



# The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1941



## British Hit Hard Globally!

Setbacks to UK Forces in Africa, Spain, Med, Atlantic, Africa



Elite Italian Bersagliero troops (note the black feathers in the helmets) advance in the African desert.

Japanese Forces continue to build for a major upcoming advance, but meanwhile, her primary enemy, the United Kingdom, suffered various setbacks throughout various theaters this month. This can only be seen as good news for those of us under the banner of the Rising Sun!

Much of this damage comes at the hands of the Italians, who are often derided for their inadequacy and inability to compete with major world powers, seems to have come in to its own recently. Il Duce's forces threw back the British in North Africa, pushing British forces from the gates of Tunis all the way back to Tripoli. Meanwhile in the Mediterranean Sea, the Italian Navy rules the waves, and has become Mussolini's own "Italian Lake" as he refers to it. The Royal Navy seems to have given up the fight there completely.

In Spain, the Luftwaffe gave RAF's Bomber Command yet another headache, as their fighters destroyed hundreds of Bombers en route to the front there. The Atlantic Ocean continues to see massive losses of British Merchant shipping by German U-boats, as well as by the Heavy Cruiser Admiral Scheer. Reports are sketchy and confused, but it seems clear that the Scheer is clearly wreaking havoc upon the Atlantic. More British Merchant losses continue to make it increasingly difficult for their industries to operate with any efficiency; again this is good news back home in Japan.

We salute the continuing efforts of the Axis powers, Germany and Italy, against our common enemy in England. British Imperialism is clearly seeing its last days; soon, a new era will dawn in Asia, one where Asians are truly free from European oppression and exploitation!

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# Letters from Marines in Indo-China

The Imperial Japanese amphibious expeditionary force in Indochina has been fighting tirelessly to free that land from its continued oppression by foreign colonialists. As part of that effort, they have written numerous letters home, and received many from loved ones back home, as all Japanese soldiers do. Admiral Nagumo's office routinely scans these letters to make certain that no "militarily sensitive" information is contained therein, which would unwittingly endanger the troops should those letters somehow end up in the wrong hands. We have taken a sampling of those letters and placed them here for your enjoyment.

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Papa, (Sgt. Enkido Kobayashi, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division)

I miss you so very much! When are you coming home? Oh, I know you're out there defending us from the evils of the oppressive British. I want you to know mama and I are doing well. I am growing up big and strong! Soon it will be my turn to head out and defend this great nation of ours. Please come home soon!

Your Son,  
Kenji

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Son, (Cpl. Emori Sato, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division)

We find it honorable that you are out fighting for the glory of the Empire. Please know that you are in our prayers each night and we hope that you will return home safely! I know what you're fighting for, and I know what this war has cost you so far. Son, know that in the end, this will only make you stronger and when you do return home, your honor shall carry our family forward. Such is the way of the modern samurai warrior. Your mother still weeps each day for you safety! She still remembers what it was like when I was in action years ago.

Let the glory and radiance of the Emperor and the Empire shine through your actions.

Your Father

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Dear Husband, (Pvt. Ryu Nakamura, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division)

They tell me that no news is good news! But I still feel that it is important that I tell you these words. I found out shortly after you left with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division of Marines that I was pregnant with our first child. I am due next month and so wish you could be home for a few days to be with the baby and me. I know you're off fighting for the greater good of the Empire, and I know from what I have read in the paper that the fighting has been tough on your division.

I pray for a healthy strong boy, but I know you my husband, and I know you will accept any child that came from our love. I am so honored that I will get to show our child pictures of you in your uniform, and I hope that you will be here to share in our child's growth due to your willingness to put your life on the line for us!

I love you and miss you  
Your Loving Wife

(Ed: This one came smelling like fresh lotus blossoms, you lucky soldier!)

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Papa

Tomorrow, we are going to pull out of this little village we've been in for a few weeks and head for (Censored). The people here seem sad to see us leaving, they are a kind folk. Several peasants gave us rice as we passed, and told us there'd be plenty more if we came back. They are tired of having their work and natural wealth taken to a faraway land, with paltry (if any) compensation. I can't say I blame them, either; I am so grateful that Emperor Meiji saved us from this dishonor by making Japan strong enough to resist these Europeans. Force truly is the only thing they seem to understand, too.

We've taken some pretty heavy casualties in our unit, but I can honestly tell you that for every one of us that went down, we took down 10-12 of them. Even China can't replace losses like we've been dishing out forever. It's a wonder nobody has strung up that fool Chiang Kai-shek yet. His troops are brave enough, but they suffer from horrible leadership and worse equipment. I hear tell that these are the KMT's best troops we've been facing, too. If that's true, we'll whip these poor guys in no time. We're all pretty worn out and could use some R&R, but all in all our spirits are high under the circumstances. We know who's going to win in the end.

