

March April 1941

Reinforcements

Italy	Genoa	SUB	
	La Spezia	BB	“Impero”
		CAx2	“Zara”, “Pola”
Japan	Fukuoka	SUB	
	Osaka	NAV3	G3M2 “Nell”
Germany	Berlin	HQ(A)	Rommel (6(3)5)
	Cologne	GARR	LXXXII (6-1)
	Kiel	SUBx2	
		SUB	Milch Cow
		SUB specialisation	
	Hanover	MECH	VIII (7-6)
	Breslau	MECH	IX SS (9-5)
	Munich	GARR	LXXXVII (3-1)
	Liepzig	ARM	XII (8-5)
	Dresden	MECH	XLVI (8-6)
		Pilot	
USSR	Odessa	INF	25 th (3-3)
		LND3	SB-2
	Krasnodar	MTN	1 st (5-4)
		Territorial	Manchuria (2-3)
		Pilot	



A Westland “Whirlwind” heavy fighter on its way to its forward base in Cornwall – can its four 20mm cannons help regain control of the air from the Luftwaffe?

C/wealth	London	FTR3	“Whirlwind”
	Southampton	FTR3	“Beaufighter”
	Glasgow	CL	“Trinidad”
	Halifax	ASW	
	Bristol	CL	“Phoebe”
	Belfast	CVP1	Swordfish (to reserve)

	Newcastle Perth	BB CP	“Queen Elizabeth”
China	Kunming Lan Chow	CAV GARR	2 nd (2-4) 5 th (4-1)
USA	Washington New York New York San Francisco	FTR2 FTR2 ASW CL Pilot	P-36A (to reserve) P-35 (to reserve) “Cleveland”

Lending Resources

Even though the Japanese are now within 250 kilometres of the makeshift road link, oil from Burma continues to reach Kunming. With recent tanker losses, the Commonwealth would struggle to deliver it anywhere else.

As expected, Italian factories are now at full capacity, and the booming German economy continues to provide them with all the oil and raw materials they need.

Initiative

Allied dr = 9 Axis dr = 1 (+1) Axis decline to challenge, Allies elect to go first

Impulse 1 (Allies) Stalin shows his hand

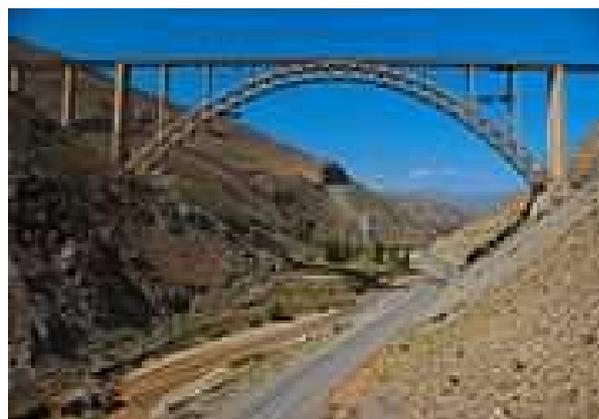
Weather dr = 8(+2) Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair (1)

Declarations of War USSR – v – Persia
US Entry = 5 dr = 1, so chit from Japanese pool

With Spring bringing good weather, Stalin orders General Zhukov to seize Persia. The only troops available to the Shah are some cavalry which are based in the capital, Tehran.

Hundreds of Pe-2, SB-2RK and TB-3 bombers pound the undefended city, mainly to no effect, but with complete surprise it

was perhaps inevitable that the defenders would be demoralised. Russian units pour across the border and commence to cross the desert.



The Trans-Iranian Railway crosses a ravine. Access to the “Persian Corridor” between the Caspian and the Persian Gulf appears to have been a major driver behind the Russian invasion.

Determined to avoid the losses of early January when the convoys were left with minimal escort, the Royal Navy sends out nearly every available ship, with only a few fleets remaining as a strategic

reserve. Once again the carriers lead the way, with “Courageous” to the North Atlantic, “Argus” to the Bay of Biscay and the mighty “Ark Royal” to Cape St Vincent.

