

Dublin Chronicle

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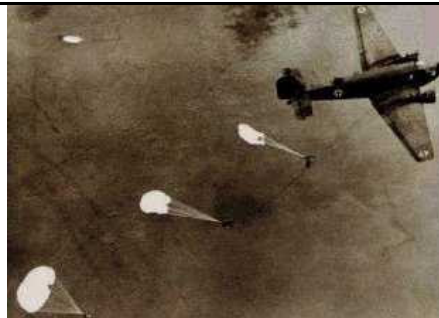
Issue 20

HITLER WALKS INTO PARIS AS WAR HITS FRANCE FROM NORTH

The newly appointed Military Council of France is now faced with a war on three front, North, South and East, as Italy and Germany launch lightning attacks.

Germany has formally dissolved the Treaty of Brussels, the treaty signed to conclude war between France and the Axis power.

The German military acted quickly to secure key locations, with the city of Paris falling to German troops on the 5th of the month, whilst German tanks and infantry steam rolled south towards Lyon, La Rochelle and Bordeaux. The drive supported by a vast force of Italian divisions moving on Lyon, Marseilles and St. Etienne.



The most dramatic move was when German airborne troops secured the city of Lyon, together with its vital arms plants without any opposition from the French Army or airforce, which appeared dumb struck by the move.

German armour is now reported to have reached the outskirts of Bordeaux, whilst the city of Marseilles is under siege by at least 9 Italian divisions.

It would seem that this round of fighting has shifted the power heavily in favour of the Axis in the west, with the French about to fall to pieces it will leave Great Britain saddled with the burden of maintaining her own needs and the needs of various minor nation scattered across Europe, a position that leaves her open to the German air and submarine threats.

Lowland Nations move to war with Axis Then regret their actions

Belgium, Holland and Norway have all moved to announce a state of war with the Axis powers following the German / Italian invasion of France.

These three nations have managed to quickly form an alliance that, "The Brussels Alliance" based on the concept of the defence of the Brussels Treaty, so wantonly destroyed by the Axis nations.

The Alliance is headed by the Dutch Prime Minister, Dirk Jan De Geer, who has sworn to defend the freedoms of the western nations from the Nazis.

These small nations have already suffered two major defeats however.

German bombers attacked the city of Amsterdam late on the 5th and early on the 6th, destroying large section of the cities port. With reports that at least some 150,000 tons of shipping had been sunk.

To the south, a German Armoured group, believed to be the elite 1st SS (Das Reich) Corps smashed through Belgium defences around Namur, putting the Belgians to flight. Added to the destruction of large portions of their airforce, both nations have taken a beating.



With France all but lost, the lowland nations must be concerned that the Germans will move greater might their way in the coming weeks, already reports of over 30 divisions moving towards the border have been seen by this reporter. The days are running out for the free nations of Europe.

Tangiers lost by Allies

The city of Tangiers, only recently taken from Spain by Free French forces, has once again been retaken by Spain.

Japanese shell Changsha

Large concentrations of Japanese artillery have once again been used to provide a devastating artillery raid on the city of Changsha, in central China.

With the weather clearing the Japanese are obviously preparing for a move against the city, with large volumes of troops deployed to the region, but most notably the deployment of the heavy guns.

Reports from within the Chinese lines indicate that the shelling is considered more of a nuisance than a hindrance, this is no doubt due to the extensive earth work defences that have appeared over the past 4 months along the whole line.

Italians drive along North African Coast

With the British 2nd Army pressing on the door at Tunisia, the Italians have opted to drive west, occupying the French port of Bone.

With the recent deployment of 3 armoured divisions to North Africa, the Italians feel confident that they can change the direction of the war, and have opted to prove this by removing the threat to the Tunis rear area. With the French in disarray in Europe, the Italians may have secured an early advantage over the British in North Africa.

Southern France becomes global battle site.

With German forces moving to support the Spanish in southern France, the British and their allies made efforts to secure the port of La Rochelle in order to land support divisions for the beleaguered French defences.

As news reached London of the German attack on France, the Admiralty and Ministry of War were ordered by Prime Minister Churchill to send what ever aid they could to France. With a number of units already at sea and other forces close to major ports a scratch force of divisions was formed under the overarching command of British 1st Army.

With the fleet providing what escorts it could and pulling the Home Fleet off its normal duties to support the up coming operation a sizable naval force would be assigned to support the landings.

With two ports available on the Atlantic coast, it was the northern one, La Rochelle that was chosen, over Bordeaux.

The Canadian would lead the way, having boarded transports in Liverpool they set sail for Biscay, only

to find that they were under heavy submarine attack by German u-boats. As the group attempted to run for port they were cut to pieces, now the British would land without their lead elements. Meanwhile other transports, carrying the French 2nd Mechanised corps had arrived at the port, supported by local dock workers work began to get the troops off ship and into combat, however the operation was not even half way completed when the German bombers came overhead, and reported their presence to the German 6th Corps closing on the city.

