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Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 1, 1956; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
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Vast British War Stores at Bases in Egypt Under Terms of '54 Suez Evacuation Pact

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NICOSIA, Cyprus, Oct. 31—Many thousand tons of British ammunition and military equipment and vehicles are still stored at bases in Egypt under the terms of the British-Egyptian agreement of 1954.

These supplies were left behind by the British forces when they evacuated the Suez Canal Zone last June. They had since been guarded by Egyptian Army units and maintained and repaired by British civilian contractors. As of last Monday there were still 450 British civilians in this work at four major areas.

A big ammunition depot at Abu Sultan near Great Bitter Lake covers eight to nine square miles. Under the terms of the agreement up to 50,000 tons of ammunition could be stored there, but there was actually less than that amount. At Tell el Kebir, thirty-two miles west of Ismailia, British contractors worked at an ordnance depot. The agreement provided for storage there of up to 20,000 tons of matériel. Vehicles were also stored and repaired there, and also in a base at Fanara, twenty-eight miles south of Ismailia, where engineer equipment has been stored.

Under the 1954 agreement, over-flying and landing facilities and accommodation for Royal Air Force planes were provided at Abu Suweir, a field near Ismailia used by the Egyptians as base for one of their Mig-15 squadrons. The Egyptians up to this week were living up to the terms of the agreement on the bases, according to British contractors. The British nationals who worked at these bases live at Tell el Kebir, Moascar and the so-called Kensington Village at Fayid.

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