ALL SINAI IS HELD
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ALL SINAI IS HELD

U.A.R. Loses 50 Tanks in Actions Termed Fiercest of War

By Reuters

TEL AVIV, Friday, June 9—Israeli troops have reached the bank of the Suez Canal and have taken control of the entire Sinai Peninsula, the Israeli radio reported this morning.

The radio broadcast the text of a message from the commander in the southern front, to the Chief of Staff, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin. The message said:

"Happy to inform you that our forces are stationed on the bank of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. The Sinai Peninsula is in our hands. Greetings to you and to the whole defense forces of Israel."

Battle reports yesterday indicated that the remnants of two Egyptian armored divisions and four infantry divisions were trapped in the western part of that Sinai Desert.

50 Tanks Reported Wrecked

The news of Cairo's acceptance of the United Nations cease-fire coincided with an announcement by an Israeli spokesman that three battles in the desert yesterday had been "the fiercest in this war."

The Israelis said they had shot down eight Egyptian planes and destroyed at least 50 Egyptian tanks during the fighting.

Other tanks were wrecked and left on the road to Qanbara, about 30 miles north of Ismailia, about midway along the 100-mile Suez Canal.

Among the Egyptian planes downed were a Soviet-made Ilyushin bomber and several Soviet-built Sukhoi-7's. Israeli planes also struck Soviet-made missile sites in the Suez Canal zone during daylight raids, the spokesman added.

Despite the continuation of heavy fighting, the Israeli spokesman said that all escape routes for Egyptian armored units had been closed.

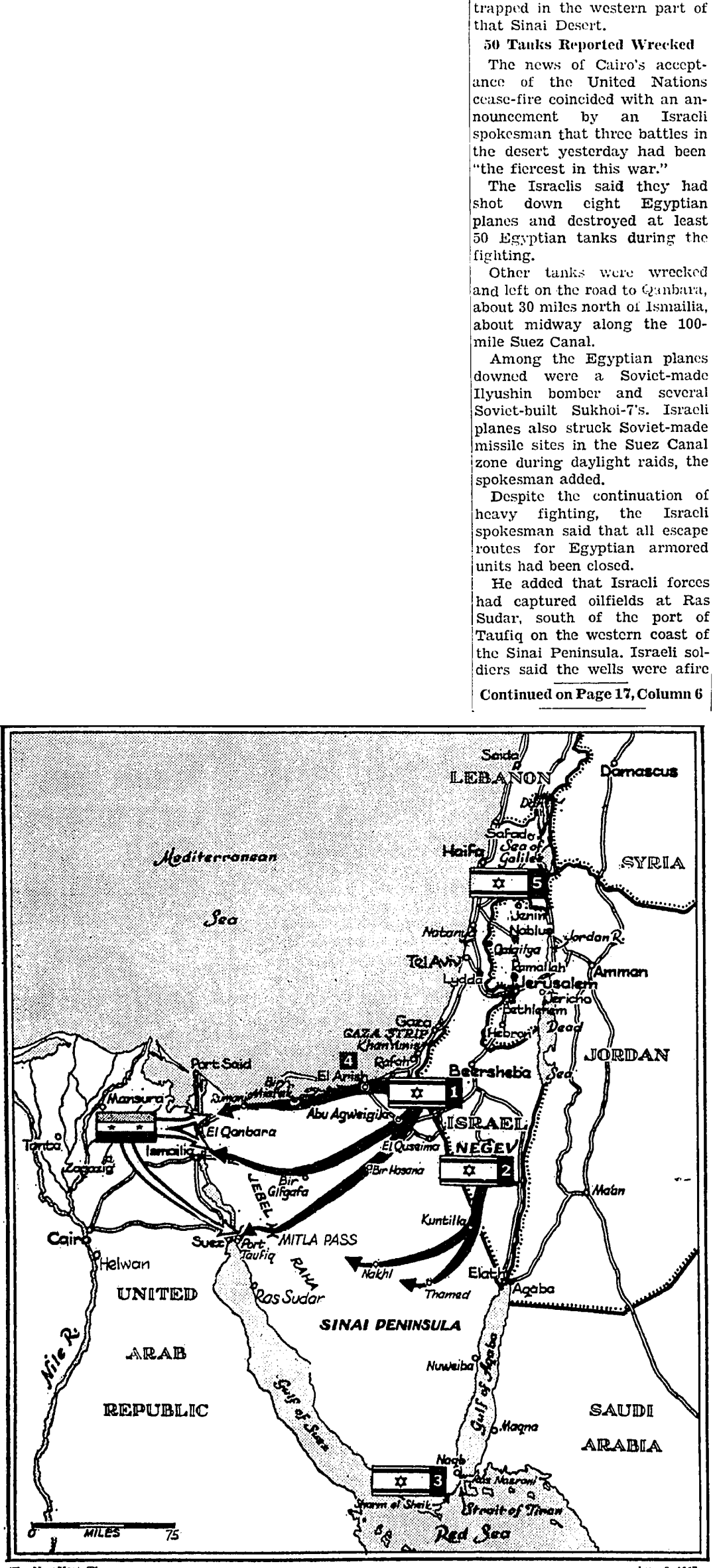
He added that Israeli forces had captured oilfields at Ras Sudar, south of the port of Taufiq on the western coast of the Sinai Peninsula. Israeli soldiers said the wells were afire

