

SESSION THREE, 29 SEPTEMBER 2009**3. Arsenal of Democracy: 1940-41:**

U.S. Selective Service Act (Burke-Wadsworth: 14 September 1940: House 242-124; Senate 47 - 25)

Two Ocean Navy Act (Vinson-Walsh, 19 July 1940)

U.S.- U.K. "Destroyers for Bases"

Opposing Navies, summer 1940

Abbreviations for warship types: BB, battleship; CB, battlecruiser; CV, aircraft carrier; CVL, light aircraft carrier; CVE, escort aircraft carrier; CA, heavy cruiser; CL, light cruiser; DD, destroyer, DE, destroyer escort; SS, submarine; PT, patrol torpedo boat.

Royal Navy July 1940: 15 BB & CB (four more BB building); 8 CV (4 more CV building), 68 CA, CL; 80 DD, 100 DE, 40 SS (more DD & DE building); losses include 1 BB, 3 CV, 30 DD

Italian Navy (Regia Marina): Bases: Taranto, La Spezia, Genoa. 6 BB (1 more completing), 19 CA, CL, 59 DD, 116 SS, 67PT

German Navy (Deutsche Kriegsmarine): 2 CB (2 BB, *Bismarck* & *Tirpitz*, building), 2 Pocket BB; 1 OldBB; 2 CA, 2CL, 15 DD (12 lost in Norway), 51 SS

War at Sea: Atlantic. Scapa Flow 5 BB, 1CB; 6 CV, plus CA, CL, DD, DE, SS

Anti submarine ASDIC (Anti-Submarine Division Sonics) & SONAR (Sound Navigation and Ranging).
Escorted Convoys

War in Mediterranean and North Africa from 10 June 1940

Royal Navy: Alexandria: ADM Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham: 6 BB; 1 CV plus CA, CL, DD, SS; Gibraltar: "Force H," 2 CB, 1 BB, 1 CV, plus CAs, CL, DD, SS Malta: SS

Italian Navy (Regia Marina): Bases: Taranto, La Spezia, Genoa. 6 BB (1 more completing), 19 CA, CL, 59 DD, 116 SS, 67 PT

9 July 1940 Battle of Calabria. British 3 BB, 5 CA/CL chase Italian 2 BB, 10 CA/CL,

19 July 1940 cruiser battle off Crete

Western Desert (E-W: Egypt: Suez, Cairo, Alexandria, El Alamein (Qattara Depression), Mersa Matruh, Sidi Barani; **Libya** (Cyrenaica), Bardia, Tobruk, Benghazi, El Aghelia; (Tripolitana), Sirte, Tripoli

British Middle East: Egypt & Palestine. Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell; Maj. Gen. Sir Richard O'Connor.

Royal Army, 45,000 (30,000 more in Palestine watching Vichy Syria & Lebanon)

7th Armored Division "Desert Rats," 4th Indian Division, New Zealand Division

Italian Army: Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, 250,000 men

Invasion of Egypt to Mersa Matruh

Royal Navy 11 November, Taranto attack (HMS *Eagle* & *Illustrious*, Swordfish torpedo bombers)

4 Italian BBs sunk or damaged; 19 Nov., Battle of Cape Spartivento; 11 Jan. *Illustrious* damaged by German, Italian aircraft; to Malta and U.S.A.

December 1940, Italians outflanked by British (38,000 prisoners) (4th Indian to Sudan, replaced by 6th Australian; Jan. - Nov. 1941 British, South African and Indian troops take Ethiopia))

January 1941, Bardia, 38,000 surrendered; Tobruk, 30,000; stopped in February because of

Italy and Greece

Albania, Italian occupation April 1939

1940, 12 October; Germans occupy Romanian oil fields; Romania joined Axis; as had also Hungary (Admiral Horthy) & Bulgaria

28 October Italian ultimatum to Greece rejected by dictator Gen. Ioannis Metaxas

Greco-Italian War.

1941, 21 January Metaxas died. In March Churchill sent in 4 British divisions

Churchill and Roosevelt. UK gold and dollar crisis, "Cash & Carry"

29 Dec. 1940 Fireside Chat: "Arsenal of Democracy"

6 Jan. 1941: "Lend Lease" (H.R. 1776, 10 Jan.)

FOUR FREEDOMS: of Speech and Religion, from Want and Fear

Harry Hopkins, Wendell Willkie to London. Churchill, "Give us the tools and we will finish the job." Col. Robert K. McCormick, *Chicago Tribune* opposition

"Convoy" "Escort" issue: 317-71 House, 60-31 Senate, Bill signed 11 March

\$7 billion Lend Lease; 13.7 billion for Army & Navy (\$2.2 billion in 1940)

Admiral Harold Stark, Chief of Naval Operations and "Europe First." British officers secretly met with Stark

and Army Chief of Staff George Marshall, January-March

Balkans Campaign

26 March Yugoslav coup d'état; refused passage of Germans to aid Italians

6 April: Germans, Italians, Hungarians and Bulgarians invade Yugoslavia

May British evacuate to Crete and Egypt.

