

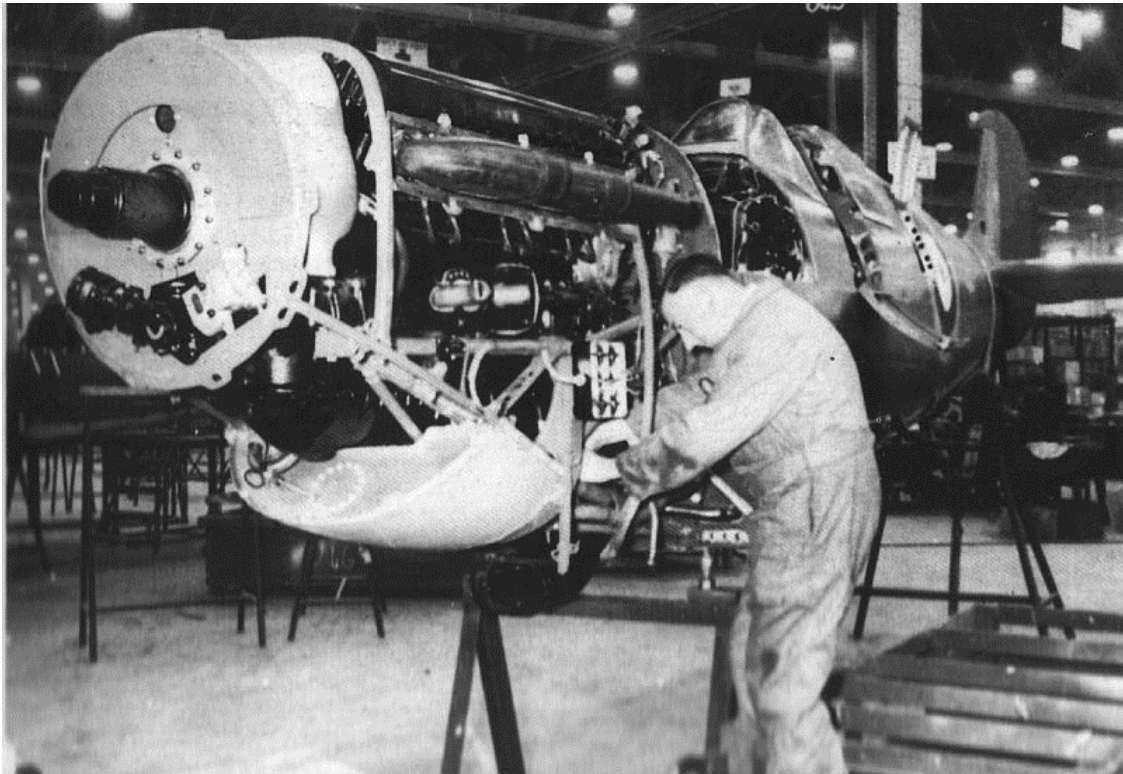
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# THE TIMES

May 31, 1941

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## PRIME MINISTER PRAISES MERCHANT SEAMEN & ARMS WORKERS OF THE EMPIRE!



A Spitfire on the assembly line

Bristol / Liverpool  
By R.D. Fisher

The Prime Minister paid two visits to the home front in the war for liberty and freedom from fascist oppression this past month. From May 7-8, he spoke with enthusiastic aircraft workers in Bristol who were clearly most pleased to see the value and importance of their labour recognized. Mr. Alf Smith, day shift foreman at the

facility, eloquently spoke for the audience when he stated to the Prime Minister," Now sir I must tell you that I have never voted for a Tory. I never dreamed that I'd be asking this but I would like to shake your hand." The Prime Minister warmly took Mr. Smith's hand with the observation that, "Thank you Mr. Smith. Unlike past agreements between labour and management, this agreement shall not be broken."  
<laughter from the audience> "Indeed, it is the willingness of all of us to set aside past differences and to take up the burden of doing our utmost to keep the world free. <applause and cheers> "Our task is nothing less than the complete defeat of the forces of fascism and oppression . We shall not tire, we shall not fail, we shall not let the flame of freedom die." <wild cheering and applause>.

After spending several hours visiting with the workers and touring the facility, the Prime Minister briefly met the Lord Mayor of Bristol and several Councilors before speeding on to Liverpool.

