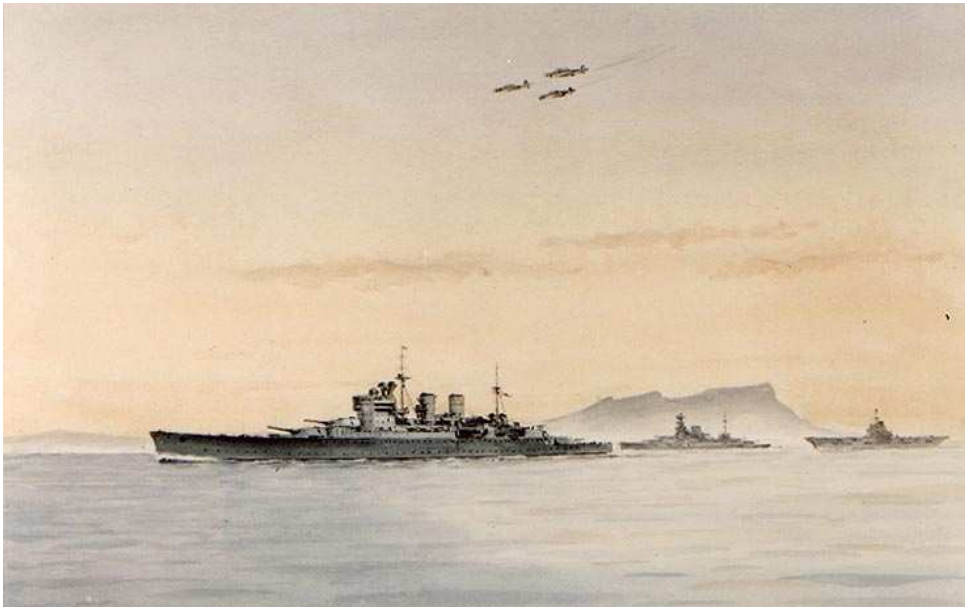


# Dublin Chronicle

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## ITALIAN FLEET ROUTED BY ROYAL NAVY



**The Italian Fleet again sailed in an attempt to destroy the British Mediterranean Fleet and for the 3rd time was soundly thrashed!**

**The British Med' Fleet (shown above in an artists impression) sailed in support of the evacuation of the British and French Army in eastern Spain, ensuring that the bulk of this allied force were evacuated safely.**

Badoglio and Mussolini opted for this occasion to attack the British Fleet, no doubt as a prelude to a return to Africa later in the year. However, the Italians, for the 3rd time in as many years completely failed to grasp the strategic situation.

Across the Mediterranean three groups of Italian ships made for the western sectors and the waiting British fleet, combined these 3

squadrons would have undoubtedly had more power than the British and would, according to all experts have totally destroyed the waiting British Fleet, but as per previous occasions, the Italians failed to co-ordinate their actions.

With 3 separate attacks, over a period of 8 days, the Italians through away their strategic advantage and allowed the British to move their fleet with skill to intercept one Italian battlegroup after another.

The Italians using some 4 battleships, unsupported by aviation assets took substantial losses, believed to be 2 battleships and 4 cruisers, whilst the British took no more than light losses and damage. Enemy submarines posing more of a threat than the big gun ships.

With the Italians also engaged in naval actions in the eastern Med, where the French Fleet appears to have assumed allied control of the seas, we are again looking at the possible destruction of the entire Italian surface fleet.

With the campaign in Greece stalled and the loss of key assets of the fleet the Italians must again look at how they are conducting their war and consider if their strategy is working.



HMS Duke of York returns to harbour.

## Japanese pull out of Indo-China

**After months of bitter fighting and heavy losses to both sides the final battles around Hanoi resulted in an ignominious withdrawal by the Empire of Japan, from the shores of the French Indo China colonies.**

Having spent much of last year and the winter months of this year trying to secure a foot hold in Indo China, the Japanese have had to admit defeat and pull their troops out of the region, under intense pressure from the Allied Armies.

It appears that the withdrawal had been planned, but was soon discovered by the allied powers, who, realising that the Japanese would escape to the sea, put all of their local assets into one final push towards Haiphong and its valuable harbour. The Japanese committing naval and air support to the withdrawal were now faced with the most determined attack the allies have managed to construct in the region, with the rear guard and the airforce taking the heaviest losses (although the allies did not get off lightly either).

With the evacuation of these forces the Japanese will have freed some 12 to 18 divisions for service in China and Manchuria, so the strategic value of this withdrawal may be seen elsewhere in the region, it still however marks the first Allied victory in Asia.



