

The World Observer

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20 cents

German troops in Paris

De Gaulle government escapes to Tours. Marshal Pétain forms new government for peace.

Two German armored corps attacked Paris from the west and north. Defended by two French corps and several militia units, a fierce battle took place in the streets of Paris. Despite superior weapons, the tank force proved to have difficulties in the city without sufficient infantry support. Furthermore, the French had air support but often it only served to turn Parisian buildings into rubbles, the tanks below the ruins remaining largely unscathed, at least for their anti-personnel combat role.



As news from the other fighting places, where French troops were mostly defeated by the German forces, the defenders of Paris became disheartened, and saw no more sense in defending their beautiful city now being destroyed in a fight that could not possibly be won. The 31re Corps ignored the orders to defend Paris at all costs. The French surrendered after inflicting severe

losses on the German tanks, but finally admitted their superiority in marksmanship and soldiery. At the end of the month, almost 100,000 French soldiers surrendered to some 50,000 German elite forces of 1. Panzer-Korps in their mechanized vehicles, armed to the teeth but with a visible relief on their faces.

Hundreds of wrecks of German tanks, SPAA and APC were pulled from the rubbles, but the Germans took no long pause, and after short rest pressed on towards Dijon. A new government under president Pétain assembled in military-controlled Paris to take up armistice talks with German officials and

Wehrmacht officers at Compiègne, the historical place of German defeat in World War I.



German troops march past Arc de Triomphe

Northern Army Group collapses
Outbreak defeated. German wedge cuts French off Belgian and British allies.

In a desperate attempt, French Northern Army Group turned away from the forces which drove them north and tried to punch a hole through the German cordon of mobile forces that reached Le Havre and recently

cut the army group from the mainland. This southern movement, despite an already considerable lack of supply, would surely have succeeded if there were not the three German armies, masses of tank included, viciously pressing at their flank further northwestwards. Having spent all their



reserves in the outbreak attempt and a hasty move to recapture Lille, the German tanks smashed through the entire army group almost at will, cutting them from the Belgian fortress at Brussels and the British supply ports of Dunkirk and Antwerp Headquarters were overran by spearheading 6th Panzer-Division in the night after the initial assault, and German officers guided their further advances after French General Staff's maps. In this complete chaos, those who did not surrender immediately tried to escape to Lille, leaving all heavy arms and munitions behind. There gathered about 250,000 French soldiers with an effective fighting force of perhaps some divisions, awaiting German emissaries to decide their fate. With nine ready German corps prepared to engulf them, General Bourgeville, commanding officer of fortress Lille, surrendered with all men and matériel.



French prisoners of war in Lille

With the outcome so far, the fate of France seems to be sealed, and French civilians already put more hope into the mercy of the enemy than into the valor of their soldiers. Nevertheless, Marshall Maxime weygand sent the following message to all troops and commands:

"Today france stands in harms way. We have seen the enemy fire the first shot. The wehrmacht has pushed us hard, but it is our turn to push back. The enemy is not to be feared only defeated. The germans bleed and die just like any other man, they are not super human. For those at one time that considered the nazis as potential friends ask yourself this question: does your friend come into your house kill your family and then burn the house down? The answer logically is that these men are our enemy. For those that had questioned the french governments politics, politics be damned!. we are soldiers of france not of any regime, Save for one regime that of freedom. The government knew one day a nazi

attack would come and that the nazis lie. Hitler in his birthday speech said he had nothing against france and the french people. So what do you call killing french and trying to take their land a peace offering?!

Right now our enemy is putting us to the test. They trespass on our land and our freedom. To have misgivings and fear in battle is natural war is like standing at hell's gate, but if you do not turn that misgiving or fear into courage and tenacity than it will pull you down into the depths never to be seen again. I know in you my men that courage is in your hearts and souls, you focus your minds to release it and pay back the germans ten times fold for the destruction they bring.

When you hesitate or fear remember these things: Your families, you friends, your land, and your freedom. People start wars to take things don't let the nazi take anything from you. Pull together with your comrades in arms and fight for france and its people!

The wehrmacht appears to be making this attack on france a present for Hitlers birthday. The party isn't over yet. It is time for you to collectively piss on the cake!

Long live france and freedom,
Marshall Maxime Weygand"



French war bonds poster

Heroic Belgian resistance - British retreat to Antwerp

Belgian troops began to dig in at the outskirts of Brussels. The ten divisions of the British Expeditionary Force retreated before the rapidly advancing German 10. Panzer-Armee through the corridor held by the Belgian army between the bulk of German Heeresgruppe A, defeating French Groupe Armée Nord, and the Dutch border. The British avoided all contact with the dreaded enemy and managed a fast and orderly retreat to the port of Antwerp, where the first British troops embarked to ship back to Britain.



