

Cairo Orders Invasion Action

Dispatch of The Times, London.

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pg. 2

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CAIRO, Saturday, May 15— Egyptian armed forces have been ordered to enter Palestine, the Egyptian Government announced in a communiqué issued last midnight.

The communiqué said that their object was the "restoring of security and order in that country and putting an end to the massacres perpetrated by terrorist gangs against the Arabs and against humanity."

[Immediately after the announcement of the communiqué over the official radio, Sheikh Mohamed Mamoun el-Shennawy, rector of Al Azhar University and chief of the Moslem Theological Institute, said, according to The United Press: "The hour for jihad (holy war) has struck."]

Martial law came into force in Egypt at midnight. Premier Mahmoud Fahmy Nokrashy Pasha was named military governor.

Censorship became effective immediately on mail, newspapers, photographs and parcels entering or leaving Egypt as well as on broadcasts, phonograph records and plays.

Captains of merchant ships were warned in a proclamation that their vessels were liable to be searched in Egyptian ports.

[On the fighting front the Haganah reported the capture of Acre, near Haifa.

[At the same time Jewish and Arab forces were locked in battle at Bab el Wad, vital point on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway.]

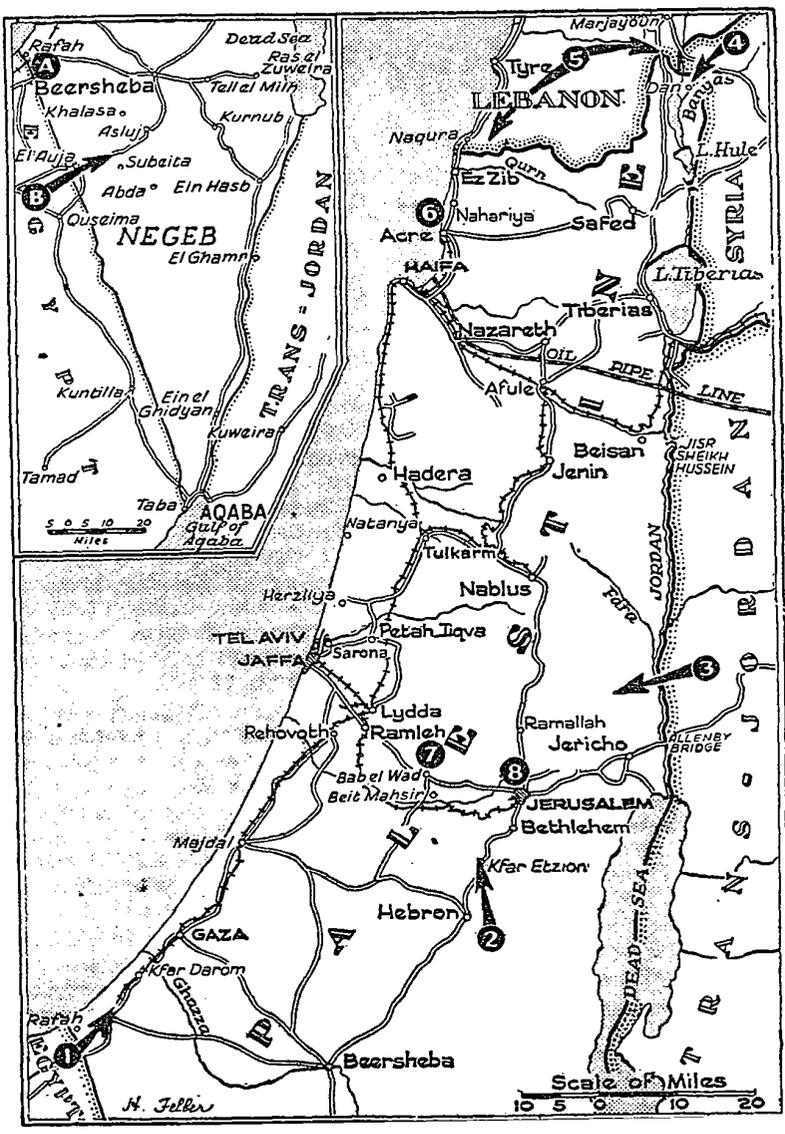
Lewa [Brigadier] Ahmed Mohamed Aly el-Hawary Bey is Egyptian Commander in Chief on the southern front. According to the pro-government newspaper Al Assas, the order to advance into Palestine was given yesterday at dawn and Egyptian columns have occupied El Auja, which is inside the Palestine border about thirty miles south of Rafah. Brigadier el-Hawary is a 50-year-old staff officer who graduated from the Royal Military College in 1916. His staff consists of four officers.

Al Assas declares that Chief of Staff to King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan is the Egyptian officer Miralai [Colonel] Saad el-din Sabur Bey. His staff also includes Air Force officer Squadron Leader Mohamed Nazih Hashad, who studied flying and reconnaissance in Britain and the United States.

King Abdullah is to be supreme commander of the Arab forces on three fronts. The King will be advised by a war council on which the staffs of all the Arab armies will be represented. This staff will coordinate operations on all fronts.

The Arab Governments have come to an agreement that the Syrian and Lebanese Armies should operate under a unified command on the northern front. Iraqi and Trans-Jordan troops will be responsible for the eastern front, while Egyptian, Saudi Arabian and Yemenite forces will operate on the southern front. Saudi Arabian armored forces are also placed under Egyptian command, but the name of the Commander in Chief was not revealed.

ARAB ARMIES MOVE AGAINST JEWISH STATE



The New York Times May 15, 1948

Egypt ordered her forces to enter Palestine and columns were reported to have pushed through Rafah (1 and A on inset) and El Auja (B). Trans-Jordan's Arab Legion had captured Kfar Etzion (2); most of the Legion was said to have pushed into the Holy Land (3). Syrians were reported attacking Dan (4) and Lebanese troops were poised along the border from Marjayoun to Naqura (5). Haganah captured Acre (6). Arabs and Jews remained locked in battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway at Bab el Wad (7). Haganah seized control of the center of Jerusalem (8).