



The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

July 30th, 1941



“Double Dragon” offensive cuts the KMT to pieces!

After months of planning and preparation, the Imperial Army finally unleashed its long-awaited summer offensive in China. The initial success has been spectacular, with deep advances by our new armored corps and the hopelessly outgunned enemy forces disintegrating rapidly. General Hideki Tojo confidently assures us that it is only the beginning.



Type 97 Tanks advancing near Wuhan.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Army was understandably pleased with the beginning of the operation. “Everything is going according to plan. The success of the initial phase has met our expectations” he declared with some understatement. “Frankly, it is a great relief to be on the move, finally. The amount of planning that went into this is extraordinary. The basic outline for the attack was in my mind since last autumn, after the Battle of Peking. Preparations on a large scale began in February, some six months ago, and have consumed most of our attention since. It is no exaggeration to say that this is the most ambitious, the most massive and the most well-prepared military offensive our nation has ever undertaken, unlike anything yet seen in the history of East Asia.”

"We knew with absolute certainty that it would be a great success, and we were itching to bring everything in place so we could get started. Now, after all this time, it is a great satisfaction to be going forward, and to see the confirmation of our efforts. I am very proud of our fine staff officers, the tireless work they have done during the past half year, and of our troops, who are now rewarding us with their magnificent performance in the field. And, mind you, this is only the beginning. We have seen nothing yet. If Chiang and his henchmen think that the last couple of weeks were bad, they have another thing coming."

The offensive, code-named "Double Dragon", began on the morning of July 4th. Imperial Army High Command had assembled an attack force such as East Asia had never seen before. "This is certainly one of the largest and most professional fighting forces in modern history" states General Tojo. "Considerably bigger even than Napoleon's Grand Army. Some of the Army Groups in the current German-Soviet conflict may have about the same size, but they are more spread out. It is an entirely new type of warfare in the Chinese theater, that is for sure, and the KMT are predictably dismayed!" Although the Commander-in-Chief refused to comment on exact figures, it is believed that "Double Dragon" consists of over 800,000 men, 900 tanks, 1,200 heavy pieces of artillery, and 1,800 aircraft, not counting replacements and reserves – which are said to be substantial – that are due to arrive in the coming weeks for the later stages.

"We never expected to keep a troop concentration of this size hidden from the enemy, and therefore planned the operation with the fact in mind that the Chinese would know we are coming" elaborates the General. "We were confident that we would easily break through nonetheless. Actually, this is the part of the operation I am most proud of – that it was no pushover. During the last one or two months, the KMT obviously became aware of what was going on, and began moving their own best units to the sector of the front where 'Double Dragon' was about to launch. They deployed a defense in depth, including anti-tank guns, artillery assets, and obstacles for our mobile forces. And even so, they were completely powerless to stop us. As a matter of fact, their deployment works very much in our favor. Not only have we broken through the front in spite of the heavy defenses arrayed against us, we are now in a position to annihilate the best and most modern part of the KMT army right away, as a result."

The offensive is spear-headed by the new armored corps, large formations of Type 97 Chi-Ha tanks and motorized infantry. The vehicles and their crews are reported to perform even better than expected. This is the first time the Imperial Army has employed such massed concentrations of mobile forces, and every precaution was taken to ensure that the premiere would be a successful one. With the new equipment came new concepts, which were extensively tested and rehearsed. General Tojo explains: "The spirit and dedication of the Japanese soldier is without peer, but in comparison to some of the Western armies, we were lagging behind somewhat in operational doctrine and technical areas. Last year, we addressed this by introducing reforms and improvements on a broad scale. Our staff officers thoroughly studied the concepts of some European military thinkers, like Heinz Guderian and B.H. Liddell-Hart. Combined arms focus, *schwerpunkt* doctrine, and so forth. Our recent victories now speak for themselves. We have caught up with the Germans, and surpassed the British – the latter is one of the ironies of history, but not surprising.

