

SCOPUS ROAD OPENED, OLD CITY ENCIRCLED;

THE JERUSALEM POST

OTHER WAR NEWS, pages 2, 3, 4

JERUSALEM SHELLED 2ND DAY; GAZA FALLS

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JERUSALEM

THE battle for Jerusalem has been won. Its brave, heroic, and weary citizens are unlikely to have to spend a third night in their hot and cramped shelters. The death toll in the fighting has not low among civilians, though many of these deaths and injuries could have been avoided with more care. It was a brief taste of the drawn-out trial of 1948, when the city remained on starvation rations and almost without water for many weeks. But there is a difference. In 1948 there was a deep fear that Jewish Jerusalem might fall — as the Jewish Quarter of the Old City had fallen after long and heroic resistance, when its ammunition gave out. There was no such fear this time and the aimless shelling was doubly resented as mere obedience to Nasser's order for a diversionary move that would cause Israel forces to be withdrawn from the Sinai front for the protection of their Capital.

But the current battles have a bitter logic, bitter for Nasser's strategy of domination of all Arab countries, and doubly bitter for his unwilling supporters, who have been dragged into a battle that is not of their own choosing. There were no indications during the past few years that Jordan's King Hussein had any intention of attacking Israel in force, or of making any move in Jerusalem. Presumably he knew himself that the result was likely to be disastrous for him, and likely to cost him his position in Jerusalem, if not his crown or his life.

Israel has had an account of its own with Jordan ever since 1948 for its failure to observe the Armistice Agreements. First of all, the free access to the Western Wall in the Old City, which was part of the Agreement, has never been implemented, and scarcely even debated. Access to the old Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University buildings on Mount Scopus has not been free, but limited to fortnightly convoys for supplies and the exchange of the police guard in the buildings, and in times of tension the passage of the convoys has often been delayed or stopped. On Monday morning, when the battles in the South had begun, but the shooting in Jerusalem not yet started, security authorities were wondering whether this meant that the convoys, due today, would be held up, and whether perhaps the Jordanians would try out a lesser than blockade themselves, and create new difficulties in contact with the Mount Scopus area.

The massed attack launched by Jordan upon Israel Jerusalem was unexpected, but its result could have been foreseen, despite the comparative strength of the Arab Legion forces, who are a very different body of men to Nasser's troops. There was no way of protecting Jerusalem against Jordanian shelling except by capturing the outlying positions from which this fire was directed, and some of them are deep in Jordanian territory. The Old City itself is a very much more delicate issue, for although some of the fire came from positions right inside the City, Israel was not prepared to shell this close-packed warren of old buildings containing some of the most treasured religious monuments of the three faiths, and so was severely hampered in dealing with the attack coming from this area. In a hard and costly fight, the City has been surrounded, and it is not expected to resist very long in this condition. The Jews of Israel will once more practise the ancient custom of visiting the Western Wall of the ancient Temple for prayer and remembrance.

Israel cannot permit itself to be locked out of the Old City again or to rely on the uncertain services of the U.N. for its right of access. The division of the city has been a painful and expensive anomaly for 20 years. Now it looks as though some entirely new solution to this problem will have to be found.



Soviet-built Egyptian TU-16 bomber belches black smoke after Israel Air Force set it afire at an air base in Sinai.

Egypt, Syria, Algeria sever U.S. ties, Suez is closed

Egypt, Syria and Algeria last night broke off diplomatic relations with the U.S., and Arab oil-producing states cut off supplies to both the U.S. and Britain after Arab charges that the two nations provided air cover to Israel during Monday's hostilities. Both the U.S. and Britain vigorously and angrily denied the charges. Syria also cut ties with Britain.

U.S. and Soviets seek accord in U.N. Council

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters). — The U.S. and Soviet delegates discussed the Middle East crisis for almost an hour yesterday while the start of a scheduled meeting of the Security Council was delayed at least until midnight Israel time. Mr. Arthur Goldberg, the American representative, and his Soviet opposite number, Dr. Nikolai Fedorenko, met in the office of the Council President, Mr. Hans Tabor. It was understood that they were trying to reconcile their differences on how the Council should go about calling for a ceasefire. Informed sources said Mr. Tabor was trying to obtain the agreement of the two super powers to a draft resolution which would enable the Security Council during the night to call for an immediate ceasefire.

