



The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

September 30th, 1941



Chinese Offensive Slows

In the third month of the “Double Dragon” offensive in central China, the Imperial Japanese Army regroups.

General Hideki Tojo once again exuded confidence in a brief interview he granted our reporters late this month, despite international reports that a “better equipped” KMT had stopped the Imperial Japanese Army’s advance this month. While it is true that the KMT continues to resist, and it is also true that their equipment has improved somewhat over recent months, neither of these are the true cause for the more deliberate advance by Imperial Forces this month. There is no “miraculous recovery” by the KMT. Indeed their front line units have been too busy running for their lives to escape encirclement to receive any potential upgrades this summer.

It seems the “neutral” Western press has once again seized upon any possible opportunity to attempt to cast a light of failure or defeat on what can only be qualified as an unmitigated success. The days of the KMT are still numbered despite any reports to the contrary.

The fact is that Japanese forces have covered too much ground for their supply and logistical capabilities to fully keep up. Japanese armored forces can still advance at will, but without support from the slower infantry forces, they risk being cut off, which would reduce the momentum of the invasion. To maintain these important supply links, local commanders of the armored units decided to delay their advance until more forces could be brought up.

A very massive KMT army remains, and one can not overemphasize that much work remains, but there can be no doubt of the final outcome in the Chinese campaign. The KMT have lost too much land, too many troops, too much morale, and too much legitimacy. It is only a matter of time before the KMT collapses upon its own corrupt husk.

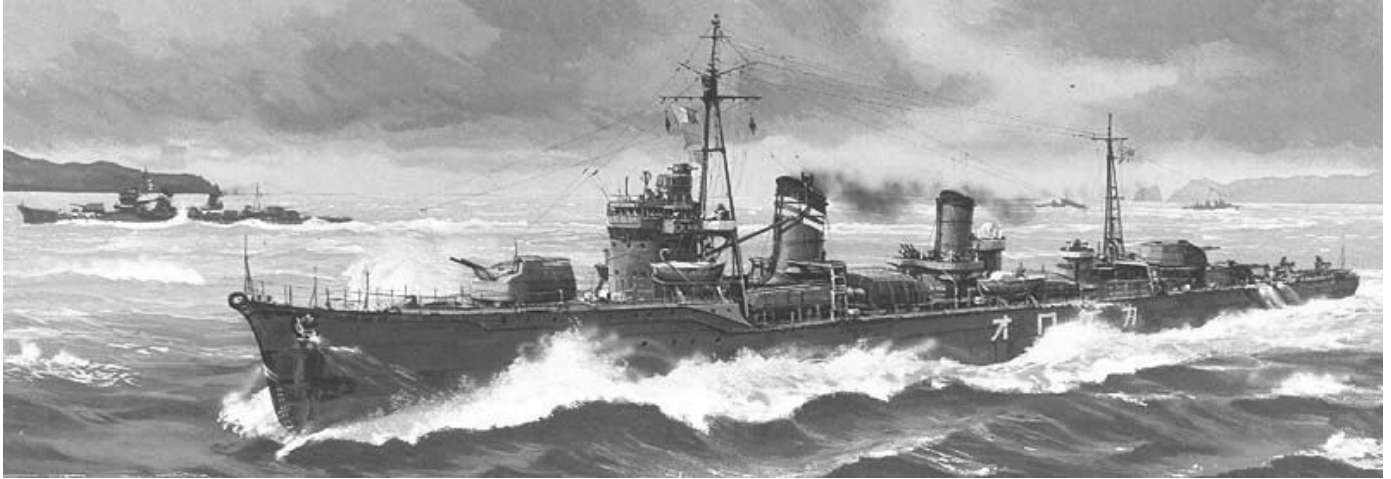
Indeed, the collapse appears to have begun. The last remnants of the Communist Chinese Party (CCP) in the Northern backcountry of China have apparently rescinded their pledge of loyalty to the KMT earlier this month, and have once again become a separate movement. It became obvious to even them that the KMT was not going to protect them from doom any more than Mao’s failed offensive on Peking did. It is only a matter of time before the circle closes tighter and tighter around Chiang. We will be there to make certain it does.



Japanese forces maintain total air superiority over Chinese territory.

