

# Dublin Chronicle

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## Vienna Falls to Polish advance

**The Austrian Capital was the scene of the most exciting military action to date, as it was captured by Polish Armoured forces that had rushed across southern Slovakia in closing weather conditions and petroleum fumes.**

The advance of the Polish Carpathian Army into southern Germany will go down in the annals of history of one of the most extraordinary military campaigns in history. This rag tag force of reservists and elite troops has pushed for three months against the total might of the German and now Hungarian Armies.

The recent weeks have seen the most exceptional events when running out of fuel, ammunition and food, the army launched one final assault aiming for the riches of the German Supply depot in Vienna. The main army group assaulted the German defenders, who expected nothing to interfere with their winter break, believing that the Poles would use the poor weather to regroup and prepare for operation in the spring, this was not the case as the Poles put this force into full flight.



German forces in headlong retreat.

To the flank, the Poles launched their armour, with what remained of their national reserves of petroleum. This force drove directly on Vienna, through Bratislava, later secured by Polish infantry. As the tanks entered Vienna, a brief

fire-fight took place between the advance elements and the depot garrison. There then followed two days of Polish transports running down the road towards Bratislava refuelling those tanks that had been discarded in the drive towards Vienna.



Polish tanks rushing towards Vienna

It is believed that the Poles could have been easily checked in their advance had the Hungarian Army launched an attack into their rear, but it would appear that the Hungarians may prove to be a millstone around Germany's neck, rather than an aid to future victories.

The question must now be, where will the Poles go, south to the Oil fields of Hungary or into the heartland of Germany?

The much vaunted German army has recently been reduced to no more than a global laughing stock, having failed to capture the city of Warsaw, whilst seeing its forces in the south of Germany overwhelmed and those in the west pushed back. This may truly be a short war, will the Allies have completed their objectives by Christmas?

# Hungary at War

**The Hungarian Government has found itself at war with the Western Allies and Poland, after requesting support from Germany.**

The Hungarian Foreign Minister outlined how sources within the region had identified that the Romanians were becoming increasingly friendly with the Russian Regime, this added to the recent aggressive stance Romania appears to have taken within Eastern Europe was blamed as the catalyst for Hungary moving into the German Alliance.

This change of stance by the Hungarians has caused consternation in the Western Alliance. Hungary was seen as a safe haven for retreating Polish forces that could eventually be shipped to Britain, however with the Hungarians now acting as puppets to the Germans, some 9,000 Polish troops, held as detainees at the Polish / Hungarian border were forced to once again raise arms in their own defence.

## Allies Poised for advance

**The Western Allies now seem poised for an advance into Southern Germany, possible in support of the Polish Army.**

A massive build-up of French and British armour and infantry has continued around the German city of Frieberg, which was occupied in total by the French 2<sup>nd</sup> Army earlier this week.

It would seem that the light defences of the southern German border may be split asunder by the combined might of the French 2<sup>nd</sup> Army and the British Expeditionary Force. Whether the invasion will come in winter or the spring is not clear, but what is clear is that the Allies are committing vast quantities of top grade resources to this theatre of operations, whilst the Germans have limited and poor operational forces in theatre.

# Hong Kong Falls

**The Colonial Jewel of the British Empire has fallen to the Japanese Army and Navy.**

Even after the Chinese attempted relief of the city the British and their allies could not muster the defences that could hold the city. As the month progressed the Japanese Navy poured in vast numbers of Marines and regular infantry. The additional of a Group HQ plus its support elements final tipped the balance. The fact that the Imperial Navy had also provided a vast fleet to support eh land forces may have helped!



It is now unknown as to the actual location of the retreating British forces, but it is known that the British still have an active force in the field.

As we now look into the city we can see vast destruction, the harbour is full of carriers and battleships of the Imperial Japanese Fleet, whilst the refuelling centre, ship yards and port facilities have been totally destroyed in the heavy hand to hand fighting.

## Russians Arrested

**Some 200 to 300 Russian citizens have been arrested in Japan over the recent months.**

It has come to light that the Japanese Security Services have arrested a large number of Soviet Officials, businessmen and other citizens in a major purge of the Cities of Tokyo, Harbin, Hiroshima and other cosmopolitan areas. As yet there has been no official response from the Russian Government, but this move by Tokyo must surely strain the relations of two nations that have frequently faced each other in the fields of war.

