

# The World Observer

August 30th, 1940

20 cents

## JAPANESE ATTACK ON NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

**Netherlands shocked. Dutch shipping attacked. Invasion of Java expected to follow soon.**

Batavia. A Japanese Fleet under Vice Admiral Nagumo attacked Dutch shipping in the Java Sea this month. The victims were mostly innocent merchantmen, completely surprised by the sudden violence. The Dutch sloop 'Javaanse Admiraal' rushed to the scene and was blown into pieces by Japanese torpedo bomber planes.

Queen Wilhelmina cried in outrage: "This unprovoked and barbarous attack is below all humanity. I plea to the civilized nations of the world not to stand beside and watch those yellow bastards destroy our fundamentals of ethics and belief". She attended a large public ceremony for the dead seamen that was finished by bishop Ruud Spoorhaken in the cathedral of Amsterdam.

League of Nations spokesman Nicholas Kerrang made public that the Japanese government has invited League of Nations observers to register the proper treatment of British POWs in Singapore and to mediate the conflict in China. "They bluffed us for the last time", Kerrang said. British soldiers were seen doing slave labor in Singapore and the sole purpose of the Chinese summons was to get League of Nations support for Japan's policy of erecting a Chinese puppet government under Wang Ching-Wei.

Meanwhile the Dutch Military Supreme Command is preparing for a Japanese assault on the isles around the Java Sea. As a side event, Siamese troops reportedly have crossed the border to Burma. Siam is a trade partner in the Japanese camp. "We must reckon with a military siding of Siam with the Japanese Empire", said secretary of state Cordell Hull last week before reporters from all over the nation.

**Japanese Fleet raids Red Sea  
British task force destroyed. Terror bombardment on Djibouti**

A large Japanese fleet of battleships and cruisers entered the Gulf of Aden, trapping a British task force protecting their African trade routes. The British could only muster three battleships and three heavy cruisers. The Japanese appeared with a fleet of nine battleships and dozens of heavy and light cruisers or destroyers, determined to wipe out all British sea power in the region. The British ships tried to escape but only two of them managed to run to nearby harbors after receiving considerable damage. Battleship Queen Elizabeth sunk with all hands, and the cruisers Sheffield, Birmingham and Southampton likewise drowned into the sea.

The Japanese fleet then continued to bombard the coastal port city of Djibouti, British Somaliland for no apparent reason other than to kill innocents and to provoke the anger and hatred of the British people.



**Queen Elizabeth in firefight against the Japanese**

## **Battleship Queen Elizabeth**

### **Displacement:**

31,315 tons standard, 36,450 tons deep load.

### **Dimensions (feet):**

600' pp, 644' 7" oa x 104' x 33' (max).

### **Machinery:**

4 shaft Parsons turbines. 24 Yarrow boilers. 75,000 shp, giving 24 knots.

### **Armour:**

13" - 6" main belt. 1" minimum on plated decks.

### **Armament:**

8 x 15" BL Mk. 42 on Mk. 1 twin mounts . 8 x 6" Mk. XII. 8 x 4" Mk. XVI on Mk. XIX twin mounts.

32 x 2 pdr. Mk. VIII in

Mk. VI 8 barrelled mounts, 19 x 20mm Oerlikon in single mounts.

**Complement:** 1184

## **Oil fields go up in flames**

### **Intentional destruction by Arab nationalists**

Arab troops blew up the oil wells in Mossul and Kirkuk, Iraq, owned by the international Iran-Iraq Oil Company, owned by British, French and American investors. "This barbarious attempt on global oil supply was aimed at the homes of the poor. In winter, all of Europe will begin to feel the shortage", a spokesman of the British Oil trust declared. "Senseless, stupid destruction", commented Winston Churchill, "but we will not give in before the enemy." In a grave but unwanted error, French troops set ablaze the French oil refineries near Bordeaux. In an attempt to save valuable military resource stockpiles from falling into enemy hands, the blazing fire spread over to the refineries and oil wells in stormy west wind.

Marshal Weygand, Commander-in-Chief of the Free French Forces, exclaimed before departing from France at Marseilles:

"We have not lost. We are not defeated as long as one true French man or woman lives. The armies of this nation under the true government of de Gaulle fought with blood and life itself. The nations remaining armies move south now to reorganize in our colonies. To rebuild and comeback and take what is rightfully the property of the French people. Petain though meaning well has sold our future to the Germans.

The Germans will place puppets in government of-ice. They will be men that sold their dignity to the enemy rather than fight. So then it is up to you the

French people to rise up in any fashion possible to resist the enemy even in minor things so that they will not conquer our will and souls. You are French and as such you all share a tradition of strength and courage against the odds that the Germans cannot compare in all of their history. Always in your heart carry Bastille Day for it is the true representation of French freedom and liberty from the oppressor. Each and every one of you is a part of the body and soul of France never at any moment forget the price of freedom and that the enemy will escalate that price to break you again and again.

