

The World Observer

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WAR WITH GERMANY

Declaration of War

Not much to the surprise of political circles in D.C., the president in a swift reaction to perpetual provocations of an aggressive German leadership addressed the congress and leaders of the military administration in a speech of August 1st, to take the necessary steps to protect our people, nation and civilization. The President's Message:

“To the Congress of the United States:

On the morning of July 19 the Government of Germany, pursuing its course of world conquest, attacked and sunk several United States merchant ships. This constitutes a declaration of war against the United States.

The long-known and the long-expected has thus taken place. The forces endeavoring to enslave the entire world now are moving toward this hemisphere.

Never before has there been a greater challenge to life, liberty and civilization.

Delay invites great danger. Rapid and united effort by all of the peoples of the world who are determined to remain free will insure a world victory of the forces of justice and of righteousness over the forces of savagery and of barbarism.

I therefore request the Congress to recognize a state of war between the United States and Germany, and between the United States and Germany's allies.”

The War Resolution

Congress and administration equivocally condemned Germany's wicked move and passed the following resolution on the same day:

Declaring that a state of war exists between the Government of Germany and the government and the people of the United States and making provision to prosecute the same.

Whereas the Government of Germany has since failed to formally declare war against the govern-

ment and the people of the United States of America:

Therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the state of war between the United States and the Government of Germany which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and the President is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the government to carry on war against the Government of Germany; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States

Axis vessels in US ports seized by government

On August 3 the order was given to all Ports in the US and Territorial USA that, as of this date all ships flying the colors of the axis except the Japanese will be seized. Secretary of State General Marshall explained, “This order includes all subjugated nations vessels flying that nations colors. These countries vessels to be seized will include but not limited to Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Rumania, Hungry, Poland, Vichy French, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Albania and any ship bound for an Axis or Axis controlled nation. All subjugated national ships, will be turned over to the exiled nations representative in the US for use by the allies. All ships flying Axis colors, will be reflagged USS, there are no exceptions unless approved by this office.”

So far over 20 vessels of Vichy France have been handed over to the Free French government of General De Gaulle. Also the president gave orders to federally secure all Air Ports, Train Stations, All Rail Roads, Ports, Bus Terminals, Bus lines, Ship lines, ferries, Telephone exchange system, radio stations. Also all weapons and material war production plants, and other buildings vital to the security of the United States, will be federally secured.

GERMAN PLANES ATTACK US FLEET

Atlantic Fleet protects international shipping

Commencing the declaration of war on Germany, the US Atlantic fleet set out with four task forces to protect international shipping in the Atlantic, mainly between Britain and America, from German raiders.



BB Texas was damaged in action

Task Force 10 was attacked by German four-engined naval bombers half way between Ireland and Spain. The US sailors opened up with their anti-air batteries and damaged dozens of the large bombers. Several were shot down during attack, and many more during departure. Despite extraordinary losses, the German aircraft managed to drop their bombs on several US vessels, inflicting considerable damage. The cruisers Northampton and Chester eventually sunk after a dozen direct hits and the battleship Texas received intense deck damage. According to Vice Admiral Ingersoll, commander of Task Force 10, a second attempt to sink the damaged Texas was warded off by superior AA fire. The task force continued to protect British ships from German aircraft and submarine attacks.

GERMANY INVADES NETHERLANDS

Hitler's false promises finally broken

On 14th August German forces crossed the borders to neighboring Holland. Army Group B under Generaloberst von Manstein invaded from occupied France with one armored corps, four infantry corps, and one airborne corps.

The XLII Armeekorps lead the way to secure Arnhem. XXIII and X corps tried to reach The Hague as quickly as possible but failed to execute the maneuvers fast enough to prevent Dutch border garrisons blowing the bridges over the Meuse. In the second half of August the German forces moved to surround Amsterdam with three corps each to the south and south-east. Amsterdam is since besieged with all forces.



