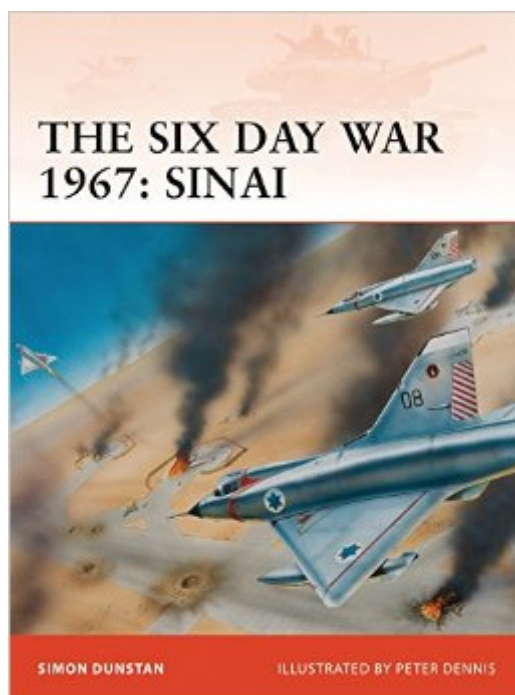


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The Six Day War 1967: Sinai (Campaign)



Synopsis

In May 1967, Egypt expelled the United Nations peacekeeping forces stationed in the Sinai desert and deployed its army along its border with Israel, its moves coordinated with those of Jordan and Syria. By June, Israel realized that the international community would not act, and launched a pre-emptive strike against the combined Arab forces. The ensuing Six Day War (June 5-10, 1967) was a crushing defeat for the Arab world, one that tripled the area controlled by Israel and which sowed the seeds for the Yom Kippur War of 1973 and the continuing strife in the region. Written by the author of Osprey's Yom Kippur War, this volume covers the background to the war and the campaign against the Egyptians in the Sinai Peninsula, including the initial devastating air assault that showed the world how vital air supremacy was in modern combat.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The 1967 Six Day War is usually remembered as a walk-over but Simon Dunstan's two-part history in Osprey's campaign series demonstrates that this was a conflict that deserves serious study by military professionals. This first volume covers the four-day Israeli attack on Egypt. Dunstan writes almost entirely from the Israeli perspective but he does succeed in adding a level of military detail that has not been present in many earlier, politicized accounts, although it compares favorably with Dupuy's Elusive Victory. While the Egyptian military is depicted as stolid but incompetent ciphers, at least they are given credit with putting up a tough fight on the border until betrayed by their supreme commander (who was later executed). The Israeli Ugda (division) commanders, including Ariel

Sharon, are pretty much the stars of this account, although the author uses a number of lower-level memoirs to provide tactical vignettes. Indeed, Sharon's remarkable night-time assault on the Egyptian fortified position at Um Katef should rightly be considered a model for the American tactics against Iraqi in Desert Storm in 1991. Dunstan's narrative tends to emphasize the first 24 hours of the war and then skims rather rapidly over the last three days, but overall this is a good volume. The introductory sections in this volume are a bit thin, with a 1-paragraph background on the conflict (which seems almost devoid of much of the political/diplomatic maneuvering), 2 pages on opposing forces and a few pages on opposing commanders. For readers without much background on this conflict, this is insufficient.

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