

Dublin Chronicle

October 31st 1940

Volume 2: Issue 3

DISASTER IN LE HAVRE

Royal Air Force Bombs French City Centre,
Thousands feared dead.

In a move that may cause severe difficulties for the British Government the German Provisional Regime, in Lille, announced that the city of Le Havre has been devastated by British bombers.

The city is a mess t put it lightly, our own reporter have seen nothing on this scale. The RAF confirmed that a Force of Sterling bombers had attacked the Industrial district to the west of Le Havre, and stated that at no time did they target the civil populace.

claim though, they most certainly did destroy thousands of lives. The Industrial complexes remain untouched, but the civilian city centre, has been crushed.

Initial estimates put the death toll at over 10,000, mostly due to the lack of civil protection, those that heard the air raid warnings did not even respond, for who would think that the once ally would turn on the civilian population of an already beaten nation.

The Free French Regime has lodged a formal notice of disgust, whilst the Irish, Dutch and Belgium governments have also been vocal in their discontent at the raid

The local German garrison has been of little support. Following the air raid they secured the industrial district and helped to evacuate one of the inner hospitals, but then withdrew to their barracks and defensive lines, whilst the civil emergency services were totally overwhelmed.

The situation was made a hundred times worse by the destruction of 2 fire stations in the raid and the hitting of the gas terminal beside the rail yard, this, this in turn causing a fire that is believed to have accounted for over half of the casualties.

What ever the British

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With over 1,500 homes destroyed in the fire that followed the air raid the number of refugees in the region has increased dramatically, with no support forthcoming from the Germans, people are lost and alone in a world that seems to attack them from all angles, old enemies, and old friends.

Editorial:

If this is how the British are to wage war then it is this publications desire to it on record that we will publish every atrocity that they commit and ensure that the world sees the horrific nature to which this once Great Nation ahs stumbled.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the peoples of Le Havre.



Artillery Duels in on Border

German and Russian Army formations have resorted to the Russian Front tactics of 1915.

With both sides in this war expecting winter to arrive it would appear that the Riga front has already reached a stalemate, as both Axis and Russians forces settle down into defensive lines in front of their artillery.

It was the Germans who opened the barrage pushing their artillery formations to fire upon the forward elements of the Russian 1st Front Army, it was however the Russians who were able to duck and cover, in their well es-

tablished defenses, soon returning the artillery fire to the Germans, who had to quickly establish some forward defenses, a number of their own units being caught in the open in the initial anti-artillery barrages of the Russian Artillery.

To the south of Riga the Germans made slow progress in their advance on Minsk, with many infantry units resorting to land travel as the German rail network struggled to contend with the mass of German units that are currently on the move.

Minsk still fell to the Germans, as the Russians withdrew from the city, in close order and pulled back towards the Pripet defense line.

Equality in an Empire

For over 100 years the British Army has had a composite force of equal size in the shape of the Indian Army.

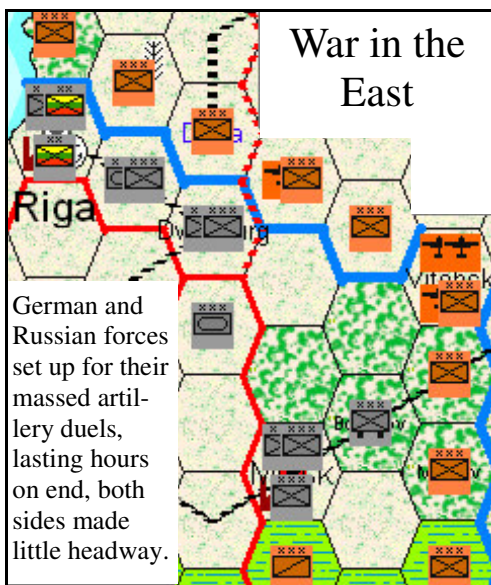
But this Imperial Army has always been treated differently to the European soldiers. The Indians have had to deal with British (white) officers, no possibility of service in the air force and only hope of service in the smaller vessels of the Royal Navy.

What's more all of this was at a 1/4 of the pay of a European soldier or sailor. In a swift move, carried by a unanimous vote in the House, Prime Minister Churchill announced that the Indian Army pay rates would be brought to that of the "Regular Army". In a single move he ended the biggest divide between India

and her Imperial Master.



Churchill on his way to Parliament with the '1940 India Bill'



The only delay the Russians suffered was the arrival of a German paratroop force, originally intended to support previous overrun special forces, who landed to the east of the river defenses and may well be cut off from support by the main German army, a bold move designed to secure the one remaining bridge in the north may well have resulted in the destruction of some of Germany's most elite fighting forces.

We await further outcomes.

Russians hold German advance in South

German forces attempted to secure a safe line in southern Ukraine and appear to have made efforts to secure Kishinev.

Russian forces have however prevented any form of advance by the Germans, cutting the forward elements of their army and turning them. Russian troops are however reported to be in great disarray in the Ukrainian front, our reporter even came across a force of Russian infantry moving south, that had only 2 hours earlier passed him moving north, whilst it is reported in the Swedish press that a Polish formation

supporting the defence of Odessa actually got lost and may have attacked Russian armoured groups in error..

