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COLLAPSE IN THE EAST



Russian Troops surrender in the thousands as snow starts to fall in the East.

For weeks the Russian Army has been wishing for snow, now it has started to fall towards the end of the month, we see that it brings with it the Fall of the Soviet Union.

Once again the German Army pushed hard and fast into the Red defence, this time east of Kiev, using armoured and infantry formations in concert, with a force of airborne troops in support, and again the Soviets were unable to muster the defence that would allow them to stand and hold in the Ukraine.

German forces from Army Group C and Army Group South combined to inflict the largest single defeat on the Soviet Union since

the start of the war, when they forced the surrender of the Soviet 5th Army, some 11 divisions of infantry and 3 of armour, all told over 150,000 Russians entered Prisoner of War camps, whilst many thousands more dispersed into the countryside deserting the flagging Nation that they once helped to defend.



Mussolini congratulates Hitler

With the Russian Army also losing ground in the North and one of their GHQ facilities only just escaping capture by a German armoured thrust the eastern front is looking to be a very successful region for future German advances, something Herr Hitler will no doubt have pointed out to Mussolini in one of their regular meetings earlier this month.

Leningrad is now in the throws of its final battle, as the Finns have managed to secure the city centre and thrust troops around the Soviet flank forcing the Russians to commit to a horrific counter attack in the coming months or withdraw and loose the one time capital of the Russian Empire.

Allies Secure Tunis

The combined might of the British, Canadian and French Armies has eliminated the final elements of the Italian army and civil authority in North Africa.

After months of bitter fighting the Allied forces met up inside the city of Tunis, following a race between the Canadians and the Free French, won by the Canadians, who formally accepted the surrender of the Italian Garrison, although General Montgomery insisted that the civil surrender of the one time French colony should be to the troops of the Free French Army, thus recognising the return of Tunis to French authority.

Throughout the desert the final remnants of the Italian Army stepped forward and laid down their arms. In total the Italians may have lost up to 250,000 men killed or captured in their failed efforts in Africa, something that Mussolini will not be too pleased to discuss with his friends in Germany.

The question now is “to where will the elite of the Allied Armies be sent, the Balkans, Asia, Iberia, or a new front?”



Canadian Troops escort the remains of the Italian garrison into POW Camps.

Edinburgh hit hard from air.

German bombers continued their night raids on British cities, this time turning to the Scottish Capital and inflicting heavy damage on the historic city.

Even though the RAF has managed to get a number of fighters into the air, they have had little effect upon the well organised heavy bombers of the Luftwaffe.

The south of England also faced air attack, with Plymouth coming under intense day light attacks, limited air defence and fog in the central and eastern Channel, allowed the local concentration of German fighters to maul the RAF fighters operational in the region.

Japanese take Rabaul

The Imperial Japanese Navy has delivered a large force of IJN Marines to the Bismark Archipelago and landed them at the forward base of Rabaul.

After a long and sustained naval and air bombardment the defending Australian division was forced to accept the attack of two elite Japanese divisions, the light regulars of the ANZAC Army could do little to stop the land air and sea assault that was thrown against them and managed to withdraw into the jungle to the west of the base, taking what supplies and resources they could with them.

At present the Japanese have managed to land only 2 divisions, but are reported to have a sizable force at sea, whether these will all be committed to Rabaul remains to be seen, but both Canberra and London must be a little worried.

Turks move on Greece

Turkey has announced a state of war to exist between themselves and Greece and has launched some 10 divisions across the border.

The Turkish Government has flatly refused to accept Greek acertations that they have not been carrying out commando raids over the Turkish border. The Turkish Army having provided what is referenced as “good quality” evidence has been quick to take the opportunity to try out its new equipment on an old enemy.

Turkey has announced that she is not part of any alliance and sees the conflict as a local conflict, however the Greeks have already called upon the international community

China Rocks Japanese

After months of festering hostility the major population centres of China have erupted in flames, resulting in a totally stalled Japanese advance alone the whole of the front.

Large portions of the Japanese army have been thrown onto the defence in cities far and wide, with Peking and Shanghai both having the uprisings defeated, with heavy loss of life, the Japanese have shown that they are prepared to fight to hold onto their gains.

Other occupied cities have not been so lucky, with many of the northern territories now “free” of Japanese occupation due to garrison forces being force to regroup and withdraw from the major conurbations. Many will wonder how Japan will manage to bring order once again.