

SUEZ 1956 – NOTES ON PLANS, ORDERS OF BATTLE AND EQUIPMENT

Alexis Mehtidis



French F-84F of the 1re escadre de chasse in Israel. About forty-nine French aircraft were loaned to Israel as France pledged to 'Defend Israel from possible air attack by Egyptian jet bombers'.

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A (BRIEF) DESCRIPTION OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH PLANS

26 July. The Egyptians nationalized the Suez Canal. Great Britain decided to oppose it by force with all means, helped by France.

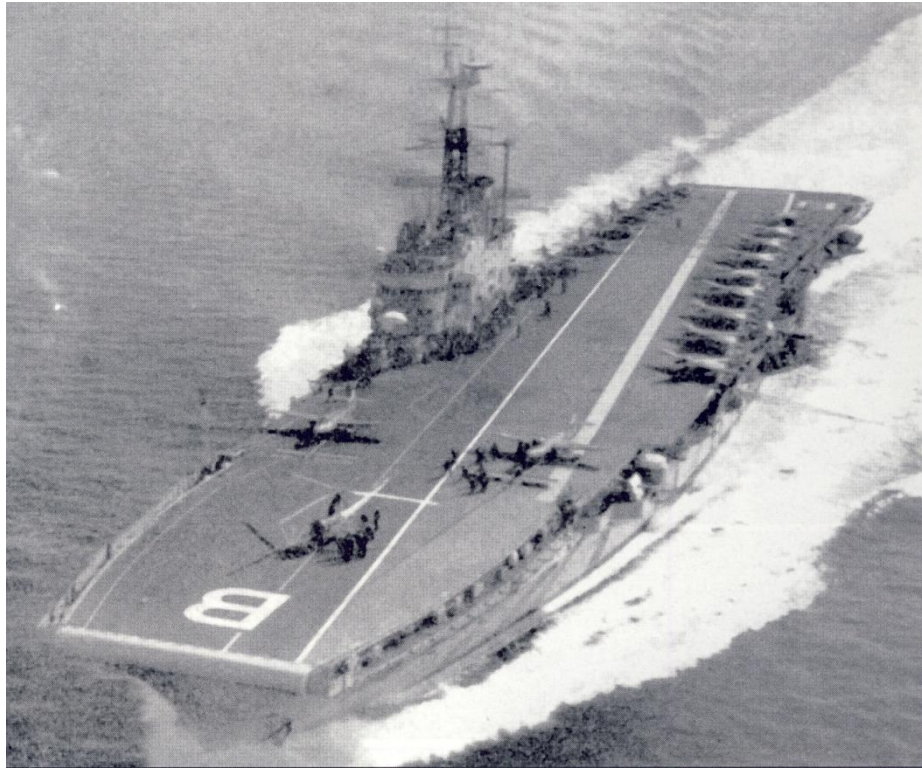
At the end of July 1956 Eden and Guy Mollet, were still hesitating as to what kind of operation France would undertake against Egypt :

- a limited operation for the control of the Canal
- a larger operation at the heart of Egypt to bring Nasser down.

The two men were persuaded that they would get Eisenhower's and the US authorities' approval.

The Egyptian authorities declared the Suez Canal a military zone on 27 July. On the 29th Admiral Nomy met the British military chiefs to make an inventory of available British and French means to launch an immediate operation. They were disappointed. On the 31st, colonel Prieur arrived to London with a list of the available French units for the operation. It would be ideal to take advantage of the shock created by the nationalization of the canal to launch, the soonest possible, this operation. Nikita Khrushchev was against any violent measure for Egypt as long as Nasser, would guarantee free movement in the canal. On 31 July an combined secret British-French staff (état-major combine franco-britannique ' secret') was formed (Operation ' Terrapin ').

On 1 August, the American authorities informed the British and the French that they did not agree to an American intervention. On 2 August Britain mobilized its reservists and in France, Assemblée Nationale asked the government for a firm policy by 422 (with 150 votes against it).



HMS Bulwark

On 5 August a first draft of a plan (Operation ' Hamilcar ' for the British, ' Opération 700 ' for the French). Two ideas were envisaged. Admiral Barjot and the British defended the idea of a direct landing at Port Said, while General Beaufre and the British General Staff a larger operation against Alexandria. The last option was chosen and it got the name ' Musketeer ' (for the British)/ ' Mousquetaire ' (for the French). The British would use two infantry divisions (2nd and 3rd, each with a 48-Centurion tank regiment), two regiments of the 10th Armoured Division (each with 48 Centurion tanks), 10th Parachute Brigade and 3rd Commando Brigade. The French would provide 7e DMR with AMX 13, 10e division parachutiste and 8e regiment de dragons (with M 47 Patton tanks), for a total of about 21,000 men. As for air forces, the plan provided for 36 F-84 Thunderstreak, 6 RF-84 Thunderflash and 35 Noratlas for the French and 84 Valiant and Canberra bombers, 32 Meteor and Venom fighters, 16 Shackleton maritime reconnaissance and 55 transport planes for the British. As for the naval side, it was possible to use the aircraft carriers *HMS Eagle* & *HMS Bulwark* (with 54 SEA Hawk and Wyvern, 17 Sea Venom, 10 Avenger, 4 Skyraider and 5 helicopters), the cruisers *HMS Jamaica*, *HMS Glasgow* & *HMS Royalist*, 8 destroyers (of which 5 of the modern Daring-class), 4 fast frigates (ex-destroyers), the command ship *HMS Tyne*, a minesweeper group, 1 LSH, 4 LST, 8 LCT, additionally the cruisers *HMS Kenya* & *HMS Superb*, 1 destroyer and 1 frigate in the Red Sea. On the French side, the aircraft carriers *Arromanches* & *La Fayette* (with 36 Corsair and 12 Avenger), the line ship *Jean Bart*, the cruisers *Georges Leygues* & *De Grasse*, the escorteurs d'escadre *T-47 Surcouf*, *Cassard*, *Bouvet*, *Kersaint*, the escorteurs rapides *ELe Corse*, *Le Bordelais*, *Le Boulonnais*, *Le Brestois*, 8 escorts, 1 command ship (

probably *Gustave Zédé*), 3 minesweepers, LSD *Foudre*, 4 LST (BDC for the Marine Nationale) and 3 LCT.

On 7 August général Beaufre was nominated ground forces commander of ‘ Force A ’ (French). Two days later, after talks with général Ely, Beaufre went to the War Office, London. Talks between the British and the French officers proved difficult. The French were pressing for the operation, while the British, rich in combined operations experience from World War 2, wanted to take their time and solve all problems, mostly in the logistics. In the beginning of August, only the following units were immediately available or in 20 days :

British naval forces in the Mediterranean :

- Aircraft-carrier *HMS Eagle* with 24 Sea Hawk, 8 Sea Venom, 9 Wyvern, 8 Gannet, 4 Skyraider AEW and 2 S.51 Dragonfly
- Light cruiser *HMS Jamaican*
- Destroyers : *HMS Diamond*, *HMS Duchess*, *HMS Decoy*, *HMS Agincourt*, *HMS Alamein*, *HMS Barfleur*, *HMS Coruna*, *HMS Barrosa*, *HMS Chevron*, *HMS Chieftain*, *HMS Chapelet*
- Fast minelayer *HMS Manxman*
- Frigates *HMS Surfsh*, *HMS Undine*, *HMS Uria* (*HMS Urania* ?)
- 5 submarines
- 8 ton-class minesweepers
- Tankers *RFA Tiderace* (*HMS Tidereach* ?), *RFA Eddycliff*, *RFA Brown Ranger*
- Transports *RFA Fort* (not a full name), *RFA Duquense* (actually *RFA Fort Duquense*), *RFA Amherst*
- Amphibian operations command frigate *HMS Meon*
- LSTs *HMS Stricker*, *HMS Reggio*
- 2 LCTs

French naval forces in the Mediterranean :

- Bâtiment de ligne *Jean Bart*
- Aircraft-carriers *Arromanches*, *La Fayette*
- Light cruiser *Georges Leygues*
- Escorteurs d’escadre T-47 *Surcouf*, *Cassard*, *Bouvet*
- Escorteurs rapides *Le Corse*, *Le Bordelais*, *Le Boulonnais*, *Le Brestois* (typeE-50/52)
- Escort destroyers (ex-US DE) *Sakalave*, *Malgache*, *Touareg*, *Soudanais*, *Kabyle*, *Bambara*, *Berbère*
- Submarines *Roland Morillot*, *Créole*, *Laubie*
- LSTs *Cheliff*, *Odet*, *Laita*
- Amphibian operations command ship LCH 9055
- 4 LCT Mk-IV



Some of the French LVTs that landed at Port-Fouad.

- 18 LCM Mk-3/6, 14 LCVP, 24 LVT and 10 DUKW
- 32 LCM Mk-36 armoured, 61 LCM Mk-6 of the army
- Tankers *Baïse*, *Elorn*
- Minesweepers *Cyclamen*, *Chrysanthème*, *Pivoine* (MSC)
- Submarine-chaser CH 714

Units in the Red Sea :

- Light cruisers *HMS Kenya* (Kenya-class) & *HMS Superb* (Superb-class / 2nd Group-Minotaur-class)
- Destroyer *HMS Diana* (Daring-class)
- Frigate *HMS Loch Insh* (Loch-class)
- 3 tankers

Units available, but in Great Britain or en route to the Mediterranean Sea :

- Aircraft-carrier *HMS Bulwark* (Centaur-class) with 30 Sea Hawk, 2 Gannet and 3 S.51 Dragonfly (it sailed from Great Britain on 4 August)
- Light cruiser *HMS Glasgow* (Southampton-class / 1st group-Town-class)
- Destroyers *HMS Delight* & *HMS Defender* (Daring-class; *HMS Defender* Captain M. L. Hardie DSC RN; not mentioned in the order of battle, though Carter mentions it as taking part in operations) and *HMS St. Kitts* (Battle-class)

Royal Navy's Mediterranean Fleet :

- 2nd Aircraft Carrier Squadron
- 1st Cruiser Squadron

- 1st and 2nd Destroyer Flotillas
- 2nd Escort Flotilla
- 1st Submarine Flotilla

The number of aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers and frigates was considered sufficient but that was not the case with the auxiliary ships and certainly not with the amphibian ships that were limited to 5 LST (BDC) and 6 LCT. The number of LCMs on paper were largely sufficient, but most of them that had returned from Indochina were in a very bad shape. Also, most of the experienced personnel had been demobilized or was transferred to other units. No operation was possible before the mid of September.

The situation in North Africa limited the available ground forces for operation ‘ Mousquetaire ’ : only 7e division mécanisée rapide and 10e division parachutiste, both there, were effectively available for operations in Egypt (250,000 men of the 11e, 14e & 19e divisions légères, 25e division d’Infanterie aéroportée, 2 division d’Infanterie motorisée, 27e division alpine, 7e division mécanisée rapide, 5 division blindée, 9e, 12e, 13e, 20e & 29e divisions d’infanterie and 25e division parachutiste were that time in North Africa).

On 15 August the plan for Operation ‘ Musketeer ’ / Opération ‘ Mousquetaire ’ was adopted. It provided for a landing in force in Alexandria and a forced march to Cairo. Three days later, the day for the beginning of the operation was fixed for 15 September. This plan provided for:

- Phase ‘ Alpha ’ : troops and materials transport to the direction of Alexandria
- Phase ‘ Bravo ’ : neutralization of the Egyptian Air force
- Phase ‘ Charlie ’ : airborne operation and landing in the area of Alexandria
- Phase ‘ Delta ’ : (D+7) : consolidation of bridgehead
- Phase ‘ Echo ’ (D+8 to D+50) : offensive towards Cairo and then towards the Suez Canal

On 9 September. Général Beaufre went to Paris, where he met général Ely that announced that the French and British governments abandoned the plan of attack to Alexandria and a new landing plan to Port-Said was established (this new plan was named ‘ Mousquetaire révisé A / Musketeer revised A ’ and envisioned a landing with limited forces to be reinforced, at a later stage and ‘ Mousquetaire révisé B / Musketeer Revised B ’ for a stronger landing option).

- Phase I : neutralization of the Egyptian Air Force
- Phase II : air attacks against selected key points, combined with a psychological warfare campaign designed to reduce the Egyptian will to resist, thereby leading to the overthrow of President Nasser and his government – Cull -
- Phase III : joint Anglo-French airborne operation against Port Said and Port Fuad to secure the airfield at Gamil and the bridges leading to Suez

- Phase IV : seaborne landing at Port Said by Royal Marine and French commando units, followed by a break-out down the length of the Canal.

The French delegation expressed a preference for Phase I to be followed by a total attack on Egyptian ground forces, but the British were more concerned with efforts to break Egyptian morale. In addition to eliminating the EAF, the British wanted to strike at power stations, the railway network, bridges and communications and, also, planned to drop leaflets to incite a revolt against Nasser's government. The French accepted that the initial aerial assault would be reduced to three nights and two days, but they believed that ten days of psychological warfare demanded by the British would enable the Egyptian Army to regain its balance and establish defences against the Allied invasion.

The French did not want to weaken their military effort against the insurgents in Algeria. They drew up a contingency air defence plan in case of attacks on the French mainland or French possessions in North Africa by EAF Il-28s and Lancasters by placing on alert Mystère IICs and Mistrals at Istres, Nice and Ajaccio and sections of E.C. 6 and E.C. 7 Mistrals in Boufarik and Telergma, Algeria.

Command structure for Operation Musketeer Revised :

Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces : General Sir Charles Keightley GCB GBE DSO

Deputy to the C-in-C : Vice-Admiral d'Escadre P. Barjot (commander of all French forces engaged in the operation)

Land Task Force Commander : Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Stockwell KCB KBE DSO

Deputy to Land Task Force Commander : General Beaufre (commander French land forces)

Air Task Force Commander : Air Marshal Dennis Barnet CBE DFC 9 the former A.O.C. 205 Group that had withdrawn from the Canal Zone)

Air Task Force Deputy Commander : Général de Brigade Aérienne Raymond Brohon (commander French air forces)

R.N. C-in-C Mediterranean : Admiral Sir Guy Grantham GCB CBE DSO

R.N. Flag Officer in Command, Mediterranean (FO 2) : Vice Admiral M. Richmond (who, with his staff, planned the naval side of Operation Musketeer until 24 October, when the Admiral left for London. There he took charge of the Allied Forces Headquarters Rear Link at the Ministry of Defence

The new FO 2 was Vice Admiral Durnford Slater who took command of the Naval Task Force for the operation (T.F. 345), hoisting his flag on 26 October.)

On 19 October ‘Musketeer revised B ’ was adopted with an air offensive reinforced by and integrating the Operation ‘ Kadesh ’ (the Israeli plan) parameters.

Jour ‘ L ’ was planned for 6 November (‘ Pénélope Zéro ’).

On 23 October, there was an ultra-secret meeting between the French, the British and the Israelis at Sèvres. The plan was modified to allow Israeli troops to launch an attack that would justify a Franco-British intervention to protect the Canal.

On 29 October Israeli forces attacked Egypt.

Some letters used in connection with operations planned:

- A : Plan A of Operation Musketeer (the plan in which the paratroopers drop preceded the landings at Port Said and Port Fouad). Also ‘ Échelon A ’ (the elements of the first echelon that would land on L+1).
- B : Plan B of Operation Musketeer Revised (when a powerful landing would precede the para-drop on Port Said and Port Fouad). Also the forces of the second echelon of Operation Telescope (échelon B).
- C : forces of the third echelon of Operation Telescope (échelon C).
- D : Day (as in D-Day) for the British. Also the day of the start of the first air attacks for Musketeer Revised. Also used by the British in their reports of Operation Telescope in place of letter L.
- H : the time (H = Hour) of the start of an operation. P-20 minutes for the French paratroopers and P-40 minutes for the British paratroopers during Operation Telescope. Also the tactical code on vehicles for the Suez operation.
- J : the day (J = Jour) of launching an operation for the French. Used as the British used letter D. It was ,also, used before letter L was used for the day of the start of the first air attacks for Musketeer Revised.
- L : beginning of Operation Telescope on Port Said and Port Fouad. Also, as in L+1, showing the day of the landings.
- P : The hour for the first para-drop of Operation Telescope on Port Said and Port Fouad. Also in place of H-20 minutes for the French paratroopers and H-40 minutes for the British paratroopers.
- X : in blue or white on Israeli armoured vehicles engaged in Operation Kadesh, after a French demand.
- Z : Zulu-hour (Greenwich Mean-Time; an hour before French time and two hours before Cyprus time). All operations were conducted under Z-hour.

- Operation 700 (French) : Operation Hamilcar.
- Operation Hamilcar (British) : a 5 August 1956 draft of two ideas. Admiral Barjot and the British defended the idea of a direct landing at Port Said, while

General Beaufre and the British General Staff a larger operation against Alexandria.

- Operation Harridan : withdrawal of Allied Forces.
- Operation Musketeer (British)/Mousquetaire (French) : A large operation finally chosen on 15 August:

Phase ' Alpha ' : troops and materials transport

Phase ' Bravo ' : neutralization of the Egyptian Air force

Phase ' Charlie ' : airborne operation and landing in the area of Alexandria

Phase ' Delta ' : (D+7) : consolidation of bridgehead

Phase ' Echo ' (D+8 to D+50) : offensive towards Cairo and then towards the Suez Canal

- Operation Musketeer Revised A/ Mousquetaire révisé A: Plan adopted on 9 September 1956. It envisioned a landing with limited forces to be reinforced, at a later stage and ' Mousquetaire révisé B / Musketeer Revise B ' for a stronger landing option):

Phase I /Alfa: neutralization of the Egyptian Air Force

Phase II/Bravo : air attacks against selected key points, combined with a psychological warfare campaign designed to reduce the Egyptian will to resist, thereby leading to the overthrow of President Nasser and his government –mentioned only in *Cull* –

Phase III/Charlie : joint Anglo-French airborne operation against Port Said and Port Fuad to secure the airfield at Gamil and the bridges leading to Suez

Phase IV/Delta : seaborne landing at Port Said by Royal Marine and French commando units, followed by a break-out down the length of the Canal.

- Plan Omelette : an urgent plan formed by Generals Stockwell and Beaufre on 31 October. It envisaged the dropping by parachutes of a British battalion on the airfield of Gamil and of a French regiment on Port Fouad to test the Egyptian resistance and then for another drop of two regiments, in 48 hours, on El-Kantara to gain the maximum advantage before the Malta convoys would arrive (estimated for 6 November).
- Operation Telescope (also known as Allied Joint Task Force Operation Instruction No 7 : a compromise of the Anglo-French plans. The paratroops

would land on Port said and Port Fouad on the 5th (D/J+6) before the landing in force of Plan ‘ A ’ :

Jour L (landing) and heure P (para-drop) = 0515Z (07.15 local)
start of Phase Charlie (airborne operation)

Jour L (P + 16 = H + 21.15Z) air attacks and naval bombardment, landing of some support units and putting in place most of the amphibian means. Landing was postponed, on 4 November, at P = 23.30, for practical reasons, or 6 November at 04.45Z (06.45 local)

Jour L+1 : start of Phase Delta (the amphibian operation), landing of Echelon A and forming a base at El Tina

Jour L+2 : start of Echelon B landing, reinforcing the bridgehead by pushing towards El-Kantara in the South and Rumani in the East (junction with the Israelis), para-drop north of El-Kantara and Ismailia

Jour L+3 : reaching Ismailia

Jour L+4 : occupation of the whole of the Suez canal by a 7e DMR operation and para-drops of 10e DP in the east and the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group (erroneously mentioned as an Airborne Brigade) in the west

Jour L+5 to Jour L+12 : reinforcing the forces landed and, if necessary, pushing west with the 3rd Infantry Division towards Cairo.

- Operation Terrapin: On 31 July 1956 a combined secret British-French staff (etat-major combine franco-britannique ‘ secret ’) was formed. Also ‘Action in the event of Egyptian resistance collapsing during the early phases of Operation ‘Musketeer’.
- Operation Toreador : The protection of merchant shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Suez . To be enforced by Task Force 324 (Red Sea Group) which was activated on 31 October 1956.
- Operation Verdict: an advance on the direction El-Kantara, El-Bala, Firdan and Ismailia on both sides of the canal. The british 3rd Infantry Division would advance on the west bank and the French 10e DP with 8,000 men and 2,000 vehicles on the east. These two forces would link at Moascar. This would be supported by an airborne operation at Avu Sweir to cut off Egyptian forces and an airdrop at the ‘extreme south’ of the canal. A plan to completely occupy the canal 24 hours before a UN assembly would announce a cease-fire. On 23-24 November the UN demanded the immediate evacuation of all foreign forces in Egypt and the operation was cancelled.



An M-47 Patton of the 1er escadron/8e Dragon embarking on LST Odet on 21 December. These tanks did not fire any shot during their operations.

- Operation Eridan/Harridan: The re-imbarcation of all forces in 15 days. It was planned from 4 to 18 December, but was actually implemented from 8 (E-1) to 21 (E-1).

ROYAL NAVY

Naval Staff, Operation Musketeer

The nucleus of the maritime element of the staff responsible for planning the operation was formed from the staff of FO2 Mediterranean (Vice Admiral Richmond at first and then Vice Admiral Durnford Slater). Planning began in London and later the staff moved to Malta and Cyprus.

- Captain C. P. Mills DSC : SCO (Chief Staff Officer)
- Cdr A. T. Rees and Cdr I. R. Humphrey : Secretaries
- Cdr A. D. Bulman : SGO (Gunnery)
- Cdr M. F. Fell DSO DSC : SO (Air)
- Cdr E. F. Gueritz DSC : SO (Q) (Logistics)
- Cdr A. D. Caswell : SO (P) (Plans)
- Lt Cdr Durnford : SCO (Communications)
- Lt Cdr W. J. Wooley : SNO (Navigation)
- Lt Cdr W. E. B. Godsal : STASO (Torpedo, Anti-submarine and Mine Warfare)
- Lt Cdr J. T. Crawley : SOO (Operations)

- Lt Cdr A. Wylie : SGO2
- Lt A. A. Browne : SCO2 (and Flag Lt to Vice Admiral Richmond)
- Lt P. N. Marsden : Sec/SCO
- CCO E. W. A. Collins : SCO3
- Lt Col W. A. T. Gethin RA : NGSCLO (Gunfire Support Liaison)
- Major J. T. O. Waters RM : SO (W)
- Major D. P. L. Hunter RM
- Captain A. M. Robertson RM : SO (I) (Intelligence)

Anglo-French naval order-of-battle (October-December 1956)

Under Vice-Admiral D. F. Durnford-Slater CB (Naval Task Force Commander; was also FO 2 Mediterranean) with Rear Admiral (contre-amiral) P. Lancelot (in command French Naval Forces, commandant de la F.N.I.) as his second-in-command. Capitaine de vaisseau Salmon was chef d'état-major de la F.N.I.

Task Force (T.F.) 345 (also Joint Task Force, Vice Admiral L.F. Dunford Slater CB FO 2):

Task Group (T.G.) 345.1 (command group) :

- destroyer depot ship HMS *Tyne* (Captain J. W. H. Bennett DSC RN; Joint Task Force Headquarters Ship – Combined Headquarters Ship)
- fast minelayer HMS *Manxman* (Captain D. S. Tibbitts DSC RN)
- submarine tender A 641 *Gustave Zédé* (used as amphibian force command ship and command post of Force A)
- escort destroyer F 718 *Kabylie*

Task Group 345.2 (British assault group / British Assault Convoy and MES 1 from Malta to Suez – Carter : Commodore R. de L. Brooke, Commodore Assault Forces – Stahl : Commodore Franks aboard HMS *Meon*). Carried approximately 178 officers, 2,305 men, 51 tanks, 15 LVTs, ten 17-pdr anti-tank-guns, 19 scout cars and 479 other vehicles :

- Frigate F 269 HMS *Meon* (an LSH – Landing Ship Headquarters -, Commodore R. de L. Brooke DSO DSC* RN; used as command ship of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron; Joint Fire Support Committee (JFSC))
- LST-3 L 3003 *Anzio* (Lt Commander B. D. Davidson RN, Carter an LST(A)), L 3027 *Lofoten* (Lt Commander P. F. C. Coulson-Davis RN), L 3036 *Puncher* (Commander I. Hall DSC RN), L 3505 *Ravager* (Lt Commander R. Johnston DSC RN), L 3511 *Reggio* (Lt Commander I. M. Stoop DSC RN), L 3513 *Salerno* (Lt Cdr J. S. Pallot RN, carrying C Squadron 6 RTR, vehicles and 15th Field Ambulance), L 3516 *Striker* (Commander H. H. Dannreuther RN), L 3513 *Suvla* (Commander R. A. Gilchrist RN, carrying HQ 6 RTR)

- Command ship LCH 243 *Sallyport* (Lieutenant I. B. Lennox RN)
- LCT-8 LCT 4001 *Redoubt* (Lt Commander J. C. Waters RN), LCT 4039 *Parapet* (Lt Commander E. A. Hawksworth DSC RN), LCT 4040 *Bastion* (Lt Commander A. H. L. Harvey DSC RN, carrying four 3-ton trucks with reserve ammunition, four anti-tank guns with their towing vehicles and a 215th Field Ambulance detachment), LCT 4043 *Counterguard* (Lieutenant C. M. G. Bankart RN), LCT 4044 *Portcullis* (Lt Commander K. Alan-Williams RN), LCT 4037 *Rampart* (Lt Commander L. Lamb DSM RN), LCT 4038 *Citadel* (Lt Commander J. A. H. Langton RN), LCT 4099 *Buttress* (Lieutenant P. F. Trevorah RN)

- Minesweeping Motor Launch ML 2583

(*Carter* : Amphibious Warfare Squadron – AWS – in Malta : HMS *Meon*, ML 2583, *Reggio*, *Striker*, *Bastion* and *Redoubt*: Anzio, Lofoten, Citadel and Portcullis already in Malta but commissioned from reserve; 37 LCA brought forward from reserve in Malta and the UK, 18 LVTs came from Cambridge, where they had been held in reserve; *Puncher*, *Salerno*, *Suvla* – chosen over *Battler* because it was in a better condition and carried a Type 268 radar and VHF -, *Ravager* from Supplementary Reserve in the Clyde via Devonport at 28 days notice and overdue for refit)

Task Group 345.3 (French assault group) – GAFI :

- Command ship LCH-9055
- LSD A 946 *Foudre*
- LSTs L 9001 *Laita*, L 9004 *Rance*, L 9005 *Odet*, L 9006 *Cheliff*
- LCT LCT 9070, LCT 9071
- LCT LCT 9083, LCT 9084
- Commandos ‘ Jaubert ’, ‘ Montfort ’, ‘ de Penfenteyo ’
- Other French amphibian means were 21 LCM Mk.3/6, 14 LCVP, 1 LCC, 26 LVT, 6 LVTA support (with a 75mm howitzer turret), 1 LVTA 40mm support, 1 LVT repair and 12 DUCKW.

Task Group 345.4 (Royal Navy Aircraft Carrier Task Group, Vice-Admiral M. L. Power CB CBE DSO*, Flag Officer Aircraft Carriers) :



HMS Hermes, HMS Bulwark & HMS Albion.

