

ROTA DOPE SHEET.

22nd December, 1951.

Camerasman: Edmonds.

Footage: 380 ft.

Subject: Christmas in the Canal Zone, Egypt.

Description:

At a night-fighter Station, R.A.F. KABRIT.

Children of families still in Canal Zone being entertained
1. The Station Fire Tender decorated brings in Father Christmas.
2. The children after a party inside Officers Mess come out to greet Father Xmas.

Close-up. Close-up Fire Tender, seasonal sign.

Further shot children with presents thank Father Christmas.
(in background Suez Canal).

BOX

ONE.

Christmas Fare for the Troops in PANARA.

Christmas Turkeys and Poultry for Canal Zone troops arrive at NAAFI Depot - . Shots of Turkeys being unloaded by Mauritius troops (over 60,000 lbs. from Australia) 2 days before Xmas.

Issuing out the birds to members of different Mess collectors - close up.

Christmas Cakes being issued, long and close up.

Sudanese servant brings out Xmas Puddings for a R.A.F. Unit.

Lorries wait for their supplies (General View).

REMARKS.

Weather - very variable - cold and rainy, at KABRIT. No picture of Children's Party. Inside, no light.

Camerasman: Edmonds.

25th December, 1951.

Subject: Xmas day in Canal Zone, Egypt.

Total length: 300 ft.

Description:

G.O.C. Egypt pays a visit to Sergeants Mess, and shots of Sgts. having Xmas drink. Very dark interior (pictures specially requested).

The troops sitting down to Xmas Dinner. Gen. Erskine

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2. (contd).

chats with them. Shots of tables, and close ups with Turkey, Beer and Xmas Pudding.

General view of I/C addressing the men of Regiment.

ALL INTERIOR, no lighting.

Cameraman: Edmonds.

25th December, 1951.

Subject:- Xmas Day in the Canal Zone, Egypt. Footage: 350 ft.

Description:

Arrival of G.O.C. British Troops in Egypt, General Sir George Erskine, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., at the Garrison Church, Messara, for Christmas morning service.

Shots of name of Church and General shot Church.

Departure of Gen. and Lady Erskine after Service.

BOX
TWO

A visit to wish Christmas greetings to Sisters, Nurses and Medical Staff at Garrison Hospital.

Sir George and Lady Erskine with the Hospital staff and close-ups staff. (DARK interior, no ward shots possible.)

Informal pictures of G.O.C. with his personal staff at Staff House, G.H.Q. - a Christmas drink, from silver loving cup. The G.O.C. passing bowl around and close up of General and small daughter Polly drinking. Group Sir George and Lady Erskine and Polly. Close-up G.O.C.

Guards at Mens Quarters during Xmas Dinner (Outside)

Inside: A family having Xmas Dinner inside house - despite restrictions, very happy.

Cameraman: Edmonds.

27th December, 1951.

Subject: With R.A.F. Activities in Canal Zone, Egypt.

BOX 1. Shepherdess with flock of sheep and goats, passes unheeded. R.A.F. Police intercept Camel Boy, for questioning. (two shots)

BOX 2. R.A.F. Wireless Car at work in Canal Zone. two shots. (Note: 2nd take is to be used, where Officer is saluted). Lorry stopped for searching. (two shots)

contd.

(3. contd.)

R.A.F. Regiment at a Road Block. Stopping a Bus, turning out passengers. On roadside for a check.

R.A.F. Launches patrolling Canal, with ships passing in convoy various shots.

Shots of R.A.F. Jet Vampires passing to and fro over Canal, while shipping passes, gaught during normal training.

Close up ships and funnel of Russian Vessel.

Box 3. R.A.F. Jet Vampires at Deversoir air Station, lined up to go on exercise. Take off. Over the Canal Zone. Air shots, landing. Pilots before take off, take a look at Map. Group of Operational Pilots.

N.B. ENCLOSED NOTES FROM R.A.F. P.R.O. to assist in compiling story.

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MATERIAL SHOT MORNING OF THURSDAY DEC. 27th ON SUEZ CANAL ROAD
JUST NORTH OF THE R.A.F. FIGHTER STATION AT
DEVERSOIR, 12 MILES SOUTH OF ISMAILIA.

