



The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

December 30th, 1941



RUSSIAN TREACHERY!!

Despite the best and most sincere intentions of the Japanese government to forge a lasting and profitable peace with the Soviet Union, we are now at war with that nation, which now chooses to call itself Russia. Following the 2nd coup this year of their obviously unstable governmental system, this time the military has stepped in and taken control under General Georgi Zhukov. Zhukov has ended the Communist experiment in Russia that began in 1917 with the overthrow of Tsar Nicolas, and instituted a military dictatorship in its place

It is this military dictatorship which now runs Russia, and which has declared unprovoked and unannounced war upon the Empire of Japan. The Russians even managed to land a single division of Marines on the northernmost Home Island of Hokkaido. Our home naval defenses were not caught completely unaware however, as the rest of the Russian landing force was destroyed before it was able to come ashore. Additionally, it has been reported that the entire Russian Pacific Fleet has been destroyed as a result of this action.

These Russian Marines are now without supply, without air cover, without hope of escape back to the sea, and without hope of victory. However, they are within striking distance of the city of Sapporo. While military reinforcements are being dispatched to the city immediately, the Emperor reaffirmed that it is the sacred duty of every man, woman and child over the age of 8 years to defend their homes, and the honor of the Emperor, to the death should any invader attempt to enter their city. Already, civil defense forces are hard at work building defensive works and strongpoints in anticipation of a possible invasion by these invaders. We are confident that even if military assistance were never to arrive, that the people of the city of Sapporo could repel these invaders themselves with sheer determination and their sacred duty to defend their homes.

The Russians also pressed home their surprise offensive into Manchuria and Korea, having massed undetected in the city of Vladivostok last month. While they have made initial gains, General Tojo expressed confidence in his ability to stem the tide and turn back the invaders. "In the end, this will work to our advantage, once the initial effects of surprise have worn off. We will be able to push the Russians back beyond their original borders and acquire some much needed resources for our economy from the lands in Siberia. With the Russians fighting for their very survival in Europe against the Germans, they will be very hard pressed to replace their losses, which we will most surely inflict upon them.

"To be quite frank, one has to wonder just what General Zhukov was thinking. His nation already very much has their hands full in the West, so to voluntarily open up another front halfway around the world against a nation who held no aggression or ill will against them is pretty, shall we say, unconventional strategy. It seems obvious that their British allies have made them some offer that

was contingent on their attacking us that Zhukov felt was worth the costs associated with a war with Japan. It is my job to prove his calculations in error.”

Asked how this new enemy would affect the campaign in China, General Tojo replied “Clearly, it is impossible to say there will be no effect. This new enemy will force us to commit troops that would otherwise have been available for the final offensive in China. However, I still feel nonetheless that we have the capacity to eliminate the KMT as a fighting force once and for all this year despite the setback that this situation has created.”



Russian T-26 Tank in Siberia from file photo

China - 1941 Year in Review

1941 has seen great strides in the Japanese effort to replace the Western imperialist-sponsored Chinese warlords with a true Asian government representative of the wishes of the people. The Imperial Army has made spectacular progress in central China, dealing massive losses of manpower and material to the KMT. As the year draws to a close, it is time to review the progress in that huge theater of operations.

While 1941 will always be remembered for the crushing summer offensive against the Nationalists, it actually began with the last mopping up-operations against the CCP in the far north of China. The Battle of Peking had already been won the previous autumn, Mao was dead, and the Communists found themselves in full retreat. The last survivors – those that hadn't scattered to the hills like the biggest part of the peasant levy – had holed up in the village of Huhehot on the outskirts of the Mongolian desert. After a month-long artillery bombardment, the Imperial Army cleared out the last CCP stronghold in February. It was a minor operation in regards to the number of troops involved, but weeding out the CCP for good and shutting down the northern front was a major step in freeing up reserves for future undertaking.

The most important, and most massive, undertaking was already well into the advanced stages of planning by this time. Immediately after the Battle of Peking, when it became apparent that the war against the Communists was as good as over, General Tojo – never a man to rest on his laurels – had begun to think about the next campaign. It was finally decided to strike against the northern one of the KMT army groups, into the open Chinese plains between Chengchou and Wuhan. Not only would this allow for the encirclement and destruction of several Nationalist armies, and an advance towards Chungking, it would also be the ideal terrain to try out the new tank divisions of the Imperial Army that were scheduled to become operational in 1941.