Russia obstructed this bid all day Monday by insisting on adding other clauses to the simple appeal favoured by the U.S. and Britain. In particular the Russians want the Council to call for the withdrawal of Arab and Israel troops to the positions they occupied before fighting began on Monday. The Western powers objected to this because they said it would freeze the status quo, particularly Egypt's blockade of the Tiran Straits.

The Soviet Ambassador in London, Mr. Mikhail Smirnovsky, had a 10-minute meeting with Prime Minister Harold Wilson yesterday. No details were immediately available about the call, made at the envoy's own request shortly after Britain had denied Arab charges that British planes were involved in Arab-Israeli fighting. Mr. Wilson has been in continuous contact with world leaders, including Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, over the past few days as part of Britain's drive to get Russia to work with the Western Big Three to end the fighting.

Eshkol appeals to Kosygin

Mr. Eshkol has appealed to the Soviet Prime Minister a second time to show understanding for Israel's necessity to repel Nasser's "wicked aggression" and foil his declared and planned intention to destroy this country. In a letter to Mr. Kosygin, dated June 5, he also appealed to the Soviet Union to join an effort to pacify the Middle East. (Text of letter — Page 3.) The Kremlin in a statement early yesterday, quoted by Reuter, demanded that Israel stop its "aggression" against Arab countries and withdraw its troops to behind the lines held before fighting broke out.

Prime Minister Kosygin yesterday held talks in Moscow with the Egyptian Ambassador, Mr. Mohammed Ghaleb. An official announcement by Tass said they had "a friendly conversation in which questions of mutual interest were discussed."

Tass breaks out with Israel version

MOSCOW (UPI). — Soviet news media reported for the first time last night that Israeli troops might be winning battles in the Middle East war. Tass broke into its usual string of Arab communiques to report Israeli claims of victories in Sinai and Jerusalem. The agency quoted a radio report by Israeli generals of Israeli advances in northern Sinai, its capture of three towns "on the road to the Suez Canal," its taking of Jenin, Gaza and the Old City of Jerusalem.

Syrian attacks repulsed

By DAVID SLAV Jerusalem Post Reporter

TIBERIAS. — Syrian infantry and an armoured column tried to penetrate the Sh'ar Yashuv and Tel Dan areas yesterday, but were beaten back by Israel armour and the Air Force. During the 90-minute battle the Syrians shelled Dan, Daphne, Sh'ar Yashuv, Ma'ayan Baruch, Lehavot Habashan, Gadot and Yesud Hama'alah. They used long-range artillery against Rosh Pina and the frontier station at the Bnot Ya'acov Bridge. Shrapnel fell in Moshav Elbhelet. In Rosh Pina, one resident was slightly wounded and 15 buildings hit. One house went up in flames, set alight by a brush fire. Telephone lines were cut. At Dan a resident was slightly wounded. In the southern sector, the Syrians attacked Elin Gev and Tel Katzir with artillery fire. One person at Elin Gev was killed and several wounded. The concert hall and other buildings were damaged. At Tel Katzir one building was hit.

SYRIANS BOMBED

Israel Air Force planes strafed and bombed the Syrian fortified emplacements on the slopes, silenced the guns and damaged most of them. At the same time, Israel artillery hit them from below. Tel Azaziat and Tel Hamra, old "acquaintances" of the settlers, were wrecked. All day and night, fire and smoke were seen rising from the Syrian positions. No Syrian planes were seen above the area all day. At 3 p.m. the whole front was quiet. In all the settlements near the border, including Tiberias, people spent hours in shelters. They emerged in the afternoon to enjoy the cool air.

Syrian plane crashes on petrol station, kills 9

AFULA. — Nine were killed and a number were wounded when a Syrian Iushin bomber was shot down by an Israeli fighter at 5.35 yesterday morning before it could drop any bombs. The bomber was flying very low in a southerly direction over the rooftops of the buildings at Rehov Habanim and the Government housing quarter. Hit by the Israel plane, the bomber fell in flames near a petrol station on the outskirts of the town and exploded together with its load of bombs. Nine Israelis were killed instantly. The pilot and the co-pilot were also killed.

B.B.C. SEES JORDAN ARMY COLLAPSING

The British Broadcasting Corporation (B.B.C.) last night quoted "reliable sources" in Amman as saying that the Jordanian armed forces were "on the point of collapse." In a report by its diplomatic correspondent, the broadcast said Jordanian ground forces were "pinned down in isolated points" along the area bordering Israel. With "its air cover destroyed in the first hours of the attack, Jordan's forces must either stand their ground and be destroyed or pull out in a full-scale retreat across the river Jordan," the report said.

