BOMBING PRESSED
By DREW MIDDLETON Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 3, 1956; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
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Planes Center Attacks on Army After Cairo Loses Airpower

By DREW MIDDLETON
Special to The New York Times.

LONDON, Nov. 2—The neutralization of the Egyptian Air Force, a primary condition to successful landing operations, was claimed tonight by British and French airpower.

More than a hundred Egyptian planes have been destroyed or damaged at airfields by bombers and fighters of Royal Air Force and French Air Force. A high proportion of these were Soviet-built MIG-15 jet fighter planes and Ilyushin-28 twin-jet bombers, R. A. F. sources said.

At the outset of the operations the Egyptian Air Force had ninety MIG's and fifty Ilyushins. Since not all of them were airworthy Wednesday when the attack began, the allies' claim to have neutralized Egypt's airpower appears valid.

Transit Camp Bombed

The British-French air attack is shifting away from air bases onto the Egyptian Army's central forces, now known to be moving slowly northward and northeastward away from the Cairo area.

British air reconnaissance reported the movement of tanks and infantry into the area around Port Said, one of the three sites chosen by the allies for occupation.

One target successfully attacked was a military transit camp, around which tanks and guns were concentrated, about fifteen miles northeast of Cairo in the El Khanka area.

[The British reported that the Egyptians had sunk seven ships in an effort to block the Suez Canal. It was not known in London whether the Egyptian effort had succeeded. No word of an allied landing in Egypt had been received up to 4 A. M., New York time.]

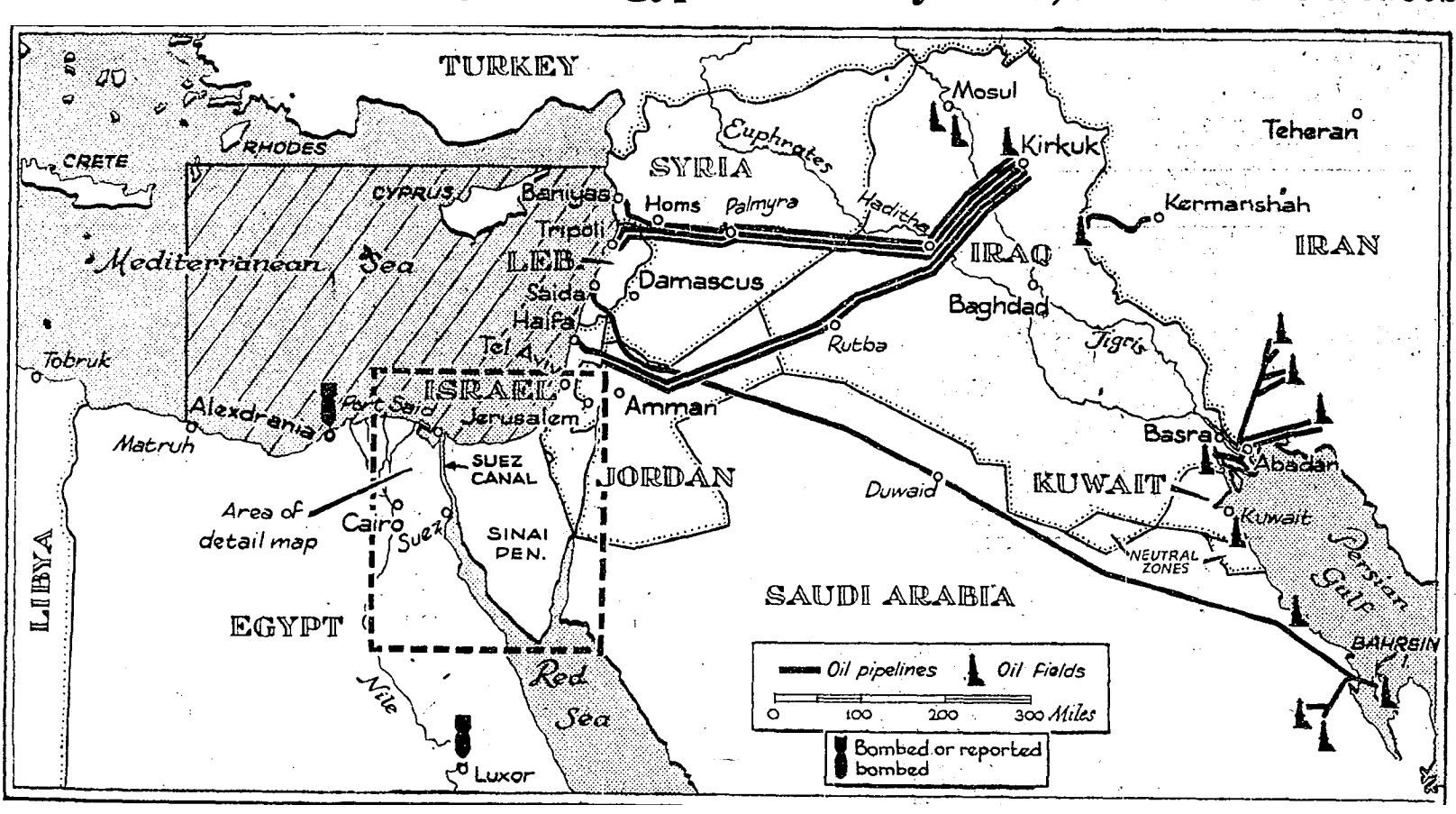
Information that the Syrian Government was placing its armed forces under the commander in chief of the Egyptian forces has not altered British or French planning for forthcoming operations.

