JEWISH TROOPS BLINDFOLD TWO POLISH ADVENTURERS, SUSPECTED OF DOING SABOTAGE FOR THE ARABS, BEFORE HAULING THEM OFF TO A STOCKADE IN HAIFA

JEWISH SCORE A PRELIMINARY VICTORY

In Palestine, Jews and Arabs started slugging before the bell. Britain, as referee, tried wearily at first to keep them apart at least until the appointed hour of official withdrawal on May 15 but moved in more sternly last week as fighting increased. Alarm spread throughout the Arab world after the Jews captured Haifa (p. 30-31) and mounted strong attacks on the cities of Jaffa and Jerusalem. Popular unrest, stirred up in part by the flight of rich refugees, brought calls for drastic Arab action. These were answered by reports and rumors that armies from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Trans-Jordan were on the march across Palestinian borders. But they turned out to reveal more internal Arab disorganization than actual fact.

It was apparent that the Jews had dealt handily in preliminary battles and skirmishes with second-rate troops under such Arab leaders as Fawzi Bey Kasouji (p. 32-33), but the Arabs were now thoroughly aroused and demanding revenge. They were committed to all-out war and could put much greater strength into the field. One potent factor was the British-trained, British-equipped Arab Legion of King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan (p. 34-35).

As both sides flexed their muscles while generally obeying British orders for a truce, the United Nations contrived one last hectic effort to make peace. The U.S. called for a truce and the establishment of a U.N. trusteeship over Palestine. Coming at the end of months of debate and tiresome maneuvering, this proposal fell on weary ears. The only peace that came was sudden, and the peace of death. It was too late now for talk.
could carry but were stripped of all weapons. Although British troops on guard in the port area were sympathetic, tough Hagana men said, “We had to make our own Exodus 2,000 years ago.”

**TRUCKLOAD OF ARABS** stops for identification at port gate. British soldier (left) chats with bystander and pointedly ignores Hagana guard (right).

**WOUNDED ARABS** lie in the sun at the waterfront. Despite the impressive claims made by both sides, there were few casualties in the battle for Haifa.

**BRITISH MARINES** stand guard over a deserted street still littered with barbed-wire defenses which Arabs demolished in their rush to get to the harbor.
nearly captured. But his embarrassing shortcomings in battle are compensated for by the fact that he is the idol of many Arabs, who regard him as a sandy Robin Hood and rally enthusiastically around him. In the interminable wars and skirmishes of the Middle East, Fawzi has been wounded more than 80 times. He has fought the French (they defeated him), the British (they defeated him) and the Arab Legion as well (they also defeated him). But he now has a handful of modern equipment to bolster his antiquated arsenal, and is continually receiving fresh recruits to augment his guerrilla forces. When Fawzi makes a bold stand in an Arab village and allows the Haganah to deploy their better-trained and better-disciplined troops, the result is likely to be ruinous for him. However, no Jewish hamlet or farming community will be secure from lightning destruction at Fawzi’s hands in the long and cruel struggle for the hinterland.