Task Unit (T.U.) 345.4.1 (Royal Navy aircraft-carriers; shown, incorrectly as TF 345.4.1) :

- Aircraft-carrier HMS *Eagle* (Flagship, Vice-Admiral M. L. ‘ Lofty ’ Power CB CBE DSO*, TU 345.4.1 commander; Captain H.C.D. Maclean DSC RN) with :

830 NAS (Lt Commander C. V. Howard RN; nine Wyvern S.4).

892 NAS (Lt Commander M. J. H. Petrie RN; eight Sea Venom FAW.21)

893 NAS (Lt Cdr M. W. – Bill – Henley DSC, nine Sea Venom FAW.21).

897 NAS (Lt Cdr A. Ray Rawbone AFC, twelve Sea Hawk FGA.6).

849 NAS A Flight (Lt Cdr B. J. Williams, four Skyraider AEW.1)

Ship’s (Search and Rescue) Flight (Lt Cdr J. H. Summerlee, two Whirlwind HAR.3 – XG581/973 and XJ399/974). L/Air Mitchell and Hazel.

63 CBGL Section

- Aircraft-carrier HMS *Albion* (Captain R.M. Smeeton MBE RN)
with :

800 NAS (Lt Commander J. D. – Des - Russell RN; nine Sea Hawk FGA.4).

802 NAS (Lt Commander Roy L. Eveleigh RN; ten Sea Hawk FB.3).

809 NAS (Lt Commander R. A. Shilcock RN; eight Sea Venom FAW.21)

849 NAS C Flight (Lt Cdr D. A. Fuller, four Skyraider AEW.1)

Ship's Flight (two Whirlwind HAR.3)

- Aircraft-carrier HMS *Bulwark* (Captain J. M. Viliers DSC RN – OBE RN ? -) with :

804 NAS (Lt Commander R. von T. B. Kettle RN; ten Sea Hawk FGA.6)

810 NAS (Lt Commander P. M. Lamb DSC AFC RN; ten Sea Hawk FGA.4)

895 NAS (Lt Cdr J. Morris-Jones, ten Sea Hawk FB.3). Was equipped with FGA.6s but exchanged them with 897 NAS FB.3s on 12 October.

Ship's Flight (two Avenger AS.5 – 4 ? -)

SAR Flight (three Dragonfly HR.3)



HMS Armada, a Battle-class destroyer, Task Unit 345.4.1.

- 3rd Destroyer Squadron (D 14 HMS *Armada*- Captain A. A. F. Talbot DSO* RN -, D 80 HMS *Barfleur* – Commander L. J. Pearson RN -, D 65 HMS *St. Kitts* – Commander J. A. Murray OBE DSC RN -), D 86 HMS *Agincourt*, D 68 HMS *Barrosa*, D 17 HMS *Alamein* – Commander D. V. M. MacLeod DSC RN, of the 4th Destroyer Squadron -, D 97 HMS *Coruna*, D 15 HMS *Cavendish*, D 26 HMS *Comet*, D 48 HMS *Contest*

- 6th Frigate Squadron (F 141 HMS *Undine* – Captain J.F. D. Bush DSC** RN -, F 200 HMS *Ursa* – Commander A. M. Power MBE RN -, F 08 HMS *Urania* – Commander G. R. Callingham RN -, F 17 HMS *Ulysses* – Commander G. H. Peters RN -)

Carter : the other 4th Destroyer Squadron ships were undergoing refit at the time (HMS *Agincourt* and HMS *Corunna* at Malta, *Barrosa* at Gibraltar). Mentioned as part of 345.4.1.

T.U. 345.4.2 (Marine Nationale aircraft-carriersContre Amiral Yves Caron Flag Officer (Air) Mediterranean) :

- Aircraft-carrier R 95 *Arromanches* (CA Y.G. Caron, TU 345.4.2 commander) 14F with 14 F4U-7 (Lt de V Jean-Pierre Cremer), 15F with 18 F4U-7 (Lt de V Degermann,), 23S with two HUP-2 helicopters. Stahl gives the Avengers (9F) to *Arromanches*



14F Corsairs on the aircraft carrier La Fayette, off Limmasol, Cyprus, 15 November 1956.

- Aircraft-carrier R 96 *La Fayette* : 9F with ten TBM-3 Avengers (TBM 3S and 3W), 23S with two HUP-2 helicopters. Stahl gives 15F to *La Fayette*.
- Escorteur d'escadre D 621 *Surcouf*, D 623 *Cassard*, D 624 *Bouvet* (*Cassard* and *Bouvet* formed, at a time, TU 345.6.5)
- Escorteur rapides F 761 *Le Corse*, F 762 *Le Brestois*, F 763 *Le Boulonnais*, F 764 *Le Bordelais*

Task Group 345.5 (British support group, Rear Admiral D. E. Holland-Marin DSO DSC*, Flag Officer Support Forces) :

T.U. 345.5.1 :

- Cruisers HMS *Jamaica* (CA D. Holland-Marin; Captain A. D. Lenox-Conynham RN, of the First Cruiser Squadron), HMS *Ceylon* (Captain M. E. Butler-Bowdon OBE RN; it had replaced, at the last moment, the New Zealand cruiser HMNZS *Royalist* – Captain P. Phipps RNZN -, First Cruiser Squadron, for political reasons)

T.U. 345.5.2 :

- Destroyers D 154 HMS *Duchess* (SO) (Captain N.H. G. Austei DSO* RN), D 35 HMS *Diamond* (Captain M. G. Haworth DSC* RN), D 106 HMS *Decoy* (Captain P. J. Hill-Norton RN)

T.U. 345.5.3 :

- Destroyers D 119 HMS *Delight* (not mentioned by Carter), D 05 HMS *Daring* (Captain D. H. R. Bromley DSO RN)

T.U. 345.5.4 :

- 1st Destroyer Squadron : destroyers D 36 HMS *Chieftain* (Captain A. E. T. Christie OBE DSC** RN), D 51 HMS *Chevron* (Commander I. D. McLauhlan DSC* RN), D 52 HMS *Chaplet* (Commander M. F. Renshaw RN)

T.U. 345.5.5 :

- Frigates F 43 HMS *Torquay*, F 159 HMS *Wakeful*, F 72 HMS *Wizzard*, F 187 HMS *Whirlwind* (last two of the 5th Frigate Squadron, Carter – Admiralty Pink List 6 November 1956)

Task Group 345.6 (French support group, under CV Digard) :

T.U. 345.6.1 :

- Cruiser *Jean Bart*, escort destroyers F 719 *Bambara* (ex-DE186 USS *Swearer*), F 720 *Sakalave* (ex-DE194 USS *Wingfield*)

T.U. 345.6.2 :

- Cruiser C 602 *Geoges Leygues*, escorteur d'escadre D 622 *Kersaint* (capitaine de frigate Boy), escort destroyers F717 *Arabe*, F 724 *Malgache*

T.U. 345.6.3 (assigned to escort LSTs *Laïta* and *Odet*) :

- Escort destroyers F 723 *Berbère* (ex-DE 113 USS *Clarence L. Evans*), F 721 *Touareg* (with Commando Jaubert aboard), F 722 *Soudanais* (with Commando Hubert aboard)

T.U. 345.6.4 :

- Escorteur d'escadre *Surcouf*, joined by cruiser *Geroges Leygues* and escorteur d'escadre *Kersaint* for Operation 'Archer ' with the Israeli destroyers *Yafo* and *Elath*. Also *Bouvet* supported these operations but it does not show on the order of battle.

Fleet destroyers *Kersaint*, *Surcouf* and *Bouvet* were 4e DDE units.

T.U. 345.6.5 :

- Escorteurs d'escadre D 623 *Cassard* and D 624 *Bouvet* detached from T.U. 345.4.2 for Operation ' Archer '

Task Group 345.7 (minesweepers group under Stahl : Commodore McMullen; note Carter : Captain J H Walwyn OBE, Captain Minesweeping Group, also in the Naval Report on Operation Musketeer it is stated that 15 Coastal Minesweepers took part in the operations but they are not named – the 12 coastal minesweepers of 108 M/S Squadron Carter mentions ?) :

- Base ship HMS *Mull of Galloway* (group command ship)
- Command ship P 58 HMS *Woodbridge Haven* (Captain J. H. Walwyn OBE RN)
- Minesweepers : 104 Minesweeper (M/S) Squadron (*Alcaston – Alceston ? - , Coniston, Darlaston, Leverton – Letterston ? -*), 105 M/S Squadron (*Appelton, Blaxton, Edderton Upton*), *Claberston, Burnaston, Highburton*. Machine Gun Platoon, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards was aboard the minesweepers entering Port-Said harbour.

- Minesweepers *Ledsham, Altham, Asheldham, Cardinham, Chelsham, Cobham*
- Minesweepers *Aveley, Brenchley, Chailey, Dingley*, MS 108
- Carter ' probably took part ': 108 M/S Squadron (*Sefton, Dufton, Fenton, Hickleton, Kildarton, Leverton, Shavington*)
- French hydrographic ship F 752 *Amiral Mouchez* (used as command ship for the French minesweepers)
- French minesweepers (of the 30e and 31e DM) M 638 *Acacia*, M 639 *Acanthe*, M 667 *Ajonc*, M 668 *Azalée*, M 669 *Bégonia*, M 678 *Glaïeul*, M 683 *Liseron*, M 687 *Mimosa*, M 688 *Muguet*, M 693 *Pavot*, M 682 *Lilas* (mentioned erroneously as *Lilias*), M 633 *Pivoine*, M 670 *Bleuet*, M 672 *Chrysanthème*, M 674 *Cyclamen*

Task Group 345.8 (Underway Replenishment Group logistics support group) :

- Fleet tankers *Tiderace, Tiderange*
- Tankers *Wave Baron*, A 620 *Elorn*, A 625 *La Baise*
- Tanker *Olna*
- Replenishment ships RFA *Retainer, Fort Sandusky*
- Submarine tender *Forth* (carried 2 Press Communications Squadron, Royal Signals to Port Said, other members of the squadron recall they flew to Cyprus)
- Heavy repair ship *Ranpura*
- Aviso ravitailleur d'aviation F 753 *Marcel le Bihan*

Task Group 345.9 (Helicopter Group under Rear Admiral G. B. Sayer CB DSC, Flag Officer Helicopter Group) :

- Helicopter carrier HMS *Theseus* (Flagship, Captain E. F. Pizey DSO RN; with 10 Whirlwind HAS.22 of 845 Squadron, Lt Cdr J. C. Jacob). Carried 33 Parachute Regiment, RA (and other 16th Para Bde Gp elements ?) to Famagusta in August. Carried 45 Commando
- Helicopter carrier HMS *Ocean* (Captain I. W. T. Beloe DSC RN) with 6 Whirlwind HAR.2 and six Sycamore HC.14 of the Army and RAF Joint Helicopter Unit, under Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. T.). Carried 45 Commando.

Submarine group (Captain Van der Byl) :

- Royal Navy : S 44 HM Submarine *Sea Devil*, S 56 HM Submarine *Sentinel*, S 31 HM Submarine *Trenchant* (Carter and Stahl no 40 show *Tudor* – 1st

Submarine Flotilla, Lieutenant-Commander W. G. Edwads RN – too and Carter : the only British submarine to play a part in Operation Musketeer was HM Submarine *Tudor*)

- Marine Nationale : S 606 *La Créole*, S 610 *Laubie*, S 613 *Roland Morillot*

Auxillaries group :

- Replenishment tankers *Wave Master*, *Wave Laird*
- Tankers *Brown Ranger*, *Surf Pioneer* (last one carrying 10,000 tons of water)
- Water tankers *Sapburn*, *Spapool*, *Hanap*, *Giboulée*
- Replenishment ship RFA *Fort Duquense*
- Ammunition carriers *Kiterbury*, *Amherst*, *Isee*, *Tafna*
- Water carriers *Roussillon*, *Sahel*, *Benzene*
- Aviation fuel tanker *Lac Tonle Sap*

Task Force 324 (Captain J. G. Hamilton RN, Senior Officer; Red Sea Group, activated on 31 October 1956) :

- Cruiser HMS *Newfoundland* (Captain J. G. Hamilton RN)
- Destroyer HMS *Diana* (Captain J. R. Gower DSC RN)
- 3rd Frigate Squadron HMS *Crane* (Captain B. S. Pemberton RN), HMS *Modeste* (Commander C. E. C. Dickens RN)
- RFA *Wave Sovereign* (Captain W. F. Curlett RFA) mentioned only in Carter
- Avisos (frigates) F 750 *Laperouse*, F 736 *Gazelle*
- Coastal minesweeper M 663 *Jasmin*
- Hydrographic ship *Dalrymple* (Lt Commander J. D. Winstanley RN)

Ships not mentioned in the order of battle above. Nevertheless, they took part in the campaign later:

- Auxillaries (some also shown under Auxillaries group or Task Group 345.8), *Amhurst*, *Bacchus*, *Blue Ranger*, *Brown Ranger*, *Eddybank*, *Fort Duquense*, *Fort Sandusky*, *Olna*, *Retainer*, *Spaburn*, *Spapool*, *Suef Pioneer*, *Tidereach*, *Tiderange* (also shown under Task Group 345.8), *Wave Conqueror*, *Wave Laird*, *Wave Master*

- Depot (maintenance ?) ships *Forth* (Captain V. J. H. Van der Byl DSC RN and Commodore the Honourable T. V. Stopford RN) , *Ranpura* (Captain N. H. Pond RN), *Woodbridge Heaven* (Command ship P 58 HMS *Woodbridge Haven* shown as under Task Group 345.7 with Captain J. H. Walwyn OBE RN in command)
- Carter additionally shown the following replenishment and supply ships :
Eddybeach, *Wave Victor*, *Wave Protector*, *Wave Baron*, *Fort charlotte*, *Fort Dunvegan* (carrying provisions, naval and salvage stores), *Eaglesdale*, *Echodale*, *Spaburn*.
- Divers tender *Redaun*
- Rescue ships *Sea Salvor*, *Kingworth*, *Dispenser*
- *Bonhill*
- Landing units *Retriever*, LC 10, LC 11
- HMS *Defender* (a Daring-class destroyer; Captain M. L. Hardie DSC RN; not mentioned in the order of battle, though Carter mentions it as taking part in operations)
- 6th Destroyer Squadron Destroyers HMS *Cavendish*, HMS *Comet* and HMS *Contest* in Eastern Mediterranean too (Admiralty Pink List 6 November 1956 Carter)

An, incomplete, catalogue of the British ships

- Aircraft-carrier HMS *Eagle* (Audacious-class - Ark Royal-class ? -)
- Aircraft-carriers HMS *Albion*, HMS *Bulwark* (Hermes-class)



HMS Theseus with Sycamore and Whirlwind helicopters of the 845 Squadron and the Army & RAF Experimental Helicopter Unit.

- Helicopter Carriers HMS *Theseus* & HMS *Ocean* (Colossus-class)

- Cruisers HMS *Jamaica*, HMS *Ceylon*, HMS *Newfoundland* (Colony-class, light cruiser)

- Destroyers D 114 HMS *Defender*, D 126 HMS *Diana*, D 119 HMS *Delight* , D 05 (105 ?) HMS *Daring*, D 154 HMS *Duchess*, D 35 HMS *Diamond*, D 106 HMS *Decoy* (Daring-class - Carter : D 114 HMS *Defender* in the Eastern Mediterranean too -)

- Destroyer D 15 HMS *Cavendish* in Eastern Mediterranean too (Ca-class; Admiralty Pink List 6 November 1956 Carter)

- Destroyers D 26 HMS *Comet* and D 48 HMS *Contest* in Eastern Mediterranean too (Co-class; Admiralty Pink List 6 November 1956 Carter)

- destroyers D 36 HMS *Chieftain* , D 51 HMS *Chevron* , D 52 HMS *Chaplet* (Ch-class)

- destroyer HMS *Tyne* (Join Task Force Headquarters Ship; built as a destroyer depot ship, completed in 1941 and the Flagship of the Home Fleet from 1954 to August 1956)

- destroyers D 14 HMS *Armada*, D 18 (65 ?) HMS *St. Kitts* , D 80 HMS *Barfleur* (Battle-class)
- destroyers D 86 HMS *Agincourt*, D 17 HMS *Alamein*, D 97 HMS *Corunna*, D 68 HMS *Barrosa* (Modified Battle-class)
- Frigate F 270 (269 ?) HMS *Meon* (River-class frigate; used as command ship of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron)
- Frigates F 168 (F 17 ?) HMS *Ulysses*, F 141 HMS *Undine*, F 08 *Urania*, F 220 (200 ?) HMS *Ursa* (ex-U-class destroyers, modified as anti-submarine frigates)
- Frigates F 187 HMS *Whirlwind*, F 159 HMS *Wakeful*, F 72 HMS *Wizzard* (ex-W-class destroyers, modified as anti-submarine frigates)
- Frigate F 43 HMS *Torquay* (Whitby-Class anti-submarine frigate - Type 12 -)
- Frigates F 123 HMS *Crane* , F 42 HMS *Modeste* (ex-Black Swan class sloops)
- HM Submarines S 44 *Sea Devil*, S 56 *Sentinel* (S-class)
- HM Submarines S 31 *Trenchant* (T-class; Carter shows S 126 *Tudor* too)
- L 3003 *Anzio*, L 3027 *Lofoten*, L 3036 *Puncher*, L 3505 *Ravager* , L 3511 *Reggio*, L 3513 *Salerno*, L 3516 *Striker*, L 3518 – 3513 ? - *Suvla* (American LST-3s; though *Flottes de Combat 1956* shows them as having the numbers L 101, L 111, L 115, L 117, L 119, L 121, L 128, L 129 respectively assigned to them, photos of the time show them as having the USN 3000-series pennants)
- Command ship LCH 243 *Sallyport* (LCT (8).
- LCT 4001 *Redoubt* , LCT 4039 *Parapet* , LCT 4040 *Bastion* , LCT 4043 *Counterguard* , LCT 4044 *Portcullis* , LCT 4037 *Rampart* , LCT 4038 *Citadel* , LCT 4099 *Buttress* (LCT-8)
- LCTs L403 and L 408 (Mk IV/ LCT-4)
- LCT L4086 *Arromanches* (Mk VIII / LCT-8)
- Fast minelayer (70 ?) HMS *Manxman* (Abdiel-class - Manxman-class ? -)

- Minesweeping Motor Launch ML 2583 (a modified Fairmile B mentioned as an inshore minesweeper by *Flottes de Combat 1956*)
- Minesweeping Motor Launch ML 1097
- HMS *Mull of Galloway* (inshore minesweepers depot ship; group command ship)
- Command ship P 58 HMS Woodbridge Haven (ex-HMS Loch Corridon, a Loch-class

frigate converted to a Mine Sweeper Support Ship. It was Co-ordinator of minesweeping operations under Task Group 345.7 with Captain J. H. Walwyn OBE RN in command)

- *Alcaston, Coniston, Darlaston, Letterston, Appelton, Blaxton, Edderton, Upton, Clarberston, Burnaston, Highburton* (Ton-class minesweepers – called Western Europe type coastal minesweepers then ? -)
- *Ledsham, Altham, Asheldham, Cardinham, Chelsham, Cobham* (Ham-class inshore minesweepers)
- Minesweepers *Aveley, Brenchley, Chailey, Dingley* (Ley-class inshore minesweepers)
- *Carter* ‘ probably took part ’: 108 M/S Squadron Ton-class minesweepers (*Sefton, Dufton, Fenton, Hickleton, Kildarton, Leverton, Shavington*)

- Fast Fleet Tanker (A 216 ?) RFA *Olna*

- Armament Support Ship (Stores Support ship) (A329 ?) RFA *Retainer* (ex-*Chungking*, Retainer-class),

- Depot (maintenance ?) ships *Forth* (submarine tender; Captain V. J. H. Van der Byl DSC RN and Commodore the Honourable T. V. Stopford RN) , *Ranpura* (heavy repair ship – submarine tender according to *Flottes de Combat* - ; Captain N. H. Pond RN)

- RFA *Tiderace*, (A96 ?) RFA *Tidereach*, RFA *Tiderange* : Tide-class fast fleet tanker

- RFA *Brown Ranger* (A 163 ?, Type 1), *Blue Ranger* (A 157 ?, Type 2): Ranger-class (Gold Ranger-class According to *Flottes de Combat*) attendant tanker (oiler)

- (A 190 ?) RFA *Eddycliff*, (A 132 ?) RFA *Eddybeach*, RFA *Eddybank* ? : Eddy-class coastal tanker

- (A 160 ?) RFA *Fort Dunvegan*, (employed as Stores Issuing Ship), (A 236 ?) RFA *Fort Charlotte* (employed as Stores Issuing Ship), (A 316 ?) RFA *Fort*

Sandusky (employed as Armanet Stores Carrier), (A 229 ?) RFA *Fort Duquense* (employed as Air Stores Ship) (Fort-class stores ships, replenishment ship, Fleet Supply Ships)

- Replenishment tankers (A 193 ?) *Wave Master* (ex- *Empire Salisbury*),(A 242 ?) *Wave Baron* (ex- *Empire Flodden*), (A 119 ?) *Wave Laird* (ex-*Empire Dunbar*), *Wave Conqueror* (ex-*Empire Edgehill* – ex-*Empire Law* ? -) (A 211 ?), *Wave Sovereign*, *Wave Victor* (ex- *Empire Bounty*), *Wave Protector* (ex- *Empire Protector*) (Wave-class)

- Oilers (A104 ?) *Eaglesdale*, (A170 ?) *Echodale* (mainly as a freighting tanker) (Dale-class - Type 1 ? / Third Group ? -; Cedardale-class according to *Flottes de Combat*)

- Oiler (A 365 ?) *Surf Pioneer*

- Transport *Bacchus* (Hebe-class Store Carrier)

- Water carriers (A257 ?) *Spaburn*, (A222 ?) *Spapool* (Spa Class coastal water carriers)

- Water carrier *Hanap*

- Armament carrier *Kinterbury*

- Armament carriers *Amherst*, *Isee*, *Tafna* (last two French ?)

- HMS *Darymple* hydrographic ship (Converted Bay Class Survey Vessel; ex-frigate *HMS Luce Bay*)

BRITISH ARMY & ROYAL MARINES



A Company, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment at El Gamil airfield.

3rd Infantry Division to land in support of the assault force.

HQ 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group, Co Brigadier Tubby Butler

10th Armoured Division (a division in name only, up to the strength of an armoured brigade) was based in Libya and was held in extended readiness. It was withdrawn from General Keightley's command and took no part in the operations.

Machine Gun Platoon, 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards

Duke of Wellington's Regiment

Gordon Highlanders

Cheshire Regiment

1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment

1st Battalion, the Royal Scots

Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

Highland Light Infantry

Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

York and Lancaster Regiment.

Royal Warwickshire Regiment

1st battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

The Parachute Regiment, 1st 2nd and 3rd Para.

5 Platoon, B Company, 3 Para lead initial attack.

9th Independent Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers 1 troop was attached to 1 Para, 2 troop with 2 Para, 3 troop with 3 Para.

Guards Independent Parachute Company, Guards Company (Pathfinders) was part of the 16th Indep Para Bde. Major Kemis Buckley O/C, A detachment was dropped with the French for liaison. Captain Murray DeKlee in charge.



A Centurion (4 Troop, A Squadron, 6th RTR) linking with Colonel Chateau-Jobert's patatroopers (2^e RPC) at the 70 t. Bridge.

1st Royal Tank Regiment. Mobilised in July 1956, assigned to the 34th Armoured Brigade in August, sent to Malta in October but returned to the UK.

6th Royal Tank Regiment. Assigned to the 34th Armoured Brigade in August. Sent to Malta, landed at Suez. A & C Squadrons, each equipped with 14 Centurion Mk.5 tanks.

11th Forward Delivery Squadron, disembarked Tripoli 30/9/1956.

1st Landing Vehicle Troops, RAC. Equipped with LVT Mk III (LVT-3)



An Ordnance QF 17-pdr anti-tank gun on a Port Said road, ready to face the SU-100s (most probably from the Anti Tank Platoon, 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment) Note the capital letter H on its carrier, the recognition letter of all armour and vehicles.

20th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (only drivers)

50th Field Battery, 23rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.. Troop commander was Captain Wilson.

32 Medium Regiment RA

33 Parachute Regiment, RA (33 Airborne RA / 33rd Parachute Light Regiment

31st Battery, 34 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA, Battery Commander Major Knyvett M.C.; Battery Captain Major Cross; B.S.M. Andrews. equipped with Bofors 40mm

88 Arrakan Battery, 41st Field Regiment, Royal Artillery

166 Amphibious Observation Bty RA attached to 3 Commando Brigade RM

3rd Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

17th Field Squadron

24th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

33 Field Squadron

36th Regiment, Royal Engineers

42nd Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

42nd Survey Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers 1952 C/O Lt.Col.John Taylor,
RSM "Blanco" White.

30 Field Squadron, 35 Corps Engineer Regiment

57 Field Squadron, 36 Corps Engineer Regiment at Port Said railway station
35CER. Retrained as a Port Operating Regt at Marchwood.

168 Port Operating sqn

174 Port Operating sqn

10 Railway Sqn, Royal Engineers

I.W.T. Squadron Royal Engineers . Mk IV LCTs L403 and L 408 and Mk VIII L4086
Arromanches (76 Company (RASC) was formed on 5 October to man the new Mk
VIII LCTs) sailed to Malta, Famagusta and Port Said. L408 was carrying composite
rations and the other two vehicles and other stores. Other Army's Navy representations
were elements from the IWT, Royal Engineers. An Army Emergency Reserve
Regiment had been mobilized to support regular IWT personnel. IWT vessels
included several ageing ' Z craft ' which had to endure a high-speed tow from Tobruk
to Port-Said at 20kts! The L408 remained at Port Said until the evacuation,
Arromanches and L403 remained in the Middle East until 1957.

Royal Military Police (13 NCO,s & Lt Tebbut from 3rd INF. DIV. Provost
company)

82 Port Operation Regt.

173 Port Maintenance Squad

No 2 Air Support Signal Unit (ASSU) Royal Signals from BAOR supplied at least 5
Tentacles in support of the troops ashore in Port Said.

2 Press Communications Squadron, Royal Signals. AER Unit, Royal Signals,
Commanded by Major Dennis Haylock

4 Air Formation Signals Regiment

23 Corps Signal Regiment

52 L of C Signal Regiment.(A.E.R.),

119 Medium Wireless, Royal Signals

128 Wireless Troop, 2 Wireless Regt, Royal Signals. L

J Troop Royal Signals, 19th Infantry Brigade

Carrier Borne Ground Liaison Sections (CBGLS ‘ Ceeballs ’) 63 CBGL Section on HMS *Eagle*

Joint Fire Support Committee (JFSC) on HMS *Meon*

No 3 ACT with 45 Commando ?

40 Sub Area RASC

2 Bulk Supply Depot, Civil Affairs, RASC

106 Company, RASC

186 Harbour Launch Company, RASC

No 2 Independent Transport Column, RASC.

63 Company R.A.S.C., 16th Independent Para Brigade

203 Army Postal Unit

23 Para Field Ambulance, 16th Independent Para Brigade

Advance Base Ordnance Depot (Port Said) RAOC

263 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps.



Captain Griffiths inspects troops of the 45 Royal Marine Commando in full battle gear on HMS Theseus before their assault at Port Said.

