

# Dublin Chronicle

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**Hot Topics:**

- Japanese invasion in Korea and Vladivostok
- German and Hungarian forces fight in Russian mud
- Submarines blockade Gibraltar
- Italian success in Greece

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## SPITFIRES KNOCK OUT ITALIANS

The British Mediterranean Fleet was attacked by Italian fighter planes 150 miles south of Sicily. Fearing a strafing or bombing attack, the HMS Indefatigable scrambled

her Spitfire squadron. The British drew first blood by shooting down the lead plane of the first Italian echelon. A brief battle ensued between the vanguards, the Italians taking out one

Spitfire and losing another 3 of their Machis. Despite higher numbers the Italians chose to break off combat against the faster and more agile British planes.



## AXIS FAILURES IN RUSSIA

German and Hungarian armies have attacked two large cities in Russia, Kursk and Dnepropetrovsk. Both assaults failed as a

result of lack of offensive firepower, fortified positions, defenders prepared for everything, adverse weather effects and a general

lack of mobility of the attacking infantry units. Western analysts also observed a lack of preparation by the attacking forces.

## JAPAN CAPTURES LANCHOU

It seemed for a while that the city of Lanchou was unoccupied by KMT forces despite Japanese troops in within reach of the city. The Japanese 17th Corps was near enough the city to take Lanchou in a swift move through the wetted up plains of Northern China. Two bomber wings attacked the city to prevent all chance of organized resistance to the Japanese approach. Japanese bicycle troops reached Lanchou on October 28, when they found out that the KMT had already abandoned the city months ago to the rule

of a local warlord. Chinese city officials have promised collaboration with Japan

under the authority of Wang Chin Wei.



## ITALY MATCHES UP TO GREEKS

Greek forces attacked the Italian beachhead at Patras on October 17. The 7th Mountain Corps and 1st Army Corps attacked from an elevated position but that seems to have been their only advantage. Facing a tremendously precise counter fire the Greek had to withdraw under consider-

able casualties without inflicting significant damage

on the Italians. The Italians now themselves



**Mussolini is content with the operations**

pushed forward into the mountains but were halted by strong French forces that arrived in relief of the battered Greek. This is the first weakness the Greek have shown so far in their patriotic defense against Italy and her allies.

## NEXT TARGET: HANNOVER

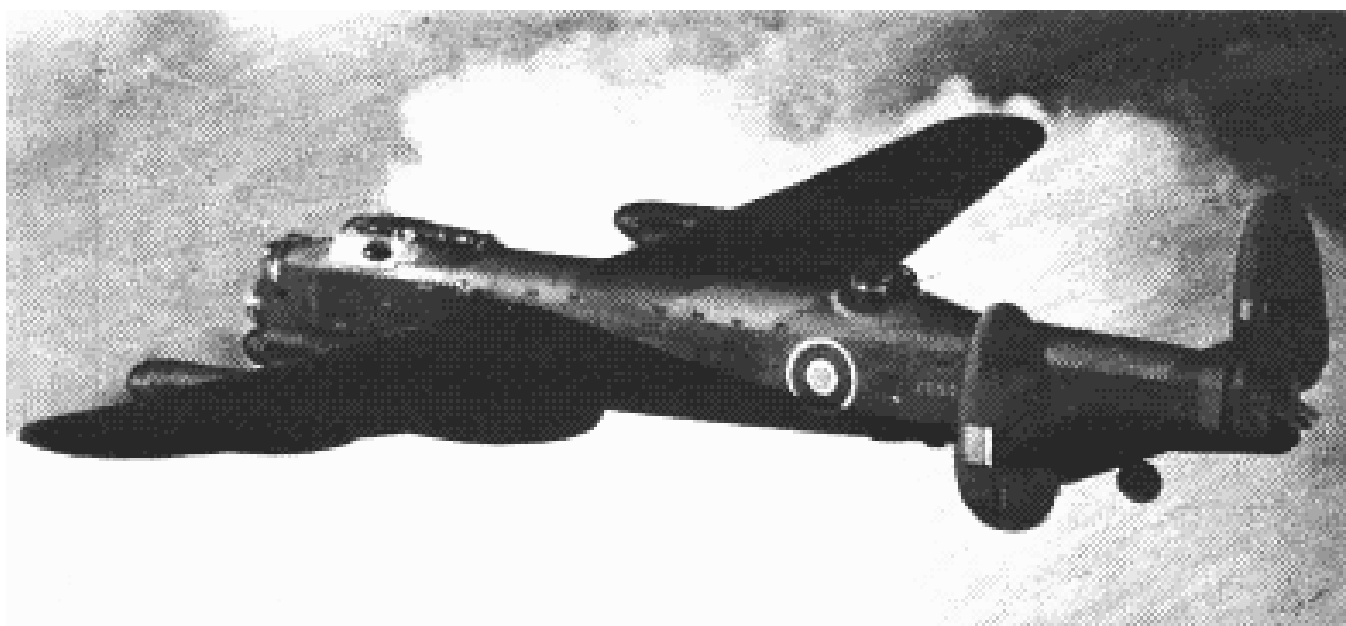
On the 8th of October, 759 aircraft - 700 Lancasters and 59 Whitleys – attacked the city of Hannover during a period of rainy and stormy weather. The H2S 'blind marker' aircraft overshoot the aiming point badly and the 'visual markers' could not correct this because their view of the ground was restricted by thick haze. German decoy markers may also have been present. The main weight of the attack thus fell on the southern suburbs and outlying towns and villages. The raid also had a morale and propagandistic importance since a good part of Great Brit-

ain's history is connected to the name of Hannover and the house that bore many English kings. Through this attack the British government made a statement that they will not allow sentimentalities to get in the way of what is deemed necessary for the ultimate victory over Germany and her allies.

