

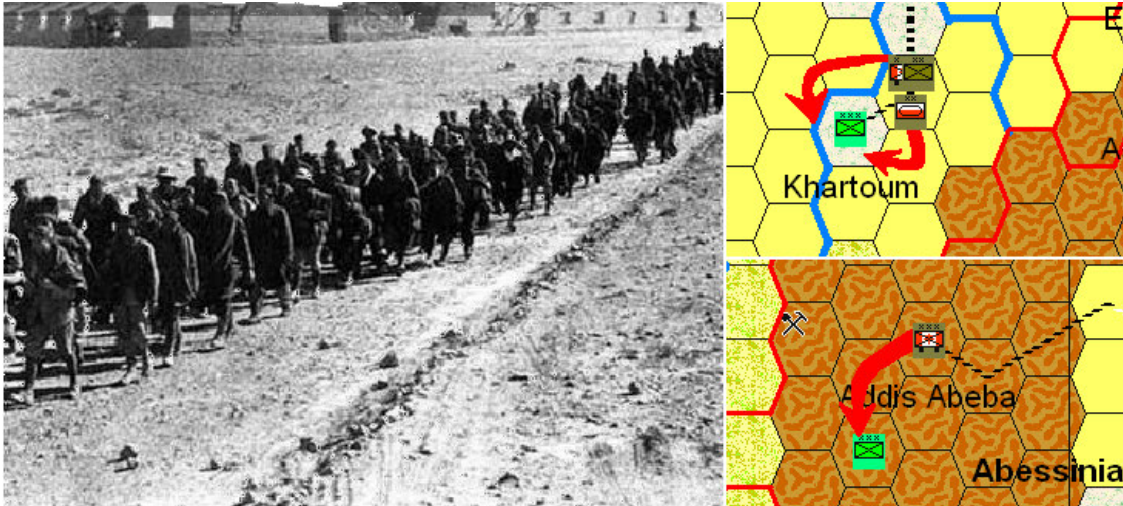
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# THE TIMES

February 28, 1941

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## EAST AFRICA IS OURS! ITALY GIVEN THE BOOT



48,000 Italians joined a POW camp in Sudan

By T.J. Dawson  
(Addis Ababa)

This past month saw formations of the Canadian Army in close cooperation with Free Polish forces eliminate the last vestiges of Italian resistance in East Africa. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Corps accepted the surrender of the Italian 20<sup>th</sup> Corps in western Ethiopia. The enemy troops were hardly an impressive lot – most of the 25,000 who surrendered had not eaten for three days despite their best efforts to steal the property of private citizens. In fact Maj. Q. Ralph Thomas, RMC observed, “many of these fellows are clearly suffering the effects of prolonged malnutrition. They should thank their lucky stars that despite their actions against civilians in Kenya that we British are a just and compassionate people.” Indeed from what this correspondent was able to observe, the overwhelming majority of those captured seem positively thrilled at the prospect of spending the remainder of the war in British custody. As one Italian Captain remarked in passable English, “Mussolini is disaster. My men and I ... we a starve for months. We happy to have food and no fight no more.”

Wire reports of the surrender of the Italian 19<sup>th</sup> Corps at Khartoum was a much more sombre occasion as the surrendering forces had to be placed under close guard by

elements of the Free Polish Combined Armoured Group and the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Corps. Given the recent atrocities committed by the Italians against the civil populace at Khartoum, it is a testimony to the restraint and respect for the rule of law of the Imperial subjects of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan that not a single case of battery was experienced by any Italian attempting to surrender. An additional 23,000 of the enemy surrendered at Khartoum --- bringing the total to over 48,000 for the month of February.

There can be no doubt now that Italy's dreams of Empire have died in the dusty arid landscape of East Africa.

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## JAPANESE ATTACK AMERICAN MERCHANTS!

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Admiral Sir Pound and Mr Churchill in London

By J.A. Blake  
(Sydney)

Over twelve American flagged merchants were attacked by Japanese submarines on their way to Manila from San Francisco this past month. American sources in Washington report that American trade between San Francisco

and Manila has been affected only slightly. The response of the Admiralty and of the Prime Minister to this underhanded and dastardly attack was immediate. Admiralty spokesman, Captain H.M. Hill, RN, on behalf of their Lordships "conveyed to our friends in the United States the deepest condolences and best wishes of the Royal Navy." He then went on to state, "I have been instructed by the Prime Minister to forward all RN Pacific dispatch traffic, logs, and combat reports, along with a small stock of our torpedoes which the Technical Office believes should be sufficient to conclusively demonstrate that the torpedoes that struck the American vessels were Japanese in origin." The Prime Minister was even more blunt when he announced to the Empire to the United States, "Our condolences go across the ocean to our cousins on the far side of the Atlantic. We have already witnessed the base and duplicitous nature of the Japanese – first in China, then Hong Kong and most recently at Singapore. They flaunt the laws of civilised warfare – particular Article I of the Third Hague Convention, relative to the opening of hostilities at every opportunity. I have offered my personal assurances to President Roosevelt that His Majesty's Government and Armed Forces shall do everything in their power to assist the United States Navy in uncovering the truth. Here we are together facing a group of mighty foes who seek our ruin; here we are together defending all that to free men is dear. I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American peoples will for their own safety and for the good of all walk together side by side in majesty, in justice, and in peace."