With most of the cruisers posted to convoy duty or chasing raiders, the Home Fleet is now comprised almost exclusively of battleships. These patrol the North Sea, determined to prevent another Kriegsmarine sortie.

Seeing the Italian ships (and more importantly, planes) refuelling, several groups of troopships trapped at Suez make a dash for Gibraltar.

The light cruiser USS “Richmond” joins her sister ships in Honolulu.

Impulse 2 (Axis) Germany enters the Balkans

Declarations of War Germany – v – Yugoslavia
 US Entry = 3 dr = 2 so chit to German pool

Germany aligns Rumania
 US Entry = 2 dr = 1 so chit to German pool

The fair weather in the Middle East that prompted the Russian attack on Persia extends to the Balkans, and Hitler orders Generals von Rundstedt and Guderian to invade Yugoslavia and conquer it within a matter of weeks. The Royal Yugoslav Army already has an impossible task defending the country against overwhelming superiority in both numbers and quality. The entry into the war of Rumania seals the fate of the Yugoslavia – the attackers can now attack in a pincer from both Hungary and Rumania. Nevertheless, under the command of Prince Paul, the Army abandons most of the country and sets up in a semi-circle around Belgrade. What is amazing is that despite watching the Germans mass along the border for six months, the Government of King Peter II is still surprised when informed that their country is at war with Germany.



The situation in Yugoslavia immediately after the declaration of war

As usual, the declaration of war is simultaneous with air strikes along the whole front. The Yugoslavs are taken unawares, but still the only success is achieved by Ju 87B Stukas over Belgrade, where the entire city garrison is thrown into chaos. Goering is disappointed in the performance in the east of the country of Rumania's IAR 37 bombers, but as his own Ju 87Bs in the west had similar results, he cannot openly criticise his new ally. Still, it is considered that the Rumanian-made light bombers will not continue in active service for long.

On the ground, the invasion of Yugoslavia is only part of a much broader move east. General Rommel's newly formed headquarters group leads large numbers of armour and mechanised units deep into occupied Poland. But the main effort is south east into Yugoslavia.

The Alpine Corps leads an encirclement of III Infantry Corps which is caught trying to mount a counterattack and simply disappears. Generals von Rundstedt and Guderian cooperate in a massive drive on I Infantry Corps which also mounts a counterattack, with more success than II Corps as although it too is wiped out, it inflicts heavy casualties on the 2nd Mechanised Division. (2 BP) The final attack in the initial onslaught is merely a formality – II Infantry Corps is hit by so many units that the result is beyond doubt.



Even in fine weather, German units struggle to move along the unpaved Yugoslav roads

Analysis of the results by OKH reveals that Germany is not getting the best from its troops, but also reveals that the plan to hit the Yugoslavs overlooked the advantage that surprise would give to units attempting cross river assaults. (On the only two attacks where dice had an impact, Danny rolled 10 and 11 on 3D10, thereby keeping intact his record of not rolling above 15 on an important dice roll).



An Italian submarine leaves port on its way to attack convoys in the Atlantic

Italian intelligence discovers that the Central Atlantic has been left empty of escorts and submarines are immediately despatched. Some cargo ships are sunk and a large number of tankers and other ships are

scattered. There is more success for Italy off Cape St Vincent where scores of merchantmen are sunk and more forced to port.

The Regia Marina is also active with the main fleet heading to the Eastern Med and smaller fleets taking up positions in the Western Med and off the Italian coast.

Japan starts another campaigning season in China by marching the 1st SNLF Division to the Burmese border, threatening to move onto the Burma Road. At the same time, Japan's new ally, Siam, sends its army into Indo-China.

Impulse 3 (Allies) Tehran falls

Weather dr = 8 Rain, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair, Fair (2)

The Commonwealth scrapes the bottom of the barrel to attempt to replace missing convoys, and also sends out extra escorts, particularly to the Central Atlantic. The Admiralty is informed that there are now no spare convoys – every available ship has been used, and the shipyards report that substantial replacements are months away.

