Defeat American fleet, capture Hawaii, destroy Panama Canal, land troops on Pacific Coast, and advance to the East— that's plan retired Japanese general advocates for "imminent war"
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By Lieut. Gen. Kyokatsu Sato

Conquest of the United States by Japan has been neatly outlined by Lieut. Gen. Kyokatsu Sato, retired from the Imperial Japanese Army in 1939, in his book "Nichi-Ito Sen Chiikasei" (Japanese-American War). The following is an extract-translation from the book.

While the article as a whole is reminiscent of "General Sato has no official connection with the Japanese government or army. He is the same man who wrote the United States several years ago with another book, "Our Empire Nation's Crisis," which contained many attacks on American policy.

THE American people have been many times accused of being a "People of the country, the Japanese, with a history of some 5000 years, have never been suspected of being a People of the foreign country.

No one outside the world respects honor to a higher degree than the Japanese. Small wonder, then, that the Japanese have always been considered as their enemy. The two nations have not gone to war with each other, but the Japanese cannot possibly believe themselves to regard the Americans as their friends.

Some Japanese are inclined to think that Commodore Perry was a benefactor to Japan on the ground that he opened the country to foreign intercourse towards the end of the Tokugawa shogunate. This is an utter mistake.

Perry did not come to these shores to bring civilization. His mission was to bring troops. According to the documents dispensed to his government, he had visited Japan with intent to occupy it.

It was the Americans who manifested considerable displeasure at Japan's advance to East Asia. They have subjected us to manifold indignities.

When and where a Japanese-American war will be fought we cannot say, but the States of America carries out her traditional China policy to a full extent, then she is bound to clash with Japan sooner or later on the China question which is vital to the existence of this country.

We shall have to reside the question by force of arms, if diplomatic negotiations fail.

This brings us to a consideration of a possible war with America. No matter from what motives hostilities may be made to come, or whether we assume the offensive or the defensive, there can be no doubt that Hawaii will be the most important strategic point in a war between America and Japan.

Success or failure in the struggle for Hawaii will be the decisive factor in the war. With the Hawaiian Islands as its base of operations, America could bomb Tokyo or Osaka without much difficulty, provided she uses airplanes and airships of superior quality.

While Hawaii is an American possession it would have to remain on the defensive. But if, on the contrary, Japan occupies the islands, her fleet would find itself in a position not only to assume the offensive, but also to bomb the cities on the west coast of America.

In a war with America, therefore, we must be at all costs, even with a sacrifice of a few vessels, take possession of Hawaii. The distance between Hawaii and the American continent is a little smaller than that between the islands and Japan. This would mean that at the outset of hostilities the American fleet or fleets of warships would be able to get to the islands before the Japanese, whereas both fleets have the same speed. For this reason our navy must possess ships far superior to the American.

The main squadron of America were in the Hawaiian waters at the outbreak of war, then a clash between the American and Japanese main fleets would have to take place somewhere between the islands and Yokohama. Should our navy emerge victorious from this battle, it would be able to stand off the United States, and, in the subsequent operations would be facilitated.

The opposite result of this battle would compel the Japanese navy to remain on the defensive and would render its operations extremely difficult. The great thing is, therefore, for Japan to see that hostilities are opened before the main strength of the American fleet is brought to Hawaii and that her naval operations take place with lightning speed.

The struggle for Hawaii thus constitutes the first stage of a Japanese-American war. On the assumption that Hawaii was captured by our navy, the Japanese forces would undertake, as the next step, the task of destroying the Panama canal and the main squadron of America.

If the Japanese navy succeeded in crushing the American fleet in the Pacific, landing on the Pacific coast of America would become easy. At the same time the Panama canal must be destroyed, as the maintenance of traffic through it would facilitate replenishment of the American navy. Attacks should be made on the canal by an offensive air fleet. The destruction of the canal and the American fleet would literally be half the battle. Thus would end the second period of the war.

The third period would begin with a landing of Japanese forces on the western coast of the American continent and the work of destroying the cities and naval ports on the west coast.

The next course would be to form the main line of defense along the Rocky mountains, so that our military troops could occupy the occupied areas along the coast.

Preparations made west of the Rockies could not be started until the offensive and advance towards the east coast. This would usher in the fourth and the last period of the war. Each period would probably last several years, and the first, second, and fourth periods would last the longest.

The war would last at least four or five years; it might even drag out to last several score years. If and when Japan, forestalled by America, finds it impossible to occupy Hawaii, her navy would see the wisdom of deferring a decisive battle with the American ships till full preparations are completed.

Meanwhile, our coast might be subjected to bombardments and the main cities to attacks from the air. Our army would have to defend the coast facing the Pacific and stop whatever enemy's landing, while our destroyers and submarines would watch for an opportunity of attacking the enemy's capital ships.

When thoroughly ready our main squadron would go forth and battle decisively with the enemy's. A victory for the Japanese navy would naturally be followed by the capture of Pearl Harbor by other operations, as described above.

Whether Japan acts on the offensive or on the defensive, a war with America would certainly be a protracted one involving great sacrifices and demanding the united efforts of all.

