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GERMANS DRIVE EAST

After having spent three weeks recovering from the shock.... it blitzkrieg.

The war in the East has begun in earnest. Both the Russians and Axis forces have launched their offensives, both having gain ground, but it is the Russians who have made the greatest strides.

The Axis powers have launched their first ground assaults of the eastern campaign, with the Hungarian Army Group together with the Romanian Army launching an overwhelming assault on the city of Brasov.

The Russian formations in the city, centered on a force of KV1

tanks, held the city centre for 4 days, inflicting massive losses on the German Armour as they attempted to wrestle the city from Stalin's hands. Yet again the Germans threw their tanks into a city and yet again they took overwhelming losses. Had it not been for the Hungarian and Romanian infantry it is likely that the Germans would have lost an entire Armoured Corps, for nothing.



The outskirts of Brasov, once a mighty Romanian City.

The Romanians and Hungarians had problems of their own at the start of the operation when they opened fire on each other as they approached to city from the East and South. Eventually, both forces concentrated their hatred on the Russians, much to the relief of the German formations.

Whilst this was in process the Russians launched a strike of their own down the Black Sea Coast Road. In the process the Leningrad Army Group pushed aside two Corps of Romanians and almost captured the Romanian HQ as they advanced on Constanza, now securely in Russian hands. As this action took place, the Russian Navy shelled the Romanian fleet to peaces, without loss, then withdrawing before the German Airforce could locate the Fleet.

To the north of Romania the Germans were side footed when the Russians withdrew south east to form a new defensive line. Although this may make a secure and continued line, spectators are wondering what would make Stalin order the withdrawal of his

troops from ideal defensive positions in the mountains of eastern Romania and Hungary.

On the Central Front the Germans appear to have broken through using their Blitzkrieg tactics and are on route to Kiev having sidestepped the forward defences. It is reported that on route, the 14th Panzer has captured or destroyed the forward supply base for the Russian 6th Army.

With the loss of their depot and the easy advances of the Germans in this sector, it is likely that the Russians will withdraw from Constanza and establish new lines of defence.

The Germans did have to face heavy bombing this month by the Russians. The Brasov oil fields are no more, having taken severe damage, whilst the cities of Ostrau and Konigsberg both suffered night bomber raids, local air defences being hard pressed to prevent the Russian bomber forces, the Germans believed to have taken damage to the port of Konigsberg and a military depot in Ostrau.

A KV1 of the Russian Army moves into Constanza following its capture.



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War in the East

With the war in Europe now moving to the East the Germans have been able to move some 100 divisions across the continent, with at least 50 of these arriving in theatre this month.

At the same time Marshall Zhukov, Senior Marshall of the Red Army has called up the remains of the Russian Army. With Russia's 300+ divisions they have the potential to field the largest field army in the world, but will also need to be mindful of the Japanese, who may be inclined to come knocking at the back door.

The Russians have not made the sweeping advances across Poland that many observers had expected. Instead they have moved to defensive positions, bar a small incursion south of the Pripet Marshes, for reasons as yet that are unclear.

The Germans have also surprised observers, only one small breakthrough has been launched, no attacks of significance being made in the north, where the German and Lithuanian Armies have massed along the Russian border, and only limited air activity, most of this of a defensive

nature, and some what pointless at that..

What are these two powers planning to do? Will they truly throw themselves at each other. Realistically we must say yes, for both leaders have spent years warning their peoples of the evils of the other's empire. Now the peoples and military expect the leaders to complete the task in hand, be they Russian or German, it is likely that neither leader now has the opportunity to back down, for should he do so, he will need to what his own back and see that no one steps forward to claim the mantle of National Savior.

The state of the lines in the South.



Russians Watch doors

Stalin may have chosen to attack Germany, hopeful that he will secure victory with an early punch, but he must be mindful all of the time that other nations will knock at his door.

Around the Russian Empire stand a number of nations that have no love of the Russian Bear.

Finland is the most aggressive of these nations, already having her army on full alert and a known friend of the German Regime.

To the South is Turkey, known to have been aiding the Bulgarians in their war against the Romanians and believed to have many unhealed wounds from the Turkish Russian wars of last century.

Then in the East is Japan, already on the verge of total victory against the Communists of China, will they consider it wise to move against the Russians whilst Stalin looks West.

It seems unlikely that all three nations will simply sit on the side lines, but when and where will they strike?