British Submarines Sunk!

Destroyer Forces of the Imperial Navy Report Success Against Raiders



Artist's Rendition of Modern *Kagero* Class Destroyer

The Imperial Japanese Navy, perhaps becoming weary of the Army taking all the glory in China these past months, has finally taken care of the Royal Navy's submarines that were harassing Japanese merchant shipping interests en route to the Dutch East Indies. No less than 12 confirmed kills of RN Subs were reported this month, this was believed to be the entire squadron of submarines in the area. However, patrols continue both by sea and air; these forces will remain vigilant for more of them in the future, armed now with the confidence only victory can give. We have soundly beaten the submarine threat once, we can do so again!

Allies Slaughtered in Indochina

After months of quibbling and hesitation, the British-lead allied forces in Southeast Asia have finally begun their assault on the Japanese beachhead around Haiphong. Spearheaded by the Indian Army, the poorly planned and uncoordinated attack soon fell to pieces, with heavy casualties for the enemy.

"I had started to doubt if they would ever come after us" commented General Hideki Tojo, supreme commander of the Imperial Army. "We know that British military strategy is usually quite ponderous and 'by the book', but their hesitation in Indochina was stunning even by their own standards. Frankly, it's a bit funny. If you look at how poorly executed the assault was when it finally did occur, you wonder what they've been planning all these months..."

However, as General Tojo recalls, the campaign in Southeast Asia was one of strange turns and developments from the very beginning. "When our troops landed in February this year, operation 'Raging Bull', the invasion of Indochina, really was not intended as much more than a large-scale diversion. Of course, we made it look like it was our major offensive of 1941, with the aim of taking the attention and the reinforcements of our enemies – most importantly, the KMT – away from central China. And if you consider the success of our summer campaign there, I would say it served its purpose. But the forces involved in 'Raging Bull' on our side were actually rather small in the beginning, and our intention was to establish and hold a beachhead around Haiphong, nothing more."



Japanese artillery fires from behind prepared defenses in Haiphong.

As it turned out, Indochina was so lightly defended that our troops almost succeeded in taking Hanoi as well. “The opportunity presented itself” says the General, “when we found out that the capital was held only by a single ragtag corps of French reserve forces. But at the time of the landings, we were taken aback somewhat by the British air superiority in the region, which was the one thing we had not anticipated. With hindsight, I think they simply got lucky - they were rebasing aircraft at the time, probably en route to China, and we ran into them just as they made their stop in Southeast Asia. That is the most logical explanation, because if you look at the size of their garrison on the ground, the allies were certainly unaware of our invasion, so the presence of the aircraft was most likely coincidence.”

“That was enough to make me hesitate, though, and I ordered a short postponement of the attack on Hanoi until we had brought more troops and aircraft of our own in. As I said, we ourselves were surprised by this opportunity, and pushing inland had not been on the agenda from the start. All this time, remember, our main focus was on the upcoming summer offensive in central China. But we decided to give Hanoi a try, and by the time we came around to do it, the enemy had been able to reinforce enough to close the window of opportunity. With hindsight, we should have pushed onward immediately, and we would have taken the capital despite the British air superiority. It was my mistake, and even though Hanoi was never a prime objective this year – it would have been a mere bonus -, I’m still angry with myself about it. As you know, the difference between us and our enemies is that we are honest with our people, and we admit to our mistakes, however minor they may be compared to the whole picture. You also know that we never make the same mistake twice, and that we usually come back victorious with a vengeance. As we will do in the case of Hanoi, someday...”

The ‘whole picture’ was that, despite missing the unexpected bonus of taking the lightly defended capital, operation “Raging Bull” had met all its original objectives – establishing a beachhead in Indochina, and grabbing the enemy’s attention. The allies swallowed the bait completely, bringing in troops from South Africa and India. The KMT committed quite a few of their reserves as well. “If you remember, in spring and early summer, not a month would go by without some story in a British newspaper about the heroic defence of Indochina” smiles General Tojo. “It was beautiful. For several

weeks, we launched some truly 'desperate' feint attacks on Hanoi just for the fun of it. Meanwhile, tank corps and whole infantry armies of ours were arriving in Shanghai unnoticed and unmolested, and preparing for 'Double Dragon', our real main operation of the year."

