

AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTWHAT THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEANT

"There will never be any disillusionment as to what was happening in the skies above England and in England streets, cellars, subways, shelters, factories, on England's docks, farms, railways, in the hearts and minds of English people two years ago this week" states the New York Times. "If this war were to be lost, in a hundred years or the beast were to begin tomorrow, that week of 1940 would still be remembered and the memory would still make certain that some day freedom would be reconquered."

"The battle of Britain in September 1940 was a great victory. It has grown greater in perspective. It was not a victory for the British Empire, the House of Lords, the British way of talking our common language, the old school tie or the British habit of being reserved with strangers.

"It was a victory first for the British people - all of them - those of Norman ancestry and the men on the docks, for a King as a man unafraid, but also for sergeant-pilots, tramway conductors, when serving beer in pubs and women in uniform running ambulances for common ordinary people like the people of our own city who didn't know how they would take it but did take it.

"If the pilots and gunners and people of Britain, the lords and the commons and the people living in slums, the rich and the sick and the old and the dispossessed, had not stood up to the Nazi assault two years ago; if they had not cursed or laughed at the Nazi raiders according to their natures; if any considerable number of them for one moment had seriously considered surrender not only Britain would have been lost but the world of civilized men would have been lost for untold years.

"France fell but Britain stood. This is what happened in 1940. The people of Britain held the line until reinforcements could be brought up. They held as Stalingrad has held. This is not a miracle of social systems. It is a miracle of human nature which asserts its dignity against the forces of hell.

"Because Britain held in 1940 Russia can now hold, China fights on, guerillas in the Balkans die with their hands on Nazi throats but their places are taken by others. Because Britain held mankind can now hope.

"This

"This week we can well bow our heads in memory of the dead pilots and the dead civilians of Britain. We can well hold out our hands to the living who pray with us, who march with us, who will stand with us on the day of victory."

No Hitler Victory This Year

"As the summer ends in the terrible climax of the battle of Stalingrad it becomes reasonably evident that whether the city stands or falls its defenders have already insured that there will be no final Hitler victory this year" states the New York Herald Tribune.

"There is reason to believe that as the Russians have been retreating through these difficult months they have also been killing Germans at a punishing rate. Hitler's resources are by no means inexhaustible and the strain they are under has been showing clearly for some time in other theaters.

"One must remember the vastly greater percentage of man power now required behind the lines in order to support modern armies; one must remember the effects of bombing and demands of air raid protection and one may begin to ask whether Hitler for all his advances has prepared for the 1943 that now inevitably stares him in the face.

Yorktown's Brief Career

"Like the Lexington the Yorktown did not carry her colors down until she had won her victory. The loss of the great carrier is a hard blow, but it was the swarm of American flyers from her decks that turned back the Japanese at Midway." states the New York Times.

"The four Japanese carriers lost at Midway were all sunk by planes. Our carriers seem to be able to take heavier punishment, for both the Lexington and Yorktown were able to leave the scene of action under their own power only to meet misfortune on the way to port."

The New York Herald Tribune writing of Yorktown says: "evidently she was a strong ship despite the extreme vulnerability of her class. She leaves behind her a new confidence in the design of American naval vessels as well as a great, if brief, career. In going she helped mightily to take with her not one but four firstline Japanese carriers while she had already had a hand in the sudden death of two others in the Coral sea in May."
