

# **THE TIMES**

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**April 30, 1942**

## **ROYAL NAVY WINS DECISIVE VICTORY IN THE JAVA SEA!!!**

By E.D. McDavitt (Brisbane) & C.R. Simpson (Calcutta)

This month saw the senior service win a decisive victory over the Imperial Japanese Navy in the Java Sea. Admiral Somerville and the men of Asiatic Fleet went looking for the Japanese fleet to bring them to battle – and found them some sixty miles off Sumatra. Our Fleet put eight carrier groups into the air – equipped with the most modern carrier-based aircraft in the world. After finding the Japanese vessels with ease, the Spitfires of the Naval Air Arm slashed through three groups of Japanese Zeroes and enabled the bombers to move to attack. Three squadrons of Firebrands quickly dropped to attack altitude and made a rush for one of the Japanese carriers, a monster of a ship, displacing over 22,000 tonnes and later confirmed as the Syokaku – one of the most modern Japanese carriers having only entered service in 1941.

The torpedo bombers, sleek and fast struck low at the Syokaku, ripping her innards out with twelve direct hits. Five torpedoes stuck her port side near the bow whilst another seven found home at various points along the starboard side of the vessel. These impacts sent the Japanese carrier over onto her back and beneath the waves in less than three minutes. Not to be outdone, the dive bombers of the Fleet Air Arm swooped down upon the carrier Zuikaku – the sister ship of the Syokaku. Ten bombs found the Zuikaku, easily penetrating her wooden flight deck and causing havoc on the hanger deck. Three

bombs penetrated one of the ship's fuel bunkers and the fire was reportedly observed as far away as Sumatra. After belching thick black smoke for over fifteen minutes, the crew was observed to be abandoning ship. As the Japanese were attempting to flee for their lives, the ship went down by the stern and sunk. Meanwhile the battleship Haruna took six bomb hits --- with two of those hits taking out A turret. As our boys turned for home, the Haruna shook violently as the fire spread to an ammunition bunker. The force of the explosion blew off the 3 guns of A turret and the ship went down quickly by the bow. The remnants of the Japanese force, the damaged Kirishima and six destroyers made for home as the sole remaining Japanese air group came upon Asiatic Fleet. As the Japanese Dive bombers were identified by the destroyer pickets, our ships all turned their guns to face the enemy dive bombers, and ten were blasted out of the sky before they reached their targets. One crazed Japanese neglected to release his bomb and rode his damaged aircraft into HMS Formidable. Fortunately, the armoured flight deck of the Formidable held and the ship only received a slight dent and minor damage from the resulting fire. The last remaining Japanese Dive Bomber scored a lucky hit upon HMS Repulse. It impacted on the aft quarterdeck causing little damage.

In all the men of Asiatic Fleet under the intrepid leadership of Admiral Somerville accounted for two modern Japanese carriers and one battleship, along with six groups of aircraft and only suffered the loss of seven aircraft and minor damage to HMS Formidable and HMS Repulse. Upon hearing the news both Brisbane and Calcutta went wild with admiration for the Royal Navy. The Empire has a long last given the Japanese the sound thrashing they so richly deserve.

Sources from both Buckingham Palace and the Admiralty indicate that Admiral Somerville is to receive the Knight's Cross of the Royal Order of the Bath from His Majesty in recognition for his service to the Empire.

We at the Times salute Admiral Somerville and all of the officers and men of the Royal Navy who risk their lives each day in order to insure the continued freedom of the British Empire. The Navy has been and remains on the front lines of defending our liberty and taking the fight to the enemy.