Additional forces were also brought to Haiphong, however, when it became apparent that the British were aiming for a counter-attack. "I don't know why they didn't launch one right away" says the General, "when we still had only our initial, small force in the theater. The Brits were surprisingly quick, it must be said, bringing in their Indian and South African troops, and together with the French garrison of Hanoi and the KMT in the area, they could have given us quite a hard time. I don't think they would have succeeded in pushing us into the sea, but they certainly would have tested our capabilities to the limit, and could have inflicted some significant losses. This was a time when they had about two to one superiority on the ground, and complete control of the skies, so for a few weeks, the situation for us was precarious. But they just waited, and waited, and waited... I may have wasted one good opportunity at Hanoi in March, but the British wasted three or four during the summer! Our feint attacks certainly seemed to do their job of making the enemy cautious."

Meanwhile, the Imperial Army and Marines used the welcome break to bring in more forces and supplies, and to create a formidable defensive perimeter around their beachhead. Japanese Navy and Air Force assets were also en route to the theater, turning the disadvantageous force balance into a comfortable stalemate, then into superiority. General Tojo: "As I said, I was beginning to wonder when the enemy would finally try something. When they eventually did, in August, it turned out to be a probing attack by a lone corps, which we predictably threw back without any problems. I don't know what it is with the British and these probing attacks – they did the same thing in Bangkok, which unfortunately was enough to make the Siamese army panic and collapse. But the Japanese soldier is carved from a different sort of wood. We were amused, more than anything else, by this hesitant, piece-meal approach. What were they hoping to accomplish? Probably gathering intelligence on our force composition and deployment - as if we wouldn't change that after such a probing! Whatever intelligence they brought back, it must have been pretty wrong..."

Proof of that followed in September, when a second, larger attack came. "It was pretty easy to figure out" explains General Tojo. "After that large-scale reconnaissance in August, we just knew that the real thing would come in September. I also had a hunch that they would try taking the old French depot next to the city first, before going after Haiphong itself. So we prepared accordingly. What I did not anticipate was that the long-awaited British offensive would come without any kind of air support. That was a major surprise, albeit a welcome one..."

Spearheaded by three unsupported Indian corps, the whole operation fell to pieces from the beginning for the allies. A southern advance along the coast was shattered by shore bombardment from the Imperial Japanese Navy. Our ground formations assigned to this sector, cheering the devastating rain of destruction from the battleships and cruisers, were not even required to join the fight (See picture below). Soon, the enemy troops were retreating in bad order into the jungle, their attack broken, scrambling just to get away from the sea and save the lives of their remaining men. Further north, Imperial Army and Marine emplacements, after months of digging in and fortifying thanks to the British hesitation, stood firm as the exposed Indian infantry marched into a hail of mortar and machinegun fire. Above their heads, the pilots of our warplanes had a field day. Dazzled by the complete lack of British or Chinese air support, our fighters joined in with strafing runs, while the bomber squadrons unloaded their deadly cargo over the routing allies. Entire battalions of enemy foot soldiers evaporated in the firestorm, taking heavy casualties even while they sprinted back towards their own lines like march hares. It was a grim spectacle.

General Tojo's final verdict: "I would like to thank and congratulate our forces for their magnificent and deadly display of skill. The British are once again reminded that they need to plan better and risk

more if they want to make even a dent in our lines. After so many months of hesitation, their commanders have even less of an excuse for such a poorly planned assault. Why they didn't even bother to commit their airplanes – of which they do have a sizeable number in the area – is beyond me. Perhaps the Indian troops are still regarded as second class citizens in the British Army, and not worthy of support from the precious Spitfires? It's the only explanation I have, and given the amount of racism and false propaganda the British have displayed towards us and other Asian peoples for hundreds of years, it makes quite a bit of sense.” Reminded that Indian soldiers were only recently granted a pay-rise to the level of other British troops by Churchill, the General responds: “Well, considering that they were essentially sacrificed as cannon-fodder this month, they should be paid *more...*”

It also draws a question mark over the much-vaunted cooperation between the British and the KMT, whose planes also never left the ground in September. Not so for the Imperial forces, though, where the Army, Navy, Marines, Army Air Force and Naval Air Force, lead by Admiral Nagumo and General Tojo, haven't given us as perfect a demonstration of coordinated planning and execution as we have ever seen from them. The result is a humiliating defeat for the allies, namely the hapless Indians, whose confidence in the leadership of their European colonial masters is surely starting to waver. Perhaps Mr. Churchill should indeed contemplate another pay-rise?



