

# The World Observer

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## JAPAN LASHES OUT AT NEI

### Well-prepared, large-scale amphibious operation

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, four Japanese marine-divisions landed on the beaches north of Palembang, Sumatra. On the next day another one landed on Telukbetung, 200 miles south of Palembang, and another one on the fourth far up in the north of Sumatra. The large island to the south of Singapore, which the Japanese attacked already last year, belongs to the Netherlands East Indies, an archipelago of over 10,000 islands under the Dutch Crown. The small and peaceful European country held a well-running trade outpost there from their colonial past that was naturally not overly defended.



**Daihatsu Landing Ship**

### Main target: Oil wells

'The attack was well prepared', said Dutch prime minister Dirk van de Geer, 'but they attacked without warning or even ultimatum. Only by selection of their targets did we find out what the Japanese wanted from us'. Ten Japanese divisions deployed on 5 landing sites in Sumatra, Java and Borneo. All sites were in the vicinity of oil wells and shipping ports for such. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, Japanese soldiers occupied Balikpapan, on the 20<sup>th</sup> the city of Surabaya, on the 29<sup>th</sup> the Dutch garrison in Palembang was attacked and captured by the deployed Japanese troops. Japanese forces in Java are currently heading towards Jakarta, where the last remnants of Dutch defenders have gathered.

### A smack in the face

It was the third time that Japanese forces have attacked Dutch property since Japan opened hostilities against European nations in south-east Asia. After the sinking of a Dutch cruiser and the damag-

ing of several Dutch merchant ships in the Java Sea, the defenseless Netherlands watched and preyed that Tojo would spare them. Queen Wilhelmina appealed to both Britain and the United States.



**Dutch prisoners are rounded up at occupied jungle airstrip**

But Churchill, faced with a two-frontier war, decided to let the Japanese have what they wanted and instead concentrate on defending their European assets. President Roosevelt, hindered by US isolationism and facing an important political campaign – his reelection in November, declined help, too. Frustrated the Dutch sent a small task force to the southern seas. Two cruisers and 16 destroyers made live experience with a multitude of Japanese battle-ships and aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean. How long can the free world sit and watch?



**Japanese invaders celebrate victory**

# CHINA DECLARES WAR ON SIAM

Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek has declared the full and general support of the British colony of Burma against their Siamese invaders. Instigated over a year by the Japanese government under Konoye the Siamese unwarily attacked the British garrison in Rangoon - and got rebutted over and over again since. However, Siamese renegade troops occupied the jungle city of Mandala and the neighboring oil fields. With the British Rangoon Division still holding the harbor and the 'Burma Road' to Mandala, neither the Thai nor the British economy could make any use of the oil. But part of that oil was going to be delivered to China via the Burma and Kunming roads. So China has vital interests capturing the oil fields and helping the British out in this hard-pressed region. China readied 10 divisions to this end - more than Siam started the war with. Despite Japanese armaments aids it is expected that the Chinese advance will be very successful.

## Declaration of war

Dear Sir!

Your behaviour in Burma forces us the Nationalist Chinese Government to declare war against you!

With you attacking our allies the British, we must come to their help.

With your country cutting off the trade with oil, our fighters will not have enough fuel to help defend our cities.

You are also supplying the same oil to Japan so that the armed forces of Japan could prolong the war in China.

You are directly killing innocent Chinese people by letting the oil from Burma go directly to the Japanese airforce who is restless in its attacks against Chinese cities.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1941 there exists a state of war between our two countries.

Yours sincerely

Signed

General Chiang Kai-Shek

# SPAIN JOINS TRIPARTITE PACT

After Romania last month another European country joined the Italo-Germano-Japanese Tripartite Pact. The three fascist powers thereby gain further political weight in Europe and worldwide. Spain has been at war with the British empire since their cunning surprise attack on Gibraltar. Attempts by Franco to return to neutrality were futile as Spain was overtly supporting both Germany and Italy and received such support vice versa. After the Spanish loss of North Africa, a decision had to be made. Spain with his battered economy from over three years of civil war is not expected to gain much from her so-called friends. President Roosevelt has warned Germany many times not to drag any more countries into his mad struggle. But that's the way it is. All or nothing - Spain once tuned in and she will rise and fall with warring fascism. Now it seems the Spaniards must play the E-minor in the Hitler-Mussolini-Tojo-Song.

# MUSSOLINI'S PRO- PAGANDA MACHINE

Propaganda for Italy's war against the world is now being circulated in Italian primary schools. A sample of this disgusting practice is given below.

## "Dear America"

*America the beautiful America the great, your nation is made of faces from every worldly state.*

Millions of Italians live in the red, white and blue, we know you love our country and we sincerely love you too.

My daddy only asks that you check a second source before believing the British who want you in their war.

*The British want the World, Suez, and Malta too. Churchill and his lies will never change the truth.*

*The British want to kill for Imperialistic gain, they have boring conversations, and their food is always plain.*

*Wavell was a general of respect and fame but Badoglio sent him packing and Churchill will soon get the same.*

*One hundred and sixty five years ago you fought to break your chains now you see that our fight has always been the same.*

A poem by Edda Mussolin