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BRITISH AND JAPANESE NAVIES SLUG IT OUT

With the fall of Singapore the Japanese must have felt that the Royal Navy would no longer even attempt to enter the Pacific Rim, but oh were they wrong.

A Royal Naval task force centered on the battleships; Malaya, Renown, Warspite and Valiant entered the Singapore straits, via the Straits of Sumatra to engage the Japanese Imperial Fleet early on the 18th.

The British forces, protected by the Carrier Hermes and a raft of Cruisers, including the County Heavy units, Norfolk, Sheffield, Newcastle, Birmingham and Glasgow, plus other cruisers and destroyers made good headway.

Waiting for them was the Combined Japanese Imperial Fleet, centered on the Carriers, Hoshō, Akagi, Kaga, Shōhō, supported by some 9 battleships, 3 light carriers and over 40 cruisers and destroyers.

It was the Japanese Carriers that launched the first attack, with over 120 bombers, and light attack aircraft falling on the British force,



HMS Hermes, sunk by Japanese Carrier bombers.

who put up a hail of anti-air fire.

The Japanese did manage some key success though, sinking the Hermes and severely damaging the Valiant, which as she attempted to bring fires under control erupted in a ball of flames as the fires reached the forward magazine, loss of life on the ship was reported as total, with no survivors being picked up by the cruisers that steamed to her aid.

As this attack ensued the British launched a surprise assault of their own on the enemy, with a force of submarines attacking the Japanese battlefleet, scoring hits on at least 4 of the enemy's capital ships, but being forced to withdraw as they pressed home their attacks.

With the weather closing many of the Japanese aircraft were unable to find their carriers and ditched. All the time the remains of the British force pressed on, confident that they were facing a predominantly carrier based group, that now would have lost most of its protection.

It was mid day when the Japanese battleships opened their guns on the British task force, the Kirishima, Mutsu, Ise and Hyuga providing the first volleys as the British attempted to close the range further.

The British had already taken 3 volleys of fire from the Japanese before



HMS Sheffield races on to confront the Japanese battle line.

they swung to bear on the Japanese fleet, whilst the cruisers pressed on towards the enemy line.

The Japanese soon had the range on the Malaya who was hit by a total of 10 rounds, soon floundering in the open seas, with only two operational battleships left, and only 30 minutes into the main action the British took the decision to withdraw, the cruisers turning at speed and opening with torpedoes, this having the effect of disrupting the Japanese line and scoring a total of 14 hits on enemy ships, as this action continued the submarines of the RN came to aid with a surface attack forcing the Japanese to further divide their force to deal with the rear guard attack.

As this progressed the Cruisers and destroyers of the RN made smoke allowing the bulk of the fleet to escape back through the Straits, the Malaya being scuttled by her Captain.

British drive continues

The British army contineud to push north towards Tunis.

With Tripoli in their hands the British now start to press north, but suffered a minor defeat when the remaining Italians attempted to stand their ground.

It is believed that this stand will be short lived, as the British appear prepared for another major push, which will surely see them in Tunis by the close of January.

Further south the Italian 19th and 20th Corps appear to be attempting to mass in the Sudan region.

British troops having retaken Nairobi and Port Sudan, as well as captured the strategic city of Asmara. It also appears that the city of Addis Ababa may also have surrendered to the allies, although this has yet to be confirmed by the British or Italian governments.

Germans introduce food rationing.

The German interior ministry this week announced that the whole of the German Nation will start a food rationing program.

The announcement has caught many Germans off balance, already having to deal with rationing of petrol and heating fuels they must now face a cut in their diets.



The news followed hot on the heels of a speech in which Hitler was to all intents and purposes attacking Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister.

China Front Stable

Chinese and Japanese forces appear to be stabilizing their fronts, after months of bitter exchanges.

The war in China is far from over, but both of the remaining powers appear to be preparing for a time of replenishment. The whole front was reported as quiet as both nations stepped troops to a more defensive standing.

Only in the far north was their action. Here Japanese infantry fought bitter hand to hand actions against the last of the CCP troops, the Japanese taking heavy losses, but unable to finish off the Communists.

In the south word has reached us that the Communist capital of Hsian has once again risen against the Japanese, whilst the city of Canton has also fallen to civil unrest, both of these cities drawing in large number of garrison troops.

Hitler's Speech

"Last month the British PM Winston Churchill held two speeches to the British Empire and the rest of the World. Her is my personal answer as the German Reichkansler and Führer.

First, let us start with the speech of the 5th of November. He speaks about defeat, and that is right, Great Britain isn't in good shape. But, are they defeated? No, not yet and they don't have to be defeated either. IF, they only signed a peace treaty with us. Our peace terms must be well known by them and the rest of the world now, but I will repeat them anyway: No land to be given to any country. No war reparations paid to any country. A complete exchange of prisoners of war and all dead servicemen. A complete normalisation of the diplomatic relationship between our two countries.