As part of the psychological preparation for the allied landing operations the Cairo Radio, the Voice of Arabia, was silenced

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Three-Power Drive Against Egypt Pushed by Land, Sea and Air Forces



The British warned shipping to avoid a large sector of the eastern Mediterranean (diagonal shading). Arab quarters reported the sabotaging of pipelines. The line running through Israel has not been in operation.

ALLIES PRESSING TOWARD LANDING

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by 500-pound bombs dropped by British Canberra light bombers.

This gave a clear field to a Cyprus station calling itself "Radio Free Egypt" broadcasting in Arabic near the Cairo radio's frequency. It told its listeners that the allies' landing was a "matter of hours" away. The British-French forces only want to help the Egyptians rid the nation of "that traitor" (President Gamal Abdel) Nasser who "had almost delivered our country into Moscow's clutches" the station said.

The radio said "we will do all in our power to spare your lives but you must do your part."

"Seek shelter from air attacks and keep away from military installations so that you may escape death and injury," the radio added.

British and French pilots returning from sorties over Egypt reported the absence of any sort of defensive action on ground or interception in the air in their attacks. At least one airfield appeared to have been abandoned.

With the Egyptian Air Force disorganized and the Cairo radio out of action, the British Admiralty added another indication that the invasion was on its way. Amplifying a previous warning for merchant shipping to keep clear of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Admiralty defined the area more specifically. The area is an oblong box bounded in the north by Cyprus, in the east by Lebanon and Israel and in the south by the coast of Egypt as far west as Matruh.

Considering the difficulties of collecting the seaborne invasion force from Malta, Oran in Algeria and Nicosia in Cyprus these developments indicate landing operations are feasible this week-end. When the landings are made the allies' command intends to put maximum emphasis on speed.

Battle of Movement Set

The military reason is that the Egyptian forces, whose standard of training and discipline is not considered high, will be less effective in battles of movement than in positional warfare. The allies' High Command also would get greater dividends from its air superiority if the Egyptians were kept moving in the open.

Both the British and French Governments seek early completion of their self-appointed task of taking control of the Suez canal by occupying Port Said, Ismailia and Suez. Only then can they appeal to the United Nations to assume physical control of the area they have stabilized.

Thus the expectation is that the initial landing operations will be delivered with the maximum force available. Commandos landing by sea and parachutists dropping from the air will be used to divert the main Egyptian forces from the main seaborne landing.

This will be pushed as rapidly as possible with armored forces in the van. Israeli experience in the present campaign has been that the anti-tank artillery in the Egyptian Army, although of good quality, is poorly served.

The British are continuing to build up their forces in the Eastern Mediterranean. Three troopships, the New Australia, Asturias and Dilwara, have left Southampton. Battalions of four line regiments embarked on them. The regiments were Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the Royal West Kents, the Royal Fusiliers and the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment.

A unit of the Royal Engineers was also embarked.

Syrian Moves Discounted

Reports that Syrain forces would join the Egyptian army will not alter the British and French plans to occupy the canal zone, informed sources said. The Syrian Army is said to consist of only about 25,000 men.

Troop movements by potential allies will not affect the redistribution of the Egyptian Army to positions to defend the Suez Canal. From the standpoint of Egypt's military fortunes this is the most important land operation of the moment.

According to a French spokesman, air and sea operations henceforth will seek to establish conditions necessary for occupation of the Suez Canal Zone.

This is interprted as heralding prolonged air attacks on the Egyptian forces as they move to new positions. Egyptian civilians have been warned by the Cyprus radio to stay away from transit camps and other troop concentrations.

The fighting at sea has died down for the present. The French announced their Corsair bombers had set fire to an Egyptian frigate during the action that sank a Soviet-built Egyptian destroyer off Alexandria. Two other frigates escorting the destroyer escaped.

According to British intelligence sources, President Nasser last night told the Egyptians by radio that his forces had taken over British installations in the Suez Canal Zone. He said the stores were worth £300,000,000 (about $840,000,000) and included tanks and other weapons that would be distributed to the Egyptian forces.

