

THE TIMES

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ITALIANS SURRENDER AT TUNIS!!!

By Harold Rawlings (Tunis)

This past month saw total victory in Africa against the Italians as the 3rd Canadian Corps accepted the surrender of all Italian forces in Africa. Meanwhile the Free French 6th Corps accepted the civil surrender of the territory of Tunisia and formally accepted the territory's return to the Republic of France. In the words of the Commander of the 2nd Army, General Montgomery, "Now we see for ourselves and show the free world that the democracies will stand shoulder to shoulder through all hardships and that our fighting men, free and equal can and will defeat the lackeys of the despots of Europe. Mr. Mussolini, Mr. Hitler, I and my men are looking for you, we will follow you across the Mediterranean and we will destroy your armies one by one, until we destroy you!"

Palace sources indicate that General Montgomery is to receive the Commander's Cross of the Royal Order of the Bath from His Majesty in recognition for his service to the Empire.

The Battle of Africa is now over. Over 300,000 Italian troops are in Allied custody as prisoners of war. General Staff sources estimate that the Italians suffered over 200,000 additional casualties in action in Africa. The men of the Allied armies have won a glorious and decisive victory. Freedom loving people everyone can be proud of them and rejoice in their accomplishments.

ROYAL NAVY RAIDS OIL FACILITY AT BORDEAUX!

By M.T. Ewell (London):

The men of the Home Fleet under the intrepid leadership of Admiral Cunningham, executed a daring carrier raid upon the oil refining facility at Bordeaux in occupied France. The raid hit the napping Nazis at dawn and was over before any enemy planes could take to the sky. Subsequent reconnaissance has revealed that the facility is over 80% destroyed and Admiralty sources estimate that it will be over a year before it can resume full production. Those same sources confirmed that no civilian damage to the populace of Bordeaux occurred as a result of the strike as all ordnance fell within the refining facility.

Well done men of Home Fleet! We are pleased that you are able to take the war to the enemy with such skill and daring.

THIRD ARMY TAKES 60,000 PRISONERS IN SPAIN & CAPTURE CARTAGENA!

By A.S. Thompson (Lisbon):

The past month saw our 3rd Army hold fast against repeated Nazi attacks along the Tejo River and make large gains in eastern Spain. The 16th Mechanized Corps and the 21st Mechanised Corps occupied Cartagena, accepting the surrender of a Spanish Armoured Corps and capturing over 200 Nazi aircraft on the ground. As they did so, the 7th Spanish Corps surrendered in the mountains to the west of the city. Sources at 3rd Army headquarters report that in all over 6 divisions of Spanish troops surrender to our forces this month --- some 60,000 men in all. The Spanish seem to be losing the will to fight for Germany. The Allies never sought war with Spain but following the pulls of the puppet strings by Hitler, Franco has made Spain a battlefield once more. We at the Times urge the people of Spain to see reason and to reject fascism and accept peace. Should they choose war, the way to Valencia is now clear. The brave men of the 3rd and Portuguese Armies will continue to hold the line against the Axis and to move the flame of freedom forward!

P.M. TO SPEAK ON EVENTS IN AFRICA!!!

By M.T. Ewell (London):

This evening, the Prime Minister will address the world via the BBC World Service on recent events in Africa. We at the Times have obtained a copy of his planned remarks and are pleased to publish them for our readers slightly in advance of the broadcast:

“I have never promised anything but blood, toil, tears, and sweat. Now, however, we have a new experience. We have a total victory – a remarkable and definite victory. The bright gleam has caught the helmets of our soldiers and warmed and cheered all our hearts.

General Montgomery and our gallant Free French allies have gained a glorious and decisive victory in what I think should be called the Battle of Africa. The Italian forces in Africa have been defeated. They have been routed. The Italian army has been very largely destroyed as a fighting force and over 300,000 men have been taken as prisoners of war.

All the various elements in our line of battle played their parts – Canadians, Indian troops, South Africans, Poles, Free French, as well as British forces. The Italians were left to perish in the waterless desert and surrender due to all of our efforts including the significant denial of supply by sea to the enemy by the Royal and Free French Navies and the Royal Air Force.

Though the intrepid men of the 3rd Canadian Corps and the 6th Corps of the Free French Army had the honour to accept the military and civil surrender of the Italians at Tunis, all of the allied fighting men and indeed all of you around the world who cherish democracy and hold freedom dear can be proud of what we have accomplished together. The forces of freedom and democracy have won a glorious victory in the Battle of Africa.

Let me, however, make this clear, in case there should be any mistake about it in any quarter. We mean to hold our own. I have not become the King's First Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire. For that task, if ever it were prescribed, someone else would have to be found, and, under democracy, I suppose the nation would have to be consulted. I am proud to be a member of that vast commonwealth and society of nations and communities gathered in and around the ancient British monarchy, without which the good cause might well have perished from the face of the earth. Here we are, and here we stand, a veritable rock of salvation in this drifting world.”

IN BRIEF

ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS FALSE – MEDITERRANEAN FLEET SAFE AND SOUND!

It had been extensively reported in the Italian press that their forces had intercepted Mediterranean Fleet at sea and sunk the HMS Hood, HMS Ark Royal, HMS Duke of York, HMS Barham, as well as numerous cruisers and destroyers. The Times has discovered that these reports are total fabrications. Our own reporter has recently been with the Fleet in French North Africa and has confirmed that no capital ship has been lost in action. Admiralty sources confirm the observations of our reporters and point out that at least one ship mentioned in the Italian reports had been redeployed 3 months ago.

It is easy to understand why the Italians are in need of “manufacturing” favorable military reports given recent events in Africa.

TURKEY ATTACKS GREECE!

In what sources on the General Staff describe as an erratic move, Turkey has declared a state of open hostilities with the Kingdom of Greece citing an alleged cross-border commando raid by Greece against the Turkish High Command.

Sources at the Foreign Office report that His Majesty’s Government has offered to mediate and end the current conflict and has urged the Turks to remain on their side of the frontier.

We at the Times urge the Republic of Turkey to end this ill advised military adventure and call upon the people of Turkey to demand accountability from their government.