



The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

January 15, 1941



1940 in Review Issue!

The year 1940 will go down as one of the greatest years in Japanese History! We have decided to dedicate this issue to reviewing the events of the year on all theatres of our military, as well as other diplomatic news. These great events did not come without sacrifice, however, and this issue is dedicated to those who gave their lives for the furthering of the Emperor's enlightened vision.

Startling Gains made on Chinese Front!

Only with the assistance of large scale maps is it possible to really understand the smashing successes we've had in the Chinese Theater this year. The Following story was contributed by General Hideki Tojo, who offers this month by month summary of action in China.



A Year of Victories in China

While the troops enjoy some well-deserved weeks of rest as winter halts the hectic fray of war, it is time to reflect on a remarkably successful year of 1940, with great battles won and massive gains made in China.

February: The string of victories begins promptly with the Chinese New Year, on February 8th. A well-coordinated offensive in the south encircles about half the KMT army group there. Advancing out of the Canton and Amoy pockets on the coast, and south from the Wuhan region in central China, Japanese troops attacking from three sides annihilate the Chinese 3rd and 8th Corps and, after meeting up, cut off some 30 enemy divisions from supply and communications. By geographical size as well as the number of units involved, it is the largest encirclement in history.

March: The encapsulated enemy troops in southern China just sit there and wait, with neither a breakout attempt nor relief from the outside materializing. The Chinese commanders are either too stunned to act, or taking the ill-advised decision to play for time. General Tojo later remarks that, had he been in their shoes, he would have attempted an immediate, full-scale breakout - under the circumstances, the only half-way realistic chance of saving at least some of the troops. As the encirclement lasts longer and longer, the situation can only become worse for the Chinese. Letting their best option pass by is another startling example of amateurish KMT leadership in the field.

April: The Japanese units encircling the enemy are by now firmly entrenched, and with reinforcements forthcoming, the Empire launches a successful attack that cuts the cauldron in half - sealing the fate of the southern KMT armies once and for all. Realizing their dire situation, the Chinese civil war factions once again join forces and launch diversionary attacks in the other theatres - the KMT advancing against Wuhan on the central front, and the CCP against Peking in the north. Both enemy offensives make some initial gains in the face of limited Japanese opposition, but General Tojo, having expected such a scenario all along, refuses to play along and to withdraw his units from the south. He knows that he can afford to trade ground elsewhere while he finishes off the trapped enemy here, and that any advances made by the Chinese will quickly be reversed thereafter.

May: Despite the limited local troops available on the central and northern fronts, the Imperial Army manages to stop and even to push back the Chinese offensives. While the KMT stop outside of Wuhan in the face of superior Japanese numbers, two pincers of a Communist offensive are halted dead in their tracks: to the west of Peking, a local counter-attack of the Imperial Army chases the CCP back to the mountains, and on the southern bend of the Huangho, all Communist attempts to move out of their bridgehead across the river are shattered by massive air strikes. Meanwhile, in the south, General Tojo's persistence pays off, as the encircled KMT armies collapse for good. Amid mopping-up operations, the city of Fuzhou is taken by assault. With the conquest of the Chinese Southeast, the Empire now controls a continuous frontline from Manchuria to Hong Kong, spanning all of the East Asian continent.

June: The Communists renew their drive on Peking, this time with greater numbers, and manage to open a large gap in the frontlines between the Huangho River and the great northern capital. It quickly becomes clear that Mao has launched the largest CCP offensive of the war to date, with some 30 divisions. He now threatens to exploit southwards and cut the Japanese army group's area of operations in two. General Tojo is faced with the decision of brining in his forces from the now-quiet southern front, or possibly losing the north. On the other hand, such a reshuffle might allow the weakened KMT to get away and consolidate again. Imperial Army High Command chooses the high-risk strategy - pressing on in the south against the Nationalists, while trading ground and improvising against the Communists. General Tojo is confident in his ability to bring the crisis at Peking under control even without major reinforcements, which will allow him the majority of troops to exploit the recent victory against the KMT to the fullest.

