ALLIED PILOTS WIN SUEZ AIR CONTROL
By HANSON BALDWIN Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 2, 1956; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 3

ALLIED PILOTS WIN SUEZ AIR CONTROL

Second British-French Aim, International Canal Rule, Is Still in Doubt

By HANSON BALDWIN
Special to The New York Times.

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Nov. 1—Today's communiqués by the Allied (British-French) forces and a statement by the Allied Commander in Chief indicated that the purposes of the air attacks on Egypt were twofold.

One purpose was military: complete elimination of the Egyptian Air Force. The second was political: to force the Egyptians to agree, in the words of Gen. Sir Charles Keightley, Allied chief, to "temporary international control of the canal area."

The day's results indicated that the first objective was being rapidly achieved. If the Egyptian Air Force was ever a serious military factor prior to last night's attacks, its remnants were certainly of little importance by sundown tonight.

Medium-level night attacks by Canberra bombers based on Cyprus were followed today by low-level attacks by French and British planes based on carriers off the Egyptian coast.

No Allied Planes Lost

Today's raids were by carrier-based aircraft. Canberras joined in again in daylight attacks. Almaza and Inchass airfields near Cairo and Abu Suweir and Kabrit in the canal zone, which were attacked last night, were bombed again today in follow-up raids and five other fields were attacked.

When Allied communiqué No. 4 was issued at 4:30 P. M. not a single Allied aircraft had been lost. Some ineffective interception attempts by Egyptian jet fighters were made and last night there was some "desultory" anti-aircraft fire from light guns.

The raids were directed against airfields, not against cities, an Allied spokesman emphasized. The Egyptian reports that Cairo was bombed last night were denied here. Almaza, one of the fields bombed, is on the outskirts of Cairo, near Heliopolis. Part of its periphery is bounded by a built-up area that includes several Government buildings and military structures.

Spokesmen insist that only the airfields were targets. The results were said to be good in "effectiveness and accuracy." Thus, it seems clear that the first objective of the Allied forces in what so far has been a one-sided battle is being accomplished and that virtual air domination has been won.

But the second objective, forcing the Egyptians to agree to temporary international control of the canal, is still uncertain. An Egyptian attempt to block the canal and the reactions of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, as monitored here, indicate continued determination to resist.

The Lake Timsah blockship was an old LST that had been ready for this purpose for some time. It was anchored off Ismailia outside the buoyed canal channel, which runs through lake Timsah.

Naval airmen reported it was being towed into a position to block the channel. After two attacks it was sunk. A communiqué stated: "It is believed clear of the channel outside the directional buoys."

Other Blockships Ready

The Egyptians are believed to have other blockships ready at the Suez and Port Said ends of the canal. Moreover, they could blow up the railroad bridge across the canal at Qantara. If they did this, however, they would isolate their forces fighting the Israelis in the Sinai Peninsula.

General Keightley today explained his mission briefly to newspaper correspondents, but permitted no questions that he felt "would be inappropriate at this early stage of the operations."

He declared that "my task as Commander in Chief is, as Sir Anthony Eden has stated in Parliament, to secure compliance with the demands of the Allied Governments for the safety of the Suez Canal." The general added that his aim was "to achieve my military object with the minimum casualties to civilian life and property and indeed the minimum casualties to the Egyptian nation, both civilian and military."

"We have of course at our disposal strength to deal very severe blows, but I hope it will not be necessary," he continued. "It also seems to me that it must be to Egypt's interest to have the threat of war removed as quickly as possible so that shipping stopped by the Egyptian-Israeli war can be started again."

The Commander in Chief introduced Admiral Pierre Barjot, deputy commander of the newly formed Allied forces. General Keightley said Admiral Barjot "arrived yesterday from his command of the French Fleet at Toulon."



Associated Press Radiophoto

PLAN OF CAMPAIGN is mapped by Israeli Army officers in sand of Sinai Peninsula

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.