

# British Armored Cars Halt Battle on Road in Palestine

By The Associated Press.

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25—Arabs and Jewish convoy guards fought today in a ravine outside Jerusalem. British armored cars with two-pound cannon and automatic weapons broke up the struggle in which at least ten Jews and two Arabs were reported killed.

The fighting developed along the highway to Tel Aviv. Both sides sent in reinforcements. The Arabs eventually built up their force to 300 men.

The battle began, Arab sources said, when guards preceding a Jewish convoy surprised a small Arab unit mining the highway. While the Jewish guards and the Arabs fought seven miles west of Jerusalem, the convoy turned back to a near-by Jewish settlement.

Jews said the Arabs launched their attack from the hills. The informants added that ten Jews were killed and two others wounded as the fighting swept through the ravine.

Palestine police said that of the twenty-five Jewish guards involved, four were known to have been killed, ten were missing and three of the remaining eleven were wounded.

Earlier, members of Haganah, the Jewish militia, were reported to have bombed fifteen or twenty houses in an Arab village near Yibna, fifteen miles south of Jaffa. The dawn bombing operation was designed to avenge recent Arab attacks on Jewish convoys, informants said.

The road through the area leads to Jewish settlements in the southern Palestine desert. Convoys to those settlements have been subjected to repeated attacks.

Jewish sources said three Arab

## SOVIET COMMUNISTS ALTERING PROGRAM

### Act to End 'Shortcomings' and Wipe Out 'Obsequiousness' to Culture of the West

By C. L. SULZBERGER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, Jan. 25—Indications that the existing program of the Soviet Communist party is being altered have been received here, although exactly what changes are contemplated by the Central Committee are not yet known.

At the same time considerable evidence has been received by French diplomatic sources of mounting tendencies on the part of the Soviet Government not only to isolate foreigners in the U.S.S.R. and to make the operations of foreign missions still more difficult but also to complete the "purge" of "bourgeois" influences in Soviet cultural life.

Thus, as the Western world stimulates its efforts to solidify the relationships and alliances of those European countries outside the Soviet bloc, Moscow is emphasizing the two-world trend of the present by its efforts to eliminate even the intellectual traces of the

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# YOUNG CHURCHILL FACES HOT QUERIES

Defends Britain's Palestine  
Policies in Lively Meeting  
at Temple Rodeph Sholem

The Palestine crisis provided the theme yesterday morning for an animated exchange of opinion between Randolph S. Churchill, son of Great Britain's wartime leader, and the members of Congregation Rodeph Sholem, 7 West Eighty-third Street. Mr. Churchill defended his nation's policy in the Holy Land, in answers to scores of questions submitted after his guest lecture on "How Can Europe Survive?"

In reply to a question, "Why doesn't England do something to educate its fascist-inclined soldiers in Palestine?", Mr. Churchill contended that the premise underlying the question was false, "making response impossible." He added that it was vicious to imply that men who had fought so valiantly against fascism should now turn to it.

## Newman Offers a Summary

At one point in the heated interchange the Rev. Dr. Louis I. Newman, rabbi of the congregation, who read the questions aloud, shuffled the slips of paper in his hands, turned to the audience and remarked: "These questions are too hot to handle." He proposed to paraphrase and summarize them in what he termed a "comprehensive" question. It read:

"Mr. Churchill, why does Britain support feudal-fascist, clerical-fascist and monarchist-fascist regimes in Europe and the Near East?"

Jocularly, Mr. Churchill replied that "the rabbi's questions are hotter than the congregation's." He insisted on answering individual queries as long as time permitted.

Mr. Churchill complained of the

"double standard of international morality," which he said scorned the humanitarian contributions of Great Britain to displaced persons and praised the much smaller contributions of the United States. He added that England, "a tiny isle, has admitted to its shores more displaced persons than any other nation in the world."

"United States legislation to admit 400,000 displaced persons over a period of four years," Mr. Churchill remarked, "is stalled somewhere in Congressional committee, and you know, as I know, that there it will remain, at least until after the election."

