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GERMANS AND RUSSIANS SLOG IT OUT TO THE DEATH



**R u s s i a n s a r m o u r e d f o r m a t i o n s o f t h e
4 t h a n d 5 t h F r o n t s s u c c e s s f u l l y d e s t r o y e d
1 2 d i v i s i o n s o f G e r m a n A r m o u r .**

The war in the east continues to ebb and flow, with both sides making radical claims of victory. Here we present the picture as we can best tell

In the north the Finns have remained silent, whilst Army Groups A and B take the war to the Russians, who continue to defend doggedly, holding off a major push for the city of Kalinin. Russian armour and infantry taking a heavy pounding, but managing to inflict heavy losses on the Germans.

To the south of this action the Russians launched their first major offensive of the year, moving some 30 or so divisions into action to the east of Smolensk, with upwards of 1500 aircraft in support, many of these top of the range fighters, with air superiority gained early in the

month the armour and infantry of the Russian 4th and 5th Army Groups encircled the advance elements of German Army Group B, taking well over 40,000 prisoners following some of the most bitter tank battles seen in the war.

At the same time the city of Smolensk rocked to the continued efforts of both sides to secure the city, the Germans throwing in a number of fresh divisions and succeeding to capture the city centre, although they are a long way from securing the whole city.

With the struggle in the north showing good results for the Russians, the southern campaign was proving less effective. German forces of Army Group C and South launched a number of armoured thrusts in the hope of gaining a strategic breakthrough, this being

achieved north of Kursk, where some 12 divisions of German armour are believed to be well behind the Russian lines, breaking communications between Moscow and the south.

On the Dnepr the Russians had greater success, blunting then stopping a major push designed to move south of Kharkov, but the continued pressure means further ground was lost to the Axis.



German Panzers of Army Group C, rush to take advantage of their breakthrough in northern Ukraine.

British fall back on Gibraltar

Continued pressure on the Allied forces in Iberia has led to yet another call for withdrawal, this time as the British and their allies pull back towards Gibraltar ahead of the Axis armies.

With the loss of Portugal and vital port of Lisbon, only Gibraltar and Cadiz are open to allied shipping, which faces some of the most horrific losses to u-boats on route from the United Kingdom.

This month saw the u-boats sink a reported 300,000 tonnes of allied shipping as well as 5 major warships and numerous escorts, for the loss of some 20 u-boats, but still the British attempt to reinforce this lost cause.

The allied forces have again been forced to pull south as the city of Seville was occupied by German troops after a short action with British infantry, who failed to hold their lines.

U-boat menace grows daily

With massive losses in the Atlantic, particularly on the run to Iberia the allies are starting to run out of troop ships, merchants and escorts.

The continued losses were highlighted when the Royal Navy called an end to all maritime traffic across the North Sea, following a month of severe losses both in manpower and ships to the u-boat threat, now being supported by Luftwaffe air-groups.

The life line of the allies is their access to the seas, how long they can hold this remains unclear.

Athens holds its own

The Greeks continue to hold their defences against the might of the Axis alliance.

Two German airborne divisions this month failed to take the Greek rear, with a horrendous assault by paratroops and gliders on the Greek Capital. The allied formations responded well and one of the German divisions has already surrendered, whilst the second remains trapped behind lines.

South of Greece, the Italians lost what may have been an amphibious force when the RN attacked and severely mauled a large convoy.

US Industry calls for work

The US President earned new support for his efforts to kick-start trade with the allies when leading industrialists called for additional contracts.

With the governments decision to suspend trade with all combatant nations, which in reality is every major power in the world, the United States has been sliding towards recession, and fear of another Great Depression looms large in many cities.

Job losses are now running into the tens of thousands whilst government contracts are themselves drying up. This has led to leading industrialists calling for a new deal for US industry, a one that permits them to carry the risks of trade with the combatant nations, the US Government being handed a "no blame" clause within any likely deals with the allied of axis powers. Such a move would kick-start the US economy again and allow the US to ride on the back of others needs.

KMT Move on Hong Kong

Not that the Japanese had enough to worry about, but they now face a major KMT advance in the south of the country, with the spearhead of the Chinese advance being led by an armoured division.

Chinese troops moved quickly in the early hours of the 3rd of May to take the front lines of the Japanese positions around Macao and north of Canton, whilst isolating other divisions they totally overwhelmed key front line formations, leaving the road open for an advance on Hong Kong.

The Japanese responded quickly with air support but also found that the KMT have been hording their fighters, the Japanese pilots being hard pressed to hold their own against the Chinese and western volunteer pilots.

To the north the Japanese have lost two vitally strategic cities and upwards of 6 divisions have been removed from the order of battle in a single month, this being by far the worst month since the war began for the Japanese military machine.

With war at both extremes of their lines it will be interesting to see if the Japanese can muster the reserves to combat both or even just one of these major assaults on their territory, whilst at the same time fending of the allied naval threat from their vital sea trade.

We wait to see how the Japanese will react.....

The situation in Ukraine



The situation in Canton



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 - Cool in south and central regions, light winds.

W. Europe - Light rain, intermittent with sunshine, winds light but variable.

E. Europe - Occasional rain, light in nature, winds variable from the east.

Balkans - Occasional rain, light in nature, winds from the east, sea mists expected mid month.

N. Africa / Med - Warm, winds off the Med, dry throughout.

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

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

Arabia / Turkey - Warm and dry

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

Central Russian Empire - Ground drying, slight risk of light rain.

Eastern Russia - Dry but still cold.

N. China / Manchuria - Dry, condi-

tions warming as the month progresses, slight risk of light rains and showers.

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

S. China - Ground dry, warm with heat wave moving in from the west, winds light to fresh, good flight conditions.

Indo China / East Indies - warm and dry, possible rains at end of month.

S. Pacific - Swells in the south.

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

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1. National newspapers should be with me as soon as possible please.

2. Game turn 35, for May 1942 is due back with me for:
Wednesday, 18th of October (15:00 GMT).

3. Future turns:

Turn 36: December 14th

Turn 37: February 14th

Turn 38: April 28th

Turn 39: May 23rd

Turn 40: July 18th

4. Positions that are open if you know anyone interested:

France - Allied team.

Japanese Naval Commander

China - Allied team.