FORTISSIMOFILMS

THE PROMISED LAND

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FORTISSIMOFILMS

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 SCRIPT NOTES:

DIALOGUE IN ITALICS IS IN HEBREW. DIALOGUE MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK INDICATES ARABIC OR RUSSIAN.

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE AND NEWSREELS FROM THE PERIOD HAVE BEEN SOURCED

BLACK AND WHITE NEWSREEL ARCHIVE FOOTAGE. Small villages perched on hilltops. Olive groves. Hills and fields. Men thresh the crops, donkeys pull ploughs. Small fishing boats on the Mediterranean, the church spires and mosque domes of Jerusalem, Orthodox Jews praying at the Western Wall.

CHAMBERS V.O

The Promised Land. For four hundred years Palestine was a quiet backwater of the Ottoman empire. A small Jewish community lived in Jerusalem, alongside the larger Christian and Moslem population. But they were not Zionists. They had no desire to create a Jewish state.

Footage of Herzl and the Zionist Congress

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER Then in 1897 Theodore Herzl organised the first Zionist Congress in Switzerland.

Early footage of Jewish immigrants to Palestine

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER (CONT'D) Over the next twenty years more than 40,000 Jews came to

than 40,000 Jews came to Palestine to build Eretz Israel. Herzl persuaded the British Government to allow the creation of a Jewish National Homeland in East Africa.

Scratchy silent footage of Herzl addressing the congress.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER (CONT'D) But the seventh Zionist Congress rejected the offer.

Familiar images of the Great War in Europe

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER (CONT'D) When the war started in 1914 the Ottoman Empire sided with Germany.

Archive OF Weizmann in London.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER
The new leader of Zionism was
Chaim Weizmann, a chemist who
taught at Manchester University.
He was a skillful politician who
convinced the British government
to issue the Balfour declaration.

Shots of Prime Minister Lloyd George and his foreign secretary Arthur Balfour.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

Balfour's letter stated that: "Her Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish People" It didn't mean that much as we didn't control Palestine.

Epic shots of the British Army advancing through the Sinai desert.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) A few months later the British army, led by General Allenby, became the first Christians to conquer the Holy Land since the days of the Crusades. It was a

days of the Crusades. It was a pretty spectacular success.

Shots of Allenby entering Jerusalem at the head of his troops.

Shots of ARAB SOLDIERS fighting alongside the British.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) Unfortunately we had also promised our Arab allies self determination. But no one seemed to care about that.

The ALLIED POWERS LEADERS sign a treaty in the hall of mirrors in Versailles.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D)
The Treaty of Versaille gave
Britain a Mandate to control
Palestine.

Shots of a British boat arriving at the port of Jaffa, which is lined with crowds of people.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

The first British High Commissioner of Palestine was Sir Herbert Samuel, a Jew and a Zionist.

SAMUEL disembarks the boat. There is a guard of honour. Ceremonial artillery salutes. SAMUEL is driven to the station in an armored car. A special train waits to take him to Jerusalem.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D)
That's me there - the young
looking one three rows behind
him. I was a junior deputy
assistant in his office. Yes,
I've been here since the very
beginning.

Shots of the old town of Jerusalem. Colonial buildings. Official functions. British headquarters. All the authority and majesty of the British empire.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) For a new recruit to the Colonial Office Jerusalem was a strange and wonderful place. Cosmopolitan. Contradictory. All cultures, races, religions rubbing each other up the wrong way. And small enough that we all knew each other.

Shots of Jewish immigrants working the land

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) During the twenties we allowed 100,000 Jewish immigrants to enter Palestine. Doubling the Jewish population. Many of them went to work the land - others came to the city. Tel Aviv was a small suburb of 4,000 people in 1921.

Tel Aviv. A landscape in transition. New buildings are being built. PEOPLE go about their business. CHILDREN in school.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) By 1925 it was a modern town of 40,000 - educated, North European, free thinking socialist people. The contrast between Tel Aviv and the neighboring Arab town of Jaffa was almost comical. Almost.

The Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, Schools in Tel Aviv.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

The Jews pretty much looked after themselves. The Histadrut - the Jewish trade Union - looked after their welfare and their health care. They built the Hebrew University - they even had their own defence force - the Haganah.

The Haganah training. Fresh-faced YOUTH are taught to march and fire rifles.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

That was illegal - but we turned a blind eye. The Jewish Agency were effectively the government of a state within a state.

Shots of Arabs in Jaffa, at the market, at the port, in the fields.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) The Zionists had a policy of only employing Jews. Many Arabs lost their land and their work. In 1929, led by the Mufti of Jerusalem, they rioted.

Footage of the riots.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER
The Jews were attacked in
Jerusalem and all over Palestine.

JEWISH REFUGEES leave Hebron.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER
In Hebron more than sixty Jews
died. Afterwards the survivors
left the town. Who knows when
they will return?
Into this atmosphere of hostility
and mistrust come 500 new
recruits to the Palestine police
force.

Palestine Police marching and being trained.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER
They are trained in weapons and self defence and all the latest techniques of policing. But most important of all they will bring the honesty and decency of the British Bobby to the Holy Land.

Police being lectured in the Mount Scopus barracks in Jerusalem.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER Two of these new recruits were Tom Wilkin and Geoffrey Morton.

We see first WILKIN and then MORTON being taught how to load a rifle.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) Less than a decade later they were leading the anti Terrorist unit of the CID. That's the advantage of a small pond, and Palestine is a very small pond.

Shots of the old town of Jerusalem.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D)
The riots also created the Jewish
terrorist group they spent most
of their time chasing.
The Haganah defence of Jerusalem
had been led by a chap called
Jabotinsky. He wasn't a socialist
like most of them. He was a
Fascist, an admirer of Mussolini.
After the riots he left the
Haganah and set up a new
underground military organisation
- The Irgun.

Shots of Jabotinsky's youth group - Betar - marching through the streets of Tel Aviv. We hear their song being sung.

VOICE OVER
Jabotinsky was a poet as well as
a politician. A pretty blood
thirsty poet. So was another of
their leaders- Avraham Stern.

EXT STREETS - DAY

We see a tall, thin, young man dressed formally, walking down a street in Tel Aviv. He arrives at a school, gives a coded knock on the door and is let in. This AVRAHAM STERN.

LATER

Another young man - ARIEH YITZHAKI - is walking through the streets with a slightly older girl.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER

This one is called Arieh Yitzhaki. He became the Irgun's chief bomb maker.

The boy and girl arrive at the same school and she knocks on the door. A man answers and lets Yitzhaki in.

INT SCHOOL - DAY

Yitshaki is blindfolded then walked into another room. Inside, his blindfold is taken off. A bright light shines into his eyes. Three men sit behind a desk, almost in silhouette. The man in the middle is Stern.

STERN

You have been recommended for the Irgun. We have investigated you and are willing to consider your admission. But first we want to ask you several questions... Are you aware that your joining may entail extreme dangers?

YITZHAKI

I am

STERN

Second, are you ready to accept the Irgun's military discipline?

YITZHAKI

I am.

STERN

And thirdly, are you ready to swear allegiance to us in our pursuit of a free nation of Israel in its homeland?

YITZHAKI

Yes I am.

Archive footage: Boats arriving in Haifa and Jaffa full of Jewish Immigrants.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER Boat after boat they arrive in Palestine. Jewish immigrants from Russia and Poland and Berlin 62,000 in 1935. Tel Aviv has grown into a busy modern city of 150,000 people.

INT IMMIGRATION OFFICE - DAY

Immigrants are having their papers checked by British immigration officials. There is a team of young Jewish women helping to look after the new arrivals, translating where necessary. A young man is having problems with his papers.

IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL Miss Borochov, can you help? I can't make myself understood.

SHOSHANNA BOROCHOV is a beautiful woman in her twenties, who speaks English with a slight hint of an American accent.

SHOSHANNA

I can try. What language do you speak?

JEWISH IMMIGRANT Russian. Or a little Hebrew.

She speaks to him in Russian.

SHOSHANNA

*Where are you from?

JEWISH IMMIGRANT *I got on the boat in Constanza.

SHOSHANNA

He says he boarded in Constanza. What is the problem?

IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL

His papers don't look right. Where did he get them from?

Shoshanna asks and he replies.

SHOSHANNA

He says they are from the Jewish Agency office in Constanza.

IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL

He's going to have to go to the detention centre. These are forgeries. See there.

He shows Shoshanna a detail on the papers.

SHOSHANNA

*You are going to be taken to the detention centre. Don't worry.

(MORE)

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

The Histadrut will do everything we can to make sure you are not deported.

INT SCHOOL ROOM TEL AVIV - DAY

A group of women - all friends - are sitting in rows. Shoshanna is one of them.

LEADER

We are very happy to have here today Mr Goldblum from Jerusalem. As you may know he is one of the most important members of the Jewish Agency. Mr Goldblum.

GOLDBLUM

Thank you. I want to talk to you today about British men.

There are a few giggles.

GOLDBLUM (CONT'D) There are thousands of British men here in Eretz Israel. And most of them are very lonely. They run the administration, they control the police and the army, they decide how many people can immigrate and where we can build new settlements. So they are very important to our Homeland. Now, some people may tell you that they are the enemy. And perhaps they are, but what they think and feel is important to us. If they have a positive emotion to Israel it helps our cause. If they have Jewish friends it helps us. If they are in love with a Jewish girl it helps us. So we are asking all our young, pretty Histadrut colleagues to help us. We are going to arrange trips to Kibbutzes, to Jerusalem, to historical sites. You can explain our culture to the British men, become their friends, persuade them that our cause is just. And you can also find out from them what they are thinking or planning.

EXT TEL AVIV STREET - DAY

Four of the girls are walking home. One of them is Shoshanna.

RACHEL

My father would go crazy if he had heard what they were saying. He won't even talk to the British.

HANNAH

He wouldn't want you to bring a nice British boy back?

RACHEL

He would kill me. It's like they are asking us to prostitute ourselves for Eretz Israel.

AMIRA

Mata haris. It's glamorous don't you think?

SHOSHANNA

She ended up being shot.

AMIRA

Glamorous and tragic. Not bad. Better than marrying some clodhopping farmer and living in a kibbutz for the rest of your life.

Black and white archive shots of Jaffa and Haifa Ports

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER
By 1936 immigration had helped
the Jewish population grow to
almost half a million. There was
bound to be trouble. On 15th
April 1936 two Jews were killed
by Arabs. The Irgun retaliated by
killing two Arabs.

EXT STREET JAFFA - DAY

Arabs rioting. The Palestine police and the army are trying to control them. We see Jews being evacuated to Tel Aviv. Tom Wilkin is one of the police. We see Arba crowds gathering in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Haifa.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER
In Palestine a General Strike has been declared by the Arabs.
(MORE)

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

Terrorism has caused a number of deaths already and at the Arab meetings agitators whip up the old race animosity.

British police search wayfarers for rounds and as can be seen, perform their part with good humour.

Shots of convoys of armoured vehicles, Arabs being searched, roadblocks set up.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER Things went from bad to worse.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER
Terrorism is turning into open
revolt in Palestine and British
troops and police are up against
a tough proposition. With every
Arab a nationalist, any
apparently peaceful citizen could
be carrying a bomb, and to catch
a murderer in an oriental city is
like looking for a rabbit in a
well organized warren.

Archive shots of British forces erecting a barbed wire frontier in the north of Palestine, armoured cars travelling through the desert roads, Arabs lined up against a wall.

NEWSREEL shots of Arabs in camps

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER (CONT'D) Arabs convicted of crimes or offences against authority are kept in concentration camps behind barbed wire. Strictly guarded they are put to breaking stones for road building. In the unhappy state of Palestine these camps are inevitable. After the abandonment of rebellion, justice may be tempered with mercy.

EXT. KIBBUTZ - DAY

Shots of the Haganah training. We see Shoshanna Borochov is one of the women firing a rifle. Shots of the Jewish Supernumerary police force patrolling a Kibbutz.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER We armed and trained 20,000 Jews and called them the Jewish Settlement police.

SHOTS OF THE IRAQI OIL COMPANY PIPELINE BURNING

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER (CONT'D) We created a Special Night Squad to protect the Iraqi oil pipeline that ran through Galilee to the port of Haifa.

EXT COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

A column of horses walk, silently, through the night. ORDE WINGATE is the leader. We see a small village in the distance.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER
Its leader - Orde Wingate - was a fanatic Zionist.

EXT VILLAGE - DAWN

Soldiers are going into all the houses bringing out women and children. The women are shouting in protest. Some of the village men start to join in.

WINGATE Fire a warning shot.

A couple of rounds are fired over the heads of the men. They calm down. SINGER uses a loud hailer. He speaks Arabic.

The soldiers are all busy working - each knowing their job. A small pile of weapons is placed in the square.

PICK UP ON

EXT VILLAGE - DAY

All the women and children are sitting or standing, watching the soldiers. The men are in the pen. They have been there a while. Soldiers get them all to line up. There are about a hundred.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER Wingate imposed collective punishments on villages he suspected of supporting the insurgents.

WINGATE

Choose ten men.

Singer shouts an order and soldiers count out ten men at random from the pen.

WINGATE (CONT'D)

You are cowards. I sentence you to death so that you may atone for your sins.

The soldiers stand them with their backs to the countryside.

WINGATE (CONT'D)

Fire.

The soldiers shoot. A huge wail of grief comes from the women and children.

Shots of Lord Peel and his commission arriving in Palestine.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER All my time was spent looking after the Peel commission. They recommended the partition of Palestine - with separate Jewish and Arab states. Weizmann wanted to accept:

Footage of Weizmann addressing the Jewish Agency.

WEIZMANN

This is the test! During these bitter times we ourselves may now create our own place. Small perhaps, but decent nonetheless...where we will not be dependent upon the good graces of others.

Parade of Betar in Tel Aviv.

CHAMBERS VOICE OVER Jabotinsky and the Irgun rejected the idea out of hand. They wanted the land of Israel to include all of Palestine and Jordan and they were prepared to fight for it.

EXT ALLENBY STREET TEL AVIV - DAY

A bank messenger comes out of a bank onto the busy street. Three men who have been standing on the corner start to follow him. One of them is AVRAHAM STERN.

The messenger turns into a quieter street. The men begin to catch him up. One of the two following men calls to the messenger.

IRGUN 1

Excuse me?

The messenger stops and turns, as he does this he realises his mistake. The first Irgun man has a cosh.

IRGUN 1 (CONT'D)

Hand your money over. In the name of the Irgun Zvai Leumi.

At the same time the messenger is shouting.

MESSENGER

Thief! Help. Help.

The Irgun man hits him with the cosh. Suddenly there are people around. Two men start to help the messenger. A policeman is running towards them blowing his whistle. The man with the cosh is overpowered.

IRGUN 1

Run! Run!