Imperial Marines look on, as shell from offshore naval force pounds Indian forces.



Imperial Destroyers Hunt British Submarines

Admiral Nagumo's Views



Admiral Chuichi Nagumo

In the last few months as Admiral of the Imperial Fleet, I have been chasing the British Asiatic Fleet. In the course of these travels, I have come to a realization. I am fighting a Navy that is not even being supported by the King of England. The British Asiatic Fleet has a backbone built from the Australian Navy.

This fleet was beaten in early December 1940 and early January 1941, and has been limping on ever since. In the last three months, I have engaged the British Asiatic Fleet several times surprising them in their harbors and ports of call. And each time, they have run from honorable combat. But I understood why they would not risk their lives, when it dawned on me that the Australians are fighting for a King that refuses to support them.

I have no ill will against the Australians; I am only doing what is required as the Fleet Admiral of the IJN. Your nation declared war on us because your King told to you! Yet you're loyal to a man half the world away from you, and who cares about you only when it's convenient to his needs at the time. You fight for a man whose own family lines founded Australia as a prison around a hundred years ago.

Though I understand loyalty to a lord who has divine rights to the throne, I do not understand why you must continue to be repressed by the shackles of your idiot stuttering fool of a king. Throw off your shackles and become the Nation of Australia an Independent nation, much like the Americans did not too long ago. Be free to make your own choices.

If the Australians would come to a realization that they are just pawns for a King and Prime Minister who wish "Second Class Citizens" to bleed for a nation that has been the cause of more wars in current world history. A Nation that refuses to come to grips that the "Grand British Empire" is no more and was broken the day the Americans won their freedom from tyranny.

I can say this: if Australia were to throw off the shackles that bind them to London, and pursue peace with Japan, there would be peace in the waters around Australia and their lands and forces would be left alone, provided they did not violate the terms set in the peace accords. But as long as Australia does continue to support their "King half a World a Way!" in this silly endeavor you call a war, Japan will continue to attack and sink each and every single one of the Australian fleet until they are no more. You're an island nation founded by the people that "His Royal Majesty" did not want on their Island, Why support them in war against Japan?

I have prayed for each of your men that have been killed by the IJN in this needless war. I will continue to do so even if the Australians wish to continue to fight. I pray that they will see the light and wake up from their devotion to the megalomaniac Winston Churchill.

Disagreement with Dutch Quickly Settled over Cruiser Mishap – Trade to Resume Immediately.

The Dutch cruiser Tromp was lost in waters off the coast of the Dutch East Indies last month. Dutch sources initially blamed Japanese submarines for the attack, due to their belief that no other nation's submarine forces could have been in the region, given our reports of success against British Submarines (see above story) The truth is that no less than 3 other nations could conceivably had submarines in that area; The British, who may yet have a rogue sub or two undetected there, the Americans, who have bases in the Philippines and Guam, among other places, and even the Soviet Union, who Japanese sources say launched submarines from their port of Vladivostok in late August.

As allies with the Dutch, we have agreed to replace the Tromp with a new cruiser of Japanese make, free of charge. This is not, however, a "reparation" payment, which would constitute admission of wrongdoing. It was instead offered as a "good will gift" between allies. Japan has also promised to cooperate and assist with any information gathering attempts, as the Dutch attempt to determine the actual attackers' identity.

Prime Minister Prince Fumimako again today restated Japan's wish to maintain good relations with the Dutch, and once again pledged to protect the Dutch East Indies from American aggression, should such dark events come to pass, in accordance with the alliance signed with the Dutch last year. Indeed, he has made this one of the cornerstones of his foreign policy program. "We have enjoyed peaceful trade agreements, construction contracts, and other major cooperative activities with the Dutch over the past few years. Also, the Empire of Japan remembers fondly the assistance that the Dutch were willing and able to provide to Japan in her efforts to save the people of Singapore from the destructive whims of Winston Churchill."

