

# World War 2 in the Pacific

- On 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941 Japan:
  - Started a war with the United States of America, Great Britain and Thailand.
  - Launched attacks, at the same time as a final diplomatic note was scheduled to arrive, but some time before it was actually delivered.
  - Attacked the US Pacific fleet at anchor in Pearl harbour, in relatively shallow water, with torpedo bombers and sank or immobilised the whole Battleforce.
  - Attacked US and British airforces in Hawaii, the Philippines and Malaya and destroyed half their effective strength.
  - Landed in Malaya, Thailand and the Philippines and invaded Hong Kong.
- Where did all this come from?
- What set it off?
- Why the 8<sup>th</sup> of December?

# 8<sup>th</sup> December 1941



# Japanese Seclusion

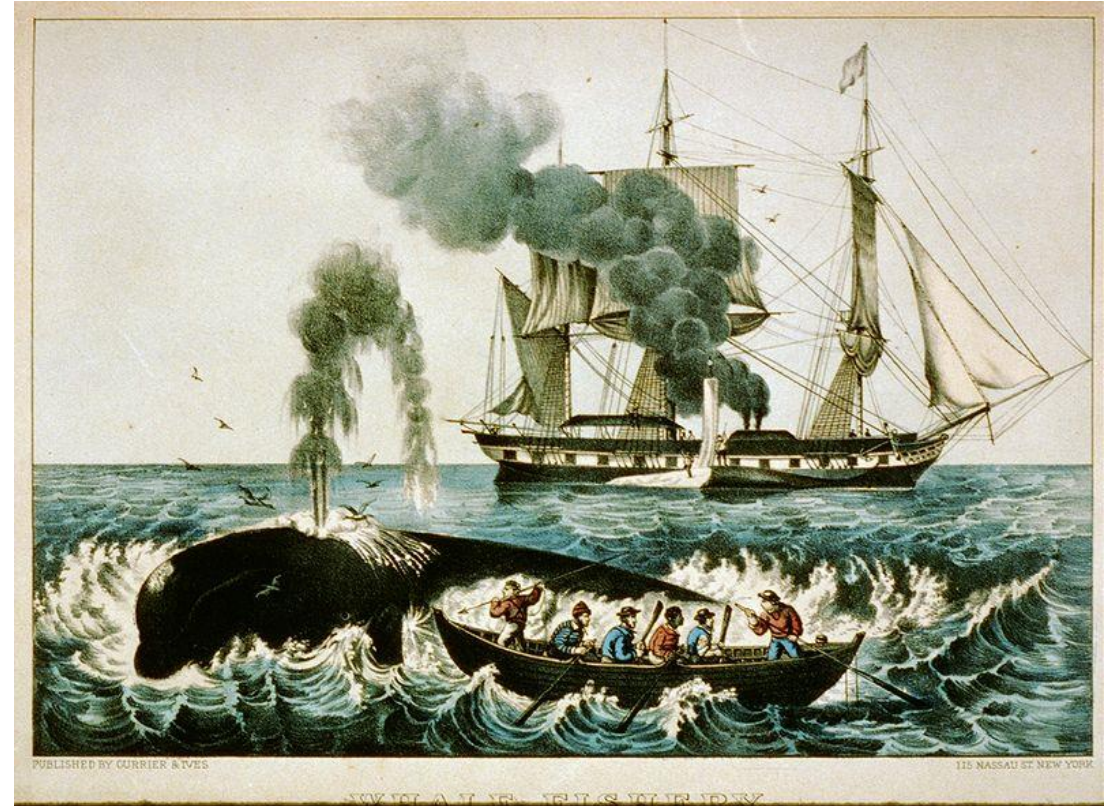
- When the first fleet landed in Australia in 1788 Japan had been isolated from all contact and trade with the rest of the world for 144 years.
- The policy of seclusion, imposed by the ruling Shoguns, forbade contacts with the outside world and prohibited the construction of ocean-going ships on pain of death.
- Only two Dutch trading ships per year were allowed to visit Japan during this period and they were restricted to the Dejima area of Nagasaki.
- Other Europeans who landed on Japanese shores were put to death without trial.