Further south the Russians held Constanza against a week attack by the Bulgarians, although air support was provided the nature of the city prevented any effective use of ground attack units.

The Russians did secure Vinnitsa after a brief action to the west of Kiev, as the Germans were forced to withdraw, unable to muster the numbers to their forward offensive, or defensive lines that Herr Hitler had promised his generals.

Naval Clash of Arms

The British and Italians have once again clashed in the Mediterranean Sea.

Italian submarine forced the first engagement, closing on the British fleets, attacking at dusk, some managing to pull the destroyer forces off to the north whilst others attacked the convoy's rear, damage was taken by HMS Arethusa and hits and a number of merchants sunk in the initial phase of the assault.

Italian air attacks during the day, kept the British escorting carriers busy, although air operations of the carriers was sporadic due to difficult weather conditions. with our carriers providing close support and protection, the Italians taking heavy damage and retiring for the rest of the month.

The British Mediterranean Fleet then turned on the newly identified Italian Squadron, aware that this powerful force of 3 battleships could cause heavy damage to the British convoy, the fleet closed on the Italians.

The Italians held the upper hand, sinking a further two cruisers, with their opening volleys with a series of direct hits on HMS Nelson, taking out her fire direction and bridge, whilst the Nelson was swung around, she encountered the Italian destroyers who raced in with their torpedoes from behind a smoke screen laid by the Italian cruisers, 3 hits and the Nelson soon went over. As the destroyers attempted to break they themselves were caught by the heavy cruisers Devonshire and Shropshire, both inflicting heavy losses on the Italians.

By now the Italians were attempting to withdraw but the British van opened to form two squadrons, in a successful attempt to prevent their escape. The Venetto hit by repeated rounds from the Hood, Royal Oak and Ramillies, exploded as internal fires reached the forward magazines.

The British had taken heavy damage themselves with all of the Battleships having taken hits, the Carriers were meanwhile sitting to the rear, unable to intervene due to the poor weather.

As conditions closed and night approached the Littorio made smoke and managed to out power the British cruisers and destroyers. The Cesare was unable to evade and in a closing action with the British cruisers was sunk by torpedoes from the Ajax, having already destroyed the Dorset, Shropshire and Devonshire in close quarter fire.

FRENCH UNREST

The French government has attempted to pass the blame for their failings in the recent conflict with Germany onto the Jewish Community, to no avail.



Premier Reynaud has opened a storm of protest, mostly verbal, but riots have been reported in Lyon, as he attempted to use heavy handed tactics to deflect his government's failings over recent months.

The pressure placed on the judiciary has come at a bad time, the French are still reeling from their internal split, further compounded by the announcement from Madagascar that they have joined the Free French cause, a surprise move, that has caught both Paris and London off foot.

Leaks from Casablanca and Marseilles have indicated that Paris is in talks with the Germans, a point raised by Reynaud in his recent radio address, fueling further speculation that the Premier is nothing but a collaborator working with the Germans.

Calls for his resignation have grown, but the Premier has stood fast by his views, sighting his belief that France can once again be a strong and mighty nation, equal to the other powers on the continent.

With tension brewing in Syria and a large Free French force in Casablanca the Premier will need to tread carefully if he wishes to see the Republic prosper, for she may still split further asunder.

SYNDEY SHELLED

The Japanese Imperial Fleet continues to harass the beleaguered Australians.

With the British Fleet nowhere to be seen the Japanese appear to have full rain in the south Pacific, after shelling Melbourne last month, they have now moved to shell Sydney.

Although reports of physical damage are few, the mental and political fall out is huge. Reports that the Australian cruiser, Canberra, Hobart and Australia have been ordered to detach from the British Fleet and return to home waters by the Australian government have not been confirmed by the Royal Navy in London.

SAIGON ATTACKED

Japanese fighters and bombers from a carrier task force attacked the Free French city of Saigon.

Reports from the city indicate that the city's airport has been totally destroyed and that a large force of British transports operating in support of Singapore has been eliminated.

This is the first time that the Japanese have openly attacked Free French territories. With the Allies already well stretched this bodes ill.

CONVOY MAULED

Whilst the British Mediterranean Fleet engaged the Italians the remains of the British Convoy passing through the Med' suffered badly.

The Italian submarines are reported to have sunk anywhere between 200,000 and 800,000 dependent on claims made by the British and Italians.

What is clear is that when the British withdrew their main fighting force the convoy was allowed to proceed with a large element of heavy ships, many unsuited for defence of a convoy. The Italians made some heavy kills, with little loss to their own force.

The fight for the Mediterranean is not over yet.

AFRICAN FRONT

War on the African continent is now news, as the Italians and British find a new region of the globe to fight over.

Italian Troops have reportedly destroyed the town of Port Sudan, the reports remain unconfirmed but it appears that Italians may have burnt the town and port to the ground.

What is clear is that the Italians have occupied Nairobi, throwing the British off guard as their advance looked to target Mombassa, The British will now need to pin these Italians in the hope of preventing further destruction.