Japanese troops pulled out of the front line, board transports in Haiphong harbour, as the British close in.

## Royal Navy takes a battering

**British naval units sailing towards Iberia are now facing the heaviest concentration of German submarine activity in the war to-date.**

A British convoy, supported by the Home Fleet faced a week of attacks by up to 50 German u-boats, who accounted for over 300,000 tonnes of allied shipping from the group, including the carrier Furious, and a number of other escorting units.

With such losses mounting and a change in the way the u-boats are operating, the Royal Navy is at a cross-roads, success in the Med' will mean nothing if the road to Gibraltar is closed!

## Russians continue south

**The Russian army has continued to cause disarray in Tokyo as forces of the one time most inept army in the world have managed to occupy Seoul and move the gates of Pusan.**

Japanese troops moving quickly to the region from the Home Islands and China are facing an increasingly alien confrontation, with Russian forces advancing in quick bursts towards the enemy lines, with apparent disregard for their own lines of security of supply. These advances have now seen the Japanese loose almost all of the Manchuria and Korea.

The Russians, now believed to be operating some 4 Army Groups in the region are apparently using as much might as possible to terminate the war in the east, the key question must be; are these troops needed more in the west?

## Axis advance on all fronts

**Germany has again picked up the tempo of the war, opening attacks in Iberia and Russia, making advances on both fronts.**

In the west, the battle for Spain looks all but won, the British and her allies taking one beating after another. This month saw the combined Axis armies move within a few miles of the Portuguese capital, the city looking ripe for the picking, as the remnants of the Allied Armies pull back into Lisbon.

In the east the Russians faced two concentrated German attacks upon their lines, neither opening a breakthrough, but neither appearing to be planned to do so. South of St. Petersburg, the city of Novgorod fell to the Germans, whilst their armour forced the Russians to pull their lines back by over 60 miles.

Further south the Russian 6th Army pulled back from the Pripet marshes under intense pressure from German Army Group C, although reports have emerged that the city of Kiev is now in a state of civil unrest.

Only in northern Europe have the Germans had some worries, as the British again resorted to bomber raids. This time port and airfields took the main hammering, although the city of Antwerp has reported some collateral damage.

With the Allied forces in Iberia looking shattered and the war expected to end here within the next few months, the Russians look set to face the entire might of the Axis armies, the British and western powers having no foothold in Europe and looking incapable of creating one. Time is running out in London and Moscow!

## The situation in Portugal



## The situation in Northern Russia



## The situation in Korea



### INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

**N. America** - High winds and cold 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** - Heavy winds from the north, high swells in all regions of the north, lighter in south, risk of fog banks in central and western regions.

**W. Europe** - Rain, with low level cloud cover throughout the month, flying conditions hazardous.

**E. Europe** - Muddy, rain expected for most of month, terrain difficult, flying conditions poor.

**Balkans** - High winds and rain throughout the region, Adriatic calm.

**N. Africa / Med** - Warming up, light winds, favourable flight conditions, Med calm.

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

**Russia** - Heavy rain expected throughout month, ground expected to be muddy, conditions mixed, hopes of this weather clearing for April.

**Arabia / Turkey** - cold in the north, becoming warmer as you move south.

**India** - occasional rain throughout the region, generally dry and warm as the month moves on becoming yet warmer, with less chance of rain.

**Central Russian Empire** - Hard ground, mud later in month as rain moves in from the west, ground conditions deteriorating.

**Eastern Russia** - Seas heavy, high risk of fog, ground firm.

**N. China / Manchuria** - Cold winds coming down from Siberia, northern China extremely cold, central regions experiencing heavy rain and continued build-up of mud, flight conditions poor, improving later in the month.

**N. Pacific / Japan** - Winds calming, risk of rain.

**S. China** - rain continues, easing as the month progresses, ground muddy but improving by close of month.

**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

- National newspapers should be with me as soon as possible please.
- Game turn for April 1942 is due back with me for:  
**Saturday, 17th of June (09:00 GMT).**  
Future turns are *planned* as, 22nd July, 26th of August and 7th of October. This takes into account my own family holiday and the madness that infects the school for the first 2 weeks back in September.
- Players are reminded that it is vital to submit SPOs for long term planning.
- I intend to be very rigid with the naming new units rule and I will enforce the time delays for units at a distance from their command centre, far too many units are operational on the maps these days without a reference to their command line.
- Sorry for the issues with this turn, exam season now nearly finished, so back to normal, just got to teach them things now!