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Extracts from Newspaper Articles

on

MAJOR GENERAL E.L.M. BURNS,
DSO, OBE, MC.

Biographical Notes --

Born - Montreal, June 17, 1897
Served in World Wars I and II, and in latter
commanded First Canadian Corps in Italian
campaign. Joined Department of Veterans
Affairs, Ottawa, 1945. Deputy Minister - 1950.
Appointed U.N. Truce Supervisor in Palestine,
Aug. 3, 1954. Appointed to command United Nations
Emergency Force, November, 1956.

CANADA's Maj.-Gen. Eedson Louis Millard Burns wears an habitually grim expression for which no one blames him. He has what is frequently described as "the most difficult job in the world today". On behalf of the United Nations he supervises the explosive truce between Israel and the Arab States which has existed since their war was stopped in 1949.

It is a job that no one less dedicated to the ideals of the United Nations could possibly want. To Arabs and Jews he presents a picture of a stern, composed man, ready to listen to both sides of a question, but uncompromising in his intention to uphold the principles of the United Nations.

His staff know that the composure is sometimes skin deep. After a particularly trying session with Arab and Jewish delegates they have heard him, alone in his office, impartially calling down a plague on both their houses in fiery terms.

At the sound of a shot he will drop what he is doing and drive to Kalandiya airport in Jordan, board his DC-4, rented from the U.S. Air Force, and fly to Amman, Gaza, Cairo, Beirut or Damascus, wherever the centre of the crisis-of-the-moment may be.

Until recently Burns made his flights in the discomfort of a side-facing bucket seat. Then his crew, unasked, managed to scrounge and install two forward-facing airliner seats. His American pilot, Capt. Ray Randt, says: