

### 1: MEI Editor's Blog: The Battle of Rafah, January 9, Part II, New Zealand Wins the Day

*The Battle of Rafa, also known as the Action of Rafah, fought on 9 January, was the third and final battle to complete the recapture of the Sinai Peninsula by British forces during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign of the First World War.*

Their advance depended on the construction of a railway and water pipeline. The arrival of the Royal Navy on 22 December, quickly followed by the first stores on 24 December, meant that during the next fortnight the important Egyptian Expeditionary Force EEF forward base grew quickly as 1, tons of supplies arrived by ship. Vitally important, the supply activities at El Arish were protected by the infantry garrison and ground-based artillery, supported by the navy. On 4 January the first construction train arrived at El Arish, but it was some time before the railway, with its vast capacity to support the development of infrastructure and the supply of large garrisons, was fully developed. Note that the railway had reached Bir el Mazar. Two days later, British air patrols found Ottoman garrisons in strength at El Kossaima and Hafir el Auja in central northern Sinai, which could threaten the right flank of the advancing EEF or reinforce Rafa. The next day the patrols from No. For the first few miles they trekked over heavy sand dunes, which were difficult to negotiate for the doubled teams of horses pulling the guns and ammunition wagons. The vanguard of the column reached Sheikh Zowaid at about The regiments and motor cars would surround the Ottoman garrison position, gallop up under fire, then dismount to attack the defenders in their treble system of trenches and field-works around the earthwork redoubts on the knoll. These redoubts were linked and supported by trenches on the slopes spreading out to the south-east, south and south-west. The only weakness was to the rear of the position in the north-east. His brigadiers complied with the order, but only under protest. In many cases, supplies were rushed forward, but failed to reach the units requiring them on the firing line. Half a mile 0. These two brigades rode to a position from which to attack the Rafa defences, from the south, east and north. They were followed at The 1st and 3rd Light Horse Brigades and the artillery took up positions to the south to guard against the Ottoman garrison retreating to the south-east, with the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade located three quarters of a mile 1. After these objectives were captured, the two brigades were to attack the central redoubt. Meanwhile, three battalions of the Imperial Camel Brigade were ordered to attack the D group of fortifications. Under cover of this, the attacking troops began their advance, and by To the south, the Imperial Camel Brigade advanced towards the B4 redoubt, and at Here, they quickly captured the village along with six German and two Ottoman officers, 16 other ranks and 21 Bedouins. Two troops were sent to watch for the approach of Ottoman reinforcements; one troop to the north towards Khan Yunis and one to the east towards Shellal. Half an hour later, the attack was seen to be steadily progressing all along the line. Shortly afterwards, the Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regiment linked up with the left of the 5th Mounted Brigade, completing the cordon around the Ottoman Army entrenchments. In most places the dismounted attackers were badly exposed to this fire. Little by little the cordon drew tighter under intense fire over the bare, gently-sloping grasslands. However, between about Although Chauvel called for further effort, the mistake of leaving the ammunition vehicles behind proved costly, as the attack wavered. It made slow progress against the stubborn Ottoman defenders, who were supported by bombing from German planes, while the advance guard of Ottoman reinforcements, from Khan Yunus in the north and Shellal in the east, were attacking the two troops of the Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment. From there they maintained effective overhead covering fire, until the assaulting troops were within a few yards of the trenches. These guns were also well-positioned to provide cover if pressure by the Ottoman reinforcements from Khan Yunus and Shellal proved too strong for the two troops of Wellingtons, or if the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade was forced to retire to the coast. The covering fire was so effective that the Ottoman defenders had extreme difficulty aiming and firing their rifles and machine-guns. They captured the central redoubt in a final bayonet charge, at the run, many of the soldiers firing as they went. From their captured position in the dominating central redoubt, they were able to enfilade other redoubts still held by Ottoman defenders. As the 3rd Battalion of the Imperial Camel Brigade approached the B group of trenches, a white flag appeared, and the B2 and the central work of B group were occupied by They captured five officers and other ranks while the Warwickshire Yeomanry captured the B1