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## WHERE WILL JAPANESE AMBITION END?

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The Japanese Army, in their unbounded ambition, has attacked the people of Indo-China. Not satisfied with the inhuman war they are fighting against the heroic people of China, they have decided to attack yet another innocent city.

They took profit of the lack of garrison of Haiphong, a pacific city made of innocent fishermen. They have launched their bloodthirsty dogs of war in an attempt to destroy the democracy and peace that was prevalent in that part of the world. It is the logical suite of Japanese politics.

How understand, otherwise, the dispraising manipulation of the innocent government of Siam? How interpret otherwise their declaration of war? A country that the British Empire had always respected, whose friendship and commercial relationship our government has actively promoted?

Indeed, the Siamese country has heard traitor's sounds, has listened to the foolish words of a man blinded by power and ambition, by a man that has been

ruling Japan and spilling the blood of innocents and soldiers all alike. Siam has only to loose, they will only gain time to Japan and will sacrifice the lives of their soldiers for a lost cause. People of Siam, withdraw your declaration of war. Keep your independence, your industries and your strength!

The British Empire will never accept defeat to military empowerment and dictatorship, and will always be at the side of their allies. They will never let their populations in the hands of barbarians, whose atrocities have been documented and showed to the world! The 12th Corps of the valiant France Libre, in an act of love for their country, democracy and people of Indo-China, decided to resist and refused to let the civilians of Hanoi fall in the hands of the Japanese invader. The atrocities committed by the Imperial army in Singapore are still fresh in the minds of people around the world. The evacuation of the city has already started and the protection of the basic infrastructures of the city is a main concern.



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## IN BRIEF

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### France

President Reynard's government has fallen. The military have taken control of the country, presumably to put a halt to the collaborationist politic of Reynard and reinforced the front against Spain. However, on the verge of breaking his peace treaty with France, Hitler has massed around 30 divisions close to the demarcation line. Several divisions of the ruthless *Waffen SS* have been reported preparing for an attack south of Paris...

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Russia

Joseph Stalin was killed in strange circumstances early this month. Mr. Lavrenti Beria has replaced Mr. Stalin as secretary general of the communist party, position held by the latter since 1922. Mr. Beria was himself appointed head of the NKVD by Stalin in 1938 and supervised the latter stage of the 1930's great purges.

Rumours of a coup d'état instigated by Marshall G. Zhukov and close associates have not been confirmed. Marshall Zhukov still holds the position of Soviet armed forces' chief of staff.

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### Indochina

A Japanese invasion fleet landed several divisions of marines and an infantry corps south of Hanoi. RAF groups were able to inflict severe damage to enemy air and naval units. Morale in Hanoi is high.

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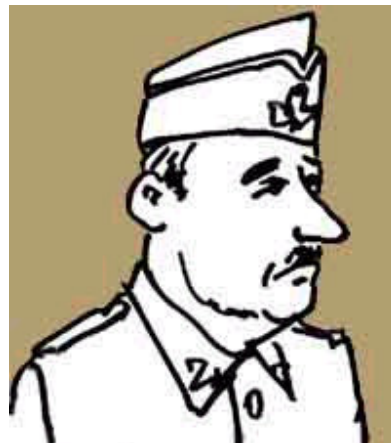
### Mediterranean

Air Marshall Newall, accompanied by Free French and Polish representatives conducted a tour of the theatre, stopping at Lisbon and meeting the Portuguese government on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The tour included visits to frontline units in Tunisia, the inspection of Gibraltar's fortress and Egypt's defences.

CIGS' visit in Tripoli coincided with a successful polish raid on Italian vessels: Polish bombers inflicted crippling losses on an Italian submarine pack operating off the Libyan coast. Eight submarines hit the bottom while several more have been reported severely damaged.

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### Franco's War



The *Forces Françaises Libres* have captured the strategic harbour of Tangiers: the light Spanish formation garrisoning the town rapidly surrendered to General Delattre's armoured forces. In the south of France, faced with the Spanish army was forced to withdraw and abandon terrain paid a high price in blood the previous month. The fascists now align only 12-15 divisions against 20-25 republican French. On the Atlantic coast, the remnants of the Spanish amphibious attack of January were pocketed and destroyed near La Rochelle. The French Navy also stood off Cadiz and shelled the port and its contents; heavy damage to the port and 300,000 tones of Spanish shipping were reported destroyed.