



HISTORY OF ISRAEL

[YOM KIPPUR WAR]

**OCTOBER 7
1973 ...** Egyptian Forces Cross Suez Canal; Syrian Forces Capture Much of Golan Heights



**OCTOBER 6
1973 ...** Yom Kippur @ 2PM; Egyptian & Syrian Forces Attack



**OCTOBER 11
1973 ...** Israeli Counterattacks On Syrian Front and Advances Into Syria



**OCTOBER 8
1973 ...** Israeli Counterattack in Sinai Fails; By Nightfall, Syrian Advance Halted



**OCTOBER 16
1973 ...** Israeli Forces Cross Suez Canal, Under Ariel Sharon



**OCTOBER 14
1973 ...** Largest Tank Battle of War, Israel Victorious; US Airlift Begins to Arrive



**OCTOBER 21
1973 ...** Egyptian Third Army Surrounded



**OCTOBER 18
1973 ...** Israeli Forces Advance on West Side of Suez Canal and Also Push Deep Into Syria



**OCTOBER 24
1973 ...** Ceasefire Goes Into Effect

The Egyptians and Syrians launched a surprise attack against Israel, on October 6, 1973, Yom Kippur. Although there were a number of warning signs, Israeli analysts did not believe the Arabs would actually invade until they had reached strategic parity, so the warning signs were ignored.

On the morning of October 6th, Israeli leaders received information that verified an impending attack. Due to American pressure, it had been decided Israel would not strike first. By then it was too late to mobilize the army reserves. In the initial assault, the Egyptians successfully crossed the Suez Canal and were able to capture most of the Israeli installations on the canal's east bank.

The Egyptians exacted a steep price from Israel's Air Force, which was compelled to provide close air support before it could eliminate the Egyptian missile defense. Attempts to counterattack were repulsed by the Egyptian use of anti-tank missiles. On the Syrian front, troops managed to penetrate Israeli defenses on the Golan Heights. However, the hastily activated reserve forces were able to hold back the Syrian onslaught.

Israel feared it would run out of supplies. Thankfully, the US began a massive resupply effort to ensure the country continued to have the necessary cache of arms. With the arms flowing in, Israel was able to finally take the offensive on the Syrian front, where soldiers advanced to Sasa and captured the summit of Mt. Hermon.

On the Egyptian front, Israeli troops successfully crossed the Suez Canal and surrounded the third Egyptian army. As the enormity of the Israeli threat became clear, an immediate ceasefire was called. After a brief confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, a ceasefire went into effect on October 22, 1973. The cost of the Yom Kippur war to Israel was severe, with over 2,500 Israelis were killed and 10,000 wounded.

“ Ben Gal stood in a daze looking down on the Valley of Tears. Some 260 Syrian tanks and hundreds of armored personnel carriers and vehicles lay scattered and abandoned across the narrow battlefield between Hermonit and Booster. In the distance he could see the Syrians withdrawing in a haze of smoke and dust, the Israeli artillery following them. Eitan's quiet voice came through on the earphones as he addressed them on the network of the 7th brigade “You have saved the people of Israel.” — Rafi Eitan, during the Yom Kippur war



“ I knew then, and I know now, too, that it's possible, maybe we could even say for certain, that boys who are no longer would still be alive,” she acknowledged. “But I don't know how many other boys would have fallen due to a lack of equipment. My heart was very much drawn to a preemptive strike, but I am scared. 1973 is not 1967, and this time we will not be forgiven, and we will not receive assistance when we have the need for it. The US would have claimed ‘you started’,” and based on her knowledge of the Pentagon, Golda continued, “I can say with 100 percent (certainty)” that the airlift of arms and supplies would not have been delivered. — PM Golda Meir, after the war