redoubt and another prisoners. Meanwhile, the bulk of the Desert Column returned to Sheikh Zowaiid for water and rations, arriving about midnight. The 3rd Light Horse Field Ambulance, covered by the 8th Light Horse Regiment 3rd Light Horse Brigade, remained on the battlefield, as all available ambulance carts and empty wagons were sent up from Sheikh Zowaiid to help transport the wounded to hospital. With this, they were able to transport 92 patients at a time, and they set about the task of evacuating the wounded. After a period of fighting, the attackers were forced to withdraw, leaving 14 prisoners behind. The whole of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade returned to the battlefield on 10 January with the 7th Light Car Patrol and wagons to collect captured material. As well as dropping bombs, these aircraft, probably the powerful new Taube Albatros D. III, swooped down firing their machine-guns into the camp. Casualties, particularly in the horse lines which were an obvious target from the air, were considerable. With the British victory at Rafa, the steady progress of the railway and water pipeline, and the build-up of supplies at El Arish, the EEF was able to build a firm base from which it planned to advance into Ottoman territory. To do so, they needed to capture Gaza first and subsequently the First Battle of Gaza took place in March. However, as the columns were approaching the area on 17 February, the reconnaissance aircraft found the Ottoman garrisons had retired, and no fighting occurred. But during the early hours of the battle, he was so concerned by the quantity of. Upon arrival, he heard that his regiment was calling for ammunition. Seizing a cable wagon, he emptied out the signal gear and filled it with boxes of ammunition, and galloped across to the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade in time for the general assault on the redoubt, materially assisting in the final success.

### 2: Battle of Rafa - Wikipedia

*The Battle of Rafah was a military engagement between the Israel Defense Forces and the Egyptian Army in the final stage of the Arab-Israeli war. It was fought on January 17, 1949, just south of Rafah, today in the Gaza Strip.*

It was fought on January 17, 1949, just south of Rafah, today in the Gaza Strip. The battle was initiated by Israel as part of Operation Horev, on the backdrop of the Sinai battles just before. The Israelis were hoping to encircle all Egyptian forces in Palestine and drive them back to Egypt. The Golani and Harel brigades were allocated for the attack, with the 8th Brigade serving as the operational reserve and the Negev Brigade staging diversions. While the Israelis had great trouble to advance in their individual assaults, eventually a battalion-sized force managed to take a position on the road from Rafah to the Sinai Peninsula, effectively surrounding the Egyptian expeditionary force. However, by this time the Egyptians agreed to negotiate an armistice and the Israeli political echelon therefore ordered all troops back. The battle of Rafah was the last major combat operation in the war and was followed by the armistice agreements with Egypt. The main Egyptian column moved up the coastal plain in the following days, stopping at Isdud and establishing its headquarters in Majdal. After the creation of the Beit Hanoun wedge and other Israeli offensives in Operation Yoav, the Egyptian staff withdrew to Gaza and most of their forces concentrated in what is today the Gaza Strip. On December 22, 1948, the Israelis launched Operation Horev, with the objective of expelling all Egyptian forces from Palestine. The Arab village Rafah was located on the border of Palestine and Egypt. In the plateau between the dunes, the British built a large military base on both sides of the border in World War II. The Golani Brigade would attack from the east and take Hill 245 and the cemetery position, while the Harel Brigade would strike from the south and capture the junction on the Gaza–al-Arish road. The Negev and 8th brigades were also meant to assist in the operation as diversionary and reserve forces, respectively. The Egyptian forces in the area consisted of a reinforced brigade with 25 pounders and 20 M22 Locust tanks. Golani forces from the 12th Battalion left kibbutz Nirim at 06:00. A company was allocated to take Hill 245 and the cemetery position. A special emphasis was placed on the transport of munitions and reinforcements, following the earlier debacle at the Battle of Hill 245. The attack on Hill 245 failed, as did two subsequent attacks. As the Golani forces approached the hill on the first attack, they were hit by friendly fire from the Israeli artillery, which also caused the Egyptians to notice them and fire their own artillery. The Golani company then retreated. The second assault, this time involving armored units, was repelled by the Egyptians who had reinforced the position with anti-tank weapons in the meantime. The cemetery position had been captured by Israeli forces at 11:00. The Egyptians counterattacked against the cemetery position several times, but could not dislodge the Golani forces. The first counterattack included 9 tanks, the remnants of the M22 Locust battalion that fought in Operation Assaf and on Hill 245. Five tanks were destroyed by Golani, and the Egyptians retreated. In the second counterattack at 13:00. The third counterattack was mostly made up of infantry and armored vehicles with flamethrowers. At least 10 Egyptian soldiers were killed in their counterattacks. On January 5, Golani moved west and took another position closer to the junction, which was still in Egyptian hands. Israeli ships and aircraft bombarded the Egyptian forces, inflicting a large number of casualties, mostly civilian; the Egyptians sought to block a mass flight to mainland Egypt, which would hurt morale among the population there. However, the Egyptians counterattacked during a sandstorm and retook the junction, surprising the Israelis, who retreated with 10 missing. An 8th Brigade reserve was brought from Gvulot, which conducted an assault on the western position of the junction in the afternoon, but the attack was unsuccessful. On the night of January 6, the 4th Battalion Harel, under David Elazar, captured an area further west and dug in, effectively surrounding the remaining Egyptian forces in Palestine, as envisioned by the Israeli command. An Egyptian supply convoy and a counterattack were stopped in this area on January 7. The Egyptians lost 8 tanks and armored vehicles in the counterattack. At the night of January 7, Israeli forces bombed the coastal railway to stop any possibility of supply for the encircled Egyptians. One mine they laid destroyed an Egyptian train carrying hundreds of wounded to al-Arish. The final and decisive attack was planned for