You my friends I trust not to break no matter the price. Rise in secret to destroy the enemy. Rise to defeat their treachery. Rise to breath freedom again. Rise and resist no matter the cost. Viva la France, viva la resistance."

## **Axis nations sign mutual agreement**

Italy and Japan announced the following declaration

### **Declaration:**

With the signing of this pact Italy, Iraq, Japan, and China join in a common bond to maintain neutrality and peace with the United States, Mexico, Central and South America. Because of the great crusade against the British empire, all merchant ships sailing to or docked in British ports should take caution until the end of hostilities. Although British oil interests and stock in the Suez Company are no longer recognized. American oil interests and stock in the Suez Company are recognized as neutral and will remain in place. To the United States of America, Mexico, Central and South America we send this pledge of peace and we recognize all your trade and economic interests as neutral. While the entire globe is engulfed in war we see the Americas as a shining glimmer of hope and peace.

### **Terms:**

-We will never interfere with trade between the U.S.A., Mexico, central and South America as long as they remain neutral.

-Our militaries will never fight the nations of the U.S.A, Mexico, or the nations in South and Central America as long as they remain neutral.

-Once the British Empire has signed an Armistice we will no longer interfere with trade in the British Empire.

31stofJuly,1940

Italy	Iraq	Japan	China
Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
IL DUCEReza Pahlevi		Prince Fumimaro	Wang Ching-Wei

## **De Gaulle government recognized by the international community**

### **Germany and Italy recognize Pétain government**

Most countries of the western hemisphere have recognized the Free French government of Charles de Gaulle as the only legitimate government of France. After the defeat of the French army by Nazi Germany, the government has fled to the French colonial possessions in Africa. Remarkably, of the axis nations, also Japan has recognized de Gaulle, "possibly in an attempt to lull them into a false sense of security", Harry Hopkins, advisor to the President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt stated in a press conference on the recent actions of Japan. Here is what Mr. Fumimako had to say: "Leaders of the World, Let it be known that the Japanese people recognize the de Gaulle government relocated to Casablanca. The Japanese have and will respect our treaty with the French. The problems between the French and Germans are between them, but the Japanese still respect Frances control of Indo-China and will support their guidance of this Asian land. Our dealings with France have always been honorable, and we will not get involved in any aggressive acts against this nation that has been a friend of Japans for many years now."

Meanwhile Adolf Hitler, German chancellor and supreme commander, annexed Alsace-Lorraine for the Reich, cut three filet steaks of French territory from the body, distributing it between his German, Italian and Spanish occupation forces, and then declared his willingness to pursue friendly political and trade relations with 'Metropolitan France'.

"Pétain is a puppet, and his obvious puppet master is Adolf Hitler", said de Gaulle in Casablanca, the new capital city of Free France:

"People of the World: I greet you again, this time from the provisional capital of the Empire, Casablanca. This month of July closes with French Forces fighting throughout the globe. Never in the course of history has a nation had to fight so many nations virtually by itself. Germany has invaded the north, the Italians have crossed their mountains, and are now halted outside of Marseilles, and the Spanish, what remains of their tattered divisions after being bloodied by French soldiers still roam, looting and pillaging. Our own countrymen have thrown in with the enemy, the foulest wound of them all.

And yet, France still stands. Our intelligence shows that the Germans planned a May attack, and expected to have France sewn up by mid-June. They threw every division they had--bypassing their plans of conquest in Denmark, Holland, and Norway. And yet it is July 31, they have had the aid of two other fascist countries, and they still do not have France, much less the Empire. The vaunted German invasion is turning into a liability as the balance of power tilts.

Listen well Monsieur Hitler. The British have defeated the Italians in Africa. The French have defeated the Spanish in Gascogne. You have lost three armies to the Tricolor. And the Americans have all but entered this war. You have already lost. How many of your young men's lives will you squander in this fruitless effort?

And to the occupying forces, for those of you unsure as to why you've fought and died for a country which looks at you with hate, a country which shames you as you defile it, do not follow blindly your flawed leader. He would merely throw you to the flames. When this war is over, and the allies are victorious, do you want your memories stained so? To our allies, I express my gratitude and fervent wish for further unity. Rumania, Greece, England, America--we will continue to fight until not a fascist soldier is on soil not theirs.