The second Irgun member is caught, but Stern runs off. He is fast and desperate. He races round the corner getting further and further away from the trouble. He arrives at an apartment block, runs upstairs and into a flat.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

Stern bursts in. A woman is there, anxious and upset. It is his wife, RONI.

RONI

Avraham. What happened? Are you all right?

STERN

Moshe and Shlomo (*) were caught. I don't know about Isaac.

RONI

Were you followed?

STERN

No.

But she goes to the window and looks out to make sure there is no one there.

INT CID TEL AVIV - DAY

Wilkin and RALPH CAIRNS, the Head of the CID, are interrogating one of the captured Irgun bank robbers - MOSHE.

CAIRNS

Who was the fourth man?

Moshe doesn't reply.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

Where were you going to hide out?

No reply.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

What is your address?

No reply.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

I am trying to be polite. We can use other methods if you like.

MOSHE

I don't need to talk to you.

A Jewish policeman translates

CAIRNS

Yes you do.

MOSHE

I will not talk to you.

INT WILKINS OFFICE LATER - DAY

They are looking at photos of Irgun members that are in files or posted on the wall.

WILKIN

From the bank messenger's description it sounds like Stern.

CAIRNS

That's right.

Wilkin pins Stern's photograph on a board. Next to him is the photograph of a heavier built man. The photograph is captioned 'David Raziel'.

WILKIN

From what we can work out, Stern is second only to Raziel in the Irgun. Raziel runs the Jerusalem branch. Stern Tel Aviv.

They must be getting pretty desperate if Stern's having to take part in bank robberies himself.

CAIRNS

Perhaps he just likes the adventure.

Cairns picks up a book of Stern's poetry that has been translated.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

He sounds like an excitable sort. "Only death from our duty can us sever/ On red days of slaughter and blood/ In the dark nights of despair".

INT HISTADRUT OFFICE - DAY

A bustling office which combines the functions of political party, trade union and newspaper. Most of the people are young and idealistic - Socialist Zionists.

Shoshanna is now a journalist and working at the Histadrut newspaper Davar. She is sitting at a desk busily typing up an article and hurrying because she is late.

She pulls the article out of the typewriter and takes it over to the desk of her boss EZRA, an old man by the standards of the office - maybe 30 years old.

EZRA

What's this?

SHOSHANNA

It's the article on housing for recent immigrants. You said you needed it for tomorrow.

EZRA

So let me read it.

SHOSHANNA

I have to go. I'm late already.

EZRA

But what if it's useless. You want me to have to correct it?

SHOSHANNA

If you want.

EZRA

Where are you going? Again.

SHOSHANNA

To a party - again. Don't worry it's good for work. Lots of important people.

EZRA

Why wasn't I invited?

SHOSHANNA

It's Efraim Ilin's party.

E7RA

Ilin? What do you want with that Fascist?

SHOSHANNA

Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

E7RA

You should be careful. You have to remember which is which.

INT APARTMENT - EVENING

Shoshanna is putting the last touches to her make up when the doorbell rings. She goes through and kisses her mother Luba who is sitting reading in a small sitting room/ bedroom.

SHOSHANNA

Good night.

LUBA

Will you be late?

SHOSHANNA

Perhaps. Don't worry if I am.

EXT APARTMENT - EVENING

Tom Wilkin is waiting for her in the little garden outside their small two storey apartment building. He looks slightly nervous, they are already friends but this is their first proper date.

WILKIN

Evening.

SHOSHANNA

Good evening.

WILKIN

How are you today?

SHOSHANNA

Very well, thank you.

They both laugh at the novelty of speaking Hebrew to each other and then go back to English.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

You have been practising.

WILKIN

I'm out to impress you.

SHOSHANNA

Thank you. I'm flattered.

WILKIN

And it will be useful for work.

SHOSHANNA

Don't spoil the compliment.

WILKIN

I thought we could walk. If you don't mind?

SHOSHANNA

That would be nice. The neighbours already think I am a shameless hussy. So I might as well give them something to talk about.

They walk down the modern street, with its seaside feel, thirties Modern architecture, the mess of construction sites and the noise of children playing.

WILKIN

Are you hiding me from your mother?

SHOSHANNA

No. Why? Did you want to meet her?

WILKIN

I just wondered if she was like your neighbours?

Shoshanna looks to see what he means.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Disapproving.

SHOSHANNA

There's nothing for her to disapprove of, yet. Is there?

WILKIN

Having a friend who is a policeman?

SHOSHANNA

You know, Tom. I am a woman, not a child. I do what I want, not what my mother wants.

EXT SEAFRONT CAFE - NIGHT

A party is in progress. A band plays music. A whole cross section of Tel Aviv society are there. There are lots of young, excited men. A few glamorous women. A sprinkling of the British administration, as well as immigrants from Berlin and Vienna, Istanbul and Warsaw. A cosmopolitan bunch enjoying the warm Mediterranean night.

As they go onto the terrace they are greeted by their host - EFRAIN ILIN - a rich and sophisticated businessman.

ILIN

Mr Wilkin. Thank you for joining us. And for bringing such a beautiful friend.

WILKIN

This is Miss Borochov.

ILIN

Of course I know Miss Borochov. She is renowned throughout Tel Aviv for her beauty as well as her passions - her political passions.

WILKIN

I didn't realise that you're famous.

SHOSHANNA

Everybody knows everyone in Tel Aviv.

ILIN

It's a very small town. But it's getting bigger by the day. By the boat load.

To Shoshanna.

ILIN (CONT'D)

That is a very beautiful dress.

SHOSHANNA

Thank you.

ILIN (TO WILKIN)

Shoshanna's father was a pioneer of Socialist Zionism.

WILKIN

Really?

ILIN

Let me introduce you to my friend Fraenkel. This is Mr Tom Wilkin of the Palestine police. But don't hold that against him. He's a very decent chap.

FRAENKEL

Good evening.

ILIN

And this is Shoshanna Borochov, Ber Borochov's daughter.

FRAENKEL

Pleased to meet you. I had the honour of meeting your father once.

FRAENKEL (CONT'D)

What branch of the police are you in?

WILKIN

CID. I specialise in Jewish terrorism.

Fraenkel is a little taken aback.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

That's why I'm here tonight.

He laughs.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Shall we dance?

He takes Shoshanna's hand and they go off to dance to a Cole Porter number.

SHOSHANNA

You like to shock people.

WILKIN

I like to keep people guessing. To wrong foot them. It's more fun that way.

They dance. Tom nods to an older British man.

SHOSHANNA

Who's that?

WILKIN

That's Ralph Cairns. He's my boss.

SHOSHANNA

He looks strict.

WILKIN

And that's Eliyahu Golomb the head of the Haganah in Tel Aviv and over there is Aharon Haichman who is the information officer for the Irgun in Tel Aviv.

SHOSHANNA

Is that why you are here? To spy on them.

WILKIN

Yes. And to dance.

PICK UP LATER

On Wilkin having a drink with Ralph Cairns and ROBERT CHAMBERS. The three men are watching Shoshanna talk to the head of the Haganah.

CAIRNS

She's very striking.

WILKIN

She is.

CAIRNS

Some of these Jewish girls make me wish I hadn't brought my wife out here. Oh well, I'd better be going. Will I see you tomorrow?

CHAMBERS

No, I'm leaving at dawn. It's a whirlwind tour. Next stop Jenin.

CAIRNS

That'll be fun. Goodnight.

WILKIN

Goodnight.

Wilkin watches Shoshanna. She comes over and joins Wilkin and Chambers.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

This is Robert Chambers -Shoshannna Borochov. Robert is feeling very pleased with himself tonight. He has just won a promotion.

SHOSHANNA

Congratulations.

WILKIN

He's showing our new High Commissioner the country.

SHOSHANNA

He's not here is he?

CHAMBERS

No. That wouldn't be appropriate.

SHOSHANNA

I hear he is supposed to be even worse than the last High Commissioner.

CHAMBERS

In what way?

SHOSHANNA

Even more pro Arab.

Chambers laughs.

CHAMBERS

Our policy is to treat both communities even-handedly.

Chambers tries to steer the subject away from politics.

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

Your English is very good.

SHOSHANNA

Thank you.

CHAMBERS

Were you born here?

SHOSHANNA

No. I was born in Russia. But I grew up in New York.

CHAMBERS

I see.

SHOSHANNA

When my father died my mother decided to bring us here. To Israel.

CHAMBERS

That must have been hard.

SHOSHANNA

Yes. It was. But he would have wanted it.

Wilkin decides to step in.

WILKIN

It's late. I should take Shoshanna home.

CHAMBERS

Of course.

WILKIN

Have a safe journey.

CHAMBERS

Thank you. I think the road to Jenin is pretty quiet. Goodnight.

SHOSHANNA

Goodnight.

EXT STREET TEL AVIV NIGHT

Tom Wilkin is walking Shoshanna home.

SHOSHANNA

I could come back to yours, if you prefer?

Wilkin is taken aback.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

My mother will be asleep already

They look at each other, making sure they understand each other. They kiss.

WILKIN

So it's true what they say about Jewish girls.

SHOSHANNA

I hope you are not about to insult me.

WILKIN

That they are the best kissers.

SHOSHANNA

Cliches usually have some basis in truth.

They kiss again.

CUT TO

EXT COUNTRYSIDE DAY

A small convoy carrying the High Commissioner drives through the arid landscape. We see Chambers in one of the vehicles

EXT JENIN - DAY

Chambers and High Commissioner Harold Mac Michael arriving in Jenin in a small convoy - police at the rear, an APC at the front.

There is a welcoming party to meet them. Chambers and MacMichael get out of the car and Chambers makes the introductions.

CHAMBERS

This is District Commissioner Harry Peters*

Mac Michael shakes his hand.

MACMICHAEL

Very pleased to meet you.

CHAMBERS

And this is the Superintendent of the Police, Geoffrey Morton.

MACMICHAEL

Pleased to meet you.

MORTON

Welcome to Jenin, sir.

MACMICHAEL

I hear you have been pretty busy lately.

MORTON

We have, sir.

CHAMBERS

Morton has been very successful in pacifying the region.

MORTON

We are going out tonight if you would like to join us?

EXT JENIN POLICE STATION - NIGHT

It is the middle of the night. Chambers looks sleepy and unenthusiastic as he comes out of the station with GEOFFREY MORTON and two Arab colleagues.

The two Arab policemen have a nervous looking villager with them.

MORTON

Put him in the front of the armoured Car.

They get him into the vehicle.

EXT HILLS NEAR JENIN - NIGHT

A convoy of police and army vehicles slowly chug up the narrow road.

INT ARMOURED CAR - NIGHT

Morton is quiet. He watches the INFORMER. Chambers is trying to sleep.

EXT HILLS - NIGHT

The convoy has stopped. Soldiers, police and Jewish supernumeraries fan out. Morton watches as they make their way silently towards the Arab village.

PICK UP ON

First light on the arid hillside. Morton stands next to his sergeant.

MORTON

Give the instruction to search the village.

SERGEANT

Yes, sir.

The radio operator passes the signal on to the troops. The vehicles set off towards the village of Yabad.

EXT VILLAGE - DAWN

Police and troops bang on all the doors, breaking them down if they don't open. Men, women and children are pulled out and herded into separate barbed wire pens on the edge of the village. There is shouting and crying but no real panic. The vehicles arrives in a column. Morton is in the first. It pulls up in front of the men's wire pen.

The officer leading the search comes to report.

MORTON

Well?

OFFICER

Nothing so far.

MORTON

Keep looking. We know they have weapons.

OFFICER

Yes sir.

He goes off. Morton turns to the Sergeant.

MORTON

We need the ringleader. Ask Abdul.

SERGEANT

Yes sir.

He goes into the armoured car. We see the informer looking through a spy hole at the front of the vehicle. An Arab policeman asks him if he recognises the leader. The informer points out the man.

Morton and the Sergeant with half a dozen men go to the pen. Morton makes a speech which is translated into Arabic.

MORTON

I know that you have weapons. I know that you have used them against us in the past. You must immediately hand over your weapons now or you will be punished.

No one says or does anything. The women and children watch nervously from their pen.

MORTON (CONT'D)

Bring me that man.

The sergeant takes three soldiers and brings the leader out of the pen and over to Morton.

MORTON (CONT'D)

Kneel.

They make him kneel.

MORTON (CONT'D)

What is your name?

He tells them his name.

MORTON (CONT'D)

I know you possess illegal weapons. That is a crime in Palestine. If you do not hand over your weapons you will be executed for your crime. Will you Abu Halim hand over your weapons now?

There is no reply. Morton then turns to the crowd and makes a formal speech

MORTON (CONT'D)

I hereby sentence Abu Halim to death for the possession of illegal weapons. Unless you hand over your weapons this will be the Fate of all Yabad men.

He nods to the Sergeant who gets the Arab police to take Abu Halim to a small creek at the edge of the village. Morton follows. It is out of sight of the pens. They gag Abu Halim and strip him of his outer clothes, putting them on an Arab policeman. Morton fires his gun and the Palestinian policeman screams. They then carry his 'corpse' away as Morton comes back to the pens. The women are wailing, the men look nervous. Chambers looks on.

MORTON (CONT'D)

Will you now hand over your weapons?

The villagers look unsure.

MORTON (CONT'D)

Pick another.

The sergeant goes towards the pen. An older man shouts out.

ELDER

*We will hand over our guns.

PICK UP ON

Police with villagers collecting the stockpiles of guns from the hiding places as Morton and the rest of the villagers watch.

PICK UP ON

There is now a largish pile.

CHAMBERS

Not a bad days work.

Morton talks to his sergeant.

MORTON

Get them into the truck. Let's show them their leader.

The Police drag the tied and gagged Abu Halim in front of the villagers. They are surprised.

MORTON (CONT'D)

Because of your co-operation you have saved his life. He will be kept in jail instead of being executed. As long as you do not take up weapons again.

They put Abu Halim into one of the trucks.

EXT ROAD - DAY

Shot of Chambers travelling on the road to Acre.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER

In the summer of '38 it all started to kick off with the Irgun.

EXT ROAD NEAR ROSH PINNA - DAY

The sun is beating down on the arid hillside of Rosh Pinna. The cicadas are making a racket. A young man - SHLOMO BEN YOSEF - and two others are lying by the side of the road, part hidden by bushes. In the distance a small cloud of dust moves where the bus is coming down the hillside.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER An Arab killed a Jewish settler from Rosh Pinna in Galilee. (MORE) CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

Three teenage Irgun supporters decided to take revenge. It was a shambles. But Shlomo Ben Yosef was sentenced to death. He was a much more successful martyr than a fighter.

INT BUS - DAY

The bus is full of Arabs going into town - women, children, old men. Full of noise.

EXT HILLSIDE - DAY

Shlomo gets ready. As the bus is getting closer the teenager next to him throws a grenade. It falls way short and explodes harmlessly. The bus slows and swerves. Shlomo stands up and starts firing with the machine gun.

INT BUS - DAY

Everyone is screaming and panicking – the children are crying.