January 8, but the sandstorm caused the Israelis to set it off for another 24 hours. By this time, the Egyptian political echelon had agreed to negotiate armistice with the Israelis, on the condition that Israel withdraws its forces. The ceasefire was officially declared on January 7 at Aftermath The battle surrounding Rafah signified the end of major combat engagements in the Arab–Israeli War. The battle paved the way for the Armistice Agreements between Israel and Egypt, and the front lines at the end of the battle roughly corresponded to the armistice boundaries, except the cemetery position and the Beit Hanoun wedge , which were handed over to Egypt. History of the War of Independence. The First Arab–Israeli War. It uses material from the Wikipedia article " Battle of Rafah ". Except where otherwise indicated, Everything.

### 3: Battle of Rafah () | Military Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

*Sinai campaign Page 6 - Battle of Rafah The senior commanders of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) were greatly encouraged by the apparent ease with which the garrison at Magdhaba had been destroyed.*

Prelude[ edit ] The two largest Hellenistic kingdoms in the 3rd century B. In BC, both armies were on campaign through Syria. The Seleucid and Ptolemaic armies met near the small Syrian town of Rafah. The battle began with a series of small skirmishes around the perimeter of each army. Ptolemaic Army[ edit ] Ptolemy had just ended a major recruitment and retraining plan with the help of many mercenary generals. His forces consisted of 3, Hypaspists under Eurylochus the Magnesian the Agema , 2, peltasts under Socrates the Boeotian, 25, Macedonian Phalangites under Andromachus the Aspendian and Ptolemy, the son of Thrasesas, and 8, Greek mercenaries under Phoxidas the Achaean, and 2, Cretan under Cnopias of Allaria and 1, Neocretan archers under Philon the Cnossian. He had another 3, Libyans under Ammonius the Barcian and 20, Egyptians under his chief minister Sosibius trained in the Macedonian way. These Egyptians were trained to fight alongside the Macedonians. Apart from these he also employed 4, Thracians and Gauls from Egypt and another 2, from Europe under Dionysius the Thracian. Those from Greece and the mercenaries were led by Echeocrates the Thessalian. According to Polybius , Ptolemy had 70, infantry, 5, cavalry, and 73 war elephants and Antiochus 62, infantry, 6, cavalry, and elephants. Another possibility is that Ptolemy utilized the now extinct North African elephants *Loxodonta africana pharaensis*. Battle[ edit ] After five days of skirmishing, the two Kings decided to array their troops for battle. Both placed their Phalangites in the center. Next to them they fielded the light armed and the mercenaries in front of which they placed their elephants and even further in the wings their cavalry. They spoke to their soldiers, took their places in the lines “ Ptolemy in his left and Antiochus in his right wing ” and the battle commenced. In the beginning of the battle, the elephant contingents on the wings of both armies moved to charge. At the same time, Antiochus had led his cavalry to the right, rode past the left wing of the Ptolemaic elephants charging the enemy horse. The Ptolemaic and Seleucid phalanxes then engaged. At the same time, the right wing of Ptolemy was retreating and wheeling to protect itself from the panicked elephants. Ptolemy rode to the center encouraging his phalanx to attack, Polybius tells us "with alacrity and spirit". The Ptolemaic and Seleucid phalanxes engaged in a stiff and chaotic fight. Antiochus routed the Ptolemaic horse posed against him and pursued the fleeing enemy en masse, believing to have won the day, but the Ptolemaic phalanxes eventually drove the Seleucid phalanxes back and soon Antiochus realized that his judgment was wrong. Antiochus tried to ride back, but by the time he rode back, his troops were routed and could no longer be regrouped. The battle had ended. After the battle, Antiochus wanted to regroup and make camp outside the city of Raphia but most of his men had already found refuge inside and he was thus forced to enter it himself. Then he marched to Gaza and asked Ptolemy for the customary truce to bury the dead, which he was granted. According to Polybius , the Seleucids suffered a little under 10, infantry dead, about horse and 5 elephants, 4, men were taken prisoner. The Ptolemaic losses were 1, infantry, horse and 16 elephants. Ptolemy owed his victory in part to having a properly equipped and trained native Egyptian phalanx which for the first time formed a large proportion of his phalangites, thus ending his manpower problems. The self-confidence the Egyptians gained was credited by Polybius as one of the causes of the secession in “ of Upper Egypt under pharaohs Hugronaphor and Ankhmakis , who created a separate kingdom that lasted nearly twenty years. The battle of Raphia marked a turning-point in Ptolemaic history. The growth in influence of the native Egyptian element in 2nd-century Ptolemaic administration and culture, at first in the financial pressure aggravated [8] by the cost of the war itself. The stele that recorded the convocation of priests at Memphis in November , to give thanks for the victory was inscribed in Greek and hieroglyphic and demotic Egyptian:

