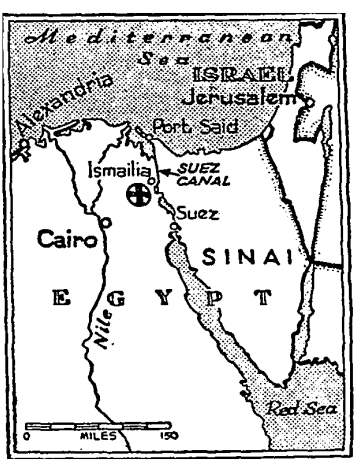
45 IN EGYPT SLAIN AS BRITISH DISARM POLICE IN A BATTLE
By A. C. SEDGWICKSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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SUEZ CLASH SCENE



The New York Times Jan. 26, 1952
British troops and Egyptian auxiliary police battled at Ismailia in Suez zone (cross).

CLASH IN ISMAILIA

6-Hour Operation Costs Constabulary 42 Dead and 58 Wounded

800 MORE ARE DETAINED

Cairo Held Near Diplomatic Rupture — London Orders Malta Warships to Sail

By A. C. SEDGWICK
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CAIRO, Jan. 25—A military operation by 1,500 British troops in the Suez Canal zone to disarm Ismailia auxiliary police today resulted in the announced killing of forty-two members of the Egyptian force and the wounding of fifty-eight others, while the British lost three killed and thirteen wounded.

These figures, representing probable but not certain casualties, were announced tonight by the British authorities here who maintained that the necessity to liquidate the Egyptian auxiliary police force at Ismailia had been forced upon the military command.

They said that they were detaining 800 Egyptians captured today in what was the most serious incident thus far in the three months of Anglo-Egyptian tension.

The British declared that within recent months this body of men, numbering about 1,000 and armed with guns rather than staves, in contravention of an agreement between British and Egyptian authorities, had repeatedly proved "undisciplined and irresponsible" and had "both connived at and taken actual part in guerrilla warfare against the British forces, indulging in sniping and harassing activities with the full knowledge of the Egyptian security authorities in Cairo."

Casualty Lists Published

The high Egyptian casualty lists were published in the afternoon papers together with accounts at variance with anything that the British said of damage allegedly done to property by the British guns.

An Egyptian Cabinet meeting, which began about 8 P. M. ended late tonight. No announcement was made afterward. It was agreed that the Cabinet would meet again Sunday when an announcement would be made.

The prevalent opinion among Egyptians, some of whom professed to have knowledge of what went on at the meeting, was that a rupture of diplomatic relations with Britain was discussed at length.

One Egyptian observer said some very drastic action by the Government was demanded by the people. Otherwise he predicted revolution. The controlled press was of course unanimous for drastic action but was not specific on what it should be.

[In London the British Admiralty announced that British warships were sailing from Malta, possibly headed for the Suez Canal zone, as reinforcements.]

Ultimatum by Loudspeaker

The operation began at 6:15 A. M. when the British military authorities notified the deputy governor of Ismailia that he must instruct the police commandant to issue necessary orders to his force of auxiliaries to disarm and evacuate the canal zone immediately

According to the British version, there were no officers in the police barracks so it was not possible to deliver the ultimatum. The British said that loudspeakers were used and that the ultimatum announcement was made in Arabic for the benefit of the rank and file of the auxiliary police housed in both the main building, which also contains the government offices, and another building called the Bureau Sanitaire, about one block away, which is used to accommodate the auxiliary police overflow.

According to an Egyptian source, the British handed the ultimatum to the police commandant who got in touch with the Minister of the Interior, Fuad Serag el-Din Pasha, in Cairo, and the latter gave orders over the telephone that no auxiliary should surrender but must fight on "until the last man and the last shot."

Meanwhile, a British cordon had

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45 Are Killed in Egyptian Clash As British Troops Engage Police



Associated Press

British soldier guarding a suspect found in a Moslem cemetery in Ismailia earlier in the week.

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been getting into position around the area containing the main police headquarters and the Bureau Sanitaire.

At 7:15 A. M. the police rank and file, mostly auxiliaries, but with some regular police—having taken up positions on the roofs of the two buildings—opened fire.

The fire was returned by the British with small arms and tank guns.

The British deny that there was any shelling from warships, as alleged in some Egyptian press accounts. They deny, too, that aircraft gave close support to the troops engaged and say they restricted their activities to reconnaissance of the approaches to Ismailia.

At 8:50 A. M. the British troops entered the courtyard of the Bureau Sanitaire, meeting resistance. The force inside surrendered at 10:30 A. M. The main barracks resistance last about two hours longer. The British said of the 800 men detained for interrogation that they had no intention of holding them long, the main requirement being that they quit the Canal zone without arms.

British Ambassador Sir Ralph Stevenson called on United States Ambassador Jefferson Caffery this morning about two hours after the operations had begun and presumably apprised him of the course the British were taking.

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