EXT HILLSIDE - DAY

Shlomo is still firing at the bus as it slides to a halt.

SHLOMO

Throw the grenade. Throw it.

One of the teenagers throws another grenade. It doesn't explode. Shlomo grabs a grenade off the third man and throws it himself. It explodes.

SHLOMO (CONT'D)

Come on. Come on.

They run off down the hillside.

INT BUS - DAY

People are screaming. Some of the windows are broken.

EXT ACRE - DAY

Chamber's car arrives at the Crusader's fort in the pretty Arab coastal town of Acre. The fort is now the prison. Chambers shows his papers and is waved through.

INT ACRE PRISON - DAY

Chambers stands in the open square of the fort. A small group of other dignitaries are there, as well as soldiers, police, and prison guards. On one side are the Arab cells. On another Jewish cells.

INT CELLS, ACRE PRISON - DAY

Shlomo Ben Yosef is sitting in the condemned man's cell. Four warders arrive. They unlock the door and lead him out.

He is walked through the prison. Other prisoners start shouting - 'Long live Jabotinsky".

As he is taken out through the prison yard the prisoners are singing the anthem of Betar.

CAPTION: JUNE 29 1938

EXT YARD, ACRE PRISON - DAY

Chambers watches as Shlomo Ben Yosef is taken to the gallows. He turns and shouts out to anyone who can hear;

SHLOMO

I die without regrets. I am proud to be a martyr for my father land. I am proud to die as a member of Irgun Zvai Leumi. I am proud to die for Eretz Israel. Long live our leader Jabotinsky.

There is a distant cheer from the prisoners and more singing. The British guard puts the hood over Shlomo's head and he is hanged. Chambers turns away, looking slightly green.

INT FLAT, TEL AVIV - DAY

One man is typing. It is Avraham Stern. Two other men are sitting waiting.

EXT TEL AVIV STREET DAY

We see Posters being pasted onto the walls of buildings. We hear what is written as they race around town.

STERN VOICE OVER

One of the nation's finest, who had immigrated to Palestine to take part in establishing the Kingdom of Israel, was led to the gallows and his blood shed.

EXT TEL AVIV STREETS - DAY

A couple of hundred Betar members march through the streets of Tel Aviv, in their uniform they look like a bunch of boy scouts. They carry banners and shout slogans and sing anthems as they march.

STERN VOICE OVER

We would like to face one front that of the murderous,
assassinating Arabs. But now even
the naive have found out that we
are facing a war on two fronts.
The Jewish Agency, Mapai and the
Histadrut are terrified. They are
betraying the Hebrew people. Will
the Hebrew conscience fail to
awaken?

They pass a cafe with tables outside. Wilkin is there watching them. Next to him is SCHIFF, a Jewish officer. Both are in plain clothes. Schiff is writing in a notebook.

WILKIN

Any new faces?

SCHIFF

One or two. Just boys though.

INT HISTADRUT OFFICE - DAY

Shoshanna is typing. Ezra comes into the office. He sees a teenage boy - ELI - wearing a black armband.

EZRA

What is that?

ELI

It is for Shlomo Ben Yosef.

EZRA

Why?

ELI

He has been murdered by the British for trying to build Eretz Israel.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

Even if I disagree with his politics I respect his sacrifice.

EZRA

He attacked innocent women and children. We should be ashamed of him. Take off the armband.

ELI hesitates.

EZRA (CONT'D)

By wearing that you are showing respect to a bunch of Fascists. Take it off or get out of the office.

With that Ezra goes into his room and slams the door behind him. Eli sees that everyone is watching what he will do. He reluctantly takes off the armband.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

Stern is there with the leading lights of the Irgun in Tel Aviv. They all have their special areas of responsibility, but it is clear that Stern is respected as their leader. There are five men there including BENJAMIN ZERONI and ARIEH YITZHAKI.

STERN

We have to retaliate. And now. We have talked long enough about how the land of Israel has to be redeemed with our blood. Now we have to act. Thanks to Arieh we have the means.

ARIEH YITZHAKI

We have the material for several simple timed bombs. Big enough to do substantial damage.

ZERONI

Who do we target?

STERN

The Arabs and the British. The more indiscriminate the better. The bombs are to show that we will not watch quietly as our comrades are killed. They have to fear us.

EXT HAIFA MARKET - DAY

It is full of people selling oranges and lemons, produce from the nearby farms and goods just arrived at the port.

An ARAB PORTER is carrying milk pails into the fruit and vegetable market. He puts them down by the side of a stall and walks away. As he walks he starts to hurry, almost running. One or two people turn and complain as he pushes past them. A huge explosion rips through the market.

There is a moment of quiet then screams pierce the air. The Arab porter goes even faster. Back at the stall there are bodies on the bloody floor, legs and arms lie scattered. Two men are still alive and screaming, their bodies drenched in blood. Men have begun to try and help. One man is shouting for water.

CAPTION: 6th July 1938

The Arab porter is in the street by the market. There is a van parked on the corner. He gets into the back and it pulls off.

INT VAN - DAY

The van races through the streets of Haifa. Inside the back of the van are two young men and the porter. They help the porter pull off his Arab clothes. He is wearing a shirt and shorts underneath. It's Benjamin Zeroni.

One man congratulates him in Hebrew.

EXT TEL AVIV STREET - DAY

Three young men - two of them teenagers - hurry along the street. One of them is carrying a pile of posters. Another a bucket of paste. The other a brush. They work as a quick efficient team, flyposting the Irgun Newspaper on to the walls of shops and flats. Some people stop and read the posters, others ignore them. One or two shout insults. On the soundtrack we hear what the newssheet says.

STERN'S VOICE OVER
The Irgun Zvai Leumi claims
responsibility for the recent act
of war in Haifa which is designed
to prove that the Hebrew
underground, which represents the
Hebrew people, will not abandon
our Homeland to the foreign
people. We must break the evil
spell of peace in our land. The
fate of the Hebrew homeland will
be decided by the Hebrew nation's
desire to do battle.

A policeman sees them and blows his whistle. The boys run off. The policeman doesn't chase them.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

Arieh Yitzhaki is putting the finishing touches to another bomb. It is placed inside a box of oranges. Zeroni, with two other men, watches.

YITZHAKI

It's ready.

The two men embrace Zeroni and Yitzhaki.

ZERONI

Good luck. When you have placed the bomb, go to 12a Dizengoff Street. You will be met there.

BOMBER 1

We should be there by 11.

JAFFA MARKET - DAY

A busy market day by the small Arab port. A bomb explodes. Everyone screams.

CAPTION: 26th August 1938

Police cars arrive at the market. The dead are being carried away. The wounded are being treated. There is blood everywhere. Wilkin arrives with Ralph Cairns and Schiff. A few Arabs start to shout abuse at them. Arab police who were interviewing witnesses try to calm the crowd.

CAIRNS

Stay in the car.

Schiff is unhappy but gets back into the car. Cairns and Wilkin go over to the policeman in charge of the scene. He is issuing instructions to his Arab colleagues.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

Well?

POLICEMAN

More than twenty dead. More than fifty injured. Pretty nasty.

WILKIN

And the bomber?

POLICEMAN

No one noticed anything. Tuesday is a busy day.

CAIRNS

Is this where the bomb was?

POLICEMAN

Yes.

Cairns goes over to the corner where the bomb was placed. Wilkin goes back to the car to see Schiff.

WILKIN

You might as well get back to the station. Start bringing in anyone who is in the Irgun.

SCHIFF

Very well.

Cairns is still inspecting the bomb site with the policeman. The Arab crowd are getting restless again - one of the injured has died.

CAIRNS

Set up road blocks at all the entrances to the port and the market.

POLICEMAN

He'll be long gone by now sir.

CATRNS

I know. But it will look like we're doing something. We don't want it getting too ugly down here. And if anyone is going to cause trouble we'll spot it sooner if we have checkpoints.

POLICEMAN

Very good, sir.

EXT JAFFA - DAY

The police car heads off to the Tel Aviv CID HQ.

INT CID - DAY

Schiff is waiting for Wilkin as he comes in. There are other Jewish police busy working.

WILKIN

How are we doing?

SCHIFF

We have four.

INT INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

A teenage Irgun suspect is being questioned. Wilkin asks a question in English which is then translated by a Jewish police officer.

WILKIN

When did you join the Irgun?

SUSPECT

I'm not a member of the Irgun.

WILKIN

Why not?

The suspect is surprised that Wilkin can speak Hebrew.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Don't you want to create Eretz Israel?

SUSPECT

Yes.

WILKIN

Do you support Jabotinsky?

SUSPECT

Yes.

WILKIN

I know you are in the Irgun. Why don't you stop wasting my time. Twenty people were killed today. You know who killed them. You are going to stay here till you tell me.

SUSPECT

We will redeem our Homeland with our blood.

WILKIN

With your blood or with other people's blood. I have friends in Jaffa. If I told them your name and where you live and that you planted that bomb, they would be very interested.

The suspect says nothing. We hear screams coming from somewhere else in the building.

INT INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Another young suspect is sitting in the chair. He looks frightened. He looks like he has been beaten up. Cairns is there, with a Jewish officer to translate.

BOY

The bomb was made by Arieh Yitzhaki. He makes all the bombs for the Tel Aviv area.

CAIRNS

Who was the bomber?

BOY

I don't know.

CAIRNS

Did he survive?

BOY

I heard there were no casualties.

CAIRNS

Where is Yitzhaki?

BOY

I don't know. He moves around from one safe house to another.

CAIRNS

It can't be easy to move a bomb factory.

BOY

I don't know.

CAIRNS

You've never been?

BOY

No.

INT CAFE - DAY

A busy, no nonsense cafe in Tel Aviv. Shoshanna is there with three or four colleagues from work. They are eating lunch. Ezra is holding court, the others are a similar age to Shoshanna. They are all committed to their cause.

EZRA

The revisionists are Fascists. Look at Betar with their stupid uniforms. They look like brown shirts. Jabotinsky admires Mussolini. Admires him. We have to work with the British.

YOUNG GIRL

The Arabs are more important to them than we are.

EZRA

But we are better allies. If they fulfilled their promise for a Jewish National Home then we would be a far better ally than the Arabs would ever be.

SHOSHANNA

Exactly.

YOUNG MAN

They have had twenty years to do that. Why believe they will start now?

Ezra gulps down some of his soup.

EZRA

This is good. Don't you think?

SHOSHANNA

Yes.

EXT SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Ezra and Shoshanna are walking along.

EZRA

How is your Englishman?

SHOSHANNA

Fine.

EZRA

Does he talk about his work?

SHOSHANNA

Not very often.

EZRA

Does he ask you about yours?

SHOSHANNA

Ezra, what are you asking?

Ezra knows he has gone to far.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

Would you like me to record our meetings so that you know more precisely what we talk about?

INT WILKIN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tom Wilkin and Shoshanna Borochov are making love. It is very passionate.

PICK UP on them lying in bed.

Shoshanna is kissing Tom's neck, gently biting his ear, caressing his arms and chest.

SHOSHANNA

You're so beautiful. My little Tommy.

He laughs.

MOT

Not so little.

They kiss.

TOM (CONT'D)

I thought we could go away for the weekend? To Jerusalem perhaps?

Shoshanna turns to look at him. She is hesitant.

SHOSHANNA

I'm sorry. I'm already going away.

TOM WILKIN

Where?

SHOSHANNA

I have to go to Galilee.

TOM WILKIN

Really?

She decides to tell him.

SHOSHANNA

There is a new Kibbutz. I'm going as part of a defence group. Just for a week.

TOM WILKIN

I see.

He gets up to go to the bathroom.

SHOSHANNA

I can see you next weekend.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

Is there a problem?

He looks over to her.

MOT

No. Not really.

NEWSREEL archive of settlers building a Kibbutz in a day, the watchtower being pulled up, barricades built, Haganah manning the defences.

EXT HILLSIDE NEAR KIBBUTZ - DAY

Shoshanna and half a dozen other volunteers are doing rifle drill. The boy next to her is struggling.

VOLUNTEER

What am I doing here?

SHOSHANNA

You'll get used to it.

NEWSREEL FOOTAGE

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER

In the country of its origin Christmas approaches. The Holy Land has been for months a battleground of struggle against terrorism but these scenes bare witness to the peaceful life, which continues despite the strife of racial antagonism. Orange sellers sit by the wayside selling the produce of their groves. Arab and Jewish children play football together in the streets of Jerusalem. And in and out of the Jaffa gate pass cattle in a setting reminiscent of scripture books.

(MORE)

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

To Christians, Palestine is the birth place of our Lord - Christmas his birthday. Among our Christmas hopes this year must be the prayer that peace may return to this troubled land."

INT COMMITTEE ROOM, JERUSLEM - DAY

Chambers is sitting looking bored. He is part of a small group listening to the opinions of Arabs and Jews about what should happen in Palestine.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER

I spent the first months of 1939 working on yet another commission trying to decide what the hell to do with Palestine -the Government in London having decided in their wisdom to kick the two state option into touch.

INT/EXT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, JERUSALEM - NIGHT

All the pomp and ceremony the British can muster is there. The HIGH COMMISSIONER, all the senior officials of the administration and army, well connected Arabs and Jews. Chambers is talking to Wilkin. Geoffrey Morton joins them.

CHAMBERS

Hello there, do you two know each other. Tom Wilkin, Geoffrey Morton

WILKIN

We both joined the police at the same time.

MORTON

That's right. We were in the same drill classes on Mount Scopus.

WILKIN

A long time ago. Enjoying the party?

MORTON

Makes a change from Jenin. Though I must say I'm surprised how many Jews there are here.

WILKIN

Why's that?

MORTON

They always seem so serious. Didn't think they'd be up for a dance.

PICK UP ON

Shoshanna talking to Goldblum.

GOLDBLUM

I'm glad to see you took our advice so much to heart.

He is teasing her. Checking her reactions.

SHOSHANNA

What do you mean?

GOLDBLUM

He's quite a catch your Englishman.

Wilkin and Chambers are coming over to join them.

GOLDBLUM (CONT'D)

He's head of the anti terrorist squad isn't he?

SHOSHANNA

Second in command. This is a party.

Wilkin and Chambers are with them by now.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

Tom, this is Mr Goldblum. The Head of the Jewish Agency information department.

TOM WILKIN

Pleased to meet you.

GOLDBLUM

Likewise.

SHOSHANNA

And do you know Mr Chambers?

GOLDBLUM

Oh yes. Our paths cross quite often.

CHAMBERS

Mr Goldblum is always willing to explain to me the Jewish point of view. On any issue.

GOLDBLUM

On every issue. That is my job.

He laughs.

WILKIN

Unfortunately there is more than one Jewish point of view.

GOLDBLUM

I think I represent the vast majority.

SHOSHANNA

I was just telling Mr Goldblum to relax and enjoy himself. This is a party not a political meeting.

WILKIN

You have to take any chance you can. That's what I do.