The weather continued to be bad over Germany. There was little Pathfinder marking at Hannover and most of the bombing fell in other areas. Germany reports that the raid was carried out by an estimated 10 aircraft and that the centre of the attack appeared to be

in the southern suburb of Ronnenberg. 5 people were killed and 50 injured.

Many of the bombs intended for Hannover also fell in the smaller town of Brunswick, 25 miles away from Hannover, and it seems that most of the Pathfinder marking was over this place. More than 700 houses were seriously damaged; 80 people were killed, 30 were injured and 3,000 were made homeless. Air defence was practically nonexistent. 6 aircraft crashed in England, possibly in thunderstorms.



# BATTLE OF KURSK



On October 5, German Army Group South hastily assembled all reserves in a desperate attempt to capture the city of Kursk before the Russian winter. The XXX and XXXVIII Army Corps were the first to move through the wetted up terrain and started probing the Kursk defenses from the north on October 7. On October 12 the XXXI Army Corps joined in from the east and as late as October 19, three more Corps attacked from the west.

The city was defended by the 5<sup>th</sup> Russian Army and attached support units. The 19<sup>th</sup> Armored Corps to the

south of Kursk provided some artillery support and threatened to counterattack the German advance in the southwest that had thoroughly bogged down before the bunker lines protecting the city. In bloody trench fighting the Germans could count the meters they took at the end of the day. The Russian casualties summed up to 100'000. But the Germans lost not much less and after two weeks of intense fighting the attack had to be halted without any meaningful objective achieved.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Russian Army was reduced to Corps strength.

Many German units were likewise badly mauled. The XXIV Army Corps was reduced to its cadres and had to be dissolved. Most German units surrounding Kursk are depleted, disrupted and not suited for offensive action in the near future. Trench warfare proved costly and the lack of armor was a decisive handicap for the attackers.

The city was on the front-line for months. Declared a fortress by the STAVKA in August, a massive German attack was well reckoned with.

# DNEPROPETROVSK HOLDS

Hungarian forces under command of Colonel-General Ferenc Szombathelyi attacked the besieged Russian city of Dnepropetrovsk. In the early days, the 5th Hungarian Corps and elements from their Romanian allies closed the pocked around the embattled city holding off the axis invaders for many months.

But the attack was ill-fated. The 7th Hungarian Corps marching south to participate in the assault got stuck in the muddy plains. The main attack planned for October 10, when the three motorized corps from the east were assembled ready for attack, had to be delayed until October 15 and finally October 20 until there was no hope remaining that the 7th, which played an important role in approaching the city directly, would not make it.

The remaining six Hungarian corps attacked across the wide Dnepr and met with excellent prepared defenses except on the southeastern part. 1st and 3rd

Corps formed a bridgehead to the north while the motorized corps had difficulties getting their vehicles across but remained playing an important support role, pinning the Russians down on the other bank of



the river and preventing infantry movement.

Until October 23 it seemed that the Hungarians were making slow but steady progress, successfully getting half of their forces across the Dnepr and preparing to assault the city

outskirts from the north. But on the 24th, the Russian 5th Tank Corps attacked the bridgehead with masses of T32 tanks. The Hungarians had no adequate means to stop this enemy. 2nd Corps retreated back across the Dnepr under constant artillery fire. The 1st and 3rd Corps were thrown back into the river. The soldiers swam for their bare life, leaving behind arms and equipment. 10'000 surrendered to General Rzhnievsky.

Despite this great success, Dnepropetrovsk is now fully encircled. The Russians have no line of supply and there is no indication of stockpiles being made. Due to a lack of power supplies, all factories were closed down and, in the end of October, all public transportation services became unavailable. Winter is coming and the Russians do not seem to have assembled a relief force yet. We shall be on the lookout during the next months.

# JAPANESE MARINES INVADE KOREA

The Japanese empire launched an ambitious assault on three locations of the Russian occupied peninsula of Korea. The first (and also the most important) of these assaults was the assault on Vladivostok. The Japanese 2nd Marine Corps, assembled in Hakodate last month, landed to the north of the city on October 15. A special task force provided naval bombardment, and maintained air superiority during the assault. After the Marines had landed and secured the beach head, the 9th Infantry Corps followed behind to bring additional fire-power to the operation zone.