Italians continue to pull back in Africa

Italian forces suffered further set-backs in North Africa, as they were forced to withdraw from the outskirts of Benghazi.

The Italians have gained almost total air superiority in North Africa, but lack the forces to take advantage of their air power.

The British launched further attacks upon the Morosini Legion and the 1st Libyan Corp, outflanking their forward defences with armour and motorised infantry, in

the process the British took heavy damage from the growing number of Italian bombers and fighter escorts.

However, even with no air support the British managed to hold their lines enough to break past the Italian defences on two occasions, forcing the Italians to move south.

With little in the way of defences between Benghazi and Tripoli the Italians must fear the loss of their North African Colonies. The only thing stopping the British at the moment appears to be the Italian airforce, but this alone will not halt the British.

GERMANS HOLD

As French troops continue to withdraw to British and French ships in Nantes the German army stopped outside the city and watched.....

German Panzer formations held to the north of Nantes as the French successfully withdrew their HQ and an armoured group through the port to awaiting merchants. It is believed that the Germans are awaiting the arrival of infantry support before attacking the city, but the delay may cost them dearly.

With Brest and Cherbourg now in German hands the British must have concerns for their Atlantic trade routes.

AMERICA V JAPAN

American and Japanese naval forces are believed to have been near to open aggression of the coast of China.

Reports seem to indicate that the Japanese fleet attempted to shadow and monitor a force of American Submarines. In the process they used a number of merchants to hide the actions of their destroyers and attack aircraft.

The shadowing reached a critical point when one of the American Submarines refused to alter course and nearly rammed a Japanese destroyer. Following this near miss the Americans withdrew their force south and the Japanese failed to pursue.

Peking in Danger

Chinese Communist forces appear to be on the verge of occupying the Great city of Peking, using a massed peasant army, against the superior weaponry of the Japanese Empire.

Japanese forces have been sliced apart in and around Peking, forced on the defensive on all fronts. Even the supporting troops sent to relieve the city have been unable to assist. A formation moving from Manchuria has been severely attacked and is itself now in need of relief, unable to progress towards Peking due to the continued pressure placed upon it by the Communist blocking force..

Naval support for the region has also failed to assist, attempted landings by troops at the port of Tientsin failed as the Communists were able to fire on the ships as they approached the harbour, the transports having to divert to alternate ports.

The Communists, thought to be all but destroyed appear to have managed a major come-back, although they have had further set-backs in central China, losing the city of Hsian to the Japanese and Loyang to the Nationalists.

With the Japanese army stretched throughout the continent it will be interesting to see if General Tojo can muster the forces he needs to relieve the city of Peking, should the city fall to Communist hands it is likely to spark a major uprising throughout China, as the Chinese will see that the Great Empire of Japan can be humbled.

Chinese Clash

With the fall of the communists looking more inevitable by the day, the KMT launched an attack north.

The city of Loyang was quickly occupied when retreating Communist forces withdrew in panic falling on the advancing Nationalist and Japanese formations. The city is the first act of betrayal by the KMT and signals the end of the anti-Japanese Pact.

If this is the case then it will be interesting to see how the Japanese, and potentially the Russians and Allies will play their cards in the Chinese Theatre of operations.

Russians Purify Moscow

Reports coming out of Helsinki would seem to indicate that the Russians are in the process of clearing out house.

The city of Moscow is reported by Finnish Radio to be the scene of mass killings of German, Hungarian and Romanian citizens, with the German Embassy having been raised to the Ground by elements of the NKVD, the Communist Elite. Reports of over 500 Axis civilian deaths in the city have been passed to this office.

We are currently attempting to get in contact with our local reporters, but fear for their safety.

Is this truly the sort of ally that the Democratic peoples of the British Empire really want?

U-BOATS STRIKE

What is believed to have been a German formation of u-boats, submarines to our western readers, is reported to have attacked British Channel shipping.

Initial reports indicate that a force of unescorted merchants and transports carrying British troops bound for Africa was attacked by surface raiders at night, taking heavy damage, forcing the remainder of the group to abort their intended operation and return to a British port for security.

The Royal Navy refused to comment on the fact that it was operating troop convoys out of British ports without escort.