German troops after crossing the river Maas

The Luftwaffe started massive bombing of Amsterdam from 14th August until today. German tactical and dive-bombers attacked the Dutch Army units along the Dutch bunker line "Grebbelinie" and behind the Waals and Rhine rivers. Dutch fighters intercepted but had little chance against the German fighters of the newest design, the Focke-Wulf 190. In a matter of minutes, the Luftwaffe dominated the skies over Holland. German battle squadrons conducted terror bombardments of the centres of government, dockyards and railway hubs in Amsterdam. The Dutch were then called by Hitler for surrender and an end to the pointless bloodshed. The Dutch government in a letter to Eisenhower and Churchill, officially asked the United States and Britain for military aid.

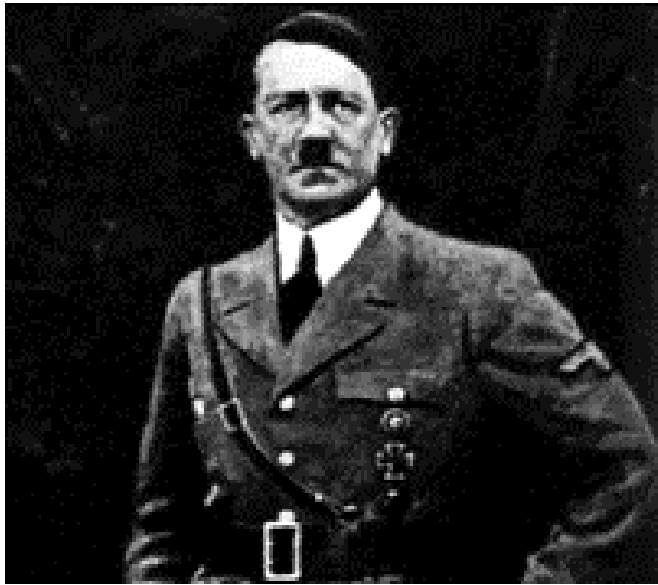


Kaiser William II died in his exile at Doorn, Netherlands just hours before German troops reached the city. A Wehrmacht propaganda company could only film the piteful return of his mortal remains to the family crypt of the Hohenzollern.

HITLER RAGES OUT IN WAR SPEECH

Enraged dictator demonstrates his madness

In another drama of his heated attacks against the free world, Hitler grasped the theme of the recent declaration of war by the United States. Depicting it as if America had begun the war, and not the German warships that destroyed innocent American lives last month, he explained his hypotheses of the US motives to a stunned public



The “Führer” Adolf Hitler his favored pose

“...perhaps they really believe that once again they will be able to dope the German nation with their lies, their propaganda and their empty words. To this I can only say that they should not have slept for so long. It would be better for them to look into the development of the German nation somewhat more carefully. In the same way, they were idiotic enough to try to estrange the Italian nation and the Duce. One US president rises and appeals to the Italian nation no longer to follow the Duce, but his policy and the American System. That is too idiotic. Such an ass (next words drowned). Then another president rises and admonishes the German nation to follow his junta, and to turn away from me. I can only tell these people: "Others in Germany have tried that game." Those people have no conception of the German nation, of the National-Socialist State, of our community, the army of our marching masses, of our people. Those people have no conception of our propaganda. Perhaps, because they themselves were not quite convinced of the effectiveness of their ideas, which they borrowed from some people in Germany. However, these people are those who so miserably failed here, the emi-

grants who had to leave. Such are their advisors, and we can see it by the pamphlets. We know for certain that this one was written by this fellow, that one by that fellow. Just as idiotic as (following drowned) in the time of the "System." ...”

Hitler then frenzied out against America, Britain and her allies, called their leaders names. Eisenhower? – tyrant. Churchill? – drunkard. The deceased president Roosevelt? – warmongering asshole. Good to know how our enemy thinks of us – we know what to think about them!

Nation must be prepared to fight nazi barbarism

Rex Stout, Chairman of President Eisenhower’s Writers' War Board said that war with Germany has become not only a matter of ideology and of moral principle, but of the survival of civilization and personal dedication to the cause: "...I hate Germans, and am not ashamed of it. On the contrary, in view of what the Germans have done, and of what my countrymen are preparing to do to them, I would be profoundly ashamed of myself if I did not hate Germans.”