# Stalin Boasts

**Moscow was the scene of Stalin's glory hour this month, when on the 26<sup>th</sup> the city was the scene of a massive military parade to "celebrate the great" victory over the Baltic States.**

Episodes of Stalin's Speech: "My fellow Soviets today we are here to pay tribute to our gallant Revolutionary Forces. The forces of the Soviet Union have acted with all that is noble and best. They have done the Revolution and the world a proud service. They acted with bravery and resolve to put and end to the terrorist gang of thugs formally known as the government of Estonia and Latvia. They fought hard to win a swift victory at minimal cost to human life. Russians value our new liberated brothers, knowing that our Revolutionary Forces did all they could do to preserve human life is greatly welcomed. You our gallant forces have done us very proud. Now I will like to read off the units that the Soviet people wish to thank on our roll call of honour..... The Soviet people thank you, and I Stalin thank you for the great service you have done. To liberate a people from oppression goes to the very heart of the Revolution. You and us all are living Revolution ready to liberate all from the bonds of oppression."



The Parade contained only a small number of troops from the west, who had been shipped in, it was notable that many of those in the parade were by no means the elite of the Red Army.

In fact many of those units on display appeared bedraggled and lacking any sense of purpose, although the cold weather may have played its part in this.

# Daladier Speaks to France

**At a time when the people of France are wavering in the war against Germany, Daladier seeks to bolster his nation for the up and coming conflicts.**

"I speak to you again from the broadcasting facilities of fair Paris, jewel of France. This month marks an historic event. The French and British have come together has never before, uniting their people, industries, and militaries as one against the Nazi tyrants. Even now, thousands of British Tommies cross the channel under the protection of our mighty navy. Hundreds of British tanks rush towards French-controlled German territory to bolster our massive forces. British Spitfires fly side by side with French Dewoitines and Morane-Saulniers in patrol over our borders. And our merchant fleets are guaranteed safe passage in an Anglo-French convoy system.

What does Germany have to face us with? Their new lapping dog ally: Hungary. They jump in at the last moment to feed on the valiant body of Poland. The new alliance of Western Europe will take their toll on these petty aggressors, make no mistake.

Let there be no more dispirited talk. Have you seen the jauntiness of our soldiers? The spring to their salute? They have found their cause, and have taken the fight to the enemy. They fight for us, and are proud to do so. Let us, the citizens of France, support them so that they, in turn, may support us.

Spring shall break over a free Europe. Together, we can realise this."

This month has also seen the signing of a new treaty between the British and French, which formally recognises a joint structure of command, but also ominously hints at the fact that France may in fact be at war with Japan. No formal declaration has been made by France yet this new treaty recognised the struggle against Germany and Japan, this leaves the men of the French Indo-China very exposed.

# Communist Blunder

**Communist Chinese Forces attempted to turn the flank of the Japanese Army in a desperate drive on Peking.**

The CCP forces launched four divisions against the well dug in Japanese 33<sup>rd</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> division. The Japanese defenders held their positions and caused havoc upon the masses of advancing Chinamen. Within a couple of days the whole advance had broken down and the Chinese had returned to their lines, having taken heavy casualties.

## Italians seize merchants

**A number of French merchant vessels were seized throughout Italy over the past weeks.**

Although the Italians seem to have overstepped the mark, there has been no declaration of open hostilities, this act surely signals a break in the neutrality of Rome.

## RN Engages KM

**A major surface group of the Royal navy as engaged a German Pocket Battleship of the northern Scottish coast.**

The Royal Navy has successfully sunk a German Cruiser, believed to be the Deutschland, although the action involved some 7 British Battleships, it is believed that the German heavy cruiser lasted over 2 hours in a slugging match which she was bound to lose.

It is believed that in response to the threat of the German surface raiders that the British have ordered all merchants in the North Atlantic to port.

# Germany v Russia

**Russia has announced a complete freeze on the sale of oil and resources to Germany. In response the Germans have closed all payments to Moscow.**

Does this bring these two mammoths closer to war, now they share a common border?

## Air war ended

**The poor weather conditions in Europe have seen the conclusion of the weekly air attacks on the western front.**

All three nations had problems with air support this month on the Western Front, a series of storms and generally failing weather forced minimal air operations. The Germans and French suffered the most it would appear, whilst the British failed to launch any operations of significance on mainland Europe.

This did not stop the French from pushing on their 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Corps to secure the Friburg area. Report have indicated that an armoured group was assigned to this group but failed to join the offensive, was this weather or mutineer?

## Bulgaria Hits Back

**The Bulgarian Army launched a major offensive towards Varna, catching the Romanians unawares.**

An assault on the city by 3 corps of the Bulgarian Army supported by light bombers forced the Romanian defenders to pull back from their initial lines, unfortunately for the Bulgarians they could not hold their ground as the Romanians launched a counter attack which threw back the Bulgarian infantry.