

SECRET CHURCHILL ADDRESS PAINTED DARK WAR SCENE

Gloomy Picture of British Chances Told Commons In Secret 1942 Speech.

New York, Jan. 25 — (U.P.) — Winston Churchill revealed in a secret war speech to Commons on April 23, 1942, that Britain's fleet was temporarily crippled and that an army of 100,000 British empire troops surrendered the great Far Eastern base of Singapore to 30,000 Japanese. Life Magazine said in a copyrighted article in its issue which will be published today.

Churchill, the magazine said, admitted somberly that the axis had destroyed or damaged more than one-third of the Royal Navy's capital ships in seven weeks.

The Mediterranean was without a fighting squadron, he said, and the tilled land, sea and air forces in the Pacific were outnumbered everywhere by the Japanese.

Unexpected Shock

In a harsh, bluntly-worded address to Commons, the then prime minister said the extent of the Japanese successes in those first months of the war had come as an unexpected shock to the allies.

He acknowledged that Britain had not wanted to draw Japan into the war at that time, because of the enormous drain on her resources in the war against Germany.

"I have always hoped for the entry of the United States (in the war) . . . although the ideal was to have America in while Japan remained out," he said.

In broad, Churchillian strokes, the prime minister revealed to the House the full extent of the naval losses Britain had suffered in the Far East and in European waters.

Human Torpedoes

After reviewing the torpedoing of the aircraft carrier Ark Royal and the battleships Barham, Prince of Wales and Repulse, Churchill told Commons that a handful of Italian "human torpedoes" had penetrated the Alexander naval base on Dec. 10, 1941, and attached bombs to the hulls of the battleships Valiant and Queen Elizabeth.

The bombs blew large holes in the bottoms of both ships and put them out of action.

"Thus we had no longer any battle squadron in the Mediterranean," Churchill said.

He appealed to the House not to ask for an official investigation into the loss of Singapore which he acknowledged as one of the greatest disasters ever sustained by the British.

Japs Outnumbered

For the first time, Churchill disclosed that the Japanese army had captured Singapore actually was vastly outnumbered by the British defenders of that base.

"After a long rear-action down the Malay Peninsula," he said, "there were . . . about 100,000 men gathered in the island of Singapore by the morning of Feb. 3, 1942.

"On the night of Feb. 8, about 8,000 Japanese made a lodgment . . . and were gradually reinforced . . . until perhaps 30,000 men had been landed. After five or six days of confused but not very severe fighting, the army and fortress surrendered."

Churchill told the house that the episode at Singapore "seems to be out of harmony with anything that we have experienced or performed in the present war."

COMING SPEAKER ONE OF WORLD'S TOP INTELLECTS

Will Durant, scheduled to speak for the Rogue River Valley Knife and Fork club Jan. 28, is considered to possess one of the great minds of present times and is furthermore one of the nation's favorite speakers, officers of the local club point out.

His "Story of Philosophy" has sold over three million copies and the number of copies of his projected five volume history of the world, three of which have been completed—is a matter of conjecture, but they will probably give his "Story of Philosophy" a close race in the publishing field, it is declared. The current volume, "Caesar and Christ," is one of the most provocative of this or any other era and in it Dr. Durant has set for himself a high standard which will be an incentive for him when he works on his last two volumes, "The Age of Faith" and "The Age of Reason."

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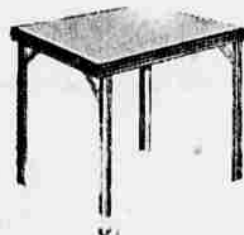
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