

# Truce Holds; Israel Lists Light Losses

By Alfred Friendly Washington Post Foreign Service

*The Washington Post, Times Herald*; Jun 12, 1967; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The Washington Post (1877 - 1988)

pg. A1

# Truce Holds; Israel Lists Light Losses

## *679 Reported Killed In War With Arabs*

### Urgent Session Of U.N. Council To Hear Syria

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 11 (AP)—The U.N. Security Council was summoned into urgent session for 10:30 tonight to consider charges by Syria that Israeli troops were advancing into its territory.

By Alfred Friendly  
Washington Post Foreign Service

TEL AVIV, June 11—Israel's casualties from its six-day war with the Arab states were only 679 dead and 2563 wounded, of whom only 255 suffered injuries ranging from medium to serious, it was announced here Sunday night.

Except for reports of minor incidents, all the fronts were quiet today under the U.N.-sponsored cease-fire.

The unofficial estimate of Arab casualties ran as high as 20 times those of Israel's but military authorities have yet to release their tally.

#### Higher Than Previous War

The number of dead of this war, in which Israel was effectively engaged by Egypt, Jordan and Syria, with some aerial warfare with Iraq, is considerably higher than that of 11 years ago, during the six-day war with Egypt alone, when 186 of Israel's armed forces were killed.

However, they are vastly lower than what had been feared before the war. At that time, Israel heard much ominous talk about how much more formidable the Egyptian forces were than in 1956 and how bloody any conflict would be.

#### Factors Credited

The architect of Israel's victory, Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, credited his relatively low losses to a combination of three factors:

- The awareness of each soldier that he was fighting for his life and the existence of his country.
- The capability of the men themselves, in air, armored and infantry units, and their higher morale.
- The entire chain of command which had a high degree of flexibility and "capability to exploit the moments in battle through which commanders can change the situation into one producing victory."

Rabin was asked whether one factor contributing to the apparently tremendous discrepancy between Israeli and the Arab states' casualties was the Russian military doctrine and tactics that the Arabs followed.

He said he did not believe that this was an element in the difference.

"After all, we fought the Jordanians, too, who were trained in"—he groped for a word that would not injure the sensibilities of his Ameri-

See ISRAEL, A9, Col. 1

# ISRAEL— From Page A1 Israel Lists 6-Day War Casualties as 679 Dead, 2563 Wounded

interrogator too brutally  
—“western practice.”

[Gen. Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Defense Minister, said in a television interview that Israel should keep major portions of the territory it has conquered from the Arabs, including the west bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip. Details on Page A15.]

## Speed Cut Casualties

Rabin, a youthful 45, and good at concealing the dreadful fatigue that he must have been feeling after the past week, said the swift achievement of air superiority by his forces—a feat of about four hours of attack on Arab airfields—helped hold down casualties.

The Israeli commander acknowledged that “some demobilization of the armed forces had already begun, and he indicated clearly that there would be considerably more. Asked about the problem of sustained mobilization of a civilian army—in which almost every man in uniform means one less at his daily job—Rabin disclosed what amount to an Israeli doctrine of flexible response. “We can demobilize units, or groups or individuals and remobilize them quickly. We can adjust to the needs of time.

“The damage inflicted against the Egyptian and other Arab forces is such,” he continued, “as to make it a long

time before they could present a serious military threat again to Israel.”

Accordingly, he intimated, it will not be necessary to keep anything like the present number of Israeli troops under arms.

## Joined Commandos

A native Palestinian and a graduate of an agricultural school, Rabin joined a pal-mach (commando) unit organized by the Jews to defend themselves from the Arabs. He fought for the British in such a unit against Vichy France in Syria during World War II.

During the Israeli war for

independence, he was chief of operations on the southern front, where he organized plans for the seizure of the Negev Desert and port of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba. Later he studied modern warfare techniques at Fort Bliss, Tex.

*Ayre Wallenstein of Reuters reported these other developments from Jerusalem:*

The Israeli government announced today that it had set up a ministerial committee to deal with administration of areas occupied by the Israeli army in its six-day war with Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

A communique issued after

the first routine Cabinet meeting since the war began made only this oblique reference to the great changes in the region.

Israeli forces today guarded territory more than four times the size of their state a week ago. An army spokesman reported all quiet on all fronts as the Cabinet met.

The communique's only reference to the Israeli's victories was the statement, “the chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, reported on the six days of fighting.

The government's secretary, Mrs. Yael Uzai, later told reporters that prime minister

Levy Eshkol told the Cabinet about “the defeat of three Arab armies and the removal of the threat to Israel's existence.”

She said ministers stood in silence for a minute to honor those who died in the war.

Eshkol was scheduled to make a statement in the Knesset (parliament) Monday, but sources said it will be brief as a sign of mourning.

The government communique also said the Cabinet decided to submit a bill for partial amnesty to the Knesset.

A government spokesman said the bill would provide for reduction of sentences but would not affect persons jailed

for crimes against the security of the state, first-degree murder and other grave crimes.

United Nations officers were moving into positions along the line when the cease-fire between Israeli and Syrian forces came into effect after dusk Saturday night.

Israel claimed its forces dislodged the Syrians from a wide wedge of mountainous country along the border where fortified artillery positions have harassed Israeli towns and villages below for years.

An Israeli Army spokesman said the territory stretches from Masada in the north to Quneitra and then runs along

the road south-southwest to Butmiyeh.

Army spokesmen and official sources said six Egyptian generals were among an estimated 15,000 prisoners taken in the Sinai campaign.