



The Rising Sun

For the Emperor's glory!

January 31, 1942



Sapporo Holds!

Russian troops on the northern Japanese Home Island of Hokkaido chose not to advance into the city of Sapporo this month, despite the fact that for some time there were no organized military forces defending the city. Apparently the Russians knew that they faced a determined and organized citizenry determined to defend their city to the last, and decided that a single marine division with no outside support whatsoever was no match for what lay ahead.

The Emperor wishes to commend the brave and honorable people of Sapporo for their quick work in organizing defenses of the city. The work was not in vain, in fact the fact that it was being done is likely what made the Russians decide not to advance.

Clearly, that window opportunity has now passed, as thousands of IJA Army regulars have entered the city, and are expected to attack the Russians at any time, once final preparations are made. Bansai!!

Chinese Rebellion Officially Declared Over

A general rebellion, apparently organized by Russian Agents in some Japanese-occupied cities of China, has ended according to official sources.

It is now clear that this unrest was caused by a vast minority of citizens in these areas, and was supported by what was, at the time, the communist Soviet government. Most of these rebels were communist sympathizers, which has meant that the recent end of the communist USSR has taken much of the wind out of the sails of their resistance, in conjunction of course with the fine efforts of the Imperial Army to root out these traitors.

Japanese forces also received valuable assistance from local Chinese citizens in the area, who value the peace and prosperity that comes with living under the enlightened rule of the Emperor, as opposed to the anarchy and chaos which has gripped China for decades under the rule of various warlords. These informants were most useful in rooting out the minority troublemakers, with minimal collateral damage to innocents.

Now that the situation is fully under control once again, General Tojo can once again concentrate his attention and forces on the greater tasks at hand, dealing with both the KMT and the new Russian Advance.

Imperial Forces Make Move in Indochina

A major reconnaissance in force by Imperial Troops under inclement weather conditions met the goals it set out to accomplish.

Following suggestions from local commanders, Imperial Army High Command gave the thumbs-up to a reconnaissance in force against the enemy defensive positions around Hanoi during the month of January. Led by the 1st Guards Corps, our troops undertook a series of attacks designed to gather intelligence and weaken the opposition. With British air power in the region neutralized due to the bad weather, the time was deemed right to undertake such a probing operation in preparation for future moves. At one point, a large part of the outskirts of the Indochinese capital came under the control of Japanese troops, but was abandoned again in the face of a costly counter-attack. With no heavy equipment having been brought forward due to the soggy ground, it was decided to stick with the original goals of the reconnaissance in force, rather than trying to force an outright decision just yet.

General Hideki Tojo acknowledges the enemy position is strong, but adds that this was to be expected. "We had moderate casualties by the end of the month, but are quite secure in our belief that we have inflicted even heavier ones on the defenders. As a battle of attrition goes, we are the ones gaining the upper hand in the theater. Overall, the outcome bodes well for the next months of the campaign in Indochina." The Indian troops, who were already hit hard by their unsuccessful assault on our beachhead at the end of 1941, seem to have born the brunt of the attack again and are surely beginning to feel the strain of battle. As well as that, it is becoming more and more apparent that this unlikely coalition of defenders - Chinese, French, British, Indians, South Africans – is not at all used to fighting together, and encounters great difficulty when trying to coordinate its efforts.

For now, the Imperial Army is remaining tight-lipped about the upcoming moves, but it would seem that January was only the beginning of a very active year in Southeast Asia. As always, we send our hopes and best wishes to our brave frontline troops, the noble vanguard of the Japanese-lead movement to liberate East Asia from Western imperialism.



Japanese Platoon on the move in Indochina, gun in tow.

British Exaggerate Japanese Losses

In what is becoming standard policy, European news sources grossly exaggerate losses to IJN merchant shipping, as well as its effects on the Imperial Japanese war effort.

While it is true that the remnants of the British Asiatic Fleet were active this month, and managed to sink a single convoy of goods near the Dutch East Indies, their claims of sinking over 300,000 tons of shipping are gross exaggerations, as was the impact on the situation here at home. The fact is that we maintain a substantial reserve of merchant shipping units, with many more being built. In fact, next month (February) will see the creation of twice as much merchant shipping as was sunk by the British.

