

513 2385

Assault on Port Said

9th November 1956

When the Anglo-French carrier force closed in on the Egyptian coast, rocket-firing Venoms and Sea Hawks were preparing for the first of many missions. These action pictures, (filmed on board a British aircraft carrier) show the ~~magnificent~~ Naval support <sup>which was</sup> an outstanding feature of the Allied Landings at Port Said.

The assault began soon after dawn. And just as the first paratroopers were landing on Egyptian soil, the Naval jet-fighters were taking off - ~~to smash enemy strong-points with blistering rocket fire.~~  
**TO SUPPORT THEM**

Over one hundred Allied ships were engaged, and reports say that the operation went as smoothly as a well-planned exercise.

In twenty-four hours, Port Said was largely held by ~~the British~~ <sup>BRITISH</sup> and French paratroops. And, at dawn, the following day, seaborne landings were made by Commando units and a squadron of armour.

The task now, was to push ~~down~~ <sup>along</sup> the banks of the Canal to capture key towns. Reinforcements were quickly brought in - (vehicles to form a mobile striking-force), while overhead, carrier-based aircraft kept up ~~their ceaseless~~ <sup>CONSTANT</sup> support.

And while surrender-terms were being discussed with the Governor of Port Said, the Allied Force moved inland - consolidating its position. When the ~~initial~~ surrender-terms were rejected, (on orders from Cairo), British and French troops stood ready - and watchful.

Meanwhile, preliminary surveys had already ~~been~~ been made on the position of ships - ~~many~~ sunk by the Egyptians to block the harbour and the entrance of the Canal.

Here, can be seen the wrecks of four ships <sup>OF THE SHIPS,</sup> ~~(there are thought to be eight in all throughout the Canal)~~ which, through the orders of Colonel Nasser, now block the passage of all international shipping.

During the early stages of the assault, oil storage tanks had been blown up - and dockside ~~installations~~ <sup>buildings</sup> damaged.

Here, a British tank moves <sup>TOWARDS</sup> ~~into~~ the town - which had seen much heavy fighting. The Egyptian defenders had sought cover in flats and houses thus causing needless damage to the residential quarter of the town. The paratroopers often had to face, and destroy, snipers' strong-points along their advance route..

Assault on Port Said (Sheet Two)

ammunition

Large quantities of Soviet arms have been found - and here, an ~~ammunition~~ waggon goes up in smoke.

~~More pictures of~~ The closing scenes of the action. Another strong-point is put out - and suspected snipers brought in for questioning.

Then, ~~with~~ the final surrender, (less that forty-eight hours after the operation began) ~~Port Said~~ <sup>started</sup> ~~to get back to normal, as the~~

~~inhabitants began to appear on the streets.~~ Throughout the whole action, the three Services had been ordered to avoid unnecessary ~~noise~~, almost as if nothing had happened ~~the~~

~~inhabitants began to appear on the streets.~~ ~~The entry of British and French units naturally excited much curiosity~~ ~~and the balconies of the houses proved an ideal vantage point.~~ ~~With the official cease-fire British and French troops will stay in~~ ~~occupation until the United Nations' Police Force takes over.~~

~~The hazardous assault had been~~ ~~casually concluded by one parachute~~ ~~brigade and has been described by the Prime Minister as "a military feat~~ ~~which must be unparalleled in history."~~

~~Damage to the town had been relatively slight, in fact, a hurried sweep~~ ~~and it was "business as usual."~~

In another section - near the statue of De Lesseps, the ~~French Engineer~~ ~~built~~ ~~of~~ the Canal, a ~~misshapen~~ helicopter brings back Egyptian wounded. Many of them had been treated aboard the Anglo-French carrier-

forces. Besides ~~its~~ ~~invaluable~~ ~~support~~ value in supporting the landings, the carriers ~~proved~~ proved an ideal casualty-clearing centre. - Right from the first hours - helicopters were bringing back ~~casualties~~ <sup>wounded</sup> (mostly ~~Red~~ <sup>PARA-</sup>

~~TROOPERS~~ ~~from~~ ~~being~~ ~~wounded~~ in the dropping zone), ~~to the carriers.~~

Altogether, there were ~~less than one~~ <sup>little more than a</sup> hundred killed and wounded in the whole operation.

The carrier-force had ~~proved~~ <sup>indeed</sup> its worth, ~~in a modern operation.~~ ~~But~~ ~~its~~ ~~planes~~ ~~had~~ ~~flown~~ ~~some~~ ~~two~~ ~~thousand~~ ~~sorties~~...besides making an effective base for the wounded

~~With the same efficiency that has marked the~~ ~~operation,~~ the casualties were soon receiving the best attention in Cyprus hospitals.

We wish them a speedy recovery.

Port Said (Assault continued)

~~Lastly, a tribute to the Royal Air Force. Theirs had been the vital~~  
~~role of destroying the Egyptian Air Force on the ground, with the~~  
~~minimum of hardship to the population.~~ **AND ALREADY - R.A.F.**  
 Now, some of the air-crews  
 return home - having played their part in **A MOMENTOUS**  
~~and sincere quest~~ <sup>810</sup> for peace among the Nations of the Middle East.