### 4: Battle of Rafah () - Wikipedia

*The Battle of Rafah was a military engagement between the Israel Defense Forces and the Egyptian Army in the final stage of the Arab-Israeli War. It was fought on January , , just south of Rafah, today in the Gaza Strip.*

I think the PC versions are superior in any case. This scenario depicts the attack of the Tal Division on the fortified area of Gaza around Rafah Junction on June 5th, This attack was a necessary prelude to the attack into the Sinai. Jump-off positions of Tal Division. Rafah Junction is also protected by mines and obstacles. I need to quickly smash through these formations. I also read about the battle. Tal historically chose to attack this way specifically due to the obstacles. Everyone is lined up to do it this way, anyway. Both Baron Force and the Parachute Brigade have been released. I will use these forces to reinforce my effort at Khan Yunis, which will turn and drive south for Rafah. This is a fourteen turn scenario. Hexes are one mile. At Rafah falls and most of the Arab forces in the area have been broken. Meanwhile, the Aviram Armored Brigade has smashed the tanks of 7th Division and started pushing down the road toward the Jiradi Defile. Combined arms are vital, however! The more mobile formations of the Aviram Brigade along with most of Baron Force move south along the coast road during the night and attack an Egyptian battalion dug in at the Jirardi Defile and secure it. Across the Area of Operations the Arab forces are in retreat. Overall, these scenarios seem to involve fewer units than Panzer Campaigns. The individual operation scenarios are fairly quick plays, however, without an oppressive amount of chit shuffling. This is aided somewhat by the tendency to concentrate units in large stacks to gain local superiority. I may have to try a Sinai campaign scenario to see if this continues to hold true in the open spaces of the desert. I definitely recommend this game for anyone interested in gaining an understanding of the larger operations of the , and Arab-Israeli conflicts. Further, players have extended the game with add-on scenarios and graphics for the Lebanon war and beyond.

### 5: Battle of Rafah () - WikiVisually

*At Rafah the Turkish position was centred on a small hill fort surrounded by open country, 'absolutely devoid of cover'. The allies faced entrenchments 'laid out by German Engineers and dug by the Turk - a combination of best field engineer and best "digger" in the world' (Powles, p 70).*

Sinai campaign Page 6 – Battle of Rafah The senior commanders of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force EEF were greatly encouraged by the apparent ease with which the garrison at Magdhaba had been destroyed. This involved much more risk than the attack on Magdhaba, because Rafah straddled the Sinai–Palestine border and was connected by road to Gaza, where the bulk of the Ottoman Fourth Army was gathering. New Zealand machine gunners at Rafa The Sinai railway had not yet advanced far enough to allow large numbers of infantry to be brought across the desert from El Arish to attack Rafah. The British would once again have to rely on their mounted troops. If these failed to capture Rafah quickly they would risk being overwhelmed by large Ottoman forces sent from Gaza. A key factor in the British gamble was the hope that the Ottoman garrison would have little stomach for a close-quarters fight. In this, the attackers were to be sorely disappointed. There was little natural cover in the approaches to these defences and Ottoman machine-gun nests were well sited with good fields of fire. In the early hours of 9 January his troops moved out under cover of darkness. The basic plan called for the complete and rapid encirclement of Rafah by horsemen and cameleers, followed by simultaneous assaults from all sides. The New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade was charged with carrying out the most daring part of this plan: In carrying out this movement the New Zealanders inadvertently became the first EEF soldiers to cross the frontier into Ottoman Palestine. The Auckland Mounted Rifles did so just before dawn, with the rest of the brigade soon following. Once all the mounted brigades were in position, the attack began at 9. A half-hour artillery bombardment was followed by the first assaults on the Ottoman trenches. We went off at a trot. As we neared the position, the shelling and machine gun fire increased. Our pace increased to a steady gallop. The horses seemed to enter into the spirit of the job, and we galloped on over green crops. It was a beautiful sight, the lines regular just like on parade. We raced over an outer trench and a number of Turks surrendered. An officer and three or four men [ran] back [towards] their units. I galloped after them, drawing my sword. I induced them to halt and return to us. One of them caught my horse by the bridle but I hit him on the back of the neck with the sword back. The Aucklands cleared another line of incomplete trenches, capturing more prisoners and a machine gun post. It quickly became clear that crossing this gap and overrunning the defences would be no easy task. By midday the attackers were more or less pinned down by the relentless artillery, machine-gun and rifle fire. Chetwode now threw in his reserve brigades and ordered his commanders to redouble their efforts. Lewis light machine gun As the afternoon wore on the attackers made only slow progress in reaching and reducing the defences, with the Ottoman Turks resisting fiercely. By now the danger that an Ottoman relief force would arrive from Gaza was increasing. Sure enough, just after 4 p. Chetwode reluctantly decided that he had no choice but to call off the attack and retreat. Just as Chetwode began to issue the order to retreat, the New Zealanders, who had swept through Rafah village that morning and been engaged in the fight for the Redit and a small hill known as Point ever since, finally broke through the Ottoman defences. The three regiments moved as one, covered by a portion of each regiment. The glistening steel, the dark forms on the green slopes with not a bit of cover. Steady as a rock. Here and there a man dropped. It was here we got a number of casualties. Oh, that picture will never fade from my memory. Men fell quickly, the others pressed on, and with a cheer they reached the top of the hill where they had a business interview with the Turk. This opened the way for the other attacking brigades to outflank and break into the rest of the Ottoman trenches. Chetwode quickly cancelled his order and his brigade commanders renewed their assaults. Within an hour the Ottoman defences had been completely overrun. Even then Chetwode had to move quickly to make sure his men gathered up all their wounded and Ottoman prisoners and moved out before the relief force arrived. As they were pulling out, troopers of the Wellington Mounted Rifles came under fire from Ottoman advance parties.

