

# *The World Observer*

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## US PLANES ATTACK JAPANESE SHIPS

### Open hostilities

On the morning of December 7, bombers from the United States 1<sup>st</sup> Bomber Wing attacked the Japanese battleships Nagato and Hyuga patrolling in SZ 207. The Japanese opened upon sighting the approach with heavy AA that put many planes off target. Nagato came out unharmed but the ship's two escort destroyers received considerable damage from a couple of near misses and duds. Hyuga escaped under a smoke screen that was put up by Nagato and trailed after her. About noon the US started a second attempt after shadowing the battleships for hours. They joined a Japanese carrier task force that was attacked on 12:30 p.m. by over 50 B-18. But the Japanese scrambled a number of zero-fighters and a bitter air deal began. After losing a quarter of his force, group captain John Devereau broke off without getting a shot at the Shoho or the Soryu. Five Japanese fighters were sent to oblivion. The events became public during December 8 and were officially endorsed by the White House the following day. A heated debate across the nation followed.

### No declaration of war

The news spread fast through the nation that Japanese forces were attacking the US base at Rabaul which has only recently been erected on New Britain. However the Japanese ambassador insisted that no such attack has been planned or executed, which the Army Office of Information eventually admitted. The Japanese government claims that the US garrisoning of the islands in the Bismarck Archipelago violates their agreement with the government of Great Britain. An official statement was released by Tokyo late 7th of December.

“Today a force of American military aircraft launched an unprovoked assault upon forces of the Imperial Japanese Navy as these vessels passed the Bismarck Archipelago on route to Japanese Pacific Territories, carrying civil and military administrative personnel. It can be reported that the Imperial Navy has sustained casualties, but that no capital

vessels have been sunk or severely impaired. Support was quickly gained from the fast carrier groups and additional assets have been dispatched to the region.

There has been no indication from the United States that a state of war exists between our nations, however, we must presume that the Americans intend to launch further attacks upon our nation, therefore as of this date all military leave is cancelled and the nation is placed on the highest state of military and civil alert. All forces currently active in the field or on duty in the Pacific Ocean are given license to defend themselves against any and all American forces, with use of deadly force, whilst any American vessel or aircraft located west Longitude 160 will be considered hostile and open to attack.

We do not know whether this nation is engaged in full scale war with the United States, but as of this moment we are prepared to die to avenge the lives of our fallen sailors and airmen, the American President must now decide his nation's next action, be it with honor or with further devilry.”

All US forces in the Pacific have been put on maximum alert since by order of the President.



US troops stationed in Rabaul

### **Congress demands explanation**

In congress many delegates pointed out that with restitution of the Congress of the United States by General MacArthur the only legal instance to end or declare war is the Congress. Senator Lindenbergh stated that the military junta has too long operated without the system of checks and balances that has been refuted by Eisenhower. AT present, “every outpost commanding general can embroil the US with a foreign power in his region.” An investigation delivered evidence that Major General Kenny, commander of the 10<sup>th</sup> Air Force, gave orders to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bomber Wing “to patrol zones 207 and 209. You are authorized to attack Japanese shipping entering these areas. Report location of enemy forces so a coordinate a strike with the carrier air groups can be launched.”



**Battleship Nagato attacked by US planes**

President MacArthur read a public statement before Congress the next day, saying:

“After failed negotiations with the Empire of Japan, forces of the Imperial navy crossed south of the equator in an attempt to test the resolve of the American people. In our last communique with the Imperial Japanese government, we stated in no uncertain terms that the annexation of American territories in the pacific would not be tolerated.

We also stated that any military forces that moved south of the equator would be considered CAUSUS BELLI. North of the Bismarck Islands, Imperial Japanese naval and air units engaged our military and were forced to withdrawal from the region. This act of aggression is further evidence that the Empire of Japan does not want peace and intends to conquer the entire pacific basin.

The Empire of Japan started its war of aggression with the peaceful peoples of China, followed by unprovoked attacks on the United Kingdom and Netherlands. Now the Empire of Japan has set its sights on America. We will prove to Japan and the rest of the world that a sleeping giant has been awakened. America will prevail in this struggle as God is on the side of freedom and liberty.

Due to the war like actions of the Japanese Empire and their unwillingness to negotiate a peaceful solution to this crisis, I have no choice but to ask the Congress to formally declare a state of war between the Empire of Japan and the United States of America. May God bless America.”