A rapid restoration of trade was also seen as important to Japan's wartime economy. The brief stoppage was said to have inconsequential effects on the war effort, as reserves have been carefully maintained. This is in large part due to the Japanese people, and their willingness to endure minor, but necessary, petroleum rationing.



Prince Konoye Fumimako

Soviets no-show!

Citing Internal Security Issues, Soviet Delegation to Japan is Cancelled.

Russo-Japanese relations took a severe hit this month, as Soviet envoys failed to materialize for the signing of a non-aggression pact that would have cemented the borders between our two empires at a time when such a peace of mind should be at a very high priority for the Soviets, who are fighting for their survival in their Western regions. Apparently, that fight for survival is going so poorly that the Soviets do not feel comfortable leaving the country for fear that the whole nation will collapse while they are away!

It is sad to see that the situation has degraded to the point that they are no longer able to make even a small delegation to what should be a very important meeting. Perhaps the days of the Soviet Union truly are coming to an end. Prince Fumimako stated after the cancellation that the present deal was now no longer on the table and would need to be re-negotiated. It was clear that he felt personally insulted by the turn of events, the last minute breakdown of a deal for which he and key members of his staff, as well as the Army, had worked tirelessly for many months.

European Front News: Soviets Fall Back

On the Eastern European front, the Soviets seem to have been surprised by a push from a new threat: Finnish Forces, for months building defenses in preparation for a Soviet attack that never came, seem to have taken matters into their own hands. The Finns moved quickly and decisively, and seem to have been able to penetrate the outskirts on the city of Leningrad, where fierce fighting continues.

Elsewhere along the front, German forces pressed their advantages, taking the city of Kiev, and exerting immense pressure on Smolensk and other key cities along the line. The Soviets did counter-attack and retake the city of Gomel. Also troubling the Germans are reports of heavy partisan activity occurring behind enemy lines.

Far away on the Iberian Peninsula, the Germans have pressed ahead against British forces and dealt serious damage to the British there. Much more serious news for the British, however, comes from their city of Hull, which suffered mightily at the hands of German bombers. Reports from the city make damage levels sound comparable to what Japan suffered in Hakodate.

In North Africa, Italian resistance seems to be faltering, as the last holdouts in Tunisia appear surrounded and cut off from supply. This is a dramatic turn of events, as only a few months ago, the Italians seemed to have the upper hand in the theater.

Americans Finally Show Fairness: Cut Trade to UK

The United States unilaterally and illegally severed all trade with the Empire of Japan late in 1939, citing fears of attack in a war zone for their reasoning, despite the fact that no such attacks actually occurred.

Now, almost two years later, they have finally ended their blatant hypocrisy by ending their trade with the British Isles, despite the fact that American ships were in fact attacked and sunk, not only by German forces, but more recently even by “friendly” Canadian vessels! How they justified continuing to trade, indeed even increasing trade in the Atlantic war zone, while cutting trade in the much safer Pacific “war zone”, with the argument of neutrality, is beyond anyone in our offices. Fortunately, however, this has ended for the time being at least.

Japan welcomes renewed trade with the United States. This would help both nations greatly, as Japan is always in need of resources, and the United States is now facing the prospect of massive unemployment in their shipping industries. Prince Fumimako has repeatedly offered to trade with the Americans, offers which have gone unheeded. Perhaps when the “Chinese Situation” is settled, the Americans will return to the table?

Praise and Glory of the IJN and IJN Marines

By Imperial Naval Command

The Admiral wishes to pass along to you all the well-deserved praise, respect and glory that is quickly become the staple of the IJN and its personnel. The Admiral was proud to hear that our Marine forces in Haiphong held their ground with dedication he has come to expect from his marines. The Admiral was quoted as saying "During the weekly meetings with the Prime Minister and the Emperor, the Emperor ordered me to convey his feelings of pride in both our Navy and Marines who have struggled these last few months in Indo-China. I am proud to serve in this Navy, with these men who I command and willingly call my brothers in arms!"

Well done Men, Keep up the good work and know the Sun Rises on your shoulders!



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