Atlantic: Sink the Bismarck. U.S. garrisons Iceland, April. 20 May *Bismarck & Prinz Eugen* sortie, 24 engage HMS *Hood & Prince of Wales*; *Bismarck* sunk 27 May.

Crete: 20-31 May. (Evelyn Waugh, *Sword of Honour* trilogy (1952-61), vol. 2, *Officers and Gentlemen* (1955) deals well with this Allied debacle.

British Losses, Balkans and Crete: 13,000; Royal Navy, 3 cruisers, 6 DD (Mountbatten and HMS *Kelly*); 2 BB, 1 CV damaged; 2000 men

Western Desert 1941. Gen. Erwin Rommel arrives 12 Feb.; Afrika Korps; April defeat British of Gen. Philip Neame; capture him and O'Connor; reach, Egyptian border, bypass Tobruk.

June "Operation Battleaxe" failed; Gen. Claude Auchinleck replaces Wavell

November "Operation Crusader" (British Crusader & Matilda tanks, U.S. made Stuart tanks), relieved Tobruk 7 Dec.

German Soviet War 22 June 1941 Operation Barbarossa

Red Army: 301 active divisions, 5,700,000 men

West frontier 190 Infantry Divisions, 54 Tank Brigades, 15,000 tanks (3,300,000 million men)

11,000 aircraft

(Manchurian frontier with Japan; Nomonhan battles summer 1939; Gyorgy Zhukov; 13 April 1941 Soviet-

Japanese Non-Aggression pact)

Purge of Senior Officers 1936-37; High Command: Marshals Kliment Voroshilov, Semyon Budenny, Semyon Timoshenko

German Army: Eastern Front: 166 divisions (including 21 Panzer (armored), 4,200,000 men, 48 motorized; much horse transport. Three Air Fleets (Luftflotten), 3200 aircraft

(In West 26 Divisions, 1 Air Fleet; North Africa, 2 Panzer Divisions, 2 Light Infantry Divisions;

Balkans mainly occupied by Italian divisions and those of other Axis powers, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania)

Nazi racial attitudes toward Slavic peoples (Czechs, Slovenes, Croats acceptable; Serbs, Poles, Ukrainians, Russians, "untermenschen," lower humans); Bolsheviks and Jews lumped together.

Invasion: Army Group North (29 divisions, FM Wilhelm von Leeb) toward Leningrad (St. Petersburg)

Army Group Center (51 divisions, FM Fedor von Bock; Gen. Heinz Guderian, 9 Panzer Divisions) toward Moscow

(Pripyet Marshes)

Army Group South (59 divisions, FM Gerd von Rundstedt) conquest of Ukraine

Initial advances: North (Finland declared war on USSR 25 June 1941)

Center: Minsk, 30 June; Smolensk, 16 July-5 August (pockets of resistance)

South: Soviet counter attacks; Kiev, August-September; aid from Center

The Pacific and Japan. (Anti-Comintern Pact, Germany & Japan, December 1936, Italy in 1937; Tripartite Pact,

Germany, Italy, Japan, 27 Sept. 1940; Japan-USSR non-aggression, April 1941)

French Indo-China; Japanese in Hanoi, September 1940; Saigon, July 1941

U.S. Response: Freeze Japanese assets; embargo oil, scrap metal

Diplomacy: Cordell Hull - Kichisaburo Nomura: U.S. concerns for China and Indo-China

Atlantic Charter: Roosevelt-Churchill at Argentia Bay, Newfoundland, 9-12 August 1941

U.S. Atlantic naval moves: Escort to Iceland; USS *Greer* - U 652 (4 Sept); USS *Kearny*- U 568; 17 U.S. dead (17 Oct.)

Roosevelt speech, 27 October; denounces Nazis, requests arming U.S. merchantmen; USS *Reuben James* - U 522 (Oct 31), 115 U.S. dead.

Japan: Tokyo, October. General Hideki Tojo, Prime Minister

German Soviet War: Final Push, October-December Stalin's spy Richard Sorge in Tokyo.

North: Germans stopped at Leningrad and Tikhvin

South: Germans halted with Kharkov, Rostov

Center: Battle of Moscow: Russian counter-offensive, 5 December 1941