R.A.F. POLICE ACTIVITIES.

TAKE 1. - Rural life goes on in the main serenely in the troubled Canal Zone. This shepherdess leads her mixed flock of sheep and goats along the road flanking the Suez Canal, twelve miles south of the trouble centre of Ismailia. R.A.F. Police on road patrol take a mild interest as the flock passes.

TAKE 2. - As in biblical days the camel remains the peasants principal means of transport in Egypt. These are carrying sugar cane - but, who knows, least of all these Royal Air Force Police, that weapons or explosives might not be concealed in their ponderous loads. --- And there is some suspicion that the gesticulating native's greatcoat might have been purloined from a Serviceman. But all appears to be well, and the cameldrivers are allowed to proceed.

TAKE NO.3. (PLEASE SCRUB THIS TAKE) it was spoiled by the Corporal not saluting and is better in the next sequence)

TAKE NO.4 - The RAF Assistant Provost Marshal for the Canal Zone, Squadron Leader Tom Allard, has a report of a suspicious vehicle on the Canal Road and instructs Corporal Peter Fisher to transmit a message.

TAKE No.5 - Corporal Fisher is seen here in radio contact from the RAF patrol car with Headquarters of No.3 Police Wing in Ismailia.

TAKE No.6. - Is this the lorry about which the Police have heard? The RAF are taking no chances where terrorists are concerned. The occupants are asked to get out while the vehicle is searched for illicit arms or explosives, which have been found in searches of this nature.

The RAF Regiment

TAKE No.7 - Several squadrons of the Royal Air Force Regiment, nearly all of them young National Servicemen, have been flown to Egypt by RAF Transport Command to help with guard duties - and very keen they are too. Here they are seen manning a road block and check point where the Canal Road passes the fighter station at Deversoir, 12 miles south of Ismailia. The approaching Egyptian bus might contain arms or explosives or suspected terrorists. So it is halted at

the road block and the men -- but not the women and children -- are asked to get out while the vehicle is searched. The guard commander, Flying Officer Donald Holmes, of Leicester, looks the men over and the bus is allowed to proceed.

AFTERNOON SHOTS OF SHIPPING ON THE CANAL -- It is a northbound convey, including a diversity of shipping of several nationalities, the probable sequence of their appearance being :- the tanker Laganfield, of Newcastle; the Benattow, of Leith; the Ile de la Reunion, of Le Havre, the Yona, of Glasgow; the Jal-Agad, of Bombay; and the Russian vessel, "Vilna". (I think this is so, but there was a name in Russian characters which might have been the ship's name and Vilna could have been its port of Registry, but this can be checked by consulting "Lloyd's List")

Suggested background for general blurb about the following takes is as follows:-

In face of many difficulties the Royal Air Force in Egypt continues its normal flying training in the Canal Zone. In these shots, the jet Vampires from Deversoir which stands on the western bank of the Canal, at its junction with the Great Bitter Lake, are seen carrying out manoeuvres over that great highway of international trade. British power, as represented here by the R.A.F., lies astride the Canal to ensure, if necessary, its freedom to the shipping of many nations. Its marine craft -- high-speed launches -- also continue to help in security of the Canal and frequently have co-operated with the Egyptian anti-narcotic police in prevention of the smuggling of drugs into Egypt.

TAKE 8. - (I am not sure whether Edmonds actually got this or not. If he did it should show Vampires and the tanker Laganfield).

TAKE 9. - The Leith vessel Benattow with RAF launch, and possibly, Vampires.

TAKE 10.- Approaching ship in the distance, with RAF launch in foreground.

TAKE 11. - The handsome French liner, Ile de la Reunion, with RAF launch at speed.

TAKE 12. Same ship with four Vampires in box formation and RAF launches.

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TAKE 13. - The Glasgow steamer Yema, with Vampires, and followed by RAF launches.

TAKE 14.- The Jal-Azad, of Bombay, with Vampires in line astern.

TAKE 15.- The Russian ship with four Vampires in formation. Also close-up of ship showing hammer and sickle on funnel and on flag at stern.