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United Press International Cablephoto

AFTER THE BATTLE: Egyptian prisoners, prone on the sand, their hands behind their heads, are guarded in a compound by Israeli troops at El Arish in the northern Sinai Peninsula. El Arish was taken by Israel Tuesday.



The New York Times June 9, 1967

CRUSHING OFFENSIVES: Israelis thrust westward across northern Sinai (1) to the Suez Canal after sharp fighting at Bir Gifgafa and Mitla Pass, and routed Egyptians at Nakhl and Thamed in drive farther south (2). Soviet ship passed through Strait of Tiran (3), now under Israeli control. Mistaken Israeli attack on U.S. ship in Mediterranean (4) killed 10 men. Israelis held west bank of the River Jordan as far north as Jenin (5).

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Israel Says Her Troops Reach Banks of Suez

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as a result of sabotage by the defenders.

The Israelis said that they were in complete control of the Jordanian front and that two bridges across the Jordan had been destroyed. They identified these as the Allenby Bridge, east of Jericho, and Damiya Bridge, farther north. The Hussein Bridge was heavily damaged.

Early yesterday Israel said officially that at least 250 Egyptian tanks had been destroyed, but at that stage unofficial estimates said the number was nearer 600. At least 30 tanks were knocked out in the Nakhl-Thamed sector alone.

In addition, 20 Soviet-built Stalin-3 heavy tanks were destroyed at Bir Gafgafa, 50 miles east of the Suez Canal.

In their unsuccessful escape drive, the Egyptians had tried to attack advancing Israelis in the western Sinai Desert with tanks and planes between the Mitla Pass and Bir Gafgafa.

On Israel's northern front, unofficial reports said most of the Syrian front-line forces withdrew toward Damascus and were being harassed by Israeli planes.

Communiqués said Syrian artillery had resumed shelling Israeli border villages in the Huleh Valley.

On the Jordanian front, Israeli troops cleared bodies from the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem, which was captured Tuesday, and set up occupation headquarters in the Ambassadors hotel on the west bank of the Jordan.

The Israelis control the entire west bank, from Jenin southward to the Hills of Hebron.

'The Moment They Stop'

Special to The New York Times

TEL AVIV, June 8 — A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, commenting on Egypt's acceptance of the United Nations call for a cease-fire, said tonight, "The moment they stop, we will."

"At the moment there are conditions approximating a cease-fire in the Sinai," he said. The lull came at nightfall. "Anyway we've broken their back," he added.

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