

'Japan's Action Suicidal—She Cannot Win,' Says Admiral Yates Stirling

By REAR ADMIRAL YATES STIRLING JR.

United Press Naval Critic.

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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.

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, and if the Emperor of Japan has approved the attack, the United States is in for a war of unmeasurable magnitude. Our effort will be to crush the Japanese navy and be rid of the Japanese 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



Admiral Stirling

Editor's Note: 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 U. S. Naval Commander at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, who saw long service in the Pacific and is intimately familiar with the broad strategy involved.

Aleutian Islands off Alaska. An effort to attack the Alaskan mainland is possible.

4. 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.

Japan may live 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.

Generally speaking our positions in the Pacific Ocean have been carefully prepared. They are ably manned and details of our co-operation with Britain, the Netherlands Indies, Australia and China, were worked out weeks ago.

We can expect news of engagements between the raiding force and our warships.

The United States Navy will not be satisfied until the entire Japanese raiding force in Hawaii has been sunk.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese dive bombing planes probably came from the direction of the high mountains back of the base to the northeast. From this position the attackers would have been concealed from view until they were almost over the base.

THIS HAVING BEEN a surprise attack, in time of peace United States planes could not have been expected to be in the air in great force. Therefore, the only defense at first would have been by anti-aircraft guns. Thus, there would have been no excuse if the Japanese airmen had not done great damage with their bombs.

If they did not inflict great damage, it shows the inefficiency of Japanese aviation, which has been reported frequently by our observers, especially from the Shanghai area during Chinese-Japanese hostilities.

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.

A submarine, which has been reported 1300 miles southwest of

San Francisco, would have taken at least 15 days to get there from Japan.

The Japanese may try for a series of hit-and-run air raids from aircraft carriers on cities on the west coast of the United States proper but it is unlikely they can achieve much. One may be sure air patrols already have been established all along the West Coast region and that any Japanese effort will be met before it gets started.

THE NIPPONSESE 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.

Work Still Ahead, Leaders Of America First Declare

Leaders of the isolationist America First Committee declared today that there still is work to be done by the Committee, regardless of the war with Japan.

Merle H. Miller, state chairman of the Committee, was en route to Washington by plane when the Japanese attack became known. Contacted as he landed at the Washington airport, he issued the following statement:

"Our services both as individuals and as an organization belong to our Government. The sole question now is how best we may unite our energies to bring this conflict to a successful conclusion."

A further statement is expected upon Mr. Miller's return in the next few days.

Meanwhile, other leaders of the group said one of its functions will be to guard against those "who don't like our form of government and who would like to make it Fascistic."

The local America First group several weeks ago began plans for setting up its offices as a Red Cross workshop, and had started plans for co-operating with the United Service Organizations in looking

after the welfare of the boys in camp, it was reported.

America First officials declined to comment on a petition signed by a dozen local persons demanding immediate disbanding of the America First Committee.

Mrs. Roosevelt Flying to Coast

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (U. P.)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense, will leave for the Pacific Coast by airplane tonight to assist emergency civilian defense work.

Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by her secretary, Miss Malvina Thompson, expects to arrive at Los Angeles tomorrow morning and to work in all the coast states. The nature of her stay will be determined by the necessities of the situation.

Mrs. Roosevelt told a nationwide radio audience last night that there was no more uncertainty over the United States' role in the war.

"We know what we have to face and we know that we are ready to face it," she said.

CANADA GOES INTO THE WAR QUICKLY

Cabinet Called Into Emergency Session; General Order Issued to "Engage Enemy Wherever Found."

OTTAWA, Dec. 8 (U. P.)—Canada came quickly to the support of the United States last night with an announcement that a state of war exists between the Dominion and Japan.

The action, taken at an emergency session of the Cabinet, was the first such move by a member of the British Commonwealth of nations.

Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King called the Cabinet into session after receiving reports of the Japanese attack on Hawaii.

At the same time a general order was issued to the armed forces of the Dominion "to engage the enemy wherever they may be found."

The order-in-council declaring war on Japan was transmitted by cable to the King for his personal signature on behalf of the people of Canada.

The state of war was effective, however, from the moment of announcement here.

Netherlands East Indies Also Acts Fast

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (U. P.)—The Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies declared war against Japan last night. The declaration was made at 6:30 a. m. Netherlands Time.

Mexico, Angry, Almost Ready to Declare

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 8 (U. P.)—Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla today angrily condemned Japan's "aggression" against the United States and pledged Mexico's full assistance to her neighbor under the Havauna Treaty.

Simultaneously the pro-administration newspaper La Prensa of Mexico City demanded that Mexico declare war against Japan—an attitude which a Foreign Office source told the United Press was it impossible."

Officials Silent

Except for a denunciation of Mr. Roosevelt by the official news agency, there was no comment from official quarters. Officials were believed to be studying reports of the hostilities and weighing the question of active German participation.

Newspaper comment, unanimously denounced President Roosevelt as a war-monger whose efforts brought a deserved rebuke in the Japanese declaration of war.

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