## Rebukes Critics of Britain

Mr. Churchill rebuked those who "are forever putting Great Britain in the dock" for being insensible to the plight of displaced persons and for being anti-Jewish. This sentiment, he added, "goes to such ridiculous extremes as the unthinking and inexcusable viciousness of Americans like Ben Hecht who compare Ernest Bevin to Adolph Hitler."

He mentioned that in Florida he had been bewildered by signs in hotels saying they were "restricted." He said he was "amazed" to learn that it was Jews who were restricted—"something unheard of in England."

As the last questions were answered, Dr. Newman declared it was the hope of Jews everywhere that "the people of Israel and Great Britain would remain staunch friends" and that "the current misunderstanding would be settled." He asked Mr. Churchill to tell the British people that a "spirit of cooperation" on their part would "go a long way toward cementing friendship."

Mr. Churchill remarked that an early cessation of Stern Gang terrorism would also help. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the congregation.

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# BRITISH UNIT ENDS PALESTINE BATTLE

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houses had been blasted in the Jaffa-Tel Aviv border area. In near-by Er Ramle an Arab was killed and two others were seriously wounded when Jewish attackers opened fire on an Arab bus.

The body of a Jew was found on the outskirts of Haifa. Two Arabs died of bullet wounds received several days ago. A snipers' fight developed between the Jewish and Arab quarters of Jerusalem.

The Jewish-Arab war over partition of Palestine now is nearly two months old. Thus far 980 persons have lost their lives in the fighting, an unofficial tabulation showed.

During the morning several Arab leaders left Palestine. They were believed en route to Tubas in the hills northeast of Nablus. In that area, about forty miles north of Jerusalem, the Arabs are reported to have established a camp for the first fully uniformed and mobile unit of Arab volunteers to enter Palestine. The unit is believed to be commanded by Palestine Arabs.

Arab informants said that an Arab force of 750 armed men, which entered Palestine from Trans-Jordan, had concentrated in Tubas. The sources added that those fighters had been deployed through a wide area. Included in the force were Iraqis, Syrians and Palestinians, the informants said.

The first evacuation of wives and children of United States consulate officials will begin tomorrow. Three families plan to go in a convoy to Haifa under an escort of British armored cars. At Haifa they will board a ship for the United States.

## Kawukji Shift Reported

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
DAMASCUS, Syria, Jan. 25—  
Fawzi el-Kawukji, Commander in Chief of the Arab People's Army,

was reported today to be preparing to leave for Palestine. The number of his men who have crossed the Lebanese and Syrian frontiers to gather in the mountain region around Nablus in Palestine was said to exceed 3,500.

Mr. Kawukji has organized a "general staff," which will enter Palestine with him to direct operations. The volunteer army is under orders not to become involved in major operations but to concentrate on organization.

Asked when he would depart, Mr. Kawukji said: "Never mind the date, but when I go the whole world will know."

At least 1,400 Iraqi volunteers have passed into Syria. Some of the earlier contingents, who arrived here fully armed, have departed for Palestine after brief training at the Quatana barracks.

While a black overseas cap is the usual distinguishing mark of the Iraqis, many of these volunteers are now wearing the Arab brown headwear as they lounge about Damascus. They are young, tough-looking soldiers, neatly uniformed in combinations of United States and British army clothing.

Members of the Kawukji staff said they had been negotiating with Arab groups in Egypt for the opening of a "second front" from Egypt. They said the Nationalist party and the Moslem Brotherhood in Egypt were contributing most of the men for a force that would cross the Sinai Desert to attack Jewish settlements in the south while the Kawukji force operated from the Nablus area.

The same sources confirmed reports that several hundred Saudi Arabians had arrived in Palestine after passing through Trans-Jordan.

## 1,000 More Enter Palestine

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Jan. 25 (UP)—One thousand well-trained Arab soldiers slipped into Palestine from Lebanon, Trans-Jordan and Syria during the past two nights, reliable sources said today. It was said to have been the third large wave of volunteers to infiltrate into Palestine since the United Nations decided to create Arab and Jewish states.