GOLDBLUM

No, Shoshanna's right. I will go and find a partner and dance. Excuse me.

He goes off.

WILKIN

I need a drink.

He goes off to find a waiter leaving Shoshanna and Chambers together.

CHAMBERS

It's a pretty good bash, don't you think.

SHOSHANNA

Yes.

CHAMBERS

The High Commissioner hates these dos. Poor thing. I think Jerusalem is turning out to be a bit of a poisoned chalice for him.

SHOSHANNA

Well perhaps he should go home then.

There is an awkward pause

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I should go and find Tom.

CHAMBERS

Of course.

Shoshanna leaves.

PICK UP LATER ON

Wilkin and Shoshanna dancing cheek to cheek in the middle of the ballroom - the party going on all around them.

INT CINEMA, TEL AVIV - NIGHT

The audience are watching a newsreel. Shoshanna and Wilkin are there.

CAPTION: 17th May 1939

The newsreel opens with shots of Malcolm MacDonald and the Palestine committee visiting Jerusalem.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER In London, the round table conference on the Palestine problem has concluded.

We see Arab and Jewish and representatives leaving a conference in St. James Palace.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER (CONT'D)
The British government and the
Colonial Secretary Malcolm
Macdonald have issued a new White
Paper. Severe limits have been
placed on the admission of Jewish
immigrants to Palestine, which
will now be limited to 75,000
over the next five years.

There are boos and whistles in the cinema.

EXT CINEMA, TEL AVIV - NIGHT

Wilkin and Shoshanna walking down the street, arm in arm.

WILKIN

I thought I was going to be lynched.

SHOSHANNA

It's terrible what you are doing

I'm not doing anything

SHOSHANNA

You know what I mean.

WILKIN

I do. And I agree with you. But I don't make the laws.

SHOSHANNA

But you enforce them.

WILKIN

I'm a policeman.

SHOSHANNA

Exactly.

Both of them know that they should stop the argument. Things will only get worse if they carry on.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

I should have supper with my mother. She is always complaining.

Wilkin thinks about arguing, but let's it drop.

WILKIN

I will walk you home.

SHOSHANNA

Don't be silly. I am fine. Goodbye.

She gives him a little kiss and walks off. He watches for a moment then turns and goes.

PICK UP ON

Shoshanna is walking down the street. A group of teenagers who have seen her kiss Wilkin start to shout and jeer. Calling her a whore and a traitor. Shoshanna is nervous but keeps walking as she passes them. One of them spits. Others laugh. She walks past and they stay where they are. Jeering and whistling.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

Stern is there with his wife Roni.

STERN

This is our chance.

EXT JERUSALEM STREET - DAY

A British policeman is walking along a quiet suburban street. Two men walk towards him. One takes out a gun and shoots, killing him. They run away.

EXT HAIFA STREET - DAY

A busy shopping street with lots of passers by. Three young Irgun men are pasting poster on the walls of shops and offices. One is DAVID SHOMRON. Another is JACOB BANAY.

STERN'S VOICE OVER
The devastating blow of
MacDonald's attack on the Jewish
nation proves the Irgun is right
once again. We will continue to
fight to the last man in order to
revoke this evil decree. 'Thou
shalt not kill' is hypocritical.
Does the Torah forbid us to wage
war?....

INT FLAT TEL AVIV - DAY

Four men are standing watching as Arieh Yitzhaki makes the final preparations to a bomb that is placed into a cardboard box.

EXT TEL AVIV STREETS - DAY

The four men split into two pairs, each with a bomb.

EXT STREETS OF JAFFA AND JERUSALEM

A quick montage of bombs going off. Smoke, screams, pools of blood.

STERN'S VOICE OVER
A bomb was placed by our men near
Scheller Compound - six Arabs
were killed and eight wounded. On
the same day a bomb exploded
which had been placed by us in
one of the central houses in the
Arab neighbourhood of Wadi Salib
in Haifa. Three Arabs were killed
and seven wounded.

(MORE)

STERN'S VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

At 9.15, two mines exploded on the Jerusalem Tel Aviv road as a bus was passing - two Arabs were killed and 18 wounded. There were no Jews killed.

EXT JERUSALEM STREET - DAY

A phone booth explodes.

EXT TEL AVIV STREET - DAY

A phone booth explodes.

INT CID - DAY

The phone rings. Wilkin answers.

WILKIN

Yes.

SCHIFF (OFF)

We've been told there's been an explosion in Lillienblum street.

WILKIN

When?

SCHIFF

Minutes ago.

WILKIN

I'll meet you outside.

EXT CID - DAY

Cairns and Schiff are waiting as Wilkin comes out. They get in the cars and speed off.

EXT TEL AVIV - DAY

The two cars are racing through the streets of Tel Aviv. When they arrive at the building the police are already there, holding back a small crowd of passersby.

EXT APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

Wilkin, Schiff and Cairns get out of the car and go to the policeman.

CAIRNS

Is there anyone inside?

POLICEMAN

One person. They think he is the bomber.

Schiff and Wilkin follow Cairns as he carefully goes inside the building.

INT FLAT - DAY

In the smoking, bombed out wreck of the flat they see the tools of the bombmakers trade.

CAIRNS

Schiff, keep everyone out of here.

SCHIFF

Yes, sir.

A policeman is kneeling over Arieh Yitzhaki who is lying, blinded, his hand blown off. He is not quite dead.

CAIRNS

What is your name?

Wilkin repeats the question in Hebrew.

ARIEH

My name is Death.

Wilkin approaches, his gun ready in case.

WILKIN

It's Arieh Yitzhaki, isn't it?

He goes closer to the man.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

How many men have you killed? Blown up with your bombs like you are now. Are you thinking of them now? This is your last chance to do something good. Tell us who you work with. Tell us where they are. Save their lives and all the innocent people they will kill. This is your last chance to save yourself before your God.

Yitzhaki smiles. And dies. Wilkin is frustrated.

EXT APARTMENT - DAY

Cairns and Wilkin walk to their car.

CAIRNS

One less of them anyway.

EXT STREET - DAY

A man dressed as a RABBI walks down a quiet residential street and into a building.

INT HALL - DAY

The 'Rabbi' knocks on the door of a flat. The door is opened by a woman - Roni.

RONI

Hello.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

The man takes off his hat, coat and beard. It is DOV HAICHMANN.

RONI

They're waiting for you.

DOV

I thought I was being followed, so I had to take a longer route.

He is shown through to Avraham Stern and two other Irgun leaders - Kalay and Yehoshua Yevin.

PICK UP ON

STERN

We must not allow the British to gain propaganda advantage from Arieh's death.

YEVIN

I've already written his tribute. It should be on the walls soon.

STERN

We need to act.

HAICHMANN

We lost a lot of material as well as Arieh.

STERN

That's exactly why we have to strike back. Cairns and Wilkin think they are winning.

(MORE)

STERN (CONT'D)

We have to make them understand they can never destroy us.

INT CID - DAY

Wilkin is in his office when Cairns comes in.

CAIRNS

They've caught Benjamin Zeroni in Jerusalem. I'm going up there.

WILKIN

How?

CAIRNS

He was driving a car that they'd used in a robbery.

INT JERUSALEM - CID

Zeroni is tied down to a board. He has obviously been beaten.

CAIRNS

Are you going to co-operate?

Zeroni shakes his head.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

You should. We can hold you here as long as we like. The only way to stop this is by answering our questions.

Zeroni says nothing.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

Turn the radio on.

A guard turns the radio on.

CAIRNS (CONT'D)

Louder.

The music is loud now. A clothes peg is put on Zeroni's nose. Cairns watches as water is poured down Zeroni's throat as he wretches and vomits.

EXT STREET JERUSALEM - DAY

Cairns is walking to his house. We see Haichmann watching from a cafe.

INT JERUSALEM CID - DAY

Zeroni is having his feet beaten. Cairns watches.

EXT STREET - DAY

Cairns is walking the same route as the day before. This time he is with another British officer - Barker. As they walk past a tree a mine is detonated. Cairns is blown to smithereens. Barker is also dead.

INT SHOSHANNA'S FLAT - NIGHT

Shoshanna is leaving the flat, all dressed up for the evening. She kisses her mum.

LUBA

Are you seeing Tom?

SHOSHANNA

Yes.

LUBA

Did you hear what happened to the Bloomstein girl?

SHOSHANNA

No.

LUBA

She was tarred and feathered. For seeing a British soldier.

SHOSHANNA

That's terrible.

EXT TEL AVIV/JERUSALEM ROAD - DAY

Wilkin and Shoshanna on their way to the funeral. They are driving through the hills.

SHOSHANNA

I always forget it is so beautiful.

Tom is distracted and doesn't reply.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

Are you sure that you want me to come to the funeral?

TOM

Yes.

He smiles at her, but he isn't really there.

EXT MOUNT ZION CEMETERY, JERUSALEM - DAY

A terraced hill on mount Zion overlooking Jerusalem.

Looking out from the cemetery, one can glimpse the British headquarters, churches and avenues, the YMCA, the King David hotel. All the authority and majesty of the British empire

The Church of England vicar says a prayer by the grave. Schiff is there and Wilkin and Shoshanna, Chambers and Geoffrey Morton and all the great and the good of British colonial society. Shoshanna feels very out of place.

EXT TERRACE KING DAVID HOTEL - NIGHT

Tom orders a martini. When the waiter has gone he kisses Shoshanna.

SHOSHANNA

Are you planning on getting very drunk?

WILKIN

No.

SHOSHANNA

Really?

WILKIN

I should probably wait to ask you. But I've been waiting a long time already.

He takes a little box out of his pocket and pushes it across the table. Shoshanna opens it. It is a diamond ring.

SHOSHANNA

It's beautiful.

WILKIN

Will you marry me?

SHOSHANNA

Tom.

They kiss.

WILKIN

Is that a yes?

SHOSHANNA

I don't know. It's complicated for me.

WILKIN

It's complicated for both of us.

He gets up and leans on the wall looking over the swimming pool to the old town lit by the moonlight. Shoshanna comes over to him.

SHOSHANNA

Don't be angry. Let me think about it.

EXT DOME OF THE ROCK, JERUSALEM - DAY

The sun is beating down on the wide open spaces around the mosque with its views over Jerusalem. Shoshanna and Tom walk slowly side by side. An Arab guide comes over and offers his services. Tom refuses. He follows them as they walk, occasionally suggesting a price.

WILKIN

It's so hot.

SHOSHANNA

We should go down. You'll burn if we stay out here.

They look over the city. With the spires and the minarets. The heat is liquid. Tom is sweating.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

This is where the Temple was.

WILKIN

Spare me the Hebrew history lesson.

Shoshanna is surprised. She walks off. Wilkin follows her. Grabs her hand.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. It must be the heat.

SHOSHANNA

I understand.

But what they both understand is the gap between them.

EXT AHARONOVITCH STREET TEL AVIV - DAY

Dov Haichmann walks up to number 6, knocks a special knock on the door and is let in.

INT HOUSE - DAY

Haichmann is shown through to a back room where Stern, Kalay and Lubinsky are already seated around a table.

STERN

Welcome. Congratulations.

INT CID - DAY

Schiff finishes on a phone call and comes through to Wilkin.

SCHIFF

We've got them.

WILKIN

Who?

SCHIFF

The whole lot of them. The leadership. In Aharonovitch street.

WILKIN

Let's go.

INT AHARONOVITCH HOUSE - DAY

The meeting is in progress. Stern, dressed as always in a suit and tie, is pacing around the room. LUBINSKY is outlining Jabotinsky's plan to arrive in Eretz Israel and declare a Jewish government.

EXT AHARONOVITCH STREET - DAY

Two cars pull up and Wilkin and Schiff lead a team of men up to the building. Wilkin sends two men to the back of the building and leaves two outside at the front. The rest hurry up the stairs to the flat. They bang on the door.

WILKIN

Open up. Open up.

INT AHARONOVITCH HOUSE - DAY

There is panic inside. People start trying to burn papers. Lubinsky tries to escape out of the back of the flat. Haichmann flushes paper down the toilet. Stern tells Eliav he can let the police in. Wilkin and Schiff come in with guns in their hands.

Sorry to interrupt your meeting. I am afraid you'll have to continue it at the police station.

The police are searching for weapons and papers.

STERN

You won't find anything. There are no weapons here and we have destroyed any papers that would be helpful to you.

EXT AHARONOVITCH - DAY

The police outside arrest Lubinsky.

INT DIZENGOFF POLICE STATION - DAY

Wilkin and Schiff and two guards sit facing Stern. They are in Wilkin's office with his pictures of wanted Irgun men on the wall.

WILKIN

You are Avraham Stern?

No reply.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Sometimes known as Yair.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

You are a supporter of Jabotinsky?

STERN

Yes.

WILKIN

You are a member of Betar.

STERN

Yes.

WILKIN

You are a member of the illegal organisation Irgun Zvai Leumi?

STERN

That is illegal according to the laws of an occupying foreign power - Britain. I do not accept their right to decide what is legal in Eretz Israel.

You are foreign here aren't you?

STERN

This is my homeland.

WILKIN

When did you arrive in Palestine?

STERN

I arrived in Israel in 1925.

WILKIN

Where were you born?

STERN

Poland.

Wilkin picks up a piece of paper and reads out in Hebrew.

WILKIN

Soldiers without names or uniforms are we/surrounded by terror and death.

STERN

Congratulations, your Hebrew is very good.

WILKIN

Surrounded by terror and death. Is that your desire.

STERN

We are fighting a war. It is naive to think you can fight a war without there being death.

WILKIN

You want to terrorise people. That's why you throw bombs in markets, why you throw bombs in buses and cafes. Why you kill women and children. To create terror.

STERN

It is time for the Hebrew nation to fight like other nations. The nation of Israel is the chosen nation, the creator of monotheism, great in tradition and sacrifice.

Throwing bombs into crowds of innocent people isn't how most nations fight.

STERN

We don't have the advantages you have.

WILKIN

What is it that you want?

STERN

A Jewish homeland - in its Biblical boundaries.

WTTKTN

What about the Arabs who have lived here for thousands of years.

STERN

There are plenty of Arab countries where they can live. This is our only land.

WILKIN

You believe in the armed struggle?

STERN

Yes. Israel conquered this land by the sword.

WILKIN

You organised the bomb which killed Cairns and Barker?

Stern says nothing.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

You aren't going to answer? Why? Are you a coward? You want to kill those people who are occupying your country don't you? Or are you just a writer? A little scribbler encouraging other people to kill and sitting at home doing nothing yourself?

No answer.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Did you take part in the bombing of Jaffa market? Did you take part in the bombing of Haifa market? What is the matter?

(MORE)

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Are you hoping other people will take the punishment for the killings you ordered? You sit in a room - encouraging other people to go out and kill - whilst you have a nice life with your wife. What's her name? Roni? I met her once at a party.

No answer.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Do you believe the members of the occupying power are legitimate targets for bombs?