I look forward to the day when Japan can lead the rest of Asia to its vision of co-prosperity, so that I don't have to see people suffer under oppression any more. Nobody should have to live like this anywhere!

Your Son,  
Pvt. Niguro Suzuki (5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division)

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Admiral Nagumo also added the following remarks regarding these troops: "In the past few months, Indochina has witnessed a struggle unprecedented in the history of Southeast Asia. The Imperial Japanese Marines, in particular, stand valiantly at the foremost front to defeat the colonialists and their pawns. The gratitude not only of the Empire of Japan, but also of the entire Indochinese people, for your ongoing service and sacrifice cannot be expressed in words."

"It is no secret that operation "Raging Bull", the effort to liberate Southeast Asia, is experiencing a delay to build up our strength and deal with the expected enemy counter-attacks before we advance further. We are therefore behind schedule. But as always in warfare, things must be analyzed in their proper perspective. The truth of the matter is that, while the enemy has managed to hold onto Hanoi during the first months of our offensive, he has managed to do so only by committing his entire reserve. The Chinese are throwing everything they have at our lines, including some of their best-equipped divisions, which are now tied down and cannot be used elsewhere. They have even lowered their garrisons in nearby cities like Kunming. It is obvious how desperately the KMT are scraping together their units to stop you, and even so, with their vastly superior numbers and virtually all of their reserves used up, they have only managed a stalemate."

"As an exercise in binding a large part of our enemies' forces with a comparatively small number of our own, therefore operation "Raging Bull" is a consummate success. They may rave all they want about how our offensive is temporarily stalled, when in reality they have given up their freedom of operation in other theaters. They may enumerate the losses they have inflicted on us, while conveniently failing to mention that they have suffered three to four casualties for every one of ours. And as the famous Japanese proverb goes, "He who laughs last, laughs best"."

"I am proud of the fine job you are doing, flying our banner in the face of such superior numbers, and defying an enemy who is using his all to destroy you. In doing so, you bestow an immeasurable service on the remainder of our armed forces. When, by the end of the year, the KMT army has broken under the strain of their current, all-out effort - and break it will! -, it will be in no small part due to your small, valiant band of heroes. Never in the history of our nation was so much owed by so many to so few."

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## Entire Chinese Front Quiet

An eerie quiet continues over thousands of kilometres of front lines all across China this month. Everyone knows that the planned Japanese offensive could come at any minute, and the entire front has a tension that can be felt. Who knows when, or where, the offensive will occur? Only General Tojo knows for certain, and he's not telling anyone! At least, no one in these offices! Many experts expected the attack to occur last month, but apparently some final preparations were being made to ensure that the offensive went off smoothly. A quiet confidence seems to be the attitude amongst the commanders of the operation, it is whispered that this offensive could not possibly fail, and that the Imperial Army has a big surprise in store for the KMT. With the Emperor's divine blessing and guidance, we are assured total victory in this war! Banzai!



Japanese Artillery Position in China

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## New Budget due next month, details still sketchy

On the home front, Prince Fumimako and his staff have put all but the finishing touches on the next quarterly budget, which will take effect next month. Our sources report that another record income has been achieved, and that major increases in the Naval and Air budgets are in the works, while the Army's budget was reduced slightly. Further infrastructure projects are also planned, including new slipways being added to existing shipyards in unnamed ports within the home islands, as well as continued rail projects in Asia.

It is rumored that a modest cut in taxes throughout the Empire is also a possibility in future budgets (perhaps early next year), but this can not be confirmed. This would be good news for the ordinary citizen of the Empire, and would show confidence that our wars are going well, since additional funds would be deemed unnecessary at this time.



Prime Minister Konoye Fumimako

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## European Front News: Germans Blunt Soviet Offensive, Make Gains



German Pzkw IV tanks advance through the Ukraine

On the Eastern European front, the Germans had one of their best months thus far in the entire war, and seem to have breached Soviet defensive lines and advanced in several key sectors. Along the Southern flank of the Front, German and Romanian troops have seized the port city of Odessa, cutting off the Soviet 3<sup>rd</sup> Army in the Ukraine.

Further north, the Germans have successfully parried a major stroke by the Soviet 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Army, one of the Red Army's finest units, and have managed to take Smolensk in a major counter-attack. Smolensk is a major city in the Soviet defensive lines, its permanent loss would be difficult to overcome.

German problems behind the lines do continue however, and major resistance continues in the Polish city of Katowicz where reports are that a full 12 front line divisions of German troops have been sent to pacify the citizenry, leaving most of the city in complete ruin.

The Western European front, where combat continues on the Iberian Peninsula, has seen a stalemate between British forces operating from Portugal, and German and Spanish forces from Spain. Observers in Japan fervently hope that the Germans and Spanish can take and hold the port fortress of Gibraltar from the British, which would effectively split the British Empire, making it MUCH more difficult and costly to reinforce their African and Asian holdings, and to get much needed supplies back to England from said holdings.

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