

Dublin Chronicle

April 30th 1942

Issue 33

PORTUGAL COLLAPSES AS GERMANS MARCH ON IN IBERIA



German Armoured forces of Army Group E continue to drive the British back towards Gibraltar, the one last hold of the Allies.

The combined Axis Armies continued to drive on the city of Lisbon, as the British and their allies attempted to locate positions from which to hold the German advance.

With the situation deteriorating daily, but allied troops still managing to hold defensive lines against the much larger axis army, the whole campaign came crashing down around the British General Staff as the Lisbon Government announced an agreement to end hostilities on the 12th of April, giving the Allied powers some 3 days to depart the city.

Meanwhile to the south, the Polish Corps, now some 5 divisions in strength broke from allied command lines, so reported by the Polish News agency, although firmly

denied by Whitehall, and charged headlong into the rear of the German forces on the south side of the Tajo. The Poles hitting the Germans with speed and energy not yet seen by any of the allied armies this year send 6 divisions of crack German troops fleeing from the field, taking heavy losses.

At the same time the Troops of the British 3rd Army cheered to see allied comrades and the new break in the German encirclement of the Allied Army in Portugal, with the Germans and Spanish still pressing from the north the British and Canadians used what time they had and raced south, leaving some 30,000 or more of their comrades in Axis hands, but managing to save some 8 divisions from German POW camps, all because the Poles needed to attack the nearest German column!!!

As this action occurred to the west, the eastern lines closed further towards Seville, with the Canadian and British troops unable to hold the steady drive of the Luftwaffe and Wehrmacht. The British, French, Canadian and South African troops are now cornered, yet again.



Troops of the Free Polish Army charge into the rear of the German lines on the Tajo valley. Since day one of this war these troops have proven themselves time and time again, the once Allied force that has repeatedly inflicted heavy losses on the German Army.

Russian lines waver

As expected by many, the might of the German army is slowly increasing the pressure it is applying to the Russian defences and now the cracks are starting to appear.

Russian forces have taken retreat to their heels over the past two years, only around Smolensk have they stood firm this month, holding out in massive street and house actions, crushing blows exchanged between infantry, armour and artillery, the city now turning slowly into a rubble mound.

Further north the Germans have broken out of the Leningrad region and are attempting to sweep around Moscow, whilst a second drive appears in the making in the south, possibly towards Kharkov. The great stride advances of last year have not occurred as yet, the advances being far more tentative, this indeed assisting the Russian defences as STAVKA can apply its reserves at will.

Greeks fight back

Italian troops, pushing hard into the lines of the Greek army on the approaches to Athens received a severe shock when the Greeks bit back.

With heavy losses taken in a head-long attack into the Greek defences, the Italian and Bulgarian defenders were poorly prepared for a massive counter attack by French and Greek forces, that not only pushed the Axis back but also eliminated their southern bridgehead. Supported by some 5 French divisions and a raid by a force of French cruisers the Greeks have shown they are no push-overs.

Malta Stand firm

The tiny island of Malta was poised for a month of hell when the Italian airforce started a deadly campaign of air-raids.

The island's garrison was not ready to lay down though and put up a massive anti-air barrage, possibly the largest concentration of AAA seen in the war to-date. The Italians soon gave up their attacks and switched to low level and night operations, these too taking heavy losses as the month came to an end. Perhaps the Italians will need to think this one over again?

Battle of Java Sea

The Royal Navy and the Imperial Japanese navy finally clashed in the long awaited duel that each has claimed they sought.

The British appear to have scored first blood as their carrier task force, reported as 4 carriers, 2 battleships and up to 28 destroyers and cruisers, located and attacked by carrier groups the Japanese 1st Fleet - 2 carriers, 2 battleships and some 15 destroyers and escorts.

The battle off the north east coast of Java saw the British sink a carrier and battleship in a quick carrier action, which witnessed the Japanese zero meet its match in the Spitfire's of RN Fleet Air Arm. The Japanese can claim some revenge sinking a carrier, reported as Formidable, in a lone air raid by one squadron of dive bombers.

Both sides will learn much from this action, the Japanese, they need to protect their carrier better, the RN, they need air patrols!

Korea Falls to Russians

Russian infantry and armour has now secured the entire Korean Peninsular, following a lightning drive through the Japanese lines.

As the Russians drove toward Pusan the remaining Japanese forces attempted to close on each other to provide a single defensive line, however the Russian formations managed to isolate one group after another and prevent any solid defence of the city.

Even with the Imperial Navy off shore the Russians managed to race to the harbour, whilst some elements swung north to intercept a drive by a lone Japanese Corps, slowed by poor conditions, halting it before the gates of Seoul. Still with the city of Pusan in the balance, the IJN attempted to force the Russians away and permit the withdrawal of the Japanese infantry, only to see the city in flames, literally, as the wooden city caught fire.

The Russians also attempted to occupy the southern Manchurian cities, but took heavy losses in an action which saw some well prepared defences pay dividends for the Japanese.

The road to Peking also became an action zone as the Russians threw armour forward towards the Chinese capital, destroying 2 elite divisions of the Japanese army on route and breaking communications and supply lines between the Japanese High Command and their troops in Manchuria.

The situation in Iberia



The situation in Manchuria



The situation in Greece



INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

N. America - Cool across the central and western regions, warming as the month goes on.

C. America / Caribbean - Light winds, warm for most of month.

S. America - Warm, weather heavy to hazardous off the southern cape.

Atlantic - Warm in south and central regions, light winds and risk of fog in northern waters.

W. Europe - Light rain, intermittent with sunshine, winds light but variable around the north sea.

E. Europe - Ground drying, but still muddy in patches, weather wet at times, with intermittent clear spells and light winds.

Balkans - Weather claming, light winds and clear skies most of month.

N. Africa / Med - Warm, winds off the Med, light rain towards Suez.

C. Africa / S. Africa - warm and dry in most regions.

Russia - Possible light rain expected throughout month, ground drying, but still muddy, conditions improving, good flying conditions.

Arabia / Turkey - Becoming warmer as the month progresses.

India - Generally dry and warm as the month moves on, low winds, good flight conditions, ground dry.

Central Russian Empire - Muddy conditions, improving only slightly as the month progresses, high risk of rain.

Eastern Russia - Muddy conditions, improving only slightly as the month progresses, high risk of rain.

N. China / Manchuria - Ground drying, improving conditions as the month continues, low level cloud clearing towards the middle of the month with good flight conditions and road conditions towards end.

N. Pacific / Japan - Slight risk of rain, calm seas, generally warm.

S. China - Ground muddy, drying later in month, high temperatures expected mid month will induce fog and coastal mist, with poor flight conditions, ground drying quickly though.

Indo China / East Indies - See Southern China.

S. Pacific - Swells in the south.

Australia - Warm, low level cloud over East Indies and northern Australia, risk of light rain early in month.

World War II – Open Warfare Bulletin 32

1. National newspapers should be with me as soon as possible please.
2. Game turn 34, for May 1942 is due back with me for:
Thursday, 24th of August (15:00 GMT).
3. A few folks will need to deposit funds this turn. I am also introducing 2 new players.
4. Future turns:

Turn 35: October 18th

Turn 36: December 14th

Turn 37: February 14th

Turn 38: April 28th

Turn 39: May 23rd

Turn 40: July 18th

Hope that helps with your own planning, these all fit around the school holidays.