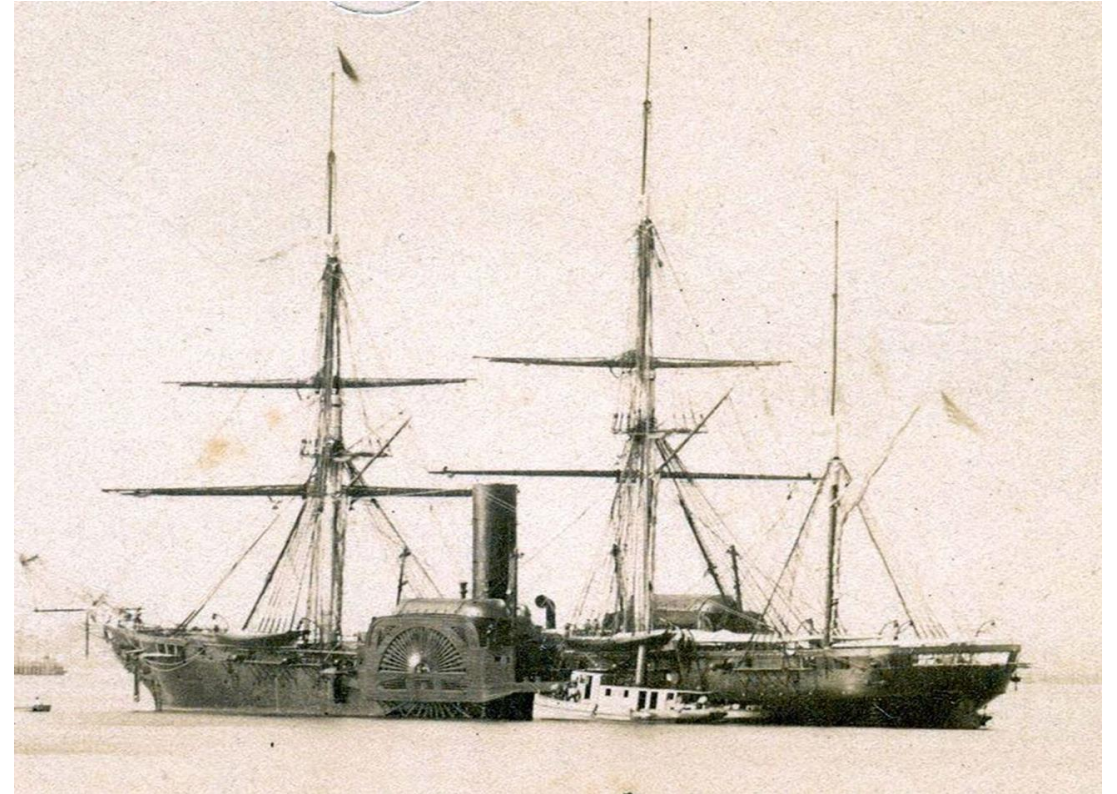
# Seclusion meets Commerce

- As European and American commercial activities in Asian waters expanded, efforts were made to negotiate relaxation of this seclusion policy.
- The United States wanted access to Japanese ports for coaling stations, to take on provisions and fuel on the long trip from America to China.
- The American whaling industry had pushed into the North Pacific and sought safe harbors, assistance in case of shipwrecks, and supply stations.
- A number of American sailors had been shipwrecked in Japan, and tales of their mistreatment spread through the merchant community across the United States.