July: It is a month of surprises, some unfortunate, some highly welcome. A massive and well-planned Japanese offensive on the Changsha front meets with unexpectedly stiff KMT resistance. Losses are heavy, but consolation is taken from the fact that the number of damaged enemy units is greater still, and that the Nationalists are deprived of any offensive capability for the foreseeable future. In all, with the KMT weakened for months to come, High Command is now satisfied with the situation in the south. Meanwhile, a great opportunity is seized in the north: during what was only intended as a reconnaissance in force across the Huangho River, it had been discovered that the CCP had bared their frontlines there to the bones in order to throw everything at Peking. General Tojo immediately recognizes the chance, and allows the Communists to advance further towards the capital's garrison while he throws all available forces into a counter-attack across the Huangho. The gamble pays off handsomely, as the Communist bridgehead on the east side of the river is isolated and cut to pieces, removing some 46,000 enemy troops from the order of battle and completely overrunning their headquarters. It is later discovered that Mao himself was killed in the assault, along with most of his senior staff.

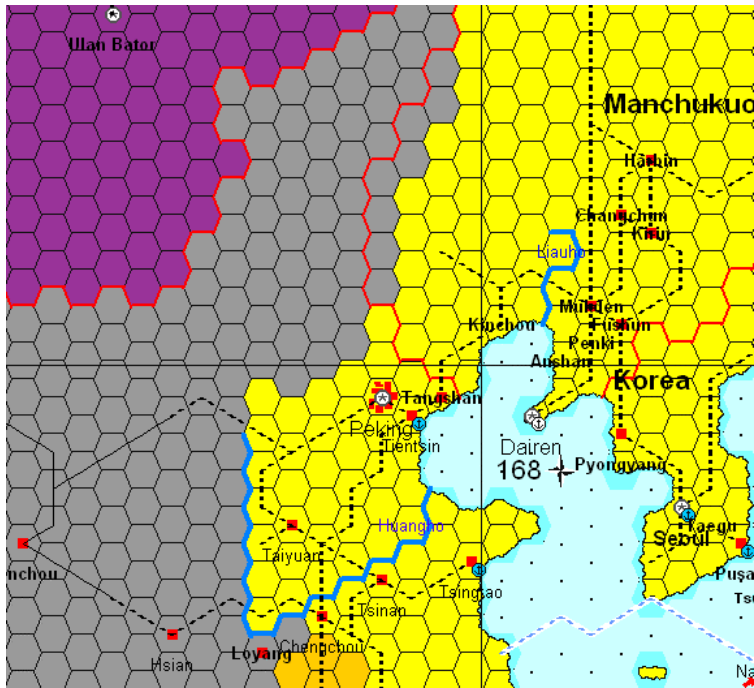
August: The Communist armies now start crumbling from within, but as of yet, their offensive to take Peking continues with undiminished ferocity. In a desperate attempt to escape their doom, the remainder of the CCP leadership mobilizes an ill-equipped, but huge peasant army and marches human wave after human wave into blistering Japanese defences. Although the Imperial Army garrison in Peking manages to destroy literally hundreds of thousands of enemy troops, they themselves are totally exhausted and on the verge of breaking towards the end of the month, nobody having expected the sheer overwhelming size of the Communist onslaught. However, despite Peking now being totally encircled, General Tojo, recognising the desperate enemy death throes for what they are, keeps unmoved and refuses to change his strategy. He calmly presses on against the collapsing CCP armies across the Huangho, taking their de-facto capital of Hsian, confident that the growing crisis at Peking can and will be brought under control even while he sustains his own offensive elsewhere.

September: Again, Tojo's gamble pays off and results in an unprecedented victory on the northern front: Japanese counter-attacks from north and south outpace the exhausted CCP armies and destroy them utterly, breaking the siege and firmly securing Peking once and for all. Imperial losses are heavy, but they pale in comparison to over 250,000 enemy casualties, an entire Communist army group. It is an even more remarkable achievement since no troops from across the Huangho had been recalled, allowing them to march on unabated and continue their own string of successes there. As a result, the CCP are now collapsing all over the place, having effectively ceased to exist as an organized, coherent fighting force.