The fleet based in Suez is ordered to challenge the Italians off the coast of Egypt, even though they are outgunned. "Gabbianos" locate the British fleet, but after an inconclusive air action with Baffins from the carrier "Hermes", the two fleets lose contact.

With the clear weather holding, Zhukov orders his forward units to assault the Persian capital, Tehran, despite the fact that he and his headquarters, together with the 85mm guns, are still 500 kilometres from the city. Assisted by several hundred IL-4 bombers, a wave of infantry and mechanised troops launch the assault on the entrenched defenders. The Persian Royal Cavalry fight well and the Russians take horrendous casualties, but when fighting ends, the capital is in Russian hands and the Persians have been eliminated. With Germany massing on its western border, Russia can ill afford to lose the crack 4th Siberian corps, nor the losses absorbed by the 2nd Siberian (1BP).

Impulse 5 (Axis) Belgrade falls

In the North Sea, German aircraft locate the British fleet and hundreds of He 115C float planes and Fw 300C "Condors" attempt to inflict a crippling blow. Unfortunately for the attackers, the British AA is incredibly accurate and the He 115C bombers are forced to abort their mission (*on a lowest of 4 D10 I scored a 5!*). The Condors push home the attack and score hits on the battleships "Ramillies" and "Renown" but their armour saves them from serious damage, although they do head for Scapa Flow. The Condors make a second attack and this time the cruiser "Hawkins" takes what should have been a fatal blow. Luckily her fire protection crews save the day, although she is still crippled. The planes then head back to base, leaving the British fleet commander feeling relieved, although now his ships could be vulnerable to a determined sortie by the German battle fleet.

In the Timor Sea, the Dutch cruiser "De Ruyter" fails to intercept the two raiders "Kormoran" and "Hansa" as they leave Dili harbour. The failure costs lives as some tankers are sunk when the auxiliaries start to patrol the Bay of Bengal.

The "Ark Royal" again saves the day as its "Swordfish" squadrons damage Italian subs attempting to hit convoys off Cape St Vincent. The success is mirrored in the Central Atlantic where the newly

arrived escorts take on the submarines and manage to sink them, although the cruiser "Berwick" is damaged in the engagement.

With the screening troops eliminated, the German assault on Belgrade is a formality. Both the mountain infantry and the cavalry who defend the city are wiped out, and the attackers take no loss.

Once again the "Cicogna" Br.20s (together with some Caproni Ca 135 bombers) completely fail in their mission to disrupt the British in Alexandria. As a result, the planned assault is called off, despite the presence of the big guns of the Regia Marina offshore.



A "Cicogna" (above) and a squadron of Caproni CA 135 bombers (left) preparing to take off on another unsuccessful bombing attack on the defenders Alexandria

Japanese luck is still abysmal – an escalated assault on entrenched defenders SE of Kunming sees the Chinese hold their ground. Although the Chinese 14th Army is destroyed, the Japanese lose the Combined Cavalry Corps. (*Danny rolled 11 with 3D10 – his average is actually dropping, particularly on the Asian map. He does manage to roll incredibly high on the 10:1 attacks*)

Time runs out for the Cherbourg resistance – 3 German corps encircle the city and the uprising is put down with ferocity – not one partisan survives.

Impulse 7 (Allies) USSR pulls back

Weather dr = 1 Blizzard, Blizzard, Snow, Rain, Storm. Storm (3)**

Another battleship leaves Los Angeles for Pearl Harbour, this time the USS "California".

The Russian pull back from Eastern Poland continues apace, with troops evacuating the mountains and crawling east along the snow clogged roads.

The appalling weather means that nothing else moves.

Turn ends on 1, 6 rolled

Impulse 10 (Axis) The Battle of the Atlantic continues

Obviously the weather is no deterrent for the hardy seamen of the Kriegsmarine as there is a rush of activity.

