

missioner, told the United Nations Truce Commission last night, that since only a short time now remains before the end of the mandate it would not be practicable for him to bring Jerusalem truce negotiations to a favorable conclusion. He asked the commission to assume full responsibility for continuance of the peace talks.]

Zionist Mobilization

TEL AVIV, Palestine, May 13 (AP)—All trained Jewish men and women of fighting age were called to arms today as a new Zionist state neared its zero hour.

Scattered Jewish-Arab clashes occurred in several areas of Palestine as the last hours of the British mandate ticked away. British rule will end at midnight Friday [6 P. M. Eastern Daylight Time].

The Jewish mobilization call, issued in Haifa, was a precaution against a possible invasion of Palestine by neighboring Arab countries when British rule ends, Jewish observers said.

It applies to all Jewish men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 who have had previous military training or who have been deferred previously.

A Jerusalem dispatch said the Jews and Arabs, deploying for full-scale war, began blockading each other's roads today. The Arabs closed all roads to civilian traffic at the frontiers of Egypt, Trans-Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. The Jews cut Arab routes into the Jewish State area on the southern Palestine coastal road, in Galilee, in Jordan River areas and in the Lake Hule region of the north.

Fearing an Arab breakout from the Nablus-Jenin-Tulkarm triangle of northern Palestine, Jewish commando forces, spearheaded by Irgun Zvai Leumi, swept into Arab territory last night and again this morning.

Eight villages were reported captured. These included strategic Beisan which controls the lower reaches of the Plain of Esdraelon, the biblical Armageddon.

Fighting continued indecisively at Bab el Wad—the gorge where Arabs and Jews have clashed for several days in a battle that will determine who will control the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. The Arabs have retaken the western end of the gorge, but the Jews are said to be still holding the eastern end.

On the northern end of the Palestine coast fighting broke out around Acre, ancient seaport and one-time Crusader stronghold. Acre is eight miles across the bay from Jewish-held Haifa.

The British Army said the Jews attacked the Arab village of Antipatris, about ten miles east of Jewish Petah Tiqva, on the coastal plain. The Arabs claimed to be moving field artillery into Inwas south of the Latrun area.

[Lieut. Gen. Sir Alan G. Cunningham, Palestine High Com-