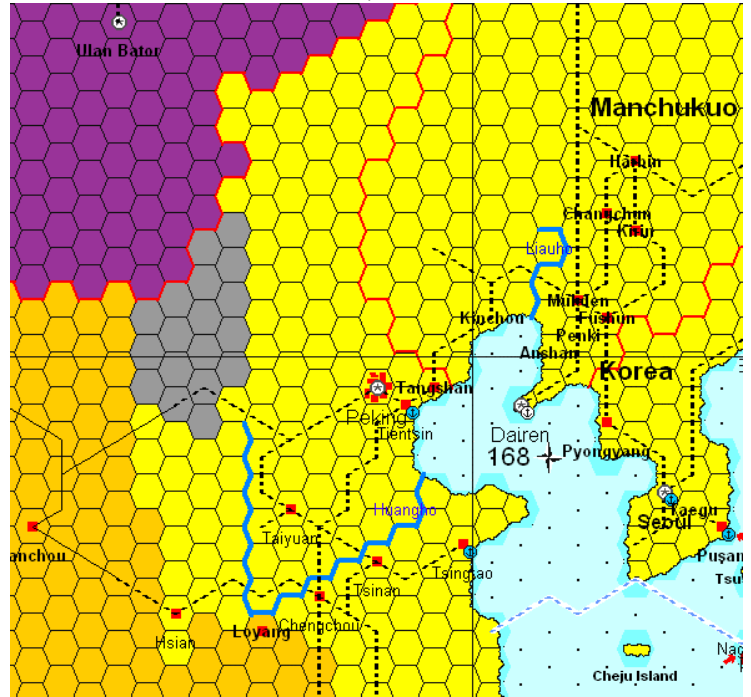
October: The remainder of the Communist armies simply disappears, as some 1,000,000 peasants desert from the field and move back into their communities. The Imperial Army decides to let them go home in peace, content that the CCP leadership with their suicidal offensives had revealed themselves as the true enemies of the Chinese, who would now recognise the benefits of Japanese leadership as opposed to the late Mao's bloodthirsty slaughter. As the winter season sets in, General Tojo and his men can look back on a remarkable year; unprecedented gains in territory and resources, one of their Chinese enemies beaten to death, and Japanese control over East Asia now more secure than ever.

The Following Maps show our progress further, separating the front into 2 halves (North and South)