1936-design German tank model "Panzer I"

The German advance was halted before the Belgian barricades. King Leopold III., personally taking command over his troops, declared Brussels a fortress. This must have puzzled the German tacticians so much that they halted their advance after only little touching combat. German airforce supreme commander and Nazi prominent, Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring declared, "if the king asks me to turn his city into kitchen waste, I am willing and able to do so at any time". The declaration of fortress turns a city into an all-out military object, and thus permits enemy troops by international law to fire at will into the city, with no care for civilians or private property. German tank officers however avoided the city, suspecting a bluff or trickery, or chained by order from above, and attempted an entangling movement. However blown bridges, destroyed roads and crossings, and the pollution of neighboring roads with advancing troops and supplies of army group B prohibited any further movement.

The vigorous stance of the Belgians secured the safe retreat of the British forces. Given the force ra-

tio of approximately six Belgian corps to at least twelve German corps surrounding them, with no hopes of defeating a technical superior enemy, the actions of the Belgian leadership were probably the very best that could have been done in this critical situation.

Spain declares war on Britain & France

Vicious strike at Gibraltar. Bordeaux captured

Completely without reason and provocation, the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco declared war on Britain and France. However the move must have been prepared a while ago. Otherwise it will be difficult to explain the large number of forces that Spain had readied to capture the peninsula fortress of Gibraltar. After last month's mobilization, Spanish reserve forces marched deeply into southern France, capturing the port city of Bordeaux on the Atlantic coast. But before the Mediterranean city of Marseilles, the Spanish invaders faced a severe setback. A regular French corps turned the Spanish advance into a disaster, completely annihilating two Spanish reserve divisions.



French citizens flee before the Spanish occupation of south-western France

The attack on Gibraltar meanwhile amounted to excessive bloodshed on both sides. The Spaniards, heated from the aggressive speeches of their prime leader, assailed the British fortress with so much contempt, that after suffering sheer myriads of deaths, they overcame the British defenders who, by them-

selves, almost fought to the last man. The British counted more than 15,000 losses, dead and wounded. The Spanish claimed same numbers, but the British Generality estimates at least 15,000 of them fell dead before British fire, with wounded casualties no less than 30,000, the Spanish paid a high price in blood for this little spot of acclaimed Spanish territory.

Explaining his motives Franco said before the nation: "After many years the chance for revenge against the English Devil has arrived. They will feel the pain of their empire torn from them! I urge all of their stolen lands to raise up from Scotland to India this is your chance to be free! The suffering of the good people of the world must end! The Axis never had any real problem with France until the little boy took power. If France were to revolt against their dictator I am sure things could be worked out but it would seem the little boy wants France to go down with him. The English and French governments must go if peace is to rein! I would also like to state that the Axis powers have no intention of attacking or interfering in America or its trade, we respect their love of freedom and fair play. Lastly remember Gibraltar is a Spanish word not an English one!"

In search of allies, the Spanish dictator sided with Italy, which shares a common animosity towards the British. Spain's attack on France may be viewed as a desperate act to step onto the stage of the world. On the other hand, it may likewise be the apocalypse of a well-planned intrigue by Hitler and Mussolini, playing out another ace. Italian peace promises towards France must be seen in this light, as well as German claims not wishing for the destruction and dismemberment of France.

TREATY OF ALLIANCE BETWEEN ITALY and SPAIN

- 1) We are formal allies
- 2) We recognize each nations territorial claims
- 3) Our troops and economies will work together
- 4) Italian forces can now base anywhere in Spain
- 5) Spain gives Italy tax free trading status in Spain.

1st of June 1940
SIGNED for SPAIN SIGNED for ITALY
Francisco Franco Il Duce

Italy supports dismissed regent Paul

Italian leader Benito Mussolini promised Prince Paul, former head of state of the Yugoslav confederacy, 'all aid in the coming battle for the rightful rule over Yugoslavia'. The destabilization of the country driven by Italian expansion and strive for dominance in Southern Europe cumulated in an anti-Italian coup by Yugoslav Army General Simovic last month.

FORMAL MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PACT between THE ITALIAN EMPIRE and PRINCE PAUL OF YUGOSLAVIA

Terms:

Italy recognizes the rightful ruler of Yugoslavia as Prince Paul. Italy furthermore promises to reinstate Prince Paul as head of the Government. In return, Yugoslavia shall send its navy to Taranto to work with the Italian navy. Yugoslavia will grant Italian armed forces bases, ports, barracks, and airfields in Yugoslav territory until reversal of this agreement. Prince Paul will also work to gain support in Yugoslavia and Greece against the Usurpers. This Agreement will go into effect upon signature, for a period of 5 years.