BALKAN NATIONS JOIN AXIS PACT

Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria bow to Berlin

Following intensive talks with Italian foreign minister Count Galeazzo Ciano in July and his German counterpart Reichsaussenminister Joachim Ribbentrop this month, the kingdoms of Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria succumbed to the Italo-German pressure to join their alliance for world conquest. Not without self-interest, for sure - we shall see how militarism has a long tradition in the Balkan states. The Italian Duce has planned this move for months but Berlin’s strong man was seemingly fickle until recently. What role the Russian move or the US war entry plays can only be guessed.



Left: Count Ciano, right: Joachim Ribbentrop

Background: A region of struggle

The term "Balkan" is derived from a Turkish word meaning "mountain." As used by the English-speaking nations, however, the word refers to that peninsula of southeastern Europe lying between the Black and Adriatic Seas and extending south to the Mediterranean. To the north, the geographic boundary is less definite, but is generally accepted as the area south of the line of the Danube and Sava, west along the Kupa River, whence an imaginary line is drawn to the Adriatic port of Fiume.

From north to south, the broad expanse of the Danube Basin give a way to the mountain ranges of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. The remainder of the peninsula consists mainly of rugged mountains, broken occasionally by such features as the coastal lowlands of Albania, the area surrounding the Gulf of Salonika in Greece, and the lowlands of Turkish Thrace.

The Balkan peoples have been in contact with the inhabitants of Asia Minor, the Hungarian Plain, Central Europe, and the highly developed Mediterranean civilizations for thousands of years. Nevertheless it is still possible to distinguish such ethnic groupings as the Albanians, Serbs, Bulgars, Turks, Greeks, and Vlachs, the last a seminomadic race of herdsmen being absorbed gradually into the various national states into which the Balkan area is divided.



Tsar Boris III of Bulgaria (left) and King Carol of Romania (right), supreme military leaders

The peace treaties following the Balkan Wars of 1912 and 1913, World War I, and the Greek-Turkish conflict ending in 1923 resolved the frontiers of the various Balkan states until 1939. In that year, Italy occupied Albania and proceeded to implement her designs for dominating the Balkan Peninsula.



Hungary's Van Horthy (left) and ex-Yugoslavian P.M. Cvetkovic (right) were invested with top military offices in their respective nations

The creation of these states had satisfied many national aspirations, but numerous minority and territorial problems were left unsettled, and both Italians and Germans were able to turn them to their own advantage. Among the dissatisfied were the Hungarians in the part of north central Yugoslavia that had once been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; the Italians along Yugoslavia's northwestern border; the Macedonians, torn among the Bulgarians, Yugoslavs, and Greeks; and the large colonies of Austrians and Germans in northern Yugoslavia. There were also bitter rivalries between member nations of the same state, as the Serbs and Croats of Yugoslavia, and both Yugoslavia and Bulgaria were resentful of Greek possession of the Aegean coast. Despite the efforts of some Balkan leaders to foster intra-Balkan cooperation and good will prior to 1941, these sources of animosity and friction remained to hamper resistance to Italian and German subjugation.



Both Hungary and Romania maintain a small arsenal of modern armored fighting vehicles

Yugoslavia, before the change of government to a pro-western stance leaned closely towards the axis pact. Now, at the advent of an increasingly powerful Soviet Union surrounding the Balkan national states, three more of them decided to align themselves with Hitler and Mussolini.

RUSSIA EXPANDS NORTH AND SOUTH

More territory gained in Finland and Turkey

Soviet forces of Yeremenko's Northern Front advanced through Scandinavia to border of Sweden. The 1st and 2nd Tank Corps along with 1st Mot. Rifle Corps attacked the last Finnish city of Oulu on August 16, 1941. The defending forces performed an orderly retreat behind the river Oulujoki, blowing the bridges just before the Soviet could seize them. The 1st Mechanized and 25th Rifle Corps outflanked the 1st Swedish Division to the north-east, threatening to pocket the entire Scandinavian force next month, if weather permits. Sweden is now within reach of Russian forces.