No effort was spared to ensure that the premier with this new type of warfare would be a successful one. Extensive training and testing of the mobile forces was carried out in secrecy. The best officers and NCO's were selected for the job. Staff personnel studied the writings of Western tank experts like Heinz Guderian and B.H. Liddell Hart, to blend their ideas and techniques with the unmatched spirit of the Japanese warrior. An extensive network of communication and coordination between armor, infantry and air elements was set up. Meanwhile, intelligence worked full-time to prevent much of any of this from leaking out to the enemy, who was lead to believe that the landings in Indochina (which Western news sources reported as our "desperate efforts on the beaches"!) would indeed be the major operation of the Japanese army for the year.

On July 4th, 1941, after months of relative quiet on the Chinese front, the machine of annihilation struck. The summer offensive code-named "Double Dragon", was about to begin. A Japanese fighting force of some 800,000 men, including four tank corps and a huge host of air power, unleashed their fury on the KMT lines between the Yangtse River and the Loyang mountains. Air strikes and a heavy artillery bombardment prepared the initial breakthrough. Two concentrated armored pincers, spear-headed by Type 97 tanks, drove deep wedges into the enemy lines, going northwest from Wuhan and southwest from Chengchou, with the aim of meeting up and encircling the enemy army group. Massive waves of infantry followed behind, pouring into the holes in the Chinese front like salt into a wound.

All the planning and preparing that had occupied High Command for many months now came to fruition, with the troops executing their schedule to near perfection. It was a type of war with concentrations of firepower and rapid advances such as the history of Asia had never seen before. The hapless Chinese forces all but disintegrated before the ferocious attack. Naturally, they had been aware that something was in the making, as preparations for an offensive of such magnitude cannot possibly be carried out in total secrecy. The KMT commanders had even hastily deployed a defense in depth right before the planned attack points at the last minute, guessing correctly where the brunt of our forces would hit them. Still, nothing could have prepared them for the nightmare that was now unfolding. They were truly and utterly taken aback by the power of "Double Dragon", having failed to imagine anything like the beast that now leaped at their throats.

To their credit, the enemy chose the only sensible option and ordered a general withdrawal. He was even kind enough to overdo it, vacating the fortress of Loyang without a fight, which allowed the 1st Korean Mountain Corps to take that vital gateway a whole month ahead of schedule, tearing another hole into the Nationalist lines. After mere days of the offensive, the entire enemy front in central China was collapsing rapidly, their armies pulling back towards the interior in broken order. The Chinese then resorted to petrol bombs and desperate counter-attacks to save what was left. The cynicism of KMT command became obvious once again, as Chiang ordered his men to hopeless charges against our advancing forces, sacrificing two thirds of every division in order to give the last third more time to flee. As a result, the complete encirclement of the army group was narrowly prevented, but the outcome was largely the same – namely, the destruction of the enemy.

Meanwhile, the gains made by the Imperial Army were nothing short of stunning, our tank corps moving faster and farther than any fighting force in the history of East Asia had ever done before. They finally came to a halt in September, a mere 150 kilometers from Chungking in the far interior of China, and when they did, it was a scheduled stop. "We never planned to go all the way in 1941" explains General Tojo, "even though the KMT were patently scared that we would! But it is a simple question of supply and logistics, and of course the weather. That is why China didn't fall this year, as some commentators in the Western press feared. Not because of General Chiang, but because of General Winter, if you will. You can only go so far in one summer season, and I think it is fair to say that no fighting force in the world could have managed to go farther than we did during the three

months of 'Double Dragon'. Now we are pretty much exactly where we wanted to be – a little further along in some places, actually – and planning for the next operations. That is what I'm thinking about now, the future. I don't like to dwell on past successes too much, but even so, I would say 1941 was a remarkable year for the war in China.”

And so it was. High Command estimates that over half a million KMT troops were killed, captured, or simply deserted during our grand offensive. A lot of manpower lost, even for Chinese standards, but more importantly, the attack eliminated some of their best trained and best equipped units. As a political consequence of “Double Dragon”, several KMT corps broke away from Chiang and declared their new allegiance to Communism, leading to a resurgence of the CCP in the north. Since no more actual enemy troops have appeared, though, with merely old ones changing their colors, Japanese High Command sees the development with good humor – knowing that the power of the Chinese Nationalists is visibly beginning to erode.



Map showing the advance of Operation “Double Dragon”, Summer 1941

Indeed, Churchill will be hard-pressed to keep the cash for his puppets flowing while his own European war with Germany drags on and the Japanese Navy raids the Pacific. It will be interesting to see how much longer the British public will stand for the support of a petty Chinese warlord who has thrown his nation into civil war, and oppressed his own people more than our enlightened Japanese rule ever could, especially when that warlord keeps losing his battles and wasting most of the aid, both through incompetence and rampant corruption. For now, it is gladdening to see the great gains made by our troops this year, with two cities (Loyang and Ichang) liberated from the KMT tyranny and the prospect of many more to come. Certainly, General Tojo will already be hard at work with his staff.

