5 EGYPTIANS SLAIN IN CEMETERY FIGHT
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5 EGYPTIANS SLAIN IN CEMETERY FIGHT

British Shoot at Terrorists Hidden in Tombs—Death of U. S. Nun Under Inquiry

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ISMAILIA, Egypt, Jan. 21—A pitched battle between British troops and Egyptians was fought in a Moslem cemetery here today. One British officer was seriously wounded, one Egyptian was killed and another wounded.

[A Cairo report said four Egyptians were killed in another engagement in the same area.]

Acting upon information that suspicious characters had been seen in the vicinity of the graveyard in the city's northeast outskirts, British troops closed in on the area. They were met by rifle and Sten gun fire from the Egyptians, who took refuge in tombs. Brisk skirmishing followed throughout the afternoon.

Three of the terrorists escaped into the adjoining Christian cemetery. Other Egyptians were routed with difficulty from their hiding places inside the tombs, from which they directed desultory fire at the British troops.

Troops of the Sixteenth Parachute Brigade, supported by two troops of a tank regiment and other British units, moved in for the night. Nine Egyptian prisoners were taken, including Galal Taweik, second in command of the terrorist bands, who has long been sought by British military authorities for questioning.

Bomb and Dynamite Found

Found in the tombs were 281 boxes (6,744 rounds) of ammunition, one home-made bomb and a box of dynamite.

In Ismailia itself today, minor disturbances netted additional prisoners and weapons. British troops extended their area of control by cordoning off and searching additional blocks of Arabtown to the north of the strip taken yesterday.

Later a threatening crowd of about 200 Egyptian civilians gathered outside the cordoned area. In a surprise move British troops surrounded and searched this crowd, turning up six pistols, three rifles and an assortment of knives and brass knuckles.

A requiem mass for Sister Anthony, who was shot to death last Saturday, was held today in the chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Convent, the scene of the shooting, in Ismailia. The chapel was crowded with friends of Sister Anthony and with officials.

The United States Consul General in Cairo, La Mar D. Mulliner, and Ellis A. Johnson, Port Said Consul, were there, as were French diplomatic representatives and top officials of the Suez Canal Company. There were many Egyptions also—Aly Telmy Bey, subgovernor of Ismalia, civil police heads, and a great number of policemen.

The nun's death remained a mystery, with Egyptians and British blaming each other. The lethal bullet never has been found. Four doctors have been called in to establish the exact manner of her death. The Mother Superior vetoed an autopsy on religious grounds.

With British soldiers guarding their convent and barbed wire protecting it, the sisters became a little more outspoken in their belief that Egyptians were responsible for Sister Anthony's death.

British Version Given

Today a military spokesman told the complete story from the British side: Firing broke out between British troops and Egyptians. Ten armed Egyptians climbed over the convent gate and pushed their way in. Four more attempted to enter from an adjoining building by way of a ladder, but the nuns removed the ladder.

The Mother Superior appealed to canal company officials, who relayed her aid request to Gen. Sir George Erskine, British commander, in the near-by Moascar garrison, and also notified the Egyptian police. The police arrived first and made some attempt to advise the terrorists to leave the grounds, from which they now were firing at the British across the Sweetwater Canal.

The terrorists disregarded this. Five men armed with grenades and automatic weapons redoubled their attacks against the British. Sister Anthony tried to stop them. They cursed her and brushed her aside, and one threw a grenade despite her protests.

