

Many Held for Political Reasons Britain to Free Jewish Prisoners Soon

By NAT BARROW
Chicago Daily News Foreign Service
LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., Jan. 26—Jewish political prisoners of the British, some of them held without trial for months, will walk into freedom when Britain abandons its Palestine mandate.

These are not the terrorists serving long terms at Acre for armed attacks, but men and women arrested often "on suspicion" or held for political activities. Some 700 are now incarcerated at Latrun, the detention camp on the Jerusalem-Jaffa road in Palestine, and in Britain's African colony of Kenya.

BRITISH POLICY
Britain's policy, as revealed privately to the five-nation United Nations Partition Commission, will be to clear all Jewish detainees from British soil by the end of the mandate, probably in May.

It appears that the political prisoners in Kenya, numbering somewhat less than 300, will be transported back to Palestine before the termination date and held at a

camp in Palestine. Under present plans, prisoners in British hands will be released in care of the U. N. once the partition commission begins to operate.

The commission then presumably would screen these political prisoners and promptly turn them over to the new Jewish provisional government. Obviously, such a move would mean freedom. What happens to criminals is a problem which the U. N. has not yet seriously considered.

As for the illegal immigrants on Cyprus, the British are willing to turn over the two blockade-running ships recently captured and permit the U. N. or the Jewish Agency to use them for transporting these immigrants to Palestine.

They apparently do not propose to make the transfer themselves.

UNLIMITED PERIOD
Holding of political prisoners without trial has been justified by the British in its defense emergency regulations. It is provided that persons may be detained for an unlimited period, or placed un-

der police supervision for one year, by order of an area military commander and may be deported or excluded from Palestine on order of the high commissioner.

It was UNSCOP (the U. N. Special Commission on Palestine) which dragged into the open Britain's policy for holding political prisoners without trial.

Sir Henry Gurney, chief secretary of the Palestine government, testified before UNSCOP last summer that it was "unfortunately quite true" that Jews had been detained "three, four, five to seven years without trial."

He explained it was impossible to bring them to trial because of the difficulty in getting witnesses. The Guatemalan delegate, Jorge Garcia Granados, asked: "But then, according to the general principles of law, would it not be better to release them?"

Sir Henry replied: "I do not think that any British administration anywhere would require any advice on that point."

300,000 in Iraq Mourn Riot Victims

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Jan. 28 (AP)—The people of Baghdad paid public tribute today to those killed while protesting the proposed British-Iraqi treaty of alliance.

Premier Salih Bey El Jaburi's cabinet resigned last night and thus collapsed the Premier's fight for ratification of the treaty. The pact was signed in Britain about two weeks ago.

More than 300,000 persons marched in a six-mile procession today. Political party and religious leaders, former ministers, members of Parliament and other notables took part.

Hospitals reported yesterday that 70 persons had been killed and more than 300 wounded during the previous 24 hours.

Coffins of the victims were covered with huge Iraqi flags, with large letters written in their blood on the caskets.

A secret police source said Jabr had fled to Hilla, about 75 miles south of Baghdad, to seek protection from the tribes of his father-in-law.

(United Press said Jabur flew to Amman. He had been reported seeking refuge at one of the British air bases there.)

Attempts continued to form a new cabinet.

In Cairo, an Arab League press official told newsmen the Iraqi riots "should induce Britain to chart a policy serving the peoples' interests."



DEFENSE AGAINST ARABS—Motorized British soldiers of the Middlesex regiment and Palestine police move carefully up the road toward Yehiam, Palestine, on January 20 to help a Jewish settlement under attack by 500 Arabs.

The attackers directed mortar and automatic weapon fire against a settlement built amid ruins of a castle remaining from the Crusaders. The community is one of 19 outside boundaries of the proposed Jewish state.

Arab Says Russ May Back Jews In 'World War'

NABLUS, Palestine, Jan. 28 (UP)—Suleiman Abdul Bey Taukan, portly Mayor of this Arab resistance capital, predicted today that Arab-Jewish clashes would lead to a third world war, with Russia possibly allying herself with the Zionists.

Sitting at his office desk beneath pictures of King George and Winston Churchill, the Mayor said Arab forces were prepared to sacrifice the lives of 1,000,000 men in a four-month campaign against the Zionists which would start "the minute the British leave."

The British have announced they would complete their evacuation no later than August 1.

Taukan looked anything but warlike in his neatly pressed grey suit, but he once fought in the Turkish army and he holds the British Empire Medal. He charged that Russia "duped" the United States into favoring partition and he expressed hope the U. S. would join British and Arab forces if the Russians allied themselves with the Jews.

"I am very fearful this will be the beginning of World War III," he said, shaking his head sadly, "because the world still refuses to believe we 70,000,000 Arabs are united and determined to crush Zionism, regardless of who helps them, before Zionism crushes us."

U. S. Arms Embargo Aids The Arabs, Says Holifield

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (AP)—Representative Holifield (D., Calif.) protested today that a State Department embargo policy puts the United States "in support of the Arab States in their war against the people of Palestine."

