artillery and aerial bombardment for a whole day. (Later, Israeli foreign minister Shertok lied to a United Nations mediator and said that "no

planes were used.") On 26 July, an Associated Press story noted simply that Israeli planes and infantry had violated the Palestinian truce by attacking the three villages.

Despite the severity of the onslaught, the villages still took two days to occupy, and Israeli troops continued to fire on villagers as they fled. Israeli historian Benny Morris states that captured villagers were ordered to bury the charred bodies of from 25 to 30 people at 'Ayn Ghazal, and some reports indicated that there had been a massacre in the village. But the Israeli authorities denied this, saying that the bodies were burned because they had been found dead and had begun to decompose. The *New York Times* reported at the time that Israeli liaison officers admitted to the UN truce supervisors that nine villagers had been killed at 'Ayn Ghazal. The United Nations could find no evidence of a massacre. However, in mid-September UN investigators put the number of killed or missing from the three villages at 130, according to the *Times*. UN mediator Count Folke Bernadotte condemned Israel's "systematic" destruction of 'Ayn Ghazal and Jaba' and asked that the Israeli government restore at its own expense all houses damaged or destroyed during and after the attack. Bernadotte said that 8,000 people had been driven out of the three villages and demanded that they be allowed to return. Israel rejected Bernadotte's demand. [M:213–14; NYT:26/7/48, 31/7/48, 14/9/48; T:252–54]

Israeli Settlements on Village Lands

The settlement of 'En Ayyala (145226) was established 3 km southeast of the village site in 1949; contrary to Morris (M:xx), it is not on village land. The settlement of 'Ofer (148225) was established on village land, 2 km southeast of the village, in 1950.

The Village Today

The dilapidated shrine of Shaykh Shahada is the only standing structure on the village site (see photo). Ruins of walls and piles of stones can be seen all over the site, as well as stands of pine, cactus, and fig and pomegranate trees. The site has recently been fenced in for use as a grazing area. The flat lands around it are also used for growing vegetables, bananas, and other types of fruit. Parts of the slopes are planted with almond trees.