### 6: Rafah, Egypt - Wikipedia

*The Battle of Rafah was a battle, fought between the police forces of the Islamist group Hamas controlling Gaza, and the radical Islamist group Jund Ansar Allah. The fighting began on 14 August and concluded the next day.*

It was fought in kibbutz Nirim, founded just two years earlier as part of the 11 points in the Negev, the Egyptian 6th Battalion attacked about 40 Israeli defenders at dawn on May 15, backed by armored vehicles, mortars, cannons and aircraft. They failed to take the village and retreated about 7 hours later and this was declared on May 14, and the next night, the armies of a number of Arab states invaded Israel and attacked Israeli positions. Kibbutz Nirim was founded in June as part of the 11 points in the Negev initiative, on October 5, 1946, new olim left Gvulot to create Nirim to the west and Urim to the south. Nirim was located in proximity to the new Egypt-Israel border, and the southernmost locality near the coastal road. At the first stage of the Egyptian invasion, a force under General Ahmed Ali al-Mwawi moved along the coastal road towards Majdal. Since there was one line of movement, Mwawi feared for his supply lines. Nirim and Kfar Darom were the first such villages, Nirim was perceived as an immediate threat to the Egyptian staff units at Rafah. The Bedouins of the area left previously on Arab order, also knowing that the kibbutz would be targeted, the Israeli defenders were all members of Nirim itself, 39 in number. They were subordinate to the Negev Brigades 8th Battalion, commanded by Haim Bar-Lev, the village was fenced and mined, its members had a total of 34 rifles and submachine guns, two light machine guns and one 52 mm mortar. Avraham Adan, then a commander of a company in the Negev Brigades 8th Battalion, wrote that the defenders were well-trained and conditioned. The Egyptian force consisted of about 100 troops from the 6th Infantry Battalion, backed by armored vehicles, 81 mm mortars, 2-pound and 6-pound cannons, a battery of 105 mm artillery was stationed in the area of Rafah. They were not prepared for the battle and had insufficient intelligence of the Israelis, according to Gamal Abdel Nasser, the adjutant of the battalion, the infantry was slow and without energy. The Israeli firing positions were located in the four corners of the kibbutz, another position was located next to the gate in the west. Most of the buildings were made of wood, except the Safety House made of reinforced concrete next to Position 1, no water tower had been built there yet, but construction had started next to Position 2. The medical and communication facilities, as well as the bunker, were located underground in the center of the village. On May 15 at 05:30, the Egyptian forces were spotted advancing at the kibbutz, Radio contact was restored, but came and went for the length of the battle. Nearby Israeli villages had additional troops, but they did little to alleviate the pressure on Nirim, one Israeli squad disguised in Arab traditional garments, however, was sent to the kibbutz to gather intelligence and reconnoiter the area. Negba, a kibbutz founded in 1946, had a position overlooking the Majdal Bayt Jibrin road. The second attack took place on July 12, when the Egyptians staged diversionary assaults on positions and surrounded Negba from all sides. This attack was dispersed, and Negba remained in Israeli hands. Kibbutz Negba was founded in 1946 as a tower and stockade settlement, the Egyptian army invaded Israel on May 15, after Israel's declaration of independence on the previous day. Its main force moved up the road, and engaged in a battle in Kfar Darom on May 15. The column reached Majdal on May 14, from there, forces were sent north to Isdud, reaching it on May 29, and to Bayt Jibrin through Fallujah on June 1, cutting a wedge between Israeli-held northern Negev and the rest of Israel. They finally disconnected the Negev by taking up position on the Majdal Bayt Jibrin road during the first truce of the war, Negba was located in an area surrounded by a number of hills, especially the police fort at Iraq Suwaydan 1. The kibbutz was adjacent to a number of strategic positions, including The Junction. Its defense was organized into 13 positions at the perimeter, connected by trenches, with the main gate in the north. Underground shelters were spread out throughout the entire village, a road passed from north to south in the village, but the Israelis left only the northern approach open, which was also close to an airplane landing strip. Two Israeli attempts were made to capture it on the same day, on May 21, an Egyptian motorized unit made a deterrent raid on Negba. This was accompanied by aircraft bombardment, which killed the Israeli regional commander, Yitzhak Yoav Dubno, Operation Yoav was named in his honor, as was the Iraq Suwaydan police fort, following its capture by Israel. The Egyptians

