
THE TIMES

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PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES ALLIED AMBASSADORS AND DOMINION HIGH COMMISSIONERS

By T.G.P. Ferguson

On the Eighteenth of June, the Prime Minister met with the Ambassadors of the Allied Powers and the Dominion High Commissioners in the Palace of St. James to strengthen the bonds of unity and amity in our fight for freedom and democracy. Prime

Minister Churchill gave a rousing address that was broadcast to all points of the Empire and of the world via the BBC World Service:

In the twenty-second month of the war against Nazism and Despotism we meet here in this old Palace of St. James's in order to proclaim the high purposes and resolves of the lawful constitutional Governments of Europe whose countries have been overrun; and we meet here also to cheer the hopes of free men and free peoples throughout the world. Here before us on the table lie the title-deeds of the nations whose soil has been invaded and polluted, and whose men, women, and children lie prostrate or writhing under the Hitler yoke. But here also, duly authorised by the Parliament and democracy of Britain, are gathered the servants of the ancient British Monarchy and the accredited representatives of the British Dominions beyond the seas, of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, of the Empire of India, of Burma, and of our Colonies in every quarter of the globe. They have drawn their swords in this cause. They will never let them fall till life is gone or victory is won. Here we meet, while from across the Atlantic Ocean the hammers and lathes of the United States signal in a rising hunt their message of encouragement and their promise of swift and ever-growing aid.

We are here to affirm and fortify our union in that ceaseless and unwearied effort which must be made if the captive peoples are to be set free. A year ago His Majesty's Government was left alone to face the storm, and to many of our friends and enemies alike it may have seemed that our days too were numbered, and that Britain and its

institutions would sink for ever beneath the verge. But I may with some pride remind your Excellencies that, even in that dark hour when our Army was disorganised and almost weaponless, when scarcely a gun or a tank remained in Britain, when almost all of our stores and ammunitions had been lost in France, never for one moment did the British people dream of making peace with the conqueror, and never for a moment did they despair of the common cause. On the contrary, we proclaimed at that very time to all men, not only to ourselves, our determination not to make peace until every one of the ravaged and enslaved countries was liberated and until Nazi and Japanese domination was broken and destroyed.

This, then, is the message which we send forth today to all the States and nations, bond and free, to all the men in all the lands who care for freedom's cause, to our allies and well-wishers in Europe, to our American friends and helpers drawing ever closer in their might across the ocean: this is the message – Lift up your hearts. All will come right. Out of the depths of sorrow and sacrifice will be born again the glory of mankind.

Highly placed sources report that the private sessions were productive and amicable, with each nation exchanging their views on how the current war against fascism and despotism should proceed. Our enemies should realise that they will never succeed in breaking the strong ties that bind us together in the cause of freedom.

SPRINGBOKS SIGHTED IN THE MIDLANDS!

By H.W. Hilty

This reporter did indeed see thousands of Springboks in the Midlands this past month – though all were participating in training manoeuvres with tanks. The men of the 1st South African Armoured Division are completing their final months of training with their tanks and will soon join in the fight against Nazism and despotism. The spirits of these tan strapping men of the veldt were high and this reporter had the opportunity to speak with the Commanding Officer of the 1st South African Armoured Division, Maj. General Fredrik P.W. de Klerk who stated, “my men and I while pleased to be training here in the Midlands are eager to complete our work and join our fellow countrymen on the front lines. We have been warmly received by the local communities here and will remember our time in England fondly. We will do our bit and pitch in to defeat the Fascists.”

The whole of the Empire should be proud of these men – who have traveled half way across the world to take up the weapons of war to defend the liberty and values we all hold so dear. South African forces are engaged with the 2nd Army in Africa and in the fighting in Iberia and have fought with bravery and valour at every turn. The men of the 1st South African Armoured Division will no doubt add another chapter to the distinguished accomplishments of their countrymen on the battlefield against the enemies of freedom and democracy.

THE LIFE OF A FRENCH SOLDIER

French ace French air crews in Many countries and many people are fighting at the sides of our troops. Brave soldiers that are scattered around the four corners of the World in such locations as Hanoi, Tripolis, Lisbon or Delhi. Among all the people that are fighting against fascism and imperialism at our sides, one of the less well known are the French.



French ace, Pierre Closterman

This country was at our side since the beginning of our campaigns. They have been one of the firsts to suffer the atrocities of the war with our friends the Poles. They have been obliged to abandon their home country to the Nazi forces, but this does not impeach them to keep fighting in such distant places as North Africa and South-East Asia for the honour of their troops and the glory of their country. But while taking arms against the enemies of their people, they keep in their hearts the image of their homes and wait for the day they will free their country again, as they have done so many times in their history.