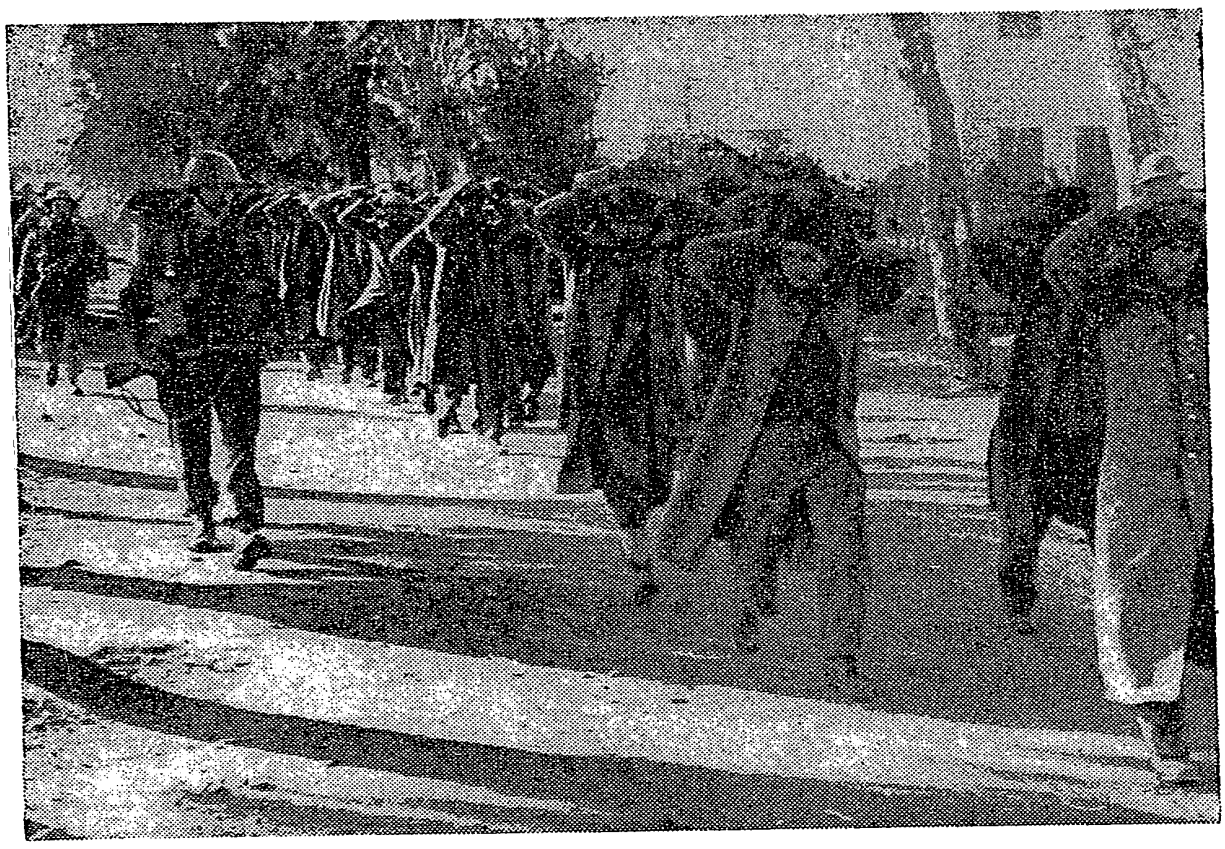
The gate at Rue Farouk was forced by terrorists, but one of the sisters ordered them out. British tanks were heard coming up the Quai Mohammed Ali. Sister Anthony opened the east door to watch them arrive. Three minutes later another sister found her dead on the steps with a bullet through her heart.

A departing terrorist was heard to shout: "I got her, whatever may come!"

The only other evidence was from a convent cookboy, who said he had heard a man say in Arabic, "Shoot that woman down!" But he did not see her fall.

On the other hand, a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior late tonight placed the blame for the killing entirely upon the British. It accused them of having got out of hand and having shot wildly from tanks and armored cars. It added that this conclusion had resulted from a thorough investigation and that the Mother Superior and another nun concurred.

EGYPTIAN POLICEMEN ROUNDED UP BY BRITISH SOLDIERS



Some of the 150 policemen, hands clasped on heads, being escorted to a detention point by armed guards in El-Hamaba. The British troops were searching for snipers who have been plaguing them in controversial Suez Canal area. Associated Press

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