continued to harass Negba in the days. The brigades forces also occupied Julis in order to control a position from further reinforcements to Negba could be provided. On the day of the Egyptian attack on June 2, the Israeli forces in Negba numbered about 70 Givati Brigade soldiers and 70 village residents. They had a total of 80 rifles, hand grenades, Molotov cocktails, 20 submachine guns, 8 machine guns, 3 two-inch mortars, 2 three-inch mortars and one PIAT. The Egyptian force consisted of the 1st Infantry Battalion, supplemented by a tank company and they planned to surround the kibbutz and attack from all directions 3. Operation Pleshet

Operation Pleshet, named after the geographical region where it took place, was an Israeli military operation during the Arab-Israeli War. While only the June 2-3 engagements are officially named Operation Pleshet, the preceding events consisted of an aerial bombardment, followed by small-scale Israeli harassment of the Egyptian lines, and later a ground assault. The original plan was to attack on June 1-2, but this was canceled due to an impending ceasefire, the Israelis, under the Givati Brigades umbrella command, attacked in two main forces, one from the north and one from the south. The Israelis had little intelligence on their enemy and were forced to retreat and they failed to capture territory, and suffered heavy casualties. However, following the operation, Egypt changed its strategy from offensive to defensive, traditional Israeli historiography, supported by early Arab accounts, maintains that it was a turning point, while later Arab sources, and New Historians, dispute this. Prior to the founding of the State of Israel, the Yishuv leadership anticipated an attack by regular Arab armies, of which Egypt was the strongest in terms of manpower, arms and equipment. As such, Plan Dalet took stopping a potential Egyptian attack into account, in the eyes of the Givati command, this part of the operation was of marginal importance. A platoon from the 54th Battalion, two mules and kilograms of explosives were allocated for it, the mules fled the scene, and the explosives were divided among the soldiers, who delivered them to the bridge. It took two attempts to destroy it, as some of the explosives did not work the first time, the original bridge was built over the Lakhish River during the Roman period, and re-built by the Ottoman Empire at the end of the 19th century. A parallel railway bridge was added when the railway was laid. After numerous armed raids in the area during the Arab revolt in Palestine, Egypt invaded the newly declared State of Israel on May 15, On May 21, Cairo sent an urgent message to its units in Palestine, doing so would divide the Israeli forces into two—the Negev, and the rest of Israel. The Egyptian commander al-Mwawi, was opposed to such a move, but the leadership in Cairo dismissed his worries, following-up his victory in the Battle of Yad Mordechai on May 23-24, al-Mwawi pushed north along the coast, bypassing the relatively well-defended Israeli village of Nitzanim. Reduced to about 2, men, al-Mwawi resumed his march northwards, Brigadier General Muhammad Naguib was put in charge of the column by al-Mwawi, because the original commander was on vacation in Egypt. On the afternoon of May 29, the observation post in Nitzanim spotted an Egyptian column, including tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, estimates from the General Staff stood at vehicles and 2, 3, soldiers. At the time, the Israeli decision makers did not know where the Egyptians were headed 4. It was the first major Egyptian victory of the war, the battle began on the night of June 6-7 with an artillery bombardment of Nitzanim, followed by an aerial bombardment and armored and infantry attacks. The main attack broke through the Israeli defenses at around 11,00, the Israelis retreated to a second position, at 16,00, Israelis surrendered to the Egyptian Army. Between June 7 and 10, the Battle of Hill 69 was fought nearby, the hill was captured by the Egyptians after a disorganized Israeli retreat. Israelis viewed the surrender of Nitzanim as a humiliation, especially after the Givati Brigade published a leaflet denouncing the defenders. The residents of Nitzanim demanded a probe into the battle, and one was conducted by the General Staff, siding with the residents and it was meant to be part of the Arab state in the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine. As such, Nitzanim was isolated after December 31, and it was attacked many times in the first six months of the Civil War in Mandatory Palestine by local irregulars. The Jewish defenders used old Italian World War I rifles and managed to repel the attacks, on March 26 and April 20, organized Arab attacks took place, and were repelled by the villagers. The Nitzanim collective was located meters west of the coastal road and its expanse, m long and m wide, did not allow for the formation of a second line of defense. The farmstead buildings were built in a ravine surrounded by hills from all sides. To the north lied the graveyard ridge, a convenient location for observations, near it lay a wadi crater stretching west and allowing a convenient advance toward the farmstead