While it is true that we are suffering from minor shortages of some goods at this time, this is primarily due to the dastardly sneak attack perpetrated on us by the Russians, who for months have made false overtures at peace, and all the while planning their attack. The advancing Russian troops have cut access to some resources in Manchukuo and Korea. However, in the long run, the Russian attack on Japan will be a boon for our economy, because as we push them back, we will come into ownership of their resources in mineral-rich Siberia and beyond. Remember that we wished to trade for these goods peacefully, and made continuous offers to do so, but apparently Marshall Zhukov prefers violence and bloodshed to honest and profitable trade. We will make him regret his decision to attack us without any provocation.

Premature Russian Celebrations

Officers from High Command have denied the rumor, spread by the enemy propaganda press, that Japanese military and civil authorities in Pyongyang have surrendered to advancing Russian troops. "We do not know who the Asian-looking persons in these dubious photographs that have been published are, but they certainly never worked for us. The truth of the matter is that Pyongyang has been vacated, following the guidelines of an elastic defense scheme that was formulated for a scenario like the one we are currently facing. Our troops have withdrawn towards better defensive positions, and the civil authorities of the city were evacuated with them. Neither have surrendered, and neither have actually had any official diplomatic contact with the enemy combatants."

It would seem the Russians are celebrating their "victory" a tad prematurely. General Tojo reckons that this is understandable: "They have had a good month, and a good beginning to their campaign, one which was obviously long-planned. As a soldier, I respect their success, even though it makes their utter disregard for human life all too apparent. That doesn't seem to have changed with the official transition from Communism to Zhukov's neo-Tzarism. It is still a decadent system, devoid of firmness of belief or positive virtue."

"We must remember", he elaborates, "that a lot of the Russian success comes in the wake of riots that their agents - as we now know - instigated in China, increasing the response time of the Imperial Army. The planners of these riots were quite obviously unmoved by the potential for human suffering and the harm that their actions placed on the civilian population. They must have known that, with the uprising being whipped up in central China (not Manchuria!), the Russian army would find it impossible to help these misled collaborators even if it intended to. But it all makes sense when one acknowledges the ugly truth, that it was never the intention of our enemies to actually help the Chinese against their supposed 'oppressors' (the Empire of Japan, we who have done more for order and the improvement of living standards on the mainland than any power in recent history). Their

intention was simply to lay the groundwork for a ruthless surprise attack, and then forget about the Chinese, their 'useful idiots' (as Stalin would have said, if Zhukov hadn't murdered him)".

"For now, the enemy has made the most of this surprise attack, but the battle is far from over. The local garrisons knew they would be unable to deal with the massive invasion and have been pulled back to gain time and breathing space. Reinforcements are on their way, though, from all over East Asia, and their arrival will send the pendulum back in the other direction". General Tojo, more than ever, seems to relish the challenge: "There is no honor in an easy victory. The best armies are forged during the hardest of times. A year from now, when five centuries of Russian imperialist meddling with the Far East will have ended and passed into history once and for all, we will look back on this time, here and now, as our finest hour."

Indeed, the Western Press seems to think that the Empire of Japan is in mortal danger. The Dublin Chronicle was in fact quoted as saying "...it may well be that the Russian invasion of Manchuria and China is the start of the end of the Japanese Empire." Given that the Russians have no navy whatsoever, and that they are completely incapable of replacing losses here while fighting for their survival against Germany, it seems clear that this proclamation is totally unwarranted, and in fact is simply what members of the European Press wish to believe, despite all evidence to the contrary. The truth of the matter is that the Russians have made a good first move, but that the game is very much still in its early stages.

European Front News: Russian Front Frozen, Iberia Active

The Russian steppes, which are known for their brutal winters, have seen record cold and blizzard conditions this year. In fact it is reported that this winter has been the worst in Russia for at least 80 years, which is clearly not the place to fight a war. However, that is where 2 of the world's largest armies find themselves in opposition, and the troops are forced to try to make the best of it to try not to freeze to death. All the same, vehicles of all kinds are immobile because the motor oil has actually frozen in the engines! Such incredible hardships have to be hard on both sides, although one has to suspect that the Russians would be more able to cope with these conditions than the Germans, simply because they are more accustomed to such cold. At any rate, the entire length of the front is quiet as both sides fight the elements instead.

Action continues in warm sunny Spain, however, as the German forces there seem to have finally gotten a break. Spanish passions for war were once again rekindled by a barbaric attack by British bomber forces upon the city of Madrid, where many tens of thousands of innocent civilians were killed. And they dare call us barbaric butchers? When will the world finally recognize Churchill as the evil megalomaniac that he truly is? German, Italian, and Spanish forces combined to repel British attacks at key mountain passes, and have perhaps seen a turning point in the ongoing campaign in that already war-ravaged land.



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