Within hours, the armored corps, with elaborate air and artillery support and accompanied by waves of infantry, had brushed aside the enemy frontline units and were advancing deep into the interior. The KMT seemed thoroughly shocked by the extent and ferocity of the attack, their entire central army group between Chengchou and Wuhan disintegrating rapidly. 100,000 prisoners of war were taken in the first week of "Double Dragon" alone, many more Chinese troops are believed to be retreating in bad order or deserting outright. "They know their situation is hopeless, so they are trying to fall back and re-organize" observed one Japanese tank commander. "But it is a futile attempt, since our forces are so much faster. There will be no escape." The foot soldiers and airmen of the Empire

are also doing their part, harassing the disorganized KMT units and eliminating strongpoints. In the north, the mountain fortress of Loyang was taken in the first week of the offensive, which surprised even General Tojo: "Actually, the conquest of Loyang was planned for August, during the second phase of 'Double Dragon'. We were merely conducting some pinning attacks when the garrison gave up without a fight and scattered to the hills, which goes to show how much our onslaught has disheartened them. Needless to say, taking such a valuable objective well in advance of schedule makes our position even easier."



Above: General Hideki Tojo, mastermind of "Double Dragon", at his headquarters.



Right: Japanese troops celebrate the capture of the mountain fortress Loyang.

It seems as though the days for Chiang Kai-Shek and his regime are numbered. General Tojo is quietly confident of total victory: "We still have some way to go, and it is not going to be a cakewalk. The aim now is to keep focused and exploit our recent gains to the fullest. If we keep the momentum and continue to perform as expected, the KMT will be gone by the end of 1941. We don't take anything for granted, but frankly, I don't see how Chiang is going to stop us now. So far, he hasn't shown much creativity to begin with, usually staying on the defense, and relying on outside help to get him out of trouble. I don't envision him suddenly transforming into a brilliant military thinker now, of all times. Greater commanders than him would fail in his current situation."

"Furthermore, his own men must now be all but convinced that their leadership has failed, and that they are going to lose the war. The troops in the field certainly know it. And trust me, China and all of East Asia will be better off for it, eventually. Decades of turmoil, civil wars, Western colonialism - Japan is putting an end to all that, and promoting the rise of a new government that truly represents the hopes of the Chinese people for the future; A future of independence, progress, and glory for Asia. Now is our chance, our moment, and I don't intend to let it slip away. The Imperial Army will keep its eye on the ball, focused and concentrated, doing our job with firm conviction and unshakeable resolve, until the day of victory is here!"

If the last four weeks are any indication, that day is not long to come. Glory to the Emperor, and our heartfelt admiration for the brave men of operation "Double Dragon"!

KMT Front Lines Smashed!

Combined, Coordinated attacks by Imperial Army Shred KMT Defenses, Total Collapse of KMT Imminent!



Hundreds of thousands of KMT troops surrendered under intense pressure from Japanese forces!

Japanese troops have finally launched their long awaited summer offensive in China. The main focus of the thrust was in North-Central China, between the cities of Chengchou and Wuhan. The offensive included combined, coordinated attacks from Artillery, Armor, Air and Infantry power, all working together like a well-oiled machine. It was very obvious that General Tojo had used his time building up to full effect, and even the usually pro-European Dublin Chronicle has admitted that the situation looks completely impossible for the KMT, and that “the situation is dire for the KMT, who must now be all but convinced of their eventual defeat.” The same article went on to say “it looks as if China will fall in 1941”. While Japanese High Command has refused to place an official estimate on the ending date of hostilities in China, there is a quiet confidence that has been building amongst the leading generals all spring, and the latest news has only served to increase this confidence.

The primary key to the success of this offensive, despite all of the technology, planning, and coordinated execution, is still the average front line Japanese soldier. They fight with unmatched skill, courage, tenacity, and most importantly, a firm knowledge that their cause is right and just. This serves to increase the already high morale of Imperial field armies. Another key feature, as mentioned previously in this space, was that the KMT had already committed most of its best troops, and only reserves, further south. This victory is, in part, a direct result of General Tojo’s “failed” Indochinese operation. Perhaps it was a success after all?

If the nations of Europe were truly interested in the well being of the average Chinese citizen, and not propping up their failed puppet thug, they would quickly see that the best way to improve their lives would be to support the Japanese administration of the region, until such time as the Chinese people can properly govern themselves as a single, free, industrialized modern state.