US Election looming

With the American Elections only months away the running is wide open. Both the Republicans and the Democrats have failed to spark the American people



Roosevelt

A recent poll shows that the President would take only 32% of the vote, whilst Wilkie would take some 44% of the vote. Much of this low count for the Democrats is blamed on the recent trade debacle with the Japanese Empire which has seen a number of strikes and protests, particularly on the West Coast.

Key areas of the country are proving major battlegrounds for the candidates, with the Continents central states taking a key importance. It was through many of these states that the President carried his campaign this month, trying to highlight the needs of the nation to stand together at this time in history.



Wilkie

SINGAPORE ATTACK

Japanese land and air forces launched a heavy assault upon the Fortress of Singapore, but were beaten off by the garrison forces.

Singapore's defenders held the defence valiantly against combined air and land assault, whilst also waiting for the expected amphibious landing, that never came.

The Japanese Naval Air-force did however inflict heavy damage on the British Anti-Air defences and is believed to have destroyed one of the 4 key batteries at the harbour entrance.



More worryingly is the loss of food and water supplied that are believed to have been hit during the raids. Although the British treat the attack as if this was the final assault it may well be that the Japanese were simply upping their blockade strategy.

If the Japanese continue to inflict this level of loss on the cities, food stores it is likely that the army commander, General Wavell, will be forced to consider a surrender, particularly when you consider the lack of support he has had from either his own Government of the Royal Navy. Only time will tell, but time is rapidly running out for the British.

Japanese Troops in Trouble

Reports are arriving in Europe on a daily basis of Chinese uprisings in cities throughout the continent.

As the situation around Peking becomes more precarious for the Japanese so the peoples of China see that the Japanese can be beaten, at least those in Nanking, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hanchow, Tsinan and many other key cities believe so anyway.

The Japanese have had to expend a lot of their resources in maintaining some residue of peace in the region, and this is becoming increasingly difficult, observers believe that the fall of Peking, which now looks imminent will be the final straw.

“Their Finest Hour”

London and many other British cities, together with Toronto, Delhi, Vancouver, Ontario and a host of Imperial towns came to a halt on the 18th.

August the 18th was the scene of the British Empire’s biggest show of defiance to the German Alliance, yet not a single shot was fired. Throughout Britain parades of troops from the Expeditionary Force paraded through the streets in defiance of the Nazis. In London the crews of the Home Fleet, including some who had recently stood on deck as their own ship sank to the depths of the North Sea, marched from Buckingham Palace to St.



Romanian Fleet Sunk

The Russian navy has had its first naval victory in over 120 years.

The Black Sea Fleet, headed by the Red Banner battleship Oktyabria Revolutsiya engaged the light and aging forces of the Romanian navy off the Bulgarian / Romanian coast, forcing the Romanians out of port to seek battle or destruction at anchor.

The Romanians are reported to not have even managed to get off a single shell against the Russians, who succeeded in destroying the Romanians, before the Russian airforce, tasked with the role of removing this Axis naval threat could even arrive to engage the Romanians.



The Oktyabria Revolutsiya off the coast of Constanza, moving back out to sea.

Paul’s Cathedral.

The Parade was greeted by cheers and flags, members of the Free French Fleet received a special welcome as did a detachment of the Free Polish Army.

The whole parade assembled around St. Paul’s where the King blessed the Servicemen of the Empire and entrusted the lives of every member of British Commonwealth to the hands of each individual Sailor, Soldier and Airmen.

The service was attended by the whole of the Royal Family, plus the government, Governments in Exile, all of the High Commissioners and the Ambassadors of The French Republic, America, Norway, Greece and Russia.

Mr Churchill then stood to deliver a speech that has resounded throughout the Empire, if not the whole of the Free World: These brave men who gave their lives for us knew well that the whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows

that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war. The Russian bear now stirs in the east. While anyone who would oppose the forces of fascism and dictatorship is worthy of our support and prayers, we have a higher calling than simple victory. We fight not only to see the triumph of justice over injustice, and the triumph of democracy over despotism ... we fight for all that is good against the latest incarnation of evil in the world. If we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, and all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new dark age made more sinister, and perhaps more protracted, by the lights of a perverted science. Our victory would give the world the opportunity to see the dawn of a new era of hope and possibility – where we will be as the shining city built high on the hill. Our light will show the world the way.

Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth lasts for a thousand years men will still say ‘This was their finest hour.’

The American Ambassador’s view: “Cometh the hour, cometh the man”



Sailors from the Free French Fleet take part in the London Parade