

Israel Takes Sharm el-Sheikh, Old Jerusalem, Nablus, Sinai, Major Points in Speedy Action

Israel acted speedily and decisively and has won another war—the third in its conflict with enemy neighbors—in a matter of hours.

The victory is greater than the 100-hour Sinai war, and faster. Except for skirmishes still in progress with Syria and Egypt, the Arabs have been knocked out, Jordan has signed a cease fire—Hussein hoping to save his throne and his skin—and Nasser's defeat is almost complete.

By taking the fortress of Sharm el-Sheikh, Israel assures itself continued free shipping through the Strait of Tiran—and this time it will be with Israeli flags flying over the plying ships. Israel has taken Hebron, Nablus and Jericho.

Russia continues to place obstacles in Israel's path, resorts to charges of aggression against Israel, seeks to undermine Israel's position—and the debates go on. But Israel is determined, in Abba Eban's words, to have the clock go forward, not backward, for peace in the Middle East.

Thus, there is hope for an end to blockades and for resistance to boycotts, enmities, saber-rattling, threats of war that made a powder keg of the entire area.

JERUSALEM—Israel's armed forces, striking hard on two fronts, Wednesday knocked Jordan out of the conflict and seized Sharm el-Sheikh, which controls the Strait of Tiran, in a two-pronged drive in the Sinai Peninsula. The armored columns driving west were reported within 20 miles of the east bank of the Suez Canal.

Israeli officials announced Wednesday morning that its forces had seized Sharm el-Sheikh, near the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, from which Egyptian forces had maintained a blockade of the Tiran Strait since United Nations emergency force troops were pulled out at the demand of Egyptian President Nasser.



MOSHE DAYAN

Jordan, having lost the Old City of Jerusalem and its forces falling back from dozens of points on its 329-mile frontier with Israel, formally accepted the United Nations Security Council's resolution for a cease-fire. However, reports from Israeli forces in the field indicated that Israel was continuing to nail down positions for the best possible bargaining stance on peace terms. Israel announced the capture of Nablus, the center city and communications hub of the west bank of the Jordan.

The Israeli armored spearheads punched ahead in the Sinai Peninsula at a pace well ahead of the thrust in 1956 when Israel had the support of British and French air cover. Unconfirmed reports placed Israeli forward armor within 20 miles of the Suez Canal. In the lightning Suez sweep, Israeli units seized Jabal Lfnech, a key post, the capture of which left virtually the entire peninsula open to the rushing Israeli forces.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who took office a few days before the hostilities began, was the first civilian to reach Mount Scopus from Jerusalem

without a United Nations escort. Gen. Dayan went to Mount Scopus with Brig. Ezer Weizmann, chief of operations, and Brig. Narkiss, commander of the central front. Gen. Dayan directed the first Israeli campaign against Sinai in 1956.

The Syrian front appeared Wednesday to be at least the noisiest. Virtually every Israeli border settlement came under Syrian mortar or rifle fire. Many fires were started in Israeli fields.



Bill Mauldin's view of the Israeli army: He says in describing this drawing: "It Is Definitely a Citizens' Army."

Israeli army units returned the fire and the air force also sent planes into the struggle to silence the Syrian gun positions.

Most of the fighting in Sinai Wednesday took place in the triangle formed by Abouageila, Rafia and El Arish. Most of Israel's air power, having decimated the air



COL. MOSHE PEARLMAN

arms of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria, was shifted to the Sinai to give air support to the tank battles.

An unknown factor in the Sinai battle was the disposition of the original forces Egypt had concentrated before the hostilities erupted all along the Sinai border early Monday morning. The force consisted of seven divisions, four infantry, two armor and one mechanized division.

Another mystery of the battle was the whereabouts of the Egyptian Navy, which had been equipped by the Soviets with powerful torpedo boats and many submarines. There has been no report whatever that any of the powerful Egyptian naval force had been used by the Egyptians.

One report from the Sinai front, confirming earlier official statements that in the first two days of fighting, 200 Egyptian tanks had been destroyed or captured, said that 150 Soviet-made tanks were seized virtually untouched.

Col. Moshe Pearlman, spokesman for the Israeli army, said

Tuesday night that shelling and mortar fire had been going on continuously since Jordan joined in the attack on Israel on Monday. He confirmed that there had been some 500 civilian casualties in Israel's capital. Col. Pearlman said that King Hussein apparently had lost control of Jordan's Arab

Legion, which, he said, was now commanded by an Egyptian military leader, Gen. Abdel Moneim (Continued on Page 40)

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