

## **Archive Of The Month, December 2010.**

On the morning of the 7th of December 1941, Japanese forces launched a surprise attack on the US Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Four U.S. Navy battleships were sunk and four other battleships present were damaged. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship and one minelayer. 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, 2,402 personnel were killed and 1,282 were wounded. The United States declared war on Japan the next day.

So how was this news reported in Orkney? This month's delve into the archive is very kindly provided by Lucy Gibbon at the Orkney Library & Archive, and comprises extracts from two editions of The Orkney Herald published on the 24th and 31st of December 1941.

## JAPANESE APE THEIR NAZI MASTERS

### Germans Gave the Cue for Unheralded Attack

BY A STUDENT OF PROPAGANDA.

The Three-Power Pact is ratified at last. Japan openly joined her partners in crime by the traditional Axis method of launching the attack first and declaring war afterwards.

Nothing was neglected in the effort at uniformity. For the past year, protestations of peaceful intentions have flowed from the mouths of Japanese spokesmen. Matsuoka, then Foreign Minister, was responsible for many of them. In October, 1940, he said:—"Japan does not intend to annex new territories or to subjugate and exploit peoples as some European and American countries have done." He followed this up by declaring that the Three-Power Pact was "for the benefit of the whole human race, since it was directed against a further extension of the war."

In January this year, the Japanese Press reverted to the subject. The familiar plaintive note had by this time crept in. "Japan," said the Tokyo "Asahi Shimbun" on January 20, "will continue the work of reconstruction in the Far East, and will look upon those as disturbers of the peace who oppose Japan's peaceful aims."

Six weeks later, on March 12, the paper was grizzling again: "The Tripartite Pact laid down the rule that each Power should be allowed to live in peace and comfort."

Matsuoka hastened to make it clear who was supposed to be breaking this admirable rule. With more than Oriental diplomacy, he stated on March 26 that "The Three-Power Pact was certainly ingenious because it aimed at limiting war. It was also diabolic, because the present war would develop into a world war if Roosevelt should intervene in hostilities. If, however, Roosevelt had no intention of joining the war, then the Pact must not be described as diabolic."

A silence of some months followed this masterpiece of lucidity. Then Indo-China fell like an over-ripe plum. Japan raised her voice again, but the plaintive note had subtly changed. The limit of Japan's patience was evidently about to be reached.

"Japan," said a Japanese Nationalist politician on September 9, "had been quite willing to share the Pacific with the U.S., but the latter despised the idealism of the 'New World Order' and attempted to legalise her violations of international law."

And Italy, who must always have her say, gloated: "Japan has taken over the naval bases in Indo-China and thus gained control within the areas of British and American positions. The encircled has become the encircler in 'legitimate self-defence.'"

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The stage was set. The world, which had never for a moment been deceived by the pantomime, waited for the outcome of the U.S.-Japanese talks.

On December 5, Germany spoke: "There is no crisis in the Far East. We cannot speak of a crisis when there is a power like Japan, with strong national principles, determined to carry out its 'New Order' in this area." (German News Agency.)

That was the cue. On December 7, bombs rained down on vital American bases in the Pacific, on Singapore and Northern Malaya. Hours afterwards, Japan declared war, alleging that the democracies were menacing her existence, prolonging the war in China, threatening Indo-China, exerting pressure on the Netherlands East Indies, and doing all they could to extend the war.

Japan can congratulate herself on a perfect imitation.

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# COMING CLASH FOR AIR SUPREMACY IN EAST

## Japan is Staking All on an Initial Effort

BY AN AIR CORRESPONDENT.

One after another the air forces of the world have shed their mystery, and their secrets stand revealed at their real worth. The first to unmask was the Luftwaffe. Next came Italy's feeble imitation. The Red Air Fleet, for so long shrouded in secrecy, proved itself far greater than anyone had believed possible. Now it is Japan's turn to reveal her Air Force in its true colours.

The Japanese exerted all their powers to use their air arm to its fullest effect in the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour before war was declared. They are, however, likely to find that the maintenance of air war over a wide front seriously strains their resources.

Japanese aircraft production is not more than 350 aeroplanes a month. Japanese reserves are not great, and the average quality of Japanese aeroplanes is not high. Japan, attacking in the Pacific in the hope of relieving the strain on the Axis Powers, is staking everything on a tremendous initial effort.

