

REPORT FROM G.O.C., 1st Dev.

GORDON AT EL HAMADA.

Coldstreams in heavy battle.
Eleven armed thugs captured.
Reported Civil Police intend fight it out in village.

Later:

Village of El Hamada situated just south of Tel El Kebir, Scene of frequent fighting by Egyptian Terrorists at British Troops, was cordoned off by troops of 1st Guards Brigade.

Sniping at our forces, and the fire was returned.

Later, Egyptian Civil Police laid down their arms and approximately 150 were taken into custody. Troops cleared the village.

FURTHER INFORMATION

16.1.52.

British Forces today took action to clear out thugs from the villages of El Hamada and Tel El Kebir, s. of Sweet Water Canal, where thugs have been active for some days past. A thug training school is believed to have been established at El Hamada. After the search had been completed, the normal inhabitants were allowed to return to their houses.

In the course of these operations, resistance was offered by the thugs and the Police. After resistance had collapsed it was found there were 160 police in the village; a stock of arms and ammunition out of all proportion to the strength of the Police was found at the Police Post. The obvious inference was that the arms were kept in readiness for the so-called Commandos and Army of Liberation. The normal complement in a village of this size is 16 to 20, and El Hamada had recently been reinforced to the total found there today, by orders of the Egyptian Minister of the Interior. This reinforcement was obviously made with hostile intention towards us, and in fact during the course of the morning General Erskine received several messages from the Ministry of Interior to the effect that the Police would oppose us with force if we persisted in clearing the village of thugs. Sufficient police have been left to preserve law and order, and the remainder have been detained. The British soldier wounded, and 18 suspected thugs have been apprehended as result of day's operations.

COPY

DOPE SHEET

16th January, 1952.

Cameraman: Edmonds.

Subject: Cordon at El Hammada (Tel El Kebir)

Location: Egypt. Total Length: 300 ft.

The main street full of war vehicles.
Troops watch an Egyptian family (Woman smoking bubble pipe)
Prisoners being brought in after searching .
About 100 Egyptian Police captured.
Various shots of Guards and prisoners.
Shots of troops in the Village. Close-ups.
Rifles and ammunition discovered in Egyptian Police Barracks.
Various shots.
Guards searching (through orange grove on Farouk's Estate).
(Dead thugs, shot of 2 snipers lying dead.
* (In command of operation:
(Divisional Commander Major General F.R.G. Matthews, O.B., D.S.O.
(and Brigadier W.L. Steele, O.B.E., 1st Guards Brigade. 2 shots.

Stewart Armoured vehicle, named Satan.
Prisoners after interrogation being taken away by screened lorries.

* -----
This story is the 2nd part of El Hammada battle - notes re. affair enclosed.

(signed)

A.R. EDMONDS.

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DOPE SHEET.

Saturday, 19th January, 1952.

Cameraman: Edmonds.

Subject: Attack by Terrorists.

Location: Ismailia. Total Length: 200 ft.

Order and Description of Shots:

Bomb was planted by Orange Seller. R.A.F. Wireless Truck destroyed, killing or wounding 4 occupants (R.A.F), after which snipers opened fire from positions in the town.

Shot of burning truck.

Troops firing at snipers, and buildings being hit.

Armoured car, and bren carriers.

Officers directing personnel on posts.

Tanks standing by (first time a town entered).

Shot of tanks entering town and firing machine gun from interior.

(too dark to continue).

NOTE: Picture not guaranteed to show much, as snipers were firing from Egyptian side - too dangerous to get good positions.

TO PATHE.

COPY.

52-9

DOPE SHEET.

Cameraman: Edmonds.

Date: Sunday, 20th Jan.

Subject: British Troops enter Ismailia.

Footage: 600 ft.

Order and Description of Shots:

Paratroops putting up post on edge of Town, with 3rd Battn. Barricades in the streets - Troops taking up positions. 2 shots.

Bren Guns overlook the town, shot from window.

General view of Town, and destroyer overlooking from Lake Timsah.

Roof Guard (with turkey in picture)

Paratroops entering shops to search for arms.

Inhabitants herded in for searching.

Barbed wire to cordon off streets, several shots.

Victim of the terrorists, Sister Anthony, laying in state at the Convent St. Vincent (2 shots)

Troops guarding Convent, 2 shots.

Ismailia (sign of town)

Armour in the Town (General View)

Paratroops have a break for tea.

Troops guarding streets.

The American Consul at the Convent, to pay homage to the American nun killed.

(signed)

A.R. EDMONDS.