3rd Commando Brigade

Nos 40, 42 and 45 Commando

Detachments of Marines from Royal Navy ships including HMS Belfast

No 15 Air Control Team (15 ACT) attached to HQ 45 Cdo RM.

No 16 Air Control Team (16 ACT) attached to HQ 42 Cdo RM.

No 17 Air Control Team (17 ACT) attached to HQ 40 Cdo RM.

Anti Tank Platoon, 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales's). This unit was deployed as part of 40 Commando, who did not have an anti-tank capability. Commander Lieutenant Wilson. The platoon was split up for the landing, one group with new 106mm guns and one group with 17-pounders. These two groups met up after landing and covered the north to south of Port Said. Although the platoon did not engage enemy tanks, they were kept busy removing enemy snipers. The platoon suffered no casualties despite the ammunition dump being blown up beside one of the guns.

ROYAL AIR FORCE (RAF) & FLEET AIR ARM (FAA)



HMS Eagle with seven 830 Squadron Wyverns, a 849/A Flight Skyraider, sixteen 897 & 899 Squadrons and seven 892 & 893 Squadron Venoms.

In August 893 NAS moved to Hal Far, Malta to embark on HMS *Eagle* on the 18. The Gannet-equipped 812 NAS of HMS *Eagle* disembarked at Malta to make place for 893 NAS.

A Canberra squadron arrived in Cyprus in the middle of August, to reinforce the 3 squadrons already in place. They were followed, during August, by Meteors NF and Venoms. Two 58 RAF Squadron Canberras (WH775 and WH801) – the Canberra squadron mentioned above ? – arrived in Cyprus.

In September two 58 RAF Squadron Canberras (WH799 and WT450) arrived in Cyprus under the command of Flt Lt B. L. Hunter to augment the two that had arrived in August and 13 squadron at Akrotiri which was in the process of converting from Meteor PR.10s to Canberras. The 208 Squadron Meteor FR.9s had moved to Takali, Malta from Akrotiri in early August to make room for the 15 Venom FB.4s (and two T.11s) of 249 Squadron (Sqn Ldr J. R. Maitland), which arrived on the island on 27 August. Twenty-four new hunter F.5s of the Tangemre Wing (1 Squadron under the temporary command of Flt Lt H. J. Irving and 34 Squadron under Sqn Ldr Alastair Wilson DFC) arrived in Akrotiri in the end of August. The detachment was under Wg Cdr Peter Simpson DFC (his aircraft – WP144 – bore his initials, PJS). He soon returned to the UK and command of the Hunter Wing was assumed by Sqn Ldr Wilson until the arrival of Wg Cdr E. W. Wright DFC DFM. Flt Lt W. T. Davis

temporarily took over 34 Squadron and Sqn Ldr R. S. Kingsford arrived to take over 1 Squadron. The Hunters were found wanting with insufficient endurance for offensive operations and were used mainly in the defensive role.



French RF-84F and RAF Venom at RAF Akrotiri.

AIR MOVEMENTS MALTA & CYPRUS (SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER) : Four Hunter F.4s of 111 Squadron arrived in Malta to share day fighter duties with 208 Squadron Meteor FR.9s. Earlier, on 22 September, the first of 29 Canberra B.6s had arrived at Luqa from RAF Binbrook, to be followed, two days later, by 4 Valiant bombers (three from 214 Squadron and one from 207, both based at Marham). A single 49 Squadron Valiant arrived from RAF Wittering but this left four days later. The main Valiant body arrived on 26 October, six from 138 Squadron, three more from 207, two more from 214 and five from 148, followed by two more from 138 four days later. To make room for the influx of bomber aircraft at Malta the 32 Squadron Venom FB.1s (Sqn Ldr A. H. W. Gilchrist DFC) had moved to Amman, Jordan. A section of 1 Squadron Hunters, on detachment from Cyprus, led by Flt Lt Jimmy Mansell also arrived in Amman. With the intensification of the crisis, the Raf contingent in Jordan concentrated its forces at Mafraq and 32 Squadron flew its 15 Venoms there at the end of October, two of which remained at readiness, fully armed.

End of October: RAF reconnaissance Canberras (like WJ821) flew reconnaissance flights just outside Egypt's territorial limits, but also penetrated its airspace, keeping an eye on the airfields and movements of military traffic.

On 29 October Canberra WT540 left Akrotiri at 1150 and completed a reconnaissance returning safely at 1600.

On the eve of the assault 115 jet bombers (Canberras and Valiants), 48 Venom FB.4 fighter-bombers, 24 Hunter F.5 fighters, 36 F-84F tactical fighters, 7 Canberra PR.7s, 15 RF-84Fs and 163 carrier-borne aircraft.

88 RAF planes in Malta :

Hal Far, Malta :

- 9 Squadron (Sqn Ldr L. G. A. Bastard, seven Canberra B.6, bomber). WH961, WH969, WH972, WH973, WH974, WH977, WH981, WH995, WT205.
- 12 Squadron (Sqn Ldr W. L. Donley DFC DFM, seven Canberra B.6, bomber). WH951, WH954, WH956 (returned to UK on 27 October), WH960, WH963, WH965, WH968 (replacement), WH970, WH971.
- 101 Squadron (Sqn Ldr B. Moorcroft DSO DFC, eight Canberra B.6, bomber). WH945, WH948, WJ756, WJ758, WJ760, WJ761, WJ762, WJ764.
- 109 Squadron (Sqn Ldr J. L. Causton, seven Canberra B.6, bomber). WH977, WJ771, WJ772, WJ781, WJ782, WJ783, WT210, WT303.
- Twenty-nine Canberra B.6 of the above squadrons



207 Squadron Valiant WP219 at Luqa, Malta.

Luqa, Malta :

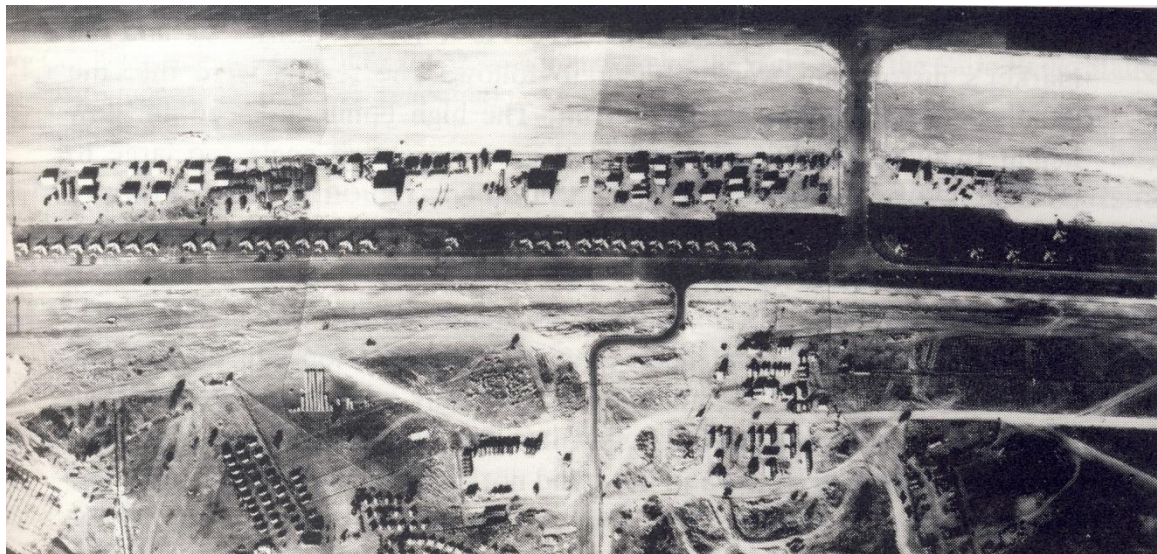
- 138 Squadron (Wg Cdr R. G. W. Oakley DSO DFC AFC DFM, eight Valiant B.1, bomber). Six arrived on 26 October and two on 30 October. WP215, W220, WZ363, WZ384, WZ389, WZ400, WZ401 and WZ402.
- 148 Squadron (Wg Cdr W. J. Burnett DSO DFC AFC, five Valiant B.1, bomber). Arrived on 26 October. XD814, XD815 (C.O.'s), XD816, XD817 and XD819.

- 207 Squadron (Wg Cdr D. D. Haig DSO DFC, six Valiant B.1, bomber). One arrived on 24 October, three on 26 October. WP219, WZ403, WZ404, WZ405, XD812 and XD813.
- 214 Squadron (Wg Cdr L. H. Trent VC DFC, five Valiant B.1, bomber). Three arrived on 24 September. WZ377, WZ379, WZ393, WZ395 and WZ397.
- The twenty-four Valiant B.1 of the above squadrons comprised the Malta Bomber Wing under Grp Capt L. M. Hodges DSO (C.O. RAF Marham)
- 37 Squadron (Shackleton MR.2, maritime reconnaissance)
- 38 Squadron (Shackleton MR.2, maritime reconnaissance)
- Fifteen Shackleton MR.2 of the above squadrons

Takali, Malta :

- 208 Squadron (Sqn Ldr J. N. Thorne, sixteen Meteor FR.9, fighter-reconnaissance)
- 111 Squadron (four Hunter F.5, fighter)

192 RAF and 75 Armée de l'Air planes in Cyprus :

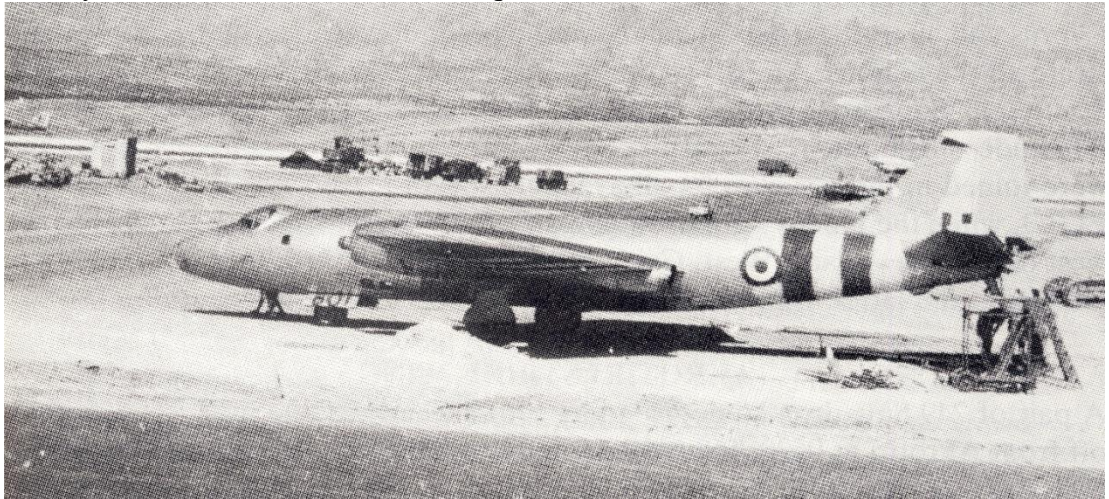


Thirty-six French F-84Fs and three RAF Venoms at EAF Akrotiri.

RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus (Grp Capt J. C. Macdonald DFC AFC, Station Commander):

- 6 Squadron (Sqn Ldr Peter Ellis DFC, sixteen Venom FB.4, fighter-bomber). From Habbaniya from April 1956. WR379, WR382/C, WR400/R, WR408, WR409, WR410/N, WR413, WR436, WR440, WR472, WR473/U, WR474, WR476, WR477, WR479, WR481.
- 8 Squadron (Sqn Ldr Blyth DFC AFC, sixteen Venom FB.4, fighter-bomber). Beginning October arrival with 16 aircraft. Sqn Ldr Blyth (flying WR405/B). Flying Officers Dave Power, Dai Jones, Jock Munroe, Nick von Berg, Dick Hadlow. Venoms were shared. WR376, WR399/T, WR405/B, WR428,

- WR432/R, WR445, WR446/S, WR480, WR484, WR485/C, WR487/A, WR488, WR501, WR505/B, WR509, WR528, WR532, WR548/F.
- 249 Squadron (Sqn Ldr J. R. Maitland DFC (US), fifteen Venom FB.4, fighter-bomber) From 29 August from Amman with 15 Venom FB.4s (and two T.11s). Flg Off Tony Gronert, Tom Lecky-Thompson. WR375, WR398/H, WR412, WR420/T, WR439, WR443/Y, WR444/E, WR487, WR489/D, WR492/U, WR497/B, WR499/V, WR502, WR504/A, WR506/W, WR507/S, WR527/C, WR529, WR531/R, WR 533/F.
- The forty-seven Venom FB 4 of the three above squadrons comprised the Venom Strike Wing with Grp Capt J. C. Macdonald as its effective commander, although Wg Cdr Button DFC was Wing Commander (Ops).
- 1 Squadron (Sqn Ldr R. S. Kingsford, twelve Hunter F.5, fighter). WP180/F, WP188/X.
- 34 Squadron (Sqn Ldr Alastair S. Wilson DFC, twelve Hunter F.5, fighter). WP124, WP130/S, WP132/T, WP136/N, WP142/W, WP185/E.
- Twenty-four Hunter F5 of the above squadrons



13 Squadron Canberra PR7 WH801. It was attacked by an Egyptian MiG on the morning of 1 November 1956. Minor damage was inflicted on the aircraft's port elevator.

- 13 Squadron (Sqn Ldr J. L. Field, seven Canberra PR.7, photo-reconnaissance – one T.4 is also mentioned -). WE137, WH775, WH799, WH801, WJ821 (Flt Lt G. J. Clark), WT548, WJ858 (Canberra T.4). WT 540 (Sqn Ldr John Field and Flg Off D. J. Lever) ?
- 39 Squadron (Sqn Ldr A. J. Owen DFC DFM, eight Meteor NF.13, night fighter). Based at RAF Nicosia in some sources.
- 1903 Flight (Auster AOP.6, liaison EC 1/3 ' Navarre ' (Capitaine Payen, eighteen F-84F, fighter-bomber – 52-9030/3-HK, 52-8946/3-HN, 52-9370-HR-)
- EC 3/3 ' Ardennes ' (eighteen F-84F, fighter-bomber). 52-8953/3-VH, 52-9075/3-VS, 52-8842/3-VW
- A further six F-84Fs arrived on 31 October
- ER 4/33 – also shown as ER 1/33 ' Belfort ', though ten drawn from ER 1/33 and ER 3/33 ' Moselle ' and five from ER 2/33 ' Savoie ' (Cdt Lapiche – Colonel Gabriel Gauthier ? -, fifteen RF-84F, photo reconnaissance; Stahl ' La crise... ' : fifteen RF-84F of escadron ' Fumassol ' / 33e escadre de reconnaissance). Lt Joseph Bertin-Maghit, Capitaine Rieuneau, Capitain

Renault, Lt Saget, Lt Delarche (on RF326), Lt Tiseire (RF 327), Lt Willay (RF321). Lieutenant-Colonel Vallet commander of the force. 52-7300/3-CC, 51-1709/33-CF, 52-7395/33-CO, 52-7327/33-CP, 52-7325/33-DD, 52-7329/33-DH, 52-7321/33-DG.

- Forty-two F-84F of ' Navarre ' and ' Ardennes ' / 3e escadre de chasse
- Some sources give EC 2/3 ' Champagne ' (F-84F, fighter-bomber – 52-889, 529520/3-VS, 52-8842/3-VW; probably aircraft of this unit used by 1/3 and 3/3), EC 1/1 ' Corse ' (F-84F, fighter-bomber) and EC 3/1 ' Argonne ' (F-84F, fighter-bomber). s/n 23068 / 1-NF , though Cull gives EC 1/1 and EC 3/1 in Israel. Also other F-84Fs not included in the units were : 52-885, 52-8955, 52-9040, 52-7205.

RAF Nicosia, Cyprus :

- 10 Squadron (Sqn Ldr G. Sproats, eight Canberra B.2, bomber). WH646, WH665, WH667, WH668, WH672, WH853, WJ975 and WJ518.
- 15 Squadron (Sqn Ldr A. R. Scott DFC, eight Canberra B.2, bomber). WD951, WD961, WD980, WF916 (returned to UK), WH724, WJ976, WK107, WK132, XA536 (replacement).
- 18 Squadron (Sqn Ldr A. H. Chamberlain, eight Canberra B.2, bomber). WH919, WJ648, WJ719, WJ728, WJ733, WJ751, WJ752, WJ752.
- 27 Squadron (Wg Cdr P. W. Helmore DFC AFC, eight Canberra B.2, bomber). WH729, WH732, WH742, WH860, WJ578, WJ604, WJ723, WK112.
- 44 Squadron (Sqn Ldr J. W. Barling DSO DFC, eight Canberra B.2, bomber). Inscuding WH178, WH717, WH718, WH959, WH967.
- 61 Squadron (Sqn Ldr N. L. Hartley, ten Canberra B.2, bomber - one T.4 is mentioned too -). WH724, WH740, WH907, WH908, WH910, WH915, WH918, WJ636, WJ642, W J647, WT479 (T.4).
- 139 Squadron (Sqn Ldr P. Mallorie AFC, twelve Canberra B.6, bomber). WJ767, WJ768, WJ773, WJ774, WJ776, WJ778, WT302, WT306, WT369, WT370, WT371, WT372.
- The sixty-two Canberra B2 and B6 of the above squadrons comprised the Cyprus Bomber Wing under Grp Capt G. C. O. Key DFC (OC RAF Upwood)
- Some sources give Squadrons 70, 99, 511, 30, 84, 114 and 39 as based in Nicosia

RAF Tymbou, Cyprus :

- 70 Squadron (Sqn Ldr W. K. Greere AFC, Hastings C.1/2, transport). TG535, TG577, TG612, TG665, WJ328.
- 99 Squadron (Sqn Ldr D. R. Ware DFC AFC, Hastings C.1/2, transport). WD497.
- 511 Squadron (Sqn Ldr G. W. Turner, Hastings C.1/2, transport). TG510, TG531, TG551, TG604/GAC, WD495/GAN, WJ329/JAM.
- fourteen Hasting of the above squadrons; apparently 99 and 511 Squadrons pooled their aircraft.
- 30 Squadron (Sqn Ldr P. G. Coulson, Valetta C.1, transport). VX576/JNC.

- 84 Squadron (Sqn Ldr F. L. Spencer, Valetta C.1, transport). VW196, VW202/C, VX562.
- 114 Squadron (Sqn Ldr D. B. Delany AFC, Valetta C.1, transport). VW150, VW161, VW811, VW817, VW844, VW850, WJ496.
- twenty Valetta of the above squadrons

Ten Scout, Sioux and Sycamore helicopters in Cyprus

HMS *Eagle* (with 28 Sea Hawk pilots, 17 Sea Venom crews, 12 Wyvern pilots). 897 Squadron was equipped with FB.3s and 812 Squadron (Gannets) was part of its complement, but the Gannets were flown to Malta to be replaced by 893 Squadron Sea Venoms to increase its offensive capability. 897 and 899 each had fourteen pilots

- 830 NAS (Lt Commander C. V. Howard RN; nine Wyvern S.4 . 371 (Howard's), VZ758/376, WN325/373, WN328/374, WN330/379, WP337/378, WP338/377.
- 892 NAS (Lt Commander M. J. H. Petrie RN; eight Sea Venom FAW.21). WW154/448, WW190, WW277/447, WW286/452.
- 893 NAS (Lt Cdr M. W. – Bill – Henley DSC, nine Sea Venom FAW.21) It embarked on the carrier on 18 August. WW149, WW193/096, WW196, WW205/090, WW206, WW208, WW209, WW212, WW218/092, WW2223/098, WW261, WW265/094, WW270, WW281/095, WW282, WW285/091, WW287.
- 892 and 893 NAS apparently shared their aircraft.
- 897 NAS (Lt Cdr A. Ray Rawbone AFC, twelve Sea Hawk FGA.6). Swapped its FB.3s for newer 895 NAS FGA.6s on 12 October. Lt Cdr Keith Leppard (Senior Pilot) attached to the French carriers as Air Liaison Officer, Lt Don Mills. WV907/190, XE340, XE362/194, XE367/197, XE371/199, XE377/195, XE379, XE381/192, XE388, XE439/200, XE441/198, XE448/911,
- 899 NAS (twelve Sea Hawk FGA.6). Lt. Philip Cardew. WM928/461, WM944/458, WN111/466, XE364/485, XE382, XE383, XE387, XE392/490, XE399/468, XE401/492, XE402/486, XE404, XE447, XE 457.
- 849 NAS A Flight (Lt Cdr B. J. Williams, four Skyraider AEW.1). WJ954/417, WV181/414
- Ship's (Search and Rescue) Flight (Lt Cdr J. H. Summerlee, two Whirlwind HAR.3 – XG581/973 and XJ399/974). L/Air Mitchell and Hazel.



HMS Albion turns into wind for a launch. The Whirlwind planeguard takes off. Sea Venom FAW.21s of the 809 Squadron on the left and 802 Squadron Sea Hawk FB.3s on the left.

HMS *Albion* (with 24 Sea Hawk pilots, 9 Sea Venom crews and 5 Skyraider crews):

- 800 NAS (Lt Commander J. D. – Des - Russell RN; nine Sea Hawk FGA.4 – FGA.6 ? -). Lt Cdr Maurice Tibby (Senior Pilot). XE391/109, XE400/107, XE411/108, XE435/104, XE436/103, XE437/102, XE438/105, XE454/101, XE455/100.
- 802 NAS (Lt Commander Roy L. Eveleigh RN; ten Sea Hawk FB.3). RAF Flt Lt George Black (exchange officer), Sub Lt Carl Clarke, Lt Pete Miller, Lt John Carrey. WM911, WM922/131 (Eveleigh, crashed 24 October), WM938/131, WM963/136, WM971/133 (lost 5 October), WM977, WM979, WM995, WM996/135, WN109/139, WN118/137, WV995/138
- 809 NAS (Lt Commander R. A. Shilcock RN; eight Sea Venom FAW.21). XG620/226, XG665, XG669/224, XG670/220, XG673/227, XG677/225, XG679/220 (lost 1 October)
- 849 NAS C Flight (Lt Cdr D. A. Fuller, four Skyraider AEW.1). WT947/422, WV178/424.
- Ship's Flight (two Whirlwind HAR.3 – XG573/979 and XG588/980 -)

HMS *Bulwark* (with 32 Sea Hawk pilots):

- 804 NAS (Lt Commander R. von T. B. Kettle RN; ten Sea Hawk FGA.6). XE365/171, XE378/168, XE383/166, XE389/162, XE392/163, XE393/195, XE394/165, XE396/167, XE407/160, XE409/161, XE461/170.
- 810 NAS (Lt Commander P. M. Lamb DSC AFC RN; ten Sea Hawk FGA.4). WM914, WV918/230, WM985, WV796/235, WV860/239, XE333/233, XE335/234, XE370/231, XE375/239, XE385, XE395, XE403/238, XE405/232 (lost 2 October), XE408/237, XE409, XE451, XE463/232

- 895 NAS (Lt Cdr J. Morris-Jones, ten Sea Hawk FB.3). Was equipped with FGA.6s but exchanged them with 897 NAS FB.3s on 12 October. WM928/460, WM923/457, WM926/461, WM937, WM962/465, WM972/462.
- Ship's Flight with two Avenger AS.5 – Carter 4 ? (embarked before sailing from U.K., XB374/981 and XB389/982, duties included regular daily flights to Cyprus to collect mail, newspapers, photo reconnaissance reports and official correspondence) and Dragonfly HR.3
- SAR Flight (three Dragonfly HR.3 – WP502/983, WG720/984 and WG750/985 -) Only in Cull



HMS Theseus Whirlwind on the waterworks at El Raswa, ready to take French wounded, 5 November, 18.40.

HMS Theseus :

- with 10 Whirlwind HAS.22 - WV199/T, WV203/V, WV204/Q, WV205/W, WV220/Y, WV222/P, WV223/U, WV224/S, XJ400/X – HAR.2 / 3/ 4 ? -, XG587/Z – HAR.3 -) of 845 Squadron, Lt Cdr J. C. Jacob; Lt D. A. Muncaster RCN was withdrawn at the request of his government.

HMS *Ocean* :

- with 6 Whirlwind HAR.2 (HAR.3 ?; XJ764/7, XJ765/8, XK968/9, XK969/10, XK970/11, XK986/12; Robertson, *British Military Aircraft Serials...* : HAR.2s) and six Sycamore HC.14 – shown, incorrectly as HR.14 too - (XG500/1, XG502/2, XG507/3, XG515/4, XG523/5, XG548/6) of the Army and RAF Joint Helicopter Unit, under Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. T. Scott with Sqn Ldr D. C. L. Kearns AFC as his deputy commander.

Totals for embarked aviation Cull : 163 aircraft (of which 117 Royal Navy Sea Hawks, Sea Venoms, Wyverns and Skyraiders) :

Fleet Air Arm 140 aircraft : 72 Sea Hawk fighters (Squadrons 800, 802, 804, 810, 897, 899), 28 Sea Venom fighters (Squadrons 809, 892, 893, 894, 895), 9 Wyvern attack(830 Squadron), 4 AEW Skyraider AEW Mk 1 (849 Squadron), 21 Whirlwind transport helicopters (845 Squadron and JHU), 6 Sycamore light helicopters (JHU)

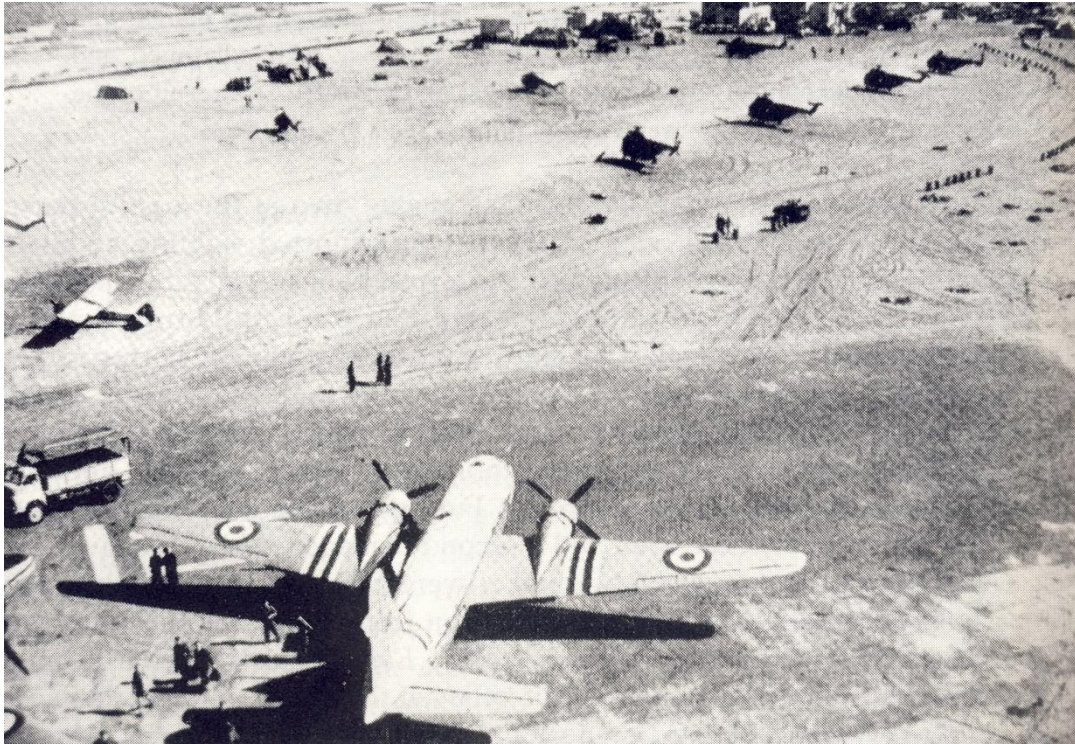
On 31 October RAF Canberras (4 sorties) and French RF-84Fs (7 sorties, RF327 flown by Lt Tiseire to Port Said to locate US destroyers reported in the harbour, RF321 flown by Lt Willay on the al-Qantara to Ismailia road where convoys of at least 100 lorries were observed) penetrated into Egyptian airspace in the afternoon to obtain up-to-date- intelligence. The principal targets for these missions were airfields and the photographs revealed the strength of EAF to be 110 MiGs, 14 Meteors, 44 Vampires and 28 Il-28s :

- 35 MiG-15s at Abu Sueir
- 31 MiG-15s at Kabrit
- 20 MiG-15s at Inchas
- 24 MiG-15s, 4 Meteors, 21 Vampires and 10 Il-28s at Almaza
- 9 Meteors and 12 Vampires at Fayid
- 9 Vampires and 16 Il-28s at Cairo West
- 22 Il-28s at Luxor
- 1 Meteor and 2 Vampires at Kasfareet

Less than half of these were operational and ready for action because only a limited number of pilots and support personnel had yet been trained to fly and maintain these aircraft.