from the north. To the east, the farmstead bordered a destroyed British camp, about two kilometers to the northeast was Hill 69, a position commanding the entire surrounding area. At noon on May 29, an observation post near Nitzanim reported that an Egyptian column of about vehicles had passed along the road to the north. The post later reported that vehicles, a brigade, had been counted. The observers were not trained in identifying military vehicles, and excitedly miscounted the vehicles passing and they exaggerated the numbers when they reported to the Givati Brigade. However, the Egyptian advance stopped at the Ad Halom Bridge, as they made logistical preparations to cross the river, the column was bombed and engaged in Operation Pleshet. The Egyptians therefore shifted their focus to clearing their flanks, focusing on Nitzanim as some of the injured Israelis who participated in Pleshet were evacuated there 5. Operation Avak – Operation Avak was a logistical and military operation conducted during the second truce of the Arab–Israeli War and later by the Israeli Air Force. Its objective was to send supplies to the Israeli enclave in the northwestern Negev desert by air, a total of flights were made during the operation, transporting 2, tons of supplies and 1, people to the Negev, and evacuating 5, people. Initially, Douglas C Skymasters, Lockheed Constellations and Curtiss C Commandos were used, but later, the main military obstacle was a seesaw battle with the Egyptian army at Khirbet Mahaz, lasting between September 29 and October 6. On May 15., following Israels declaration of independence, the Egyptian army advanced along the coastal road, stopping at the Sukreir Bridge and remaining there following Operation Pleshet, an Israeli offensive on the column near the bridge. The Egyptians then set up positions in the Majdal – Bayt Jibrin road in order to strengthen their hold on the area, the Israelis made two major attempts to break through the blockade – Operation An-Far and Operation Death to the Invader – but failed to create its own wedge between the Egyptian forces. On July 18., the truce to the war came into effect. Before the Egyptians created the bypass, United Nations observers visited the area, Israel used this pretext to launch Operation GYS1 and GYS2 in July , but failed to secure a permanent corridor, and the Negev remained disconnected. Meanwhile, the situation in the Negev was becoming more dire, on August 18., it was estimated that the combined Negev villages had enough food only for several days. This freed up a number of IAF transport aircraft that could be used in Israel, for this purpose, the Ekron Airfield was refitted and expanded, officially opening on August The IAFs Transport Squadron then held an exercise which tested its abilities to move large quantities of goods, the decision to send aid to the Negev by air came on August 18, in a top echelon army meeting. The first task was to find a location for a new airfield. Such a location was found on August 19, between Ruhama and Shoval, and over the three days, an open space of 1, m in length and 35 m in width was cleared. The supplies for transport where meanwhile transported to the Ekron Airbase, during the following days, much of the Yiftach Brigade covertly made their way to the Negev by land, just west of Kawkaba and Huleikat, bypassing Egyptian positions. The first aircraft landed at the new Ruhama Airfield at 18,00 on August 23 and it raised a lot of dust, coining a name for the operation and the landing strip. During the following days, the airfield was fitted with an electric generator, on the first day, 29 tons of supplies were brought to the Negev. Part of the reason why the load was increased had been the fear of heavy rainfall in the months that could disrupt the dirt airfields operations 6. Its goal was to drive a wedge between the Egyptian forces along the coast and the Beersheba – Hebron – Jerusalem road and ultimately to conquer the whole Negev, Operation Yoav was headed by the Southern Front commander Yigal Allon. The operation was named after Yitzhak Dubno, codenamed Yoav by his commanders in the Palmach, Dubno, a senior Palmach officer, was charged with planning and leading the defense of the kibbutzim Negba and Yad Mordechai. Dubno was killed in an air raid on Kibbutz Negba shortly after Egyptian forces began their offensive on Israels southern front, in the central and northern parts of Palestine, the Israelis had managed to make substantial territorial gains before the second truce of the war went into effect. But the southern Negev Desert, allocated to a Jewish state in the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, was still under Egyptian control, despite the second truce, the Egyptians denied Jewish convoys passage through to the Negev, and captured positions beyond the truce demarcation lines. Operation Ten Plagues was made and approved at a Cabinet Session 6 October , the operation came after at 14 October when a convoy consisting of 16 trucks was fired on as it passed through Egyptian positions. In the evening of October 15 the Israeli Air Force bombed Gaza, al-Majdal, Beersheba, some targets were bombed again during the following two nights. A battalion of

