

THE TIMES

August 31, 1941

NAZIS PUSHED OUT OF PORTUGAL!

By A.S. Thompson (Lisbon):

The past month saw elements of the 2nd Army drive the Nazis and the Spanish fascists from Portugal. In the north, elements of the Portuguese Army secured Porto and drove elite German forces back to the Spanish frontier. In central Spain, the 20th Mechanised Corps and the 11th Armoured Corps conducted a determined defense against the German 3rd Heavy Panzer Corps, holding a line along on the banks of the Tago. Over 30,000 Spanish prisoners were taken in central Spain by the men of the 1st Canadian Mechanised Corps. In the south, the 16th Mechanized Corps and the 21st Mechanised Corps smashed a German Armoured Corps and routed a Spanish force to Cartagena. In a decisive move, the way to Valencia is now clear. It is anticipated that the remaining Axis forces in southern Spain will be cut off from supplies and from reinforcement in the near future. Over 20,000 German prisoners were taken in the south, swelling the number of Axis POWs on the Peninsula to well over 100,000. Well done lads! Keep the Hun on the run!

ITALIANS SURROUNDED AND ROUTED IN AFRICA!

By Harold Rawlings (Tripoli)

This past month saw a decisive breakthrough by elements of 2nd Army under General Montgomery of Italian lines in the desert on the border of Libya and Tunisia. The men of the 3rd Corps, 15th Mechanised Corps, and 6th Armoured Corps broke the Italian lines in a series of furious attacks and proceeded to advance northwest into Tunisia. Their action forced the surrender of 3 Italian infantry divisions --- amounting to

over 36,000 men. The surviving Italian forces fled north with our lads hot on their heels. Sources in 3rd Corps report that the Italian 131st Armoured Div. has been surrounded and is immobile for lack of fuel. It is estimated that this prize Italian division will soon be spending the remainder of the war in the relative comfort of British captivity as prisoners of war.

In northern Tunisia, Free French forces easily repulsed an Italian attack and are poised to continue their drive on to Tunis from the west. With the action of the combined Allied fleets keeping any supplies from reaching the Italian forces in Africa, their remains days upon the continent are no doubt few in number.

H.M. AND INDIA HONOUR HONG KONG HEROES!!!

By F.S. Caldwell (Calcutta):

India gave a boisterous welcome to the members of the Hong Kong Provisional Brigade who proudly marched into Calcutta under the skirl of the pipes to the cheers of crowd estimated at over four hundred thousand. The bravery and fortitude of these men against extreme odds are an inspiration to all peoples of the Empire! We, the free world, who refuse to bow down to the forces of fascism and despotism.

Following the parade, the Viceroy presented Victoria Crosses to Sir Alexander McLeod, Governor of the Crown Colony of Hong Kong, Lt. Col. T.L. Baker-Finch of the Green Howards, and Sir Patrick Hutchison, Chief Commissioner of the Royal Hong Kong Constabulary. In addition, 46 members of the unit were inducted into the Distinguished Service Order, 122 Military Crosses were awarded, and 641 Conspicuous Gallantry Medals were also awarded. These men of the Hong Kong Provisional Brigade, who fought hard for freedom and courageously demonstrated the words of Mr. Churchill, "never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never, never ... Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy" have made the whole of the British Empire proud!

Indian Army sources confirm that the unit will continue to soldier on after receiving some well deserved leave. We at the Times are pleased to hear that and wish them well.

IN BRIEF

TIRPITZ SUNK AND GALLANT COMMANDER OF RICHELIEU HONOURED!!!

As has been extensively reported over the BBC for the past two weeks, elements of Home Fleet engaged and destroyed the Nazi raider Tirpitz on the 20th of August. The Free French Battleship Richelieu courageously opened the attack in Concert with elements of Convoy Group Before Home Fleet arrived, trading salvo after salvo Of main battery fire with the Nazi monster.

As a result of the this intrepid action the Tripitz was reduced in speed and with a 6% list to starboard with her Y battery out of action. The Richelieu then continued to engage until she and the rest of Home Fleet finished off this German raider. Tragically, the Richelieu was lost to enemy U-boats while attempting to rendezvous with Home Fleet after the action.

In recognition of the valour and devotion to duty of the men of The Richelieu, her commanding officer, Rear Admiral Rene de Mountfoucault Was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously by His Majesty while the Free French Government awarded the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour to this Brave and gallant officer.

ICELAND LIBERATED!

The 33rd Strathclyde Division landed at Reykjavik to a warm and enthusiastic Welcome of the Icelandic people. Though remote, swift and combined action by 1st Army And the Royal Navy have denied this island to the enemy and insured that the people of Iceland will continue to enjoy freedom and democratic government.

NAZIS INVADE YUGOSLAVIA AND TURKEY!

Once again the Nazis have attacked a nation without warning And without a declaration of war. The Kingdom of Yugoslavia was attacked on this month and though reports are still coming in, the capital of Belgrade remains in the hands of the Yugoslav government. We wish them well in their fight for freedom and urge them To join collection of free peoples fighting to resist Nazi tyranny.

Recent reports indicate that the Nazis have also violated the Territory of Republic of Turkey. More news as it develops.