On 24 November HMS *Eagle* embarked the six Joint Helicopter Unit Whirlwinds for Cyprus.

On 24 November HMS *Eagle* embarked the six Joint Helicopter Unit Sycamores for Malta, they had been flown from El Gamil airfield. They eventually rejoined HMS *Ocean*, flying on just after it left Malta for home.



A Valetta, a 1913 Flight Auster, Whirlwinds and Sycamores at Gamil airfield, Port Said.

Additionally RAF Regiment units were used in the campaign, such as flights of its 48th Squadron, as was the army's 1913 Light Liaison Flight (equipped with Austers).

MARINE NATIONALE & ORDERS OF BATTLE

In October 1956 The aircraft-carrier *La Fayette* was called to Toulon to complete its provisions. It left the port on the 22, escorted by the escorteur d'escadre *Kersaint*, to join *Arromanches* and *Cassard* in Bizerte. At Algiers, TCD *Foudre* and the LSTs L 9001 *Laita*, L 9004 *Rance*, L 9005 *Odet*, L9006 *Cheliff* embarked the troops tasked with the amphibious assault (650 men, 150 vehicles, three AMX-13 tank squadrons and one 105mm battery (3e batterie / 72e GA).. These ships sailed from Algiers at the end of the day for Limassol escorted by the DEs *Berbère*, *Touareg* and *Soudanais*. They formed ' Convoy d'assaut MES 1 ', which formed with British landing units, TG 345.3.

The Groupe Amphibie de la Force d'Intervention – GAFI – ships that formed convoy MES 1 comprised of the following ships :



LSD La Foudre and the destroyer Cassard.

- LSD A 646 *Foudre* (with 1 LCC and 12 / 18 LCM, 1er REP elements, batterie 3/72 and one 21e RIC AMX-13 light tank squadron)
- LST 9001 *Laïta* (with 21e RIC AMX-13s, 1er escadron / 8e RD elements and batterie 3/72)
- LST 9004 *Rance* (with one 1er REP squadron and one jeep platoon with SS 10 anti-tank missiles)
- L 9005 *Odet* (with all of 60e compagnie du génie and 1er bataillon / 8e RD elements)
- L9006 *Cheliff* (with LVT armoured amphibian vehicles and 1er REP elements)

It was completed by *LCH 9055* (capitaine de frigate Daillie), *LCT 9070*, *LCT 9071*, *LCT 9083* and *LCT 9084*. The Liberty ship *La Hague* (CGT) with 1re REP material, the liner *Hanri Poincaré* (CR) with Force A command posts, the cargo ship *Caraïbe* (CGT) with a 21e RIC jeep squadron and one 3e RCA escadron d'engins blindés de reconnaissance Panhard EBR, the liner *Azemmour* (CNP) with personnel from various units, the liner *Sidi Ferruch* (CGTM) with 2e BTC, 23e RIC and II/4e RIC personnel, the cargo ship *Gange* (MM) with 13e Génie, GT 505 and HC 461 elements, the liner *Athos II* (MM) with 8e RD and I/6e RTS personnel, the cargo ship *Aquitaine* (CDV) with BTO personnel and the liner *La Marseillaise* (MM) that was used as a hospital ship. All these reached Malta where they formed convoy marchand rapide MEQ 1.

A list of the French ships

Aviso ravitailleur d'aviation F 753 *Marcel le Bihan* (ex-German *Greif*)

Submarines : S 610 *Laubie* (ex-German *U.766* Type VIIC), S 613 *Roland Morillot* (ex-German *U2518* Type XXI)

Groupe de dragage

F 752 *Amiral Mouchez* (ex-frigate). Survey ship (bâtiment hydrographe). From 5 to 11 November 1956

M 638 *Acacia* (ex-AMS 69), M 667 *Ajonc* (ex-AMS 71), M 669 *Bégonia* (ex-AMS 83), M 672 *Chrysanthème* (ex-AMS 113), M 674 *Cyclamen* (ex-AMS 119), M 678 *Glaïeul* (ex-AMS 120), M 683 *Liseron* (ex-AMS 98), M 687 *Mimosa* (ex-AMS 99), M 693 *Pavot* (ex-AMS 124), M 695 *Pivoine* (ex-AMS 125). *Acacia*-class / MSC 60 (ex-AMS) Type coastal minesweepers (*Dragueur cotier*) : from 6 to 9 November 1956

M 639 *Acanthe* (ex-AMS 70), M 668 *Azalée* (ex-AMS 67). *Acacia*-class / MSC 60 (ex-AMS) Type coastal minesweeper (*Dragueur cotier*) : from 6 to 9 November and 9 to 19 December 1956.

M 670 *Bleuët* (ex-AMS 116), M 682 *Lilas* (ex-AMS 93). *Acacia*-class / MSC 60 (ex-AMS) Type coastal minesweeper (*Dragueur cotier*) : from 6 to 29 November 1956

M 671 *Camélia* (ex-AMS 63). *Acacia*-class / MSC 60 (ex-AMS) Type coastal minesweeper (*Dragueur cotier*) : from 29 November to 19 December 1956.

M 688 *Muguet* (ex-AMS 97). *Acacia*-class / MSC 60 (ex-AMS) Type coastal minesweeper (*Dragueur cotier*) : from 6 to 9 November and from 29 November to 19 December 1956

M 663 *Jasmin* (ex-HMS *Stedham*, ex-YMS 29, Ex-D 335). *Ham*-class inshore minesweeper (*dragueur de rade et d'estuaire*). Du 7 novembre 1956 au 12 novembre 1956

Groupe amphibie de la force d'intervention GAFI

Bâtiment de débarquement de chars BDC (LST-2), all 6 to 22 November 1956 : L 9006 *Chéliff* (ex-US LST 874), L 9001 *Laita* (ex-US LST 177), L 9005 *Odet* (ex-US LST 815), L 9004 *Rance* (ex-US LST 223).

A 646 *Foudre* (ex-Greek *Okeanos*, ex-British *Oceanway*, ex-US LSD 12). Landing ship dock (transport de chalands de débarquement). From 6 November to 2 December 1956 and from 16 to 22 December 1956 .

BDC (LST-2) L 9002 Orne (ex-US LST 508). LST. From 17 to 24 December 1956.

LCH 9055 (LCI(L)) (ex-LCI-377). Chaland de débarquement From 6 November to 22 December 1956 .

LCC 9220. From 6 November to 22 December 1956 .

LCT Mk.IV British, from 6 to 22 November 1956 :LCT 9070 (ex-RN LCT 1276), LCT 9071(ex-RN LCT 1311)

LCT Mk.III British : LCT 9083 (ex-RN LCT R4 –ex-898- , 6 November to 3 December 1956), LCT 9084 (ex-RN LCT R27, 6 to 22 November 1956)

LCM 1013, LCM 1014, LCM 1017, LCM 1042, LCM 1043, LCM 1060, LCM 1062, LCM 1067, LCM 1068, LCM 1071, LCM 1080, LCM 1081, LCM 1082, LCM 1083, LCM 1087, LCM 1088, LCM 1092, LCM 1096 : from 6 to 9 November 1956.

LVT 4s : 95798, 95799, 95800, 95816, 95820, 96141, 832273, 832274, 832275, 832276, 832277, 832279, 832280, 832404, 832405, 832406, 832409. All from 6 to 29 November 1956 .

DUCKWs : S 006170, S 006220, S 006222, S 0061223, S 641002. All from 6 to 29 November 1956.

Direction du port X

LCM 1005, LCM 1034, LCM 1037. From 19 November to 2 December 1956.

LCM 1006, LCM 1026. From 8 November to 21 December 1956.

LCM 1009, LCM 1011, LCM 1016, LCM 1057, LCM 1076. From 9 November to 21 December 1956.

LCM 1027, LCM 1046. From 12 November to 21 December 1956.

LCM 1051. From 9 November to 20 December 1956.

LCM 1052. From 9 November to 2 December 1956.

LCM 1058. From 9 November to 13 December 1956.

LCM 1061. From 12 to 27 November 1956.

LCM 1085, LCVP 9369. From 9 to 28 November 1956.

LCM 109I. From 6 to 26 November 1956.

LCM 1098, LCVP 9379. From 9 November to 12 December 1956.

LCVP 9361. From 9 to 28 November 1956.

LCVP 9364, LCVP 9371. From 6 to 26 November 1956.

LCVP 9366. From 9 to 26 November 1956.

Force navale d'intervention (FNI)

F 717 Arabe (ex-DE 183 USS Samuel S. Miles) Arabe-class / Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort. Escorteur. Du 6 novembre 1956 au 16 novembre 1956. Du 21 novembre 1956 au 2 decembre 1956.

R 95 Arromanches (ex-HMS Colossus). Colossus-class aircraft carrier (Porte-avions),. 6 novembre 1956 au 13 novembre 1956. 12 decembre 1956 au 24 decembre 1956.

A 625 La Baïse. Transport petrolier. 6 novembre 1956 au 21 novembre 1956. 26 novembre 1956 au 29 novembre 1956.

F 719 Bambara (ex-USS DE 186 Swearer). Arabe-class Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort. Escorteur. 6 novembre 1956 au 9 novembre 1956.

A 719 Béliet. Fleet tug (remorqueur de mer). 30 novembre 1956 au 23 decembre 1956.

F 723 Berbère (ex-DE 113 USS Clarence L. Evans) Arabe-class Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort. Escorteur. 6 novembre 1956 au 12 novembre 1956. 16 novembre 1956 au 6 decembre 1956. 11 decembre 1956 au 23 novembre 1956.

F 764 Le Bordelais. Le Corse-class (E 50 Type) fast frigate (escorteur rapide). 6 novembre 1956 au 9 novembre 1956.

F 763 Le Boulonnais. Le Corse-class (E 50 Type) fast frigate (escorteur rapide). 6 novembre 1956 au 20 novembre 1956. 25 novembre 1956 au 28 novembre 1956.

D 624 Bouvet. Surcouf-class T-47 sub-class fleet destroyer / escorteur d'escadre. 6 novembre 1956' au 17 novembre 1956.

F 762 Le Bretois. Le Corse-class (E 50 Type) fast frigate (escorteur rapide). 6 novembre 1956 au 29 novembre 1956. 13 decembre 1956 au 25 decembre 1956.

D 623 Cassard. Surcouf-class T-47 sub-class fleet destroyer (escorteur d'escadre). 6 novembre 1956 au 29 novembre 1956. 5 decembre 1956 au 23 decembre 1956.

F 761 Le Corse. Le Corse-class (E 50 Type) fast frigate (escorteur rapide).. 6 novembre 1956 au 9 novembre 1956. 15 novembre 1956. 17 novembre 1956 au 22 novembre 1956. 13 decembre 1956 au 27 decembre 1956.

S 606 La Créole. La Créole-class (Aurore-class ?) submarine (sous-marin). 1er novembre 1956 au 9 novembre 1956.

A 761 Criquet (ex-US AN 96). Grillon-class / UA AN type ' Off-shore ' boom defence vessel (mouilleur de filets classes gabares). 9 novembre 1956 au 21 decembre 1956

D 625 Dupetit Thouars. Surcouf-class fleet destroyer T 47 sub-class (escorteur d'escadre). 9 novembre 1956 au 21 novembre 1956. 25 novembre 1956 au 27 novembre 1956. 29 novembre 1956 au 23 decembre 1956.

A 620 Elorn. Transport petrolier. 5 decembre 1956 au 15 decembre 1956. 18 decembre 1956 au 24 decembre 1956.

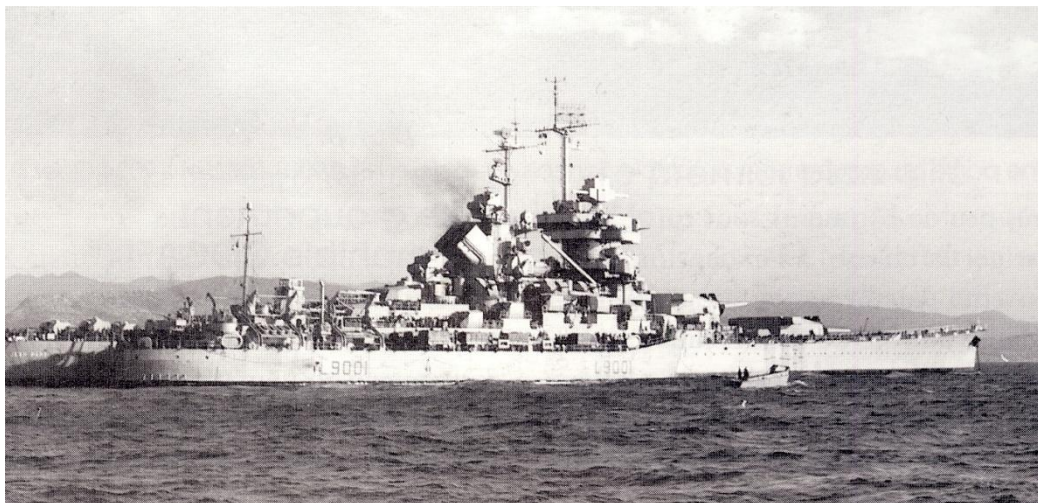
Filao tug 15 novembre 1956.

F 736 Gazelle. Aviso série dite ' coloniale ' de 647 t., Chamois-class escorteur de 2e classe – ex-aviso de 2e classe / aviso-drageur. Classified as Aviso. 16 decembre 1956 au 21 decembre 1956.

Georges Leygues. Croiseur La Galissonnière-class. 5 novembre 1956 au 27 decembre 1956.

A 741 Giboulée. Ravitailleur (cit. à eau, ravitailleur de region). 6 novembre 1956 au 20 decembre 1956.

A 641 Gustave Zédé (ex-German Saar, submarine school depot ship), submarine depot ship (batiment-base de sous-marins or Ravitailleur pour sous-marins) used as command ship (bâtiment de commandement) 6 novembre 1956 au 7 novembre 1956. 19 novembre 1956 au 22 novembre 1956.



The battleship Jean Bart with the LST L 9001 at Port Said.

Jean Bart. Battleship (batiment de ligne). 6 novembre 1956 au 7 novembre 1956.

F 718 Kabylie (ex-DE 185 USS Riddle). Arabe-class / Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort. Escorteur. 6 novembre 1956 au 19 novembre 1956.

D 622 Kersaint. Surcouf-class T 47 sub-class fleet destroyer (escorteur d'escadre). 31 octobre 1956 au 2 novembre 1956. Appui feu

A 631 Lac Tchad (ex-US oil barge Syncline). Oiler (petrolier). 19 novembre 1956 au 21 decembre 1956.

A 630 Lac Tonle Sap (Lac Tonlé-Sap) (ex-US oil barge Pumper). Oiler (petrolier). 15 novembre 1956 au 17 novembre 1956.

La Fayette (R 96,ex-USS Langley). Porte-avions. 6 novembre au 9 novembre 1956. 14 novembre 1956 au 21 novembre 1956. 25 novembre 1956 au 1er decembre 1956.

F 750 La Pérouse (ex-Sans Peur, ex-frigate). Survey ship (Batiment hydrographe / aviso hydrographe). 22 novembre 1956 au 16 decembre 1956.

A 760 Liamone (ex-Arrosoir). Water carrier (ravitailleur de region, cit. à eau). 6 novembre 1956 au 22 decembre 1956.

F 724 Malgache (ex-DE 190 USS Baker) Arabe-class / Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort. Escorteur. 6 novembre 1956 au 21 novembre 1956. 26 novembre 1956 au 23 decembre 1956.

F 753 Marcel Le Bihan (ex-German aircraft tender Greif). Aviso. 6 novembre 1956 au 16 decembre 1956.

F 765 Le Normand. Le Normand-class (E 52 Type) fast frigate (escorteur rapide). 13 decembre 1956 au 23 decembre 1956.

A 718 Pachyderme. Fleet tug (remorqueur de mer). 7 novembre 1956 au 23 decembre 1956.

F 766 Picard (Le). Le Normand-(E 52 Type) fast frigate (escorteur rapide). 19 novembre 1956 au 28 novembre 1956.

A 638 Sahel. Water carrier (ravitailleur de region). 6 novembre 1956 au 9 decembre 1956.

F 720 Sakalave. Ex-DE 194 Wingfield Arabe-class / Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort (escorteur). 6 novembre 1956 au 10 novembre 1956. MENTIONED IN THE ORBAT ?

F 722 Soudanais (ex-DE 763 USS Cates) Arabe-class / Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort. Escorteur. 6 novembre 1956 au 16 novembre 1956. 21 novembre 1956 au 30 novembre 1956.

D 621 Surcouf. Surcouf-class T-47 sub-class fleet destroyer (escorteur d'escadre). 6 novembre 1956 au 17 novembre 1956. 20 novembre 1956 au 27 novembre 1956.

F 721 *Touareg* (ex-DE 747 USS *Bright*) Arabe-class / Canon-class, ex-USN destroyer escort. Escorteur. 6 novembre 1956 au 11 novembre 1956. 16 novembre 1956 au 23 decembre 1956.

D 628 *Vauquelin*. Surcouf-class T-47 sub-class fleet destroyer (escorteur d'escadre). 13 decembre 1956 au 24 decembre 1956.

Ships not mentioned in the order of battle. Nevertheless they took part in the campaign later:

- Escorteurs d'escadre D 625 *Dupetit-Thouars*, D 628 *Vauquelin*
- Escorteurs rapides F 765 *Le Normand*, F 766 *Le Picard*
- BDC L 9002 *Orne*
- A 761 *Criquet*
- Replenishment ships A 741 *Giboulée*, A 760 *Liamone*
- Tanker A 631 *Lac Tchad*
- Tugs A 719 *Bélier*, A 718 *Pachyderme*

A note on the Canon-class escort destroyers :

- F 717 *Arabe* was in Malta on 20 October. From 23 to 28 October it escorted LCT 9083 and the tug *Pachyderme* to Famagusta. It took part in the operations under T.U. 345.6.2 with the cruiser *Georges Leygues*. It supported the landings in Port Said on 6 November, left for Limassol on 16 November and returned to Port Said on 21 November to cover the evacuation.
- F 718 *Kabyle* (ex-DE 185 USS *Riddle*). It escorted convoys and was present at Port Said on 6 November, returning to Toulon, via Limassol, on 25 November.
- F 719 *Bambara* . It escorted a merchant convoy to Port Said, was assigned to T.U. 345.6.1 on 6 November, its task was the close defence of *Jean Bart*. It left on 15 November.
- F 720 *Sakalave*. Was at Port Fouad on 7 November, at the heart of the intervention. Was assigned to T.U. 345.6.1 on 6 November. On 9 November it was in Bizerte.
- F 721 *Touareg*. On 4 November it was at Limassol, assigned to T.U. 345.6.3 that was assigned to escort LSTs *Laiïta* and *Odet*. At night the convoy left meeting next day the allied convoys. It had Commando Jaubert aboard too. It landed the Commando on 6 November at Port Said and left the area on 22 December.
- F 722 *Soudanais*. Charged with escorting LCT 9070, LCT 9071, LCT 9084 and the tug *Bélier* to Cyprus, where they arrived on 3 November. They were destined for Limassol but were re-routed for Famagousta. Assigned to T.U. 345.6.3 it escorted the French amphibian convoys from Cyprus to Port Said. It was at the head of the landing convoy, with Commando Hubert aboard, on 6 November and remained at the Canal entrance until 1 December.

- F 723 *Berbère*. Was at Limassol from 4 October. Assigned to T.U. 345.6.2 it was tasked with protecting LSTs *Chélif* and *Rance*, that were carrying the assault echelon that landed at Port Fouad on 6 November. It remained in the area until 22 December, one of the last units, carrying Commando Hubert to Toulon.
- F 724 *Malgache*. Assigned to T.U. 345.6.2 it was charged with escorting the cruiser *Georges Leygues*. It left Port Fouad on 22 December, carrying Commando Jaubert.



RAF Akrotiri. French F-84Fs (centre) and RAF Venoms (right).

ARMÉE DE L'AIR (FRENCH AIR FORCE)- AÉRONAUTIQUE NAVALE (NAVAL AVIATION)

On 23 August a Groupement mixte, G.M. 1, was formed in Cyprus. It allowed, the deployment of two escadrons of F-84F fighters (1/3 Navarre and 3/3 Ardennes), of a RF-84F escadron (formed by 1/33 Belfort and designated 4/33) and one transport unit in the bases of Akrotiri and Tymbou in Cyprus. These forces comprised of 2,600 men and 700 vehicles. Akrotiri became base opérationelle 791, Tymbou 792.

On 13 September 36 F-84F fighter-bombers (3e escadre de chasse) and 15 RF-84F (33e escadre de reconnaissance) arrived at Akrotiri. Many Breguet 761/763 Deux ponts, Hurel-Dubois HD 32, DC-3, DC-4, DC-6, Armagnac, civil and military flew between France & North Africa and the Tymbou airfield in Cyprus.

To convey the 2,950 men of the French parachute regiments to Cyprus with almost 700 vehicles, trailers and a great deal of equipment an air bridge between France,

Algeria and Cyprus was maintained by a fleet of aircraft comprising Bréguet 761S / 763 of ET 2/61 'Maine' (61-PD among them) and Air France, Sud-Est Armagnacs of SAGETA (among them F-BAVF), DC-4s of Air France, TAI, Air Algérie, UAT and SGACC, DC-6s of TAI and UAT and eight troop-carrying flights were undertaken by Air France and Air Algérie Constellations. The first aircraft arrived at Nicosia on 26 October were DC-4s, DC-6s and a Bréguet. Only one aircraft (Armagnac F-BAVF of SAGETA) broke down during the 52-sortie, four-day operation.

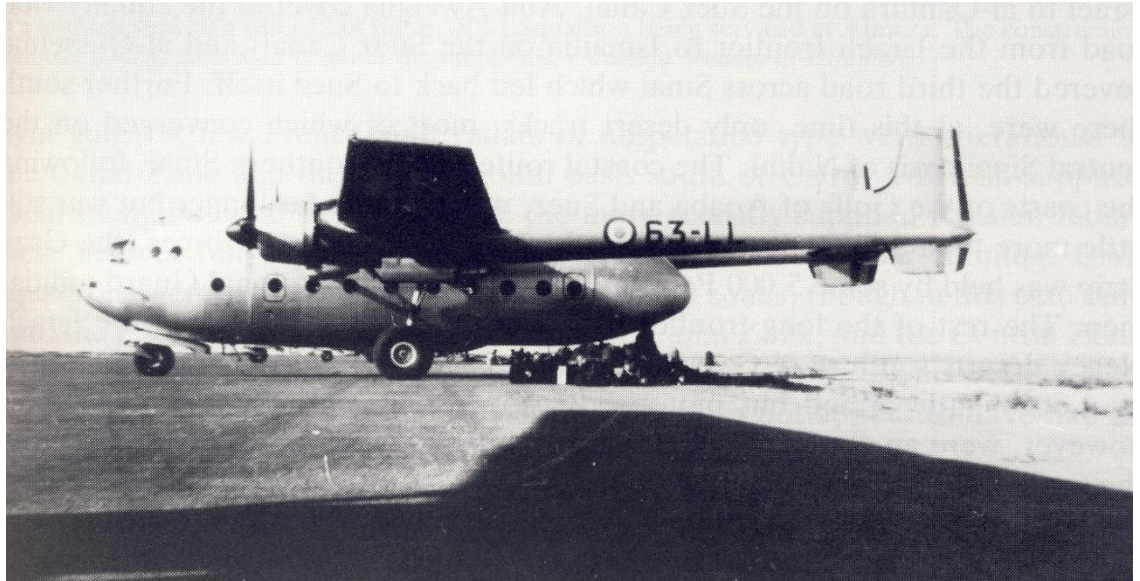
End of October : French air units started arriving in Cyprus, most from Commandement Aérien Tactique and Groupement des Moyens de Transport Aérien. These were brought together as Groupement Mixte no. 1 which was created on 23 October with its own operational command, integrated into the Anglo-French command, with its own French logistical structure. There were detachments from five fighter-bomber squadrons : EC 1/1 'Corse', EC 2/1 'Morvan', EC 3/1 'Argonne', EC 1/3 'Navarre' and EC 3/3 'Ardennes'. with a total of 54 F-84Fs. Only EC 1/3 and EC 3/3 remained at Nicosia with 36 aircraft, the other three units flying to Israel. There also were ten RF-84F of a reconnaissance unit temporarily known as ER 4/33. ER 4/33 drawn from ER 1/33 'Belfort' and ER 3/33 'Moselle' under the overall command of Colonel Gabriel Gauthier (commander of the Rheims air base).

On 31 October six F-84Fs from EC 2/3 'Champagne' arrived at Nicosia. Pilots for the French Thunderstreak units in Cyprus were drawn from all six squadrons of the 1re and 3e Escadres de Chasse (based at Saint-Dizier and Reims; EC 1/3 'Navarre', EC 2/3 'Champagne', EC 1/1 'Corse', EC 3/1 'Argonne' and EC 3/3 'Ardennes'). Five more RF-84F from ER 2/33 'Savoie' arrived in Cyprus.

End of October Armée de l'air

Forty-nine aircraft in Israel:

- Detachments from EC 1/2 'Cicogne' & EC 3/2 'Alsace' (2e Escadre de Chasse with 18 Mystère IV) formed Tayeset 199 of the Israeli Air Force. Stahl 'La crise...' : from 'Cicognes' and 'Alsace' / 2e escadre de chasse
- Detachments from EC 1/1 'Corse', EC 2/1 'Morvan' & EC 3/1 'Argonne' (1re Escadre de Chasse with 18 F-84F Thunderstreak - 52-8903/1-NA, 52/3068/1-NF, 52-8914/1-NK, 52-9102/1-NL, 52-8943/1-NM, 52-9340/1-NN, 5-9358, 52-9111 - landed at Lydda on 29 October and received immediately Israeli markings, also from EC 2/1 'Morvan' and EC 3/1 'Argonne' - 52-9110/1-PX, 52-7300 -) formed Tayeset 200 of the Israeli Air Force. Frédéric Stahl, 'La crise...' thirty-six.
- EC 2/2 'Cote d'Or' and EC 3/2 'Alsace' crews manned twelve *Israeli* Mystère IVA as the Israeli Tayeset 201 at Ramat David.