28th of June, 1940

signed

signed

Il Duce Prince-Regent Paul

Russian tanks at the gates of Helsinki

Large-scale summer offensive shatters Finns

On 1 June 1940, two Russian armies totalling 6 armored, 3 mechanized, 6 infantry and 3 cavalry divisions, assaulted the Finnish Isthmus between the villages of Lahti at Lake Päijänne and Loviisa at the Baltic Sea. The Russian cruisers Maxim Gorky and Kalinin gave additional artillery support. Additional air support was given by one fighter and one bomber wing. The Scandinavian troops had rallied together and dug in at the narrowest line of the Isthmus with one Finnish, one Swedish, the British Volunteer Corps and a new Finnish Mechanized Division, supported by the Finnish Fighter Wing and the Swedish Bomber Wing in Helsinki.

The Finnish fighter pilots pressed hard against the Russian adversaries. The Russian air commander chose to give priority to bringing their bombers through to target, neglecting the Scandinavian bombers. This wise decision brought superior air support to bear for the Russian attack. The Swedish bomber pilots only managed to slow the Russian advance.



Original Russian T-28, 1000+ produced

However, this slowing down proved to be an effective countermeasure, since the Russians attacked from several directions with troops gathered from different distances to the target. The Russian thrust grinded to a halt before a heartened wall of multinational resistance. When Russian tanks joined in late, they unexpectedly faced a strong antitank fire from new weapons the Scandinavians managed to gather during the past months, with contributions from all major European powers.



One of the few T-28 captured by the Finns

However the Russian field commander did not even think of giving up this battle, presented with the choice of victory or firing squad by Soviet Army Group (Front) Commander Marshal Semyon Timoshenko, mastermind behind the Finnish campaign since the first day. Reorganizing its forces, the Russian army was ready for another attempt as early as 16th of June. This time, a compact force deliberately targetted the weak spots in the Finnish defenses. An air division of Russian fighters guaranteed total air superiority. The Finns chose not to

challenge them, saving their air power for the dearest emergency. In a tedious battle, wearing each other down, the Finnish commander-in-chief Field Marshal Carl Gustav von Mannerheim finally had to admit that the Russian tanks were an unshakeable behemoth, resourceful to no end, with a clear superiority in numbers and experience. The Russian casualties sum up to 7 divisions, mostly infantry and cavalry. The Scandinavian forces officially list their casualties as 4 divisions.

While the ground forces fought out the decisive facts, Russian Bombers continued with their high-altitude strategic bombing mission against Helsinki. All bombers were brought on target without interference by Finnish fighters. The harbor district as well as several industrial zones were attacked. Fires were seen all night long from as far as Reval on the opposing side of the Baltic Sea.

Kuomintang victory against Japanese in central China

With the aid of US military advisors under General Stilwell, and 5,000 men of the American Volunteer Group, the National Chinese (Kuomintang) armies in central China had a heyday against the Japanese invaders, driving them hundreds of miles from the now liberated city of Wuhan. Chinese leader Chiang Kai-Shek ordered a national holiday and seven-day celebrations in the capital of Chungking and all other Chinese cities outside reach of Japanese troops. "This is the turning point. From now on we will deal back, strike back, pay back their oppression", said Chiang. Mass-levies begun in several Chinese cities. "Traitors and cowards will be shot", the conscription commands announced with loudspeakers and shouters on all public buildings.



Aircraft of the American Volunteer Group

British attack on Persia

In reaction to Italian political agitation in the middle east region and the recent Italo-Persian mutual assistance pact, British forces launched a two-pronged attack on the kingdom, whose kings commonly bear the title 'Shah'. A British division struck across Iraqi territory from Kuwait to Abadan, where Italian battleship Andrea Doria, the scourge of the Indian ocean in the past months, took refuge from the British fleet. Indian troops crossed the great desert from the east and captured Shiras.

In Abadan, the British hit on considerable resistance. Despite surprising the Persian 4th Cavalry Corps, the difficult and alien terrain of rocky deserts intersected with swamps and brooks, turned the attack into a daring game, which the British victoriously decided at the tip of the blade.



British Kuwait Division on the advance

The Persian army, consisting of three cavalry corps and a wing of Italian bombers rallied north of Abadan. However analysts already depict the British victory as 'complete', and Tehran's fall 'only a matter of time'.

