

THE TIMES

March 31, 1942

VICTORY IN INDO-CHINA!!!

By P.F. Hobart (Rangoon)

This past month saw total victory in Indo-China against the Japanese as the 2nd South African Motor Corps secured the port of Haiphong in concert with the Free French 12me Corps. Allied forces destroyed over seven Japanese divisions and accepted the surrender of 24,000 prisoners of war. The Commander of the Far East Army Group, General Lyons, issued a statement that praised courage and valour of the men of his command during the struggle for Indo-China:

“This month is one of the most important months since the beginning of the war. Indeed, your valour and devotion to duty have achieved the complete liberation of Indo-China. Chinese, Indian, French, South African, & Burmese soldiers united in common cause have succeeded in preserving the freedom of French Indo-China. Allied forces have resisted the violent attacks of the Japanese with soul and honour. Despite being outnumbered your valour and fighting spirit made this victory!

We will now take all necessary steps to restore the whole of Indo-China to French civil administration. While you can be proud of your achievements, our task is not yet done. We shall continue to liberate territory from the grasping sons of Nippon and restore freedom to all of Asia that yet remains in bondage.

The Battle of Indo-China is now over. Over 300,000 Japanese troops are dead or in Allied custody as prisoners of war. The men of the Allied armies have won a glorious and decisive victory. Freedom loving people everywhere should be proud of you and rejoice in your accomplishments.”

Sources indicate that General Lyons 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.

ROYAL NAVY WINS GLORIOUS VICTORIES ACROSS THE GLOBE!

By E.D. McDavitt (Brisbane),
A.S. Thompson (Lisbon), &
M.T. Ewell (London):

This month saw three glorious victories by the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean, off the coast of New Britain in Asia, and in the North Sea.

Admiral Ramsay and the men of Mediterranean Fleet encountered the Italian Fleet off Cartagena. In a rapid action, the Italian battleships Hadrian and Roma were both sunk by a combination of accurate fire from the Duke of York and Ramilles as well as carrier-based aircraft. Additionally, eight Italian cruisers were sunk and an as yet unidentified older Italian battleship damaged. Friendly losses were limited to 3 light cruisers. Intelligence estimates now indicate that the Italian fleet has been reduced to one functional battleship and two squadrons of destroyers. Their attempt to impede operations at Cartagena was most unsuccessful and the days of the Italian Navy are numbered.

The men of the Western Pacific Squadron under the intrepid leadership of Vice-Admiral Sir John Bailey, KCB executed a daring raid upon the Japanese off Rabaul. Moving north at flank speed they caught the Japanese loading Marines at Rabaul. After quickly dispatching two squadrons of escorting destroyers, the main body moved in for the kill. Over 400,000 tons of enemy transports were sent to the bottom of the sea --- along with five divisions of Japanese Marines. Upon hearing the news of the Western Pacific Squadron's latest triumph, the cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Darwin, Brisbane, Perth, and Wellington saw spontaneous rallies in support of the Navy and the war effort against the Japanese. The crowds in Sydney were estimated at over 55,000. With the destruction of these transports and marines, the Japanese will be hard pressed to make any move towards Australia.

Finally the men of Convoy Group and Coastal Command distinguished themselves in a series of actions in the North Sea against Nazi U-boats and E-boats. Over the course of the month, over 20 U-boats and 30 E-boats were sunk. No merchant traffic was disrupted in the North Sea and the Germans slunk back to port in defeat.

We at the Times proud of all of the 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.

RAF HITS LUFTWAFFE!!!

By M.T. Ewell (London):

This month the RAF executed several attacks against the Luftwaffe and against other industrial targets across northern Europe. Over 2,000 aircraft attacked airbases and industrial targets from Amsterdam in the north to Cherbourg in the west causing extremely heavy losses to the Nazis. According to the most recent reconnaissance reports available, Nazi airbases were destroyed at Cherbourg and Antwerp. The industrial complex at Antwerp was completely destroyed and over 500 Nazi aircraft were shot out of the sky and destroyed on the ground during this operation.

Air Marshall Arthur Harris, Commanding Officer of RAF Bombing Command made the following statement to the press upon the conclusion of this operation:

“This operation has severely damaged or destroyed several of the best fighter formations of the Luftwaffe and caused extensive damage to the industrial capacity of the enemy. I wish to officially repudiate the assertions made in the Irish press, particularly the Dublin Chronicle, concerning our operations in occupied Europe. Reports have been made that we bombed Antwerp for hours with a 1000 heavy bombers causing a massive loss of life, when in reality we only sent 200 bombers against a vital industrial target. I appeal to the free people of the world - how can you trust the reports of a Nazi dominated, puppet government in occupied Europe against the word of a country standing proud in the cause of freedom? The government-in-exile of Belgium have been granted free access to the mission logs of our squadrons to validate our statements and I am confident that the Irish press will be shown once again to be the purveyor of lies and innuendo. To those in Britain I would ask that the next time you see a man in an RAF uniform, thank him for his service and let him know that the nation appreciates what he is doing for us.”

The Air Marshall took a limited number of questions following his statement. When asked by this reporter if bombing alone can win the war for the Allies he responded, “I am aware that there are a number of people who say that bombing cannot win the war. My reply to that is that it has never been tried ... and we shall see.”

We at the Times salute our brave knights of the air who have struck a blow against those despicable individuals who so readily target their attacks upon civilians and come like cowards to murder women and children under cover of darkness. We wish you every continued success against your sordid foe and look forward along with every true British

heart to the destruction of the criminal Nazi regime and the eventual liberation of the peoples of Europe.

IN BRIEF

IRISH PRESS REPORTS FALSE – HMS RODNEY SAFE AND SOUND!

It had been extensively reported in the Irish press that HMS Rodney had been sunk. In fact she is sitting proudly at anchor in Lisbon harbor after having escorted an additional six divisions to Portugal in concert with Home Fleet. This is not the first time the Irish have played fast and loose with the truth --- HMS Hood was reported sunk a few months ago – certainly the crowd of well wishers and admirers at Calcutta last month were not hallucinating when they observed the Hood. We at The Times condemn the shoddy journalism practised by the Dublin Chronicle and while we recognise their right to support the Axis, we urge them to at least consider publishing a true account of events in their paper from time to time. To do otherwise will only lower the esteem of our profession as a whole.

KEEL LAID FOR HMS COLOSSUS!

Sources at the Admiralty confirm the keel has been laid for HMS Colossus – the largest and most modern aircraft carrier in the world. She will have over one hundred percent greater carrying capacity than an Illustrious class carrier and sports improved anti-aircraft measures and vastly increased operational range.

We at the Times applaud this most recent example of British ingenuity and look forward to the date of her commissioning into the Royal Navy.