French Noratlas 63-LL in Israel. It operated as the Israeli 203 Squadron.

- 203 Squadron (alias for ET 1/64 ' Bearn ' with eight Noratlas – 63-LL among them).
- Additionally some C-47 Dakotas were provided.
- And Frédéric Stahl, ' La crise...' mentions that with the 'greatest discretion' the 26 Thunderstreaks and 18 Mystère IVA *still in Israel* of 1ère Escadre de Chasse (that is 44) were repainted with French colours on 14 November, left Israel for France through Akrotiri and brindis.

Ninety-six aircraft in Cyprus:

- Thirty-six F-84F Thunderstreak of the 3e Escadre de chasse.
- Fifteen RF-84F Thunderflash of escadron 'Fumassol' of the ER 4/33 (33e Escadre de Reconnaissance).
- A transport force of forty Noratlases (including two HQ planes), with some operating from Israel, drawn from ET 1/61 ' Touraine ' (Capitaine Muller), ET 3/61 ' Poitou ' (Cdt Latour), ET 1/62 ' Algerie ' (Cdt Guillou, six aircraft) and ET 2/63 ' Sénégal ' (Cne Marrill) arrived on 29 October and five Dakotas were also used between the French transport units (one as an ' airborne command post ' during the parachute assault and others to evacuate casualties). Operating from RAF Tymbou.



An HUP-2 helicopter of 23S and the cruiser Georges Leygues at Port Said.

Aéronautique Navale 50 aircraft : 36 F4U-7 Corsair fighter-bombers (14F, 15F), 10 TBM-3S and TBM-3W Avenger anti-submarine and AEW (9F), 4 HUP-2 ‘ Pedro ’helicopters (23 S).

Arromanches :

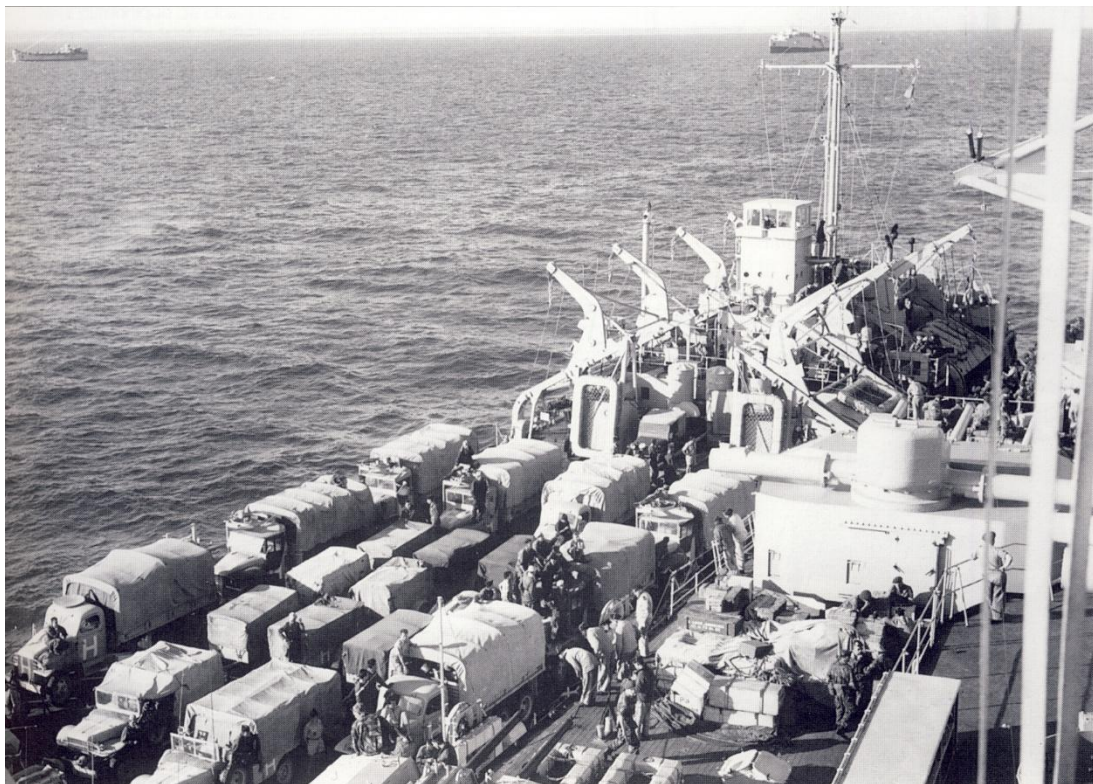
- Flotille 14F (Lt de V Jean-Pierre Cremer , fourteen F4U-7). 14F normally based at Karouba, Tunisia flew to the aircraft carrier on 23 October.
- Flotille 15F (Lt de V Degermann,, eighteen F4U-7 - 4 Corsairs were from 14F-)
- 23S Escadrille (two HUP-2, ship’s flight helicopter – also mentioned as 23 F)
- Stahl gives the Avengers(9F) to *Arromanches*. TBM-3 Sapho-26 and Sapho-27 ?

Lafayette (La Fayette in French) :

- Flotille 9F (Avenger TBM-3S and TBM-3W –the latter were radar-equipped).
Enseigne de Vaisseau Philippe de Gaulle.
- 23S Escadrille (two HUP-2, ship's flight helicopter)
- *Arromanches* Corsairs also flew from *Lafayette* and Stahl gives 15F to *La Fayette*

On 7 November six French Army Bell 47G helicopters of GH3 were made available.

ARMÉE DE TERRE (FRENCH ARMY)



Most of the French transport vehicles (and the amphibians carrying them) were of American origin.

Dates are taken from a Campaign Participation Credits List (Périodes pendant lesquelles l'unité est reconnue combattante)

État-major (Commandement des armes et directions des services) / 10e division parachutiste (10e DP) From 5 November to 18 December 1956

Groupe opérationnel au Moyen Orient / 11e demi-brigade de parachutistes de choc (11e DBPC) From 5 November to 4 December 1956



A column of 1er REP elements with AMX-13 light tanks checking on an Egyptian radar installation in the lagoon to the east of Port Fouad in 'Police Post'.

1er régiment étranger de parachutistes (1er REP) From 6 November to 22 December 1956. 2nd Squadron/2 REC with 8 AMX-13 tanks was attached to it.

2e régiment de parachutistes coloniaux (2e RPC) From 5 November to 2 December 1956. Equipped with Jeeps carrying SS10 anti-tank missiles.

1er bataillon / 6e régiment de tirailleurs sénégalais (1/6e RTS) From 6 November to 22 December 1956

Détachement de liaison attached to l'artillerie divisionnaire (AD) de la 10e division parachutiste (10e DP) / 20e groupe d'artillerie Parachutiste (20e GAP). From 5 November to 16 December 1956.

Détachement de liaison et d'observation (DLO) attached to 1er régiment étranger de parachutistes (1er REP) / 20e groupe d'artillerie Parachutiste (20e GAP). From 5 November to 16 December 1956.

Détachement de liaison et d'observation (DLO) attached to 2e régiment de parachutistes coloniaux (2e RPC) / 20e groupe d'artillerie Parachutiste (20e GAP). From 5 November to 16 December 1956



Bell 47 helicopters, Peloton d'hélicoptères légers.

Peloton d'hélicoptères légers (PHL) (also called peloton d'hélicoptères Bell « A ») assigned to force « Amilcar » (force A). From 7 November to 22 December 1956

Peloton d'avions (PA) de la 10e division parachutiste (10e DP). Supporting état major de la 10e division parachutiste (10e DP). From 11 November to 24 December 1956.

60e compagnie de quartier général aéroportée (60e CGQGAP). From 5 November to 18 December 1956.

État major et compagnie de commandement et des services (EM et CCS) and 1re compagnie (1/507 GT) / 507e groupe de transport (507e GT). From 20 November to 18 December 1956.

60e compagnie du génie aéroportée (60e CGAP). From 5 November to 17 December 1956.

Compagnie de plage. From 5 November to 22 December 1956.

60e compagnie de transmissions (60e CT) – also called 60e CT aéroportée (60e CTAP) -. From 5 November to 10 December 1956.

405e compagnie médicale (405e CM) – also called 405e CM parachutiste -. From 5 November to 17 December 1956.

Antenne chirurgicale de la 10e division parachutiste (ACM / 10e DP). From 5 November to 18 December 1956.

60e compagnie de réparation divisionnaire (60e CRD). From 5 November to 16 December 1956.

60e section de ravitaillement de l'intendance (60 SRI) – also called 60e SRI aéroportée (60e SRIAP) and SRI de la 10e division, parachutiste (10e DP) - . From 5 November to 16 December 1956.

List of units in the Mediterranean between 30 October and 31 December 1956 not shown on the Combat Units in Eastern Mediterranean (Suez) List - shown as Annexe II Formations ayant séjournées en méditerranée entre le 30 octobre et le 31 décembre 1956 ne figurant pas sur la liste des unités combattantes en Méditerranée orientale (Suez) - :



5 November, about 13.25. The French paratroopers at El Raswa. The jeep is towing an (Egyptian) Hispano-Suiza 30 mm anti-aircraft gun and the (Egyptian) Bren Carrier a Russian 57 mm Model 1943(M1943 Zis-2) anti-tank gun.

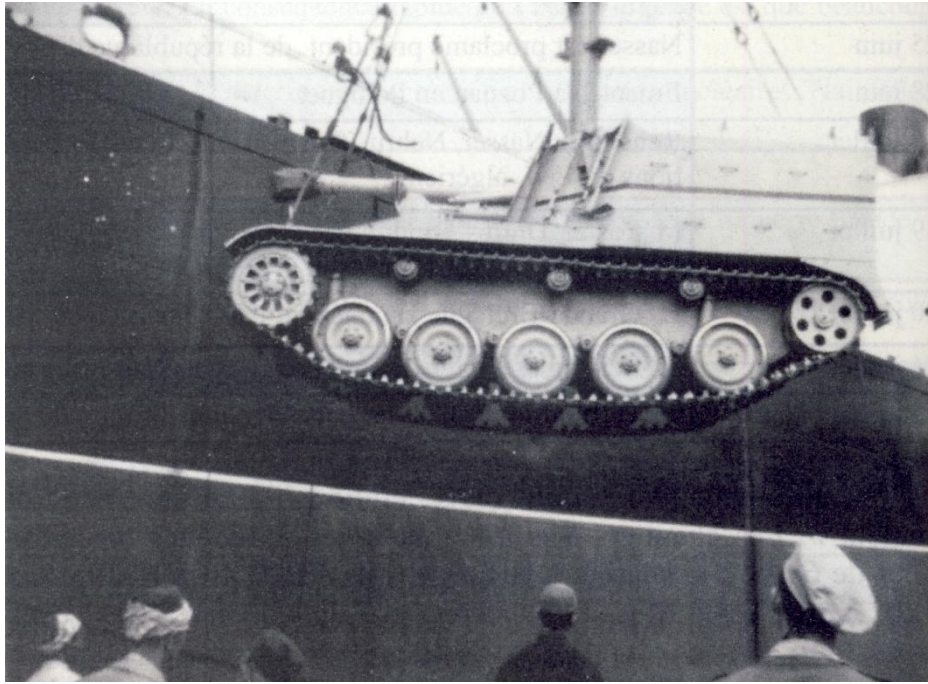
Etat major interarmes (Force Amilcar or Force A - état major or EMFA, commandements des armes, et directions des services -)



AMX-13 tanks of the 21 RIC and the LVTs used on the first landing wave at Port-Fouad.

1er escadron de chars légers Mle 51 (or 1er escadron AMX) / 21e régiment
d'infanterie coloniale (21e RIC)

8e régiment de dragons (8e RD). Equipped with M-47 Patton tanks.



One of the four AMX-105s used in the campaign being loaded on the Liberty ship Vire, in Algiers.

3e batterie (3/72e GA) / 72e groupe d'artillerie (72e GA). Equipped with 4 self-propelled howitzers AMX-105.

42e & 100e compagnies de quartier général (42e & 100e CQG)

13e bataillon du génie (13e BG)

2e bataillon de télégraphistes coloniaux (2e BTC)

640e compagnie magasin, subsistances et habillement (640e CMSH) (detachment at Port-Saïd)

728e compagnie de fabrication du pain (728e CFP)

(ANOTHER ASPECT OF) THE FRENCH-ISRAELI CONNECTION

A well-guarded secret was the clandestine supply of war material to Israel, during the Suez affair, particularly by French merchant vessels.

1951 : February, France supplied 6 vedettes lance-torpilleurs type Meulan, 61 Mosquito FB6 / NF 30 / PR 16 & T 3 (airplanes were delivered between June 1951 and May 1952).

1953 : April / May, 15 Meteor (12 F8 & 4 T7) delivered by Britain to Israel.

1954

France supplied to Israel AMX 13 tanks, radar systems, 75mm recoilless guns, Ouragan fighters (and some Mystère IVA ?).

19 October, General Dayan visited France and signed a contract for AMX 13 tanks, Shermans, radar systems, 75mm recoilless rifles, 24 Ouragan and 6 Mystère IIC (the last ones were, finally, replaced by Mystère IVA).

1955

A new contract (France – Israel) was signed for the delivery of re-armed Shermans (given by Great Britain to France ?) and new arms.

26 February, new arms contract (France-Israel). Rearming 100 Shermans (bought from great Britain) with guns and modern equipment.

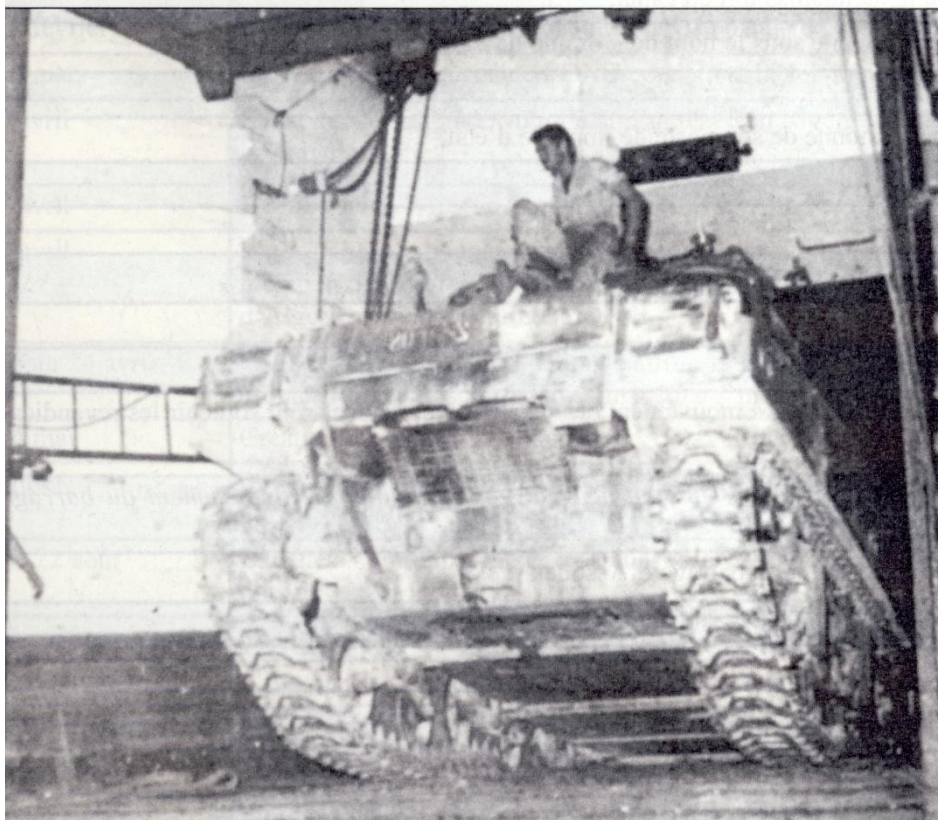
12 November. New contract (France – Israel). 51 Ouragan, 56 Mystère IVA and various other materials and equipment. 100 Super Sherman, 300 half-tracks, 40 tank-transporting semi-trailers, 300 vehicles, 1,000 88mm bazookas. Israel also, obtained rights to license-built Fouga CM.a170 Magister.

1956

15 April. 16 first Mystère IVA arrived in Israel.

In May France delivered 40 AMX 13, 20 155mm pieces and 9,000 shells to Egypt in accordance with a contract signed after the nationalization of the Canal.

July 1956



An M 50 Super Sherman in the hold of a French ship.

Opération ' Brouillard ' (' Jonas ' for the Israelis) : Even before, the nationalization of the Suez Canal had been official, France decided to reinforce Israel under the utmost secrecy with Opération ' Brouillard '. 60 M4A1 76mm Sherman, 100 M 50 Super Sherman, 100 AMX 13, 300 half-tracks, 24 AMX-105 self-propelled guns, 24 M-7 Priest 105mm SPGs, 24 155mm pieces, 105mm M-2 pieces, 75mm RRs, SS-10 AT missiles, 50 tank transporters with semi-trailers, 300 trucks, 1,000 88mm bazookas and various other equipment. The first consignments were embarked at Toulon on 24 July at night on an ex-USN LST (BDC for Marine nationale) and it discharged its cargo at the little port of Kishon, a few kilometers from Haifa. 30 tanks and 60 t. of materials were unloaded in an hour, because the LST had to be in high seas by daybreak. The following days other French ships continued the operation.

On 7 August, a little after the nationalization of the Canal, France accepted the requests of the Israeli Prime Minister Ben Gurion for the supply of arms. The secret protocol was called 'Protocole de Sévres ' (it was signed at a villa there on 23 and 24 October) .

Clandestine transport of military material and specialists by about 6 ships to Israel during October 1956. After completing their missions the ships returned to Marseille, Oran and Algiers mainly. Then cargo was loaded on ships for Port Fouad (the French landing site in Suez). Capitaine de corvette Célérrier, en charge at Algiers de la flotte marchande réquisitionnée, made the Liberty ship *Robert Espagne* his command ship at port.

Ships used were : the Liberty ships *Cavalaire, Lorient, Mortain, Saint Malo, Ouistreham & Sète* and the cargo ships *Aquitaine & Pilote Garnier*. They were loaded at Toulon and most changed their names and flag. *Aquitaine* was re-named *Ita 1*, *Saint Malo* became *Tima*, *Sète* *Setero*, *Mortain* *Moria*, *Ouistreham* *Istreha* etc. *Lorient* did not change name (testimony of a crew member). Additionally (no 38) Liberty Ship *Vire*.

The ships carried ammunitions, jeeps, tanks, trailers, trucks, 500 kg bombs for planes,, rockets, napalm bombs, repair workshops, specialized vehicles, etc. American material was loaded at New Orleans on *Canchat* (Transat), it was unloaded at Cherbourg, moved to Toulon, where it was loaded on *Saint Malo* with Haifa as its destination. There were 76mm howitzers in crates and there were inscriptions on them ' Donation from the American people to the Israeli people '. The ships also carried military personnel, for example *Mortain* and *Sète* carried some dozens of air force NCOs. On the second half of October they sailed at night and everyone supposed they were heading for Cyprus.

Every night the ship captain was opening an envelope addressed to him with instructions for the geographic point he had to head the next day. Little by little, each separately from the others, they reached Israel. The last day, before arriving at Haifa, each was approached in the high sea by an Israeli patrol boat (without any distinctive

insignia or numbers). The patrol boat crews ordered them to change the names of the ships and the company names on them (and they were re-named as written above). The Israeli Minister of War was on the patrol boat that approached *Saint Malo*. While the ships were unloaded the military passengers were ordered to disembark wearing civilian clothes and the crews were restricted aboard. On the material and crates there was no French, British or American inscription denoting their contents (for example on the *Lorient* crates it was written ‘ Marine Toulon ’.

On 23 October Guy Molet met secretly Ben Gurion on the airfield of Villacoublay. A decision was taken to send 24 Mystère IVA aircraft to Israel for the air cover of the country. The planes were painted with the Star-of-David on the French tricolor. Another escadrille of F-84s would be send to Israel to support the ground forces.

On 28 October the Mystère IVA and the F-84F promised to Israel took off from Dijon and Saint-Dizier to land at the Israeli base of Lydda, after stopping at Bari and Cyprus.

In the end of October two Escadrille 31S Bretagne transport planes flew in the middle of the night to Israel to carry ammunition for the Mystère IVA and the Ouragan.

30 October 1st Egyptian Mechanised Brigade reduced to forty T-34/85 and about ten SU-100 after attacks by French F-84Fs in Israeli markings.

On 31 October Georges Leygues arrived discretely at Haifa at 19.30 and escorted by the Israeli destroyers Elath and Yafo sailed to bombard Egyptian positions in Rafah.



The French cruiser Georges Leygues (bottom), the Royal Navy HMS Tyne (HQ ship, top left), a French Liberty (top right) with an auxiliary (A718 Pachyderme or A719 Béliet) in Port Said. LCTs and Royal Navy's Ton-class minesweepers at top left .

On 1 November at 01.30Z (03.30 local time) cruiser Georges Leygues, escorted by the Israeli destroyers Yafo and Elath placed itself 2,200 m from the coast and 7,000 m from the town of Rafah. At 01.55 it opened fire, stopping at 0228 after 180 shells were fired. At 0315 it re-opened fire, with a rate of three shells per 10 seconds, stopping at 03.55Z after having fired 350 152mm shells. At 0220Z Kersaint, with Surcouf, off Haifa at Ras el Krun, detected at a distance of 16 miles a ship sailing at 15 knots east.

That time the third 4e DDE fleet destroyer, Bouvet, and the Israeli destroyer Yafo were off Jaffa. At 0332 the ship appeared and it was found to be the Egyptian destroyer Ibrahim el-Awal. It opened fire with its four 102mm pieces on an Israeli position on Mount Carmel. Kersaint and the Egyptian ship were three miles apart. At 0335 the French fleet destroyer opened fire on the Egyptian destroyer. The last one turning its two double 102mm turrets seemed ready to fire on the French ship. In fact it fired on another sector of the coast. Its shells fell between the coast and Kersaint. The French fleet destroyer fired 65 127mm shells between 0340 and 0355 on Ibrahim el-Awal, a salvo falling into its engine room , which forced it to stop after a few minutes. Kersaint ceased firing at 0355, probably to avoid hitting by chance the USN destroyers DD-708 USS Harlan R. Dickson, DD 709 USS Hugh A. Pervis and the

transport APD-133 Burdo that were sailing to Haifa. The Egyptian destroyer managed to leave the area and at a time when the distance between Kersaint and the Egyptian destroyer was 10,500 m the French captain decided to abandon the pursuit. It left for Haifa at 0440. Israeli navy and air force units attacked it then. Of the 504 shells fired at Ibrahim el-Awal only four were from Kersaint (one 127mm and three 114mm).

At 0500, 9F TBM Avengers from Arromanches saw the Egyptian destroyer *Al-Nasser* that started firing at them with its two 85mm and seven 37mm guns. A few minutes later frigate *Tarik* was observed not far. It was attacked by eight Corsairs from La Fayette with rockets and 450 kg bombs. Al-Nasser covered the frigate with its guns and the French planes were forced to bomb them not from a semi-dive positions as they had done on their first passes but from the horizontal at an altitude of 2,600 m. The two ships returned to Alexandria, only Tarek having suffered from splinters.

3 November : The Egyptian 1st Armoured Brigade had lost : 27 vehicles by French aircraft...

EGYPTIAN ARMY

The Egyptian defence plan

The Egyptian command knew the weaknesses of its army (85,000 men and 150,000 men – national guard, badly armed and equipped, including popular militias).

Egyptian army material was fairly abundant but heteroclit and worn-out. The many tanks and equipment available were kept at depots as shortages of personnel to man them. The Egyptian defence plan was :

- a. to ‘ lighten ’ its dispositions against Israel
- b. to reinforce coastal defences to delay the arrival of Franco-british forces
- c. to use the National guard forces (re-named ALN) as a guerilla force, mainly in the Nile Delta region
- d. to concentrate the best units in the area of Cairo, to launch a counter- attack on favourable ground



An abandoned Archer tank destroyer.

- 1st Infantry Division was to the east of Cairo (HQ at Abassia). It was well equipped and staffed. Its constituent units were the 1st Infantry Brigade and two regiments of the 3rd Armoured Brigade equipped with 29 Centurion tanks, Archer self-propelled guns, Sherman Mk.3 tanks and some AMX 13 delivered by France. It could move towards Ismailia in case of a landing only at Port Said or move west to counter-attack forces heading for the capital.
- 2nd Infantry Division, with HQ at Gebel Mayam, by Ismailia, in direct defence of the Suez Canal. Its units were 2nd Infantry Brigade at Schaluffa, 7th Infantry Brigade at Ismailia, 3rd Infantry Brigade at El-Kantara and 1st Armoured Brigade at Fayid Fanara. The armoured brigade was equipped with Sherman, T-34 and one motorised battalion with BTR-152 (HQ at Gebel Mayam). The division was supported by an independent tank regiment with T-34/85, and Archer self-propelled gun regiment and one SU-100 company.
- 3rd Infantry Division (General HQ at Abu Ageila, in the Sinai). It was a reinforced formation and comprised of 5th Infantry Brigade (at Rafah) with a T-34/85 tank company and one Archer self-propelled company, 6th Infantry Brigade in the El-Arish sector with a Sherman FL 10 (M-4 with an AMX-13 turret) company, one t-34/85 company and one Archer self-propelled company and, additionally, a regiment detached from the 3rd Armoured Brigade at Abu Agheila with the 78th and 94th Batteries equipped with self-propelled Archers (the 78th was between Umm Katef and Umm Shehan). This division would move to the canal in the direction of Ismailia in case of landings at Port-Said.
- 4th Armoured Division. This division was the Egyptian strategic reserve and was stationed to the west of the capital. Its weapons were the most modern but they were not, yet, fully operational. It comprised of the 2nd Armoured Brigade with a regiment equipped with 32 JS-III heavy tanks, a regiment with 48 T-34/85 (3 squadrons with 16 tanks each) and one battalion with 20 SU-100s. It

could maneuver in co-ordination with the 1st Infantry Division in case of a Franco-British attack towards Cairo.

- 8th Independent Division (Infantry Division) called ' Palestinian '. In the areas El-Arish and Gaza. Of little military worth. With one Sherman Mk. 3 tank company. It could operation with the 3rd Infantry Division or be placed in a defensive position. It could, also, if necessary, send one of its brigades to defend the coast east of Port Fouad.
- 11th Infantry Division. With three national guard brigades. It could assist the 3rd Infantry Division in the defence of the Suez Canal.
- 12th National Guard Division (Infantry Division). With guerilla units, tasked with harassing the Franco-British rear in case of a Franco-British attack towards Cairo from Alexandria.
- 8th Regular Infantry Brigade. Reinforced with the 5th Armoured Regiment with 48 T-34/85 and one 16-Centurion squadron. It was tasked with assuring the protection of the Alexandria region, that was the main Egyptian Navy base. Its mission was to oppose frontally the landing troops, but also to delay the advance of Franco-British troops towards Cairo with the assistance of of one National Guard brigade, supported by some tanks. To fight in the town too, if needed.

