



## The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1941



## SABOTAGE!!

Nagoya Harbor this month was the scene of a horrific attack by covert elements of an as-yet unknown attacker. The mighty IJN battleship Hiei, undefeated in battle throughout her glorious history, was destroyed in port just as was completing the last stages of a 3 month repair and refit operation. Due to the fact that very little fuel or ammunition was stored on board the ship, the possibility of accidental explosion has been ruled out. It seems that this must have been a deliberate attempt by someone to destroy the ship.

The Hiei was commissioned in August 1914, following a November 1912 launch from the Yokosuka Naval Yard. She served gallantly in the Great War of 1914-1918. The younger brother of our glorious Emperor, Prince Nobuhito Takamatsu, even served aboard the Hiei in 1927.

Fortunately, only a skeleton crew was on board ship, as she was not yet operational, so casualties were limited to 56. However, this does not dampen the fervor by which our counter-intelligence units will seek out and punish those responsible for this heinous act of sabotage. Unlike some nations, we refuse to point fingers at possible suspects until more is known, but at this time early indications point to British involvement. Already the Battle Cry "Remember the Hiei" resounds throughout the Naval Ranks!



The Hiei, shown here in artist's rendering made in 1936.

## Battle in Indochina continues

The Imperial Japanese amphibious expeditionary force in Indochina, after several months of continuous fighting against superior numbers of defenders, was only moderately offensive this month. Our units primarily rested. Strangely enough, our minor feint attacks seem to have fooled at least the international press, who reported what they saw as "desperate charges". When asked why this confusion could have come about, General Tojo replied by suggesting that perhaps Western journalists are unaccustomed to the tenacity with which the average Japanese soldier conducts attacks. "If they thought these attacks were intense, wait until they see the real thing!" he said with a broad grin.

KMT and British forces were both seen pouring vast amounts of reserve units and reinforcements from other regions into defending the Indochina area, this can only weaken their fronts at other points throughout the theater. The KMT appears to be stretched to its very limit just in time for the summer season in China, a time of year which is particularly ripe for offensive operations, due to weather considerations.

Morale for the troops in Indochina, as well as all along the front in China, is at an all-time high as they await final preparations for the final assault which holds great promise for ending the war in China this year! Last year it was the Chinese Communists who met their dooms after a huge peasant assault on Peking was thwarted, coinciding with the death of Mao. This year it will be the KMT's turn, although it is very much hoped that KMT warlord Chiang Kai-shek will be captured alive, so as to face trial for his crimes.

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## Entire Chinese Front Quiet

An eerie quiet fell over thousands of kilometres of front lines all across China this month. Even the monthly artillery barrages in the Changsha area have abated from a constant "rain of lead" to only a small harassing fire. A captured KMT corporal in the area admitted that "We liked it better when you were shelling us more, now we have too much time to think about the attack we know is coming!" This is indeed the calm before the typhoon.



Japanese Artillery Position in China

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## British Capture Bangkok, King Safe

Despite emergency measures in which Siamese citizens helped erect defensive structures throughout Bangkok, the city fell to fierce British invaders this month. Word has also reached us that many Siamese were fooled by British propaganda leaflets which stated that they had been abandoned and that the King had left before the fighting had even begun, this in turn led some who had been prepared to defend their king to lay down their arms while the King was still in his Palace.

At least a week after those leaflets had been dropped, and the situation was indeed lost, the King was safely evacuated to Singapore, and has set up a provisional government in exile there. He has promised to return and restore legitimate rule to Siam from the colonialist invaders, and Prime Minister Fumimako today expressed his commitment to making that vision a reality. In a prepared statement, he said "This should not be viewed as the end of Siam, only a temporary setback. The British attacked before we were fully ready to defend our new allies, but in every war there is ebb and flow. We shall return in strength to Bangkok, we will see the king's rightful rule restored, and we will see a free Siam again."

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## European Front News: Belgians, Dutch Capitulate

On the Eastern European front, several major actions seem to have more or less cancelled each other out. The Germans succeeded in causing the collapse of the entire Soviet 8<sup>th</sup> Army in the North, their attacks aimed primarily at the very strategically-placed city of Smolensk, the linchpin between the major rivers Dnepr and Dvina in northern Russia. The Germans also made some gains in the Southern sectors of their front. The Soviets, for their part, have been able to contain these advances in prevention of large breakouts, and have also inflicted massive casualties. They also annihilated a major offensive by Germany's Romanian allies at heavy loss.

Additional problems for the Germans occurred behind the front lines, as several cities in the East, most notably Krakow Poland rose up in successful revolts against the German garrisons there. Major crackdowns are expected, but of course these are German Heer units who should be at the front.

The "Western Front" essentially ceased to exist this month. Belgium and the Netherlands ceased active resistance, although both have set up exile governments in the United States, which the Empire of Japan continues to recognize. The only place in Western Europe where combat continues is on the Iberian Peninsula, where Spanish forces, supported by Germany, continue to fight against British forces fighting from Portugal.



German airmen take a well-earned break on an impromptu airfield in Russia.

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