BIG CITIES RAIDED, EGYPTIANS REPORT
By OSGOOD CARUTHERS Special to The New York Times.
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British-French Bombing Said to Kill 7 in Cairo—Nasser Heads Military Operation

By OSGOOD CARUTHERS
Special to The New York Times.

CAIRO, Oct. 31—British and French planes bombed the major cities of Egypt tonight in the opening battle to seize the Suez Canal.

Egyptian authorities said there were raids on Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Ismailia. Port Said is at the northern terminus of the Suez Canal and Ismailia is midway along the canal between Port Said and the southern terminus at Suez.

Cairo was under three air raids by British and French planes starting in the first hour after darkness. The Egyptians said seven persons had been killed in the second raid on Cairo.

There was no report of damage or casualties in the other cities.

Earlier in the day Cairo went through three air raid alerts at 4 A. M., 7:30 A. M. and 4:30 P. M. No announcement was made as to the nature of these alerts. However, it was unofficially reported that they had been caused by Israeli planes and that one of the raiding aircraft had been shot down in tonight's raids, high-flying jets were over Cairo, dropping flares, incendiary bombs and heavy explosives.

Capital Blacked Out

The Egyptian Army said the first raid was made by British bombers and had caused "some material damage but no loss of life." The Egyptian communiqué merely said the attack was on Cairo and did not say where the bombs hit.

However, a dispatch from Cyprus quoted a joint British-French communiqué as having said the attack was aimed at airfields.

In each raid the city was completely blacked out and all traffic stopped. Flares from the attacking planes, however, lit up the big white and sand-colored buildings of this metropolis brighter than if there had been a full moon.

This was the way the British and French war against the nationalist regime of President Gamal Abdel Nasser started just over twenty-four hours after Prime Minister Eden told the House of Commons the Western European alleis intended to occupy the canal.

President Nasser has proclaimed Egypt will fight the British and French attempt "to the last drop of our blood."

President Nasser took over personal direction of Egyptian military operations. Maj. Gen. Abdel Hakim Amer, Minister of War and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, apparently assumed tactical command.

Civilian affairs were placed under the directorship of Zakaria Mohieddin, Minister of the Interior.

Authorities in Port Said, Ismailia and Suez reported that the situation had been normal throughout the day and that traffic still was moving through the canal.

In addition to the full mobilization of the regular forces and the National Guard, it was clear the Nasser regime was getting ready to wage a long-term guerrilla war throughout Egypt if necessary.

Maj. Kamal Eddin Hussein, Minister of Education and leader of the volunteer National Liberation Army that was formed when the Suez Canal crisis broke three months ago, ordered all schools in Egypt closed.

The reason given was "in order that the youth may participate with its strong forces in the general mobilization in defense of Egypt's integrity."

Owners of private trucks throughout the country were ordered to register with the authorities to permit quick requisitioning for use in transporting volunteers, munitions and supplies.

Soon after President Nasser moved his offices into Army headquarters he summoned United States Ambassador Raymond A. Hare for a forty-minute meeting.

Neither President Nasser nor Mr. Hare would disclose what they discussed.

British Burn Papers

In the great garden of the walled-in British Embassy compound the entire personnel, including the Ambassador, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, spent the morning burning the embassy's secret files.

All families of embassy personnel had left. The embassy staff had been cut to essential officers who closed down their homes and moved into the embassy buildings.

Precautions being taken at the United States Embassy were somewhat less stringent. A total of 778 United States Government employes were being moved out of the country. The Embassy set up convoys of automobiles and buses to take several hundred Americans to Alexandria, where they were to board five United States Navy auxiliary troop carriers that had been brought in for the evacuation.

The French Embassy also was cutting its staff and nonessential personnel and their families were being moved out.

Business As Usual

Despite the extreme tension, stores and business houses in Cairo remained open throughout the day and the streets were as crowded and noisy as usual.

In the midst of his added duties, President Nasser also conferred with the Ambassadors of Yugoslavia, India and Indonesia.

President Nasser was reported meanwhile to have rejected a proposal by Lebanon that Arab heads of state hold an immediate emergency meeting to coordinate plans for defending the Middle East.

The Egyptian leader was reported to have said he was much too preoccupied with the action of the moment to consider such a meeting.

He did have time, however, to send messages of gratitude to King Saud of Saudi Arabia and King Hussein of Jordan and Presidenut Shukri al-Kuwatly of Syria for their pledges of all-out military aid if Egypt needed it.

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