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I moved to Beirut after a visit to the Soviet Union where we had staff military training. After my return from the Soviet Union I moved to Beirut to form a central force for the Lebanese Community Party. The force was stationed at the Sports City in Beirut. The Sports City is located near Sabra and Shatila camps. We were based in the indoor halls in the Sports City. The force took part in the civil war battles. Unfortunately, most of the time the force's duties were protecting the party's political and military presence. The force took part in many battles in the civil war to ensure a main position for the party. I recall in 1982 the Israeli air force started shelling the Sports City and the bridges in south Lebanon simultaneously. We were informed that the Israelis might exceed the normal lines they usually reach and advance to Beirut. Did we make preparations for the Israelis reaching Beirut? No. We knew it was a possibility not because of analysis but because of the information we had. The political leadership was in contact with the Soviet Union who provided us with information that the Israelis might advance beyond the red lines and reach the first Arab capital after Palestine. This is when they bombing the bridges and the Sports City simultaneously. Back then the central force was occupied in a clash with Amal movement. Most of the force, if not all, had moved to Dahieh Janoubieh because of the fighting. The funny thing was that fighting stopped when the invasion started. Back then we had options and the collapse of the front was much faster than the collapse in 1978. Around 40,000 Israeli soldiers along with their armoured vehicles, artillery brigades and the air force took part in the invasion in 1978. The forces that took part in the invasion in 1982 was much bigger and the advance was much faster. It was so fast that between us taking a decision that I take part of the central force to join the fighting in the south and receiving information that the Israelis landed on al-Awali line and closed the road to the south were only few minutes. Between preparing the force to go south and closing the road to the south was only few minutes. We decided to use a side road that snaked across Mount Lebanon and reaches Jezzine el-Roum and from their to Sidon to fight the Israelis in Sidon. We reached the outskirts of Jezzine; I was in contact with one of our military positions in Roum who informed me that Israelis landed on this line as well. It was impossible to reach the south and all the roads were closed. We couldn't enter as a military force. Our goal was to reach Sidon and the like the *fida'iyeen* to fight inside the city and do what we could. We couldn't enter the city. During this time the Israeli forces were advancing rapidly in the coastal area and reached al-Damour and the outskirts of Beirut.

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We had little options to what we could do and where we could fight. We decided to fight in Mansouriyet Bhamdoun. We decide to wait for the Israeli attack on the area, which was vital for their advance. We were surprised that the Israelis attacked from Khalde and advanced towards Mount Lebanon reaching Qabr Chamoun, on the axis leading to Qabr Chamoun. The advance was very quick. We decided to withdraw from our positions in al-Mansourieh hills and go and fight the Israelis in Qabr Chamoun. In Qabr Chamoun we spread out. The Syrian army, which is doing a great job killing its own people, informed us that they have any forces left. I'm not talking about infantry, their leadership informed us they didn't have any forces left. The funny thing is once we spread out a few smoke shells landed in front of us. The smoke was white. This was a signal for the Israeli air force to bomb our positions. By coincidence there was a natural barrier between our position and where the rockets landed. They carried out more than ten sorties. The rockets landed in the valley and that's why none of us was hit. We were a company but none of us was hit. Then there was a second wave of smoke shells followed by artillery shelling. They used shells prohibited under international law.