

40th anniversary of Yom Kippur War



Reference

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Title

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Caption

October 6, 1973 - Israel: Defense Minister Moshe Dayan gives a press conference on the evening after the outbreak of hostilities along the Egyptian and Syrian frontiers.

The Yom Kippur War, or the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, was fought by the coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria against Israel from October 6 to 25. The Arab armies launched a surprise attack on the Israeli-occupied territories on the holiest day in Judaism. Egyptian and Syrian forces crossed Six-Day War ceasefire lines to enter the Sinai and Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967. Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal, overcoming the notorious Bar Lev Defense line, and advanced unopposed into the Sinai. After three days, Israel mobilized most of its forces and halted the Egyptian offensive. Syrians attacked on the Golan Heights and made gains into Israeli-held territory; but within three days, Israeli forces pushed the Syrians back to the pre-war lines and launched a four-day counter-offensive deep into Syria. Egyptians launched a new offensive in the Sinai, but were quickly repulsed. The Israelis then counterattacked, crossed the Suez Canal into Egypt, and began slowly advancing southward and westward towards Cairo in over a week of heavy fighting which inflicted heavy casualties on both sides. By October 24, the Israelis had improved positions and completely encircled Egypt's Third Army and the city of Suez. A ceasefire was imposed by the United Nations on October 25 to end the war. Israeli forces were 40 kilometers from Damascus and 101 kilometers from Cairo. About 2,800 Israelis were killed in action, 9,000 wounded. 293 Israelis were captured. About 400 Israeli tanks were destroyed, 600 were disabled but returned to service after repairs. The Israeli Air Force lost 102 airplanes and two helicopters. Arab casualties were much higher, though Egypt and Syria never disclosed official figures. Casualty estimates range from 5,000 to 15,000 Egyptians and about 3,500 Syrians, with 18,000

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Original references