STERN

Yes.

WILKIN

Is that why you ordered the killing of Ralph Cairns?

No answer.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

I'm a legitimate target. If you could kill me now, would you?

No answer.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

If you think it is right to blow up the foreign occupying forces, why not tell me that you killed Cairns?

Stern refuses to answer.

CUT TO:

INT. SARAFAND DETENTION CENTRE, CELL - DAY

We see Stern in his prison cell, writing in a notebook.

BHRITISH MOVIETONE NEWS

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER

September 3, 1939. War has broken out in Europe.

We see images of Churchill, Hitler, German and allied troops.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

In Palestine the Irgun announces a cessation of hostilities against the British for the duration of the war. In return, as a gesture of goodwill, Irgun prisoners are released.

We see the Irgun prisoners being released from Sarafand detention centre, Stern is among them.

EXT CARMEL MARKET, TEL AVIV - DAY

A car pulls up and Avraham Stern gets out - accompanied by Segal. They go into the apartment block.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

The leading figures of the Irgun sit around a table eating. The leader is DAVID RAZIEL. Stern's old friend Benjamin Zeroni is there.

RAZIEL

We have received a communication from Jabotinsky agreeing with our view that it is imperative that we support the British in their fight against the Nazis.

STERN

We should not be fighting to protect the diaspora, but fighting to build our homeland here.

RAZIEL

Our enemy's enemy is our friend.

STERN

We can only offer a truce if the British openly support the state of Israel on both sides of the river Jordan. They will not. The Nazis are the tsorer - the British are the oyev - the enemy. The Germans will win the war against Britain. If they supported a Jewish state here we could offer a home to all the Jews that they want to remove from Germany. Our aims coincide with those of the Nazis- a national home here for all of the Jews of the diaspora.

RAZIEL

Most Jews in the diaspora do not want to come here. They want to stay where they are.

STERN

They are wrong.

SEGAL

Now is not the time for us to be arguing among ourselves.

STERN

I must continue the fight against the occupying power. If necessary, outside the Irgun.

SVORAI

I support Stern.

ZERONI

And I.

The rest are silent.

INT ROOM - DAY

Stern is writing.

STERN'S VOICE OVER
Proclamation Number one of Lehi the Freedom Fighters of Israel.

INT PRINTING PRESS - DAY

We see a new newsletter being printed.

STERN'S VOICE OVER
The passing year was one of
disaster for the Jewish community
in Eretz Israel

EXT STREETS - DAY

Two men flyposting the newsletter on the wall.

STERN'S VOICE OVER
The Freedom Fighters of Israel
are a revolutionary underground
dedicated to taking control of
our country by force of arms.

EXT KING DAVID HOTEL, JERUSALEM - DAY

Wilkin pulls up in his car and is greeted by a doorman.

INT KING DAVID HOTEL - DAY

Wilkin walks through the reception area into the part used by the British Administration. He knocks at a door and we hear Chamber's voice calling for him to come in.

INT OFFICE, KING DAVID HOTEL - DAY

Wilkin walks into a room. Geoffrey Morton is there with Chambers, who gets up and greets Wilkin.

CHAMBERS

Ah Wilkin I was just talking about you. I was just telling Morton here that you are our expert on the Jewish underground groups.

MORTON

I look forward to learning from you.

CHAMBERS

Morton will be officially appointed as the new Head of the Tel Aviv CID tomorrow.

WILKIN

Congratulations. When do you start?

MORTON

Next week. I'll need all the help you can give me. I've been stuck up in Galilee dealing with the Arabs.

WILKIN

It's a very different situation.

MORTON

Is it?

WILKIN

Most Jewish people support us in the war against Germany.

MORTON

Good. But do they support us here in Palestine?

There is a slight pause. Chambers tries to smooth it over.

CHAMBERS

Well that depends on what we do doesn't it? Morton will be based in Tel Aviv with you. As his second in charge we will be relying on you to show him the ropes. Introduce him to all the right people.

WILKIN

Of course.

MORTON

I hear you are very well connected.

WILKIN

I hope so. I have been living in Tel Aviv for a decade now.

CHAMBERS

We're meeting Goldblum for a drink. I thought I'd throw Morton in at the deep end. Would you care to join us?

WILKIN

Of course.

CHAMBERS

Goldblum is in charge of Jewish propaganda.

WILKIN

I think he'd prefer to call it information.

INT BAR, KING DAVID HOTEL - DAY

Chambers, Morton and Wilkin are sitting at a table drinking gin and tonics when Goldblum comes bustling up with a man in his thirties.

GOLDBLUM

Sorry. So sorry. We got detained. This is Jack - Jack Silvers. He is a journalist - an American journalist. Is it permitted for him to join us? We are being informal aren't we? I promised him I would show him the real movers and shakers in Palestine.

CHAMBERS

Well you've brought him to the wrong place then. There is no place in the world where the colonial power has less authority than here in Palestine.

GOLDBLUM

Don't be modest Malcolm. You are the power behind the throne. The eminence grise.

CHAMBERS

Your flattery is endless and exhausting.

Chambers gestures to the waiter who immediately comes over to serve them.

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

What do you want to drink?

GOLDBLUM

I'll have a whisky. Jack?

SILVERS

I'll take a Martini. Straight up with a twist.

The waiter goes.

WILKIN

How long do you plan to stay here in Palestine?

SILVERS

Indefinitely.

WILKIN

Really? Isn't it a bit of a backwater for a journalist.

SILVERS

Not for a Jewish journalist.

GOLDBLUM

I'm afraid Jack sees the British as an occupying power. I'm trying to persuade him that things are more subtle than that.

CHAMBERS

Thank you. Perhaps you should be working for us rather than the Jewish Agency.

GOLDBLUM

My view is that the British have always said they wanted a Jewish National home here and I want to do everything I can to help them achieve that aim.

CHAMBERS

I'll bear that in mind.

SILVERS

It's a pity then that Macdonald sold out the Jews.

GOLDBLUM

Jack please. We are having a drink with friends. It is impolite to talk politics.

WILKIN

Isn't the policy - fight the war as if there is no white paper and fight the white paper as if there is no war?

GOLDBLUM

Exactly. And drink the whisky as if there is no disagreement.

They laugh.

EXT STREET TEL AVIV - DUSK

Stern is walking along carrying a large, awkward bag. He goes into a house.

INT HOUSE - DUSK

Stern opens the bag and takes out the camp bed. A woman helps him put it up.

PICK UP ON

Stern, Zak, and Zeroni at a table.

ZAK

We have to raise more money. Kidnapping is the simplest, safest way.

STERN

No. We lose too many friends that way. We have to appropriate the money from banks.

(MORE)

STERN (CONT'D)

They are covered by insurance from Lloyds, so we can argue that we are stealing from the British, not from our brothers.

ZERONI

If we want people to support us then we have to attack the British. We need to target British soldiers and British police.

STERN

Our target should be Wilkin. Eliav - you are in charge of the operation. Let's try and make it happen as soon as we can.

ELIAV

Of course.

INT CAR - NIGHT

Wilkin is driving Shoshanna.

SHOSHANNA

You look worried. Is it going to be very boring?

WILKIN

I hope not.

SHOSHANNA

Don't worry. I will be on my best behaviour.

She leans over and kisses Wilkin on his cheek.

INT MORTON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

There is a small dinner party. Everybody is British apart from Shoshanna.

The first course is being served. Morton's wife ALICE is sitting opposite Shoshanna.

ALICE

I've just realised. This isn't kosher. I'm so sorry.

SHOSHANNA

Don't worry. It's not a problem.

ALICE

Are you sure?

SHOSHANNA

Sure.

The men are talking about work.

MORTON

I think we have to treat the Arabs and the Jews in exactly the same way. There will always be trouble if one group thinks the other group is getting preferential treatment.

WILKIN

The problem is we have promised both of them that this can be their home.

MORTON

It will never work. That's why we have to stay here.

SHOSHANNA

Do you really believe that? That you will stay?

MORTON

I don't know. But we have to behave as though we are. What do you think should happen?

SHOSHANNA

I think that England is your home. And this is ours.

MORTON

What about you Wilkin? Is this your home?

WILKIN

I like it here. It's better than Suffolk anyway.

MORTON

Is that where you are from?

WILKIN

Yes.

Alice tries to distract Shoshanna away from the men's conversation.

ALICE

I've found a job teaching.

SHOSHANNA

Have you? Did you teach in Jenin?

ALICE

Oh no, I wasn't in Jenin. I've just come to Palestine from England.

SHOSHANNA

I see. It must all seem very strange here.

ALICE

I love it. It is so exotic. And the children are wonderful.

EXT ANGLO PALESTINE BANK BEN YEHUDA STREET - DAY

ABRAHAM AMPER and ZELIK ZAK throw two smoke bombs from the roof of a building. Pedestrians and motorists run in confusion. Zeroni and Eliav enter the bank. As they raise their hats masks fall over their faces. They pull out pistols.

ELIAV

Everyone be still.

Zeroni takes the gun from a guard. Eliav goes over the counter and hands a bag to the teller.

ELIAV (CONT'D)

Fill this.

The teller starts to fill the bag with money.

ELIAV (CONT'D)

Hurry up.

He takes the bag and joins Zeroni.

ZERONI

This is a bomb - if you try to leave the building it will detonate. We are appropriating this money for the Freedom Fighters of Israel.

As they leave they hang the 'bomb' on the door handle.

EXT ANGLO PALESTINE BANK BEN YEHUDA STREET - DAY

They run out pulling off their masks and jump in a car that is parked in a side alley. The car races away.

INT CID HQ TEL AVIV - DAY

Morton and Wilkin are in a room that has named photos and drawings of terrorists on the wall. Some are Haganah, some are Irgun - including ~ Raziel. On one side is Stern.

WILKIN

The Haganah as you know are signed up on our side against the Nazis. That applies to most of the Irgun too. Their leader in Palestine - David Raziel even taking part in covert operations behind enemy lines. Jabotinsky - the political leader - is publicly opposed to the Germans. The only problem right now is Avraham Stern. Leader of a group that broke away from the Irgun. We don't know how many left with him, or what capability they have in terms of weapons. They are obviously short of money as they have gone back to robbing banks. Stern is totally opposed to the British - to the extent that we have reports from Beirut that he has made contact with the Germans and offered to co-operate with them.

MORTON

Where is he hiding?

WILKIN

Somewhere in Tel Aviv, probably.

MORTON

It shouldn't be that hard to find him.

Wilkin doesn't say anything.

MORTON (CONT'D)

In Jenin I found informers were very useful. Not only because of the people they gave us, but also because it undermined the Arabs' morale. They couldn't trust each other.

WILKIN

We have one or two. But it is difficult here.
(MORE)

WILKIN (CONT'D)

The Jewish underground is ideologically highly motivated. It is hard to find people who will betray their comrades.

MORTON

Most people have a price. Friends or relatives they don't want deported. Debts they can't pay. A crime they want to be forgotten or forgiven.

WILKIN

Of course.

MORTON

I don't want any of the Jewish officers to know about any undercover work. We have to assume they are compromised.

WILKIN

In what sense?

MORTON

That they have friends and relatives in the Underground. That some of them may well be in the underground themselves.

WILKIN

True, but there are also officers whom I would trust with my life. Who I have trusted with my life.

MORTON

I'm sure. But from now on only British officers should know about any secret operations.

EXT STREET - DUSK

It is a quiet, residential street in a suburb outside Tel Aviv.

CAPTION: November 16th 1941

Unfinished houses, scrappy gardens. One small cafe. A young man is out taking the air with his wife and young child.

CAPTION: Constable Soffioff

A man approaches, takes out a gun and shoots him six times. The wife and child scream. The man lies in a pool of blood.

The assassin is ZELIK ZAK. He runs off and jumps into a car that is waiting for him. They drive away.

The little child is screaming. The mother is crying. The man is dead.

EXT TEL AVIV STREET - NIGHT

A man is walking down the street with his hat pulled low over his face - it is Stern. He arrives at a house and knocks with a particular rhythm. The door opens.

INT HOUSE - NIGHT

Stern enters a small bare room. A man is typing. Svorai and Zeroni are sitting with Zelik Zak. Stern goes over to him and hugs him.

STERN

Congratulations.

EXT MORTON'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Morton and his wife Alice leave in their car and drive in to Tel Aviv.

EXT STREET - NIGHT.

Morton drives down a dark, quiet street on the edge of Tel Aviv. They pull up at a corner and a man steps out of the shadows and into their car. He lies on the back seat. It is SHMUEL.

SHMUEL

You're late.

MORTON

It took me a few minutes to find the road.

SHMUEL

Who's this.

MORTON

This is Alice. It looks less suspicious if I am driving with her.

SHMUEL

The more people who know who I am, the more dangerous it is.

Alice leans over and hands him some money.

MORTON

What do you have for me?

SHMUEL

Not much.

MORTON

Then give me the money back.

SHMUEL

A few names. People who have gone to join Stern.

MORTON

Who?

Shmuel hands over a small piece of paper.

MORTON (CONT'D)

Do you have addresses?

SHMUEL

No.

MORTON

So what am I supposed to do with this?

SHMUEL

That's your job isn't it?

MORTON

Remember, if we accidentally gave your name to people in the Irgun, or the Haganah, or the Stern gang, you would be in a very bad place.

SHMUEL

I know.

MORTON

So try to make sure you have their addresses next time.

SHMUEL

They are not stupid you know.

MORTON

Nor am I.

The car pulls up.

MORTON (CONT'D)

Same time and place, next week.

SHMUEL

Next week.

Shmuel gets out of the car and disappears into the shadows.

INT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A crowded, noisy, brightly lit bar and restaurant. Shoshanna is there with lots of friends from work. Wilkin is with her. People are drunk and boisterous. They are all making fun of each other. Shoshanna's boss is sitting next to Wilkin.

EZRA

She is beautiful isn't she?

WILKIN

Very beautiful.

SHOSHANNA

(to Ezra) You're drunk.

EZRA

And you're beautiful. (to Wilkin) You have stolen one of our most beautiful flowers.

Wilkin laughs.

EZRA (CONT'D)

What are your plans?

WILKIN

It's hard to have plans in the middle of a war.

EZRA

Which war do you mean?

WILKIN

The war against Germany.

EZRA

The one we are all allies in. But it will be harder still when we are fighting each other. Whose side will you be on my beautiful rose?

SHOSHANNA

Stop. You're drunk.

EZRA

You will have to decide. One of you. You know that, don't you Tom?

WILKIN

I do.

EZRA

And?

SHOSHANNA

Enough. Enough. Why don't you dance with Ruth.

A young dark girl comes and drags Ezra onto the dance floor.

WILKIN

He's right.

SHOSHANNA

I know.

She kisses him on the mouth. Their friends giggle.

INT CID - DAY

Wilkin has been summoned to see Morton in his office.

MORTON

We've received a complaint.
Thought I should let you know.
The assistant commissioner
Chambers and DCI Roberts will be asking you about it tomorrow.

