Official Reports on Middle East Fighting
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Official Reports on Middle East Fighting

British-French

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Oct. 31 (UP)—Following is the first communiqué issued by the British-French Allied Headquarters here:

An air offensive by bomber aircraft under Allied command is at this moment [11:30 A. M., Wednesday, Eastern standard time] being launched against military targets in Egypt.

LONDON, Thursday, Nov. 1 (UP)—The text of an Admiralty communiqué on the Suez hostilities:

H. M. S. Newfoundland on shipping-protection duties in the Gulf of Suez last evening encountered an Egyptian frigate which failed to answer a challenge to stop when called upon to do so.

She was therefore sunk and survivors taken on board the Newfoundland.

LONDON, Oct. 31 (AP)—An Air Ministry communiqué at 11 P. M. [6 P. M., Eastern Standard time] said:

Royal Air Force aircraft have attacked Egyptian Air Force airfields in Egypt. No targets other than airfields have been attacked.

Egyptian

LONDON, Oct. 31 (Reuters)—Following is the text of Egyptian communiqué No. 5, broadcast by the Cairo radio last night:

Our forces are still mopping up the remaining pockets of Israeli troops scattered in the Sinai Peninsula.

The enemy launched an attack against some of our front line outposts at Quseima. Our troops repelled the enemy troops and damaged some of their tanks. The enemy sustained heavy losses.

Our Air Force engaged the Israeli Air Force and shot down one Mystere fighter aircraft. This brings the total enemy aircraft shot down to seven. All our aircraft returned safely to base.

The Egyptian forces have the situation resulting from the sudden Israeli attack completely in hand now, after twenty-four hours.

The Suez Canal is in no way under any kind of military threat, and the freedom and safety of navigation through the canal is insured. Egyptian armed forces are capable of protecting the Suez Canal and the freedom of navigation.

LONDON, Oct. 31 (UP)—Following is the text of Egyptian communiqué No. 6 broadcast by Cairo:

1. Yesterday afternoon the enemy launched an attack on our front line between El Auja and Abu Aweigila. The attack continued throughout the night. Our forces repulsed the attack, inflicting losses on the enemy, including four medium tanks which the enemy left in the battlefield. The enemy then resumed his attack at midnight on the same Egyptian positions.

The enemy's attack failed for the second time, and his forces withdrew before dawn. The enemy renewed the attack on the same positions for the third time at 0300 hours this morning, and battle is still in progress.

2. Four bomber planes carried out continuous raids throughout last night on enemy airfields. The Aqir and Ramat David airfields were destroyed and were ablaze the whole night. The enemy's other airfields also suffered damage. All our planes returned safely.

