

Battle of Jerusalem

Arabs Have Initiative in Holy City, Drive Deep Into Jewish Quarter Defenses

Some Israeli Fighters Said to Be Near Surrender; Decision Is Due In 48 Hours, Says Arab Official

By the Associated Press

The battle for Jerusalem appeared Wednesday night to be turning steadily in favor of King Abdullah's Trans-Jordan Arab Legion and Arab Volunteer forces.

Inside the old walled city of Jerusalem, Arab forces drove more than half way through the embattled Jewish quarter. An estimated 400 Haganah and Irgun Zvai Leumi fighters were said to be on the verge of surrender.

The Jewish fighters were under heavy artillery fire which rocked the quarter and splattered inside the walled city with its religious shrines sacred to Christians, Moslems and Jews.

Outside the ancient walls the Arabs cleared the Jews from a Crescent-shaped front on the north, east and south. The Jews held Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital atop Mount Scopus, but most of that height on the north was in Arab hands.

A high Arab official said Arabs expect the battle for Jerusalem will be decided within 48 hours.

8000 ISRAELIS

These officials estimated 8000 Haganah, Irgun Zvai Leumi and Stern group troops are engaged against the Arabs.

Early Wednesday morning, according to an Israel army communique, Jewish shock troops cracked open Zion Gate at the southern entrance to the walled city and joined other Jewish fighters striving to liberate the Jews inside.

The Jewish army said the breakthrough raised the months-long siege of 1700 Jews and that food and medical supplies were rushed in.

As the day progressed, however, these Israeli reinforcements were apparently being forced to give way to the Legion onslaught.

Associated Press correspondent Daniel De Luce was with the Arab Legion inside the walled city. He said some of the Haganah machine gun and mortar positions in stone buildings resembled the remnants of Casisno, Italy, in 1944.

Haganah strongpoints outside the walled city were under pinpoint artillery assault by the Legion's guns.

LEGION SHELLING

The Trans-Jordan Legion communique said Legion artillery was shelling the Jewish quarter and several other strategic positions in Jerusalem, including centers of Jewish concentrations.

It said advancing Arab Legion forces were forcing the Jews to withdraw from the Sheikh Jarrah area and its surrender was expected. The Jews seized the area, which controls approaches to Mount Scopus, when the British evacuated Jerusalem last Friday.

Tel Aviv was bombed late Wednesday for the fifth consecutive day, by aerial bombs heavier than the 50-pound missile which killed 41 persons and injured 60 others at a midtown bus station Tuesday.

On the Jewish supply route to the Holy City—the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway—the Trans-Jordan Legion communique said the Legion had advanced to Latrun, 13 miles west of Jerusalem. The highway is now blocked to Jewish traffic.

The Jews said they captured the former British military camp at Sarafand adjoining Ramle, 19 miles southeast of Tel Aviv. Irgun fighters were trying to take Ramle.

NO ELECTRICITY

All Jerusalem has been without electricity since last Friday. Jews control the main post office, where the telephone exchange still is working.

"They wanted war and they are getting it," said Munir Abu Fadil, Arab police chief of Jerusalem. "It looks as if they are going to fight to the last man."

Abdel Rahman Azzam Pasha, secretary general of the Arab League, said in Amman that Arabs were ready to "accept peace at any time" for Jerusalem.

Police Chief Fadil said Arab conditions for Jewish surrender in the old city were:

(Britain, China oppose U. S. move for U. N. action on Palestine, see page 8).

Report On Japan

America Urged To Help Rebuild Nation's Industry

By FLOYD HEALEY

Japan must be put back on its feet industrially, and the United States will have to do the major part of the job.

The U. S. Army's proposal that \$120,000,000 worth of raw material to be plowed into recovery programs there in the next 12 months would facilitate Japanese self-support.

The alternative would be occupation for an indefinite period. Occupation is currently costing American taxpayers \$400,000,000 a year.

Given raw materials, Japanese skills can be put back to work by a people willing and eager to become self-sustaining. The sooner they do, the sooner the burden of support will be eliminated.

This, in effect, summarizes conclusions of an American mission, known as the Johnston committee, which studied the situation on the ground, returned to the United States about a month ago and submitted its report to the Army and the State Department. I was made public yesterday by Secretary Royall.

REACTION IN JAPAN

(Tokyo dispatches to the New York Times reported that Japanese businessmen and industrialists, who have seen the report, are delighted with its provisions, especially those regarding lightened controls and a scale down of bureaucracy.

(They interpreted the report as urging that bureaucratic controls created by the occupation must be removed, that businessmen must be allowed to make a profit, and that allies must replace private monopolies with government monopolies.)

What conclusions of the report mean to the Bay Area and the Pacific Coast as a whole were high lighted by William L. Montgomery, chairman of the World Trade Promotion Committee of the Bay Area Council.

READY MARKETS

Prior to the war, he said, trade between the Coast and Japan amounted to \$50,000,000 annually. In 1946, it was \$2,000,000.

Agreeing former levels can be regained, Montgomery explained:

"California and United States cotton, foodstuffs, and machinery, and other processed items and raw materials would find a ready market in Japanese factories established to supply low-cost products needed in other Far Eastern countries and which cannot, or would not, be supplied in quantity from American export manufacturing stockpiles."

Montgomery reiterated the kernel of the case, as stated here Monday by Army Undersecretary Draper, saying:

"The American people now are supporting more than one fifth, or 16,000,000 of the Japanese population of 80,000,000—a tremendous burden at this critical period in world recovery.

"If we can restore some of Japan's peacetime industries, so as to provide self-supporting employment and

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Herb Caen

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