WILKIN

Really?

MORTON

Someone complaining that you know the whereabouts of leading members of the Haganah. And the location of their weapons. And you don't arrest anyone because of your relationship with a leading socialist Zionist.

WILKIN

I tend not to think of her like that.

Morton catches Wilkin's eye and Wilkin backs off.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Who was the complaint from?

MORTON

Supporters of Stern. Trying to cause trouble.

(MORE)

MORTON (CONT'D)

But of course we have to be seen to go through the correct procedures once the formal complaint is issued.

WILKIN

I know.

EXT RUSSIAN COMPOUND, JERUSALEM - DAY

Wilkin pulls into the Russian compound.

INT CID HQ, JERUSLAEM - DAY

Wilkin is facing a committee of three - an army officer, Chambers and a deputy chief inspector of the police.

CHAMBERS

The letter states that you have had the opportunity to arrest members of the Haganah underground movement- namely one Joseph Kressner. That you knew where he was and that he was a member of an illegal organisation. But that you did not arrest him due to your relationship with one Miss Borochov, a member of Histadrut and suspected member of the Haganah.

Chambers looks up.

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

Do you have anything to say?

Wilkin feels the whole situation is a farce.

WILKIN

Half the police force are working for or with the Haganah. Should we arrest them?

CHAMBERS

Are you saying the accusation is true?

WILKIN

No sir. I have insufficient evidence that Mr Kressner is in the Haganah. May I ask who sent the complaint?

CHAMBERS

I cannot tell you. How long have you known Miss Borochov?

WILKIN

Five years.

CHAMBERS

Do you discuss your police work with her?

WILKIN

No.

CHAMBERS

Is she a member of the Haganah?

WILKIN avoids answering.

WILKIN

You know some people in the Histadrut accuse her of passing information to me which is useful in my job.

DCI

Is that true?

Wilkin doesn't answer.

DCI (CONT'D)

It is important that the Palestine Police force is seen to be neutral.

WILKIN

Are you saying we should treat members of the Stern group, who are sympathetic to the Axis powers and are actively trying to kill members of the police, in the same way as the Haganah?

DCI

If people break the law it doesn't matter whether you agree with them or not.

They pause.

CHAMBERS

You must see that by living with Miss Borochov you are putting yourself in a difficult situation.

WILKIN

Next time I'll make sure I choose someone from England.

Everyone tenses. Wilkin tries to avoid a confrontation.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Miss Borochov is a Zionist. Not a terrorist.

CHAMBERS

Do you know her brother?

WILKIN

No. She hasn't seen him for many years.

DCI

Are you sure?

WILKIN

Why? Is he in the Haganah as well?

CHAMBERS

We have reports that he has joined the Irgun.

Wilkin is wrong footed.

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

Is that true?

WILKIN

Not that I know of. But I wouldn't know.

EXT RUSSIAN COMPOUND - DAY

Chambers is walking out with Wilkin.

CHAMBERS

I'm sorry it all has to be so official. It's for the minutes. I want you to know you have our complete confidence.

WILKIN

Is that in the minutes as well?

Wilkin walks off.

EXT TEL AVIV SEA STREET - NIGHT

Wilkin walks along the sea front. Music drifts over from an open air cafe. He goes over.

EXT CAFE - NIGHT

Wilkin watches the young, cosmopolitan, attractive people dancing the night away.

INT WILKIN'S FLAT - NIGHT

Wilkin and Shoshanna are making love.

PICK UP ON

Wilkin is lying next to Shoshanna.

WILKIN

Have you seen your brother recently?

SHOSHANNA

You know I haven't.

Wilkin lights a cigarette and passes it to Shoshanna.

WILKIN

What do you know about him?

SHOSHANNA

Why?

He looks at her again.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

You might as well tell me instead of 'beating around the bush'.

WILKIN

Has he joined the Irgun?

SHOSHANNA

I haven't seen him for three years. You know that.

WILKIN

That doesn't mean you don't know whether he is in the Irqun.

SHOSHANNA

What is this?

WILKIN

I was told he was.

SHOSHANNA

Who by?

WILKIN.

Chambers.

SHOSHANNA

So now you think I am a liar?

WILKIN

No.

SHOSHANNA

But you want to make sure.

She gets out of bed and starts to get dressed.

WILKIN

I am on one side. They are on the other. It's a fair question to ask which side you are on, isn't it?

SHOSHANNA

No. It isn't.

She goes. It feels like she has gone for good.

EXT STREET CORNER - NIGHT

Morton's car pulls up and Shmuel gets into the back. He lies down and Alice throws a coat over him, completely hiding him.

INT CAR - NIGHT

Morton cruises around the quiet, dark streets of the Tel Aviv suburbs.

ALICE

Can you breathe?

SHMUEL

Yes.

MORTON

What do you have for us today?

SHMUEL

I have some big news.

MORTON

Yes.

SHMUEL

It is worth a lot of money.

MORTON

Is it? Maybe I should be the judge of that.

SHMUEL

It is worth a lot of money.

MORTON

You know, half of the Arab informers I worked with were assassinated. And you know why? Because they went round spending money they shouldn't have had.

SHMUEL

I am not an Arab.

ALICE

Geoffrey knows that.

MORTON

Tell me.

SHMUEL

There's a Haganah arms cache in the Ein HaHoresh Kibbutz Kibbutz. It is hidden under the floor of the supernumerary police station....

EXT STREET CORNER - NIGHT

Morton's car pulls up.

INT CAR - NIGHT

Morton looks at Alice.

MORTON

Give him fifty pounds.

Alice hands the money to Shmuel who is pulling the coat off him.

ALICE

Thank you.

SHMUEL

Good night.

ALICE

Good night. Be safe.

SHMUEL

Thank you.

He gets out of the car and Morton pulls away as Shmuel melts into the shadows.

INT CID - DAY

Morton is talking to Wilkin. Wilkin is looking at a report that Morton has given him.

MORTON

We need to organise a raid for tomorrow. None of the Jewish officers must know in advance.

WILKIN

These are Haganah weapons. The Haganah hate Stern and his gang as much as we do.

MORTON

The Haganah is an illegal organisation. These are illegal weapons.

WILKIN

But they aren't being used against us. They are on our side.

MORTON

You think we should allow illegal organisations? Private armies?

WILKIN

You don't think you are being used by Stern to do his dirty work for him?

MORTON

No.

WILKIN

Most of our men are in the Haganah. Most Jews are.

Morton almost says something. They both know it was going to be about Shoshanna.

Wilkin walks out.

EXT SHOSHANNA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wilkin knocks on the door. Shoshanna's mother opens the door.

WTTKTN

Is Shoshanna in?

LUBA

No

WILKIN

Do you know where she is?

LUBA

No. Sorry.

WILKIN

Will you tell her I called?

LUBA

I will tell her.

Wilkin leaves and we see Shoshanna listening as he leaves.

EXT KIBBUTZ EIN HAHORESH - DAY

A column of police and army vehicles arrive at the gate to the Kibbutz.

INT JEWISH SUPERNUMERARY POLICE STATION DAY

Morton and Wilkin are both there as police are pulling up the floorboards. Rifles, machine guns and grenades are all hidden underneath. We see some of the Jewish Supernumerary Police being led away.

EXT DESERT ROADS - DAY

The column winds its way back to Tel Aviv.

INT ARMOURED TRUCK - DAY

Wilkin is sitting next to Morton. He doesn't look happy.

MORTON

What's the matter?

WILKIN

Nothing.

INT POLICE STATION - NIGHT

MORTON and WILKIN are sitting in an interview room. One of the suspects is brought in.

MORTON

Name?

The suspect is about to answer, but Wilkin answers for him.

WILKIN

Joshua Groner.

Morton looks at Wilkin.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

I've known Joshua for years. I don't think it is appropriate that I am here for this interview.

He turns to Joshua.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Joshua.

Wilkin walks out.

INT CID - DAY

Wilkin is leaving the interview room when Schiff comes up to him.

SCHIFF

Sorry to bother you, sir. But a body has been found.

INT CAR - DAY

Wilkin is sitting next to Morton who looks furious as they race through the Tel Aviv streets

EXT STREET - DAY

Wilkin and Morton arrive. They come over to look at the body of Shmuel, which has six bullet holes in it. A note is pinned to his coat. Wilkin takes it off and reads it: Tried by a Jewish military court, found guilty of treason, sentenced to death and duly executed.

MORTON

Shit.

Wilkin hands over the note.

WILKIN

This was pinned to him.

MORTON

It's the work of your friends in the Haganah.

MORTON (CONT'D)

They're animals.

Wilkin loses it, pushed too far.

WILKIN

Everyone executes traitors. We'd do the same.

Morton looks at him. Wilkin walks off.

INT HISTADRUT OFFICE - DAY

The office is full and noisy. Shoshanna is typing when a young man calls over to her

OFFICE WORKER

It's Tom Wilkin for you.

SHOSHANNA

Tell him I'm not here.

Ze'ev gives her a funny look but she ignores him.

INT CORRIDOR BRITISH ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING - DAY

Shoshanna is walking down the corridor. She looks tense.

INT CHAMBERS OFFICE - DAY

Shoshanna is being shown into the office.

CHAMBERS

Miss Borochov, it's good to see you. Have a seat. Would you like a cup of tea?

SHOSHANNA

No thank you.

CHAMBERS

Lemonade?

SHOSHANNA

No thank you.

Chambers sits back in his chair and looks at Shoshanna for a moment.

CHAMBERS

So, what can I do for you?

SHOSHANNA

I understand that you have been investigating my relationship to Detective Constable Wilkin.

Chambers is wrong footed.

CHAMBERS

I wouldn't put it like that.

SHOSHANNA

How would you put it?

CHAMBERS

I received a complaint. I had to look into it.

SHOSHANNA

I just wanted to put your mind at rest. There is no longer any relationship between myself and Mr Wilkin. It is over.

CHAMBERS

I am sorry to hear that. Geuninely.

SHOSHANNA

I don't care what you think. I just wanted it to be clear that there is no reason to investigate Tom. If you had any sense it would be Morton you were questioning. He is an idiot. He is turning a lot of people into enemies of the British.

CHAMBERS

I understand you are angry. But I am afraid I can't discuss these things with you.

SHOSHANNA

Because I am a Jew.

CHAMBERS

Morton is a British police officer trying to uphold the law in difficult circumstances.

(MORE)

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

You are a Jewish woman, a member of the Haganah - an illegal underground organisation. Morton wouldn't be doing his job if you liked him.

SHOSHANNA

I liked Wilkin. Does that mean he wasn't doing his job.

CHAMBERS

Miss Borochov. I respect you. And I like Tom. But if I were being honest I am not sure his relationship with you was compatible with his position in the Palestine Police force.

Shoshanna is about to say something.

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)
I am sorry to have to be so blunt. It is not intended as a comment on the integrity of either of you as individuals.

INT HAPOELIN BANK, TEL AVIV - DAY

It is a busy day in Tel Aviv. A cashier comes out from behind the counter, carrying a satchel filled with money.

EXT BANK - DAY

The street is full of shoppers, workers, businessmen. The cashier comes out and starts to walk down the street. Two men follow him out of the bank. They hurry and catch up with him on the corner of Montefiore Street. The first man, NISSIM REUVEN, takes a cosh out of his pocket and hits the cashier twice on the back of his head. The cashier falls to the ground, shouting "Robbery".

People stop and look. The second robber - YEHOSHUA BECKER - grabs the satchel. Reuven takes a pistol out of his pocket and waves it at the crowd, who back away from him. One or two scream with fear. Reuven and Becker run off. They run past an alleyway where a third man takes the bag and disappears through the open door of a house. Becker and Reuven keep running, both with their guns in their hands. Police and civilians chase them. Reuven fires into the air and takes a sharp right into a smaller street. Becker keeps running, chased by a constable and others. They are gaining on him when he turns and fires at them. He misses the constable but hits two innocent pedestrians.

Reuven sees two policemen coming towards him, as the crowd chase him from behind. He stops running, throws the gun onto the ground and puts his hands in the air.

PICK UP ON

Two bodies being stretchered into an ambulance as Reuven and Becker are bundled into a police APC.

CAPTION: January 9th 1942

EXT STREET - DAY

The third man walks quickly but quietly down the street carrying the satchel. He disappears into a doorway.

INT APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

The third man knocks on a flat door with a special rhythm. The door opens. Inside he is greeted by an older man - Eliav.

ELIAV

How did it go?

THIRD MAN

Not good. They got Reuven and Becker.

ELIAV

Shit.

He walks through to the next room where three men sit around waiting.

ELIAV (CONT'D)

We need to get out of here.

They start to pack up the papers, weapons, clothes.

INT POLICE STATION - DAY

A bare interrogation room. Reuven is sitting in a chair, his hands cuffed behind his back. Wilkin is sitting in a chair watching as Morton paces the room. A Hebrew officer is there as witness and translator.

MORTON

Where was the meeting place?

REUVEN

I don't know.

MORTON

Don't be stupid.

REUVEN

It was always planned that we would hand over the money. So we didn't need to know where they were going.

MORTON

Who did you hand it to?

REUVEN

I don't know.

MORTON

You know it is too late for Becker. He killed two people. He is a murderer and he will hang for it. But you...you gave yourself up. If you co-operate now I can help you. Becker is going to tell us names anyway. We have specialists questioning him now. Don't think he is going to be a hero. I've seen people like him before. People who thought they could take the pain. But they can't. No one can. But you have a chance.

Reuven says nothing.

WTT.KTN

Be sensible.

REUVEN

Are you Wilkin?

WILKIN

Yes.

REUVEN

You are a dead man.

WILKIN

No I'm not. As you see.

INT INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Becker is tied at the hands and feet. Two officers are beating his feet with a thick cord.

POLICE INTERROGATOR

Where are they?

INT HOUSE - DAY

Inside a new safe house. Roni is looking after a baby in the next door room. Stern, Eliav, Zak and Zeroni are discussing tactics.

STERN

We have to respond immediately. With maximum impact.

EXT YAEL ST TEL AVIV - DAY

The rooftops of apartment buildings.

CAPTION: January, 20th 1942

A small explosion in the roof top apartment of number 8. A neighbour hanging out washing on her block's roof, shouts down to her husband.

NEIGHBOUR

Telephone the police!

INT CID - DAY

Schiff is on the phone, being told about the Yael St bomb.

SCHIFF

Where is Wilkin?

POLICEMAN

He's not due in till lunchtime.

SCHIFF

Find him. And Morton?

POLICEMAN

Meeting the ADC and chief superintendent.

SCHIFF

Let him know what's going on.

POLICEMAN

Yes sir.

EXT YAEL STREET - DAY

Three CID vehicles arrive. A small crowd has gathered outside number 8. Schiff talks to the local policeman then leads the way into the building.