# 1854 The Opening of Japan

- Commodore Matthew Perry USN was sent to Japan to negotiate a treaty to permit trade and to guarantee the safety of shipwrecked sailors.
- Perry sailed into Tokyo Bay with a fleet of steam ships in 1853 and presented a letter with the American requests, together with some explicit threats including some demonstration shelling with new shell guns.
- He then sailed away, promising to return the following year.
- When Perry returned, early in 1854, with ten ships and 1,600 men a treaty was negotiated, and signed on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 1854, which conceded the majority of the American demands.



Commodore Perry's Flagship USS *Susquehanna*, an 87 metre long sidewheel steam frigate with twelve 9 inch guns.



# Modernisation

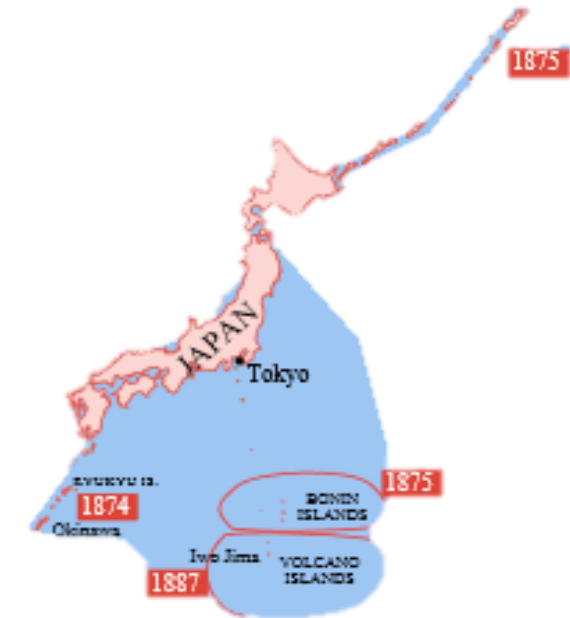
- The treaty with the Americans was quickly followed by similar treaties with other Western countries.
- The Shogunate recognized its vulnerability to Western navies and started an active effort to acquire and adopt Western naval technologies.
- Due to the humiliating terms of the Unequal Treaties, imposed by Western countries, the Shogunate soon faced internal hostility, which morphed into a revolutionary movement, with the slogan
  - **"Revere the Emperor, expel the barbarians"**
- This opposition to the Shogunate came to a head on January 3, 1868 when an alliance between two powerful feudal domains seized the imperial palace in Kyoto, and had the fifteen-year-old Emperor Meiji declare his own restoration to full power and the withdrawal of the power of the Shogun.
- Having defeated the Shogun the Imperial party did not pursue its objective to expel foreign interests, but shifted to a policy aiming at the continued modernization of the country and the later renegotiation of unequal treaties, under the slogan:
  - **"rich country, strong army"**



The Emperor Meiji in 1873

# 1887 Expansion

- Following the opening to the world and the acquisition of naval technology Japan started to expand its interests and possessions.
- Ryukyu Islands – 1874.
  - From 1655 the Ryukyu kingdom was a tributary to both China & Japan. The Ryukyus terminated the tributary relationship with China.
- Kurile Islands – 1875.
  - After decades of competing settlement of the Kurile islands by Russia and Japan, in the treaty of St Petersburg, Japan relinquished claims to Sakhalin and Russia ceded all the Kurile islands south of Kamchatka to Japan.
- Bonin Islands – 1875.
  - Claimed by Japan in 1862 they were renamed, incorporated administratively and settled in 1875.
- Korea 1876
  - Japan employed gunboat diplomacy to pressure Korea to sign the Japan–Korea Treaty, which granted extraterritorial rights to Japanese citizens and opened three Korean ports to Japanese trade. The rights granted to Japan, were similar to those granted western powers in Japan under the unequal treaty following the visit of Commodore Perry.
- Volcano Islands (Iwo Jima) 1887
  - Settled by Japanese in 1887.



