

QUEEN WILHEMINA BROADCASTS TO DUTCH SEAMENSPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY H.M. THE QUEEN  
OF THE NETHERLANDS OVER THE DUTCH SEAMEN'S  
BROADCAST "THE BRANDARIS" AT 10.45 A.M.B.S.T. TODAY

With bated breath we all listened to the news when, last week, Bandoeng's fate was in the balance. From moment to moment we shared those dark hours with the dauntless defenders and with all who assisted them so bravely.

Never before have we felt so at one with our beloved Insulinde as we do in these days of national tension; never before has the Empire been so united.

Never before have we been so identified with our brave men who, at sea, on land and in the air, have made superhuman efforts and have sacrificed all for the defence of people and territory against the invader.

It is with respect and gratitude that we pay tribute to all who sacrificed their lives in the battle, deeply moved as we are by the sorrows which have befallen many families in both the mother country and the East Indies, bearing in mind also the tireless and brave citizens who have fallen in the battle, and our deep sympathy goes out to those who mourn them.

I share the grief of you all and feel it as though it were my own.

With warm compassion I recall with you, Compatriots, the fate of the citizens in the territories that have been occupied by the Japanese, of those who are now groaning under the tyranny of an enemy who respects neither persons nor property. We wish them strength. May the feeling of unity and the knowledge that the same fate is shared by all, be their consolation and strength.

In spite of the events which are shaking our whole Empire, let us not lose sight of the greater issue, viz., the fact that we must harness all our strength for the attainment of our ultimate goal: Victory.

For that is what is at stake, both for the Netherlands and for the Netherlands East Indies.

/Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding our reverses and the bitter disappointment of having been unable to prevent the seizure by the enemy of large parts of our Insulinde, even with the help of our Allies - help that was willingly given to an extent which cannot yet be mentioned - we know for certain that the large sacrifices which have been made and the great sorrow which is being borne, will contribute in a special sense to the liberation of our Empire. We are fully convinced of the powerful assistance yet to be given us by our Allies for the achievement of our common victory.

Thanks to the fact that we were ready to fight, our naval and air forces were immediately on the spot, as soon as the enemy's attack was made, and were able, as good allies, to assist our friends, possessed of that offensive spirit which will never forsake us. Our brave Indian Army is still fighting, wherever this is possible. It does not, and will never, give in.

While the other day I could tell you, through Lieutenant-Admiral Furstner, that our Fleet will rise again, I can now add that the first steps for its reconstruction have already been taken.

Thanks to the mobility of the fleet, it is possible to continue the battle from more distant bases. As in the North Sea and the Mediterranean, so in the waters around the Netherlands East Indies our Navy will go on fighting.

Some of our warships are still in action there, and the fortunate circumstance that - according to news that has been received - some thousands of men of the Royal Navy have succeeded in escaping from the Netherlands East Indies, renders it possible to make an immediate start with the work of reconstruction of the Navy by the purchase of new vessels.

Thus we shall continue the fight shoulder to shoulder with our Allies, straining all our resources. We welcome all help that may be given us now and in the future. We are assured of that help.

Compatriots in the Netherlands East Indies, who, like those in the mother country, are supporting such heavy trials, rest assured that we are working unremittingly for your liberation. Your sufferings shall not last one day longer than is unavoidable. Our Empire shall rise again, more splendid and stronger than ever before.

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FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT  
ON BEHALF OF NETHERLAND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BUREAU