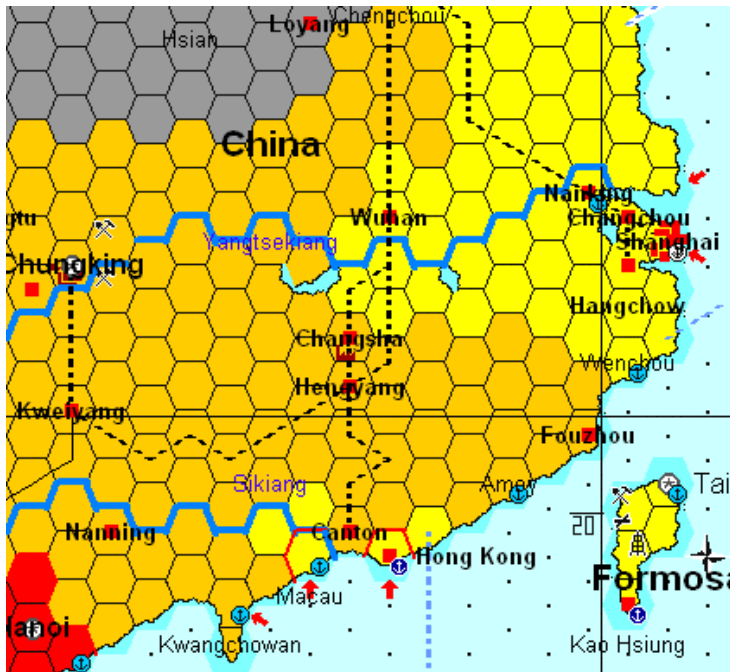
Northern Front, December 1939



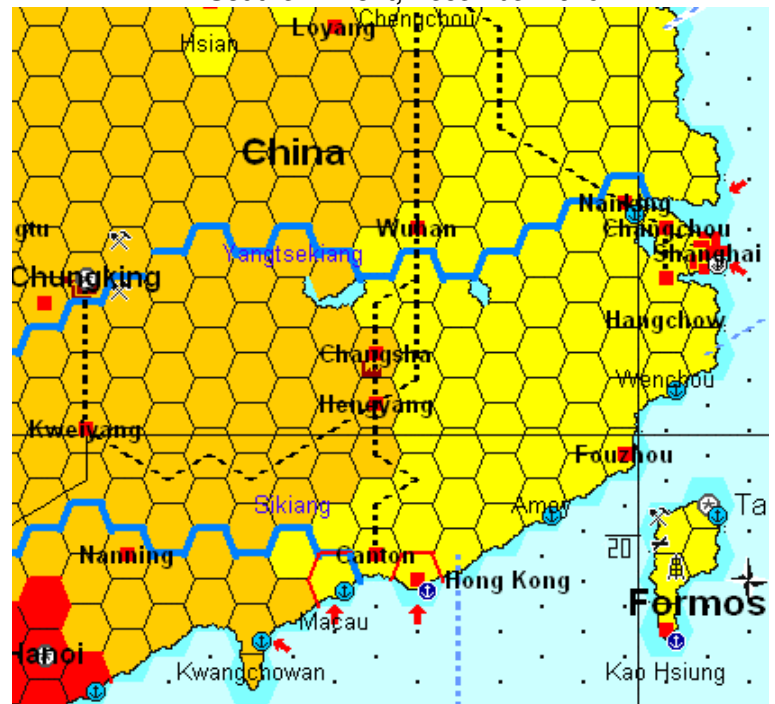
Northern Front, December 1940



Southern Front, December 1939



Southern Front, December 1940



“Battle of Peking” being hailed as one of Japan’s Greatest Military Victories ever!

The “Battle of Peking”, as it’s coming to be known officially, occurred roughly from June 10 – September 20, 1940. It featured a Japanese army narrowly defeating a Communist Chinese “People’s Army” numbering in the millions of troops, despite overwhelming numerical odds as high as 50-1 in places.

The true soul of the Japanese Imperial Army was put to the ultimate test, and prevailed with flying colors in the face of very high odds. Our modern Samurai showed that fighting for the ideals of the Emperor, which all his subjects believe in very strongly, is superior to fighting for a brutal regime based on fear and repression. As soon as the fear of our troops was greater than the fear the peasants felt from Mao’s regime, they simply dropped their weapons and went home.

Prince Fumimako has ordered the creation of a massive memorial and military park in the Peking Area, at a cost of almost \$20M. Construction is expected to take 12 months, and a great commemoration and opening ceremony is expected to be held on February 1, 1942.

Yamamoto Dies in Plane Crash

In a distressing and heartbreaking development, Navy Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto perished in a fluke plane crash off the island of Formosa, on his way to oversee Marine Infantry training maneuvers. No foul play is suspected, just an accident.

A state funeral was held in Tokyo, in one of the greatest ceremonies ever held. The High Command of both the Army and Navy were in full attendance, as the Prime Minister Fumimako read a short excerpt from some of Yamamoto’s journals, in conjunction with an excerpt from “The Art of War” by Sun-Tzu. In an unprecedented event, that was followed by a short eulogy by his majesty himself, who expressed extreme regret at the news. He also declared a national holiday be held, where all government offices were closed. Every naval soldier in the empire also fired a single shot skyward in honor of their fallen commander.

The whole nation mourns the loss of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, his loss will be felt personally throughout the Empire for many months and years to come. Many even speculated that he would someday be the successor of Prime Minister Fumimako after the war, when he was no longer needed in the Navy. Admiral Nagumo has been promoted to Yamamoto’s position, and has pledged his utmost effort from the Emperor. No one expects Nagumo to “replace” Yamamoto, but all are confident in his abilities to lead the Navy through whatever course the Emperor wills.

British lose Malaya to series of Japanese actions

Royal Navy looks on from safe distance as Imperial forces remove the colonial repressors from Malaya

Operations commenced in May, with Japanese Marines landing essentially unopposed on the Mainland Malayan Peninsula on May 15th. They then facilitated the landing of regular Imperial Army troops, who then proceeded to liberate the entire Malayan peninsula north of Singapore by July.

What followed was a protracted siege of the city of Singapore. Sun-tzu warned many times in his master work “The Art of War”, that siege warfare was the least effective form of warfare, and General Tojo makes

every effort to avoid that style of fighting, but there are of course times where it is unavoidable, and this was such a time.

The Fortress city of Singapore held out for several months. Airdrops being brought in from Indochina to supply the city were discovered and intercepted by our Air Force, and soon after the city was forced to surrender, in mid-November. Sadly, the British garrison, acting under orders from London, saw it necessary to essentially destroy the entire city prior to surrender, leaving the innocent civilians within to die of starvation, disease, and dehydration. A massive effort was undertaken by Japan, with help from the Dutch, Americans, and International Red Cross, but a disaster was nonetheless inevitable due to horrible port and harbor conditions. One only wonders how much worse it could have been without our efforts. As we speak, the efforts continue, although obviously the worst is over.