The Egyptian defence plan was coherent but proved outmoded by the surprise attack of the Israelis in the Sinai. The USSR informed Nasser, during October, about a probable Israeli attack, but it was too late for the Egyptian command to change its defence plan and to reinforce significantly its dispositions in the east. The 2nd Infantry Division was to be send and be ready to deploy part of it to launch, if necessary, a counter-attack in the Sinai.

Other Egyptian Army units :

In the area of Cairo :

- 4th Independent Motorised Brigade (general reserve unit)
- one mechanised regiment (with BTR-152, general reserve unit)
- 75th Parachutists Battalion (at Heliopolis, general reserve unit)
- one national guard brigade (general reserve unit)
- one T-34/85 tank regiment (three 16-tank squadrons, general reserve unit)
- one regiment being formed with 20 SU-100, recently delivered from Czechoslovakia
- one anti-tank regiment with Archer self-propelled guns (general reserve unit)
- one training regiment with old Valentine tanks
- one artillery regiment with 155mm howitzers
- one artillery regiment with 140mm, 25-pounder and some 122mm pieces
- one anti-tank regiment with 57mm pieces
- one anti-aircraft regiment with 24 3.7-inch (94mm) pieces
- one anti-aircraft regiment being formed with Soviet 85mm pieces
- two anti-tank regiments, each with 54 Bofors L/60 40mm pieces

According to the French intelligence bulletin (*Annexe T-Situation des forces ennemies arête à la date du 24 septembre 1956*):



*Huckstep Camp (east of Cairo International Airport), photographed by an RF-84F pf ER 4/33.
Apparently undamaged tanks in the foreground and burnt-out vehicles to the left.*

Cairo area:

- one infantry division (two brigades)
- one motorized infantry brigade (not confirmed)
- One three-company mechanised infantry regiment on BTR-152
- One paratroopers battalion (at Heliopolis)
- One National Guard Brigade

The following armoured elements were part of an armoured brigade at the area of the Pyramids:

- One T-34 regiment (three 16-tank squadrons)
- One JS III regiment with 30 or 32 tanks
- One Centurion regiment with 29 tanks
- One SU-100 regiment with 20 guns
- One Valentine regiment (not confirmed)
- One Archer regiment (not confirmed)
- One 25-pdr artillery regiment

- One 57 mm anti-tank regiment
- One 155 mm howitzer regiment (not confirmed)
- The *Synthèse de Renseignements-Possibilités des armées du Moyen-Orient 3 octobre 1956* mentions 1 infantry division, 1 armoured division, 1 infantry brigade, 1 armoured brigade and one national guard brigade.

In the area of Alexandria :

- one armoured car squadron
- one artillery regiment with 25-pounder pieces
- one anti-tank regiment with 57mm pieces
- one anti-aircraft regiment with 24 3.7-inch (94mm) pieces (being replaced by Soviet 85mm pieces)
- one anti-aircraft regiment with 54 Bofors L/60 40mm pieces
- two national guard battalions, equipped with light arms only.
- The *Synthèse de Renseignements-Possibilités des armées du Moyen-Orient 3 octobre 1956* mentions 1 brigade reinforced with a light tank regiment, supported by 'heavy concentrations' of anti-aircraft artillery and 1 coastal artillery regiment and 1 national guard brigade.

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According to the French intelligence bulletin (*Annexe T-Situation des forces ennemies arrêtée à la date du 24 septembre 1956*):

Alexandria area:

- One regular infantry brigade (HQ at Amiriya –probable-, 1 battalion at Amiriya, 1 battalion at Dikheila & 1 battalion not clear where.
- One T-34 tank regiment (HQ at Amiriya –probable-, 2 squadrons at Amiriya, 1 squadron at Dikheila; some T-34s at Burg el Arab belong to this regiment)
- One Centurion squadron (in various points – the city of Alexandria and Burg el Arab among them-).
- Some armoured cars at Dikheila.
- JS III 'mentioned as being present, but not confirmed'.
- One mechanised infantry unit at Burg el Arab.
- One 25 pdr artillery regiment (1 battery at Amiriya, 1 southeast of Dikheila and 1 battery at Burg El Arab –probably-).
- One 57 mm anti-tank regiment on possible axes of advance and sensitive points.
- One heavy anti-aircraft artillery regiment (24 guns at 6 different defence points -4 pieces per point, one north of the Alexandria port-).
- One light anti-aircraft regiment (54 pieces at various points).
- National Guard (about 5,000 men in 2 battalions, with recruits east of El Mex).
- Coastal artillery batteries at Agami (three Vickers 6-inch guns & 3 projectors), Dikheila (a 'prepared position' for three 9-inch guns and 1 projector), Farouk (two Vickers 6-inch guns and 2 projectors), Posrt Said (at Quarantine; four Vickers 6-pdr guns and 7 projectors) and Ras el Tin (two 6-inch guns)

In the Sinai :

- six regular infantry battalions
- one Sherman tank regiment
- one AMX-13 light tank regiment
- one artillery regiment with 25-pounder pieces The *Synthèse de Renseignements-Possibilités des armées du Moyen-Orient 3 octobre 1956* mentions 1 division

In the Canal Zone :

- one SU-100 squadron at Port Said
- one artillery regiment with 25-pounder pieces at Ismailia
- one anti-tank regiment with Soviet 57mm pieces
- one anti-aircraft regiment with about 20 3.7-inch (94mm) pieces (one of its batteries, with 4 pieces at Port Said)
- two anti-aircraft regiments with Bofors 40mm and Hispano Suiza 30mm pieces
- The *Synthèse de Renseignements-Possibilités des armées du Moyen-Orient 3 octobre 1956* mentions 1 (probable) division

According to the French intelligence bulletin (*Annexe T-Situation des forces ennemies arête à la date du 24 septembre 1956*):

- One infantry division (HQ at Gebel Maryam, Ismailia with one brigade at El-Kanatar-Port Said, one brigade at Ismailia and one brigade at Shaluffa Fayid)
- Possibly one brigade reinforced the area from the Sinai and its HQ is Ismailia.
- One mechanized infantry regiment (possible)
- One T-34 regiment (with a squadron attached to each brigade)
- One Archer regiment (*automoteur sur Valentine*)
- One SU-100 unit (some guns at Port Said)
- One 25-pdr field artillery regiment (with a battery attached to each brigade)
- One heavy anti-aircraft artillery regiment (Port-Said – Ismailia – Suez)
- Two light anti-aircraft artillery regiments
- Six National Guard battalions
- A note: the constitution of an armoured division in the area of Cairo is not confirmed. An armoured regiment and a self-propelled gun (Archer?) regiment may be in the Canal (Kabrit-Fayid).

The above forces are disposed in the following way:

- Port Said:
Two or three infantry battalions (one national guard). One of these at Port Fouad.
Some T-34 tanks and, probably, some SU-100 between Gamil and Posrt Said and on the coast
- El Kantara-Balah:

- Two or three infantry battalions (one national guard). One battalion east of the Canal
- One T-34 squadron (12 tanks seen on the 8th of September on the Canal road and at El Ballah)
- One Archer battery
- One 25-pdr battery
- Some heavy anti-aircraft pieces
- Ismailia (*only garrison forces*):
 - One infantry brigade
 - Two national guard battalions
 - One T-34 regiment (at least two squadrons)
 - One Archer regiment (at least two batteries)
 - One artillery regiment (at least two batteries)
 - One engineer regiment
- From Deversoir to Kabrit (*a zone comprising many important airfields, large depots ... and immense camps according to the bulletin*):
 - Three infantry battalions
 - One tank squadron
 - One or two national guard battalions
 - Self propelled guns (Archer) and, *no doubt*, one artillery battery
- Sinai:
 - Palestinian Division (El Arish-Gaza)
 - Six regular infantry battalions
 - One Sherman regiment
 - One AMX regiment (not confirmed)
 - One 25-pdr artillery regiment



An SU-100 and an Archer (left).

October 1956 Order of Battle

Minister of Defence and Commander-in-Chief : General Abd el Hakim Amer

Main Military District

1st Infantry Division :

Three 3-battalion infantry brigades (1st Brigade including 1st Infantry Battalion ?) – Stahl 30 October 1st Mechanised Brigade reduced to forty T-34/85 and about ten SU-100 after attacks by French F-84Fs in Israeli markings ; on 31 October blocked the Ismailia road -. 1st Motorised Division at Kantara ?

2nd Infantry Division (at Ismailia ?):

Three 3-battalion infantry brigades (among them 3rd and 7th)

3rd Armoured Brigade (3 armoured battalions) ; 30 October in the area of Bibeis, ordered to move towards Ismailia.

Coastal Defence Brigade (most likely assigned to the Northern Military District, the Red Sea Military District, or divided among them; three coastal defence battalions)

Machine-gun Brigade (three machine-gun battalions)

Three 3-battalion anti-aircraft brigades

Cairo Region (Presidential Guards Infantry Company)

Eastern Military District (Commander : Major-General Ali Amer, Chief-of-Staff :
Brigadier Salah ed-Din Moguy)

2nd Infantry Brigade (detached from 2nd Infantry Division, also mentioned as
assigned to 4th Armoured Division); 29 October based at Suez, crossed the
Canal to move towards Mitla :

5th and 6th Infantry Battalions

16th Infantry Battalion (detached from 6th Infantry Brigade)

Three infantry battalions

One light anti-aircraft regiment

One heavy anti-aircraft company

2nd Motorised Border Battalion (Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Fuad Hakla
Jerajes in southern Sinai; Dayan : 250 men):

Nakhl Sector (Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Fuad Hakla Jerajes) :

HQ 2nd Motorised Border Battalion

Motorised border guard company

Two national guard companies

Thamad Sector (Commander ; Major Mahmad Abd el-Mejid Mari) :

Motorised border guard company

National guard company

One motorized company on patrol

3rd Infantry Division (Commander : Brigadier Anwar abd el Wahab rl Alkadi,
in the Sinai; equipped with Bren Carriers – 283 had been destroyed or
captured by the Israelis by 3 November -) :

4th Infantry Brigade (Chief-of-Staff : Brigadier – Colonel ? – Saad ed-
din Mutawally, appears also in 6th Infantry Brigade; at El Arish) :

10th, 11th ? (Lieutenant-Colonel Selim Makor Baschara) and
12th Infantry Battalions

Two tank squadrons (Shermans) – *Stahl* : 3rd Tank
(Armoured) Battalion equipped with Shermans, 30 October at
El Arish, most probably refers to these two tank squadrons; one
sixteen-Sherman III company and one sixteen Sherman with FL
10 turret company -

Reconnaissance company (jeep)

43rd Frontier Escort Battalion (detached from 86th Brigade)

247th Guard Battalion

284th, 295th and 297th Infantry Battalions (295th and 297th
detached from 9th Brigade)

99th National Guard Brigade (4 infantry battalions, subordinate to 4th
Infantry Brigade ?)

5th Infantry Brigade (Commander : Brigadier Jaafer el Majid, at
Rafah) :

Three infantry battalions

Tank squadron (Shermans)

Rafah Outpost (Herzog) 5th Brigade :

25-pounder field artillery battalion

Antitank battery (seventeen Archer)

One tank company / 3rd Armoured Battalion (16
Shermans)

Two Frontier Force companies / 1st Mortarized Border
Battalion (armoured jeeps and troop carriers ?)

43rd Battalion of Palestinian 86th Brigade (Herzog :
elements of the 87th Brigade, Dayan : one battalion /
86th Palestinian Brigade was attached to the 3rd
Division)

6th Infantry Brigade (-) (Colonel Sami Yassa – Brigadier Sami Yam
Boletz ? – and Brigadier – Brigadiere-General ? - Saad ed-Din Mutally,
last name appears in 4th Infantry Brigade too, Brigadier Gaafer el Abd
? at Um Katef, Abu Agheila); equipped with 25-pounders, Zis-2
57mm AT guns, Archer :

17th and 18th Infantry Battalions

289th Reserve Infantry Battalion (-)

78th and 94th Self-propelled Anti-tank Battalions (most probably batteries, 78th equipped with Archer)

Light anti-aircraft company

2nd Reconnaissance Company (also known as 2nd Cavalry Troop)

3rd Artillery Regiment (sixteen 25-pounders)

Umm Ketef - Abu Aeila(3rd Division area) except 6th Brigade:

9th Reserve Brigade (?)- Dayan mentions 289th, 295th and 297th Battalions attached to the 3rd Division: 289th, 295th and 297th. 295th and 297th were in the 9th Brigade.

295th Reserve battalion

297th Reserve battalion

One two-battalions National Guard Brigade

One Field Artillery Battery (twenty-four 25-pdr ?)

One jeep company

78th Anti-tank Battery (Captain M. D. Zohdy, 14 Archer)

94th Anti-tank Battery (9 Archer)

Kusseima outpost (3rd Division area) :

One two-battalion National Guards Brigade (Van Creveld : only one Battalion was at Kusseima. Dayan : one – two-battalion ? - National Guard Brigade. Herzog two Border Guards Battalions one – 6th Brigade ? -Infantry company)

One Infantry company

One Reconnaissance company of 6th Brigade in Jeeps (Herzog : one jeep company; Dayan : the 6th Brigade reconnaissance company)

Archer Tank Destroyers

8th (Palestinian) Infantry Division (Commander : Major-General Yusef el Agroudi, at Gaza Strip) :

86th Frontier Escort Brigade (+) (also called Palestinian) (Commander : Lieutenant-Colonel Lufti el-Burini, training in the Rafah area) :

11th, 32nd and 44th Frontier Escort Battalions (all with four companies, 44th detached from 87th Brigade)

Heavy mortar battalion (battery ?)

Dayan attaches one 86th Brigade battalion to the 3rd Infantry Division

87th Frontier Escort Brigade (also called Palestinian) (2 frontier escort battalions, to come under 5th Infantry Brigade in the event of war, training in the Rafah area)

26th National Guard Brigade (Lieutenant-Colonel Gamal ed-Din Ali, training in the Rafah area, Gaza Strip) :

Two national guard battalions

20th Medium Artillery Battery (also Medium Mortar Battery with three troops of eight 120mm mortars each)

Two border guard squadrons (also motorized border platoons)

Some sources : four 6-pdr anti-tank guns, one 4th Battalion coastal artillery troop with two 3-inch guns

Rikhye : 26th, 56th and an unnumbered infantry brigades. The unnumbered brigade at Kusseima. Van Creveld : 6th National Guard Brigade, but both Herzog and Dayan mention the 26th.



In 1956 Egypt received 44 JS-III heavy tanks.

4th Armoured Division (Commander : Brigadier Ali Gamal Mahmoud;
equipped with the operational 32 JS-III too) :

1st Armoured Group – Brigade ? - (Commander : Colonel Talat Hassan Ali) normally based in the area of Fayid; 29 October its first column passed the Canal at Ismailia on 21.30; 30 October orders to reach Abu Aweigila by the Khatmia Pass, equipped with seventy T-34/85 and some SU-100, after an F-84F attack only about fifty T-34/85 and three or four SU-100 remained; it had lost, by 3 November, 27 vehicles by French aircraft. Additionally 26 T-34/85, one command T-34, six SU-100, forty Sherman Mk. 3, twelve Shermans that had a French FL 10 turret, fifteen Valentine, forty Archer, three recovery Sherman, three Sherman bulldozer, sixty BTR-152):

4th Armour Battalion (T-34)

6th (65th ?) Mechanised Infantry Battalion (BTR-152)

53rd Self-propelled Artillery Battalion (Battery ?, SU-100)

Light anti-aircraft battery

2nd Armoured Group (Commander : Colonel Ibrahim el Migui) :

Armour battalion

Mechanised infantry battalion (BTR-152)

Self-propelled artillery battalion

2nd Infantry Brigade (Commander Brigadier Wagih Taher el Sherbieni, 3 infantry battalions, as command reserve according to Rikhye, most probably independent to the armoured division, at Suez)
:

5th and 6th Infantry Battalions

Two heavy mortar batteries

Light anti-aircraft regiment (54 pieces)

Heavy anti-aircraft battery

Two coastal gun troops

Border and National Guard units too

2nd Light Reconnaissance Regiment (commander Lieutenant-Colonel Ali Atah)

Rikhye : equivalent of mechanized brigade (mechanized company opposite Eilat, mechanized battalion at El Kuntilla, infantry battalion at Nakhal and mechanized battalion at El Thamad). Also Command Reserve (an unidentified infantry division, 7th Infantry Division at Ismaliya, 1st Armoured and 2nd Infantry Brigades – the 2nd Infantry Brigade is also mentioned as assigned to the 4th Armoured Division; the two infantry divisions, according to Moshe Dayan's *Diary of the Sinai Campaign* are the 1st at Kantara and the 2nd at Ismaliya).

Zaloga notes on Archer : at least 4 anti-tank batteries each with 11 vehicles (78th at Um Katef-Um Shehan crossroads in the Abu Ageila hedgehog was reinforced up to 14). *Herzog* : a total of 23 at Abu Ageila (so 94th under-strength ?), another 17 at Rafah. Probably more than 4 batteries. Assuming the reserve at El Arish was depleted to reinforce other posts, then the outpost at Kusseima had at most 4 vehicles.

Western Military District

Frontier Escort Brigade (in detachments to the military district's subordinate regions ?, two frontier escort battalions)

As Sallum (region ?)

Mersa Matruh (region ?)

Siwa (region ?)

Gaza Military District (Commander : Brigadier Mahmed Fuad el-Dugawy)

Suez Canal Military District (Commander : Colonel Ibrahim Anwar)

Port Said Region (Colonel Abd el Raheem Quadry, Brigadier Salah ed-Din Moguy). In the area were 275th National Guard Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment elements, four 152 mm coastal defence guns (at Port Fouad, probably not operational), four 94 mm heavy anti-aircraft guns, twelve 57 mm Soviet anti-tank guns, five 6 pdr anti-tank guns, some 40 mm Bofors, about ten 30 mm Hispano-Suiza light anti-aircraft guns, and a battery of four SU-100 tank destroyers.

Reserve infantry brigade (commander : Lieutenant-colonel Faud Naujid) :

Two reserve infantry battalions

Three national guard battalions

Self-propelled artillery platoon (SU-100)

Suez Region

Ismailia Region

Southern Military District

Abu Simbel (region ?)

Northern (Delta) Military District (Commander : Lieutenant-General Ahmad Salim)

Gulf of Akaba Military District (Commander : Colonel Rauf Mahfouz Zali) :

21st Infantry Battalion (+) :

Three or four companies

Two 81mm mortar sections

Two medium machine-gun platoons

National guard battalion

Two border guards squadrons (platoons ?; motorized platoon with jeeps and carriers and camel platoon with 30 men and 45 camels)

Medium machine-gun platoon

Heavy mortar platoon (-)

Anti-aircraft company

Tiran Detachment (platoon ?, from 21st Battalion ?)

Sanapir Detachment (platoon ?, from 21st Battalion ?)

Guns in the units above : two 6-inch coastal guns, four 3-inch anti-aircraft guns, six 30mm anti-aircraft guns and one 57mm anti-tank gun troop (ZiS-2 ?)

Red Sea Military District

Al Gardaqah Region

Bur Sajafa Region

Ras Gharib Region

Mina Baranis Region

Note : Military Districts are also referred to as Commands.

Rikhye : Command Reserve (north to south) : infantry division, 7th Infantry Division at Ismailia, 1st Armoured Brigade and 2nd Infantry Brigade

Equipment :

44 JS-III Stalin heavy tanks (32 operational with the 4th Armoured Division)

41 Centurion tanks (36 operational)



T-34 tanks.

200 (230 ?) T-34/85 tanks (134 operational)

120 Sherman Mk. III tanks (British designation for Sherman M-4A2 / 75mm)

16 Sherman M-4A4 tanks with FL-10 Turret (Sherman modified with M4A2 engine and AMX-13 turret)

Also M-4A4 ?

40 AMX-13 tanks (16 operational)

60 obsolete Valentine tanks (used in training)

200 (100 ?) SU-100 (60 operational)

182 Archer self-propelled anti-tank guns

Some Humber Mk III armoured cars

Some BTR-40 armoured vehicles

200 BTR-152 armoured vehicles (used by the armoured brigades)

520 Bren Carriers (25 per infantry brigade on average)

20 ABS Mle 50 155mm guns

Some 155mm guns from Spain

80 B.L. Mk. II 5.5 inch guns

A lot of Soviet M-55 122mm howitzers - M-30 (M-1938) –

250 Q.F. 25-pdr guns / howitzers

28 Ordnance Q.F. 17-pdr anti-tank guns

250 Ordnance Q.F. 6-pdr Mk. II and Mk. IV

120 Soviet Model 1943 (Zis-2) 57mm anti-tank guns

About 100 Czech T-21 82mm recoilless guns



A 3.7 inch anti-aircraft gun at the end of the cemetery area, Port Said. They were used against transport aircraft and after the paratroopers landed on 5 November. They were, finally, overrun by the paratroopers.

48 Q.F. 3.7 inch Mk. III anti-aircraft guns (given also as 94 mm)

12 ex-German Flak 18 and Flak 36/37 88mm guns

Some Soviet M-44 (KS-12 ?) 85mm anti-aircraft guns (not yet operational)

Some M-43 57mm anti-aircraft guns

Many Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft guns

More than 150 Hispano-Suiza 30 30mm light anti-aircraft guns

Many 20mm light anti-aircraft guns - Oerlikon, Breda - Cannone-Mitragliera da 20/65 modello 35 (Breda) -, Scotti - Cannone-Mitragliera de 20/77 (Scotti) -, Hispano-Suiza etc. –



32-barrelled BM-14 rocket launcher that was used against the British paratroopers after the air drop at Gamil. It was knocked out by Royal Navy carrier aircraft.

Some BM-14 140mm and BM-24 240mm rocket launchers

A variety of vehicles, mostly World War 2 British, US and Canadian surplus :

Bedford : MWD, MSC, OXD, OYD, OYC, QL, QLD etc.

Austin : K 3, K 30, K 5, K 6 etc.

Thornycroft : WF, WZ.

Morris-Commercial : C8, CS 8, CS11.

Commer Q 4

Fordson WOT2E, WOT6 etc.

Leyland Retriever

Scammell tractors

AEC Matador

Ford : F 8, G-8T, F 15, F 30, FC-60L etc.

Ford / Marmon Herrington

Chevrolet : VC, MR, C 8, C 15, C 30, C 60 etc.

Dodge : T 210, T 212, T 214, T 223 etc.

Chevrolet Indian : GS, YR

GMC : CCW-353 etc.

Also many civilian-model vehicles:



A convoy of Dodge/Fargo Power Wagons destroyed by carrier aviation.

Dodge / Fargo Power Wagon

FWD LD trucks

Jeeps : Willys Universal, CJ3A, CJ3B

Thames Trader

Commer 355 Superpoise

Bedford KC

Scammell Explorer

Thornycroft Mighty Antar

GAZ-69, GAZ-63, ZIL 151, ZIL 164 just started being delivered.

EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE

End of 1955 (as assessed in the Annual Report drawn up by the British Air Attaché in Cairo) with no concrete references to the scale of Russian deliveries :

Unit	Location	Aircraft	Serviceable	Unserviceable	Comments
1 Squadron	-	-	0	0	Furies in storage, awaiting MiG-15s
2 Squadron	Kabrit	Vampire FB.52	15	3	Day-fighter / ground attack
3 Squadron	Almaza	C-47 Dakota	8	3	Transport
4 Squadron	Alexandria	Beechcraft Expeditor	7	0	Used for navigator training
7 / 12 Squadron	Almaza	C-46 Commando	10	9	Transport / paratroop
9 Squadron	Cairo West	-	0	0	Lancasters in storage, awaiting Il-28s
10 Squadron	Heliopolis	Bonanza Dove	1 0	1 4	HQ Communication Squadron
11 Squadron	Almaza	C-47 Dakota C-46 Commando Mallard Sikorsky S-51	4 1 2 1	0 0 0 1	Communication Squadron
20 Squadron	Dekheila, Deversoir	Meteor F.4 Meteor F.8	7 7	3 3	Day-fighter / ground attack
30 Squadron	Deversoir	-	0	0	Vampires to Fighter Training Unit, converting to MiG-15s
31 Squadron	Almaza	Vampire FB.52	16	3	Ground attack
Fighter Training Unit	Almaza	Meteor T.7 Meteor NF.13	5 5	0 1	Jet conversion unit

		Vampire FB.52	17	8	
		Vampire T.55	4	0	
		Harvard	6	0	
Air College	Bilbeis	Harvard	19	18	Basic training
		Chipmunk	37	14	
		Gomhouriya	13	0	
Health & Agricultural Squadron		Vultee BT 13	5	0	Anti- malarial spraying unit
		Super Cub	1	0	
		Magister	2	20	
		Mraz Sokol	8	9	
		Morane 502	2	0	
		Hiller 360	0	2	

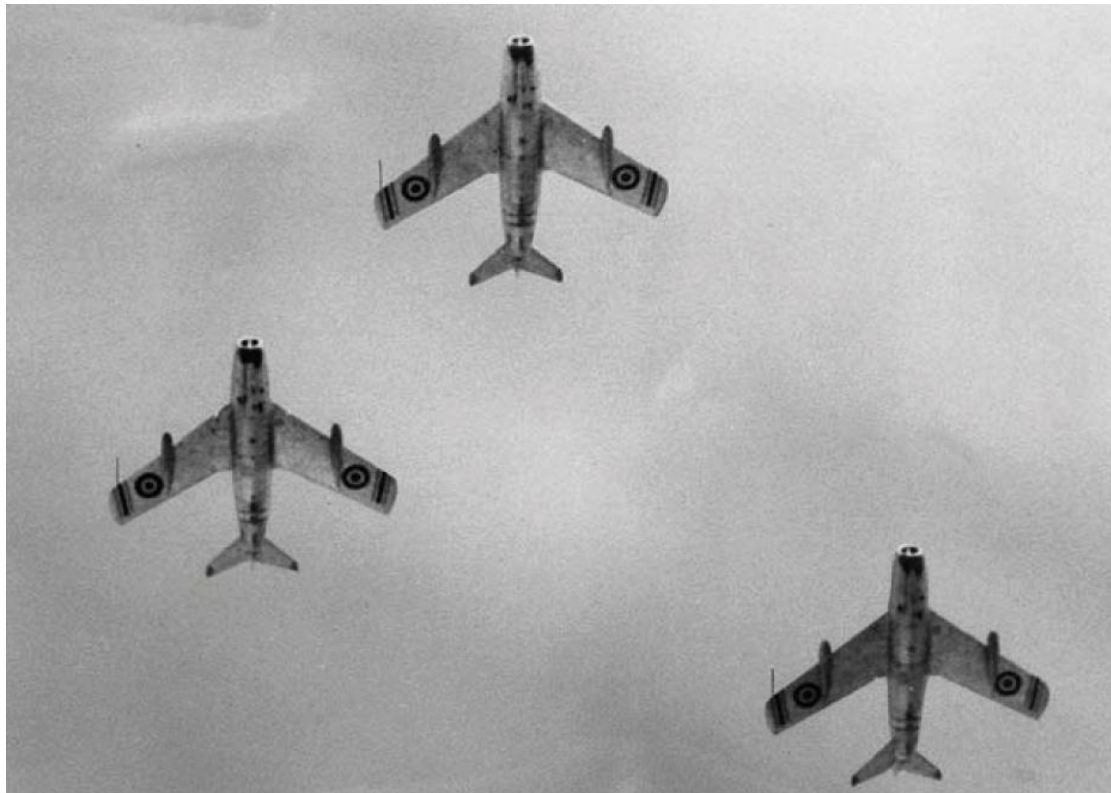
400 aircrew and 3,000 support personnel.

