



The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

March 28, 1941



Huge Air Battle over Indochina Continues

The former French possession of Indochina, whose administration was recently relinquished to the United Kingdom, was the scene of a massive air battle. Many observers have stated that they believe that this is the largest air battle the world has ever seen.

Air units from both the Imperial Army and Imperial Navy converged, showing unprecedented levels of coordination, over Hanoi in an attempt to win back the skies over our advancing Marines. British aircraft, painted with KMT markings, as well as KMT aircraft from China, were met by our brave pilots. While Imperial forces were outnumbered, they nonetheless managed to inflict heavy casualties, and did very severe damage to the airport facilities at Hanoi, forcing the enemy to rebase to more remote locations to continue the fight.

Japanese losses were also heavy, but the strategic victory belongs to Japan nonetheless. This is due to our destruction of the Hanoi airfield, as well as our advantage in ability to bring in reinforcements. Several full divisions of our long range A6M1 fighter aircraft are on their way from many parts of the Empire, the British and Chinese can not hope to match our numbers in the long run.

Meanwhile, the overall invasion of Indochina can now resume, having delayed to prevent further losses to British air superiority. Now our final victory is assured, as in the air, the British can not hope to match our ability to put fresh troops into the theater. The fight continues, both in the air and on the ground, but the final outcome is now no longer in any doubt. It is instead only a matter of time.



Japanese Aircraft Carrier off Indochinese Coast

Winged victory over Hanoi

In the second month of "Raging Bull", the operation to liberate Indochina from the clutches of the European colonialists, the Imperial Army and Marine units successfully consolidated their beachhead around the port city of Haiphong. But the theatre of war was far from quiet, as the biggest air battle history has ever seen raged overhead.

General Hideki Tojo, head of the Army and believed by most observers to be the mastermind behind the "Raging Bull" battle plan, commented that operations in Indochina were "on schedule". However, he made no effort to hide the fact that British air power in the region had been stronger than expected. "Although the landings went off completely unimpeded on the ground, our air cover ran into several of the enemy's newest wings, which our intelligence had failed to predict. Mind you, this is not a knock against our intel boys, who are doing a fine job. These things just happen in a war, where neither side usually knows half of what the other side is doing until the battle begins. Look, the British and French certainly had no idea that we were coming, as you can see by their non-defence of Haiphong!"

"With hindsight, we believe they simply got lucky by rebasing a large number of aircraft into Indochina, just as we went under way, probably for future operations in support of the KMT in China. Which, by the way, is one more good reason for us to liberate Southeast Asia at this time. Anyway, reaction and improvisation in the face of unexpected circumstances are the markings of a great fighting force. And I'm happy to report that our airmen, and those of the Imperial Navy, have all dealt extremely well with the challenge."

Carrier-based squadrons of A6M's and Army aircraft stationed in southern China engaged in fierce combat with the enemy Spitfires throughout the month. As the biggest air battle history had ever seen unfolded over Indochina, the Empire of Japan was slowly gaining the upper hand. A successful raid left the Hanoi airfield in smoldering ruins, while our valiant airmen blasted most of the enemy Spitfires and their entire bomber force into oblivion. The KMT have now committed a large number of their own planes to aid their struggling colonial masters, but General Tojo points out that this development is to the advantage of the Empire: "Every single aircraft Chiang diverts to the defence of Indochina is one he'll be missing over his own frontlines."

Meanwhile, Imperial ground forces used the month of March to consolidate their beachhead around Haiphong in preparation for a move against the capital. General Tojo was quick to dispel the notion that this had been anything but a planned delay. "I have read the reports in the Western press about how our offensive has 'stalled', and if that's what they want to believe, so be it. I'm particularly amused by their assessment that we have 'broken our own rules', as if they knew anything about the way we operate to begin with. The truth is, 'Raging Bull' has been in planning for many months, with the joint efforts of our Army, Navy, and Marines. It is a meticulous, well-coordinated scheme, and we know exactly what we are doing. Apart from the aforementioned surprise the enemy gave us in the air, which we are dealing with successfully, everything is moving along according to our design, and exactly on schedule."

