

STAY IN CAMP

Canadians May Clear Mines On Sinai Desert Border

By DAVE McINTOSH
 ABU SUWEIR, Egypt (CP)—The sand was blowing out of the desert, across the airfield and into the stone barracks of the Canadian soldiers. It got into the mouths, ears and hair, and sifted into blankets and kitbags.

Canadian troops have been stationed in some dismal places and Abu Suweir must rank as one of the most dismal of all. But things are likely to get worse before they get better.

The Canadians, in fact, have better quarters than they expected. They are one-storey, long limestone buildings with corrugated iron roofs about 100 yards from the apron where the incoming RAF planes park when they fly in United Nations troops from Italy.

Abu Suweir is 85 miles north-east of Cairo and about 60 miles south of Port Said, Mediterranean entrance of the Suez Canal. The airfield was built by the British and more recently bombed by them—and it takes its name from the nearby village on the road from Cairo to Ismailia. The village is a small collection of ramshackle wooden buildings and mud huts.

CAMP QUARTERS
 The Canadians are not permitted off the camp except in connection with their United Nations work. They refer frequently to the station as a concentration camp and to themselves as prisoners-of-war of the Egyptians.

At the same time Canadian officers say they have received a lot of help from the Egyptians in obtaining supplies and transport.

The Canadians have 30 men on guard duty around their barracks—just across a narrow street from the Egyptian camp but say they have had no trouble.

Some of the 300 Canadians now in Egypt may stay here. Others probably will move some 30 miles north to El Bahah on the Suez Canal where Maj.-Gen. E. L. M. Burns of Ottawa, commander of the UN Emergency Force, plans to set up his headquarters.

The engineers with the Canadian headquarters unit have already been selected as the mine-clearing team and they likely will move soon into the Sinai desert to clear mines for UN troops taking positions along the Egypt-Israel border.

HEAT AHEAD
 This is when the going will get really tough. It is winter here and the daytime temperature is around 80. But in summer the temperature in the Sinai goes well beyond 100.

"The Sinai is terrible," said an Indian major who served in that area during the Second World War. "It is not only the heat but food men can stand dry heat. It is the flies. They can eat your food before you can get it into your mouth. And the sand. It gets into everything."

The Sinai stretches from the east bank of the Suez Canal more than 100 miles to the border of Israel. It is a hostile wasteland without water, without a pinch of green, without pity.

If the UN force digs in along the Egypt-Israel border, some Canadians likely will have to accompany it. Right now, the Canadians' main job is establishment of supply and communication lines for the force. Half a dozen engineers have been helping to set up Gen. Burns' headquarters at El Bahah.

The Canadians' most dramatic job so far was marking out minefields in the 1,000-yard buffer zone at El Cap between the Egyptian and Anglo-French forces.

The 26 Canadians—25 sappers and a medical assistant—took the train from Abu Suweir to El Cap. They could see the dozen freighters which have blocked the canal.

DANGEROUS TASK
 The Canadians did not lift any mines, which included ones of Russian and Czechoslovak make, but placed white tapes around mined areas. The job took two days of prodding with long picks and sweeping with mine detectors.

They slept on the ground and ate canned rations. They swam in the blue Suez Canal but cut their feet on the sharp stones. They got some shade from the hot sun in a grove. With them were Indian infantry.

Capt. Norman Henderson of Vancouver, in command of the Canadian team, said nobody knew where the mines were and the Egyptians were vague. The British had already removed their mines from that area.

Sgts. Floyd Taylor of Hamilton and Calgary, and George MacCracken of Chilliwack, B.C., said the team made absolutely sure the store windows at picture books he could not afford to buy.

After 12 years in the pits, he and two younger brothers were fired because of his union activity. Blacklisted by the mine owners, he turned to full-time union organization, supporting himself mostly by work as a journalist.

Britain's First Labor Member Of Commons Honored In House

LONDON (Reuters)—Britain's first Labor member of Parliament was honored Tuesday when a bust of the hardy Scottish socialist, presented to the House of Commons.

But the bronze bust lacked one distinguishing feature—the cloth cap Hardie insisted on wearing to sessions of Parliament.

In that cap and his rough tweed suit the former coal miner stood out as a symbol of the working class in the staid corridors of the House of Commons.

All other members in those days before the First World War dressed in morning coats and shiny top hats.

WORKERS' SYMBOL
 At the presentation ceremony Lord Samuel a veteran British Liberal, said the cap—the typical British working man's headpiece—was "meant to strike adroit note."

"It made us feel slightly uncomfortable," he recalled to members of all parties. "It was meant to make us feel uncomfortable." The cloth cap was "a symbol a reminder, a protest, perhaps a portent."

The bust—by Benno Schotz—was presented by the Keir Hardie memorial committee in the centenary year of Hardie's birth. He died in 1915, disappointed and broken by the world war he had tried to prevent.

It is the first bust of a Labor member to appear in the memorial-studded Houses of Parliament.

MEMBER FOR UNEMPLOYED
 Born in a one-room cottage to working class parents, Hardie never lost his zeal for the lower classes. In the Commons, where members are formally addressed by their constituencies, he was known as "the member for the unemployed."

He once opposed a motion congratulating Queen Victoria on the birth of a grandchild, because the House had ignored a recent disaster in which 260 Welsh miners were killed.

Another time King Edward VII barred him from the royal garden party because he had criticized a royal meeting with the Czar of Russia. Hardie who never went to the formal gatherings did not know for some time that he was the only MP excluded.

At the age of seven, Hardie was a messenger boy in Glasgow. When he was 10, he started work in the coal mines. He taught himself to read by looking through

NEW LONDON SCHOOL
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 Grade 6. 1. Lloyd Burgoyne, 2. Al MacKay, 3. Lorne Burgoyne.
 Grade 5. 1. Jean MacKay, 2. Earl Campbell, 3. Wilma Burgoyne.
 Grade 4. 1. Kenneth Pidgeon.
 Grade 3. 1. Margaret Bartlett, 2. Hillard Graham.
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