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LEBANON PRESIDENT.... FIRST PICTURES.

The new CHEKKA by-pass, a fine roadway built through the Syrian Hills by Royal Engineers of the Ninth Army in the record time of a hundred days. Men of many nationalities were employed in its construction, and now the day of its official opening is at hand. The ceremony is performed by the President of the Lebanese Republic, M. Bechara Khoury who's sudden arrest shortly afterwards by the French Committee of National Liberation caused a menacing situation. With General Holmes G.O.C. Ninth Army, the now re-instated President carries out an inspection of the Guard of Honour.

The unveiling of a Monument is part of the Ceremony marking the conclusion of an engineering achievement of considerable importance. The road is now open, but political avenues with France were to be found a great deal harder to travel.

HITCH HIKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Hitch Hiking into Cairo with a spot of leave has often chopped off many precious hours. Getting into town presented a problem. Thumbing a lift met with little success because truck drivers were arriving late, having stopped for too many pick-ups. So the Army came to the rescue of the foot sloggers and set up recognised bus stops. At War Department pick-up stations they wait in comfort for the first lorry going their way.

Waiting for the Cairo Express is the man who travels light - others intend to stay longer, including the bloke who brought his breakfast.

All aboard for Cairo. It's a swell idea which the lads go for in a big way. If anyone's brought any vinegar and potatoes they'll be able to knock off that bit of luggage and have fish and chips.