The French, forced to fight without their support weapons, but able to call on the support of the Royal Navy off shore, were able to hold the city centre and the docks, but the Germans have prevented them from forming up as an effective fighting unit.

The question will now arise if the British are prepared to throw more troops into this operation, perhaps if they do they will consider using troops that are better suited to amphibious warfare. However they must also consider the fate of the Home Fleet, can it remain on station so near the growing u-boats threat?



Southern France — the Battles rage

Hanoi Holds

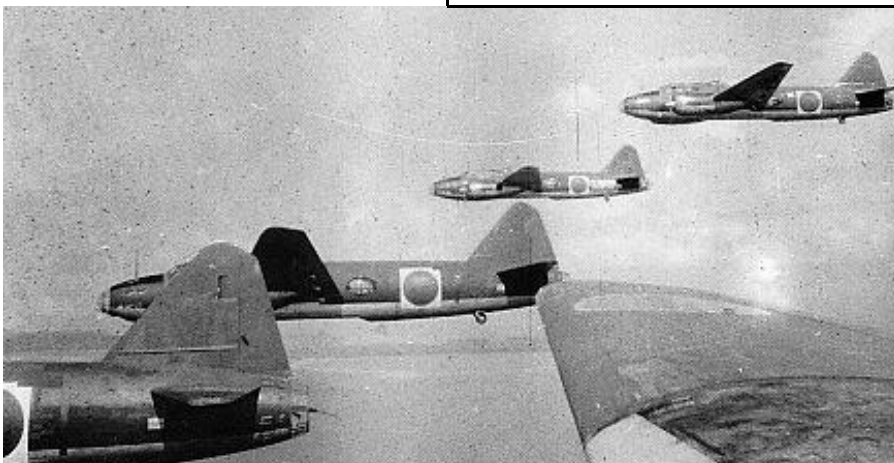
Japanese advances in Indo-China appear to have stalled, thanks in part to Chinese and RAF interventions.

For the first time it appears that the Japanese Empire has been caught on the hop, primarily due to their military breaking their own rules.

To date every Japanese advance has been swift and thorough, this time, they through their troops ashore and have stopped, allowing the allies to game the advantage.

Having lost the forward momentum the Japanese may have lost their only chance to secure Hanoi with minimal effort, held by only a rag-tag Corps of French troops in early March, the city would have been easily taken, now, having held for 4 weeks, the city has been reinforced by elite KMT formations, with reports that a force of British armour and mechanised forces are closing on the city from the west.

The region was the scene of a major air confrontation which ebbed and flowed between the two power blocks. The British Spitfires later supported by KMT P35s and F1s managing to maintain a low level of air superiority at the end of the month, although at heavy cost.



Japanese G4's on route to Hanoi to bomb the British airbase, which was destroyed.

British Raid Indo China Seas

The Royal Navy went on the offensive in Asia this month, with a number of raids on Japanese merchant interests.

With combinations of cruiser and submarines supported by fleet elements the British accounted for a number of Japanese escort units, including 3 cruisers, as well as in the region of 300k tons of Japanese merchant shipping.

Being an island nation herself, the British are well aware of the needs of maritime trade.

Americans wave the flag

The US Pacific Fleet has deployed a large formation, including three battleships to the Asiatic rim.

The force, the largest U.S.N. Fleet deployment to the region in over 20 years has called at Davao and Manilla. It is reported that the will remain on station for the foreseeable future, as a show of strength.

On a similar note, the Navy announced the deployment of a Marine Division to Guam.

Germans push north in Russia

The German summer offensives appear to have begun early in the east, although reports are sketchy it would appear that a major offensive has begun around Riga.

The German army appears to have tried to cross the Dvina river at its estuary, north of the city of Riga. The move would have been difficult with the bridges still in tact, but without secure river crossing the German infantry and tanks were prone to Soviet artillery and machine gun fire.



The Germans did provide a sizable air support formation to the operation but this was hampered by a large concentration of Soviet fighter activity in the region.

With the Germans unable to make any clear headway, a Lithuanian division supported by the tanks of a German armoured group attempted to rush the enemy positions in a Great War style frontal assault, the division was cut to pieces, by the holding Soviet Corps.

By the end of the month the Germans had retreated to their starting positions, with not a single man or tank having made it to the Soviet side of the lines, add to this the loss of over 200 aircraft and Germans will not be pleased with their first offensive in the East of 1941.

Elsewhere the Soviet and German forces stood at an uneasy rest, waiting for the other side to make the first moves.