He made the protest at a House Executive Expenditures Subcommittee hearing on recent purchases of surplus explosives by the Jewish agency for Palestine, and an attempted shipment of other explosives to Palestine.

E. T. Cummings of the State Department's munitions division testified an absolute embargo was placed December 5 on shipments of all arms, munitions "and implements of war" to Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Trans-Jordan, Iraq and Palestine.

Holifield told reporters later the effect of the embargo "is to create a corridor for the Arabs to get arms into Palestine, while the Jews have no such corridor." He said he believes the entire embargo should be abolished.

The hearing concerned these two sales of surplus by the War Assets Administration—400,000 pounds of demolition blocks to Foundry Associates, Inc., of New York, and 80,000 pounds of TNT to the Pottsville Coal Sales Corporation of Pottsville, N. Y.

Three truckloads of the Foundry Associates shipment were found last month on a farm near Asbury Park, N. J., and the other TNT was seized in New York ready for export to

Palestine.

After the hearing, Chairman Ritzley (R., Okla.) said it was apparent the WAA "was perfectly in the clear" in both sales.

Czechoslovakia Denies Selling Arms to Arabs
PRAGUE, Jan. 28 (AP)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman denied today that Czechoslovakia had sold arms to the Syrian army for Palestine Arabs.

(Damascus informants said Palestine Arabs were being equipped with munitions obtained from Czechoslovakia in a \$2,850,000 deal.)

Dr. Eugene Klinger, press attaché of the Foreign Office, said the report was untrue. Dr. Leopold Chmela, head of the National Bank, denied any knowledge of the deal, said to have involved \$2,000,000 handled through London and Paris banks.

Chinese Lobbyist Is 10-Cent-a-Year Man
Special to The Chronicle
WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 — W. Bruce Pirnie has registered with the clerk of the Senate as a lobbyist for the Kwangtung, Kwangs, and Hunan provinces of China. The provincial governments have promised to pay him well, in Chinese currency, for aiding them in reconstruction problems.

But at present rates of exchange, Pirnie's registration statement explains, his salary will be slightly under 10 cents a year, American.

CIO Protest of Cuban Killing Urged

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (UP)—The CIO said today it has received several requests from affiliates to protest to the State Department against the fatal shooting last week of Jesus Menendez, left-wing leader of the Cuban Sugar Workers' Federation.

A spokesman said that Michael Ross, CIO director of international affairs, conferred with State Department representatives about the incident but that no formal CIO protest was made.

The spokesman said CIO President Philip Murray contemplates no formal complaint to the State Department or the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Jews, Arabs Fight a Sharpshooters' War

By ROBERT MILLER
United Press Staff Writer
AT A JEWISH COMMAND POST NEAR JAFFA, Palestine, Jan. 26 (Delayed)—A kettle bubbles and boils on a little stove in this dressing station adjoining the Jaffa front headquarters of the Jewish underground army Haganah. A young girl sits patiently beside it knitting. Beneath sterilized towels on a nearby table are shiny surgical tools to dig out bullets and sew up wounds.

Only a few hundred feet forward are the front lines of the Jewish and Arab forces—a series of sand-bagged houses and buildings in what formerly was a peaceful seaside community on the Mediterranean coast.

It seems peaceful enough in the warm sunshine but if you stick your head above the winding communications trench or out of a window you will probably get it blown off by Arab snipers who face blow up ours.

In a nearby "ready room" a squad of Haganah youths were being briefed for a forthcoming at-

lines it is suicide to come out in the open.

Out of range of this no man's land life goes on as usual in Arab Jaffa and the Jewish communities of Bat Yam and Holon.

Nobody attempts to maintain law and order here since the British moved out and now it's every man for himself. Both Jews and Arabs complained of British interference. The Jews claimed British armored cars often joined the Arabs in firing on Haganah outposts while other armored cars cruised behind the Jewish lines ready to arrest anyone caught returning the fire.

The Haganah commandant of this sector is a 34-year-old former British army major. He explained how his forces built roads of wire matting over the sand dunes linking Bat Yam with Holon—a distance of two miles—to avoid fire from Arab outposts.

"Here it is mostly night patrol," he said, "with us trying to blow up Arab outposts and them trying to blow up ours."

In a nearby "ready room" a squad of Haganah youths were being briefed for a forthcoming at-

tack. A detailed sand model of their target—an Arab village—stood on a table in the center of the room and a Jewish officer pointed out the objectives, forcing all to memorize the landscape for a night assault.

Amateur photographers and artists posted at forward observation points film and sketch Arab positions and mark snipers' nests for later demolition. On the wall of this Jewish command post there is a watercolored painting of the surrounding terrain showing the ranges of possible targets visible from the various outposts.

We moved to a forward post by dashing across an open field. The post was a sniper's nest in a bungalow barricaded with sandbags and manned by six khaki-overalled Jews.