It is a threat which we must not under-estimate. But so long as we can parry the fury of the attack before too much territory is lost, Great Britain and America can build up an air strength in the Pacific that will smash the Japanese for ever.

### Alied Aid.

Japan has two air forces, one attached to the Army, the other to the Navy. The Army Air Force was instituted in 1929 by a French Military Mission, the Naval Air Force two years later by a British Air Mission. American influence has played a prominent part in aircraft design since then.

Recently the Japanese have sought advice and help from the Germans. A Japanese mission went to Berlin early in 1941 and came back with licences to build some of the chief types of German aeroplanes. However, little can have been done to get these types into production as yet.

The Naval Air Service has a strength have a total strength of about 1,700 operational aeroplanes. The principal long-range bomber used is the Mitsubishi 97, a two-motor mid-wing monoplane developed from a Martin type. It looks not unlike our own Wellington, although slower and with less bomb-load range and less armament. Nor are Japanese fighters of high quality. The standard Nakajima 97 has a top speed of around 240 m.p.h. and an armament of only two machine-guns. It is a small low-wing monoplane with a fixed undercarriage.

Incidentally, the Japanese system of numbering is liable to lead to some confusion. Every aeroplane designed in 1937, for instance, is numbered Type 97, and so on. Thus there may be two or three 97s from one company—all different.

## S.W.R.I. AND WAR FINANCE

### Central Council's Reply to Criticism

We have received the following letter in reply to a communication which appeared in our issue of December 3, 1941, from the Central Council of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes, signed by some 36 representatives of the various Scottish Federations, including Misses Mary Reid and Catherine Scarth, representing Orkney, and Mrs Minnie Roger-son, representing Shetland:

SIR,—In reply to recent criticism we, the Central Council of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes desire to make certain points clear.

The Central Council consists of representatives elected for three years by the County Federations in the following proportion to the number of Institutes in each Federation:—

From 4 up to and including 10<sup>th</sup> Institutes—1 representative.

From 11 up to and including 20 Institutes—2 representatives.

From 21 up to and including 40 Institutes—3 representatives.

Over 40 Institutes—4 representatives.

Every third year each County Federation asks its Institutes for nominations to the Central Council. The list of nominations thus received is circulated to the Institutes, who instruct their delegates how to vote. The election is by ballot, and the result is forwarded to the Secretary of the Central Council.

The membership fee is 2s, and Institutes contribute a certain sum per member to the Federation funds, in some cases to Area funds, and to the Central Council for general organisation purposes. Some years ago the Council initiated a Capital Fund to which institutes may contribute if they so desire.

Government grants have been received for specific purposes as follows:—

1. To Highlands and Islands for development of Institutes in outlying districts.
2. Handicrafts Guild: To promote the teaching of handicrafts and the improvement of standards of crafts.
3. Guild of Housewives: For organisation and propaganda, especially as regards production, preservation and use of food.

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust have on three occasions given a grant to the Central Council for certain definite purposes:—(1) For music and drama; (2) for the Handicrafts Loan Collection; (3) for the preservation of fruit. Each of these grants could be spent only for the purpose specified by the Trust and the accounts were submitted to the Trust.

All statements of accounts pass through the Executive and Finance Com-



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The Naval Air Service has a strength of about 2,000 operational aeroplanes. Unlike our own Fleet Air Arm, it includes flying-boats under its command. Japan has seven aircraft carriers, with three building, three seaplane carriers, and about 57 warships equipped to launch catapult seaplanes for scouting work. In all, about 400 aeroplanes can be taken to sea with the Fleet.

#### Used with Effect.

The chief type of naval aeroplanes are the Mitsubishi 96 bomber developed from the Junkers Ju 86, the Nakajima 96 single-seat fighter developed from an 86, the Martin 166, and the Nakajima 96 single-seat fighter developed from an American Boeing design. None is formidable but all have been used with effect.

The Japanese airmen are brave and fly well so long as things are going right. They have little resource, however, and when fighting at a disadvantage do not show up in a good light. But even so their morale remains high and must not be under-rated.

In none of the actions so far has there been any indication that the Japanese Air Force is more formidable than was originally believed. It is directed with skill and imbued with an offensive spirit; and "blitzkrieg" methods, founded on the German pattern, have brought useful results up to the present.