The Scandinavian tank forces solely comprise of a handful of captured Russian armored vehicles

The central Front under Marshal Zhukov extended its beachhead around Sinop to the west. A parachute corps was brought into the town from the Crimea, and the forces invading Turkey from the Caucasus joined the landing forces of Sinop near the river Kisil Irmak. In south-eastern Turkey a Soviet Mountain Corps engaged Turkish forces near Diyarbakir.



Soviet tanks in Batum, before the invasion

Sea battle in the Bosphorus ends 20:1 for USSR

On August 13, the Russian Black Sea Fleet attacked Turkish vessels in the Bosphorus. The Turkish fleet scrambled to intercept. 15 miles east of Istanbul the hostile squadrons met. A close naval battle between Turkish and Soviet destroyers began while the Russian cruisers tried to take out the Turks at long range. The Turks withdrew after they lost 20 ships. Hours later the Krasny Kaukaz was sunk by a Turkish air attack. The Russian fleet continued to threaten the Bosphorus sea traffic. The Krasny Krim and Chervona Ukraina, plus many Soviet destroyers took several hits from Turkish artillery and mines.

Russian submarines sunk several Turkish transport ships ferrying Turkish troops from Istanbul. The Soviet task force retreated as the Turks ranged in with coastal artillery. The Turkish navy has lost twenty warships during battle, the Soviet Fleet lost the cruiser Krasny Kaukas.

GERMAN FORCES LAND IN AFRICA

Airborne assault on Algerian harbor city

On 1st August 1941, a German Fallschirmkorps conducted an airborne assault at the port city of Boné, Algeria. The first wave of paratroopers was tasked to secure the RAF airfields.



German "Stuka" dive bomber escorted by a Me-109 fighter over the Algerian desert

German and Italian bombers attacked Polish armored corps at Oran and the French corps at Tunis. The Axis air forces committed hundreds of battle planes along with fighter escorts. With only hundred operative planes, the superior British Spitfires kept troubling the Germans who paid a high price to achieve their objectives.



Spitfires from the 85th Fighter Wing

By 4th of August the German forces completely secured the airfield. The rest of the corps was then directly flown into the airfields to deploy until 7th of August. At the same time an Italian assault fleet sailed out from Taranto, carrying German troops on its way to Bone. At 10th of August the I. Fallschirmkorps secured Bone port. On the next day the assault fleet arrived at Bone, beginning immediate disembarkation of the German Heeresgruppe Afrika.



Alberico da Barbiano, here before the silhouette of Taranto, was sunk by British torpedo planes

That 1st of August was a black day for the joint Anglo-French forces. Last month they were on the offense in Libya, now their supply bases are threatened by the German stab in the back. In spite of these dark news, the Royal Air Force reported the sinking of the Italian cruiser Alberico da Barbiano in the Mediterranean.

Italo-German troops break ring around Tripolis

The Italian high command had to expect another British assault on the surrounded city of Tripolis, Libya. Defense of Tripoli was reorganized. Italian bomber planes pinned down British tanks south of Tripoli to prevent their movement in either offense or defense. The German secured the center and readied for a counterstrike at critical locations.

On August 3, the British 1st Infantry and 2nd Armoured Corps attacked Homs from Tripoli-4. Un-

der constant Italo-German air attack, the Armored force made little progress and maneuvered into a camouflaged stationary position to support the infantry advance. The 1st Infantry Corps reached Homs on August 5th, three days before the German VI. Armeekorps reached the outskirts. The British had prepared hasty defenses at that time. VI. A.K. attacked with full force but was stopped in its first attempt by August 8th, when the IX. A.K. joined.



British troops reach Homs just short before the German motorized advance elements

An Italian task force lead by the new Italian battleship Littorio bombarded the British supply lines from off the shore. The British forces had no choice but to withdraw from the small town. The German army has therewith successfully relieved the besieged Italian colony Tripolis with their hastily assembled forces in Africa.



Battleship Littorio engaged in shore bombardment against the British 1st Infantry Corps