But my most heartfelt admiration and exhortation goes to the citizens of France, those who have stayed true to France. I find it difficult to speak now as tears fill my eyes at the sheer pride I have in the men and women who have fought so hard for France. Despite overwhelming odds, despite the invasion of three different nations, not a single French or Belgian soldier surrendered until out of ammunition or hopelessly encircled. This spirit is why France will never be defeated even if the Germans post a helmeted fascist on every street corner. There is one France. We will preserve it and return it with all possible haste. Vive la France!"

The latest news is that Spanish troops currently occupying the designated new capital of 'Metropolitan France' stubbornly refuse to vacate the place. Needless to say, the peace treaty doled out by Hitler and Pétain alone still waits for Mussolini and Franco to ratify, so Hitler's offers remain to be "empty words, as always", as Mr. de Gaulle put it in his last speech before his troops.

# Yugoslavia mobilizes

## **Balkan nations threaten the struggled country**

Belgrade. Yugoslavian premier General Simovic reacted to the growing international crisis on the Balkan by declaring a general mobilization of all Yugoslav forces. Simovic blamed Italian agitation in neighboring countries for the current situation. Apparently, Hungary, Bulgaria and Greece have shifted troops towards the border to Yugoslavia. All three have territorial demands against the Balkan republic. "We will give none of our rightful territories without a fight", said Simovic, "Macedonia, the Banate and Slovenia are integral parts of the Yugoslav state".

The situation in the Balkans thus returned to a state equal to that about five years ago. In October 1934, a Bulgarian assassinated King Aleksandar in Marseille. The assassin, an Ustasha agent, had received assistance from Italy and Hungary. Yugoslavs genuinely grieved for their king. Even Aleksandar's opponents feared that his death would result in the disintegration of Yugoslavia. Croats and Slovenes especially feared subjection to Italy. Under prime minister Stojadinovic, however, movement began toward settlements with Bulgaria and Italy.

In January 1937, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria signed a friendship pact violating the provisions of the Little Entente and weakening the Balkan Pact. In March Yugoslavia and Italy followed up a 1936 trade agreement with a treaty of friendship. In December Stojadinovic visited Mussolini and assured him that Yugoslavia would neither strengthen its relationship with Czechoslovakia and France nor recognize the Soviet Union.

Soon after the recent turmoil in Yugoslavia following the resignation of prince regent Paul and introduction of a pro-western government, tensions with Italy, Bulgaria and Hungary were again amplified.

# Italy takes Alexandria

## **British retreat to Port Said and Cairo - Italian force eliminated in Sinai desert**

British troops vacated the city of Alexandria, Egypt before the advancing masses of Italian troops slowly grinding their way through Egypt. Colonel Powers, spokesman of the British 8<sup>th</sup> Army in Egypt called in a "tactical retreat", affirming again the British steadfastness to defend their protectorate. British troops have mopped up an Isolated Italian army that had occupied Suez last month and was driven back into the Sinai desert. Concentric attacks

were launched by British regulars, South African, Indian and British-Jewish troops raised in Palestine.

# The President's Speech

"My fellow Americans, since our last conversation we have seen the continued aggression of Japan and Germany. Japan has declared war on Great Britain and attacked and captured Hong Kong. Germany has sent the French government into exile and now reports come of Germany dropping fire bombs on belgian hospitals, schools and civic buildings. I will not go into details of these continued atrocities, as the newspapers and radio waves are filled with enough disturbing images of these events. My fellow Americans, a few months ago we spoke of the fact that we have two very aggressive nations on either side of our oceans, we are now coming to realize that we may indeed have two very unstable and cruel dictators that have shown an absolute disregard for life, international law and humanity. I therefore, sadly must report to you that the threat is no longer possible, but real. I want to thank each Congressman and each of you for passing the Emergency Defense Act, we will use this to begin to prepare a strong defense for America and the American way of life. I also would like to call on my opponent and all "isolationists" to join me in realizing that we are facing a real threat, that must be dealt with in a unified manner. It takes a good man to stand up to the public and say "I was wrong" and I believe the bodies of Chinese, British, French and Belgian citizens, children and infirmed warrant my opponent to stand up and finally say those words.

I have signed an executive order that will begin to shift our works programs so that each citizen receiving assistance under the works program will be reassigned into an industry that will assist America in preparing our defenses. No American will be taken off the works program, rather we shall begin to see increased employment as American's come together for the common good. My fellow Americans, I still seek to avoid war, but let those on either side of our oceans not be lulled into the belief that America shall allow any attack upon Americans or the American way of life. We Americans may not seek conflict, but we will most certainly be the ones that are victorius in any conflict we enter into. The American people may not be easily riled, but the bite of an enraged America is fatal. I renew my promise to you to establish a strong defense and to protect our shores. With each of us doing our part, and with God's guiding hand we shall stand up to all threats and maintain our freedoms."