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LUFTWAFFE DEVASTATES HULL R.A.F. UNABLE TO MEET CHALLENGE

The city of Hull faced the worst test of any English city during the course of this war, with German heavy bombers devastating much of the city centre.

German heavy bombers, operating from bases in the Lowlands struck the coastal city of Hull early September, with devastating effect.

Believed to be a major construction centre for war resources the city has been plagued by fires over the past week as the local inhabitants attempt to pull the city back into some semblance of order following 3 nights of prolonged attacks.

Major questions have been asked of the RAF who failed to meet the German bombers.

Attacking at night, the Luftwaffe are believed to have found the weak spot in the RAF's defence plans; the lack of night fighters.



Japanese halted by stiff Chinese resistance. More cities rise up against occupiers.

After some 10 weeks of continued advances the Japanese Army has met a wall of resistance stretching from the mountains in the north of china to the city of Ichang in Central China.

With further forces moving to the front lines and a desperate rush to new defensive positions the Chinese appear to have saved their army from total destruction. New lines have now been constructed and the Chinese forces appear in relatively good spirits as they prevented the Japanese Army from breaking through to the city of

Chungking, the main administrative centre for the KMT. Further East KMT forces, although taking heavy losses also managed to hold onto the strategically important city of Ichang, facing enemy attacks from 3 directions. Recent improvements in the KMT field



The new breed of KMT Regulars

army are now starting to take a toll on the Japanese who are used to fighting the lightly kitted militia army the KMT has fielded for the past 4 years, but it would appear with help from the Allies and the U.S. that the KMT may well have managed to put a true army in the field.

Many coastal cities, together with Hsian and Loyang have risen against the occupation, causing further disruption behind the lines and forcing the Japanese to deploy vast numbers of troops to garrison and occupation duties at a time when they need as many units in the field as they can obtain.

Tunis attacked by French

The Italian Army in North Africa appears to be on its last legs as the Free French and British 2nd Armies move east and north respectively closing the grip on the remnants of Mussolini's elite troops.

The month has seen the end of all supply links between Italy and Tunisia and the destruction of much of the Italian airforce as the allies used light commando forces and regular troops to close on the last defences of North Africa.



Allied efforts must now switch to the destruction of the remaining divisions in the south of Tunisia and the capture of the port at Tunis, clearing the final Axis positions in Africa and releasing large volumes of allied forces for operations in other theatres.

With his empire gone, where will Mussolini turn?

British take it on the chin.

German and Spanish forces launched a devastating heavy armoured and infantry push through central Spain, forcing the British to pull back towards the Portuguese border.

With the Germans committing Army Group E to the Iberian campaign the British and their allies have had to deal with an increasing number of battle hardened German forces. This month saw the Germans push British 3rd Army out of Central Spain with a full blooded armoured push, the British can however claim to have blunted the attack, thanks to the Matilda tanks and the bravery of British Airborne.

Behind enemy lines the Germans did have to cope with the rampaging British mechanized forces who caused extensive damage to the axis rear area, destroying at least 200 aircraft on the ground.

Japanese hold Indo-China

The Japanese beachhead in Indo-China continues to hold after a poorly lead attack on their lines by the Indian Army.

After months of building up supplies and troops the Japanese defenders finally had a chance to put their defences to the test when the allies launched an attack on their lines, but without air and naval support the Allied troops soon found themselves wanting.

Imperial Navy and Airforce assets caused havoc amongst the Indian and allied troops, with heavy losses taken by the attackers even as they withdrew to their own lines. The British will once again learn that they must outnumber the defender.

Yugoslavia fights on

German and Hungarian forces faced a difficult month in the Balkans, pushing towards the city of Split they have come to realise that the Yugoslavian Army will not give in easily.

With the occupation of Belgrade the Axis powers must have believed that the Yugoslavians would easily collapse, and in a half hearted attack on the Yugoslavian lines they appear to have provided little more than a pin prick to the resolve of the defenders to hold onto their country.

The Croats also took losses as they attempted to assert themselves as the new friends of Germany, although they did make better progress than the Hungarian and German forces they in no way seem to have intimidated the Yugoslavian Army, believed to have requested aid from Greece and Britain.

US shipping losses grow

Congress has frozen all aid to the allies and demanded that the US navy instigate some form of protection for the merchant fleet.

With a further 150,000 tons of lost shipping the US Merchants fleet has started to turn down contracts with the British and has the full approval of the American Congress.

The President is believed to be furious and is seeking ways to reinstate the trade routes and unfreeze a raft of aid that has been placed on hold by Congressional orders. With further cuts in US trade to Britain likely, the German submarines may have won, if by the back door!

Russia Starts to Fall Apart, as Germans push from the North, South and Centre

Soviet forces have been hard pressed to hold their lines this month and rumours from behind the lines indicate a massive decline in the confidence of the Soviet Peoples to win this war.

In the north the situation is now critical, the city of Leningrad (St. Petersburg) has come under intense attack from Finnish troops, who crossed the border in force, and German armour that has broken out and sped north.



Fighting continues in the streets even as we go to print, with neither side able to make much headway, although we believe that the airport and much of the harbour are currently in Axis hands.

The city of Smolensk is also finding itself under increasing pressure as



German formations continue to push back the defenders to the north of the city opening up the flanks.

