

Dublin Chronicle

January 31st 1942

Issue 30

JAPAN ON DEFENSIVE AS RUSSIANS CRASH SOUTH INTO CHINA



Troops of the Russian 9th Army have broken the back of the Japanese Army in Korea and Manchuria in a rapid winter offensive

Japanese Troops, already stretched to breaking point in theatres throughout Asia have found their most recent enemy can run circles around them.

Within hours of last month's declaration of war the Russian 3rd and 9th Armies (the 9th being long famed for its winter warfare training) had advanced deep into Japanese held Manchuria, now the lead elements of the 9th are advancing on Seoul and the strategic port of Pusan.

Forward elements have already occupied Harbin and Kirin, the poor weather delaying the occupation of other Manchurian cities, more important however, was the attack into Korea and the cutting of the Peninsular by the 9th Army.

Forward elements of the Russian 14 Marine Brigade entered Pyongyang as the Japanese attempted to train a division of fresh infantry through the city to bolster defences further north, the Marines quickly deployed and called on the support of the Russian 32nd Armoured Group, who provided their tanks to shell the carriages and rail station. As the action ensued the Russians poured in additional components of the 1st Marines Corps, whilst the officers of the 6th Korean Corps realised the situation was untenable.

The 6th then pulled south, pursued by the 3rd Russian Tank Corps, flanking the city to the east, both running head long into the 7th Korean Division, moving north out of Seoul. The two Korean Divisions

being pushed back by the Russians taking heavy losses.

Further to the east the Russian 18th Siberian Corps cut the eastern rail links severing both rail lines out of the strategic port of Pusan, where Japan is expected to land its reinforcements.

With the continued bad weather it is the Russians who appear likely to have the upper hand in the coming weeks, their formations well suited to operations in the cold wintry conditions, whilst the Japanese divisions are being forced north from the warmer climates.

Japan may well have additional problems as rumours that the 3rd Russian Army has reached Huhehot have been confirmed.

Americans in Trade Row

It has become apparent that the German ministry of Trade has held talks with a number of American shipping companies and secured possible trade deals with a number of US Corporations.

The US Administration has been sent into uproar as attempts have been made to prevent the trade deals being completed, however the Germans have stated that they should be tread equal to the United Kingdom and be permitted to trade in the United States, "it was Britain and France who declared war upon Greater Germany" has been the line used by the Ambassador and trade delegation.

Roosevelt is believed to be furious that the Germans may secure trade deals and that they are using the same loop holes that he has been using to support trade with the British, Russians and other Allied nations.

If the Germans are successful then Japan, and Italy will be in a position to push for trade through back door means.

This said, the US State Department has been quick to respond that it is likely to simply open all trade without restriction, or close trade to all nations involved in war. Regardless of which avenue is pursued it is likely to be the British that suffer the most, the majority of British trade now passes through the Atlantic to the United Kingdom either from or via US East Coast ports.

This may well be nothing more than a major bluff by the Germans, but it is definitely a major disaster for the British who may find they are forced to engaged neutral US merchants, or loose all US trade.

Germans check British Advance

The British have spent some months now slowing and then turning the German advance across Iberia, only to find that their first attack has been turned aside.

The combined allied armies took a heavy bloody nose as they drove on towards Madrid, the South Africans loosing over 2,000 men in a bitter mountain action. Further south German troops holding the passes towards Cartegina also turned back an Allied attack, with equally high Allied losses.

With German, Italian and Spanish forces on the move again, it is likely that the Allies will seek another withdrawal within weeks.

Eastern Front Stalls

The Russian—German front has stalled completely this month with the continued poor weather.

Both nations have managed to ship in small numbers of fresh troops, but with the conditions the worst for over 80 years, little has moved along the lines themselves.

German forces continue to hold the key cities of Kiev and Leningrad, but Russian divisions remain in strong occupation of Smolensk and Dnepropetrovsk, both of which will need to be taken by the Germans before advancing into the Russian interior if they are to ensure their flanks are clear.

Winter may well have come at a good time for Russia, but will the adventure into Manchuria cost the Russians the edge in the west once Spring comes?

Japanese held in Indo China

Japanese military sources have claimed the recent attack in Indo-China was no more than a recon in force, yet in the field are 3 shattered Corps.