Dishonorable Tactics

Special Editorial by Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, Supreme Naval Commander of the Imperial Japanese Navy

Today I wish to talk about the dishonorable tactics that the Italian Navy has been participating in for the last months. In the last few months the Italian's have been making increasingly bold move naval moves.

They Attacked and Seized American Neutral Merchant Convoys heading to the Neutral Nation of Turkey that until last month was not a part of the conflict in Europe. This is considered dishonorable in the eyes of any proper Samurai in keeping with our *bushido* code, and completely against the spirit of neutrality as laid down by international law.

The Italians have completely disregarded the first rule of modern warfare. Never harm the Civilian Population. The IJN and IJA take great pains to only attack and destroy targets of war; we would not intentionally attack those of the civilian population.

As an island nation, Japan realizes how important it is to have merchant trade with other nations. And she has a special appreciation for the importance of the rule of law at sea. Neutral vessels must be allowed unhindered passage to their destinations.

The Germans too have taken to attacking neutral nations' shipping interests of late, an action which we must condemn in the strongest terms. The United States of America is a neutral nation. They have a right to trade with whomever they choose; attacking them is only inviting war with America. Additionally, the Germans even went so far as to bombard the poor island nation of Jamaica recently. We can find no tactical or strategic reasoning behind this attack, except to spread terror throughout innocent people throughout the Caribbean Sea, and further provoke American ire with attacks so close to their homeland.

I pride myself on my families' history of being Samurai and serving the Empire of Japan and its leaders that is forcing me to speak out against these tactics. So, while we appreciate the help of the Germans and Italians in fighting a common enemy, the incorrigible and stubborn government of Churchill in London, we ask that they do so with greater care in the future, lest they quickly squander the very last of their international credibility.

This past month I attempted to challenge the British to a fair fight in the open seas, yet they cowered and ran once again, rather than meeting their enemy in open battle and dying a glorious and honorable death. To die in battle is likened to the beauty of the cherry blossom, which falls from the tree and dies in its moment of perfection. Even if they do run, we will eventually corner and catch them anyway, unless they wish to quit the entire Pacific Ocean area.

I personally know now, as I have known since they declared war on us, that it is going to take every fiber of my being to find and remove the British threat. While we were looking for the British Navy, their own submarine groups proceeded to sink a modest amount of unarmed Japanese merchant shipping. But I will not do so without compromising my honor, or that of my brave crews.

Direct conflict is always better then cowering in fear against the enemy. Fleeing is bad for morale; it shows the average sailor that their leadership has no confidence in their abilities. The morale of the Royal Navy's Pacific and Indian Ocean fleets must be at rock bottom at this point.

Waiting game in Haiphong

The stalemate in northern Indochina continued throughout July, but must now be seen under a wholly different light. While Japanese armies overrun the Chinese heartland, it becomes clear that the British 'victory' of recent months was indeed a shallow one.