Radar equipment :

- 12 ESV2 (six early warning and six GCI)
- 2 Marconi MWT XXI (for high / low cover)
- 20 SFR VUXY (radar-acquisition)
- 20 WAXY (gun-control for light anti-aircraft guns)

Egyptian Air Force, October 1956

31 October : Soviet and Czech instructors and technicians flew about twenty MiG-15s and twenty Il-14s, destined for Syria, flew to the safety of Saudi Arabia. A variety of EAF planes followed, including at least twenty MiG fighters and trainers and ten Il-14s. All were then flown to Syria, although a further 20 EAF Il-28s reached only as far as Luxor where they were deemed to be out of danger (most of these were subsequently destroyed by French F-84Fs operating from Israel).



Three newly-operational Czechoslovakian-built MiG-15s over Cairo in September 1956.

There are stories of twenty MiG-15s arriving in Luxor on 31 October, after flying through the back door of Turkey, at the same time that twenty Il-14 were arriving directly from eastern Europe.

Note : aircraft numbers in squadrons are taken from Cull *Wings...*, while other sources are mentioned too.

Eastern Zone (HQ at Ismailia) :

- 5 Squadron (at Fayed – Fayid – twelve - other sources mention twenty-nine and Stahl twenty-five - Meteor F.4 and F.8, fighter-ground attack). Stahl mentions it at Kasfareet. 9 Meteors were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Fayid and 1 at Ksfareet according to air reconnaissance
- 20 Squadron (at Kabrit, fifteen MiG-15, fighter; Stahl : four MiG-17s, sixteen MiG-15s and two MiG-15 UTI; 31 MiG-15s were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Kabrit according to air reconnaissance)
- 30 Squadron (at Abu Sueir, fifteen MiG-15, fighter; Stahl : thirty MiG-15s and one MiG-15 UTI - twenty of the MiG-15s were Syrian -; 35 MiG-15s were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Abu Sueir according to air reconnaissance)
- 31 Squadron (at Kasfareet - Kasferet - Qasfarit - Kasfareet - , eighteen – 15 operational ? - Vampire FB.52, ground attack). Stahl : twelve Vampires (and three being repaired). 2 Vampires were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Kadfareet according to air reconnaissance

- 40 Squadron (at Fayid, ten Vampire FB.52, ground attack; 12 Vampires were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Fayid according to air reconnaissance)
- A unit used as a fighter training unit (seven Meteor F.4, seven Meteor F.8)
- MiG O.T.U. (at Kabrit, six to twelve MiG-15UTI)
- Il-28 O.T.U. (at Luxor, twenty – Stahl nineteen -Il-28)

Central Zone (HQ at Almaza) :



By early October 1956 the first batch of MiG-17Fs had been delivered to Egypt. They were rushed into service with 1 Squadron with only 6 pilots proficient by the outbreak of war.

- 1 Squadron (at Almaza, fifteen MiG-15 and six MiG-17, fighters; 24 MiG-15s were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Almaza according to air reconnaissance)
- 2 Squadron (at Cairo West – other sources mention Fayed – Fayid – with fourteen – other sources mention eighteen - Vampire FB.52 ground attack and one Vampire T.55). Stahl mentions it a Fayed (Fayid) with eighteen Vampires, but mentions, also sixteen Vampires at Cairo West. 9 Vampires were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Cairo West according to air reconnaissance
- 3 Squadron (at Almaza, twenty – other sources mention thirteen or eight - C-47, transport)
- 4 Squadron (at Dekheila with light aircraft – including Beechcraft - , liaison)
- 7 Squadron (at Almaza, twenty – other sources mention twenty-five or nineteen - C-46, transport)
- 8 Squadron (at Inchas, twelve Il-28, bomber, Stahl three not operational)
- 9 Squadron (at Inchas, seventeen Il-28, bomber)



The first Il-28 flypast at Bilbeis in September 1956.

- 16 Il-28s were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Cairo West and 10 Il-28s (the 8th Squadron mentioned above ?) were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Almaza according to air reconnaissance
- 10 Squadron (at Cairo / Al-Maza – Almaza-Elmaza – with five – other sources mention eight - Meteor NF.13, night fighter; 4 were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Almaza according to air reconnaissance). Tasked with Cairo air defence.
- 11 Squadron (at Almaza, twenty – Stahl mentions twelve - Il-14, transport)
- 20 MiG-15s were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Inchas according to air reconnaissance
- 21 Vampires (the 2nd Squadron mentioned above ?) were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Almaza according to air reconnaissance
- 22 Il-28s were present in the afternoon of 31 October at Luxor according to air reconnaissance
- 6 Squadron (mentioned only by Stahl)

- Various other training and liaison units (with MiG-15, Il-28 and Meteor F.4 – the OTUs and the fighter training unit in the Eastern Zone; 4th and 6th Squadrons with about one hundred and seventy Yak-11, Sokol, Harvard, Auster) and ad hoc units (with serviceable Spitfire F.22, Lancaster – Stahl mentions them at Cairo West -, eight Fury FB.11 and Lancaster – Stahl mentions five at Cairo West - aircraft that had been recently withdrawn from storage).

Personnel strength : 6,400 (including about 400 officers, 3,000 enlisted men and 3,000 civilians). 440 of these were pilots (only about 100 were judged by the EAF High Command to be combat ready). 200 aircrew and technicians training in Poland and the Soviet Union.

Additionally Stahl mentions for 31 October :

Bilbeis : sixty-seven trainers

El-Arish : two Vampires (proved to be decoys)

Cairo West : twenty-four Il-28s not yet operational (the twenty-nine of the 8th and 9th Squadrons), twelve MiG-15s.

Cairo Almaza : about sixty transport and liaison planes

Deversoir (Deservoir) : four liaison planes

Dekheila : eleven light transport and liaison planes

Heliopolis, El Balah, Shalufa, El-Firdan, Ikdi, Cairo Airport.

(Stahl) :

Eighty-one MiG 15 fighters (forty-six operational) and seventeen MiG 15 UTI advanced trainers (eleven operational). 1st, 20th and 30th Squadrons. About eight of the operational MiG 15s were flown to Amman, Jordan on 26 October. Twenty MiG 15 destined for Syria, arrived in Egypt via Saudi Arabia on 31 October. At the start of the Franco-British operation there were fifty-eight operational MiG 15s.

Fifty-seven Vampire FB.52 fighter-bombers (forty-eight operational) and more than seven that had recently arrived from Italy but without pilots to fly them. Ex-Italian Air Force refurbished by Macchi. 2nd, 31st and 40th Squadrons.

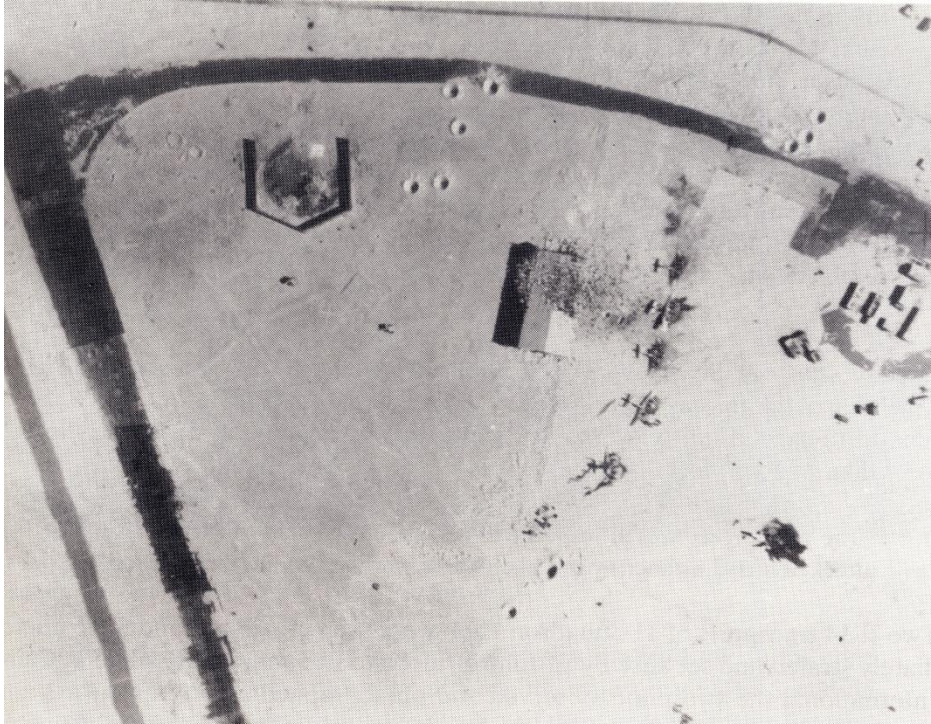
Thirty-two Meteor fighters (twelve operational) and twenty in reserve. 5th Fighter Squadron.

Six Meteor NF.13 night fighters (five operational). 10th Fighter Squadron.

Five Fury FB.11 fighters and four stored. Used in training.

Sixteen Spitfire F.22 fighters (eight operational). Used in conversion training.

Forty-five Il-28 light bombers (twenty-seven operational) and four being assembled. 8th and 9th Bombing Squadrons.



The wrecks of the five Lancasters at Cairo West.

Five Lancaster bombers and one stored.

Twenty-five C-46 transports and one stored. 7th Transport Squadron.

Thirteen C-47 transports and eight stored. 3rd Transport Squadron.

Fourteen Il-14 transports (5 in reserve). 11th Transport Squadron. Twenty Il-14s flew in on 31 October, bringing their number up to thirty-four.

About one hundred and seventy Yak-11, Sokol, Harvard, Auster.

Commander : Air Chief Marshal Mohamed Sidgi Mahmoud

Eastern Air Defence Zone

Air bases : Fayid, Ismailia, Kabrit, Abu Suweir, Kasparit, Luxor

Central Air Defence Zone

Air bases : Almaza, Cairo West, Inchas, Dekhlia



An Il-28 at Almaza in 1957.

4 November : The Allies estimated that the Egyptian Air Force had only fifteen Il-28, six Fury, twelve Spitfire and 3 transports left. In fact about sixty combat planes were still operational (not including the aircraft in crates in Alexandria).

EGYPTIAN NAVY

Commander : Admiral Soliman Ezzat

Naval bases : Mersa Matruh, Alexandria, Red Sea

Two Z-class (Zambesi-class according to Jane's) ex-R.N. destroyers (classed as utility destroyers in World War 2) : *El-Quahar* (ex-HMS *Myngs*) and *El-Fayeh* (ex-HMS *Zenith*). Ex-R.N. (classed as utility destroyers in World War 2). They had been transferred in July and were not yet fully operational.

Two Skory-class destroyers : *El Nasser* (*Al-Nasser*) and *El-Zaffer* (*Al-Zaffer*). Transferred in the spring of 1956.

Two Hunt-class (Atherstone – No. 1 – Type according to Jane's; also referred to as No. 1 Group) ex-R.N. destroyers : 10 *Ibrahim el-Awal* (*Ibrahim Al-Awal*; ex-HMS *Cottesmore*) and 11 *Mohamed Ali el-Kebir* (ex-Chinese *Lin Fu* ?, ex-HMS *Mendi* ,). No 10 had been transferred in 1951 and No 11 in 1949.

One Black Swan-class (Modified Black Swan—class sloop in World War 2) frigate : 41 *Tarik* (ex-*El-Malek Farouk*, ex-HMS *Whimbrel* - not *Whimbred* as mentioned in some sources -). Transferred in 1949.

Three River-class frigates : 42 *Akibir* (ex-HMS *Nith*), 43 *Rashid* (*Rosetta*, ex-HMS *Spey*) and 44 *Damiat* (*Damietta* / *Doima*, ex-HMS *Usk*). Based in the Red Sea.

One Flower-class corvette : *El-Sudan* (ex-Yugoslav *Nada*, ex-HMS *Mallow*). Used for training.

Four T-43-class fleet minesweepers : *Charqieh*, *Bahaira*, *Miniya* and *Gharbia*.

Two Bangor-class (Reciprocating Group) fleet minesweepers : *Nasr* (ex-HMS *Bude*) and *Matrouh* (ex-HMS *Stornoway* – not *Stornaway* as mentioned in some sources -). Both transferred in 1946.

Eight YMS-class (or BYMS-class ?) minesweepers : *Arish*, *Malek Fuad*, *Darfour*, *Naharia*, *Kaisaria*, *Rafah*, *Kordofan* and *Tor*.

Six Type 108 torpedo-boats (Yugoslav copies of the US Higgins) .

Twelve P-4-class torpedo-boats, not yet operational.

Two Fairmile D type torpedo-boats : 220 (Lieutenant-Commander El Din Desouky, Stahl Lieutenant Ismail Fahny) and 227 (Lieutenant Ismail Fahmy, Stahl Lieutenant Galal El Din Desouky)

Three Fairmile B type patrol boats (designated Motor Launches in World War 2) : *Hamza*, *Sab el Bahr* and *Saker el Bahar*.

Transport ship 91 *El-Quseir* (ex- *El-Amira Fawzia*)

LST *Aka* (ex-LST-178) used as a block-ship in the Suez Canal.

Twenty LCM-3 numbered 1 – 20.

Training ship *El-Horia* (ex-*Mahroussa*, a yacht)

Two ex-USN frigates (*Papua* and *Tobago*) that had been used as passenger ships in the Red Sea and then disarmed in Alexandria were used as block-ships in the Suez Canal in November 1956, as were a Flower-class corvette (*Misr*, ex-SS *Malrouk*), a Bangor-class minesweeper (*Sollum*, ex-HMS *Wedgeport*) and the LST *Aka*.

Two W-class submarines under the Polish flag, but equipped and manned by the Russians, were being transferred to Egypt. They returned to the Baltic, while in Mediterranean on 2 November.

A note on foreign aid to Egypt (According to *Annexe T-Situation des forces ennemies arête à la date du 24 septembre 1956*):

Spanish aid : Some deliveries still conducted. Among others the aid includes a lot of batteries (perhaps 8) of 155 mm (20 km):

- 100 120 mm mortars
- 100 81 mm mortars
- Light mortars
- 120 light machine guns

- 37,000 defensive grenades
- 7,000 offensive grenades

Soviet aid:

- 24 85 mm anti-aircraft guns have been noted in the Silsila barracks, Alexandria. No known qualified crews for these guns in Egypt.
- 400 or 500 men have disembarked, in secret, in Alexandria on August 28th from a Soviet cargo ship. They are, without a doubt, specialists.
- About thirty soviet Tu-4 (*sic* Il-14) transport aircraft have arrived at Budapest (Hungary) on 20 August. This move has, possibly, been decided in connection with the Suez affair to supply Egypt (distance 2,400 km).
- 2 soviet submarines (1,200 tonnes on the surface – 6 torpedo launch tubes) with Russian crews in Polish uniforms have sailed from Poland for Egypt.
- 400 new or refurbished T-34 tanks in Czechoslovakia, ready to be delivered to Egypt (? – the question mark not mine, the author's-).
- Czech specialists have arrived in Alexandria. They work on the submarine facilities at Agami and marsah-Matruh.
- On 2 September a Russian ship unloaded radio or radar vehicles at Alexandria.
- On 20 August 40 T-34 were unloaded at Alexandria. These tanks were seen at Damanhur on the direction to Cairo. They Egyptians have now 200 T-34 tanks in 3 regiments ...
- On the 18 to 19th August a Russian ship unloaded heavy tanks (? – the question mark not mine, the author's-) and heavy caliber guns at Alexandria, 8 of these guns left for Cairo on the Desert Road.

ISRAELI ARMY

Tactical formations and units : 3 armoured brigades (2 reserve), 12 infantry brigades (10 reserve), 2 independent armoured battalions, 8 independent infantry battalions (6 reserve) and 3 border guard battalions (border guard units were more than the ones mentioned by English in totals).

Units total (English ' estimated ') : 2 armoured infantry battalions, 3 motorised infantry battalions, 3 paratroop battalions, 44 infantry battalions, 3 border guard battalions, 3 tank battalions, 4 mixed (?) armoured battalions, 2 independent light tank squadrons, 9 reconnaissance squadrons (jeep-mounted, used as motorised cavalry), 5 field artillery battalions, 3 independent field batteries, 1 anti-tank battalion, 4 heavy mortar battalions, 3 independent heavy mortar companies, 2 engineer battalions, 1 engineer company (engineer units were more than the ones mentioned mentioned by English in totals).

Southern Command (engaged in the Sinai Campaign) :

Ugdah 77 (Northern Task Force – Ugdah also translated as Division or Divisional Group and the 77th as a reserve division - , – Major-General, Brigadier ?, Assaf Simchoni) – Stahl : General Haim Laskov -:

1st ‘ Golani ’ Infantry Brigade (reinforced) – Colonel Benjamin Gibli - :

HQ

Four infantry battalions (at least the 3rd Battalion – Lieutenant-Colonel Meir Pail – used half-tracks and 6 x 6 trucks)

One field artillery battalion (25-pdr ?)

One heavy mortar battalion (120mm battery ?)

One engineer battalion

One 12-gun anti-tank battery is mentioned too

11th Infantry Brigade (reinforced) :

HQ

Two infantry battalions

One armoured battalion combat team (from the 37th Armoured Brigade) :

One tank company (Shermans)

One infantry company (half-tracks)

One heavy mortar battalion (120mm)

One anti-tank battalion

12th Infantry Brigade (-) (David Elazar):

HQ

One infantry battalion

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One heavy mortar company

27th (Reserve ?) Armoured Brigade (Laffin refers to it as mechanized, Colonel Chaim Bar-Lev):

HQ



AMX-13s in the Sinai.

Two armoured battalion combat teams (each with one company of half-tracks and one tank squadron - one with M-4A1/ 76mm Sherman and M-4A3E, the other with twenty-six AMX-13 -)

One 155mm self-propelled battery

One reconnaissance troop – jeep-mounted –

One motorised infantry battalion

One tank recovery unit

Reinforced with a M-50 squadron on 2 November.

1956 Sinai Campaign :

Mechanised infantry battalion :

Four rifle companies (on half-tracks)

Tank platoon

2 tank companies (M-50)

1 tank company (M-4A1 / 76.2mm)

1 tank company (AMX-13)

Reconnaissance unit (7 jeeps)

2 engineer sections

1 self-propelled gun platoon (AMX-13/ 105mm ?)

Ugdah 38 (Southern Task Force, Colonel Yehuda Wallach) :

4th (Reserve ?) Infantry Brigade (Colonel Joseph Harpaz):

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One heavy mortar battery (120mm)

10th (Reserve ?) Infantry Brigade :

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One heavy mortar company (120mm)

One field artillery battalion, one medium artillery battalion, one reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted) and one heavy mortar company shared by the 4th and 10th Infantry Brigades.

37th (Reserve ?) Armoured Brigade (Laffin refers to it as mechanized; Stahl equipped with seventy-eight M 50 Super Sherman, some M-4A1 and twenty-six AMX-13; assigned to Reserve in some sources):

HQ

One tank battalion (M-4 and M-51; Laffin : Shermans; Zaloga : Super Shermans, Dayan : a mix)

One light tank squadron (AMX-13)

One armoured infantry battalion (half-tracks)

One motorised infantry battalion (trucks)

One engineer company

202nd Airborne Brigade (Sharon, 2,500 men) :

HQ

890th Paratroop Battalion (Lieutenant-Colonel Rafael Eitan; 395 men; including four 106mm French recoilless rifles and two 120mm mortars:

Three companies

One reconnaissance company (including 8 jeeps)

88th Nahal Paratroop Battalion (Major Mordechai Gur)

771st Reserve Paratroop Battalion (Yisrael Cohen commanded the Battalion left to secure Nakhel. This must have been the 771st as the other two Paratroop battalions saw action at Mitla.)

One light tank squadron (Zvi David, - 13 ? -AMX-13)

One field artillery battalion (25-pdr battery ?)

One heavy mortar battalion (120mm battery ?)

2 Nahal companies (?)

1 reconnaissance ' unit ' on trucks (a company ?)

Two half-track battalions, mentioned in some sources, as being attached to the brigade most probably refer to the *vehicles* used to carry them rather than the battalions they were organic to.

At night 29 October three Tayaset 103 Noratlas and many GT 2/74 Noratlas air-dropped eight jeeps (four equipped with 106mm recoilless rifles), two 120mm heavy mortars and ammunition to the paratroopers in the Mitla Pass. A small landing field was made for the two Piper Cubs attached to the brigade.

9th (Reserve ?) Infantry Brigade (Colonel Avraham Yoffe; described as fully motorized; also as assigned to the Reserve):

HQ

Three infantry battalions (some sources mention only 91st and 92nd Motorised Infantry Battalions – on half-trucks and 6X6 trucks)

One field artillery battalion (25-pdr ?, a battery ?)

One engineer battalion

Additional units by some sources : one reconnaissance unit, one heavy mortar company (120mm) and an anti-aircraft troop.



One of the thirteen M50s of A Company/82nd Tank Battalion in the battalion's victory parade at Bit Thamad a few weeks after the end of the 1956 Sinai Campaign.

7th Armoured Brigade (as command reserve, Colonel Uri Ben Ari; Stahl gives it as assigned to Ugdah 38; Herzog : Lieutenant-Colonel Avraham Adan a battalion commander) :

HQ

82nd Tank Battalion (M4A1/76mm Sherman – called M1A1 in Israel – or M50s)

79th Tank Battalion (AMX-13)

One motorised infantry battalion (half-tracks) – another on trucks is mentioned too

One field artillery battalion (25-pdr ?, a battery ?)

Stahl gives 9th Commando Regiment, too, on half-tracks

Artillery Group (battalion ?)

Engineer battalion

Northern Command :

2nd Infantry Brigade :

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One field artillery battery

5th Infantry Brigade ;

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One heavy mortar battery

One independent infantry battalion

Two reserve infantry battalions

One border guards battalion

Command armoured battalion (M-4 tanks and half-tracks)

Central Command (Rikhye mentions the 17th and 18th Infantry Brigades):

3rd Infantry Brigade :

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One field artillery battery

6th Infantry Brigade :

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One heavy mortar battery

One independent infantry battalion

Four reserve infantry battalions

Two border guards battalion

Command armoured battalion (M-4 tanks and half-tracks)

General Headquarters Reserve :

8th Infantry Brigade ;

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One field artillery battery

13th Infantry Brigade :

HQ

Three infantry battalions

One reconnaissance company (jeep-mounted)

One heavy mortar battery

Sources place the 37th Armoured and 9th Infantry Brigades in the Reserve and not the 8th and the 13th. Herzog assigns the 7th Brigade in the Southern Command.

EQUIPMENT : (Stahl, October 1956)

100 M-50 tanks - Israeli-French modification of rolled plate hull M4 Sherman tanks, most were based on the M4A4, but a few were based on the M4A1 cast hull, they had the normal gun replaced by the 75 mm high-velocity gun used in the AMX-13 - VO1000 or CN 75-50 -. Other sources state that only M-4A3 and M-4A4 variants were upgraded to M-50. Abroad the M-50 was known as Super Sherman and the M-51 as either Super Sherman or Isherman (i.e. Israeli Sherman). These designations were never used in Israel. The only tank model designated Super Sherman by the IDF was M4A1 with 76 mm M1 gun and HVSS suspension, which was named Super Sherman M-1. Wikipedia : The first 25 M-50s were finished just in time for the Operation Kadesh in the Sinai -.

60 M-4A3E8 tanks (76mm)

100 M-4A3 tanks (76mm)

60 Sherman tanks (M-4A1, M-4A2, M-4A3, M-4A4 with 75mm or, some, with 105mm - ? -)

Notes on Israeli Shermans :

All early Israeli Shermans were designated Sherman M1 - whether based on the M4A1 (cast hulls) or M4A2 (welded hulls and diesel engines) and whether armed with a 75 mm (American or French) or 76 mm gun, or 105 mm howitzer -. Other sources state that M1 was the Israeli designation of any Sherman model armed with the 76 mm gun M1. IDF Armour Forum states that M3 Shermans were ‘ any gun tank with the early short M3 main gun ’.

France provided 60 M4A1 Shermans (76mm) just before the 1956 war and Israeli also had Shermans with Flail Scorpion mineclearing sweeps and bulldozer tanks fitted with M1 bulldozer blades.

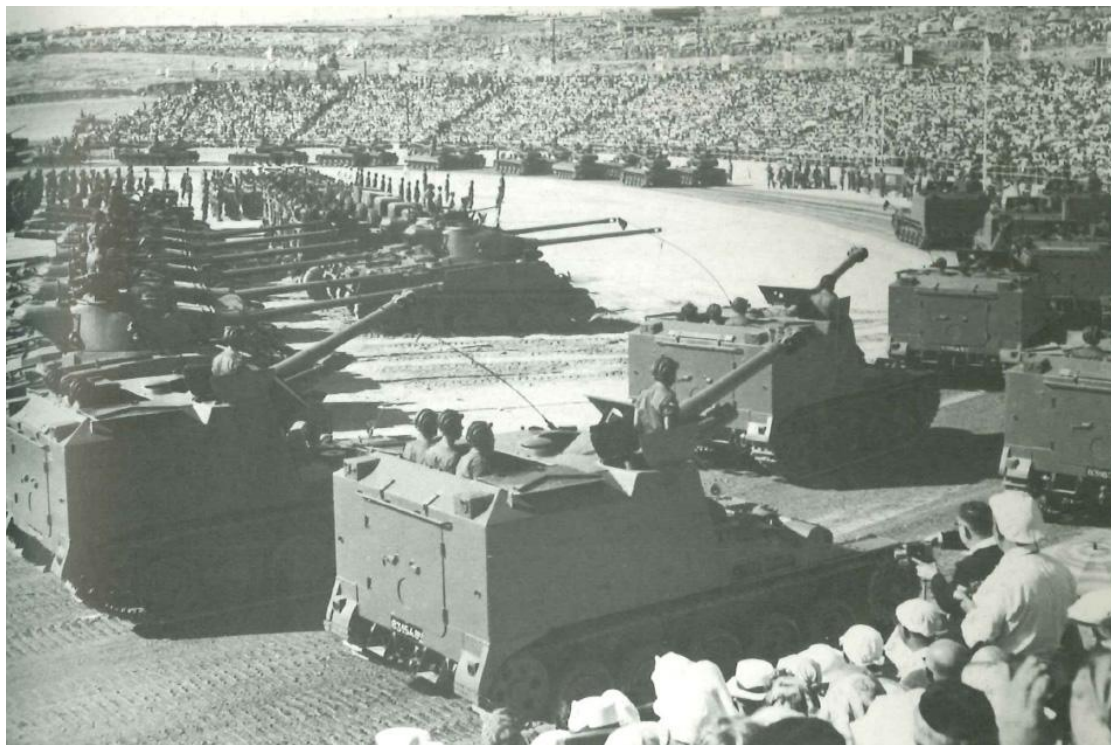
Israel purchased 40 M4A4 tanks with an M4A1 engine from the French. When the Sinai Campaign broke out, there were 180 Shermans operational (out of total 205).