Italy lashes out at Suez

Port facilities destroyed. Recaptured by British Indian troops.

The Italian army that invaded Port Said sent out an expeditionary force to destroy the port facilities of the Red Sea harbor city of Suez. Unable to defend the city, their sole mission was to thoroughly destroy anything that could be useful to the British

forces. "Cowards! They are anxious to fight like a man, so they blindly destroy whatever they can get their dirty little hands on", said Viscount Gerald Forsythe, chairman of the British-American Academic Association. "Remember that American interests are also at stake. The stocks of the Suez Canal Company do not belong to the British alone, neither do only British ships cross the canal. This is a vital sea lane for the entire civilized world", Forsythe concluded.

A British Indian Corps was nevertheless shipped to Suez, unloading its light equipment and men shortly after the Italians left. There was no fighting which means that the Italians left no sabotage devices behind. The city is currently being searched for spies and hidden Italian observers.

Canadian Corps on the Retreat

Faced with a recent reinforcement of Italian units in eastern Cyrenaica, the British commander in Egypt, General Archibald Percival Wavell, has ordered a retreat of the battered Canadian forces to the fortified city of Alexandria. The Italians saw a chance for revenge against the still unbeaten Canadian Corps and followed like hounds on prey. But to no avail. Despite artillery fire and air attacks, the corps orderly retreated to Alexandria. The Italians, however, have closed up again to a favorable site of attack, or at least, for siege, of the British forces defending Egypt.

Canadians transport all their wounded and



equipment back to their original strongpoints

The President's Speech

"My fellow Americans, as your President it is my sworn duty to defend the United States of America against all enemies and threats against the American

way of life. For some time now, we have been engaged in a great national debate as to what role, if any, America should take as a result of the war in Europe. During this debate I have informed you that while it is my sincerest intent to keep America out of another war, we must not totally close our eyes and ignore the very real danger that America and its allies face. On the other side, a group that has called themselves isolationists have discussed their view that America should close their eyes and let the European war play out since it poses no real threat to America.

In just the last two months we have seen Italy declare war on Great Britain and launch an offensive against Egypt, and most recently Germany sent over 50 divisions across the border against France and German units are now racing across French Territory. My fellow Americans, the time has come where this war now poses a real threat to America. Right now France is desperately trying to stop 50 divisions of German troops from racing to Paris. Should this occur, Britain would stand alone and we will face the real prospect of a Germany that controls Europe. At the same time in China, Japan has nearly 1 million men of their armed forces mobilized and assaulting China with renewed vigor and barbarity. My fellow Americans, We face two aggressive nations, at war against our allies, that have over 1 million fighting men, advanced aircraft and naval forces each. America must be prepared to defend itself against such force, and to assist our allies to defend themselves. Currently, America has less than 1/10th the ground forces of each of these combatants and our air and naval forces need further modernization and build-up to adequately defend this nation against the any potential threat. In short, we must have adequate forces to defend this nation!

There have been some that have called me a war-monger or an alarmist, and they have continued to use these labels to ignore reality and stand in the way of defensive preparations. For example, when the war in Europe first began as a German invasion of Poland, the isolationists indicated there was no problem and we should stay out of the small European affair. However, the war did not stop there. The war has now seen Italy attack Great Britain in Egypt, Germany attempt to blockade Great Britain with its U-boats, Germany sweep 50 divisions into France and Japan launching offensive after offensive against China and now the blockading of

Hong Kong. My fellow Americans, this war has not remained the little affair that the isolationists wanted, rather it has spread to the very oceans that border our Nation. America now stands threatened and its allies stand in great peril. In order to properly act, we must accept these facts. No one wants to accept the possibility of War, and while we will do everything to prevent war, we must be prepared to defend ourselves against the combined might of the aggressive armies sweeping on either side of us. To do anything else is irresponsible and in violation of the oath every member of Government took when they accepted their positions given by you.

Now then, let us discuss what is needed. First, we need an emergency appropriations act that will allow America to be prepared to defend itself. Specifically, I call upon Congress, in cooperation with the Federal Reserve to issue authority for 1000 M\$ expenditures as follows:

200 M\$ in extra low interest loans to allow US Defense industries to modernize and prepare to be able to produce what is necessary; and 100M\$ for research into needed new technologies; and 150M\$ for Additional Ground Forces; and 150M\$ for Additional Air Squadrons; and 400M\$ for Additional Naval Forces

This is a great amount of money, and yet the cost of not investing now, may be disastrous. While I know these numbers sound outrageous, it barely scratches the surface of what would be needed if America became involved in any conflict. This appropriation is the bare minimum needed to defend our borders, we can use more...but we cannot afford to allocate less.