Troops and supplies are moved ashore to reinforce the Indochinese beachhead

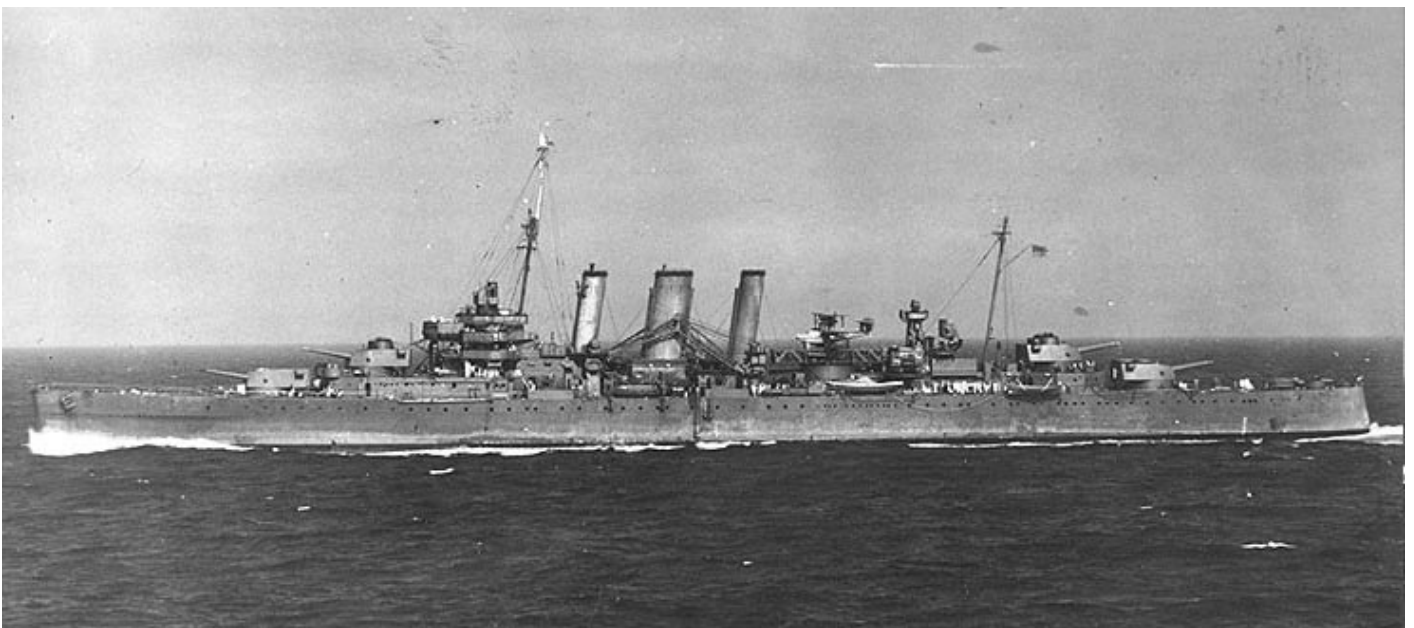
We vividly remember the endless bragging and self-congratulating of the British press over the "heroic defense" of Hanoi in recent weeks, and about other daring exploits in the area, undertaken by their boys (such as the unparalleled victory over the grand Siamese army, no less!). Not a day went by without some excited report from Southeast Asia – how many "large-scale Japanese attacks" had been fought off, how great the morale of the garrison in Hanoi was, how nice the weather, how many sacks of beans had been valiantly transported into the city, and so forth. While our troops sat back for the most part and contented themselves with the occasional probing skirmish, the British were obviously having a great time.

How bitter it must be for them to find out that the landings in Indochina were, at best, a secondary front for the Empire of Japan, and quite possibly intended as nothing more than a distraction from start to finish. General Tojo reveals as much by stating: "Operation 'Raging Bull', the invasion of Indochina, was always of secondary importance as far as the Imperial Army was concerned. Ever since the Battle of Peking last autumn, our focus was firmly and almost exclusively on 'Double Dragon', the summer offensive in mainland China. That's it. We never expected to take Hanoi or advance deep into China from down there in the southwest; although we made sure it looked like it. In truth, what was reported in the Western media as 'desperate charges' were mostly feint attacks of ours – one man makes noise for ten, you know the game. Our actual goal was to establish a moderate bridgehead for potential future operations, keep the attention of the British and the KMT away from other theaters, and bind as many of their units as possible with a comparatively small force of our own. Obviously, we have achieved all of that. Meanwhile, our tanks are rolling onward in the far north."

It will be interesting to see what the British do now. If they move against the bridgehead, as they are obviously planning to, it will only make the situation easier for Japan, General Tojo assures us: "Our forces around Haiphong are in good shape, almost like on the day when they landed. I said they were comparatively small, in the sense of what we were trying to accomplish with them - but make no mistake; they are up for whatever task may come, almost equal to their enemies in number and very well dug-in by now. The British were nice enough to give us yet another month, in July, to prepare defenses and move in some reinforcements. It seems their commanders always hesitate endlessly to assemble more and more forces before they actually strike, as if they weren't quite sure of themselves. If they come at us in August, they'll find out what that delay brought them. If, on the other hand, they decide to change their plans, in light of what is happening in central China, it will remove the pressure from us and potentially expose Hanoi. Plus, now that they have committed all their available reserves to Indochina, such redeployment would be too late to make a difference for the KMT, anyway. The distances are vast, and the British are far from their own headquarters and supply sources, and moving ever further away. Such a move has no hope of success."

