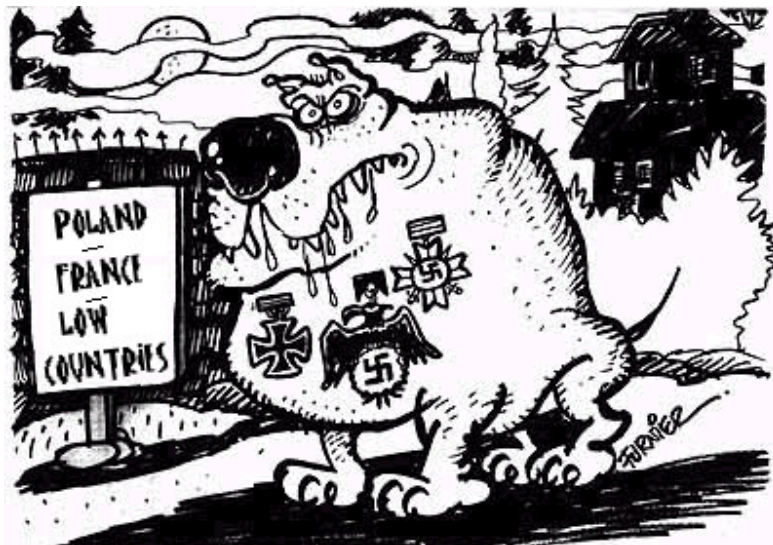

THE TIMES

March 31, 1941

THE PRIME MINISTER WARNS WORLD OF AXIS AGGRESSION!



By Cyril R. Stanhope
(London)

As the Fascists continue to attack the French Republic in direct violation of the Treaty of Brussels, the Prime Minister made the following statement today before the House:

Hitler is seeking to subjugate one of the finest races in Europe, and his little Italian accomplice is trotting along hopefully and hungrily, but rather wearily and very timidly, at his side. They both wish to carve up France and her Empire as if it were a fowl; to one a leg, to another a wing or perhaps part of the breast. But Hitler is not thinking only of stealing other people's territories, or flinging gobbets of them to his little confederate. By all kinds of sly and savage means, he is plotting and working to quench forever the fountain of characteristic French culture and of French inspiration to the world. All Europe, if he has his way, will be reduced to one uniform Boche-land, to be exploited, pillaged, and bullied by his Nazi gangsters.

With every month that passes the many proud and once happy countries he is now holding down with brute force and vile intrigue are learning to hate the Prussian yoke and the Nazi name as nothing has been hated so fiercely and so widely among men before.

And the British Empire and our allies will be on his track, bearing the swords of justice until final victory is won.

We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle, nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down.

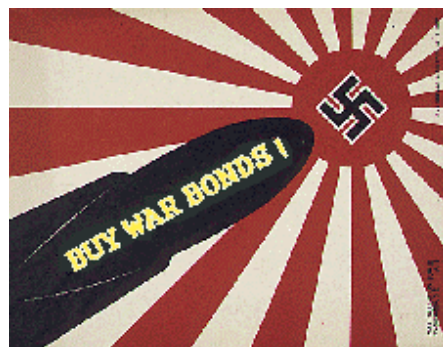
ROYAL NAVY ATTACKS JAPANESE ACROSS THE PACIFIC!

By J.A. Blake (Sydney)

This past month saw the Royal Navy on the offensive across the breadth of the Pacific. The Asiatic Fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral Somerville launched a raid into the heart of the Japanese beast. Elements of the command destroyed over 400,000 tons of Japanese tankers en route to their home islands. No vessels of the Imperial Japanese Navy moved to intervene until the force had finished its work against the tankers. The cowardly Japanese attempted to attack the formation with submarines – their favourite weapon of choice it would seem from recent events in the Pacific – and failed. In the words of Admiralty spokesman, Captain H.M. Hill, RN, “our force sustained no damage and destroyed 10 submarines as well as 9 destroyers that had also attempted to hinder the progress of the task force. Their Lordships are most pleased with Admiral Somerville and the men of his command. Their courage and seamanship exemplify the finest traditions of the senior service.”

Elsewhere in the Pacific, the Western Pacific Squadron, under the intrepid leadership of Rear Admiral Sir John Bailey, KCB, struck hard against

Japanese tanker traffic off Borneo. The Imperial Japanese Navy cruisers Kuma, Tama, and Tenryu were sunk with all hands with no loss to our boys in blue! After dealing with these escorts, the Squadron went on to destroy an estimated 300,000 tons of Japanese merchant shipping. Prime Minister Menzies stated before the House, “Let no man, woman, or child of this Dominion think that this shall be a short or easy war. We have witnessed first hand the depravity and barbarity of the Japanese at Darwin and Melbourne. They kill the innocent in the name of their so-called honour. We have witnessed their crimes at Singapore and at Hong Kong. Their hands are forever stained with the blood of the civilians they have starved and the prisoners of war and civilians they have murdered in cold blood. The men of the Royal Navy have helped to demonstrate the resolve of this Dominion in opposing the forces of fascism and tyranny. We salute their performance in battle and commend their bravery. The Japanese shall be made to feel many harder blows on our path to victory!”

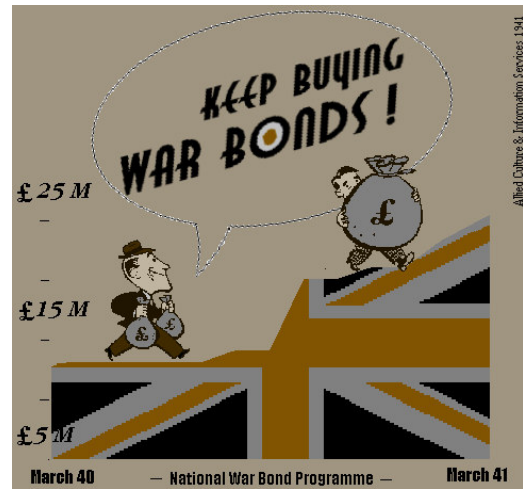


IN BRIEF

Indochina



Chinese troops and fighters reinforced Hanoi's garrison this month. A huge air battle above the city inflicted heavy losses to the Japanese whose operations on the ground seem to have stalled. Morale is reported as very high in the city.



France

Free French troops have landed at La Rochelle and were engaged by German infantry advancing to capture the city. Fighting is reported as heavy, with the German employing terror bombing against the civilian population.

Eastern front

Major German defeat in the North of Russia. Tens of thousands of German troops were cut to pieces by soviet defenders in what seem to have been an attempt to cross the River Dvina.