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Communiques on Middle East Fighting

British-French

LONDON, Nov. 2 (AP)—The texts of communiqués from Allied Forces headquarters in Cyprus as issued by the British Defense Ministry:

Communiqué No. 7

Widespread raids by Royal Air Force Valiant and Canberra bombers continued all night against Egyptian Air Force bases in the Delta and Canal area.

Photographic reconnaissance has established that a high proportion of the 100 or so Egyptian aircraft destroyed or damaged on the ground by Allied Air Forces in their offensive against military airfields were MIG jet fighters.

Raiding aircraft have also taken heavy toll of Ilyushin jet bombers.

Final reports of the attack by British naval aircraft on the Egyptian blockship show that, at the time, she was clear of the entrance to the canal and on tow to the south end of Lake Timsah.

Surviving the encounter, though damaged, she was subsequently maneuvered downstream and positioned broadside-on across the channel. Here she was evidently scuttled by the Egyptians, partially blocking the canal.

Communiqué No. 8

A part of the Allied air effort this morning switched from purely airfield targets to a large military transit camp in the Delta.

A small R. A. F. force also sought out the transmitters of Cairo radio, the Voice of Arabia, seven miles out in the desert from the capital. The station immediately went off the air and had not resumed transmission two hours later.

For so long as this silence continued, the requisitioned Near East Arab broadcasting station in Cyprus, now transmitting as the Voice of Britain, becomes the most powerful broadcasting agency in the area.

For over an hour before the bombing started, broadcast warnings were given to the civil population to keep clear of the Cairo radio transmitting site.

Operations by R. A. F. Valiant, Canberra and carrier-based Seahawks and French Thunderstreaks, Avengers and Corsairs proceeded with undiminished intensity.

Task forces are under the control of:

Navy: Vice Admiral Durnford-slater, R. N., whose deputy is Rear Admiral Lancelot, French Navy.

Army: Lieut. Gen. Sir Hugh Stockwell, whose deputy is General de Division Beaufre.

Air Force: Air Marshal Barnett whose deputy is General de Brigade Aerienne Brohon.

PARIS, Nov. 2 (AP)—The text of a communiqué issued tonight by the French Defense Ministry:

Aerial operations for the destruction of airports and their installations, and naval operations for the clearing of the seas north and south of the Suez Canal now are practically finished.

It can, therefore, be presumed that air and naval operations henceforth will aim at realizing the conditions necessary for the temporary occupation of the canal zone.

Transmitters of Radio Cairo's Voice of Arabia, twelve kilometers from Cairo, were attacked in the course of an Anglo-French bombardment. The broadcasts have not resumed since.

Our reconnaissance aviation was very active. French and British pilots observed great confusion reigning in the movements of Egyptian troops in the Sinai Peninsula up to the very edge of the canal. At certain points these pilots even had the impression of a veritable débâcle.

Very strict orders have been given to the French-British forces to reduce losses among the Egyptian civilian population to a minimum.

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Nov. 2 (AP)—Headquarters communiqué No. 9:

The sustained offensive by Allied aircraft based on Cyprus, Malta and on aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean has over the past two days dealt a crippling blow to the Egyptian Air Force.

Pilots flying over its bases in the Delta and Canal area have today reported a total absence of any form of activity. At least one airfield has been abandoned, and aircraft wreckage and bomb craters characterize the remainder.

An Egyptian Army barracks and depot at Camp Huckstep in the Delta were raided by Allied aircraft today and damage inflicted on a large number of tanks and wheeled vehicles. Intense but inaccurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered but no damage was suffered by the attacking aircraft.

While this attack was in progress, further blows were struck at airfields throughout Egypt. This followed a night of intense activity against similar targets.

Cairo radio, whose transmitters were bombed by R. A. F. Canberras operating under an umbrella of French fighters, has remained off the air. The Voice of Britain in Cyprus began beaming broadcasts in Arabic to Egypt calling upon the population to submit to the Allied proposals on the Suez Canal.

The broadcasts declared that Allied military forces were not precursors of punishment or occupation. They were the agents of peace, bent on putting an end to hostilities and safeguarding the canal from the consequences of a conflict provoked by Nasser. The broadcast ended: "We 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."

Broadcast warnings urged Egyptians to keep away from the artillery barracks at Al Maza near Cairo before a low level attack was launched this afternoon.

Five more ships have been sunk by the Egyptians in an effort to block the Canal, four at the northern entrance at Port Said and another in the buoyed channel just north of Ismailia.

Reports from Cairo talk of Allied mine laying operations off Alexandria. No such operation has been undertaken.



Associated Press Radiophoto

OFF TO BATTLE: An Egyptian National Guardsman gets a farewell embrace from his mother before leaving Cairo.

Egyptian

CAIRO, Nov. 2 (AP)—A communiqué issued by Egyptian Army headquarters at 8 A. M.:

Air raids by British and French bombers on Egyptian towns in the last twenty-four hours totaled forty-two.

The planes have been hitting hard at thickly populated towns.

Not all losses are yet known, but one result of an air raid on the town of Suez was that a big fishing vessel was sunk by British and French bombs right in the entrance to the canal, thus closing the entrance.

Our armed forces shot down three British planes.

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Nov. 2 (UP)—Following is the text of Egyptian Military Communiqué No. 14, broadcast by the Cairo radio:

1. British and French planes waged several air raids on Egyptian cities this morning. They dropped their bombs on a factory of a certain company in the outskirts of Shubra, but no casualties occurred.

2. Starting at 11:30 A. M., there was an air raid on an Egyptian village in Abu Za'bal and also on the Egyptian radio station transmitters, which put them out of service as well as causing other losses of which stock has not yet been taken.

3. Our armed forces shot down British and French planes.

Israeli

TEL AVIV, Israel, Nov. 2 (AP)—The text of Israeli communiqué No. 2:

Gaza surrendered this morning to Israeli forces.

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