"K" Force leaves Brest and searches the Bay of Biscay but the blizzards mean that no targets are located.

The main battle fleet takes heavy punishment from the conditions as it smashes its way into the North Sea. It cannot locate the British pickets, but the Polish destroyer flotilla blunders into it in the snow. The battle is one sided and the destroyers are eliminated, but the plucky Poles do have some revenge – realising they are doomed the destroyers steam directly at the massive battleships and managed to get a few torpedoes fired. One of these hits the “Bismark” and it is severely damaged and has to return to port. With his best ship out of action, Admiral Raeder orders the rest of the ships to return to base at Kiel.

The commerce raiders are not resting, despite the weather. The “Widder” has a lucky escape in the Cape St Vincent when it has a brief encounter with the “Ark Royal” and its fellow escorts. The “Widder” flees the area, but the carrier and the light cruiser “Curlew” are also forced to leave.

In the Gulf of Panama, unescorted convoys are wiped out by the “Orion”. There will be no supplies to the United Kingdom from Australia, and it appears little from elsewhere in the world.

There is better news from the Central Atlantic where U-boats are surprised by the strength of the escorts (and the effects of the bad weather) and all are sunk. The Milch-cow submarine that has been sent to the Caribbean as a base for long range submarines will have no customers for the time being. Doenitz is stunned as he had not realised that the British could mount that sort of defence.



The “Illustrious” on escort duty (above), shortly before the wolf pack is located. Although the carrier is damaged in the battle, the damage inflicted on the U-boats saves the convoy.

A damaged U-boat (right) starts the long journey back to Kiel for repairs



The strength of the British escort system is again shown in the Faeroes. About 50 U-boats operating as a wolf-pack are kept away from the merchantmen but half are damaged. They do, however, manage to hit the carrier “Illustrious”. Although the torpedo strikes are potentially enough to sink the ship, her crew seal off the damaged compartments and she limps back to port, accompanied by her fellow carrier “Victorious”.

After marching for months through the jungles of Vietnam, the 25th Army finally reaches Saigon. As soon as it arrives, engineers who have been waiting offshore land in the main harbour area and begin repairs. Both Commonwealth and USA spies in the area send lengthy missives to their

superiors warning of this alarming development. Shortly after there is more news – squadrons of Ki-30 bombers have begun landing at Vientiane airport.

Turn ends on 4, 4 rolled

Partisans

Partisan dr = 6 Persia Garrison = 3 Partisan no. = 4/2 Auto fail
 China Garrison = 13 Partisan no. = 20 dr = 7(-2) 1 Partisan

Even though Japan has vast numbers of troops in the country, unrest is so high in China (encouraged by the long lasting uprising in the northern mountains) that another partisan group seizes the rich mining area southwest of Cheng Sha.

US Entry Chit to German pool

Anti-Japanese feeling is running high in the USA and President Roosevelt has no difficulty in pushing through a Bill placing an embargo on Japanese trade. There will no US oil crossing the Pacific to fuel Japanese ships and planes. As expected, tension between the countries rises (*dr = 6, 9 needed*).

Following a direct request from Prime Minister Churchill, the President authorises the US Navy to commence patrols in the North Atlantic, hoping to protect Commonwealth shipping against the U-boat threat and free up ships for anti-raider activity. German is upset at what it sees as a direct breach of neutrality (*dr = 6, roll 8*)

Return to Base

Germany again demands that the Vichy government hands over the battleship “Richelieu” and this time Marshal Petain acquiesces. The ship immediately sails for Trieste.

