12,000 Prisoners Taken
By HOMER BIGART Special to The New York Times.
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Special to The New York Times.

TEL AVIV, Israel, Saturday, Nov. 3—Israel's lightning conquest of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip is complete except for minor mopping-up operations. The ancient Philistine capital of Gaza was the last town to fall.

In its drive, Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan's tough Army had killed, captured or put to flight 30,000 Egyptian troops east of the Suez Canal.

With Israel's southern flank secure after only four days of operations, the Government faced with calm confidence reports that Jordan was being reinforced by Syrian troops and that the Syrian - Jordanian - Egyptian defense pact was about to become operative.

Gaza collapsed after a three-hour fight yesterday morning. A United Nations truce aide,

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ISRAELIS CAPTURE GAZA, RULE SINAI

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Lieut. Col. Robert Bayard of the United States, arranged the surrender of the Egyptian commander at 11:30 A. M. An Israeli armored column entered at noon.

An estimated total of 12,000 prisoners was taken in the thirty-mile Gaza Strip, which had been occupied by Egypt since the truce in the 1948-49 Israeli-Arab war.

At dawn, before the attack began, a destroyer of the United States Sixth Fleet evacuated thirty United Nations aides from Gaza beaches. Six truce observers led by Colonel Bayard stayed behind to effect a quick surrender and save the 50,000 inhabitants of Gaza from the agony of prolonged street fighting.

An attempt by Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce supervisor, to obtain a cease-fire had failed Thursday night. But by midmorning yesterday, when the Israelis had silenced the Egyptian guns on Jebel Muntar, the low sandhill southeast of the city, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Fuad O'Dajawi, commander of the Eighth Egyptian Division, went in the office of the Mixed Armistice Commission and offered to surrender.

Colonel Bayard took him in a white United Nations jeep to a rendezvous with Col. Assaf Simhoni, chief of the Israeli Army's southern command.

The surrender was unconditional. On behalf of the Egyptian War Ministry, the local commander yielded his administrative regime in the entire strip.

The surrender ended organized resistance, except for scattered pockets on Samson Hill, a sandy ridge north of Gaza named for the Biblical hero who pulled down the Philistine temple. There Egyptians, occupying some houses and entrenched in a near-by orange grove, held out for a few more hours with mortar and small-arms fire.

Egyptian Remnants Trapped

Last night continued fighting was reported only in a few unidentified places in central Sinai, where the remnants of the Egyptian force appeared hopelessly trapped. Large numbers of Egyptians were said to be fleeing along the northern coast road toward Port Said.

A considerable force had surrendered near El Arish, Israelis said, and Israeli forces were pressing westward from that main Egyptian supply base.

The deepest penetration, however, was achieved over desert trails in central Sinai leading toward the southern terminus of the Suez Canal. There, the Israelis reported, their forces were within thirteen miles of the canal.

This advance of more than 100 miles across the center of the Sinai wilderness was said to have been accomplished less than ninety hours after the Chief Rabbi of the Israeli armed forces had placed a Torah in the lead-off jeep late Monday and told the troops:

"You are about to enter holy soil. For in this land Moses, our teacher, received the law."

It is too early for complete assessment of this victory, but Lieut. Col. Moshe Pearlman, Army and Government spokesman, was probably correct in saying last night, "Nasser has been dealt a very considerable blow."

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser's announcement in Cairo that Egyptian forces in Sinai were "being withdrawn" assured Israeli occupation of the entire peninsula.

Colonel Pearlman could shed no light on the status of the islands at the head of the Gulf of Aqaba, where Egyptian guns have denied passage to Elath, Israel's only Red Sea port. It seemed highly probable that these islands would soon fall into Israeli hands.

Views on Holding Gains

As for Sinai, it is believed here that the area will remain under Israeli occupation for some time.

Colonel Pearlman said, "We certainly want to hold what we have got until we can establish peaceful normal relations with Arab neighbors and assure passage through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba.

He added, however, that this was his personal view and that he was not speaking for the Government.

Israel has never recognized the Egyptian title to Gaza and is expected to move to incorporate the strip as Israeli territory.

Asked whether Israel would accept a peace treaty from the present Egyptian regime of President Nasser, Colonel Pearlman replied:

"I have not consulted our Government on this, but our policy is to secure peace treaties by negotiating with any or all of existing Arab Governments."

An Israeli official later provided this clarification: "If Nasser is head of the Egyptian Government and if he wants to negotiate, we will negotiate."

Israel insisted last night that no deal had been made with the French as to where the Israeli Western advance would halt. But Colonel Pearlman added:

"We have pretty well stopped. We are not interested in approaching the Canal beyond where we have already gone.

"We preferred to accept the allied ultimatum."

He was referring to the French-British warnings that no incursions by either Egyptians or Israelies would be tolerated within ten miles of the Canal.

"We aren't interested in going beyond that line at the moment," Colonel Pearlman said.

Yesterday was a day of jubilation for a score of frontier settlements along the Gaza Strip. For eight years, Nahal Oz, a communal settlement directly opposite Gaza, has lived in fear of attack.

Yesterday settlers could look across two miles of flat fields to the sandy ridges of Gaza and observe on the western skyline long columns of Israeli troops and armor.

Crowds of settlers crossed the shallow trench marking the frontier and walked to the outskirts of Gaza. There was not much to see.

Gaza is a clutter of adobe and stucco houses set among orange groves and vineyards.

The southern edge is Jebel Muntar, the hill where defending Turks inflicted a painful defeat on the British in World War I. The Egyptian defends were less tough.

Among Arab inhabitants, the prevailing sentiment was one of undisguised relief that Gaza had been spared with apparently slight damage and loss of life.

A white-bearded man cried to newsmen: "It's all finished! Thank God!"

Crowds of ragged children saluted troops. In the central square, hundreds of men sat on the ground awaiting screening.

"What will you do with them?" a soldier was asked.

"I expect they will all get a pair of shoes and the first square meal they have had in months," the soldier replied.

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