

Reporter's Story on Run-In With Nasser

# 'He Threw Me Out... I Knew Too Much About His Regime'

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London Daily Express

LONDON—Col. Nasser threw me out of Egypt for a very good reason. I had found out too much about his regime. I had found out about his concentration camps. I had tried to see Gen. Neguib.

But worst of all I had found and interviewed the Nazi propagandist he keeps hidden in his Ministry of Information pouring out practiced anti-Semitic hatred against Israel. That was the last straw and I was asked to leave within 24 hours.

Col. Nasser clearly believes that it is the correspondent's job to report only what he considers favorable to his regime as his own news papers do.

## Accused

After a very bold attempt to see Gen. Neguib I was accused of being a tool of the British Embassy, who were alleged to be plotting to rescue Gen. Neguib. Nothing could convince the Egyptian Intelligence officers who questioned me that normal news curiosity had impelled me to take the road to Marg, where Neguib is held under house arrest.

I was told secretly of the existence in the propaganda machine of Professor Johann Von Leers, Goebbels' propagandist who worked also for Peron.

We were all aware that ex-Nazis were being used in many capacities. Gen. Farenbacher, one of Rommel's staff officers, is head of a military mission of some 200 German officers, which has been helping to train the Egyptian army.

So when I was given the name of the Professor, I determined to find him. For a week I made discreet inquiries and then, by a stroke of amazing luck, I discovered a man whose loyalty to the present regime was wavering.

He told me which floor to go to in the Ministry of Information.

Brushing aside the numbers of sleepy guards-cum-office boys who clutter every corridor of Col. Nasser's Ministries, I happened to glance inside an office just as the door was opening.

Inside was a figure unmistakably non-Egyptian. White haired, pink checked and blue eyed.

"Professor Von Leers," I said. He denied it in a frightened voice. "I've seen your photograph," I said, bluffing. It worked.

I got a half hysterical flood of confession, reminiscence, excuses and fear.

## His Hatred

His hatred of the Jews showed thru every sentence: "After the war I was held in an American concentration camp run by Jews." "Israel is responsible for 90 per cent of the world press attack on Egypt." "Israel is abnormal, not big enough or fertile enough to exist without American money. Israel must go."

He ended by pleading with me not to publish anything, protesting that he was merely a translator of Israel's propaganda.

He is only one of a strong Nazi element in the Nasser regime, which is complemented by an increasing number of communists.

In concentration camps far out in the Western Desert Nasser keeps some 25,000 of his enemies in conditions which rival the brutality of the Nazi camps.

## Behind Scenes

So, gradually I pieced together a picture of what went on behind Col. Nasser's regime. As it is the surface picture of the regime is not prepossessing either. Egypt is a country where misery, filth and poverty are apparent to a degree probably unequalled in the rest of the world.

To add to its burden it has now a military despot interested only in furthering his own ambition.

The new constitution brought out at the beginning of the year ends all hope for a democracy. All members of Parliament have to be vetted by the National Committee, voting is compulsory, there will be no party system and Parliament is to be given no powers at all other than to approve everything laid down by the Revolution Council.

There are many Egyptians who would rebel against this if they could win the support of the army. This is not impossible altho it would be difficult.

But the great masses of the fellahin, more than 80 per cent of the country, are too poor and illiterate either to understand or protest.

## Merciless Hold

This is a ruthless regime exercising an increasingly merciless hold on a people too weak and ignorant to protect themselves.

It is a terrible picture and one of which Nasser is rightly ashamed. You ventured to have it reported.

As a warning to those still there, he is fixing a spy trial. I was lucky. He simply threw me out.

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