EGYPT'S NAVY FIRES ON PALESTINE PORT
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EGYPT'S NAVY FIRES ON PALESTINE PORT

Caesarea, North of Tel Aviv, Is Raked—Israeli Forces Enter Jenin City Limits

By The Associated Press.

CAIRO, Egypt, June 3 — The Egyptian Navy bombarded a Palestine port as land fighting along the sandy southern approach to Tel Aviv reached new intensity tonight. Arab and Israeli forces claimed major victories on the same battlefield south of Tel Aviv.

The high command of the Israeli Army said that its assault forces had fought their way inside the city limits of Jenin, Arab stronghold of the Nablus-Jenin Tulkarm triangle. Earlier reports had said that the Israeli forces had Jenin almost surrounded.

Israel said that her fighter planes shot down two Arab bombers following a raid on Tel Aviv.

The Egyptian Defense Ministry said the navy attacked Caesarea, a small port thirty miles north of Tel Aviv, sinking one boat and raking dockside buildings with its gunfire.

The Egyptians did not disclose what type or how many warships took part in the Caesarea bombardment.

The naval fire hit some of the port buildings, the communiqué said. Many direct hits were reported to have been scored in the harbor area.

The Egyptian navy, according

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to Jane's Fighting Ships, includes the Royal Yacht (no fire power); one 2,640-ton transport fitted with two three-pounder guns; one sloop fitted with one six-pounder gun and four machine guns; five small coastal motor launches, three of which carry one 37-millimeter gun each.

A notation listed as "additions to the fleet" explains that during the years 1947-49 Egypt planned to acquire from the British Navy three sloops, two corvettes, four mine-sweepers and a number of smaller craft.

Battle Rages Near Isdud

The bloodiest fighting in the southern coastal plain—the dusty, cactus-strewn fairway over which the Egyptians hope to reach Tel Aviv—centered about Isdud, twenty miles south of Tel Aviv, and Negba, six miles southeast of Isdud.

The Arabs claimed that they defeated the Israeli forces in a fierce battle at Isdud that began last evening and raged all night. Here, an Egyptian Defense Ministry communiqué said, the Israeli fighters were routed, with heavy casualties, and were pursued by the Arabs.

At Negba, the Ministry said, a strong Israeli counter-attack on Arab positions, captured Wednesday, was thrown back, allowing the Egyptians to reinforce the sites.

The Negba battle cost the Jews more than 400 dead, the communiqué said. It claimed also that Egyptian anti-aircraft guns shot down an Israeli plane in the Negba engagement.

An Israeli communiqué gave a contrary account of what apparently was the same general action reported by the Egyptians. Israeli troops surrounded a column of Egyptian infantry near Isdud, Israeli sources said, and destroyed Egyptian tanks and trucks that tried to break through the encirclement. Egyptian casualties were reported as heavy.

2 Arab Planes Downed

As the land battles for the Tel Aviv approaches grew hotter, the Israeli capital was bombed several times during the day, but the Arabs lost two two-engined bombers during the raids.

Thousands in Tel Aviv saw one enemy bomber explode and fall in fragments around adjoining Jaffa. The Jewish residents — bombed many times during the day— shouted their approval as they rushed from air raid shelters to witness the air fight, a Tel Aviv dispatch said.

The second plane was brought down near Rehovoth as it tried to reach its base in Gaza, the communiqué said.

An Egyptian communiqué said only one plane was lost. It said the raiding planes scored direct hits on Tel Aviv's airport and principal electric power station.

Tel Aviv had its first night raid in nearly three weeks tonight. Israeli sources said they believed the Egyptians dropped 250-pound bombs today, the heaviest yet used. The bombings caused a large number of casualties, most of them in a direct hit on a bus station in suburban Rishon le Zion.

Nablus, said the communiqué, was under attack from two approaches and was also bombed by Israeli planes.

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