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Navy Acclaims Commander— U. S. Reports 2,500 Citizens Remain in Middle East

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2 (AP)—The Navy, with "a hearty well done," saluted today the successful evacuation of more than 1,500 Americans from Alexandria, Egypt.

The evacuation was reported by Capt. F. W. Laing, commanding the special relief unit that steamed into Alexandria harbor to remove Americans to safety.

Captain Laing cleared the harbor with his passengers at 12:59 P. M. Eastern Standard Time and reported this in a one-word message: "Outside."

Vice Admiral Charles R. Brown, commanding the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, responded:

"Your one-word message is a classic. Your successful evacuation of over 1,500 without fuss or feathers is an outstanding accomplishment. A hearty well done."

There were no amplifying details here. However, news dispatches from Cairo said bomb attacks had hit Alexandria after a motor convoy of about 500 Americans reached there from Cairo. The dispatches said no bombs fell near the harbor.

Marines Help Evacuees

Also, it was reported from Cairo that United States Marines at Alexandria shepherded the Americans under protective concrete dockside covering and later helped them load baggage into the landing craft for embarkation on three United States Navy transports.

The transports—The Chilton, Thuban and Fort Snelling—had taken on about 800 Americans earlier.

The Navy said the Americans evacuated from Alexandria and from Haifa in Israel would be transferred to the transport Gen. Alexander M. Patch in the vicinity of Suda Bay, Crete, and then be taken to Naples, Italy.

The transport Burdo left Haifa yesterday for the 450-mile run to Crete.

The Navy said Americans flown from various Middle East spots to Athens, Greece, were being flown on to Rome.

Admiral Walter F. Boone, commander in chief of the naval forces in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, sent congratulating messages to all who had taken part in the evacuation work, including the Air Force, the Merchant Marine and commercial airlines.

The State Department, in a separate set of figures, said today that 2,857 Americans had been evacuated from the Middle East, and that about 2,500 remained.

It gave this breakdown:

Egypt—2,035 Americans there at start of trouble; 1,106 evacuated; 929 remaining.

Israel—2,721 at start; 1,421 evacuated; 1,300 remaining.

Jordan — 320 at start; 234 evacuated; 86 remaining.

Syria—281 at start; 96 evacuated; 185 remaining.

U. S. Researchers Evacuated

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 2 (UP)—The State University has reported that all members of its research project in Israel had been evacuated safely.

New Yorkers in Israel with the mission include: Mr. and Mrs. Webster J. Birdsall, of North Chatham; Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Foote and two children, of Farmingdale; Mr. and Mrs. George A. Kirkendale and son, of Alfred; Bernard K. Schuman, of Hornell, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Wilkinson and three children, of Ithaca.

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