Meanwhile the Soviets have managed to complete one offensive move this month, with the re-occupation of Gomel at the expense of a German armoured corps that was heavily mauled by Russian infantry, cavalry and armoured units.



South of the Pripyet marshes the situation has become critical for the Russian Army, with the city of Kiev coming under heavy attack by an array of German corps, who managed to push through to the river and secure two bridges, permitting the SS Liebstandarte Adolf Hitler Corps to cross the Dnepr and



establish a bridgehead on the Eastern shores. The Germans are believed to have taken extensive casualties in this action, but it may well be worth the losses.

Further south the Germans attempted to cross the Dnepr by sheer weight of numbers, however this is one of the strongest rivers in Eastern Europe and one of the widest, German troops, having failed to secure the bridges last month resorted to river crossing tactics to permit a frontal assault upon the emplaced Soviet defenders, only to secure

their own destruction as the force of the river and the force of the enemy defenders conspired to prevent any sizable force gathering on the eastern bank.



With the loss of Kiev and the what may be the imminent loss of Leningrad the Soviet Union will lose two of its greatest cities to the advancing Nazi armies.

With panic growing in many of the western cities and the call-up of the People's Army the situation has become critical, if the Soviets do not turn the tide of the German advance then it is likely that they will be unable to hold their own country together.

Indications from Moscow seem to point to massive budget cuts and attempts to inflate the economy and national well-being, but it is unlikely that anything other than success on the field, will cause an improvement in the national economy, with the possible loss of Leningrad sounding the likely demise of the economy as a going concern.

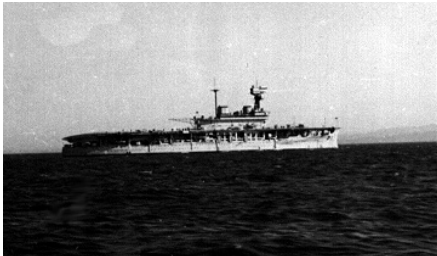
The rear of the Axis lines have also faced difficulties after the bombing of Sofia by heavy bombers and the shelling of the coastal towns by the Soviet Army left the sentiment of the Bulgarian regime dented.

It would appear that the next 2 months will prove critical for the Soviet Union, and the future of its leadership.

Taranto Naval Base Attacked

Elements of the British Royal navy have performed a daring carrier strike upon the Italian fleet at anchor in Taranto harbour.

The British have once again used their carriers to perfection, sending two waves of carrier bombers into the heart of the Italian fleet, sinking at least 2 battleships and 6 cruisers, with peripheral damage to the docks and port structure making repairs for the rest of the damaged ships extremely difficult.



HMS Eagle returning to Alexandria after "A job well done".

Iceland gain state-hood

After a brief period of arms length "occupation" by the Germans, Iceland has gained its independence from occupied Denmark.

Following last month's landings by the British the islanders requested that they be granted independence from mother Denmark.

Great Britain, her Commonwealth and the Allies have all been quick to recognise this new nation, as have a number of other nations, including Brazil, the United States and Nationalist China.

Her status as a member of the Allied cause seems uncertain, although British troops are present.

Japanese trade troubles

Japan go on the trade offensive, after their attack upon a Dutch cruiser, the Japanese went on to attack a British submarine force that had been plaguing their shipping for some months .

Wthe IJN has reported the sinking of some 12 British submarines off the Dutch East Indies, but is still being plagued by a second force of Allied subs off the Chinese coast.

The Japanese had hopped that by securing these seas that they would manage to ensure unimpaired trade with the Dutch, however it would appear that in the chase for the British subs the IJN also sank the Dutch cruiser Tromp, resulting in the cutting of all Dutch trade. The Dutch have not moved to declare war upon Japan but are known to be at high alert.

Italians hit out at French Fleet

The Free French Fleet, tasked with preventing any supplies reaching the North African port of Tunis came under intense air attack this month.

Initial reports that elements of the French fleet had been sunk by the Italians appear to be false, however, the French have taken heavy losses with news out of Casablanca that the French Command are unimpressed with the strategic role that the British have handed the French Fleet, which has been left without air protection in the middle of the Mediterranean now that the British carriers have gone off with the main British fleet. Luck will not last with these ships, losses will mount as time goes on.

RAF losses mount

Having faced disaster around Hull, the RAF was determined to stop any incursions against the south coast.

In a series of actions from Plymouth to Dover the RAF and Luftwaffe fought a rolling air contest, in which both can claim some success.

The German attacks to the west caused heavy damage to the Plymouth area, including the destruction of a Radar Station, whilst in the east the British can claim to have denied the Germans the chance of hitting London.

Japanese move on Rabaul

Australian troops are readied for an expected amphibious attack upon the port of Rabaul in the Bismark chain.

After a week of shelling by the Japanese fleet the local garrison, only recently deployed is reported to be awaiting the arrival of the enemy assault ships.

US and Canada shoot it out

In what is being seen as a severely embarrassing event, the Canadian government has launched an investigation into how Canadian destroyers shelled a US Cruiser.

The USS Phoenix is reported to have taken only light damage after 3 Canadian destroyers opened up fire on her in dense fog, believing the Phoenix was a German cruiser raiding the convoy lanes.