

Yom Kippur War – October 1973

The war was so called because it started on the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, the Day of Atonement (October 6, 1973). It came almost as a complete surprise and warning notice was given too late for an orderly call-up of the reserves before zero hour.

The Egyptians and the Syrians made some significant initial gains: the former crossed the Suez Canal and established themselves along its entire length on the east bank; the latter overran the Golan Heights and came within sight of the Sea of Galilee. However, the wheel turned very quickly. Counterattacking swiftly, sometimes even foolhardily, within a few days the IDF was on the west bank of the Suez Canal, at a distance of 100 kms from the Egyptian capital, Cairo, and within artillery range of the airfields around the Syrian capital, Damascus

Egypt, which at first had refused a cease-fire, now accepted it avidly, as did Syria. Considering the adverse initial circumstances, the speed and the thoroughness with which the IDF had been able to reverse its fortunes was remarkable. Yet the Yom Kippur War went down in Israel's history as a qualified failure. The surprise rankled; and the cost was heavy: **2,688 soldiers fell.**



Israeli soldiers on their way to the Suetz canal .



.I.D.F. forces in the Suetz canal

Kipur in Israel

This is the most holly day in the Jewish calendar and in Israel,

Everything stops:

- There is **no public transportation** and almost any cars on the roads. You can literally **walk on the highways**...
- All the **air and sea ports are closed** as well, hence the level of air pollution drops dramatically...
- There are **no T.V or radio broadcasts**, in the days before Kipur there a 50% increase in movie and video renting...
- According to some surveys **67% of the Jewish population fasts**, among that almost half that define themselves as secular...



Photo by Eran Shchori

Yom Kippur 2011 - lots of bicycles, no cars, no air pollution