Reports have also just reached us that a force of British Marines has landed at Mogadishu.

R.N. IN ASIA

The Japanese have spent 4 months goading the British to send their navy to the Pacific Theatre, they may now regret this aggressive attitude.

Last month British submarines accounted for 2 Japanese cruisers, without loss to themselves, now the submarines of the Senior British Service have sunk over 200,000 tons of Japanese shipping, under the very noses of the Imperial Admirals.

The most significant Japanese losses may be a force of Troop carrier destroyed off the coast of China, reports that up to 10,000 Japanese soldiers may have been killed in the attack will go down well in London and Casablanca.

Not to be outdone by the Japanese the British have shelled the northern Japanese city of Hakodate. The Cruisers, London, Cornwall and Sussex are believed to have inflicted heavy damage on the city, at present we are unable to get reporters to the site, but second hand accounts, from the Russian Ambassador indicate massive civil and industrial damage.

When news reached the Australian Parliament there was an impromptu '3 cheers for the Royal Navy'!

SINGAPORE BITES BACK

Conditions in Singapore are very poor, and getting worse each day.

The daily water ration for an adult is 1/4 of a pint, whilst the lack of fresh meat and vegetables is evident by the condition that the local children are in. With water treatment, grain houses and the sanitation destroyed by the Japanese the city has already suffered greatly, now there are growing reports of Typhoid in the western residential part of the city.

In an effort to ease the burden the local garrison launched a raid on the Japanese lines, in force. It would appear that water, grain, medical supplies and none perishables were taken from the Japanese Army, with the Malay Militia bringing in over 100 cattle. Conditions may be temporarily eased a little, but a city of this size can not live on such small offerings.

As the world watches and waits, November must bring the city's surrender, for the sake of the peoples who live within the defences.

CCP Beaten to death

The life of the Communists in China is growing shorter by the day.

Chinese troops have been withdrawing not to their won lines, but from the field of combat all together.

One of our reporters actually watched as the Japanese engaged a company of Chinese infantry to the west of Peking, although around 10 or 20 returned fire, many simply laid down their arms and crawled away.

The miracle was not that the Chinese troops in this skirmish deisolved away, but the the Japanese infantry did not pursue and kill them, something we had expected.

When challenged on his soldiers actions, the local commander, Captain Hio Siotu told us that there was little point in prosecuting the war against a beaten enemy.

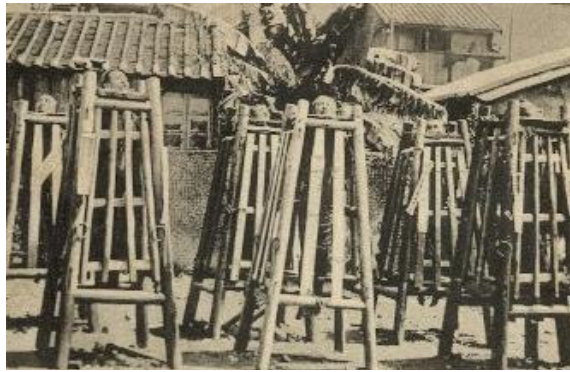


He went on to outline how by chasing after these ex Communist Troops he would simply be giving the others a reason to fight, the Japanese have no need to fight Chinese citizens without arms.

Had this been an isolated incident

then one could say the Japanese were playing to the reporters, but this has happened throughout the northern front. Current estimates put some 500,000 to 1 million Communist Troops as having simply dissolved back into their communities, going back to their fields, or work shops.

One horror sight in the mountains to the north west of Peking were death cages, built by the Chinese Communists to house Japanese prisoners.



These cages, large enough to house a single man, if he bent double or crouched held horrific sights.

When the compound was stormed we saw 48 such cages, with all but 3 containing a dead or serious ill Japanese soldier. One, containing an officer had the poor fellow strung upside down inside, with his knees acting as hooks to keep him hanging there.

We have to report that the Japanese attacking force took no prisoners from the Communist Garrison, but who can blame them, the sight was by far the most horrific ever seen.

To the south the Japanese made a lightweight attack on the Nationalist lines with no success, whilst the KMT was able to secure some of the lost ground from the previous months.

Italians loose Libya

British forces have continued their remarkable drive on Tripoli.

With the last line of Italian defence pushed aside with ease the 2nd Army started a race towards Tripoli, the Italian airforce only just managing to get most of its aircraft out of the way of the rapidly advancing British and South African Formations.

With the Italian navy now destroyed and the British on the verge of Tripoli the Axis must surely accept that their North African adventure is over, having lost some 15 divisions in recent weeks and over 300 aircraft the Italians seem to be finished once and for all.

American elections loom

With a matter of weeks to go the US Electison are getting heated.

The current trend of blasting their opponents has done little to inspire public opinion and it was the Rosevelt camp that came to notice the mood swing first and shifted their campaign to positive issues, focusing on the successes of the last 8 years.

Worries are growing for the health of both men, notably the President. Both candidates have run a hectic schedule and travelled the length and breath of the States, but both now look exhausted.

This month once again saw whistle stop tours by both candidates to all corners of the Untied States.