

# MOSLEM FANATICS FIGHT IN SURABAYA

## Religious Leaders in Charges Against Tanks—New Peril Is Feared in Batavia

BATAVIA, Java, Nov. 19 (UP)—Frenzied attacks by Indonesian nationalists on British tanks in Surabaya, with 1,000 or more Moslem troops charging into a deadly crossfire, were reported today by Netherland airmen returning from Surabaya.

As fighting broke out again in Batavia, Netherland authorities feared a large-scale offensive by Indonesian extremists. The shaky Cabinet of Premier Sutan Sjahrir met in emergency session. There was a possibility that peace talks set for Thursday might be postponed.

The Netherlands News Agency reported that all members of the Indonesian Peace Preservation Corps would be moved from Batavia to defensive positions in the suburbs in anticipation of an extremist offensive. Announcement of the action was made by Amir Sjarifuddin, Information Minister in the Indonesian Republican Cabinet. He said the corps had been ordered to the positions to "prevent Batavia from becoming a second Surabaya" and that the decision was reached at today's Cabinet meeting.

The Netherland airmen said the Kali Mas, the river bisecting Surabaya, was choked with the bodies of Indonesians. They estimated the native troops had suffered "between 30,000 and 40,000 casualties" in the ten-day battle.

### Moslem Chiefs Lead Charges

The Indonesians often were led into the fighting by Mohammedan religious leaders, the airmen said, and were charging upright into British machine guns without thought of loss of life.

British troops began a new push from the center of the city toward the residential quarter of Dermo to rescue an estimated 1,000 Europeans who were trapped there.

Lieut. Gen. Sir Philip Christison, commander of Allied forces in Java, left Batavia today to investigate the fighting at Surabaya and is expected to remain until Thursday when he is scheduled to meet Indonesian political leaders here in an attempt to halt the fighting.

Indonesian sources said they were firing six to eight shells an hour into the devastated city and that the British were returning the fire at about twenty-four rounds an hour. A British officer returning from Surabaya said the city was wrecked.

British circles said there was no proof that the Japanese were masterminding or leading the Indonesians.

Today's disturbances in Batavia increased tension since they were coupled with widespread reports that an army of Indonesian extremists would open a large offensive on the city. Netherland sources said the outbreaks were "organized action" and not "incidental occurrences," the Netherlands News Agency said.

British Indian troops occupied the Indonesian police office on Kramat Square, and Indonesians driven from it were pushed back toward Parapatten where other British forces took up key positions.

Fighting meanwhile slowed in the area south of the city and it was believed the Indonesians might be shifting to an area east of the city for the threatened assault.

Japanese ammunition was flown today by RAF transport planes to British troops in Semarang where the British seized control after discovering a Nationalist plot to capture the city.

### Central Java Uprising Feared

BATAVIA, Java, Nov. 19 (AP) — British military officials today expressed fears that a new wave of fighting might break out in central Java, where thousands of armed Indonesian Nationalists were massing as Indonesian radio stations called for "war on the British."

A British statement said the situation in central Java "gives cause for anxiety in view of the extremely aggressive attitude of local extremists both in Semarang and Jogjakarta."

A short time earlier an Indonesian broadcast, declaring "war" on the British, asked Indonesian youths to reinforce the ranks of the Nationalists at Semarang, where a British brigade was clamping on a tight control after the slaying of three British officers.

Another Indonesian broadcast Saturday night declared: "This is the last night of peace. Tomorrow we shall start and either kill the British or drive them from Java." This broadcast came from the headquarters for the Nationalist movement at Jogjakarta, now swarming with armed youths.

The Indonesian "army" is drilling openly in a number of nearby camps. The Indonesians themselves say a munitions plant in Jogjakarta already is supplying a steady output of ammunition for their forces fighting in Surabaya and elsewhere.

### Mountbatten in Strong Protest

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov. 19 (AP)—Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Allied commander in Southeast Asia, in a message to Australian army authorities said today that an Australian short wave broadcast on the Indonesian situation Nov. 5 was "inaccurate and damaging."

He took "the strongest possible exception" to the broadcast, which he said had asserted the United States Government made "a practice of underwriting the policy pursued by Lord Mountbatten."

In Canaberra it was reported that in the future all broadcasts would be policed by responsible officers to prevent the expression of purported official points of view.