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FRENCH SURRENDER TO GERMANY FOR SECOND TIME

The French Provisional Government has announced that as of the 12th of April 1941 the French Army, Navy and Airforce had unconditionally surrendered to Germany.

After a quick 2 months of open conflict the last vestiges of French independence were swept aside by the might of the German Army.

With the close of hostilities the nation of has been totally swept from the map of Europe, with Northern and Central France now being classed as the Western Occupied Territories, controlled by Germany, whilst the south has been split in half between Spain and Italy, the Spanish now able to turn their attention to Portugal.

The French Army having literally been faught to the ground, finally lost all hope when the British completed the evacuation of their relief force from La Rochelle, on a day that saw the capture of the French Army HQ south of Paris, by German Paratroops.

With news of fresh German forces entering the theatre and the departure of the British Fleet from the Biscay region the remains of the French army and airforce laid down their arms.

At sea the situation was somewhat



French troops near Bordeaux hear of their governments surrender.

confused, key elements of the French Fleet sailed into Nice and Genoa as per their surrender terms, whilst a number of cruisers and other vessels have been seen entering Allied ports.

Hitler Moves in the East Russians rocked by initial German thrusts

With war on the west coming into its closing blows the German Army in the East has started its biggest push ever.

With A general push apparent along the whole of the Ukrainian Front, German troops have managed to push back Soviet lines in key places and start their drive towards the key cities of Kiev and Kharkov.

In the north the Soviet 11th Army took a heavy beating as German infantry supported by local air power lead the way pushing from the depths of the Pripet Marshes

and catching the sleeping bear un-awares in its flank.

A deeper breakthrough has been achieved in the south, where elements of a Panzer division have penetrated deep behind Soviet lines, having split the Soviets wide open.

Soviet infantry quickly broke and fled the lines, with Polish troops covering their rear. In bitter fighting the Germans and Poles took no prisoners, but it was the Germans, with overwhelming armoured and air support that forced the issue, reports indicate that less than 1,000 Poles survived the final stand by



German infantry advancing from the Pripet Marshes.

the PEF Mechanised Corps.

With the front broken the time is ripe for the Germans to swing around the Soviet rear, can the Soviets however blunt this attack and turn the tide?

Tangiers retaken by Allies

Allied troops have again occupied the city of Tangiers.

With French troops linking up with the French North African Corps the Allies have started to push east along the coast road. Bone has proven their first target, but defended well by Italian Armour the French have been unable to make much headway.

Italians drive south

British 2nd Army were caught off guard as the Italian Army in North Africa, launched its first offensive in over a year

British troops had only recently occupied Gabes but were soon in retreat as Italian armour pushed forward. Only by sheer good fortune did the British avoid having their flank turned.

With an increased determination on the Italian side to hold their North African colonies and the release of their troops from war in Europe the British gains in recent months now look shaky, an extended supply line proving to be a major Achilles' heel for the British.



Italian Armour moves forward. German PzIV tank proving more than equal to the British forces in the region.

Lowland Nations fight for their survival.

Holland and Belgium must be regretting their decisions to support France. With France now gone, the Germans have shifted massive force against the two tiny nations.

Although the RAF has used its forces to support the Dutch and Belgium defenses, they have done so half-heartily, the German air force having almost total control of the skies, regardless of British and Allied efforts.

In London news of over 300 fighter losses, to Canadian, British and Free French forces was met with horror, the RAF unable to find a way of dealing with the latest models of German fighters.

News from Belgium was nothing but worry for the Allies, the Belgium army withdrawing towards Brussels and Antwerp, lost contact with the coastal regions as a German Armoured group supported by infantry raced up the coast cutting all links to Antwerp and the Dutch, German troops entering southern Holland from the Belgium border on the 25th of the month.

As the Belgians prepared to defend their capital news came in of the disaster around Arnhem in Holland.

North of the city, Dutch troops had launched an attack across the border towards Hungarian lines, the Hungarians allowed the Dutch to come on at them whilst German paratroops crossed the border and marched south occupying Groningen and then attacking the Dutch in the rear.

As these five divisions prepared to pull south, news reached them that the city of Arnhem was being pounded from the air by the Luft-



One of the few new model German fighters shot down over Holland.

waffe and that a large German Armoured force was advancing on the city, in an effort to hold the Germans the river crossings were destroyed, but having already secured the rail bridge and two other southern bridges the Germans broke across and encircled the remaining Dutch formation, all surrendering by the close of the month.