Free trade, without restrictions.

We think our terms are fair, to be honest we think they are more then fair, but we have no claim to any part of the British Empire, but we hope to buy our old colonies back after the war. He also claims that the British Empire is in mortal danger. "Mortal danger"??? The only mortal danger that they, and, when I say they, I mean

all the countries in the British Commonwealth are facing is from Mr Churchill himself!! He is the only "thing" standing between a peace between Germany, Italy and all our allies. Sooner or later they will be force to sign a peace treaty. Because sooner or later they will run out of ships.

The second speech from 17th of November. I don't really know what to say except that he, the British PM is a liar if he includes Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Hungary or Romania in this speech regarding the treatment of POWs. We have invited all the press in the world to come to see for themselves how we treat our POWs. Churchill explicitly forbade all journalist from any country in the Commonwealth to come to Germany and see. We treat our POW in full accordance with international law! Even the POWs from the Soviet Union are treated with full respect for international law too! We still don't know why he forbade them to come to us, but, we have our suspicions about this. It might be like this, Germans can't be seen doing something good. That would destroy the image of us savage brutes that he desperately tries to plant into peoples minds!"

Singapore - The crime!

The City of Singapore is now all but destroyed by the Japanese Empire, with reports of over 40,000 deaths due to disease and murder.

Japanese troops have spent weeks destroying the infrastructure of the city with artillery and mortar fire, whilst they tore up the water system and killed of the local plantations. Now they have forced the garrison to surrender they blame the British for the cities plight.

Japanese soldiers are wandering the streets killing the innocent and helping the spread of Typhus, Cholera and Malaria, by failing to provide any form of Medical relief. With reports that they are even using the POWs for slave labour, killing those on the spot who fail to do enough work, the Japanese truly are proving that it is better to fight them to the end than to surrender to these barbarians.

With food stocks sitting in storage on the dock fronts, the local garrison feasts and rapes the western women in their drunken orgy, whilst the local populace dig around eating rats, grass and other local vegetation, with no cover for themselves, thousands die each day through malnutrition and exposure.

NO, Japan has no honor, no right to be part of the community of nations, they are once again proving themselves to be the evil sub-humans that we all know they are.
Marshall Walter (Calcutta)

Western War

The War in Western Europe seems to be drifting into one of submarines and bombers.

The RAF again used its extensive bomber fleet to hit key strategic ports on the Occupied Atlantic Coast. With Nantes, Brest and Lorient all hit by British bombers it would seem that the Western Army and the Navy are looking around at the vastly "missing" Luftwaffe.

Reports indicate that the combined raids may have accounted for up to 200 aircraft and 30 submarines from the German order of battle, with no loss.



RAF Hampdens, returning home.

It has not all been easy going for the Allies though, German sources have claimed a further 150,000 tons of Allied shipping in the North Atlantic.

Singapore - The shame!

The Great City of Singapore is now in the hands of the Japanese Empire, after months of bitter fighting by both sides.

The city is a mess, with the water system destroyed by the Japanese attackers; there is little or no fresh water for the cities population, the POWs or the Japanese themselves, add to this the damage to the city's food stocks and the harbor, both destroyed by the British hours before the surrender and the Japanese have a thankless task on their hands.

I have stood on the harbor, and for the last 5 days, I have had no formal escort, as I have in the past 7 weeks, and watched the Japanese naval transport and assault ships ferry ashore supplies of medicine and food, that represents nothing more than a drop in the ocean of the cities needs, oh yes, there are plenty of ships, Dutch, American and many Japanese, but they can not unload, many can not even enter the harbor for the hulks that lie in it, and the core damage to the port structure, caused by Royal Marine engineers.

As a war reporter I can more than understand the British efforts to destroy the structure of the city that could be of value to the Japanese, but as a human I look now at the cost of this damage.

Yesterday I witnessed 3 Japanese medics, supported by 5 or 6 soldiers, trying to provide morphia and anti-malaria medication to a hospital with more that 300 British POWs, they were supported by a small group of British doctors, one, Major Joseph Ryan of the Queens Own Lancashire; had nothing but praise for the 3 young medics, who had actually left the hospital the day before and stolen the medication from one of there own field hospitals, had they been caught, lord only knows what there punishment would have been.

But one suspects that such actions are now common place throughout the region, I have heard today from a Swedish reporter that the 4th Marine Battalion has handed over much of its tentage in order to help house families with no protection, this at a time when the local weather conditions are simply appalling, wind and rain lashing the city 24 hours a day.

Yes the situation here is grim, and it will get worse, but who is to blame, the British for their destruction before the surrender? No, they did what was required in war. The Japanese, for their attack upon the city and subsequent conquest? No, they did not know they would inherit a city in this state. Then who? Churchill and Fumimako spring to mind. Taylor Jones (Singapore)