100 (60 ?) AMX-13 light tanks

450 Half-tracks (M-3, M-5, M-9 White/IHC... - White/IHC M-14 ex-anti-aircraft half-tracks used as troop carriers ? -, some – M-3 and M-5s – were also modified with an anti-aircraft 20mm gun)

90 White M-3A1 Scout Cars

Some obsolete Marmon Herrington IVF and Humber armoured cars used in training



AMX self-propelled guns on the 24 April 1958 parade on the fifteenth anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

60 (?) AMX-13/ 105mm - 105mm 50-AU / Obusier automoteur de 105 Modele 50 / (M50 105mm AMX Mk 61 (AMX-105A) / Automoteur de 105 du AMX-13 en casemate ?) - self-propelled guns. 36 being delivered in October.

M-7 Priest self-propelled howitzers

24 155mm A.B.S. Mle 50 (OB-150-50BF) heavy guns / howitzers

16 BL 5.5 inch Mk.IV guns

32 105 mm M2A1 (M101)105mm howitzers

54 Q.F. 25-pdr Mk.II guns / howitzers

130 Q.F. 6-pdr Mk.II and 57mm Mk. IV anti-tank guns (by late 1955, Israel Defense Forces possessed 157 pieces and 100 more were purchased from the Netherlands in 1956)

280 106mm recoilless rifles (actually a French copy of the US M-40A1, delivered by France)

200 Bofors L/60 40mm anti-aircraft guns (some were Mk-7 delivered by France)

About 100 20mm light anti-aircraft guns of various models

About 30 12.7mm Maxon quadruple turrets (some on half-tracks)

120mm mortars

ISRAELI AIR FORCE



Meteor fighter.

General Dan Tolkovski

(Numbers and bases as of 29 October 1956)

- Tayeset 69 ' Ha'Patishim ' (an emergency reserve unit, at Ramat David, two B-17G, bomber; Stahl ' La crise...' : at Tel Nov with three B-17 and two PB5Y-5A, in fact only two of the B-17 were operational and they were sent to Ramat David)
- Tayeset 100 (at Beersheba – normally based at Tel Nof -, eleven Piper Cub, liaison; Stahl ' La crise...' : a training squadron at Tel Nov with a variety of light aircraft)
- Detachment / 100 Squadron (at Eilat, four Piper Cub)
- Tayeset 101 'Ha krav Ha'Rishona' (at Hatzor, eighteen – sixteen operational - Mystère IVA, fighter; Stahl ' La crise...' : also numbered 201 for confusion purposes, at Ramat David and then Hatzor)
- Tayeset 103 (at Tel Nof, three Noratlas, sixteen Dakota - two S-55s just arrived before the start of hostilities, the commander of the squadron and another pilot that were on helicopter conversion courses in USA were immediately recalled to fly them -; transport; Stahl ' La crise...' : two Hiller 360, six Noratlas and eight C-47)
- Tayset 105 (a unit about to be disbanded, at Ramat David, thirteen P-51D, ground attack, an operational conversion unit)
- Tayeset 107 (six Meteor T.7)

- Tayeset 109 (at Hatzor, without its Mosquitos, expecting to receive MystèreIV)
- Tayeset 110 (an emergency reserve unit, at Ramat David, thirteen Mosquito FB.6 and T.33, fighter-bomber) in Stahl ' La crise...' : OTU with Mosquito and Meteor



Ouragan armed with eight HVAR rockets and a pair of napalm canisters under its wings. Note the yellow and black identification bands on the wings and rear fuselage.

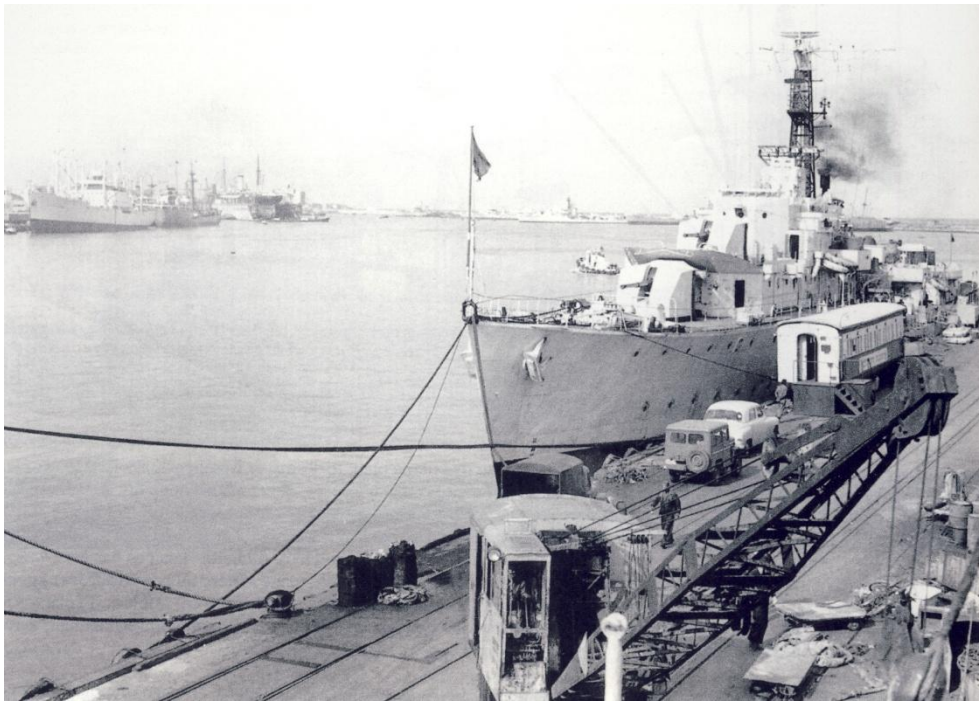
- Tayeset 113 (at Hatzor, twenty-two MD 450B Ouragan, ground-attack)
- Tayeset 115 Squadron (at Tel Nof, two Mosquito PR.16 and three Meteor T.7, reconnaissance -check Tayeset 107-) Stahl ' La crise...' : at Hatzor Mosquito PR.16 and Meteor FR.9
- Tayeset 116 (staffed by Flying School QFIs, at Tel Nof, sixteen P-51D, ground attack)
- Tayeset 117 (at Tel Nof – normally based at Ramat David - , eleven Meteor F.8 and FR.9; ground-attack and fighter-reconnaissance) Stahl ' La crise...' : at Ramat David with Meteor F.8, T.7 (check Tayeset 107) and FR.9
- Tayeset 119 (forming with just one crew, at Ramat David – normally based at Tel Nof -, two Meteor NF.13, night-fighter) Stahl ' La crise...' : three Meteor NF.13
- Tayeset 140 (the Flying School's basic training squadron, at Beersheba, seventeen – Stahl ' La crise...' : seventeen - AT-6 Harvard, armed trainer used as ground-attack)
- Tayeset 147 (the Flying School's primary training squadron, at Ramleh – normally based at Tel Nof -, twenty-five PT-17 Kaydet, trainers used as liaison) Stahl ' La crise...' : at Hatzrim with seveneetn AT-6D
- Tayeset 199 (at Ramat David, alias for detachment EC 1/2 ' Cicogne ' with eighteen Mystère IVA; Stahl ' La crise...' : from ' Cicognes ' and ' Alsace ' / 2e escadre de chasse)
- Tayeset 200 (at Lod, alias for detachment EC 1/1 ' Corse ' with eighteen F-84F - Frédéric Stahl, ' La crise...' : thirty-six - Cull 18 ?; 52-8903/1-NA, 52/3068/1-NF, 52-8914/1-NK, 52-9102/1-NL, 52-8943/1-NM, 52-9340/1-NN, 5-9358, 52-9111 - landed at Lydda on 29 October and received immediately Israeli markings, also from ' Corse ', EC 2/1 ' Morvan and EC 3/1 ' Argonne ' – 52-9110/1-PX, 52-7300 - of 1^{re} escadre de chasse)

- 201 Squadron (at Ramat David, manned by EC 2/2 ‘ Cote d’Or ‘ and EC 3/2 ‘ Alsace ’ crews with twelve Israeli Mystère IVA)
- 203 Squadron (alias for ET 1/64 ‘ Bearn ’ with eight Noratlas – 63-LL among them). In addition the French loaned a number of C-47 Dakotas.
- Frédéric Stahl, ‘ La crise de Suez Juillet 1956 – Avril 1957 L’opération « Kadesh » ’ : the thirty-six Mystère IVA of 2e Escadre landed at Lydda on 29 October and received immediately Israeli markings)
- Frédéric Stahl, ‘ La crise de Suez Juillet 1956 – Avril 1957 L’opération « Kadesh » ’ : some Noratlas transports of GT 2/64 ‘ Anjou ’ landed at Tel Nov on 29 October.
- Opération 750 : French Air Force participation (1re & 2e Escadre and GT 2/64).

Stahl ‘ La crise...’ :

- Sixteen Mystère IVA and forty-four being put in service
- Twenty-two MD 450B Ouragan delivered in 1955 and seven in reserve. Additionally an unidentified number delivered in 1956
- Eleven Meteor F.8, seven Meteor FR.9, three Meteor NF.13 and three in reserve, six Meteor T.7
- twenty-nine P-51 mustang (and fourteen in reserve)
- forty-seven Mosquito FB.6, PR.16, MF.30, T.3 and TR.33 and fifteen in reserve
- three B-17 E/G
- six C-46 Commando
- fourteen C-47 Dakota and 2 in reserve
- three DC-4 Skymaster
- three N.2501 IS Noratlas and three not yet operational
- four Avro 625M Anson I
- two PBY-5 Catalina
- seventeen A.S.65 Consul
- eighty-three T-6 and AT-6D Texan / Harvard
- four T-35 (TE-1A)
- four PT-17 Kaydet
- twenty-one PA-11 Cub and PA-18 Super Cub
- six S-55 and H-19D not yet operational
- two Hiller 630

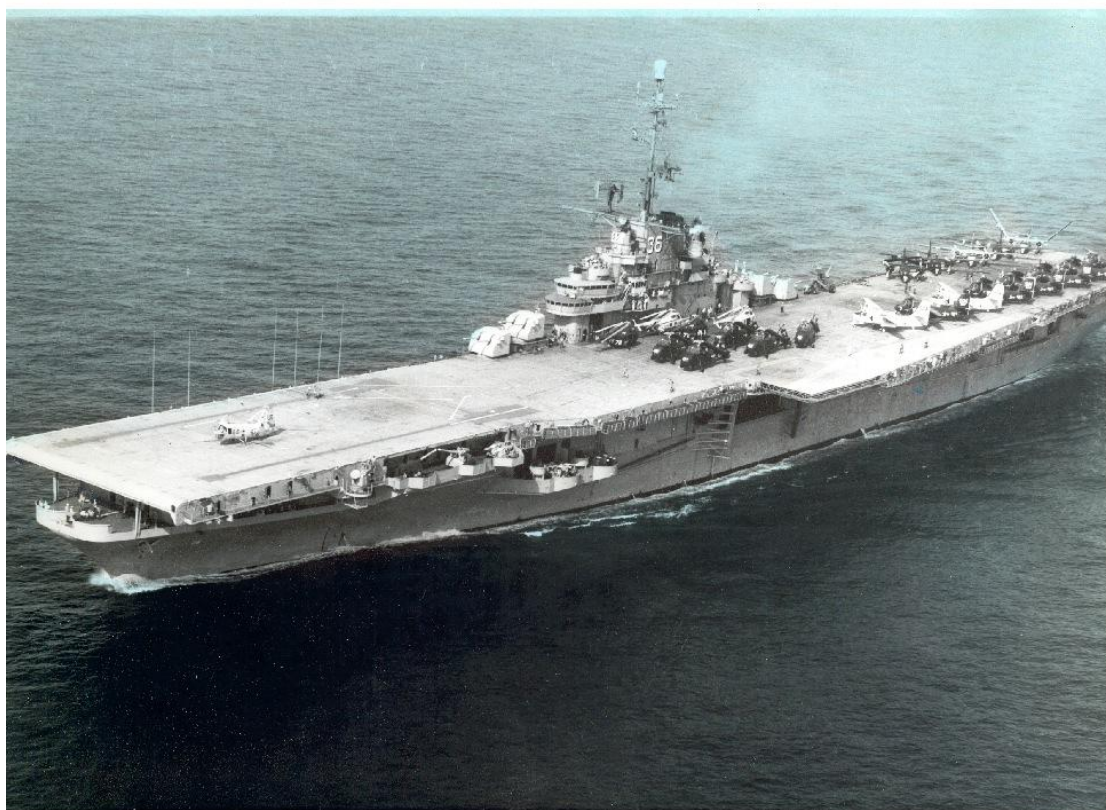
ISRAELI NAVY



The destroyer Elath in Haifa, 1 November 1956.

- 2 Z-class ex-British destroyers .No 40 *Elath* (ex-HMS *Zealous*) and No 42 *Yaffo* (ex-HMS *Zodiac*). Bought in 1955 and delivered in 1956
- 3 ex-Canadian River-class frigates. No 28 *Nisgav* (ex-HMCS *Strathadam*), No 30 *Misnak* (ex-HMCS *Hallowell*) and No 32 *Mitvach* (ex-HMCS *Violetta*)
- 6 Meulan-type torpedo-boats, T 200 *Ayah*, T 201 *Baz*, T 202 *Daya*, T 203 *Nets*, T 204 *Peress*, T 205 *Tahmass*
- 3 Vosper-type torpedo boats, T 209 *Lilitt*, T 210 *Shaldagg*, T 212 *Tinshemett* (all based at Eilat)
- 1 American patrol boat, No 22 *Nogah* (ex-PC 16)
- 1 small patrol boat Fairmile-type, *Haportzim*
- 3 HDML-type patrol boats, No 21 *Dror*, No 25 *Tirtsa*, No 35 *Saar*
- 1 depot ship, *Matzpen* (ex-*Eilat*, ex-icebreaker USS *Nordland*)
- Many ex-American LCT IVs (among them ex-US LCT 640 and LCT 673) and ex-British LCT VIIs
- Many LCIs
- About 10 LCM 3 / 6s

USN 6TH FLEET



USS Antietam (CVS-36)

In 1956, during the Suez Crisis, President Eisenhower ordered carrier forces deployed in strength to the Eastern Mediterranean

30 October

Hunter Killer Group 2 under Rear Admiral Paul L. Dudley aboard the anti-submarine aircraft carrier USS *Antietam* sailed from Rotterdam to join the 6th Fleet. Leaving some of the slower ships to follow, the Group passed Gibraltar on 2 November.

31 October

During the day a 4/33 Thunderflash on a reconnaissance on Alexandria saw two USN destroyers (DD-692 USS *Allen M. Sumner* and DD-697 USS *Charles S. Sperry*). 3rd Battalion / 2nd Marines Regiment elements were covering the evacuation of American citizens. Some 300 evacuees were collected on the Export Line *Exochorda*, the ship left the next day for Naples. The 6th Fleet's amphibious forces were alerted and ordered to sail to Crete, where they embarked the Commanding General of the First Provisional Marine Force and his staff. The force consisted of five ships, USS *Pocono* (Amphibious Force Flagship), the attack transports USS *Cambria* and USS *Chilton*, the LSD USS *Fort Snelling* and the attack cargo ship USS *Thuban*. USS *Pocono* and USS *Cambria* sailed to Turkey to pick up Admiral Walter F. Boone, CinC US Naval

Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean who had arrived from his HQ in London. The remaining ships headed south to Alexandria.

Destroyers USS *Harlan R. Dickson*, USS *Hugh A. Purvis* and USS *Burdo* (a converted destroyer escort into a high-speed transport), designated T.G. 61.3, arrived at Haifa at noon to evacuate US citizens. *Burdo* took on board 120 evacuees and left after dark. *Dickson* embarked 46 US evacuees and some other civilians before the group sailed for Suda Bay Crete.

1 November

Destroyers DD-708 USS *Harlan R. Dickson*, DD 709 USS *Hugh A. Purvis* and the transport APD-133 *Burdo* were sailing to Haifa in the early morning. Message that all US naval forces would be fully illuminated at night. Submarines USS *Cutlass* patrolled an area south of Cyprus and USS *Hardhead* a zone near Alexandria. Their orders were to observe events in their areas, to avoid other ships, to avoid action that could be misinterpreted as hostile, to maintain a speed of 10 knots and to identify themselves to other warships. They were, also, to remain on the surface at night with lights showing. Both monitored air traffic in their areas.

T.G. 61.4 (Captain F. W. Laing; USS *Chilton*, USS *Fort Snelling* and USS *Thuban*) were in Alexandria taking evacuees. The evacuation covered two days and when the ships left on 2 November they carried with them 1,056 adults and 480 children.

Mock attacks by US naval planes on cruiser *Georges Leygues* that was heading close inshore to support Israeli troops.

2 November :

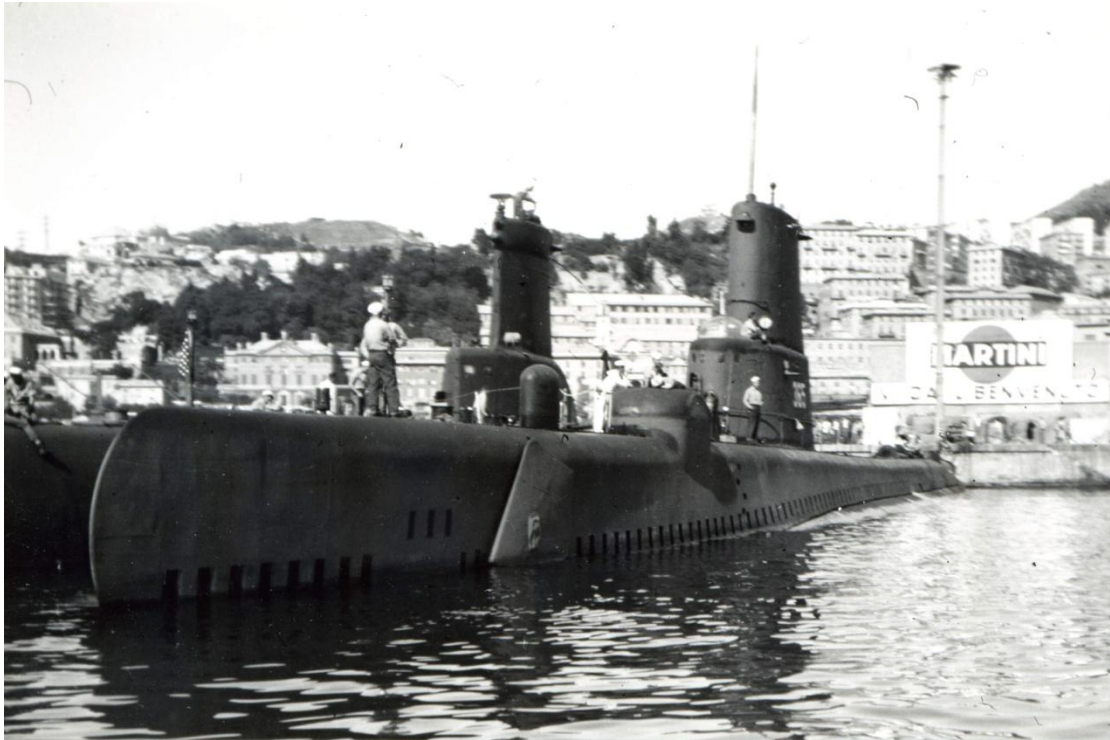
At 00.30Z (02.30 local time) an Avenger patrol from Arromaches flew to Alexandria. DD-692 USS *Allen M. Sumner* and DD-697 USS *Charles S. Sperry* were sighted. The heavy cruiser CA-139 USS *Salem*, the aircraft-carrier CV-15 USS *Randolph* escorted by destroyers were 30 miles from the Egyptian coast.

At 07.15Z Arromanches detected a submarine 2,000 yards from it. It was thought that it could have been a Soviet W-class being delivered to Egypt. Bouvet and Le Bordelais were called in. They were supported by an Avenger. At 08.18Z information came that two American submarines (USS *Hardhead* and USS *Cutlass*) were in the area. Bouvet kept watch on the submarines for a while.

Hunter Killer Group 2 passed Gibraltar on 2 November, leaving some of the slower ships to follow.

HMS *Ulysses* reported that she had been continuously menaced in the past eight hours by US aircraft, flying low and as close as 400 yards.

3 November :



USS Cutlass (SS-478, in) and USS Hardhead (SS-365, out) in Genoa, Italy, 1 October 1956.

SS-478 USS Cutlass continued shadowing the Franco-British fleet. It was detected by an Avenger patrol.

The Americans informed Admiral Grantham that destroyers USS *Sumner* and USS *Sperry* (COMDESRON 16) were being send to Port Said to evacuate of a few US nationals.

4 November :

Convoy MES1 met submarine USS *Hardhead*.

Carrier HMS *Bulwark* reported USS *Coral Sea* and two destroyers passing through T.G. 345.4 at 20 knots and exchanging signals.

5 November

Admiral Power signaled ‘ Sixth Fleet drew steadily away yesterday and have ceased harassing me ’.

6 November

T.G. 345.4 and convoy MES 1 sighted USS *Hardhead*.

Order of battle of the US 6th Fleet October 1956

Aircraft carriers

USS *Randolph* CVA 15 assigned to CARDIV 2, with ATG 202 :

- VF-102 'Diamondbacks' (twelve F2H-4)
- VF-62 'Boomerangs' (ten FJ3 Fury – two FJ3 and eight FJ3-M -)
- VA-46 'Clansmen' (fourteen F9F-8 Cougar)
- VA-176 'Thunderbolts' (thirteen AD-6 Skyraider)
- VAW-12 'Bats' Detachment 36 (four AD-5W)
- VA(AW)-33 'Night Hawks' Detachment 36 (four AD-5N)
- VFP-62 'Fighting Photos' Detachment 36 (three F9F-8P)
- HU-2 'Fleet Angels' detachment 36 (one HUP-2)
- 91 planes (Carter).

USS *Coral Sea* CVA-43 assigned to CARDIV 6, with CVG-10 :

- VF-11 'Red Rippers' (fourteen F2H-4)
- VF-103 'Clubleaf' (fourteen F9F-8B)
- VA-106 (VF ?) 'Gladiators' (fourteen F9F-8B)
- VA-104 'Hell's Archers' (sixteen AD-6)
- VAH-11 'Checkertails' with AJ-2,
- VFP-62 'Fighting Photos' detachment with F2H-2P,
- VA(AW)-33 'Night Hawks' Detachment 31 (one AD-5N)
- VAW-12 'Bats' Detachment 31 (three AD-5W)
- HU-2 'Fleet Angels' detachment 36 (one HUP-2)
- One AD-4Q as a utility aircraft

capable of carrying up to 137 aircraft.

USS *Antietam* CVS-36 (an anti-submarine aircraft carrier), assigned to CARDIV 14 :

- VFAW 4 Detachment 50 (five F9F-5)
- VS-36 with twenty-three S2F (four S2F-2 and nineteen S2F-1),
- HS 3 Detachment 50 (six HSS-1)
- HU2 Detachment 50 (one HUP-2)
- Go Navy for USS *Antietam* : VS-31 'Top Cats' with S2F-1, HS squadron with HSS-1 and VAW-12 'Bats' Detachment with AD-5W

USS *Salem* cruiser, flagship with HU2 Detachment 24 (one HUP-2)

USS *Macon* cruiser with HU2 Detachment 27 (one HUP-2)



USS Allen M. Sumner (DD-692)

DD-692 USS *Allen M. Sumner*, DD-697 USS *Charles S. Sperry*, DD-708 USS *Harlan R. Dickson*, DD 709 USS *Hugh A. Pervis*

Submarines : USS *Cutlass* and USS *Hardhead*.

USS *Pocono* (Amphibious Force Flagship)

attack transports USS *Cambria*, USS *Chilton*

LSD USS *Fort Snelling*

attack cargo ship USS *Thuban*.

APD-133 *Burdo* USS *Burdo* (a converted destroyer escort into a high-speed transport)

LST *Alameda County* based in Naples VP-56 with twelve P5M-2 aboard CHECK

CINCNELM HQ in Naples

3rd Battalion/2nd Marine Regiment

Naval Aviation in the Mediterranean 31 October 1956 other than carrier aviation :

Port Lyautey N.A.S., Morocco (not part of the 6th Fleet, but able to support its operations in the Mediterranean) :

- Naval Activities Port Lyautey
- Naval Communication Facility
- Naval Ordnance Facility
- Fleet Weather Central
- Air Navigation Office
- Fleet Intelligence Center
- Marine Barracks
- Overseas Air Cargo Terminal
- NAF Advanced Base with four aircraft – this ‘ unit ’ called Aircraft Pool ? - (one UF-1, one R4D-6, two HUP-2)
- VR-24 with ten aircraft (eight R5D-3, and two R5D-2) – assigned to FLOGWINGLANT/CONTL -
- VF-62 Detachment (one FJ3)
- VAH-5 nine aircraft (eight AJ and one P2V-2)
- VAH-11 twelve aircraft (eleven AJ-1 one P2V-5F)
- VQ-2 six aircraft (two A3D-1Q and four P4M-1Q) – assigned to COMAIRLANT -
- FASRON 104 with four aircraft (one F9F-8B, one R4D-8 and two SNB-5)
- GCA Unit 33

Hal Far, Malta :

- VP-11 (twelve P2V-7)
- FASRON Special 201 (one R4D-8) – assigned to COMNABELM –
- Cull VP-24 with P2V-5 Neptune in Malta but, actually, VP-23 (P2V-7) was in Malta from 15 May to October 1957

N.A.F. Naples :

- fourteen aircraft (one AD-5N, one R6D-1Z, two R4D-8, one UF-1, four JD-1, and five SNB-5)
- NALCOELM Representative
- 1141 USAF Detachment 4
- Fleet Mail Center
- Armed Forces Courier Service
- SAR Coordination Center
- GCA Unit 23

In Naples :

- VAP-62 Detachment B and Detachment D (each with two AJ-2P) – Det. C not shown in OPNAV Notice 05400 -
- FASRON 77 (one SNB 5)
- VR-24 Detachment (six TF-1)

Capodichino, Naples :

- VW 2 Detachment B (three WV-2)

Spain :

- COMNAVACTS (NAVACT Spain) in Madrid (one R4D-8)

Egypt :

- Attaché Cairo (one R4D-6)

Greece :

- Attaché Athens (one UF-1)

Turkey :

- Mission Turkey - Mission Ankara ? – (one R4D-6)

A note on other American air assets: CIA U-2s operated from Incirlik, Turkey over the area noting, in one flight late in October a large number of Mystères in Israel. U-2 pilots also reported and photographed convoys assembling at Malta and Cyprus and military supplies being loaded on to French ships at Marseilles and Toulon.

Eisenhower placed the USAF Strategic Command on alert, including the 306th Bomb Wing (B-47s) in Morocco. These were joined by 70th Reconnaissance Wing RB-47s on 26 October.

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