SEIZED WARSHIP SHOWN AT HAIFA
By JOSEPH O. HAFF Special to The New York Times.
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 1, 1956; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 3

SEIZED WARSHIP SHOWN AT HAIFA

Egyptian Destroyer Towed Into Port—Bow Damaged in 3-Hour Battle

By JOSEPH O. HAFF

Special to The New York Times.

HAIFA, Israel, Oct. 30—A heavily listing Egyptian frigate, her bow damaged by rockets from Israeli jet planes, was towed into the harbor today. The blue and white Israeli flag flew over the green and white emblem of Egypt at the stern.

Haifa's shoreline was crowded with people most of the day. Most came to witness the arrival of the captured Egyptian destroyer, while others came to watch the departure of the Americans.

The spectators cheered as the Egyptian sailors came ashore.

The ship, the Ibrahim Awal, gave up after a three-hour engagement with units of Israel's fleet and several rocket-firing jets. There were 220 officers and men on the Egyptian warship.

Israeli Craft Block Way

The Abrahim Awal steamed toward this harbor shortly before daylight.

Apparently her officers hoped she would be mistaken for the United States destroyer Dixon, due here to evacuate Americans. However, when still several miles offshore, the commander of the Egyptian ship opened fire at long range. The shells fell harmlessly in Haifa's outer harbor and in a dumping ground north of the city.

The Egyptian ship then turned northward and ran for Lebanese waters but found the way blocked by units of Israel's Navy on coastal patrol. As the Israeli craft opened fire, the frigate turned south and tried to keep close to the coast so that the Israelis would not risk shooting for fear of hitting shore installations.

Jets carrying rockets joined the chase and pounded the zigzagging ship just as dawn was breaking. As the rockets tore into the forward section of the ship, the Egyptian naval ensign was pulled down and a white flag run up. The skipper had radioed Alexandria that his ship was in a sinking condition and asked if he could surrender.

No Israeli Casualties

Although the exact number of Egyptian casualties was not revealed, the Israelis said some of the dead were members of a gun crew on which a direct hit had been scored by Israeli destroyers before the jets were called out. A waterline hit was reported to have pierced the engine room, causing casualties below decks. The injured were removed to a hospital.

The Israelis suffered no casualties or damage.

Israeli Navy units took charge of the Egyptian craft, which listed heavily. Tugs put out from Haifa and took the ship in tow after the commander and his officers had been taken off for questioning by Israeli intelligence officers.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.