Above: Artist Harry Griswold's conception of Japanese forces landing on continental United States near San Francisco, thus achieving an important phase in General Sato's plan of attack. and indomitable perseverance of the nation as a whole. During the Meiji era Japan fought China for the Korean possession and Russia on the Manchuria question. And now it looks as though she were going to fight America on the China question. Such seems to be the fate to which this country is predestined. The China question is, as already said, a question of life and death to us. Japan can no longer remain "cabinied, cribbed, and congested," of yore, within her island empire. She must expand to the western continent, which is her "life line."

It is a luxury for America to exercise capitalist imperialism in China and to attempt to bring that vast territory under her economic domination. America still has vast areas in her own territory that have to be exploited under cultivation. She has considered the exploitation of natural resources still to be developed.

She has Canada to her north and Mexico, Argentina to her south, where she can find markets for her goods.

Why should America, then, attempt to practice imperialism on a continent some 5000 miles distant, across the Pacific, from her own?
General Sato believes that in event of war Japan should:

1. Defeat U.S. fleet somewhere in Pacific.
2. Capture Hawaii and complete naval victory.
3. Destroy Panama Canal.
4. Land forces on west coast of America.
5. Consolidate defense line in Rockies.
6. Then take offensive toward east coast.
Japanese Manual Made No Bones Over Plan for Attack on American Pacific Bases

SECRETARY KNOX'S revelation that Hawaii was "not on the alert" for the Jap blitz appears more amazing in view of the fact that Tokyo made no bones of its Pacific plans. Over a year ago, a book distributed among trusted Japanese agents in America forewarned all the events which have now come to pass. Entitled "The Triple Alliance and the Japanese-American War," by Kinoaki Matsuo, this manual embodies a complete outline of Japanese strategy in the western Pacific. It relates, in detail the Axis plan of attack from the bombing of Hawaii to the "final elimination of the American threat to world peace."

Last December, a retired Japanese naval captain, Otojiro Endo, and a retired army major, Masichi Sugihara, visited the Pacific coast states in America and held secret meetings with a number of Japanese-Americans. Purpose of the tour was to inspire courage among sabotage and espionage agents and to recruit new men for the Japanese trojan horse brigade in this country. Frequent use was made of this book during their discussions.

Two Man Submarines

The table of contents, together with the subtitles, are most revealing. Here are the translations of a few of them: "American-Japanese Friendship a Delusion," "Japan's Attack on the Philippines," "Fear of Chemical Warfare," "Occupation of Guam by the Japanese Fleet," "The Fall of Manila," and "Japanese Occupation of Hawaii."

told newspapermen that he found the Japanese fifth column there had been second only to that employed by the Nazis in Norway. In the case of the Japs, however, their plans have failed to materialize, and any would-be Hawaiian Quislings are now safely behind bars.

Japan Must Keep Canal

Tokyo strategists have, of course, devoted much thought to the Panama canal, key to western hemisphere defense. Under the subtitle "Closing the Panama Canal," Japanese agents here read:

"The remaining question is: What will become of the Panama canal? Panama is a little over 4,600 knots from Hawaii and about 8,000 knots from Japan, so an attack is not an easy matter, and will require a considerable naval force. If at the outbreak of war we proceed soon to attack and close the canal, we
Fall of Manila, and "Japanese Occupation of Hawaii."

Japanese tactics in the attack on Pearl Harbor of using midget two men submarines, which was revealed by Secretary of the Navy Knox, is mentioned in a chapter of the book entitled "The Surprise Fleet." In this chapter readers were told:

"We have very small submarines capable of traveling 10,000 miles, which will accomplish a lot on the American side of the Pacific. In the future they must be able to operate alone in the west Pacific. Their ability to attack and to make long journeys is of vital importance."

"Our navy will quickly occupy the Midway islands, and a submarine base will be established there at once. It is only 1,160 miles to Hawaii, a very convenient distance for our surprise fleet. We can then strike at the enemy fleet at a most opportune time, and cut off communication lines as well as merchantmen."

Counted on Uprising

In discussing the Japanese invasion of Hawaii, the book optimistically states that a Japanese naval victory would provide sufficient incentive for the 150,000 Japanese on those islands to organize a "volunteer army."

"In the Japanese occupation of Hawaii, co-operation between the volunteer army and the navy is most important," the book warns its select group of readers.

Here again, the secretary of the navy has confirmed the authenticity of these sinister Jap plans. Upon his return from Honolulu, Mr. Knox

"As a result of the attack and close the canal, we could cut off the Atlantic from the Pacific, it would prove an invaluable asset to our war strategy."

"American imperialism depends on the strength of her navy, for without it her imperialistic ambitions cannot be realized. Once we control the canal, we can enforce peace. Japanese possession of the Panama canal has a direct bearing upon future peace. Therefore, by all means, Japan must take the canal and keep it even after the war. However, inasmuch as Panama is well fortified, it will not be easy to take."

—Journal Caricature by Tom Rost

Secretary of Navy Knox