Indeed, where many countries would have abandoned the fight, the French

have kept fighting in North Africa. They have launched a heroic attack against Tunisia, the last hold of Italian forces.

Although with heavy losses, they are advancing against the capital, neuralgic point of the enemy forces, highly defended but at our reach.

A soldier told us. „Bombs were falling everywhere, and the enemy armoured forces were attacking without rest. Although under heavy enemy air cover and maritime cover, our tanks did an amazing job, breaking the enemy front and allowing us to exploit the openings.

Our guys are ready for the next operations. The Spaghettis are going to feel the ..." For the sake of young and sensitive people, we had to censor the end of the sentence. In any case, morale is high and the troops are ready.



General de Lattre de Tassigny, CO FFL

Rumours run among French troops of a coming offensive in the West. Our sources could not confirm this, but the French are hungry for victory and are getting ready for it. Preparations are

running all around the front and intensive training being held in the rear.

Indeed, the desert is not an easy place to be. Even less to fight in. The heat, combined with the lack of water, the importance of logistics and the terrain especially favourable to high manoeuvres, make battles a delicate combination of skill, force and luck.

On the other side of the world, we have a little corps of Infantry defending Hanoi. This city has been under heavy attack by at least two corps of Japanese marines and infantry for the last months.

Although being partially relieved with Chinese reinforcements brought not long ago, they have accomplished the inconceivable. Hold a city like Hanoi with short supplies, organizing the protection of vital resources for civilians, evacuating the population of the city for those that desired it and resisting the massive Japanese attacks that are becoming more and more desperate those last days.

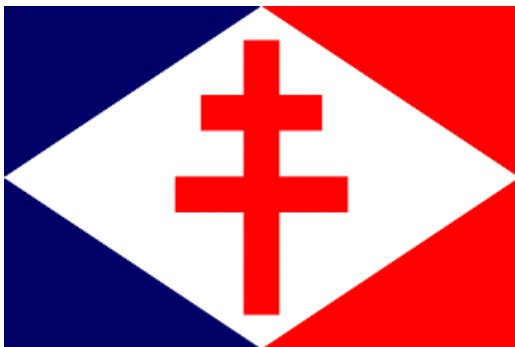
The way they did that exploit was with devotion and sacrifices, with a desperate defence and with the conviction of the victory. One of the soldiers that was made prisoner by the Japanese and could evade tell us. „There were Japanese soldiers everywhere. The fight was intense. My position was overwhelmed and my other companions were not as lucky

as me. I was wounded in the head and when I recovered conscience, I was in Japanese positions. Thanks to a counter attack and the confusion that resulted I could escape and join our headquarters."

This soldier is proud to tell us the rumours that run among French troops.

„Some say the Japanese start thinking we bring bad luck. No matter what they do, we always push them back. They are starting to call us *les immortels*, the immortals".

We cannot know the plans that are getting prepared in the heads of our leaders and generals. We do know though that they can count among others on the brave French troops, always ready for the fight.



THE SCHEER BADLY DAMAGED!

Initial press reports from Ireland and the Continent concerning the recent action between the Nazi raider Admiral Scheer and elements of the West Indian Squadron were in error. The BBC World Service has confirmed that no ship of the West Indian Squadron was lost and that the Scheer herself is trailing oil and listing 7 degrees to port according to the most recent sighting report from HMS Camperdown and her squadron which continue to track their prey.

All cruisers of the West Indian Squadron are in port and making ready for sea. Commodore W. S. Henderson, Commanding Officer, West Indian

Squadron was kind enough to make himself available for a few moments to speak about his recent battle with the Scheer.

"My flagship and the Mauritius made good speed to engage the Scheer and soon closed the action. We took a direct hit to X turret but continued to close the range to bring our guns to bear while the Camperdown and her group fired a spread of torpedoes. One hit was reported on the Scheer from the torpedoes aft near the stern and we began to trade battery fire with her. While we scored several hits with our 6" guns on the enemy, her greater range compelled us to break off combat for the moment. We continue to track the Scheer and will be leaving port soon to finish the job."

Admiralty spokesman Captain M.R. Hill confirmed Commodore Henderson's assessment and added that, "Their Lordships cannot comment upon ongoing combat operations but suffice it to say the Royal Navy will not rest until the Scheer has been sunk. Commodore Henderson and his command are to be commended for their bravery and valour in engaging an enemy with twice the effective range of their guns. Their actions against the Scheer exemplify the fighting spirit and the finest traditions of the Royal Navy." When pressed to disclose if additional ships had been dispatched to finish off the Scheer, Captain Hill would not confirm or deny the assertion but did state, "Their Lordships are confident that the Navy will soon give this perfidious raider the fate which she so

richly deserves."