At Liverpool, the Prime Minister spent several hours dockside with the merchant seamen and longshoremen upon whom the survival of this Island depends. The Prime Minister was asked to climb up onto some stacked boxes of cargo to address the thong but demurred to the delight to the assembly stating, "I see that all the loading cranes are otherwise occupied at the moment." Instead he spoke in a loud clear voice standing surrounded by the dockworkers on the dock:

This island, and indeed the whole of the Empire owes each one of you and

every man who places his life in peril to insure that this nation has sufficient food and resources to prosecute this war to the best of our ability a deep debt of gratitude. On behalf of this nation and the Empire, I thank each and every one of you. Your devotion to duty and willingness to sacrifice to benefit you fellow Britons are an inspiration.

After receiving a thunderous ovation and shaking countless hands, the Prime Minister paid his respects to wounded merchant seamen at Queen's Hospital. He spent over three hours touring the wards and talking with the wounded. The highlight of the visit as the award of the George Cross to Mr. Harry Wilkins, third mate of the SS Oropesa, who valiantly led the damage control efforts below decks after his ship was hit by Nazi U-boat despite being seriously wounded and at great peril to his own life. Mr. Wilkins was burned over roughly one third of his body but managed to close the water tight doors to insure that the Oropesa and her vital cargo of rubber arrived in Liverpool. The private visit between Mr. Wilkins and the Prime Minister at the conclusion of the award ceremony lasted for over an hour.

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## SIAM SURRENDERS & HANOI HOLDS!

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Rangoon  
By T.D. Lloyd



In a stark repudiation to Japanese claim of determined resistance, the Siamese army surrendered en masse to elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> ANZAC Corps and

7<sup>th</sup> Indian Corps this past month. Fearing attack from our large forces outside the city, the Provisional Government surrendered Bangkok and over 78,000 Siamese troops laid down their arms and were taken as prisoners of war. The Foreign Office is in negotiations with the provisional Siamese government to bring Siam into the fight for freedom against the forces of fascism and despotism.

Japanese anti-Western propaganda seems to have had little effect. The people of Siam and indeed all of the free world recognize that it is the Japanese and their Nazi allies that seek to subjugate nations. Siam is but the first step in the liberation of territory from the grasping and underhanded Japanese. They shall reap what they have sown.

Elsewhere in Asia, the heroic defenders of Hanoi held for a third month against repeated wave attacks by Japanese Marines. Reports from the city indicate that over four divisions of Japanese Marines perished with few Allied casualties. What a bitter drink it must be for the Japanese to see Free French and Chinese troops, resisting them successfully, side-by-side, month after month. It can only be a matter of time until the Allied forces in Indo-China push the Japanese into the sea. Some observers have questioned why the Japanese High Command has failed to recognize their mistake in judgment in taking French Indo-China to be an easy target for conquest. How many more divisions of Japanese soldiers and marines must be sacrificed to their commanders' stubbornness, rigidity, and hubris until they accept that they are beaten and withdraw? Sadly, such a logical move would demonstrate to the world the hollow emptiness of Japanese propaganda. Clearly in Indo-China,

everyone both Asian and European recognizes that it is Japan that is the aggressor who seeks to subjugate Asians to her will.

Fortunately, thousands of Chinese and Indo-Chinese, together with the Free French are teaching the Japanese a lesson that will not be soon forgotten.



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## IN BRIEF

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### **Two Japanese carriers sunk!**

Commander F.J.T. Hays and the brave men of the HMS Superb had an excellent patrol of Borneo this past month. Both the sea plane tenders Chitose and the Chiyoda were sunk with all hands. In addition, over 150,000 tons of Japanese merchant shipping found the bottom this past month. Sources in the Admiralty have revealed that not only is Commander Hays likely to be promoted to Captain but that His Majesty is considering creating the Commander a Knight Commander of the Order of Bath. Well done brave submariners - the nation and the Empire salute you!

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## **Admiralty Tests New Designs!**

Admiralty sources report that a design for a new Class of super Battleship is being tested with positive results at Portsmouth. This new design which will have superior main and secondary gun batteries, greater speed, and better armour protection than the King George V class is expected to be dealing with the Japanese by 1943.

Additionally a new cruiser design has been completed and is currently in production at several yards across Britain. It has superior armament and armour protection than the Fiji design currently in service. It will be facing Britain's enemies in the next few months.