## GALLANT POLES SEND NAZIS RUNNING!!!

By A.S. (Seville):

This month after the cowardly surrender of the Portuguese army and government without consultation, the situation in Iberia was very grave. However, the bravery, valour, and professionalism of the men of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Army permitted our boys to withdraw in good order and to establish a defensive line along the south bank of the Tejo southeast of Lisbon. Seeking to exploit this grave situation, the Nazis attempted to strike

into the right flank of our forces before they could dig in and prepare a proper welcome. The men of the Free Polish Army struck hard at the Germans with the assistance of the 5<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division and succeeded in putting six divisions of elite German infantry, including several SS formations to flight. No nation has given more to this fight than Poland; no nation has sacrificed more on the altar of victory ---- and her sons fought like lions. Local commanders report that the men of the Free Polish Army were so aggressive in their pursuit of the routed Nazi formations that they advanced an additional thirty miles before they stopped and return to their vital place in the line. From Vienna to Valencia, the men of the Free Polish Army are an inspiration to everyone who values freedom and democracy. We at the Times salute their bravery and valour!

# **PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS TO THE EMPIRE!!!**

By M.T. Ewell (London):

Last night, in an emotional and moving address, the Prime Minister spoke to the Empire on the airwaves of the BBC World Service. As a service to our readers, We at the Times reprint his remarks in full.

“ We did not enter upon the war with the hope of easy victory; we did not enter upon it in any desire to extend our territory, or to increase our position in the world; or in any romantic desire to shed our blood and spend our money. We entered upon this war reluctantly after we had made every effort compatible with honour to avoid being drawn in, and we entered upon it in the full realization of the sufferings, losses, disappointments, vexations, and anxieties, and of the appalling and sustaining exertions which would be entailed upon us by our action. The war will be long and sombre. It will have many reverses of fortune and many hopes falsified by subsequent events, and we must derive from our cause and from our strength that is in us, and from the traditions and history of our race, and from the support and aid of our Empire and Allies all over the world the means to make this country overcome obstacles of all kinds and continue to the end of the furrow, whatever the toiling and suffering may be.

But though we entered this war with no illusions as to the incidents which will mark the progress, as to the ebb and flow of fortune in this and that part of the gigantic field over which it is waged, we entered it, and entered it rightly, with the sure and strong hope and expectation of bringing it to a victorious conclusion. I am quite certain that if

we, the people of the British Empire, choose whatever may happen in the interval, we can in the end make this war finish in accordance with our interests and the interests of civilization. Let us not be the sport of fortune, looking for victories here and happy chances there; let us take measures, which are well within our power, which are practical measures, measures which we can begin upon at once and carry through from day to day with surety and effect. Let us enter upon measures which in the long run, whatever the accidents and incidents of the intervening period may be, will secure us that victory upon which our life and existence as a nation not less than the fortune of our Allies and of the world absolutely depends.”

## **IN BRIEF**

### **GREEKS JOIN ALLIED CAUSE!**

This month saw the redoubtable Greeks, who have for over six months resisted the Axis attempts to subjugate them formally join the Allies. The Italians and Bulgarians reeled backwards from a series of well organized counter attacks by Greek and French Expeditionary forces. Unless their Nazi masters can come rapidly to their aid in force, local commanders are confident that they can liberate Greece in a few months and take the fight to Bulgaria and Albania. We at The Times salute our new Greek allies not only for the courage and skill on the battlefield but also for their courage in taking up the common cause of freedom and democracy. They too will not simply stand idly by and watch as the Axis beast subjugates the peoples of Europe one by one

### **RAF HITS THE NAZIS HARD at DIEPPE!**

Sources at Bomber Command have confirmed that this past month saw several large attacks against targets in Nazi-occupied Europe. Dieppe was hit and the radar station there completely destroyed. Additional reports from sources within Fighter Command indicate that over 100 Nazi Fw-190s were destroyed over the target by our Boys in blue. We at the Times applaud this most recent example of skill and valour in the air. We call upon the government to permit the unrestricted bombing of all targets within enemy occupied territory. The Nazis have repeatedly demonstrated their lack of regard for human life and dignity. While we appreciate Mr. Churchill's Victorian notions of sportsmanship and honour, Bomber Command must strike the enemy anywhere he is found – regardless of the brayings of the pro-Nazi Irish Press or of collateral damage.