# 1895 Sino Japanese War

- In a contest for influence over Korea Japan sent a force to Korea. They occupied the Royal Palace, captured the king and forced him to declare Korea's independence from China and grant the Japanese a monopoly on industry and trade.
- China objected and tried to get Russia and America to intervene. When hope of negotiations faded, China decided on war.
- Japanese forces routed the Chinese army on the Liaodong Peninsula and nearly destroyed the Chinese navy in the Battle of the Yalu River, one of the first naval battles between ironclad steamships with quick firing guns and torpedoes.
- In the peace treaty China ceded the Liaodong Peninsula and the island of Taiwan to Japan and withdrew any claims over Korea.
- After the peace treaty, Russia, Germany, and France intervened and forced Japan to withdraw from the Liaodong Peninsula.
- Soon afterwards Russia occupied the Liaodong Peninsula, built the Port Arthur fortress, and based the Russian Pacific Fleet there. Germany occupied Jiaozhou Bay, built Tsingtao fortress and based the German East Asia Squadron in that port.





# 1902 Anglo Japanese Alliance

- An alliance between Britain and Japan had been canvassed since 1895, when Britain refused to join the triple intervention of France, Germany and Russia against the Japanese occupation of the Liaotung peninsula.
- The case was strengthened by the support Britain had given Japan in its drive towards naval modernisation and their co-operative efforts to put down the Boxer Rebellion.
- After discussions in 1901 the alliance was announced on February 12, 1902. The common interest fuelling the alliance was opposition to Russian expansion.
- The treaty committed the parties to neutrality if the other was involved in a war with one other power or to support if the other was involved in a war with more than one other power.

# 1905 Russo Japanese War

- Russia and Japan were competing for control of Korea and parts of Manchuria.
- Japan issued a declaration of war on 8 February 1904.
- Three hours before the declaration of war was received by the Russian government, the Japanese Navy made a surprise night torpedo attack on the Russian ships at Port Arthur. The attack heavily damaged the two biggest Russian battleships and a cruiser.
- The Japanese destroyed the Russian Pacific fleet by naval blockade and fire from land artillery by the army besieging Port Arthur.
- The Tsar then sent the Baltic fleet on a seven month expedition to the Far East that attracted world wide attention.
- The Japanese fleet intercepted the Baltic fleet in Tsushima Strait and annihilated it. Only three out of thirty eight Russian ships escaped to Vladivostok.
- Tsushima was the first battle in which radio played a significant part. Both sides had radio, the Russians were using German sets and had difficulties in their use and maintenance, while the Japanese had the advantage of using their own equipment.
- All the major ships in the Japanese fleet at Tsushima had been built overseas, but a significant percentage of the cruisers, destroyers and torpedo boats had been built in Japan.
- At the peace conference Russia agreed to evacuate Manchuria, recognise Japan's interest in Korea and cede half Sakhalin and the 25 year lease of Port Arthur to Japan.
- The Anglo-Japanese alliance meant that France was unable to come to the aid of its ally Russia as this would have meant going to war with Britain.



# Australian Expansion to the North

- **Darwin 1869 - Telegraph**
- Darwin was established in 1869 as part of the project to connect Australia to the world by telegraph. The Overland Telegraph Line was built in the 1870s between Port Augusta and Darwin. The first telegraph connection from Australia to the world by submarine cable was the Java to Port Darwin link, brought ashore at Darwin in November 1871.
- **Torres Strait 1879 - Pearlring**
- Pearlring had begun in Western Australia, in the 1850s and started in the Torres Strait in 1868. By 1877 there were 16 pearlring firms operating on Thursday Island. The colony of Queensland recognised the value of this resource, and annexed the islands in 1879.
- **Papua 1884 – The Germans**
- On the 4th of April, 1883, Chester, the Resident Magistrate at Thursday Island, acting under instructions from the Queensland Government, hoisted the British flag at Port Moresby annexing, in the name of the Queen, “all of New Guinea from the 141st to the 155<sup>th</sup> meridian.” This action, although supported by the Australian colonies and New Zealand, was not endorsed by the British Government.
- The colonies repeatedly urged the British Government to annex New Guinea, to prevent any other European power from establishing a base there. Again and again they were assured that no European power contemplated such a design.
- In the middle of 1884 four German gunboats appeared in New Guinea waters and the German flag was hoisted in New Britain, in the Duke of York group, at Madang and in Northern New Guinea. In December, 1884, Germany notified the British Government of these actions.