The elite of the Japanese Army launched an attack towards Hanoi, defended by the ragtag formations of China, France and the Indian Army, in the belief that the Allies would crack under a quick single offensive. This did not prove to be the case though.

The attackers fell fowl of the weather; attacking a force that had been given time to prepare its defences. The lead elements of the Japanese army made good progress, but soon found that their artillery and support units could not pass through the increasing levels of mud, leaving forward battalions exposed to the allied counterattacks.

Added to this was the almost total absence of air cover, many flights grounded due to poor conditions and others unable to identify their targets. In all this attack has done no more than improve the Allied defensive position.

To add salt to the wounds, the British have also continued their raids in the southern seas, this time detached elements of the Pacific and Asiatic Fleets attacked Japanese merchant traffic out of Singapore, sinking some 31 ships over the course of a week.

Japan is now in a war on 4 fronts, with all of the Allied nations deploying forces to engage her and a seriously weakened industrial capacity due to her reliance upon merchant traffic, it may well be that the Russian invasion of Manchuria and China is the start of the end of the Japanese Empire.

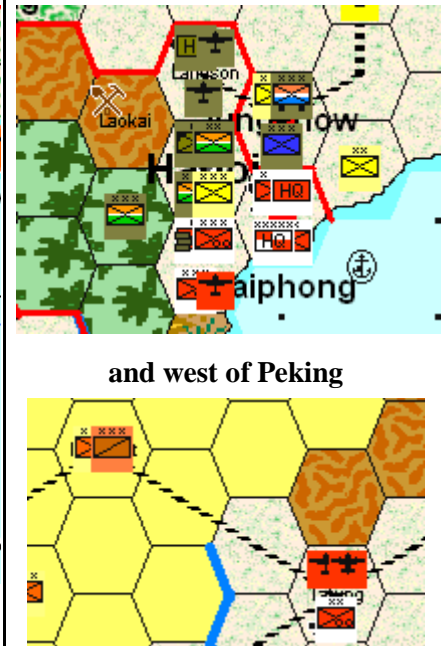
The situation in Northern Russia



The situation in Manchuria



The situation in Indo China



INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

N. America - Heavy snow fall in north east, cold across the central and western regions.

C. America / Caribbean - Light winds, heavy risk of moderate rain fall throughout course of the month.

S. America - Warm, weather good to favourable off the southern cape.

Atlantic - Heavy winds and sheet ice from the north, high swells in all regions of the north, lighter in south.

W. Europe - continued heavy snow, moving deep into Med. Low level cloud cover through the month, freezing conditions away from the coast.

E. Europe - heavy snow coming down from Scandinavia, freezing conditions, ice sheeting, northern Baltic frozen, all posts closed.

Balkans - High seas in Adriatic, heavy snow falls, freezing conditions in high ground, with extreme winds.

N. Africa / Med - cold weather persists, rain throughout the region, lessening as month goes on.

C Africa / S. Africa - warm and dry in most regions.

Russia - freezing conditions throughout region, snow sheets and high winds, immobile machinery due to frozen oils.

Arabia / Turkey - cold with snow in the north, becoming warmer as you move south.

India - occasional rain throughout the region, generally dry and warm as the month moves on becoming warmer.

Central Russian Empire - Freezing conditions (see Russia).

Eastern Russia - Freezing conditions, zero visibility (see Russia).

N. China / Manchuria - Snow coming down from Siberia, northern China extremely cold, central regions wet if without snow.

N. Pacific / Japan - High winds, with possible ice flows from the north, cold throughout, snow guaranteed.

S. China - raining, high winds though out, seas easing later in month.

Indo China / East Indies - Wet weather persists, chances of heavy storms coming up from the south and west, islands warned for flooding.

S. Pacific - Continued high swells in north, light winds in south.

Australia - cold, heavy rain in north dry and warm throughout south.

World War II – Open Warfare Bulletin 30

1. National newspapers should be with me as soon as possible please.
2. Game turn for February 1942 is due back with me for:
Saturday, 8th of April (10:00 GMT).
3. Funds for Openwar, if paying by Paypal, should be directed to
openwar@wargaming.org.uk
4. Working to have an updated rules book ready within next month or two.