the Yiftach Brigade mined the railroad between El-Arish and Rafah and various roads in the Gaza area, also driving a wedge into the road, two battalions of the Givati Brigade drove south east of Iraq al-Manshiyya, thus cutting the road between al-Faluja and Beit Jibrin. Beit Jibrin was captured by the 52 Battalion of Givati and the 8th Brigade on October 23, in the early morning hours of October 21, following two nights of air raids, the Negev Brigade and 8th Armored Brigade attacked Beersheba from the west. Another force joined them from the north, the Egyptian army garrison consisted of soldiers with some light artillery. They put up resistance for five hours before surrendering. The conquest of Beersheba was named Operation Moshe, after Moshe Albert, while a truce was ordered for 15,00 hours on 22 October, action in the days immediately following the operation, and associated with it, continued. After the Egyptians retreated southward from Ashdod and al-Majdal to Gaza, on 9 November, the Iraq Suwaydan fortress was captured and renamed the Yoav Fortress in honor of the operation. On 29 October soldiers from the 8th Brigade carried out a massacre at al-Dawayima, towards the end of the operation General Allon sought permission to launch an attack on the Hebron hills and into the Jericho valley. The United Nations Refugee Relief Project reported that the Gaza Strips refugee population had jumped from , to , as a result of Operation Yoav and this figure does not include those who fled to the Hebron Hills 7. It was carried out on November 23â€”25, in the eastern Negev desert, the objective of Operation Lot was to create a ground corridor to the isolated Israeli Dead Sea enclave and assert Israeli sovereignty in the area. This became possible after the conquest of Beersheba by the Israel Defense Forces one month earlier, the mission was accomplished without battle or firing a single shot. The operation was carried in difficult terrain, including the Scorpions Pass and it took three days for the main force of the Negev Brigade to reach Mount Sodom, where residents of villages in the Dead Sea region had been evacuated at the beginning of the war.

### 7: Battle of Rafah - Sinai campaign | NZHistory, New Zealand history online

*Israeli military prosecutors on Wednesday closed a years-long probe into the "Battle of Rafah", also known as "Black Friday" – one of the bloodiest events of Israel's onslaught.*

It was fought on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1949, just south of Rafah, today in the Gaza Strip. The battle was initiated by Israel as part of Operation Horev, on the backdrop of the Sinai battles just before. The Israelis were hoping to encircle all Egyptian forces in Palestine and drive them back to Egypt. The Golani and Harel brigades were allocated for the attack, with the 8th Brigade serving as the operational reserve and the Negev Brigade staging diversions. While the Israelis had great trouble to advance in their individual assaults, eventually a battalion-sized force managed to take a position on the road from Rafah to the Sinai Peninsula, effectively surrounding the Egyptian expeditionary force. However, by this time the Egyptians agreed to negotiate armistice and the Israeli political echelon therefore ordered all troops back. The battle of Rafah was the last major combat operation in the war and was followed by the armistice agreements with Egypt. The main Egyptian column moved up the coastal plain in the following days, stopping at Isdud and establishing its headquarters in Majdal. On December 22, 1948, the Israelis launched Operation Horev, with the objective of expelling all Egyptian forces from Palestine. The Arab village Rafah was located on the border of Palestine and Egypt. In the plateau between the dunes, the British built a large military base on both sides of the border in World War II. The Golani Brigade would attack from the east and take Hill and the cemetery position, while the Harel Brigade would strike from the south and capture the junction on the Gaza–al-Arish road. The Negev and 8th brigades were also meant to assist in the operation as diversionary and reserve forces, respectively. A company was allocated to take each Hill and the cemetery position. The Golani company then retreated. The second assault, this time involving armored units, was repelled by the Egyptians who had reinforced the position with anti-tank weapons in the meantime. The first counterattack included 9 tanks, the remnants of the M22 Locust battalion that fought in Operation Assaf and on Hill. Five tanks were destroyed by Golani, and the Egyptians retreated. In the second counterattack at The third counterattack was mostly made up of infantry and armored vehicles with flamethrowers. At least Egyptian soldiers were killed in their counterattacks. An Egyptian supply convoy and a counterattack were stopped in this area on January 7. By this time, the Egyptian political echelon had agreed to negotiate armistice with the Israelis, on the condition that Israel withdraws its forces.

### 8: Battle of Rafah | NZHistory, New Zealand history online

*Update 04 DEC The Battle of Rafah South by Alan added to this scenario back b THE BATTLE OF RAFAH JUNCTION By Alan R. Arvold If Divided Ground can be faulted (and it certainly has for many things) it is for its absence of a scenario for the battle of Rafah Junction in*

### 9: Battle of Rafah | Revolv

*Battle of Rafah ()'s wiki: The Battle of Rafah was a military engagement between the Israel Defense Forces and the Egypt.*

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