ISRAELIS JUBILANT AT CAPTURED BASE

But Sniping and Commando Raids at El Arish Go On

Special to The New York Times

EL ARISH, Sinai, June 7—Israeli troops on the road to Suez were flushed with victory today, but the fighting was by no means over.

Grinning Israeli soldiers drove captured Soviet-built trucks northward today, elatedly fingering the V-sign to oncoming traffic.

But pockets of Egyptian troops in Sinai and Palestinian commandos in the Gaza Strip continued desperate resistance.

This oasis and communications center, 35 miles inside Sinai, was seized yesterday afternoon by a force that earlier took Rafah, a small town on the old Palestine-Egypt border.

At 9 o'clock last night the first Israeli aircraft landed in the airport of El Arish, which had been bombed by the Israeli air force Monday. The wreckage of six MIG-17's still lay on the runways while a transport plane and two light aircraft were wrecked by bombs that went through a hangar roof.

The army base here was also in Israeli hands yesterday evening after a three-hour battle. Heavy casualites were inflicted, more than 1,000 prisoners surrendered and some Egyptian soldiers fled into the desert.

At dawn today an Egyptian commando company struck back. An officer told reporters that the enemy had stormed the camp at daybreak with submachine guns blazing. They inflected casualties, but were shot down.

Later this morning, when a battalion commander went toward the home of the governor to arrange for a formal surrender, fire was opened from several houses in the town. The Israelis withdrew and orders were given to subdue the enemy by shelling.

Brief and sporadic bursts of machinegun fire were heard between mortar blasts. Reporters were told that Egyptians were being flushed out of stone-lined trenches around the town.

A medical officer said wounded prisoners had also put up desperate resistance. He said one gravely injured Egyptian had exploded a grenade in an ambulance, killing himself, an Israeli nurse and medical personnel.

However, the battlefield suggested that on the whole Egyptian resistance was not so determined.

Tanks Are Dug In

About 50 Soviet tanks, some of them dug in, and more than 100 trucks were scattered in the yellow sands on either side of the black asphalt highway. Tank treadmarks and craters testified that the Egyptian force had been overcome by aerial bombardment and armor.

Many of the tanks apparently had not been hit. Some of the trucks appeared to be in good condition. Anti-aircraft positions, including one that was fully loaded, were also abandoned without having been hit.

Army boots were scattered in the sands. Apparently Egyptian peasants found them cumbersome in flight.

Prisoners were also being moved northward, in Tel Aviv delivery trucks that had been mobilized. Egyptians squatted dejectedly on the floor of the trucks, their hands on their heads and fingers entwined. A soldier with a submachine gun sat on the roof of the cabin of each truck.

Some of the prisoners were in their underwear. An Israeli soldier said they had discarded their uniform and put on bedouin robes in an attempt to pass as civilians.

Israeli Soldiers Unshaven

The Israeli soldiers were unshaven and their dress was assorted. Some wore civilian trousers and army shirts, some army trousers and civilian shirts. They appeared to be reservists called up last week.

Rafah was deserted, but a few score men were seen squatting in the shadow of a store behind barbed wire, apparently for screening.

A promised visit to towns farther north in the Gaza Strip was canceled because of heavy sniping.

In the airport here the commanding officer told reporters that most of the MIG's had been moved last week by the Egyptians to bases farther from the Israeli border. The six destroyed MIGS's were the only aircraft at the base at the time of the bombing.

The officer also said that a flight plan dated May 21 providing for an attack on an Israeli airport at an unspecified date had been found at the base.

Wrecked railway trains between Rafah and El Arish and burned-out tanks testified to the accuracy of the Israeli bombardment. Vehicles dug into the sand and covered with tarpaulins that matched the color of the desert were not hit. Apparently the camouflage was effective.

The bodies of Egyptians were strewn on both sides of the road, but few were near fortified positions or manned emplacements.



Associated Press Cablephoto

ISRAELIS TAKE OVER GAZA: Soldiers dismount from personnel carriers in the city of Gaza, in the Gaza Strip, according to Israeli Army sources, which released picture.

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