They peered intently through slits at a similar sandbagged bungalow, manned by Arabs, less than 100 yards away across the street.

A few hundred feet to the left, the Mediterranean stretched blue and inviting. Buildings on the shore, one of which formerly was a casino, stood vacant and deserted.

The place looked like a ghost town. Not a sign of life showed anywhere. Three miles away, ships could be seen loading and unloading at Jaffa and a fishing boat was under sail just offshore.

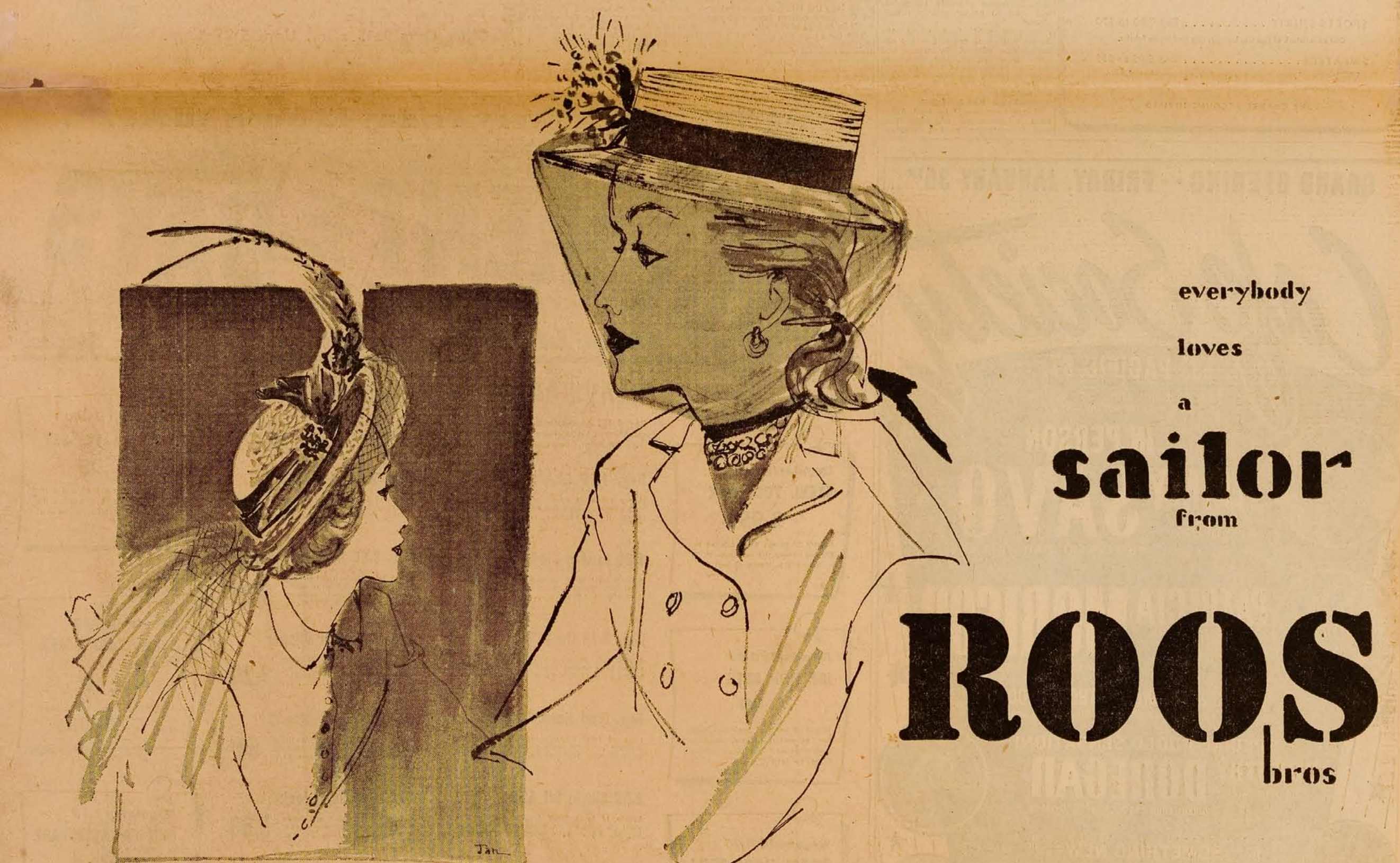
The road into Jaffa is barricaded at three places and through binoculars an Arab could be seen hastily ducking behind a building half a mile away.

Inside the outpost, a blond youth was pointed out as a marksman who less than an hour ago felled an Arab at 400 yards range. Blushing sheepishly, he explained it was "just luck." He is a mechanic when not fighting.

Not a shot was fired anywhere along the front while this correspondent was there.

The commandant pointed out what formerly had been a front porch bungalow—now a pile of rubble.

"They rushed us the night before last, tried to blow up the place but didn't use enough explosive. It shook hell out of us when it went off but there were no casualties," he said.



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