

# **Trips: Trips - 22**

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D. M. trips 1956 April 20

Incident occurring on 18 April 1956 (Jordan - Israel border)

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TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION

20 April 1956

INCIDENT OCCURRING ON 18 APRIL 1956 AT 1330 LOCAL TIME

Israelis claim they were patrolling from west in a valley, stopped behind a hill at 1482-1146, left car, went up on the hill on foot and started observing. When leaving the hill on their way back to the car they were fired at by a Jordanian position situated (200 metres south of 1482-1146) 300 metres inside HJK territory. The Israelis returned the fire with a light machine gun and started withdrawing, always under fire. After two hours' time a Jordanian party attacked from the north. (Allegedly two Jordanians were killed inside Israel. One body was seen by United Nations Military Observer inside Israel). The Israelis split up and one of them was killed (shot in the back). The Commander of the patrol claims having seen the Jordanians drive the Israeli car inside Jordan territory. Car ordinary command car. Patrols six to seven Israeli soldiers.

Jordan claims that some Jordanian guards were stationed in an observation post on a hill top in the same area at 300 metres from the Demarcation Line. A Jordanian peasant was working nearby plowing his field situated not far from the Demarcation Line. At about 1330 local time, an Israeli command car crossed the Demarcation Line, drove 25 metres inside Jordanian territory and stopped. Armed Israelis dismounted and two of them ran after the escaping farmer while the others went up the hill inside Israeli territory. During this time, the Israeli soldiers were firing and the Jordanians returned the fire. Then one Israeli went back to the car and drove it backward inside Israeli territory.

where it stopped at a close distance from the Demarcation Line. During the exchange of fire, one Jordanian was killed, one wounded. The firing stopped at about 1700 to 1730 local time. The Israeli car was taken into Jordan and delivered to the police.

#### Evidence

Tracks showed that the car was driven as said by the Israeli and the Jordanian witnesses coming from the West. However, there were no tracks showing that the car was driven backwards as stated by the Jordanians. The Observer saw two bodies of Jordanians, one inside Jordan territory and one inside Israel territory at 60 metres from the Demarcation Line.

#### Opinion of the United Nations Observer

Major Mattson, Jordan Side  
Major Swartz, Israeli side

Israeli version seemed the true one, due to the discrepancies in Jordanian witnesses' statement compared with evidence on the ground. However, the United Nations Military Observer pointed out that the Jordanian body found in Israel territory was still supple and the blood was not coagulated, although this Jordanian was said to have been killed in the afternoon of the 18 April. (The Observer saw the body on the day after, 19 April).