When Japan is faced, at first with equal, and then with superior numbers of better aeroplanes flown by more skilful crews—as will be the case in the future—we may hope to see in the Pacific a repetition of Italy's aerial disasters.

"The entry of the United States into the war is tantamount to certain victory. Thanks to the contribution America has already started to make, three times as many planes, twice as many tanks and six times as many ships will be turned out next year by the Allies as by the enemy."—General de Gaulle.

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All statements of accounts pass through the Executive and Finance Committee and the Central Council. Those dealing with Government grants have been submitted by the Council to the Treasury, through the Department of Agriculture for Scotland or the Ministry of Food. Those dealing with Carnegie Trust Funds have been submitted to the Trust. As regards the Institutes' subscriptions to the Central Council for organisation purposes, the audited statements have been sent to the Federations and have appeared in the S.W.R.I. magazine "Scottish Home and Country."

Continued from next column.

has not been exercised. Not sparing the blushes of the Victorians, compare their behaviour when opportunity did arise with that of this generation hedged around by opportunities. How far, it may be asked, have allegations about immorality in the Services discouraged girls from joining the A.T.S., or their parents and sweethearts from allowing them to? Soon after air raids had started, we heard a great many sinister references to conduct in the shelters. Mr Morrell expressed a more balanced opinion than many that were heard then. "One cannot help feeling," he said, "as you go through a vast shelter, that there must be inevitably a whole host of problems intimately connected with the whole field of moral welfare which are absolutely unprecedented. I am astounded that the situation is not much more grave than it is." Comparisons are said to be odious. But if we compare the conduct of this generation with that of preceding generations, and the conduct of this war period with the time of peace that came before it, the odium is not on to-day.

"It was most regrettable," Mr Bevan had said, "that there should be all this talk about the A.T.S., and that it should be assumed that because women were drafted somewhere immorality was bound to exist. It was a lot of unutterable nonsense."

## AN ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC

How many people, how many times, have said, "Oh, to live on an island in the Pacific." That was the dream—uninterrupted idleness; unending enjoyment; as far away as a ship could carry a man from the anxieties of a civilised world and the dangers created by its quarrels; comfort and security and life that would be half asleep. The escapist's paradise. Escapism has become a vogue-word, because it expressed a philosophy in the vogue. That false philosophy has eaten into the souls of the nations, like a poison, narcotising them.

Well, the island in the Pacific was only a fantasy, and guns have shattered the lotus-eaters' dreams. There is no escape from the war, anywhere, for anyone. Life is a reality, and it has to be faced, and those who will not face it must go down. They preferred to dream their dreams, and have awakened to a nightmare. We in Britain drugged ourselves with dreams, preferring ease to labour and irresponsibility and over-expenditure on the social services to preparation for a war we dreaded and knew in our hearts must come. We wanted peace. Oh, most sincerely we desired it—but we would not pay the price. And everything has its price, even peace.

We must realise that now. The price in the immediate future is preparation for the victory that must precede the peace; and preparation means sacrifices beyond any that have yet been made. It isn't pleasant to make sacrifices; it's nicer to leave that to other people; but there aren't enough other people to make them on their own; and if the sacrifices are not great enough, the whole is wasted. No more islands in the Pacific, or wishful dreams of them, for anybody. The guns bark there, as everywhere. It is a world war, from which no individual can stand aside. Whoever doesn't help to win the war, in his or her own sphere, according to his or her own temperament and ability, is not a neutral among his own people but a parasite who consumes without making a return. We can't afford to carry them. Neither can we afford to endanger our economic strength by giving way to those who seek advantages for themselves in the world's crisis.

Most wars mark the end of one phase in a nation's life and the beginning of another. One phase in our national life has ended—the phase of easy indolence, of "getting something for nothing." The only things that can be had for nothing are the things you'd rather do without. The flare-up of the war is a confirmation that we have entered on the new phase. From now on let this period we are entering be the Age of Realism, during the war and after the war. The human race knows pretty well what it wants—and most of what it wants cannot be had without continuing peace. But the peace must be a real peace, not an uneasy absence of hostilities that is derived merely from attempts made to avoid the issues and push away the evil day of war. Anything gained from a peace like that is only tinsel stuff, which cannot last.

T. F. A.