Navy bombers of the new type Ki48 based at Sendai, protected by massive fighter escort, attacked Vladivostok in preparation of an attack by the just landed forces. Marines and infantry assembled for the assault on the city itself. But stormy weather and mud in the operation zone hindered any further movement. The Japanese high command also seems to have overestimated the speed of the landings. Yet the Japanese have firmly secured a beachhead next to the Korean border and 100 km from Vladivostok, threatening to cut the rail-



way to Khabarovsk and to encircle the harbour city.

While the attack on Vladivostok was taking place, Japan also began what must be considered the attempt of reconquest of the Korean Peninsula, with an ambitious 2-pronged amphibious assault to the North of Seoul and the opposing east coast. Again two large task forces provided security for the landings, one on each side, as well as carrier-based air support, though this was not necessary as the Russians had no air forces sta-

tioned in South Korea. With the successful landing of approximately 7 Japanese divisions the Russian troops in southern Korea will be effectively cut off from supply and reinforcement.

The Russians must quickly react in order not to lose more than just the initiative. These actions could certainly turn the campaign in Manchuria firmly in Japanese favor.

# SUBS ATTACK!

Ten British destroyers on patrol in the Gulf of Cadiz were lost to German submarines. The squadron that was originally meant to hunt down subs suddenly came under heavy attack by a large and aggressive group of over 20 Uboats. According to Lt. Captain Vian, commanding officer of the HMS Oriani, the lookouts detected a periscope on October 7, 08:15 hours. He immediately informed the squadron and headed towards the contact. Five minutes later the Oriani was hit by a dud, then depth-charged the suspected attacker.

At that time, many seamen observed traces of bubbles in the water. Within a quarter of an hour, six ships were hit. The HMS Frece took a torpedo hit amidships and within minutes broke into two parts, sinking with all souls. Sonar counted 20 contacts and the remaining destroyers started harking upon the submarines. But not all were below periscope depth and still had eels in their tubes. The Christiani and Guiseppe received 2 hits each and quickly sunk. The Capo aborted the sub chase and started taking up survivors from the five badly damaged destroyers.

As the commander-in-chief of the squadron, Captain E.L. Berton, died aboard the Frece, Captain Vian ordered a general surrender and chuted all life boats. A submarine surfaced and permitted to ferry the surviving seamen to the Portuguese coast, where the Capo and Oriani were scuttled.

The battle has shown the vulnerability of the captured Italian destroyers but also the problems the crew had operating in an anti-submarine mode quickly and under difficult conditions. It was perhaps the greatest moral success of the U-boat-arm, demonstrating the ability of submarines to directly confront surface anti-submarine units and succeed, given sufficient numerical superiority.

German U-Boats sink 150'000 grt of Merchant shipping in SZ 36.

During heavy rain a wolf-pack approached convoy HX65, passed by the escorts and hit 15 ships in the first attack. British destroyers immediately took upon the enemy, forcing the majority of submarines to dive. However, some

managed to launch a second attack, sinking another 8 for a total of 23 merchant ships of the convoy. The escorts had a hard time chasing the Uboats but claimed hit at least four of them. The Royal Navy officially stated that 3 German Type VII submarines were sunk.

## Death at Madeira

Elsewhere the Germans had less success. A larger flotilla with submarine chasers halfway between Gibraltar and Madeira detected German Uboats to the southwest and made best speed to intercept them. This time surprise was impossible as the British employed ASDIC to locate the enemy. Launchers were used to lob the depth-charges over a distance. The Royal navy reported more than a dozen submarines successfully fought – sunk, damaged or driven off course.

## WWII OPEN WARFARE

The Dublin Chronicle is the news organ of the multi-player global strategic simulation "WWII Open Warfare". It is a variant of the advanced simulation system of the "World War Replayed" series. More information about the simulation system and the past games can be found at:  
<http://wwii.sepic.org>

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## COLUMBUS DAY BECLOUDED BY POLITICAL ISSUES

On October 12 the United States celebrated in a nationwide holiday the 450th anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. The first recorded celebration of Columbus Day in the United States took place on October 12, 1792.

Organized by Columbian Order, it commemorated the 300th anniversary of Columbus's landing. The 400th anniversary of the event inspired the first official Columbus Day holiday in the United States. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation urging Americans to mark the day. The public responded enthusiastically, organizing school programs, plays, and community festivities across the country. The 450th anniversary

was a little troubled by the fact that Italy, a nation that president Roosevelt has repeatedly warned of because of its aggressive behavior in Europe and Africa, has celebrated the same event in a humiliating way - or so it was felt by Americans when Mussolini at the height of celebrations in Rome stated "without Italy there would have been no America, and without [the goodwill of] Italians there will be no more America."

Christopher Columbus was an Italian captain in service of the Spanish crown. He and three ships, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria set sail on August 3, 1492. He first sailed to the Canary Islands where he re-provisioned and made repairs.

On September 6, he sailed west again. After they were 29 days out of sight of land, the crew spotted birds flying west and changed direction to follow them. Then at 2 a.m. on October 12, a lookout cried out that he had sighted land.

The crew set foot on an island that day and Columbus named it San Salvador. The Native Americans inhabiting the islands were described as "Indians" by Columbus, who believed that he had discovered Asia.

In reality, he had found an island in the Caribbean. This marked the beginning of the discovery of the great double continent America.