Mt. Scopus relieved

By CHARLES WEISS, Jerusalem Post Reporter

After bitter fighting that lasted throughout Monday night and well into yesterday, all Jordanian Jerusalem outside the Old City Wall — including the "French Hill" adjacent to Mt. Scopus, Sheikh Jarrah and the road to Mt. Scopus — were in Israeli hands. The garrison on Scopus was relieved after a 24-hour siege.

In addition, the villages of Beit Ikra, Nebi Samuel and Shu'afat and the radar station above Ma'aleh Hahamisha to the north were captured. But snipers were still being mopped up in the Old City until last night. As the troops being relieved drove out of Mandelbaum Gate into the Mea Shearim yesterday morning, they were greeted by large crowds of excited residents from the neighbourhood, clapping and cheering them on. The men were dog-tired; they just smiled.

Among the vehicles were a number bearing Jordanian licence numbers. Mayor Teddy Kolek, in the company of the O.C. Central Command, made a quick tour of Jordanian Jerusalem outside the walls yesterday afternoon.

One soldier said to Mr. Kolek: "We've made your city bigger." His reply: "A bigger headache, you mean." The Commander of the Southern District

I would like to thank all of those who have expressed their good wishes on my appointment as Minister of Defence.

I would ask my friends to forgive me for not being able to reply to each one personally in view of the needs of the hour.

To all of Israel and to the Israel Defence Forces I extend my wishes for victory in our struggle.

GENERAL MOSHE DAYAN, Minister of Defence

Only 36 hours after the start of fighting, Israel forces were deep in Sinai, had captured Gaza, made sweeping gains on the Jordan front, and had encircled the Old City of Jerusalem.

Spearheads of Israel's Armoured Corps units were last night reported to be well beyond El Arish, and engaged in large-scale tank battles along the Sinai coastal plane, with the Egyptians retreating westwards.

Israel Air Force units shot down eight Egyptian planes yesterday. The first six were brought down during the morning.

The announcement on the Canal closure said that since Israel had repeatedly tried to attack vessels passing through the waterway, it had been decided to evacuate it completely to safeguard it against obstruction that might last a long time. They were all of the Sokol-7 type, the most modern planes in use by the Egyptians. The other two were Mig-21s. A TU-16 of the Iraqi Air Force was shot down over Megiddo, after attempting a bombing run on Netanya. The bomber was brought down by anti-aircraft fire.

The mechanized units appeared to have advanced even faster than those during the Sinai Campaign, an Army spokesman said here yesterday. The Gaza Strip has been completely occupied; a sizeable part of the north-central section of Sinai was in Israeli hands, and Israeli armour was engaging what seemed to be the last major Egyptian armoured unit still intact, southwards in the Kuntilla area.

KALKILYA, JENIN TAKEN

In Jordan, Israel units captured Kalkilya, Latrun and Jenin and reached the vicinity of the Samaritan mountains in addition to its successes in Jerusalem. Jordanian units appeared to be retreating eastwards.

Reports of street fighting in the Old City were denied by the Israel spokesman yesterday. However, with the conquest of Sheikh Jarrah and the so-called French Hill, Israel has been able to relieve the defenders of Mt. Scopus, who had been besieged since the fighting started.

Some localities, like Abu Aghella, were yesterday captured by the Israel Defence Forces for the third time. Veteran commanders are also familiar with a good many of the others, notably Latrun and Jenin (Latrun alone is said to have cost Israel 1,000 casualties during the War of Independence).

Yesterday's most significant development, however, was not any specific conquest but the noticeable westward movements of Egyptian units now abandoning the Kuntilla-Abu Aghella axis, the Egyptian "Maginot line" which had been reinforced by a crack armoured division. Observers here yesterday afternoon saw in the new Egyptian troop movements the first signs of a crack up and possible general retreat by the Egyptians to new positions further to the south.

