

Japanese Action In Pacific Is Suicidal, Says Admiral Stirling

A reconstruction of the tremendous pattern of events involved in Japan's unprecedented attack upon the United States is given in the following dispatch by the former United States naval commander at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, who saw long service in the Pacific and is intimately familiar with the broad strategy involved.

By REAR ADM. YATES STIRLING, JR.
United Press Naval Critic

Japan has attacked the United States by surprise and without declaration, which throws us into war in the Pacific Ocean.

Fighting now is under way.

Japanese planes have bombed our military establishments near Honolulu and many of them have been shot down. One report has it that at least one Nipponese aircraft carrier, from which the planes were launched, has been sunk.

Attack Was Planned

All reports indicate that the Japanese attack on Hawaii was part of a carefully worked out plan.

The Nipponese commanders probably do not envisage anything like an occupation of our islands but merely are seeking to do all the damage they can in a belief their losses will be less than ours and that they can hamper our war effort by crippling at least some of our ships and shore establishments at the start.

An effort, of course, will be made to save the aircraft carrier or carriers involved in the raid. These ships probably are protected by submarines and will seek to run for the nearest Japanese base once the raid has been completed. Submarines previously would have been spotted along their prepared return course for protection.

Censorship probably will obscure all details of the larger phases of the fighting for days but it seems certain that Tokyo has risked everything on an all-out war.

Pattern Outlined

A great pattern of events appears to be shaping up roughly as follows:

1. The Japanese, if they have followed what has been understood to be their great master war plan, probably have launched simultaneous attacks on all Russian, British and Netherlands Indies bases in the Pacific Ocean.

2. If the master war plan has been thrown into operation, the United States is in for a war of unguessable magnitude. Our effort will be to crush the Japanese navy and all Japan's armed forces as quickly as possible.

3. The Japanese must clear their flanks if they are to be successful. That means an effort to occupy Vladivostok, Russia's Far East base, which presumably might be made available to our forces, Soviet Kamchatka to the north, and possibly our own bases on the Aleutian Islands off Alaska. An effort to attack the Alaskan mainland is possible.

4. We must be prepared for news that the Japanese have occupied the British concession at Tientsin, North China, the International Settlement at Shanghai, the settlement at Kulangsu (Amoy) to the southward and are attacking Britain's South China base in Hongkong.

5. Equally an attack on our naval position at Guam may be under way.

6. Britain's great naval base at Singapore is endangered, as are the British forces in Malaya, to the northward.

7. An effort to occupy the British and Netherlands oil fields in Borneo may be expected and may have been started simultaneously with the attack on Hawaii.

8. The Japanese may be receiving a measure of German advice and assistance. We must be prepared for news that limited numbers of German planes, submarines and surface ships are in action against us in the Pacific.

To this naval observer, intimately familiar with the whole pattern of events in the Pacific—military, political and economic—for many years, the Japanese action appears suicidal.

We may be in for a long and hard war but the Japanese cannot win. We are likely to suffer initial reverses but for them we will obtain a terrible vengeance.

Japanese submarines have been on their way to the American coast for several weeks, showing that

even while negotiations were being carried on in Washington, Japan had decided upon war.

It would take at least 17 days for Japanese submarines from Japan to cruise to the Pacific Coast of the United States.

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AMERICA FIRST LOSES IRV. COBB

LOS ANGELES, Monday, Dec. 8.

—(AP)—Irvin S. Cobb has resigned from the executive board of the America First Committee. He said he telegraphed committee headquarters in Chicago that it was "the sacred duty of every American to uphold the hands of our government" and support it in every way.

County Pledges Aid to Military

The Board of King County Commissioners today approved unanimously a resolution pledging "all-out aid" to military authorities in the use of all county equipment and county employees.

The resolution set up a four-man board to cooperate with the King County Emergency Civilian Defense Commission and to organize rural county defense units.

Members of the board are James E. Watkins, South road district worker, chairman; Dr. A. E. Davis, South District, fire warden; Floyd Miller, North road district sign and safety inspector, and William Block, county purchasing agent.



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