Asked about reports of enemy reinforcements, the General replied: "That's all good and well, but what the gentlemen from the international press conveniently overlook is how we have used these past weeks to substantially stack up our own forces as well. Actually, the ratio is improving in our favour. Hanoi will fall sooner than a lot of people think."

Admiral Nagumo Speaks After Air Battle in Indochina

The Prime Minister has asked me to say a few words to the battle weary pilots and their families about the attack on Hanoi, Indo-China this month.

At dawn on the day of March 15th, in the year Nineteen Hundred and Forty-one, the pilots of the 5th, 16th, 17th and 19th Squadrons attacked the City of Hanoi in an intricately-timed surgical strike against British Royal Air Force units stationed at Hanoi. Our pilots fought with the expertise and ferocity that I have come to expect from the pilots of the Imperial Navy. KMT Air Forces, which came into Hanoi from China, assisted the British RAF pilots and managed to force us into a stalemate in the air above Hanoi, although this "stalemate" cost the British RAF an entire Bomber Wing. All of the British aircraft were painted in KMT colors as well. This fact proves without doubt the extent to which the Commonwealth has been supporting the KMT, an extent which is unprecedented.

I would like to thank the United Kingdom for further legitimizing our assault on the land of Indochina, which was acting as a safe staging area for supplies and troops to enter China to support the corrupt and evil KMT.

I would like to thank the KMT for showing the world that without massive support from the evil European colonialists, it would have ceased to exist years ago. The KMT, and its brutal, corrupt leader, Chiang Kai-shek, can now be seen by the whole world for what they are; stooges of Europe and America. We would also like to thank the KMT for throwing all of their available aircraft into Indochina, further enhancing our air dominance over the rest of China as weather improves for summer operations.

I would like to thank General Tojo and His well-timed bomber squadrons for their part in this air attack.

I would like to thank each and every pilot who managed to return home to their carriers at the end of the day for their bravery and loyalty to the Empire of Japan. Without the skills of these brave men, the operation would not have been successful. Your blood, sweat, and tears form the backbone of the Empire, and will never be forgotten. Many experts contend that this was the largest air battle ever fought in the history of warfare. This goes further to prove wrong the myth of European racial superiority, and of European cultural dominance. Asia can stand up to the white man on its own terms!

My heart goes out to all the families of the pilots who did not return from this operation. Please know that they did not die in vain. Their actions have brought honor to you all. I have asked my staff to give me the names of each and every pilot who lost their life on 15th March, and will be putting each and every one of their names in for commendations. We will also be creating a special medal commemorating the event for all those who participated in it, both living and posthumously, and General Tojo is doing likewise for the Army Air Forces.

Naval Pilots of the Empire; I salute you all, and know my blessings go with you all. With your sustained efforts, we will undoubtedly emerge victorious, both in Indochina and wherever else we face the enemies of the Emperor. Bansai!



Admiral Chuichi Nagumo

Internal Inquiries Prove Japanese Innocence in Attacks on US Ships

The Office of the Prime Minister, as well as the Imperial Navy under Admiral Nagumo have conducted separate investigations into the mysterious attack on American shipping in the Pacific Ocean last month. Both independently came to the same conclusion: Japanese forces were not responsible for this attack.

President Roosevelt has asked for Japanese cooperation with their own investigation into the matter. Prime Minister Konoye Fumimako has publicly stated his intent to comply with that request, stating that “We have nothing to hide in this matter, and are eager to prove our innocence of this cowardly attack upon a neutral nation’s interests.”



Prince Konoye Fumimako

Huhehot Secured; CCP Fully Ceases to Exist.

The final chapter of the Chinese Communist Party appears to have been written this month, as the last fanatical elements have ceased to exist. Imperial Forces, eager to bring these fiends to justice, were frustrated in their attempts as they simply disappeared into the local population, and are now impossible for our military to track.