Special: Admiral Nagumo's Views

Rabaul Captured

After two months of fighting, the island of New Britain, including the vital naval base at Rabaul, was captured and turned over fully to the Empire of Japan in all her glory. My salute to the men of the Imperial Marines, who fought and died to take this island that is a long way from home, and in a time when home is under attack. This dastardly attack was perpetrated by an enemy who does not understand that we had no ill intentions to them, yet foolishly attacked a superior enemy by surprise and with out provocation.

The Australian soldiers left alive in New Britain will be given the best treatment and full respect that a fighting man deserves. I offered the Australians a full surrender at the end of the first month, but they spat it back at us and fought and died needlessly. I ordered my Marines to take prisoners, but reports from the field indicated that they where forced at every turn in the last month and killed many more Australian men then necessary. We must commend the average Australian soldier for his valor and bravery in the field. They are indeed worthy opponents. It is a shame they do not receive the support they need from London to fight this war, a war for which they are clearly outmatched.

I will quote you from my copy of The Art of War, by Sun Tzu:

In the practical art of war, the best thing of all is to take the enemy's country whole and intact; to shatter and destroy it is not so good. So, too, it is better to recapture an army entire than to destroy it, to capture a regiment, a detachment or a company entire than to destroy them.

This has been my personal feelings in all the battle plans I have made in the past few months. It will also continue to be my philosophy while I deal with the British and the Australians. I have never once wanted an active war with Australia, but must continue to fight them due to their government's foolish feelings of loyalty to a non-divine ruler. The British Royal Family is so inbred that the royal dog is considered a Duke, yet it seems this loyalty to London is why they fight.

I wish I could say that I feel sorry for the loss of life, but this is war, a war that Australia declared against Japan with no direct provocation whatsoever. You had your chance to keep several thousand men from dying by accepting a formal surrender for the Island of Rabaul, but instead you decided to continue down your path of foolishness.

War with Russia

The month of December was a very busy one for the Imperial Navy of Japan in the waters surrounding the Home Islands. Yes, one Division of Marines from the Russians managed to land our Home Islands, but those marines captured a Beachhead for soldiers who will never even set foot on Japan. 10,000 Russian Soldiers where sent to their deaths needlessly in an unprovoked attack by their cowardly government. The 4th and 6th Taskforces wiped out the entire Russian Asiatic Fleet in one month with minimal damage done to our units.

I know personally not but two months ago I was ready to welcome the leadership of Russia into Tokyo harbor for a signing of peace accord that would have made a lasting peace between Russia and Japan, and would have protected their rear flanks from any invasion. Even the Emperor himself

was to have an audience with their leadership. But now, that's completely a moot point. The Russian Government has been thrown for a loop and now their foolish general thinks he can be a dictator, and rule with out the support of his people. Japan never wanted this war, but you started this fight we will just finish it for you!

For your audacity for setting foot on Japanese soil, we will cut that foot out from under you. Yes you may take some ground from us in Korea and Manchuria due to your treachery, but we will regain it and more. Your lowly marines will not survive as we, the people of Japan, have a fierce tradition of defending our soil with our blood. We will make any enemy pay for such audacity.

You declared war on a Nation that never wanted war with you! I hope the Germans gut your pathetic nation like a master sushi chef guts a fresh catch. I will personally enjoy the day when General Tojo's men shake hands with the German soldiers after cutting your former lands apart between the two armies.

The Imperial Japanese Navy stands at the ready to assist the people of Japan, as you are our lifeblood.

FIGHT WITH HONOR, AND DIE WITH HONOR!

Admiral Chuichi Nagumo



Admiral Chuichi Nagumo

European Front News: Russians Fall Back, British Lose Battleship

The Russian Army continued to retreat further and further into the interior of Russia this month, freely giving up land to the Germans. The Germans have decided not to press the attack at this time, most likely due to weather-related issues. Northern and Central Russia are among the coldest places in the world in the wintertime, the Germans will most likely give chase at the first sign of spring thaw. We now wish them all the best in that effort!

German submarines can add another major tally to their growing list of exploits in this conflict as well. The Prince of Wales, one of the Royal Navy's top line new battleships, dropped beneath the waves this month off the coast of Portugal, following a masterful torpedo assault by German forces, who were able to make the successful attack despite very poor weather conditions.

In Spain, the British continued to exploit gaps in the lines left by the Spanish as they deserted the lines. While the Germans now seem to have stabilized the front, it has cost them a significant amount of land, as the British forces now threaten Madrid near the center of the country.



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