

Arms for the Troubled Holy Land

13 More Are Killed in Partition Battle

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (AP)—One British soldier, five Jews and seven Arabs were killed in Palestine fighting today.

The death toll from Holy Land violence since the United Nations decision Nov. 29 to partition Palestine rose to 1055.

The British soldier was killed when Arabs attacked a military truck convoy between Jerusalem and Hebron, an official source said. Three other soldiers were wounded.

In northern Palestine Arabs in Syrian army uniforms battled a British army unit tonight, an army statement said. One Arab was killed and six captured.

Two Arabs were killed by Jewish snipers in the Tel Aviv-Jaffa borderland area, a police report said.

One Arab was found dead near Byriah in northern Palestine.

A house curfew was imposed on the mixed Arab-Jewish township of Tiberias, on the western shores of Galilee.

Reporting the fighting with Arabs wearing Syrian uniforms, the army said they blazed away at a truckload of Sixth Airborne Division troops.

The Arab attackers were believed to be Syrian-trained volunteers of the "People's Army for Palestine," and used French rifles and some automatic weapons.

A Damascus dispatch quoted an officer of the "People's Army" as saying that 600 Arab fighters crossed into Palestine last night over the River Jordan and moved into prepared positions 37 miles inside the Holy Land.

The dispatch quoted a source close to Fawzi Bey Al Kaukji, "People's Army" commander, as saying 7000 Syrian-trained men were now in Palestine awaiting orders for a general offensive.

(United Press reported that Great Britain started its withdrawal from Palestine today when 300 British members of the Palestine police were ordered to Egypt whence they are to sail for England Sunday.)

British Report on Russ-Speaking Refugees to U. S.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (AP) — A State Department official said tonight a "preliminary report" has been received from the British government that some 1000 Russian-speaking persons were aboard two Jewish refugee ships intercepted on their way to Palestine last December.

But the official, Press Officer Michael McDermott, gave no opinion on the question whether any Communist agents were among the refugees.

TIMES REPORT

(The New York Times in a copy-right dispatch last Sunday reported from London that 1500 of the passengers on the Pan Crescent and Pan York were Communist agents.)

(The Times' correspondent emphasized that his information came from official British reports—ambassadorial and military.)

Secretary of State Marshall said earlier he had been given information Communists were among the refugees. He added he could not recall what the information was based on.

Marshall told his news conference that a report placed on his desk said the Communists numbered something like 150 or 200.

The secretary had been asked for comment on published reports, some of them attributed to official British sources, that the refugees included Communist agents.

MOSTLY ROMANIAN

McDermott told reporters: "The department has thus far received only preliminary reports from the British government with regard to the Jewish refugees on the Pan York and the Pan Crescent.

"These refugees are now on Cyprus. Most of these refugees are Romanian Jews. About 1000 of them speak Russian.

"The incomplete character of the preliminary reports does not warrant further comment at this time."

Sale to Palestine Of Surplus War Goods Continues

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LONDON, Feb. 4.—Sales of surplus British military supplies in Palestine are continuing, A. V. Alexander, Minister of Defense, told the House of Commons today.

But "every possible precaution" is being taken to assure that warlike equipment does not pass into the hands of Jews or Arabs.

As for the recent sale of 21 light aircraft to the Jewish Palestine Aviation Company, the Minister asserted that the planes had not only been demilitarized but were unserviceable.

Since civilian aircraft can be converted to military purposes, he added, measures have been taken to prevent the Jews and the Arabs from acquiring planes while there is a "risk" of civil war.

An embargo also has been imposed on the entry of war supplies into Palestine, the Minister continued, and it will be enforced to the best of the government's ability until the British mandate is surrendered May 15.

The government also is refusing permission for arms export to the Middle East, except under existing contracts arising from the treaties with Iraq, Trans-Jordan and Egypt, Alexander stated.

When asked that something effective be done to prevent the entry of Arab volunteer fighters into Palestine, Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech Jones remarked that "it is exceedingly difficult to maintain watch over complete frontiers."

(Associated Press reported that Creech Jones was asked in Commons if the government would "see to it that no further monies are sent to Trans-Jordan or any other country to equip forces to come in and attack British forces and others in Palestine."

(The Secretary made no reply to the request, which came from Laborite Barnett Janner.)