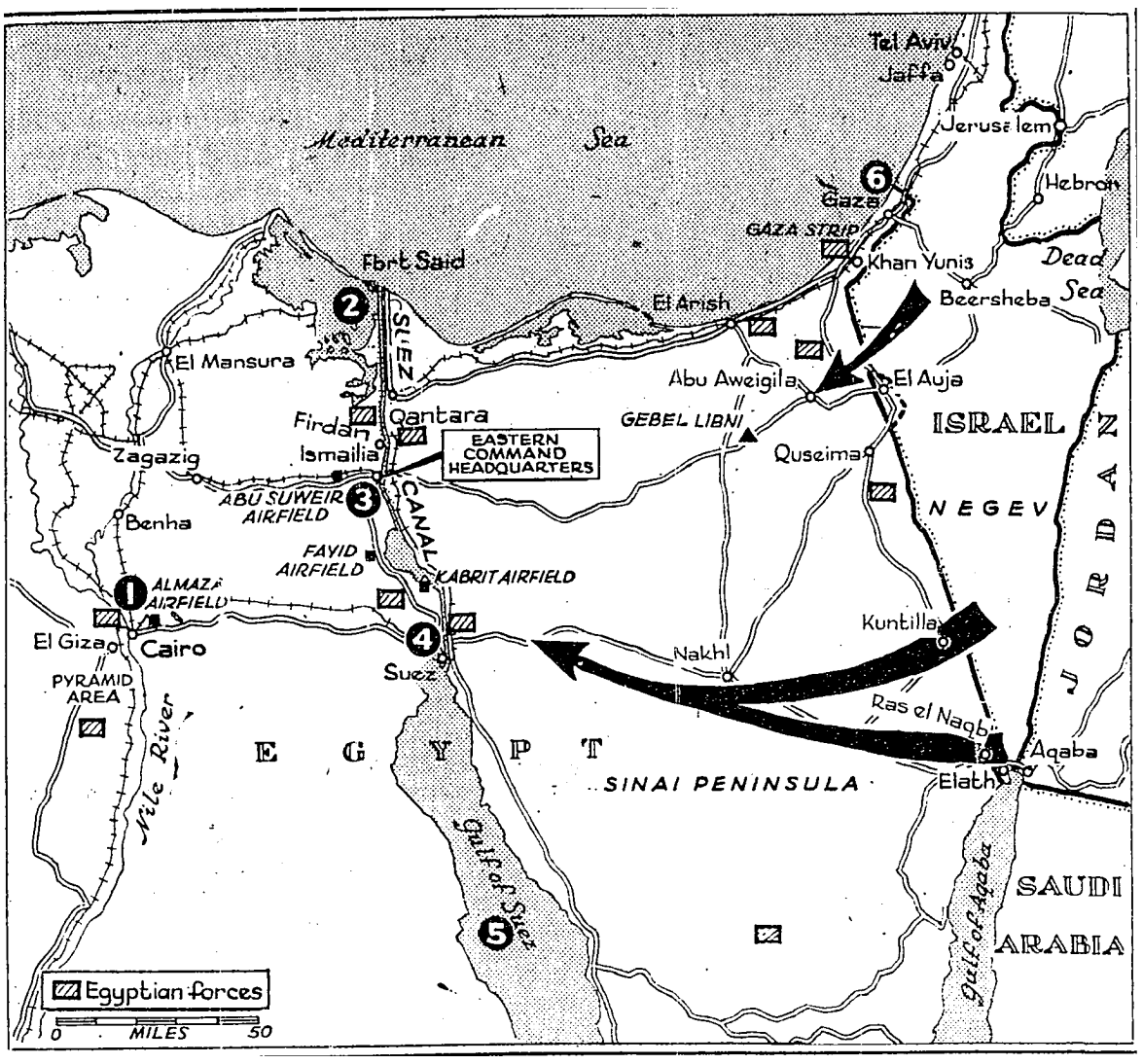
3. All day today our fighter planes attacked enemy concentrations and columns moving toward the Egyptian borders. Our planes hit twenty-one vehicles loaded with soldiers, of which seven were completely destroyed. Two vehicles were also destroyed in another sector, and losses were inflicted among enemy personnel in these sectors.

Our planes also hit fifteen armored cars and one tank, and attacked twenty other vehicles loaded with soldiers, inflicting heavy losses. These forces constituted reinforcements for the Israeli forces which clashed yesterday with the Egyptian forces and which suffered heavy losses, as a result of which they had asked for urgent reinforcements.

4. The destroyer Ibrahim (formerly the British frigate Cottesmore) last night bombarded Haifa Harbor and performed her duty in the best manner, causing heavy damage in the harbor. On her way back to her base, and at a distance of forty miles from Haifa, she was engaged by three warships supported by three planes. The engagement went on for three hours after which the destroyer's engines were hit and disabled. The ship's commander decided to sink her.

