

MORE THAN 20 DIE

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SAIDA, Lebanon, May 16—Israeli planes bombed and strafed Palestinian refugee camps and suspected guerrilla hideouts in Lebanon today in swift reprisal for the massacre of 20 Israeli students yesterday.

By nightfall, with ambulances still racing from the refugee camps to hospitals here, the casualties from the terror bombings had reached 21 dead and 134 wounded, according to reports by official Lebanese sources and the Palestinian Press Agency.

■ The Israeli jets, flashing out of, a hazy blue sky, struck at targets from the foothills of Mount Hermon to this Mediterranean coastal city in the heaviest air attacks ever carried out on Lebanon. A Lebanese Defense Ministry communique said that 36 Israeli planes took part in the first raid, which lasted 20 minutes. A second raid by eight jets hit targets in southern Lebanon, the military said.

[The Israeli Government; following its usual policy, did not say how many planes took part in the raids.]

The main attack struck at the Ein al Helweh camp, the largest in Lebanon, on the southern side of this city, and at the Nabatieh camp, 10 miles to the southeast.

Building Damage Severe

The attack on the Ein al Helweh camp, which holds more than 20,000 people, caused severe damage to the closely packed shanties and cementblock houses where the refugees live, as well as to nearby three-story apartment buildings occupied by low-income Lebanese families.

The walls of three apartment buildings, each holding 18 families, were shattered. The roof of one was torn off by two bombs that left craters 20 feet deep in the dark clay soil. The apartments also had gaping holes where rockets had hit:

The ground was littered with iron bedsteads, a sewing machine, clothing and kitchenware. Electric and telephone wires trailed on the ground:

Standing amid the wreckage, a young man asked in brolien English, "Why doesn't Kissinger come to see what the Israelis do to Arab cilivilani?"

Sirens Wail in Beirut

Air-raid sirens wailed twice in Beirut, Lebanon's capital, and the airport was closed for more than an hour, but the Defense Ministry said that only one bomb fell near the capitil, at the mountain village Of Maaroufieh.

Other targets in the Lebaneie foothills of Mount Hermon, included Kreibeh, Rachaya Fajar, Rachaya al Wadi, Manrounnah, and Daher al Ahmer, the Defense Ministry said.

These are in, or near, the forested Arkub region, long ,a hideout and staging area for Palestinian guerrilla groups operating along Israel's northern border, near Syria.

Reports from the southern area said that roads and bridgei had been bombed, indicating that Israel's Air Force was making good on the threat of the Israeli Defense Minister, Moshe Dayan, that the south of Lebanon would be made uninhabitable if Lebanon did not repress Palestinian guerrilla forces here.

Israel says that the three Palestinian guerrillas who car-, tied out the attack on the school in Maalot, where the students were killed yesterday, entered the northern Israeli town from Lebanon.

Denial by Lebanese

This is denied by Lebanese officials and by the Palestinian group that claimed responsibility for the attack, the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

They said that the three guerrillas were operating within Israel, where they were underground members of the organization, which is led by Nayef Hawatmeh, whose headquarters are Beirut.

Mr. Hawatmeh said at a news conference in Beirut today that the main purpose of the Maalot operation was to disrupt the peace-making mission of Secretary of State Kissinger, who has been trying to bring about a military disengagement between Israel and Syria.

At Ein al Helweh, site of the main Israeli attack, there were many Palestinian guerrillas car tying weapons. One, who seemed to be in charge of evacuation of the buildings, was called Salah. He identified himself as the area leader of Al Fatah, the major Palestinian guerrilla organization.

He told several American journalists that they would not be welcomed by the refugees at the camp, adjoining the apartment flats.

"Tell your Government that Phantoms are very good against innocent civilians," the guerrilla leader said. He added: "We hate the devil, Israelis and Americans, but today we hate the American most."

Position Explained

"What we don't understand is why in America and Europe our case is not clear. Our land is occupied and when we fight to get our homes back we are called terrorists. But when the Israeli bomb civilians they are heroes to you."

The tall, blue-eyed guerrilla, who had a pistol at his hip but wore civilian dress, reflected an anger that seemed to go beyond the shock of the raid.

"Inside the camp, they hit a playground center for children who go there after school and the families are still digging out bodies," he said.

The guerrilla leader said he had experienced Israeli air attacks in Jordan, where the Palestinian fighters were active before King Hussein's army drove them out in 1970 and 1971. ,

"The bombs they used today are the biggest yet," he said.

Settlement Questioned

Speaking of a possible peace agreement between the Arabs and Israel, the guerrilla said he opposed any settlement that would not allow Palestinians to recover their homes.

"Even if all the Arab Governments sign a peace with Israel, we will have to go on fighting until we get back what is ours," he said.

As families picked through apartment ruins looking for belongings, which they carried away by the armful, many were without shelter tonight.

At the Saida regional hospital, an elderly doctor in a bloodstained smock said in the emergency room that 50 wounded persons had been treated, and that 11 had died. An ambulance pulled in carrying casualties from Nabatieh. One was an old woman with a flowered headcloth who was wounded in the leg. Another was a man in a green fatigue uniform, such as the guerrillas wear, who was unconscious and suffering an abdominal wound.

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