EXT ROOF TOP - DAY

We see Schiff and three Jewish colleagues entering the flat from the point of view of a man on the neighboring roof. There is an aerial like rod above the apartment door. We see the face of a man watching. This is YEHOSHUA BARUCH. As the police go in, we see a hand flick a switch and a second explosion rips through the building. Bodies fly into the air, limbs separate from bodies. Schiff's head lands on the street below. Women scream and wail.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

As the smoke clears we see wounded police groaning.

EXT YAEL ST - DAY

Wilkin and Morton arrive. Ambulances are already there. There is a huge crowd milling around.

WILKIN

Well?

POLICEMAN

Two dead.

WILKIN

Who?

POLICEMAN

Schiff and Goldman

WILKIN

Fuck. Fuck. Fuck.

We see a British CID officer - TURTON - being wheeled to the ambulance. His legs have been blown off.

Morton and Wilkin head to the apartment building entrance. We see it from the point of view of the next door building. We see an antenna above the door way. We see a man - Yehoshua - watching. He is holding a detonator. Other people - Jewish people - are following Morton and Wilkin into the building. Yehoshua hesitates. His finger on the trigger. Then he turns and starts to pack up his equipment.

EXT STREET - DAY

Yehoshua rushing towards the safe house.

INT HOUSE - DAY

Eliav is sitting in front of the two bombers. He's angry. A couple of other men look on.

ELIAV

Why didn't you detonate your bomb when Wilkin arrived? He was our main target.

YEHOSHUA

I would have killed women and children.

ELIAV

It would have been worth it.

PICK UP ON

Stern typing a newsletter.

STERN'S VOICE OVER Schiff and Goldmann were sentenced to death by the supreme court of our organization.

EXT STREET - DAY

Montage of three LEHI supporters running round pasting posters on the wall.

STERN'S VOICE OVER This verdict was confirmed by the leader and commander of the Freedom Fighters of Israel and carried out on the 20th January 1942 at 9.20 am in Tel Aviv. This verdict should serve as a warning to the police, its officers and agents that they should not touch the messengers of this organisation when these messengers carry out their national duty. Becker and Reuven were arrested while performing their duty. They were tortured by the police and Schiff and Goldmann are directly responsible for their torture.

INT CID - DAY

Wilkin is working at his desk when a junior officer comes in.

POLICEMAN

Superintendent Morton would like you to join him in the Interrogation room, sir.

Wilkin is surprised. He goes.

INT INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A small Jewish man sits opposite Morton and Wilkin. There are no other policemen in the room.

MORTON

Tell him what you just told me.

INFORMANT

A week ago - the day of the Yael St bombs - four men rented a room in Dizengoff street.

WILKIN

So?

INFORMANT

They have all stayed there since. The door locked. The only visitors come at night.

WILKIN

Why do you think this has anything to do with the bombs?

INFORMANT

I just do.

Morton and Wilkin look at each other.

WILKIN

Why are you telling us this?

INFORMANT

I want the reward when you catch them.

EXT STREETS - DAY

A CID convoy races to Dizengoff street.

INT CID CAR - DAY

Wilkin and Morton sit next to each other. They are both tense. Is this a trap?

EXT DIZENGOFF STREET - DAY

Morton signals for some men to stay outside. He leads the way into the building.

INT STAIRCASE - DAY

Morton leads the way up the staircase. They get to the flat on the third floor. Wilkin is right behind Morton. Two sergeants behind him.

Morton rings the bell. A woman opens the door. As soon as she sees them she starts shouting and runs down the corridor. Morton and Wilkin rush into the flat, guns in hand. Morton opens the first door he comes to. There are three men inside. They had been lying in bed in their vest and pants. They get up as Morton enters.

MORTON

At-ta'amod.

But they are already moving to stand up, moving to get a jacket that is on a chair between the beds. Morton fires, hitting all three of them. One is Zelik Zak. One is MOSHE ZVORAI.

MORTON (CONT'D)

There's a fourth somewhere, check all the rooms.

Wilkin breaks open the toilet door. The window is open.

EXT DIZENGOFF STREET - DAY

A man is climbing down a drainpipe. It is YAACOV LEVSTEIN. A CID man - Tennant - shoots. Levstein is hit in the leg and falls to the ground. But he is still alive.

INT APARTMENT - DAY

The two sergeants have got the woman. Wilkin is searching the bedroom whilst Morton covers them with his gun. Zelik Zak and the third man - Haim Amper - groan with pain. They look in a bad way. Wilkin finds an automatic pistol in the pocket of the jacket and two grenades in a drawer.

EXT DIZENGOFF STREET - DAY

A crowd has gathered which is being held back by uniformed police. Bodies come out on stretchers. Wilkin and Morton watch as CID officers go with them into the ambulances.

INT PRISON CELL - DAY

Zvorai and Levstein are lying on thin mats on the stone floor of the cell. Two guards arrive. One, an Irishman BOYLE, brings their food into the cell.

BOYLE

There you go.

ZVORAI

Thank you.

Boyle and the other guard leave and walk back down the prison corridor.

PICK UP ON

Boyle coming into the guards room. Morton is there.

BOYLE

Hullo, sir.

MORTON

Good to see you again.

BOYLE

And you.

MORTON

Thank you for calling me.

BOYLE

I thought I might be able to help.

INT PRISON CELL DAY

Boyle and another guard are again bringing a meal to Levstein and Zvorai in their cell. Boyle is friendly and they have obviously got to know each other a little.

BOYLE

Big day tomorrow.

LEVSTEIN

Not really. It's all a show.

BOYLE

Still, it's your day in court. You should look respectable. Why don't you get some better clothes brought in. If you want to send a message, I'll take it.

LEVSTEIN

Thank you.

Boyle leaves them.

EXT TEL AVIV DAY

Boyle cycles through the busy streets.

INT CID DAY

Boyle, Morton and Wilkin are in Morton's office. Wilkin reads Zvorai and Levstein's note.

WILKIN

Levstein asks his mother for some clean clothes and asks her to pass on Zvorai's note to his wife. It says she will know where to find her.

MORTON

What does Zvorai's note say?

WILKIN

The same. But it says he sent it via Mrs Levstein so as not to disturb their quest.

MORTON

Interesting. Well done Boyle. Why don't you deliver the note to Mrs Levstein. See if you can get the address of Mrs Zvorai.

BOYLE

Yes sir.

Boyle leaves. Morton looks at the photographs of the wanted terrorists on his wall. Top of them all is the photograph of Stern.

MORTON

Maybe it's our lucky day.

WILKIN

It's possible.

MORTON

Have four men watch the house of Levstein. Two to follow the mother if she leaves.

WILKIN

Yes, sir.

EXT STREET DAY

Sergeant Boyle goes into the apartment building.

INT APARTMENT DAY

Boyle knocks on the door and a sweet lady answers. She is perfectly friendly to Boyle, even though he is a policeman.

BOYLE

I'm sorry to bother you ma'am, but I've come on an errand from your son, Yaacov.

MRS LEVSTEIN

Come in, come in.

Boyle follows her into the home.

BOYLE

I can't stop long but they asked me to deliver a couple of notes for them, Jaacov and Mr Zvorai. As a favour. I've got to know them pretty well.

MRS LEVSTEIN

I know. Yaacov told me you were kind. You're Irish aren't you?

BOYLE

I am ma'am. Here's the notes. One's for Mrs Zvorai. I can deliver it for you if you like?

MRS LEVSTEIN

I don't know where she lives.

BOYLE

Don't you. Yaacov said you'd know where to find her.

MRS LEVSTEIN

No.

BOYLE

That's difficult isn't it. They really want to look their best for their court appearance.

MRS LEVSTEIN

Yes.

BOYLE

Don't want people to have the chance to make fun of them for the way they look.

MRS LEVSTEIN

No.

BOYLE

Tell you what, I could get you a special visit tomorrow morning - early. You could get the address then.

MRS LEVSTEIN

Thank you. You're so kind. You know, we feel our struggle is the same as your peoples.

Boyle wonders whether to put her straight about his allegiances, but decides not to .

BOYLE

Thank you, ma'am. Well I'd better be off now.

EXT STREET DAY

As Boyle leaves he catches sight of one of the police in plain clothes watching the apartment block. They recognise each other.

INT PRISON VISITING ROOM DAY

Mrs Levstein is situated opposite Jaacov. His clean clothes are on the table next to him. Two guards watch them. Boyle is there.

MRS LEVSTEIN

I don't know where Mrs Zvorai is.

Levstein checks that no one is listening.

LEVSTEIN

8 Mizrachi B.

INT GUARD ROOM DAY

Boyle is on the phone.

BOYLE

8 Mizrachi B.

INT CID DAY

Tennant is taking the phone call

TENNANT

Got it.

EXT MIZRACHI B STREET DAY

A plain car pulls up. One man stays downstairs whilst Wilkin, Tennant and a Sergeant Stamp go upstairs. Wilkin knocks on the door. Tova Zvorai opens it.

WILKIN

Good morning. May we come in?

ZVORAI

It's not a good time. I am just getting dressed.

She tries to close the door. But Wilkin has his foot in it and he pushes past her.

WILKIN

We won't take long, Mrs Zvorai. Sergeant Stamp here is very quick.

Stamp has his gun in his hand. He goes into the bathroom, then opens the closet in the bedroom.

STAMP

Don't move.

Wilkin comes to look. Inside the closet a man is hiding behind some clothes.

WILKIN

Mr Stern. We were hoping to find you here. Come out slowly with your hands in front of you.

Tova is furious watching Stern stumble awkwardly out of the closet.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Handcuff him.

STAMP

Sir.

Stamp handcuffs him to the chair whilst Wilkin uses the phone.

WILKIN

We've got Stern.

EXT MIZRACHI STREET DAY

Morton arrives with four more police. One of them goes with him into the apartment block.

INT APARTMENT DAY

Morton comes in. Wilkin is still there with Tova Svorai and a female neighbour. Stamp has his gun trained on Stern.

MORTON

So this is Stern. Doesn't look like he put up much of a fight.

WILKIN

No sir. This is Mrs Svorai. This is her apartment.

MORTON

Good to meet you. It's thanks to your husband we found Mr Stern.

Morton watches Stern's reaction.

SVORAI

You're a liar. He would never tell you anything.

MORTON

Take her downstairs - and the witness.

SVORAI

No. I'm staying.

WILKIN

Yes, sir.

He and the other policeman try and gently pull Tova Svorai away from the flat and down the stairs.

INT/ EXT STAIRWELL

Wilkin and the sergeant are still trying to deal with Mrs Svorai's protests when two shots ring out. Immediately Mrs Svorai starts shouting and screaming.

SVORAI

They are killing Stern. They are murdering Stern.

People come to see what is happening. They drag her to the car and Wilkin rushes back upstairs with one of the other policemen.

INT APARTMENT DAY

Wilkin rushes in but everything is calm. Morton is standing there with his gun still in his hand. Stern is lying on the floor in a pool of blood.

MORTON

He tried to escape. I had to shoot him. Didn't I Stamp?

STAMP

Yes sir.

MORTON

Get him downstairs. I've called for an ambulance.

Stern is still just alive as they manoeuvre him down the stairs.

EXT STREET DAY

By the time they get Stern into the street he is already dead. Mrs Svorai's hysterics have attracted a crowd who start to get ugly when they see the dead body but the ambulance arrives and everyone gets away.

INT HISTADRUT OFFICE DAY

TOM WILKIN hurries in, looking tense. A receptionist asks if she can help, but he walks through to where Shoshanna is working.

WILKIN

I need to talk to you.

SHOSHANNA

Why? What has happened.

EZRA is watching them. TOM nods to him.

WILKIN

We can't talk here.

Shoshanna hesitates, then gets up to leave. She follows TOM out of the office.

EXT HISTADRUT OFFICE

Wilkin is clearly nervous -they haven't seen each other for weeks.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Shall we walk?

SHOSHANNA

I haven't got very long.

WILKIN

Right. It would be better somewhere private.

They walk down to the sea front.

SHOSHANNA

What do you want?

WILKIN

I wanted to see you. I wanted to tell you some news before you hear it from anyone else.

She waits.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

Stern is dead. Morton killed him.

SHOSHANNA

My God. How?

WILKIN

We arrested him this morning.

SHOSHANNA

You were there?

WILKIN

Not when he was killed. But that won't matter. People will think I was a party to it.

SHOSHANNA

Party to what? Why was he killed?

WILKIN

Morton says he was trying to escape.

It's obvious that Wilkin doesn't believe it.

SHOSHANNA

Do you think he murdered him?

WILKIN

I don't know. I arrested him. I left him with Morton, there were shots - when I went back to the room he was lying on the floor

They walk on in silence.

WILKIN (CONT'D)

I suppose he might have thought it was summary justice. After all Stern thought it was right to murder British police. So why not 'execute' Stern?

SHOSHANNA

So he did murder him.

WILKIN

I don't know. It doesn't really matter. Everyone will react as though Stern was murdered. And I was there.

SHOSHANNA

I hate him.

WILKIN

Who?

SHOSHANNA

Morton.

WILKIN

I wanted to tell you. They will want to avenge his death. I was worried they might target you.

SHOSHANNA

Why?

They both know the reason why.

WILKIN

I've missed you.

SHOSHANNA

Have you?

They kiss, passionately.

SHOSHANNA (CONT'D)

I can't stand it.

WILKIN

What?

Instead of answering him she kisses him again.

INT WILKIN'S FLAT MORNING

Shoshanna is in bed. Wilkin is getting dressed quietly, trying not to wake her up. She watches him for a little while.

SHOSHANNA

Where are you going?

WILKIN

Jerusalem.

SHOSHANNA

Why?

WILKIN

I have to see Chambers. He is carrying out an investigation into Stern's death.

SHOSHANNA

Will you be back tonight?

WILKIN

I don't know.

He bends over the bed and kisses her.

SHOSHANNA

Be careful.

WILKIN

Always.

They kiss again.

INT CORRIDOR DAY

Wilkin walking down the corridors of Government House.

INT OFFICE DAY

Chambers is sitting behind a large desk. Wilkin faces him.

CHAMBERS

The High Commissioner is very worried. Obviously.

WILKIN

Yes.

CHAMBERS

He, and I, think it would be better for both you and Morton to leave Palestine.

He checks Wilkin's reaction.

CHAMBERS (CONT'D)

For your own sake and also for the sake of the political situation here.

WILKIN

I don't understand. I have simply been doing my job as part of the CID.

Chambers shows Wilkin an article from a US paper, describing the death of Stern as a murder.

CHAMBERS

There has been a lot of stuff in the American papers. It doesn't make us look good.

WILKIN

I wasn't even there when Stern was killed.

CHAMBERS

I'm not accusing you of anything..

WILKIN

Good.

CHAMBERS

..but that is not exactly the point. We have to consider the big picture. You and Morton are no longer simple policemen. You have become public figures.

EXT SCHOOL TEL AVIV DAY

A man walks into a small primary school in a quiet neighbourhood. It is Dov Haichmann.