Production

	Base (Resource/Oil)	Imports	Less Oil	PPs	Multiple	BPs	Trade	Losses/Enemy*	Total BPs
Germany	24/5	+1		30	1	30	-2		28
Italy	7/3		-1	9	1	9			9
Japan	10/3	+1		14	1	14			14
Vichy	1			1	1	1			1
UK	5/7	+1		13	1	13			13
Canada	2			2	1	2			2
Australia	1			1	1	1			1
India	2			2	1	2			2
France									
China	4/1			5	.5	3		+2/+1	6
USA	20/20		-1	39	.5	20			20
USSR	20/8		-1	27	.5	14	+2		16

*Losses: in Home Country, receive ½ of all BPS lost defending, ¼ of all BPS lost attacking

*Enemy: receive 1BP if an enemy unit in Home Country at Production phase

Germany (28BP)	On map	Hamburg	Submarine shipyard (1)		
		Dresden	Synthetic Oil plant (1)		
	On chart		Repair 2 nd MECH Div (2BP)	(4)	
		Breslau	HQ(A) Manstein (1)		
			MECH 10SS Div (1)		
		Liepzig	ARM 1SS Div (1)		
		Cologne	FTR2 Bf 109E3 (1)		
		Dresden	ARM 1 st Div (1)		
			AT 1 st PzJag Div (1)		
		Vienna	LND2 Ju87D (1)		
		Essen	GARR LXXXIX (1)		
			2xPilots (2)	(10)	
		Start	Stettin	BB "Bismark" (from repair) (1)	
			Kiel	3xSUB from start (1.5)	
	SUB Milch-cow (.5)				
Prague	MECH IVSS (3)				
Liepzig	INF VIII (2)				
Nurnberg	INF XXXVII (2)				
Essen	INF LXXIV (2)				
	Pilot (1)				
	1xOP (1)	(14)			
Japan (14BP)	On map	Fukuoka	Synthetic Oil plant (1)	(1)	
		Nagoya	MAR Imperial Guard (1)		
	On chart	Hiroshima	INF 23 rd (1)		
			MAR SNLF (1)		
			Pilot (1)	(4)	
		Start	Nagoya	GARR 28 th (1)	
			Tokyo	BB "Yamato" (.5)	
			CL "Agano" (.5)		
			CP		
			Fukuoka	CV "Zuikaku" (.5) from const	
		CV "Shoho" (.5) from const			
		CV "Shokaku" (.5) from const			
		CV "Zuiho" (.5) from const			
		CV "Chiyoda" (.5) from start			
		CV "Chitose" (.5) from start			
	Kyoto	ASW (1)			
		2xPilots(2)	(8)		
Italy (9BP)	On chart	Rome	LND3 Z.1007 "Alcione" (1)		
		Naples	NAV3 SM79bis "Sparviero" (1)		
		Genoa	MECH "Libia" (1)		
	Start	Trieste	MTN Alpini (1)		
		Genoa	2xSUB one from start, one from repair (2)		
		La Spezia	CL "Tibero" from const (0)		
		BB "Caio Duilio" from repair (1)			
		2xPilots (2)			

Vichy On chart Territorial (Algeria)

(I forgot to include in last turn's production that Vichy started an Algerian territorial)

UK (13BP)	On chart	Belfast	CV	"Indefatigable" (1)
			NAV4	"Sunderland" (1)
		Glasgow	2xBB	"Prince of Wales", "Anson" (1)
			Pilot	(1)
	Start	Scapa Flow	CV	"Illustrious" (1)
		S/hampton	GARR	XL (1)
			ASW	(1)
		Belfast	CP	(1)
		Bristol	CVP1	"Swordfish" (1)
		Leeds	CVP1	"Swordfish" (1)
	Plymouth	CP	(1)	
		2xPilot	(2)	

India (2BP)	On chart	Bombay	CV	"Glorious" from repair (1)
	Start	Bombay	INF	3 rd Indian (1)

Canada (2BP)	On map	Halifax	ASW shipyard	(1)
	Start	Halifax	CP	(1)

Australia	On chart	Sydney	MOT	1 st Australian
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China (6BP)	On chart	Cheng-Tu	FTR2	P-36A "Mohawk" (1)
		ChungKing	HQ(1)	Chiang Kai-Shek (1)
		Kunming	GARR	13 th Reserve (1)
	Start	Lan Chow	INF	2 nd (2)
			INF	N 4 th (1)

