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Nasser, Son of Postal Clerk, Began Early on Career That Led to Ouster of Farouk

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CAIRO, Feb. 25—Lieut. Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, the 36-year-old Egyption Army officer who today took open control of the revolution he made nineteen months ago, has been a revolutionary since the age of 17.

It was at that age, according to his own account, that he first discovered his innate sympathy for the underdog that subsequently led him to spend eight years plotting and bringing to the point of execution the military coup that unseated King Farouk and the graft-ridden parliamentary regime.

Coming upon a group of demonstrators in a Cairo street being belabored by the police armed with clubs, young Nasser plunged into the melee. Beaten himself, arrested and taken to jail, only then did he ask a cellmate the nature of the cause for which he had risked his head.

The new Premier, born Jan. 18, 1918, in Alexandria, is the son of a post office clerk. When his father was transferred to Cairo young Nasser entered primary school in the capital and went on to Ras el Tin secondary school.

His riot baptism occurred in 1935 and a short time after his release from brief detention he led a political demonstration against the British and also against the Egyptian Government that tolerated the continued presence of foreign troops in Cairo and was shot in the head by the police. When the school heard of the incident he was dismissed and had to continue his studies at home.

Barred by Service Schools

His application for entrance to the Military Academy was rejected, allegedly because he lacked impressive family or political connections. The Police Academy was closed to him, too, by the remark of the director: "I advise you not to join this college for there is no room here for students who lead demonstrations."

As a poor third choice and as a stepping stone to the Military Academy, young Nasser entered the Cairo Law School but abandoned it in March, 1937, when a new application for admission to the Military Academy was accepted.

Commissioned a second lieutenant in 1938, Lieutenant Nasser served with infantry units in Egypt and the Sudan until 1941 when he entered the Staff College from which he graduated in May, 1948. He was then sent immediately to Palestine where he served with the Sixth Battalion.

It was during the Staff College period that Lieutenant Nasser conceived the idea of an Army-led revolution.

For the first year after the success of the coup on July 23, 1952, Nasser contented himself with the direction of affairs from his post as head of the Revolution Command Council, leaving the limelight of the Premiership to General Naguib.

But from July 18, 1953, when he became Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior it became increasingly apparent that he was destined ultimately to replace General Naguib in the Premiership.

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