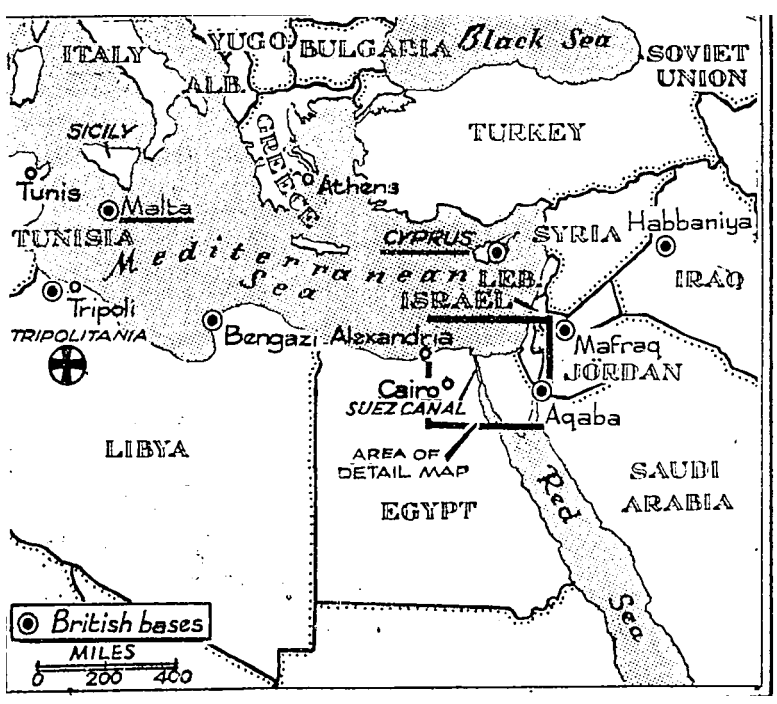
5. This morning the enemy tried to prevent our main forces from reaching the battlefield. His planes carried out several raids on our columns, but our Air Force intervened and managed to gain control of the situation. Successive air battles took place between the Egyptian forces and the enemy forces. The result of these battles was that seven enemy planes were shot down and two (British-made) Vampire planes were lost.

6. Nine (French-built) enemy Mystere planes tried to attack one of our air bases. They were intercepted by four (Soviet-made) Egyptian MIG fighter planes. The result of the battle was that three Israeli planes were shot down and the others escaped. They were unable to attack our air base. No losses were suffered by our planes. This brings the total of enemy planes shot down today to ten. We have lost two planes.



The New York Times Nov. 1, 1956

Egypt reported air attacks on Cairo (1), Port Said (2), Ismailia (3) and Suez (4). Britain said her bombers had struck at military airfields near Cairo, Ismailia and Suez. A British cruiser sank an Egyptian frigate in Gulf of Suez (5). On the ground, Israel reported gains in two areas (arrows) and indicated she might cut off Gaza Strip (cross).



The New York Times Nov. 1, 1956

The Britsh-French assault on Egypt took off from bases on Malta and Cyprus (underlined), while British troops in Tripolitania (cross) held down some of Egypt's forces.

LONDON, Oct. 31 (AP)—The Cairo broadcast the following communiqué No. 7.

British jet bombers carried out an air raid against Cairo at 1900 local time [12 noon, Wednesday, Eastern Standard Time], dropping incendiaries and high explosive bombs.

No losses of life occurred, but some material damage was caused.

LONDON, Oct. 31 (Reuters)—Egyptian communiqué No. 8, broadcast tonight by the Cairo radio:

At 8:50 P. M. local time, British bombers carried out air raids on Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said, Ismailia and Suez.

The casualties in Cairo were seven persons killed and some light material damage was caused.

Israeli

LONDON, Oct. 31 (Reuters)—Following are the texts of Israeli Army communiqués issued in Tel Aviv tonight:

Communiqué No. 1:

Two Egyptian planes (Vampire type) were shot down early this morning in air clashes within the Egyptian sector.

Communiqué No. 2:

An Egyptian warship shelled the Haifa Bay area last night. There were no damage or casualties. Israeli naval vessels engaged the Egyptian ship which was identified as destroyer Ibrahim Awal. The destroyer surrendered with its crew.

Communiqué No. 3:

Quiet reigns along the remainder of Israel's borders with Arab states.

Communiqué No. 4:

The Egyptian destroyer Ibrahim el Awal which was captured by the Israeli navy had been brought toward Haifa. Approximately 200 members of the crew were taken with the ship.

Initial investigation disclosed that the destroyer was hit by naval gun and aircraft cannon. The destroyer surrendered after joint action of Israeli naval and air force units.

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