INT SCHOOL DAY

Haichmann is talking to three other men in the school staff room. The atmosphere is very sombre.

HAICHMANN

We must target Morton and Wilkin immediately. This murder must be avenged.

INT COURT OF CRIMINAL ASSIZE DAY

A crowded court room. Wilkin is sitting just behind the barristers watching the sentencing of Reuven and Becker - the two Stern Group bank robbers.

JUDGE

You, Nissim Reuven, have been found guilty of robbery. I sentence you to fourteen years in prison.

There is a murmur in the court.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

You, Yehoshua Becker, have been found guilty of robbery and murder in the first degree. I hereby sentence you to death.

Five or six voices start shouting protests, the court starts to get noisy. The judge bangs his gavel.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Take them down.

As they walk away we see Becker's face. He is defiant.

CAPTION: BECKER WAS LATER REPRIEVED.

INT HISTADRUT OFFICE DAY

Ezra is sitting behind his desk reading a report written by Shoshanna. She is sitting waiting. He makes a couple of corrections and hands the paper back to her.

EZRA

It's good. A bit wordy at the beginning. But good.

SHOSHANNA

Thank you.

EZRA

Is it true? That you and Wilkin are back together?

SHOSHANNA

Why?

EZRA

You know Joshua Groner is still being held by the British. Morton is claiming he will bring him to trial. Fot the sake of a few rifles hidden in a kibbutz. It is an outrage.

SHOSHANNA

I know.

EZRA

Wilkin knows Joshua. Can't he do anything?

SHOSHANNA

I have already asked. He says he can't.

EXT STREET HAIFA DAY

Two young men walking down a street. One is David Shomron. The other is a little older - Mazal. Two policeman are walking towards them.

MAZAL

Stay calm.

POLICEMAN

What's in your bag?

Mazal and Shomron hand their bags over. The police pull out a pile of Irgun leaflets that they were going to paste on walls. As the police are pulling the leaflets out of the bag Mazal pulls out his gun and shoots both of them. The leaflets scatter on the pavement and Shomron and Mazal run off down the street.

EXT MORTON'S BUNGALOW MORNING.

Morton and his wife Alice leave the house. They have two bodyguards with them. Everyone is in good humour.

MORTON

Hurry up or you'll be late for school.

Alice gets in the passenger seat. Morton drives. The two bodyguards get in the back. The car pulls out of the drive.

EXT COAST ROAD DAY

A quiet stretch of road just north of Tel Aviv. In the shadow of an orange grove there are two men. They sit and wait until the car reaches the right spot. Then they detonate the bomb. A huge explosion. Rocks gravel and tarmac from the road fly into the air. The car lifts off the ground but bounces back down onto the road. For a moment everything is quiet.

MORTON

Alice?

ALICE

I'm alright Geoffrey.

MORTON

Thank God. How're you in the back?

BODYGUARDS

Fine sir.

MORTON

That was pretty close. I'm going to carry on driving in case they are waiting to try and finish us off.

BODYGUARDS

Yes sir.

Morton starts the car and it pulls away. Alice reaches over and squeezes his hand.

ALICE

That was lucky.

They all start to laugh.

INT RECEPTION GOVERNMENT HOUSE NIGHT

Lots of administration officials, civilian, police and army, with their wives, are crowded into a reception. Morton, Alice, Wilkin are together. Waiters wander round refilling glasses with champagne.

MORTON

You know Alice just went into school and spent the whole day teaching as though nothing had happened.

Alice laughs.

WILKIN

Incredible.

ALICE

The only problem was I couldn't hear anything, my ears were ringing so much.

WILKIN

Are they better now.

ALICE

Oh yes. I only notice it at night, when I am trying to sleep.

WILKIN

You're very brave.

ALICE

You know Geoffrey has become a big hero with the Arabs. There have been all sorts of presents - we were even given a gazelle - but we had to give him away. It was a shame but we didn't really know what to do with him.

MORTON

I'm just going to have a word with the ADC. Shall I see if he wants a lift home in our car, darling? Excuse me.

He goes off, chuckling at his own joke. Everyone is a little unsure what to say.

WILKIN

For God's sake get him to leave here before it is too late. They won't rest until they get him you know.

ALICE

I know but he won't listen to me. It's the same for you anyway, isn't it?

WILKIN

No. You can go anywhere. This is my home now.

She smiles.

ALICE

It must be hard for you.

EXT BRITISH ADMINISTRATION JERUSALEM DAY

A car pulls up into the very secure compound and Morton and his two bodyguards get out.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER I managed to persuade the

Inspector General of the police..

INT OFFICE DAY

Morton sitting opposite a panel of the IG of police and Chambers.

..to tell Morton that he had been working too hard and had to take home leave with Alice.

EXT TEL AVIV BEACH DAY

Shoshanna and Wilkin are walking along the beach.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER

That left Wilkin as the main target for the bombers. I had Wilkin posted to Jerusalem. I thought he'd be safer there.

SHOSHANNA

Why can't you refuse.

WILKIN

It's an order.

SHOSHANNA

Did they give any reason?

WILKIN

Well, they say it is a promotion. That I am needed there more than here.

SHOSHANNA

But you know everyone here.

WILKIN

Exactly. That is what Chambers doesn't like. He thinks I am compromised.

SHOSHANNA

Are you being moved because of me?

WILKIN

I don't know.

EXT STREETS DAY

A montage of men running around Tel Aviv and Jerusalem pasting newsletters on the wall, Menachem Begin writing the speech, radio broadcasters reading it out.

CAPTION: 1st February 1944

RADIO BROADCAST

There is no longer any armistice between the Jewish people and the British Administration in Eretz Israel which hands our brothers over to Hitler. Our people are at war with this regime - war to the end... This then is our demand: immediate transfer of power in Eretz Israel to a provisional Hebrew government. We shall fight, every Jew in the homeland will fight. The God of Israel, the Lord of Hosts, will aid us. There will be no retreat. Freedom - or death.

We see a series of explosions in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

INT HOUSE JERUSALEM DAY

David Shomron is sitting at a table with two other men. The older one places two photographs on the table. They are photographs of Wilkin.

OLDER MAN

This is your man.

EXT WILKIN APARTMENT TEL AVIV.

Wilkin and Shoshanna are saying goodbye in the street.

SHOSHANNA

Please be careful.

WILKIN

I will.

They look at each other. They know there is nothing they can do. Tom gets in the car and drives off. She watches him go.

EXT RUSSIAN COMPOUND (BRITISH ADMINISTRATION) DAY

David Shomron walks past and sits in a cafe that overlooks the heavily guarded entrance.

EXT YMCA DAY

Matityahu Pily is sitting on the terrace watching all the cars coming and going at the heavily guarded King David hotel. He sees one car pull up and Wilkin gets out. Pily goes inside to use a phone.

PILY I've got him.

INT CID NIGHT

Wilkin is working in an office. A Jewish Policeman leaves, his shift over for the day.

EXT STREETS JERUSALEM NIGHT

We follow the Jewish Policeman. He goes into a bar.

INT BAR NIGHT

The policeman is with Jacob Banay.

POLICEMAN

He is staying in police accommodation in the Romanian Church, in St Paul St.

BANAY

Thank you.

EXT ROMANIAN CHURCH DAY

Wilkin comes out of the building where he is staying and walks towards the Russian Compound. Pilyu and Shomron follow him at a distance.

EXT JERUSALEM/ TEL AVIV ROAD DAY

A bus winds its way through the hills.

INT BUS DAY

Pily and Banay are sitting in the crowded bus.

EXT TEL AVIV DAY

Pily and Banay walk into a safe house on a busy Tel Aviv street.

INT HOUSE DAY

Pily and Banay are sitting with Michael (Yitzhak Shamir), the leader of LEHI (the Stern Group).

MICHAEL

Good. Everything seems good. But remember, don't try and be clever. Don't try to find the perfect shot. Just empty the barrel and aim at the chest. OK?

BANAY

I understand. I am honoured to have this task. Thank you.

EXT. STREET - REHAVIA DAY

David Shomron -dressed in suit and a trench coat, hat pulled down low, walks down a quiet street. It is early morning. Every now and then a car slides past, or a donkey pulling a cart. He walks into a dairy restaurant.

INT DAIRY RESTAURANT, JERUSALEM - DAY

The restaurant is busy. Shomron sees Banay and JOSHUA COHEN who are already eating breakfast. He joins them.

JACOB BANAY

You're late

SHOMRON

Sorry.

JACOB BANAY

You want something to eat?

SHOMRON

Yes. I think so.

The waiter is there.

SHOMRON (CONT'D)

A yoghurt. And tea.

The waiter goes.

JACOB BANAY

You don't look good

SHOMRON

I feel like I'm getting flu.

JACOB BANAY

Maybe.

The food arrives.

JACOB BANAY (CONT'D)

You should eat. It will settle your stomach.

He checks the clock on the wall.

JACOB BANAY (CONT'D)

We don't leave till half past. Take your time.

EXT DAIRY RESTAURANT, JERUSALEM - DAY

Cohen comes out of the dairy and gets into the driver's seat of a car parked just outside. He starts the engine and Banay and Shomron join him. They pull off.

INT CAR - DAY

Cohen has to slow down. Two carts with their Arab drivers are blocking the road. He sounds the horn.

JACOB BANAY

Relax. We have fifteen minutes. More than enough time.

JOSHUA COHEN

Sorry.

EXT STREET - DAY

One of the Arabs pulls the donkey out of the way and Joshua steers the car through and away.

INT POLICE ACCOMMODATION DAY

Wilkin looking into the mirror as he shaves.

Wilkin putting his gun into his holster, and putting his jacket on over the top.

Wilkin leaving the police accommodation.

EXT STREET MEA SHARIM - DAY

The streets here are busier, with a mix of Arabs, Orthodox Jews, Brits and other Europeans. An Arab policeman is directing traffic. The car pulls up and David Shomron and Jacob Banay get out. Joshua drives off and turns into a petrol station. David and Jacob walk up and down the street. As they pass a church they glance at Mattitahu Pilyu wearing a black beret standing on a street corner. They catch his eye, but no response.

SHOMRON

Are we late?

JACOB BANAY

No. We're fine.

There are many government cars heading for work. They turn round and walk back. The young man on the corner takes his beret off. He throws it up a short way into the air and catches it. He repeats this again and then walks on. It is a signal. Shomron looks to the church. We see Tom Wilkin. He is carrying a leather documents case. Shomron and Banay carry on walking for twenty or thirty yards, then they turn round and start to walk towards their target.

SHOMRON

This is him.

JACOB BANAY

Are you sure?

SHOMRON

Yes. One hundred per cent

JACOB BANAY

Good.

Wilkin looks at them as they pass- Banay catches his eye. Banay's hand goes into the pocket of his coat. Shomron follows. Wilkin turns to watch them, his hand reaching into his pocket, but it is too late. Banay fires and then Shomron. Blood jets from Wilkin's head like a fountain. He falls to the ground, landing on top of his document case. Jacob Banay and David Shomron keep firing. Blood stains Tom's shirt and jacket. They empty their guns into his chest. Fourteen shots. Blood is flowing out of him

SHOMRON Shall I get the case?

Many of the passers by have hurried away. Others are staring. They see a car pull up.

JACOB BANAY

No.

The Arab policeman blows his whistle. Shomron and Banay race to the car that is pulling out of a nearby alley. They jump in and Joshua Cohen hits the accelerator. They speed off.

On the pavement people start to gather around the body. The Arab policeman is still blowing his whistle. A police car pulls up - then two government cars. .

INT/EXT CAR

Cohen Banay and Shomron speeding away from the centre of the city.

EXT ST PAUL'S ROAD DAY

An ambulance arrives. Two policemen are already standing over Wilkin. The doctor injects him with penicillin and tries to revive his heart. But he is dead.

EXT WAREHOUSE DAY

The car pulls up and Shomron gets out. He unlocks the warehouse, goes inside and puts the two guns into a hidden arms store. He leaves through the back of the warehouse and walks off into the busy street.

INT HISTADRUT OFFICE DAY

The office is busy. Shoshanna's phone rings. It is Chambers. He is calling from the hospital

CHAMBERS

Miss Borochov?

SHOSHANNA

Yes?

CHAMBERS

This is Assistant Commissioner Chambers. I am afraid I have some bad news. Wilkie... Tom has been shot. He's been killed.

We watch as she hears the news of Wilkin's death. She puts the phone down and walks out of the office. EZRA

Shoshanna? Shoshanna what is it?

She hurries past him.

EXT STREET DAY

Shoshanna hurries down the street, not knowing where to go or what to do. She doesn't want to cry, she starts to run, running faster and faster away from the news, tears streaming down her face.

EXT MOUNT ZION ANGLICAN CEMETERY

Police, officials, friends gather round the grave as Wilkin's coffin is lowered into the earth. Chambers watches as Shoshanna is the first to throw a handful of dust.

As the burial ends, Shoshanna walks away down the sandy lane to where Chambers waits for her.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER Miss Borochov, I'd just like to say, on behalf of the whole administration, that our thoughts are with you..

He is going to continue but Shoshanna interrupts.

SHOSHANNA

Thank you.

She walks away, down the long path back towards the town, leaving the British behind her.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER
As soon as the war was over
Shoshanna and the rest of the
Haganah joined forces with the
Irgun and the Freedom Fighters of
Israel to kick us out. It didn't
take long.

BLACK AND WHITE NEWSREEL ARCHIVE British flags over Jerusalem are lowered. The High Commissioner boards a boat and leaves for the last time.

NEWSREEL VOICE OVER Jerusalem 14th May 1948. The last day of the mandate. British administrators leave with regret that, after thirty years, it should end like this.

We end on a shot of Chambers on the boat.

CHAMBER'S VOICE OVER

Regret? Maybe. Relief.
Definitely. And shame. Shame that
we had made such a mess of it
all.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE UP ON

A QUIET ROOM IN ISRAEL 2008

A gentle old man is being interviewed. It is the real David Shomron.

INTERVIEWER

Did you know Wilkin?

SHOMRON

No, I didn't.

INTERVIEWER

Have you ever met him?

SHOMRON

No never... I met him once in the street, when I shot him.

INTERVIEWER

Who gave the order for Wilkin's assassination?

SHOMRON

First of all nobody gave an order to assassinate him, the order was to execute him... there is a difference between murder, and manslaughter and execution. An execution is killing someone after the decision of a government or an organization or even mafia but nothing personal.

INTERVIEWER

Did you get the order from Shamir?

SHOMRON

Sure, Shamir gave all the orders. Yitzhak Shamir was the one who gave the orders. This was the first time I shot

This was the first time I shot somebody. Maybe the only time because afterwards we did bigger operations.

(MORE)

SHOMRON (CONT'D)

I think and I am sure that I say my real feelings that I didn't feel nothing. A blackout. I had to execute this man because he was a big headache to the organization and I did it. I didn't feel nothing special. No pain, nothing.

FADE TO BLACK