LATRUN'S IMPORTANCE

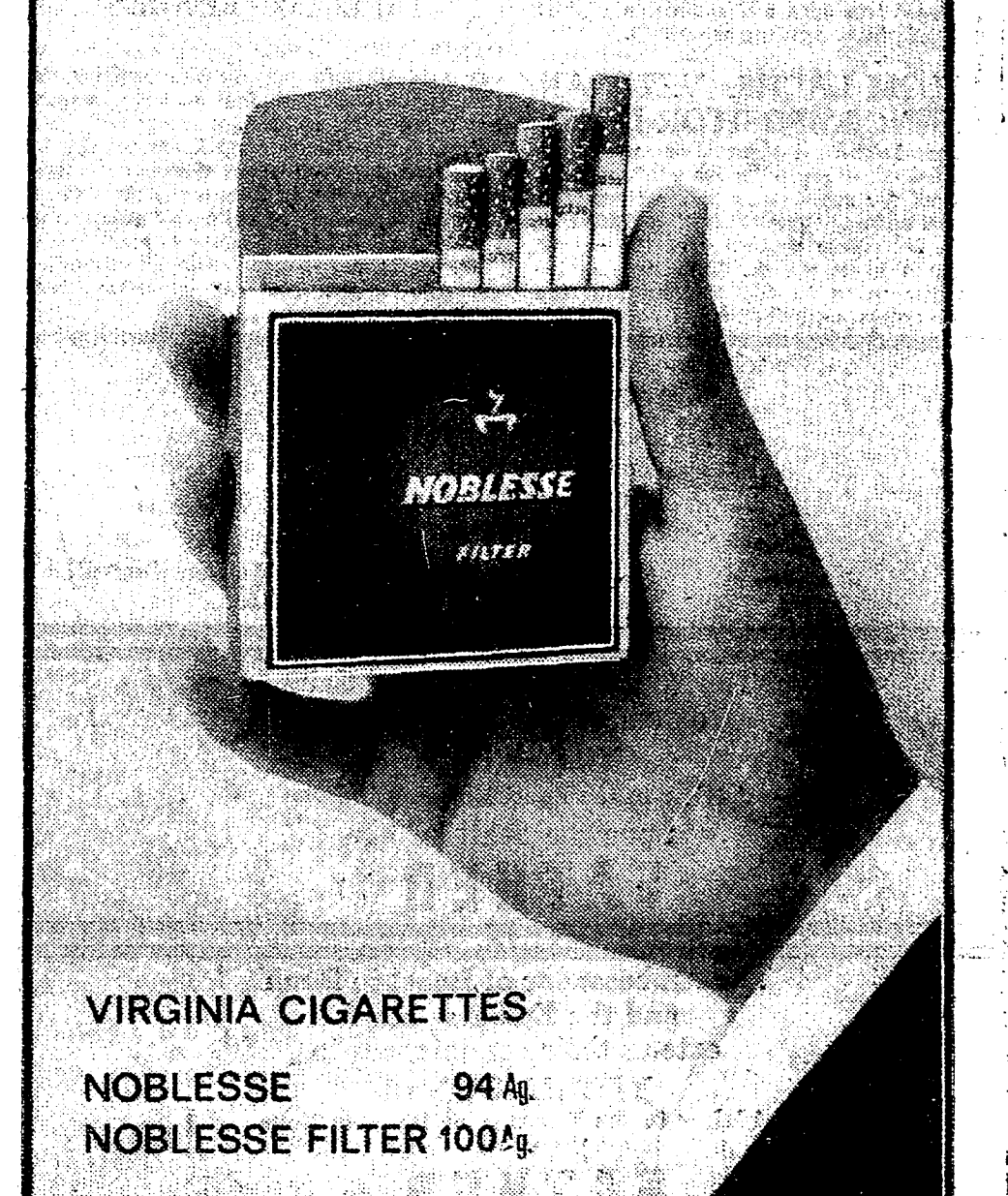
Most important of yesterday's gains were the capture of Latrun and the artillery positions, surrounding it, and seizure of Abu Aghella, the "impregnable" Egyptian position in Sinai. From Latrun the Jordanians had lobbed shells into Lydda. Artillery positions at Kalkilya also fired some shells into central and northern Tel Aviv (suburbs).

In the Jerusalem area, Israeli troops last night outflanked the Jordanian held part of the city, taking Nebi Samuel in the North, with the fall of Ramallah considered to be only a matter of hours.

With the fall of the Old City, Ramallah

Observers here said yesterday that the fighting was entering a concluding phase on the Jordan front, and perhaps also on the Sinai.

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