It is understandable that the surrendering garrison destroy all military equipment and defensive weaponry and emplacements, however to destroy the infrastructure of such a city who is utterly reliant on outside supply based on its geography, that is a crime against humanity of the highest magnitude. This sort of heinous atrocity will be remembered by the common citizens of Singapore; it is doubtful if they will ever welcome British government again.

The ability to even consider an act like that against ones own people, who had fought for months for London for months without hope or outside assistance speaks of an icy hearted coldness that is difficult to fathom. It can only be possible from a people who feel that they are superior to their subjects, and of a racism of the first magnitude.

The British Royal Navy did finally make a belated appearance while the Japanese were focused on relief efforts, in an attempt to take advantage of our distraction due to the relief situation, in addition to poor weather conditions. They were, however, soundly beaten back, losing a carrier and several capital ships, with minor Japanese losses. The extent of our victory was due mainly to the bravery and sacrifice of our carrier pilots, who flew their planes in poor weather conditions despite very low odds of being able to return safely to their ships. They found the enemy, did their damage, and then most were forced to ditch their planes and await rescue in choppy, stormy seas.

The British must now feel completely helpless in this area; if they can not beat us in those circumstances, where they have every advantage, how can they expect to stand up to us in a fair engagement? Unfortunately for them, they will soon find out!

The part of the former British colony of Malaya that was on the northern part of the island of Borneo was taken by Japanese Marines within 48 hours of landing, only the most minimal resistance was encountered as the British did not bother to defend this area with even the most basic garrison.

A New Asian Ally Joins the Emperor's Cause

Fearful of European Aggression, the King of Siam agrees to join in Alliance with the Empire of Japan

Amid allegations that British officials had tampered with Siamese communications, and fearful of further aggression by European Colonialists, Siam eagerly joined our Co-Prosperity Sphere in the later stages of 1940. Already they have felt the positive effects of that agreement. Rail projects are underway in Siam to connect it with its food and resources. The modernization of its military forces to Japanese standards is well underway and nearly complete. Japanese aircraft have rebased to Bangkok to help defend the skies of Siam from evil outside intent. While all this is going on, the people of Siam have still been able to enjoy a massive cut in the exorbitant taxes they were being forced to pay. The King of Siam, through his great wisdom, has ushered in a new Golden Age for his people.

Empire of Japan signs long term exclusive trade contract with Dutch

Those who would suggest that the Empire of Japan is unable to have friendly dealings with Europeans are proven wrong, as Japan and the Netherlands have agreed to a major trade arrangement. The Dutch East Indies trade their goods exclusively to Japan. This brings a reliable, stable, and honorable stream of income into the Netherlands, while providing the Japanese with the raw materials it needs to keep its civil and military factories operating at their maximum capacities. The natives in the region benefit through new rail projects, port facilities, and an abundance of quality employment. It is truly and win-win-win deal for all involved.

Current Events

While primarily a “year in review” issue, we can not entirely ignore this month’s developments.

Several major rail projects have commenced in China and Siam this month, once again showing that life under Japanese leadership is better than life under brutal, backwards leadership in China. The fact that Chiang Kai-shek has not built a single kilometer of railway in the last year should be evidence enough of that. The King of Siam had begun rail projects before joining us, but now it will be done much more quickly and efficiently, and without having to tax his people nearly as heavily.

All is relatively quiet in Europe, as all combatants take a breath to regroup during harsh winter months. North African deserts, however, continue to see action, as Italian forces have finally stopped their long retreat and have made a stand, emboldened by fresh new troops. Perhaps now they can retake some or all of Libya back from the British.

Similarly, the Chinese Front is quiet this month, as poor weather conditions have prevented major operations on both sides. Japan has shipped several divisions of fresh troops to the mainland this month however, and big advances in the front are again predicted this year.

The British Navy continues to lose merchant shipping at shockingly high rates. German and Italian submarines are taking a heavy toll on British ships, and they have proven unable to protect their convoys from the German “Wolf Packs” in the Atlantic. This unsustainable loss of shipping can only help Japanese forces facing the English on this side of the world.

Japanese scientists have again been able to improve industrial productivity and efficiency throughout the Empire. They also have made a breakthrough in aircraft design, though the specifics of that discovery are still highly classified.

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