Yibna in Israeli Hands
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TEL AVIV, Israel, June 5 (UP)—The ancient town, of Yibna was the last Arab fortress between the Israeli capital and the Egyptian outposts two miles north of Isdud.

At zero hour, in the pre-dawn dark, Israeli artillery began to hammer the hilltop town while commandos charged the town behind mine-detector teams. The defenders put up a stiff fight for about three hours. At sunrise, civilians could be seen fleeing from the town toward the coast without interference from the Israeli attackers.

Soon afterward the town yielded and the commandos took over the hilltop position, dominating the coastal road and the railway north from Egypt.

The Israeli commander of the Isdud area said that the Egyptians have been fighting a "purely defensive" battle for the past week.

"During this period they have not moved an inch," he declared.

He scoffed at Arab claims that 400 Jews had been killed in the Israeli assault on Isdud, saying that his losses had been less than 10 per cent of that number. Egyptian prisoners taken at Yibna said that at least 100 Egyptians died in the battle.

Today's Israeli communiqué reported that forces in the "dangerous" Tulkarm-Jenin-Nablus triangle had held "all positions captured" around Jenin and made "more progress" in the Tulkarm area.

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