### **Pacifist congressmen blame the President**

A group of pacifist hardliners spoke next, indicating that the president had not warned the Congress and the people of America of this immediate threat to become embroiled in yet another war that nobody wanted. A long debate followed, then Warren Oats from Lancaster, Pennsylvania summed up the voice of the critics:

“Yesterday, we witnessed the United States Government and people finally lose control of it's own armed forces, and in the process drag our nation into a war with one of the largest naval powers in the world. Not only must we pursue a war in the Atlantic, Africa and Europe, which is just and right against the evil of the Nazi Regime, but now, our generals drag us into an unwanted and unlooked for war with the Empire of Japan!

We have long had disagreements with the Japanese government over their actions in Asia, but to draw our nation into a second war, by use of the immoral act of first strike, without a declaration of war, and without the consent of THIS HOUSE is reproachable and unconstitutional. Our nation may be coming out of a state of crisis, but this is nothing more than the act of a bunch of tyrannical tin pot military dictators, a situation that I believe the founding fathers would find abhorrent and against all they fought for.

I say to the Congress, the Senate and the President, act fast, act now to prevent us slithering into war on a global scale. We are a nation dedicated to freedom, hence our unequivocal support for the British and her allies, yet here we stand about to draw our friends from Europe into a war with the Japanese Empire that they have only just extricated themselves from. Stop, stop now, call for a peace before it is too late.”

The president pointed out that the United States are already at war with Germany and that under such circumstances a political debate as this was most damaging to the nation. The issue was finally unresolved, awaiting further Japanese reactions.

## PAPUA CLAIMS INDEPENDENCE

Rebel troops under leader Lae Toea have taken control of the Pacific country just north of Australia. Since September the British authorities have watched with concern the growing unrest among the aboriginal population but failed to take countermeasures. "We prepared for immediate departure after Japanese officials would come to take over", says Fred Baxter, governor of Port Moresby. Starting by end of November the British garrison was already boarding ships to take them to England when the rebels appeared before the governor's building. An armed squadron expelled the clerks who were already at work at 5 a.m. Baxter stood before closed gates when the rebels proclaimed the Republic of Papua on the morning of November 25, unnoticed by world public. The declaration of independence reached the US state department on December 5.

## SOVIET BATTLESHIP SUNK

The Russian Baltic Fleet had to take her severest loss since the days of the Tsar this month. The fleet was patrolling the seas south of Helsinki, when Oktabrya Revolutsiya with close DD escort was suddenly attacked by an undetected warship, probably a German submarine, on December 23. Daylight was very dim on that afternoon, almost as dark as night. The Oktabrya Revolutsiya exploded after receiving four torpedo hits in its rear compartment. The Soviet admiralty claimed to have sunk a score of submarines with depth charges, including the unseen attacker. No comment was given by their German counterparts. "The Admiralty is preparing war a large Christmas ceremony in Berlin" was the voice of Kiel.



Oktabrya Revolutsiya sunk by German subs

## ITALIAN TROOPS TO SECURE PLOESTI OIL FIELDS

**Soviet aggression anticipated. Legions ready**  
Mussolini followed in the footsteps of Adolf Hitler this month to put more pressure on Russia. The Russo-German conflict may now escalate any moment. Mussolini believes Stalin may aim at the oil fields to unhinge the Axis armor and air force.

## ITALIANS BUST AQABA

The fascist newspaper "La Nova Repubblica" reported last week that the port facilities of the middle east city Akaba have been utterly destroyed by bomber forces of the Italian Empire.

## FORCE L ESCAPES MEDITERRANEAN

The British task force that was trapped in the Mediterranean for more than a year made a hazardous run through the Italian controlled waters for the Atlantic. Battleships King George V and Warspite, the aircraft carriers Furious and Illustrious and 20 destroyers.



## POPE CALLS FOR PEACE IN CHRISTMAS MASS

Rome, Italy. The major bridgebuilder (pontifex maximus) of the catholic religion appealed to the world leaders to settle down their disputes in a peaceful manner rather than strive for the greatest blood loss in Christian history. The pontiff offered assistance in preparing the ground for fertile talks, said "Rome is an open city for the peace-lovers of all nations".