Egyptians Attack Old City
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CAIRO, Egypt, May 27 (AP)—Arab political sources in Cairo indicated today that the Egyptian Army was taking up the main operations against Jerusalem itself. They said the Egyptian Army aided by Arab legionnaires and irregulars, attacked the city from the south this morning.

[The Egyptians announced Thursday that their planes had scored direct hits on the Skoda works in the Tel Aviv area, causing powerful explosions and fires, The United Press said.]

A Tel Aviv communiqué tonight, however, indicated that the Israeli forces had launched sharp counter-attacks, possibly to take the steam out of the Egyptian offensive.

Along the northern frontiers with Lebanon and Syria, all was peaceful.

Farther east, Syrian thrusts into a thumb of Palestine north of Lake Hule had been blunted and turned back at Malikia and Qadas in the first week of fighting. The Syrians were leaving the Israeli forces in command of all Western Galilee, allotted to the Arabs under the United Nations partition plan.

An Israeli communiqué said Samakh and Sha'ar Hagolan, just south of Samakh, were shelled briefly last night without casualties.

From Beisan, fifteen miles below Samakh, to the Dead Sea, however, the remainder of the Jordan River Valley was reported firmly in the hands of the Arab Legion and Iraqi forces. The main Arab communications to central Palestine were through this gap of about sixty miles, with the Allenby Bridge across the Jordan the main thoroughfare.

In this theater Iraqi forces reported a slight advance in the area of Nablus, about twenty-eight miles north of Jerusalem and forty miles southeast of Haifa.

Arab sources said the Egyptian Army launched a series of offensives today from the area of disputed Ramat Rahel, two miles south of Jerusalem, against the Israeli fortress settlement of Talpioth, and the residential suburbs of Mekor Haim, upper Baqaa, Katamon and the German and Greek districts of the Holy City.

Repeating tactics that had succeeded in the eastern front below the Sea of Galilee and on the northern frontiers, Israeli sources said in a communiqué that they had lashed out at the Egyptians on the southern front last night and "completely destroyed" an advance Egyptian position at Beit Hanun, five miles north of Gaza.

The communiqué said a raiding party killed about thirty Egyptians and captured and destroyed three heavy guns.

Associated Press correspondents who toured the battlefronts on the north and east with Israeli forces said the Arabs had been swept almost virtually clear of northern Galilee by an Israeli operation called "The Broom."

In this operation Israeli forces have spread confusion among Arab populations of Galilee towns and sent Arab civilians scurrying for the borders of Syria and Lebanon.

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