The second need is to pass an act similar to the Cash and Carry Act that will allow us to help our allies survive against the overwhelming pressure that is being brought against them. I will soon introduce an Act called the Lend-lease Act that is similar to the Cash and Carry Act. this Act will allow America to assist its Allies by providing goods to assist them in their fight for survival. My fellow Americans, the battle is being fought in France and China. if France, Great Britain and China fall, the next great battle ground across the oceans is right here. Already, Germany declares war zones and threatens US ships in international waters, and Japan blockades Hong Kong and more free movement of international waters. With just what we have seen, can we feel confident that we can survive if Germany owns all of

Europe, and Japan all of Asia? My fellow Americans, the time to act is NOW. We must help those fighting against totalitarian aggression NOW, in the current battle-grounds before we face the potential of fighting it here, in our back yards. We are in perilous times, yet if we act now, we may just protect ourselves and our allies enough that we do not have to re-visit the horrors of the last Great War. What is certain however, is that if we do nothing, if we continue to bury our heads in the sand, the next time we come up for a peek of air, we may be facing the wrong end of the barrel of German and Japanese forces. I therefore ask of you a great favor. I need you to discuss what I have said among your families and let us accept the facts and dangers that we face. Americans have always proved that once we accept a set of facts and the challenges associated with them, there is no other nation in this world that can rally and meet those challenges like Americans. Therefore, let us accept the challenges, let us move forward together and let us speak to our neighbors, our community leaders, our state representatives and our congressmen with one unified voice. These are difficult times, but we have faced other difficult times and we, as Americans, have always prevailed. Today, with your support, we once again stand together, shoulder to shoulder to face the challenges before us and together we will ensure a safe and free America."

The Republican Rebuke

Vandenberg's comments on Roosevelt's speech

Senator Vandenberg and a group of prominent republican party leaders, among them the republican party's candidate for presidency J. Edgar Hoover, recently on his electoral campaign in Maryland, commented on Roosevelt's recent speech, 'Now my fellow Americans you see how ruthless our leadership has become. This month they have, against an unknowing congress, passed the cash and carry act, permitting the president to supply whatever war-mongering nation the president so desires with weapons to heat on a war that nobody wished and whose progenitors never intended to interfere with the United States. President Roosevelt is the man who wants to turn the local European and Asian conflicts into a worldwide war. The method is the same as in the last great war. But I say to you, my dear people, this war he is planning will not only ruin us economically, no, it will cost American lives that were better left at home working for family income and caring for the young and old. It has al-

ready gone so far as that we, a nation living in absolute peace with all our neighbors, talk about war all day long. I ask, when do we talk about peace? Where is the peace initiative as has been undertaken by president Wilson? Where is the threat anyway to America? Why must we talk about the struggles of the old world when we have imminent political problems to be solved at home? Why don't you want peace for America, why do you want war, Mr. President? Answer us! I see that the president's plans call for expansion of the navy, in other words, a cancellation of the 1924 Washington Naval Treaty. Why does a peaceful nation need so much armament? And if we have so much money left over, why is it not put into our economy, into our social welfare and beneficial programs? Why do we lend money and arms to other nations so they can kill instead of being used at home for the ill? This, my fellow citizens, is what I wish to hear from Mr. Roosevelt. But as long as he keeps fooling us, I say vote for an honest man. Vote for J. Edgar Hoover and his policy of peace and happiness for the American Nation.' Hoover himself avoided any direct confrontation of Roosevelt, and vowed to put all his effort into domestic policy and welfare for the United States. 'We won't make the same mistakes again', he pledged, 'but we also will avoid being dragged into another great war. The children of America do not deserve this'. However, chief advisors on foreign policy are increasingly skeptic of peace in Europe, and the republicans were unable to respond to the question how to defend the United States against a possible threat. Said Vandenberg, "I do not feel threatened. So far no country had made claims or threats towards the United States. America's navy is now the largest in the world. I have no fears at all".

Lend Lease Act passed congress

A little bit more frightened than Mr. Vandenberg seemed a majority of representatives and senators, including many of the republican party, when they supported the president's latest governmental initiative, the Lend Lease Act. The lengthy act, which found an enthusiastic protractor in secretary of state Cordell Hull, permits the president to directly or indirectly support warring parties worldwide. Its obvious intent is to support those nations which have friendly and peaceful relations to the US, or the enemies of obvious opponents of US politics and opinion.