Our Intelligence Service has been tasked with the job of monitoring the area for any further evidence of CCP activity, and it is hoped that they may have some success. However, it appears that unless the murderers actually act out again, the chances for capturing them are slim.



General Mao, and his army, are no more.

Artillery Bombardments Continue in China

The region surrounding the area of the KMT-held city of Changsha was again shaking with the sound and concussion of multiple Japanese artillery shells. 2 Full regiments of Imperial artillery rained fire on the troops garrisoning the city all month. Observers reported a secondary benefit to the bombardment, when our shells made contact with 2 separate enemy minefields and apparently destroyed the mines. With the muddy conditions of spring beginning to finally dry up, one can expect an acceleration of events in the Chinese theater this month. The elimination of those mine fields may turn out to be very significant when a Japanese offensive occurs, should General Tojo strike there.

Convoys hit – losses moderate

The British Pacific Royal Navy, its primary strength depleted in direct combat with Imperial Naval forces, has been reduced to the role of merchant raider. Without any further aircraft carriers or battleships, the force of light cruisers, destroyers, and submarines stuck this month against peaceful Japanese merchant traders operating among the many ports of the Dutch East Indies, as part of our honorable trade agreement with the Dutch. Merchant losses were described as “moderate to somewhat heavy”, but are no means irreplaceable. In fact, Japanese Merchants were able to deliver more tonnage of resources to Japanese factories this month than any previous month in our nation’s history.

Still, our forces are making every effort to track down these British raiders and finally end the threat they pose to our peaceful mercantile interests.

“Synthetic Oil” Production Commences in Nagoya

“Synthetic”, or artificially created, petroleum was being mass-produced at an experimental new plant in Nagoya full scale this month. This advance is further proof that Japanese scientists and technology is equal or better to anyone else in the world. Under the Emperor’s diving guidance, we have again proven conclusively that we can beat the white man at his own game. This technology will allow the Japanese Empire to overcome any short term petroleum shortages that may befall it in the future.

European Front News: Germany Gains in West, Stymied in East

France and the “Low Countries” of Western Europe witnessed major gains by German units as they stormed into France and Belgium, taking Paris and threatening Brussels. The Spanish and Italians also reported gains in their respective fronts against the beleaguered French, who are now assaulted on 3 separate fronts. 1940 was a bad year to be a Frenchman, it seems 1941 may turn out to be even worse.

German air power also made itself felt in the Netherlands, where the Dutch Air Force was no match for the Luftwaffe. German bombers then went on to attack Dutch shipping in the Atlantic. Belgian aircraft, however, were able to counter-attack the Luftwaffe, and met with some success. On the whole, the new “Brussels Alliance” seems to be unable to stop Germany, but they are forcing the Germans into yet another costly diversionary venture.

On the Eastern European front, a major German offensive in the north was thwarted by Red Army troops in superior defensive positions. One wonders if the Germans would do better in the east if they were not also fighting in France and Belgium in the west. Their opportunity to take advantage of any confusion resulting in Stalin's death has clearly passed.



A "Schwarm" of Ju-87 Stuka Dive Bombers over Belgium.

Editorial: Japanese ambition and Asian liberation

While our forces successfully expel the European colonialists from Malaysia and Indochina, angry Western propagandists keep accusing the Empire of Japan of "unbound ambition". As usual, they are mistaken about a great many things - not least their own role in the history of Asia.

Allegations of Japanese "atrocities" and "barbarism" are nothing new, and to no one's surprise, the enemy papers of recent weeks are again full of them. If only half of these stories were true, one suspects, there would not be a soul left alive in Singapore, Hong Kong or Haiphong. But we will not comment on these lies any further, except to say that their tiresome repetition is a sure sign that the British are running out of ideas not only on the battlefield, but also in their journals...