"In any case, General Chaing Kai-Shek is done for. We will see what that means for Indochina in the long term – rest assured, it is our intention to fully liberate that nation, too, at some point in the future. And having called it a 'secondary front' for now, I am still incredibly proud of our troops at the beachhead. They have performed magnificently, under conditions which were just as difficult, perhaps more so, as our main attack in China proper." It will be an interesting summer at Haiphong, and the Imperial Expeditionary Force is ready for anything.

Imperial Navy in successful action near Darwin, Australia



HMAS Australia confirmed sunk, 1 or 2 other British Heavy Cruisers Probable losses as well.

One of the Emperor's mighty task forces was dispatched to Port Darwin, Australia early this month in an attempt to engage the British in a direct conflict. When they arrived on location, a small naval engagement with some of the British Cruisers ensued, the Royal Navy using those cruisers as a screen to allow what remains of their Pacific Fleet to escape. The British succeeded in escaping temporarily to the east due to their boats speed, but not without the loss of the at least 2, perhaps 3 of their cruisers. Reports are still coming in to verify the 3rd cruiser loss. We took no losses whatsoever.

European Front News: Germans Smash Reds, Break Out in South



German Pzkwf IV tanks continue to advance through the Ukraine

On the Eastern European front, the Germans took advantage of their gains last month, making astounding progress on the Southern region. The Soviets have given up Odessa, a major Black Sea port, and indeed seem on the verge of losing the entire Ukraine region, which would be disastrous given the fact that a very large amount of Soviet food supply is grown in the Ukraine. With harvest coming soon, the timing for these losses could hardly be worse. Unless Soviet fortunes are immediately reversed, this could be a very rough winter for the average Russian peasant. Other gains were made all along the front by the Germans, who finally seem comfortable with their superior technology and training, and seem to be using the “blitzkrieg” style of warfare almost as effectively as we are!

Germany opened, and then rapidly closed, yet another front in their continued conquest of Europe. This time Denmark lay prostrate before the Reich, and was quickly gobbled up. The outcome was never in doubt, as outdated, outclassed, unprepared, and outnumbered Danish troops were no match for the modern, experienced troops of the Wehrmacht.

The Western European front, where combat continues on the Iberian Peninsula, continues to see little action of a decisive nature, as both sides trade blows without either able to make significant gains against the other; the British and Portuguese armies on one side, the Spanish and German on the other.

Japanese Scientists make further gains

This month saw the completion of many military research projects of various natures, all with the purpose of maintaining Japanese excellence in combat weaponry. The exact nature of the research is classified, but we have received reports that multiple improvements were made on land, on the sea, and in the air. The Army in particular is extremely pleased about the new equipment that is being created for their soldiers to use. The Navy is believed to have developed a new Destroyer class of unparalleled ability and operational range, although the exact nature of that is of course unknown.

Enemies of the Emperor will know soon enough the exact nature of these improvements, as they are unleashed upon them without mercy. We will press our advantage until all who oppose us see the futility of their resistance and offer terms of truce.

Meanwhile, it's back to work on new projects for our dedicated research teams, who continue to enjoy vastly improved standards of living and comfort, and work in the finest facilities in the world. It is truly good to be a Japanese research scientist!

Americans attacked, threaten to cut trade to belligerents

We in Japan are saddened by German attacks on neutral American shipping in the Atlantic Ocean, but at the same time, we found the American response disturbing as well. The Americans threatened to end all trade to the belligerents. There has also been some discussion that any continued trade be made by non- US flagged shipping.

Our concern is this: Why did they not take this same approach in the Pacific Ocean? The United States unilaterally ended her trade agreements with us with no warning, over a year before they were contractually set to expire. And what attack had Japanese forces made upon the United States? There were not even any signs of a remote threat to American ships that were indeed bringing goods to Japan. Why would we attack ships bringing goods to us? Surely they didn't feel threatened by the Chinese navy?!

However, trade was suspended on the premise that it would be dangerous to enter the waters of a belligerent nation, and that it was a violation of neutrality. Why the double standard now? Is there something else at work here?

A counter-argument for suspending trade to Europe is that many American jobs will be lost. No-one seemed to mind that when they cut trade to us, are jobs in the Eastern United States somehow more important than those in the West?

The hypocrisy here is blatant; one must wonder what else is going on behind the scenes in these cases. Perhaps the United States is not as neutral as it makes itself out to be after all?