The Lowlands are now left defending their Capitals, with Brussels totally encircled and most of the Dutch army trapped in the south or surrendered the situation looks irreversible.

The deciding factor in this action has been the ability of the Germans to move quickly and with overwhelming force, whilst providing continued top class fighter aircraft to their pilots, this combination has now seen the demise of France and the destruction of the Lowlands.



Dutch troops destroy the Arnhem road bridge in a last effort to hold the German advance, to now avail.

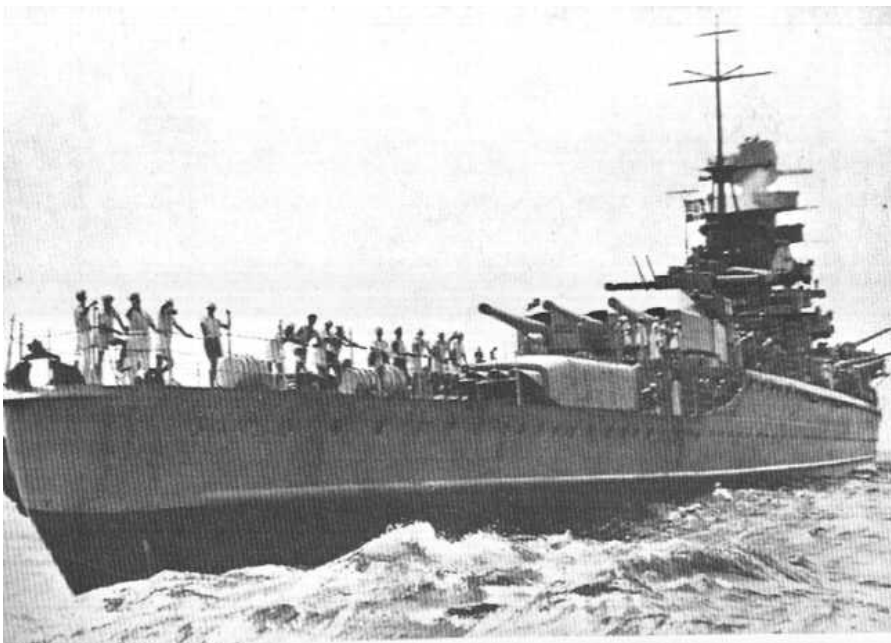
US Merchants Sunk

German naval raiders have had a fruitful month, sinking around 450,000 tons of British shipping but also taking out 150,000 tons of American flagged shipping.

British losses continue to mount on a monthly basis, as German surface raiders and submarines continue to strike at the heart of the British supply lines. But now the Germans have delivered an ominous message.

In a brief statement Herr Hitler announced that the American Government needed to make a choice. It had decided to support one side in the European war, the Allies, whilst embargoing the other, the Axis, this was in clear violation of the laws of neutrality, something the Americans seemed to want the world to adhere to, but not themselves.

Because of this two faced argument German naval assets have been ordered to eliminate any US flagged merchants trading with the British



The Admiral Sheer, at large in the Western Atlantic.

Turks pull back

Turkey has reduced tension on their borders with a withdrawal of forces from the Greek border.

Siamese Brace

The people of Bangkok are braced for an attack by the British.

British, Indian and Australian troops have managed to work through the jungle and are now poised to attack the Siamese capital which appears poorly supported by their Japanese allies.

Isles. No US merchants trading with a neutral nation are effected, and should the United States opt to trade with the Axis then this course of action will be avoided.

Hitler went on to express his disappointment at such an action, but stated that this was in no way an act of war, simply a preservation of the rights of piracy, first established by the Americans some 120 years ago.

As yet, there has been no statement from Washington.

Japanese grind to a halt

The Japanese have had what must be their worst two months of the war for some time.

Their attacks around Hanoi have now ground to a halt, strikes north towards Lungchow have been beaten back and there looks no end to the defence of Indo China by the combined French and Chinese forces.

Having taken two months to secure the air over the region the Japanese infantry have been hard pressed to take either of the key cities, now outnumbered by allied troops the options look bleak for this amphibious operation.

Elsewhere Chinese airpower has started to turn the tide, with British and American model aircraft more than holding their own against the far more experienced Japanese pilots.

The easy times appear over for Japan, they may well now need to look at how they are waging war, China appears to have sorted out her act, with some help from her western friends.

With talk of a British attack upon Siam and relief forces on route from Australia and Europe the defenders of Indo China are confident that they will turn the tide.



American and British pilots take to the air to defend southern China