Though pressed around the globe in the fight for democracy and freedom, the men of the Royal Navy remain as ever the stalwart defenders of our British liberties.



WHAT DO WE FIGHT FOR ?

One of the main problems of wars is the disinformation among the public. No matter what side, no matter the reason, no matter what the government affirms. Thus, it is sometimes difficult to keep in mind the reasons for which we are fighting for.

We, British, are an Empire. This empire was build through blood and colonial wars through the years, the centuries. We know it, everybody does, and we accept it and learn from it. However, we have learned from our mistakes. While claiming freedom in our country, we have little by little given more independence to our colonies and are helping hem. It is true that we take

advantage of their natural products. For us, India, South Africa, Australia, Canada and many other countries are strategically vital due to their natural resources we lack in Great Britain. But we are fair traders and brought industrialisation, taught how to exploit their own advantages, developed their armed forces and civilian infrastructures. Is not for instance the Indian rail an example of optimisation and modernity?

But behind that, we believe in the links we have developed through the years with those countries. Many became independent, and we work for further independence with many of them, but still their future concern us. A non-written reciprocity pact of help and collaboration bind us to them.

This is why since the beginning of the war we have seen the Indian Army developing into a local power. The modernisation of the infantry, the introduction of motorized units, the planned introduction of mechanical and armoured units as well as specialised ones will bring India as the main military power of the region. India will soon be able to request independence and take her position among the respected nations of the British Commonwealth.

This is also why the Kingdom of Siam is working hand to hand with British Engineers for the reconstruction of the civilian infrastructures while they strive for a democratic government and an independent army.

This is why we can proudly look at South-Africa, Canada, New Zealand and Australia as countries that depend only

on themselves but still participate in the war effort.

How many UK units are in India at this time? Can the UK be more tolerant with Siam, when we have been accepting all their conditions for surrender?

We, countries from all around the world, form a common wealth union, where we all understand that the welfare of any country depend of the welfare of the others. We know that we cannot let other countries commit the same errors as us, and harm those countries we are trying help depend upon themselves.

Some assert that because Britain has an empire they can make their own. They call it sometimes 'liberation', sometimes they don't even hide it. But can we accept assassination as a fair political game in our times only because in Machiavelli century it was acceptable? Can we accept the burning of witches only because the Inquisition found it acceptable? No, we must evolve. For the same reason, we cannot accept new Empires being created in the name of 'freedom' in a time where Empires should tend to disappear.

This is why we have been fighting. For our own sake, which depends on the freedom and defence of our allies and colonies, which depends itself on the freedom of many other countries. Because no matter what some other states squeal against us, the maximization of our own welfare goes through the maximization of the global welfare, and not through its destruction. Because collaboration between people has proven to be a better tool of progress

than conquest and slavery. This is why we fight.

IN BRIEF

Holland

The RAF launched a series of air strikes on German airfields around Antwerp. At least 200 enemy aircrafts were destroyed on the ground, mainly Ju87 and Fw190 models. RAF losses were 1 Sterling and its crew, which crashed on landing.

North Africa

Second Army Group has retreated to new position west of Tunis. German equipped Italian armour units managed to push back our boys but might soon run out of petrol. Without technological and logistic help from Nazi Germany, Mussolini's colonial fantasy in Africa would be over long ago. In the west, Free French Forces have pushed the Italian armour and re-captured the city of Bone.

An enlightening extract from Mr Hitler 'My Struggle'

"Germany's most important short-term enemy is France, for historical reasons and because it has become 'negroized'.

The greatest long-term enemy is the United States, not least because it is made up of healthy Aryan stock that has turned its back on the fatherland. The Slav states and the



nations to Germany's east are to be taken over. The Slavs, and especially the Poles and Russians, are not worthy of ruling themselves, for whatever is great and worthy in the East was created by German colonizers and rulers."

Island's defence. He then went on to visit northern England where he toured the tank factories.

Spain

The brave soldiers of 12th Infantry Corps now occupy Seville. Bombers Command's squadrons stopped the advance of German armoured columns towards the Portuguese border in the region of 3rd South African Corps. Our fighter cover was efficient and maintained constant patrols over the theatre, several times preventing enemy bombers to strike our armour.

Indochina

The Japanese marines who landed in Haiphong a few months ago must know that the end



is near. Hanoi has held against yet another desperate Japanese attack, her French and Chinese defenders showing outstanding courage. The city has held and the enemy appears shattered, reinforcements are on their way from Burma.

PM visits London's docks

The Prime Minister conducted a surprise visit to the port and shipyards of metropolitan London. Mr. Churchill came to encourage the workers and seamen who contribute so much to this