However, there are other, more "interesting" distortions published in last month's Times, among other places. To rebuke them, one should perhaps start with the Franco-Chinese war that lasted from 1881 to 1885. At the time, China was already a semi-colonial dominion under western rule, having recently ceded large portions of Manchuria and Turkestan to Czarist Russia, as well as Hong Kong and extensive trade concessions to the British Empire. In contrast to the Empire of Japan, which adapted successfully to the new ways and industrialised rapidly under the Meiji emperors, the Chinese rulers were weak and corrupt. They watched impotently as the Western powers took away more and more of their lands, their culture and their identity. Opium addiction ran rampant in the cities, with greedy British merchants making a tidy profit from the misery of millions of Asians.

Now the French, always lagging behind their British and Russian rivals in the size of their colonial empire - if not the size of their appetite! -, decided not to be outdone any longer. Seeking to carve out their own piece of Asian lands and Asian riches, they moved into Annam, a Chinese satellite state at the time. When, predictably, war broke out with Peking, France destroyed the recently built Chinese navy at anchor, in a dastardly surprise attack during the battle of Foochow in August 1884. After one more year of fruitless fighting, China was forced to sign yet another unequal treaty with the West, and gave up sovereignty over Annam and Tonkin in June 1885. Later, Cochin China, the Khmer Republic and Laos were added to this new colony of "French Indochina".

The notion that this Indochina is a "democracy", perpetuated by the propaganda hacks of The Times, can only be attributed to stunning ignorance or cynical dishonesty on their part. Democracy is the rule of the people, and the truth of the matter is that the people of Indochina have not had a say in governing their own affairs for the past sixty years. They have been relegated to the status of second-class citizens under the

yoke of their European "masters", while their natural wealth and national pride are taken away by the imperialists and their traitorous collaborators.

Neither is Indochina "innocent" or a place of "peace". Lest we forget, the territory has effectively been handed over to British rule by the so-called "Free French". Since Britain is at war with the Empire of Japan, and has been using the region as a military base for months now (one need only recall their failed effort to re-supply Singapore by air), Indochina can hardly be regarded as peaceful, neutral territory. In actuality, it is the British themselves who have brought on this conflict, by using Southeast Asia as their airfield and springboard. As well as that, the warlords of the KMT have also long regarded the area as their operational backyard and supply base. Now, once again, they all feign indignation and surprise as we counter their moves, but history will record the truth.

And there are other matters of concern. Today, there exist two French powers, the "Republic of France" and the so-called "Free French", neither of which is an internationally recognized government. Even by the standards of the Western imperialists, it is an unresolved question which of the two, if any, "rightfully" holds sovereignty over the colonies. Or, for that matter, whether the "Free French" hand-over of Indochina to the British can be regarded as legal. Indeed, with the events of last month, there are serious doubts over whether France still exists as a nation at all! It is obvious, then, that the state of Indochina is very much unclear.

Not that it matters much. At the end of the day, *which* Western power occupies and exploits Southeast Asia is of little concern to us. What matters is that, now more than ever, the people of Asia should be free to govern *themselves*. Japan is the only power in a position to successfully and rightfully undertake this liberation, and so it is our destiny to help and lead our fellow Asian peoples. Contrary to enemy propaganda, we do not seek to merely replace Western colonialism with our own - not in China, neither in Malaysia, Indochina, or anywhere else. We do seek to drive out the European imperialists, and to bring stability to a continent that has been the scene of continuous Western domination and internal civil wars for far too long. After this cleansing, the world will see the rise of new governments that truly represent their Asian peoples and values, for the first time in centuries. Governments which will go forward as partners in progress with the Empire of Japan, to form a Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere.

This is our manifest destiny, and our ambition. Is it indeed "boundless" and, hence, irrational or unjust, as our detractors suggest? History will be the judge. We move forward in the knowledge that our vision for the future of Asia is indeed a saner, a healthier and a better one than anything the French, the British or their KMT puppets could ever hope to achieve. Yesterday, the people of Malaysia and Siam have been welcomed into this vision, and today it is Indochina. Others will follow, and no enemy army or propaganda will change the inevitable outcome.

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