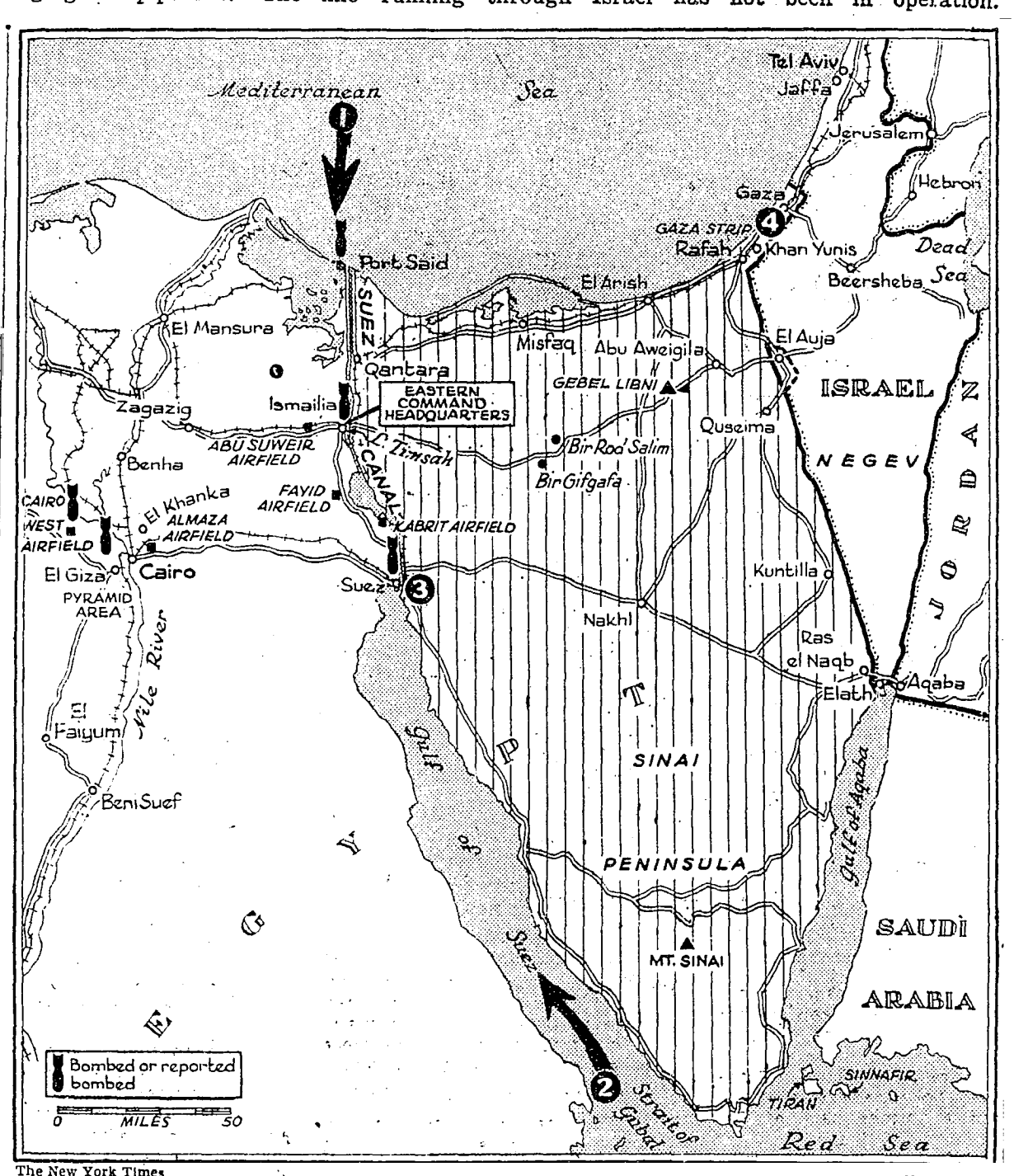
The British contradicted this. They said stores were worth about £40,000,000 and contained no serviceable tanks or weapons.

The names of the commanders of the allies' task forces of the three services to be employed in the invasion have been made known today They are:

Navy Vice Admiral Leonard Durnford-Slater; Deputy, Rear Admiral Pierre Lancelot.

Army Lieut. Gen. Sir Hugh Stockwell; deputy, General de Division (general of division or equivalent of American major general) Charles Beaufre.

Air Force—Air Marshal Denis Barnett; deputy, General de Brigade Aerienne (general of air brigade, equivalent to American brigadier general Brohon.



The New York Times

Nov. 3, 1956

British and French amphibious forces were said to be approaching the Suez area from the north (1) and south (2). The canal was blocked at its southern end (3). The Israelis captured Gaza (4) as well as virtualy all of the Sinai Peninsula (vertical shading).



Associated Press Radiophoto

DESTINATION EGYPT: At a British airfield on Cyprus ground crewmen arm bombs under the wing of a Canberra jet. The aircraft took part in a bombing mission yesterday.

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