USA
(21BP)

More inefficiencies are discovered by Senator Truman – this time a grossly under-powered garrison unit. The LVI Corps is quietly removed from the Army lists (*Scrap LVI GARR (3-1)*)

	On map	Los Angeles	SCS shipyard	(1)
	On chart	Boston	LND3	B-25B (1)
			TRS	(1)
		Charleston	BB	"Washington" (1)
		New York	MAR	V (1)
			NAV3	PBY1 "Catalina" (1)
			LND3	A-20B (1)
			ASW	(1)
		Chicago	FTR2	P-40B "Tomahawk" (1)
		Los Angeles	CV	"Hornet" (1)
		San Francisco	BB	"Iowa" (.5)
			Pilot	(1)

	Start	Washington New York	FTR2 NAV3 NAV3 2xASW (2)	F4F-3 "Wildcat" (1) PBY1 "Catalina" (1) PBM1 "Mariner" (1)
		San Francisco	BB BB CL Pilot	"Indiana" from const (.5) "South Dakota" (.5) "Cleveland" (.5)
USSR (16BP)	On map	Repair 2 nd Siberian INF (1BP) Dnepetro.	Fortification (1)	
	On chart	Vitebsk Kiev Dnepetro.	CAV INF LND3	2 nd Guard (1) 59 th (1) TB-3 (1)
		Moscow	LND3 MOT HQ(I) Pilot	TB-3 (1) 3 rd (1) Koniev (1) (1)
	Start	Stalino Kiev Moscow Dnep.	GARR FTR2 INF INF Pilot	2 nd Guard (1) LaGG-3 (1) 4 th Siberian (selected with INF Spec) (2) 39 th (2) (1)

Conquest



Reza Shah Pahlavi – it appears his country was invaded simply to give the USSR access to the Persian Gulf. His son will now take his place

With his capital in Russian hands and his armed forces wiped out, Reza Shah Pahlavi has no alternative but to surrender. He is replaced by his son, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi but the country is effectively a Russian puppet state, despite Stalin's pledge of maintaining Persian independence.

King Peter II of Yugoslavia also is left with no choice but to surrender, although remnants of his army remain. His capital is under firm German control and hundreds of thousands of German, Hungarian and Rumanian troops occupy the country. He orders his navy to escape and while the cruiser "Dalmacija" is forced to scuttle when it is detected leaving port, a group of merchantmen manages to evade the blockading Italians and make it to Gibraltar, where it is welcomed with joy.



King Peter II – his resistance to the pro-Fascist regent Prince Paul has triggered the invasion and conquest of his country, although he remains as a figurehead leader

Losses March/April 1941

Germany	SUB (sunk) (4-6-0-0)5/2	2BP
	BB (damaged) "Bismark"	2BP

2nd MECH Div takes 2BP

Total German losses = 6BP

Italy	SUB (sunk) (3-7-0-0)4/4	2BP
	SUB (damaged)	1BP

Total Italian losses = 3BP

Japan	CAV	Combined (3-4)	3BP
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Persia	CAV	Royal (3-4)	3BP
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Total Axis losses = 15BP

Commonwealth	CV (damaged) "Illustrious"	2BP
	CA (sunk) Destroyer Flotilla (Polish)	2BP
	CA (damaged) "Hawkins"	1BP
	CA (damaged) "Berwick"	1BP
	6xCP	6BP
	2xTanker	2BP

Total Commonwealth losses = 14BP

USSR	INF	4 th Siberian (5-4)	3BP
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2nd Siberian INF took 1BP 1BP

Total USSR losses = 4BP

China	INF	14 th (4-2)	3BP
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Yugoslavia	MTN	Mountain (4-4)	4BP
	CAV	Cavalry (2-4)	3BP
	INF	I (5-3)	3BP
	INF	II (3-3)	3BP
	INF	III (4-3)	3BP

Total Yugoslav losses = 16BP

Total Allied losses = 37BP