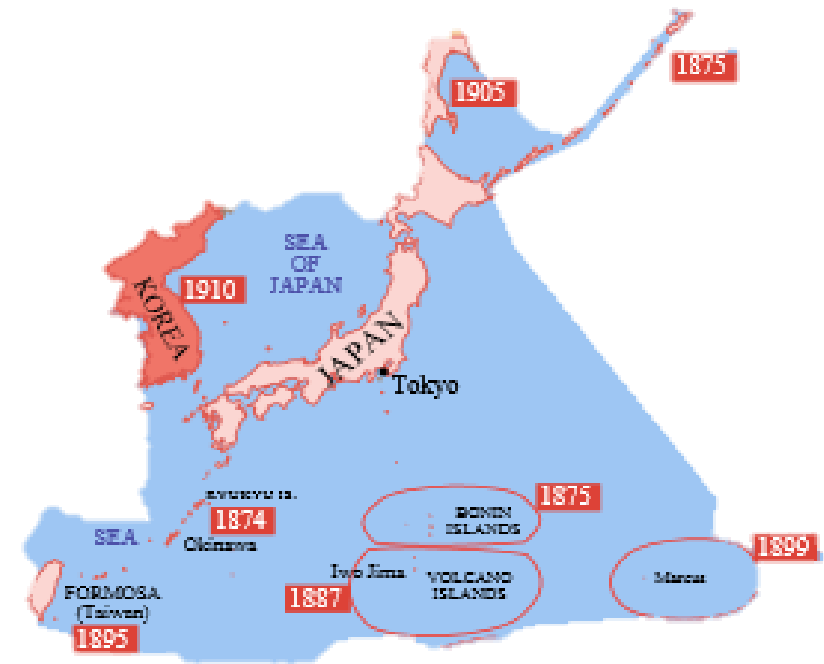
## Territory of Papua from 1906

- A British protectorate over the south coast of New Guinea and over the D'Entrecasteaux and Louisiade groups was hurriedly proclaimed in October and November 1884.
- After Federation, on 1 January 1901, British New Guinea was placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1902.
- Following the passage of the Papua Act in 1905, British New Guinea became the Territory of Papua, and formal Australian administration began in 1906.



# 1910 Annexation of Korea

- Korea was occupied and declared a Japanese protectorate following the Japan–Korea Treaty of 1905, and officially annexed in 1910.
- After China and Russia had lost wars fought to preserve their interests in Korea there was no one left to object.



# WW1 Australian Occupation of German Colonies in South Pacific

- On **August 6<sup>th</sup> 1914**, two days after Britain's declaration of war, the British government asked Australia to seize German wireless stations at Yap in the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and New Guinea,
  - they added that any territory occupied must be handed over to Britain for peace negotiations after the war.
- New Zealand received a similar request in regard to Samoa.
- The Australian government decided to send the “Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force”-six companies of the RANR and a battalion of infantry. Enlistment started on **12<sup>th</sup> August** and the force sailed out of Sydney on **19<sup>th</sup> August**.
- After delays, while the navy escorted the New Zealanders to Samoa, the force landed at Rabaul in New Guinea on **11<sup>th</sup> September 1914**.
- After a skirmish, which left 6 Australians dead and 4 wounded, the Germans surrendered the same day.
- Part of the force moved on to take Nauru on **6<sup>th</sup> November**.
- On **3<sup>rd</sup> December** Britain cancelled arrangements for Australia to move on to German islands north of the equator as these had already been occupied by Japan.

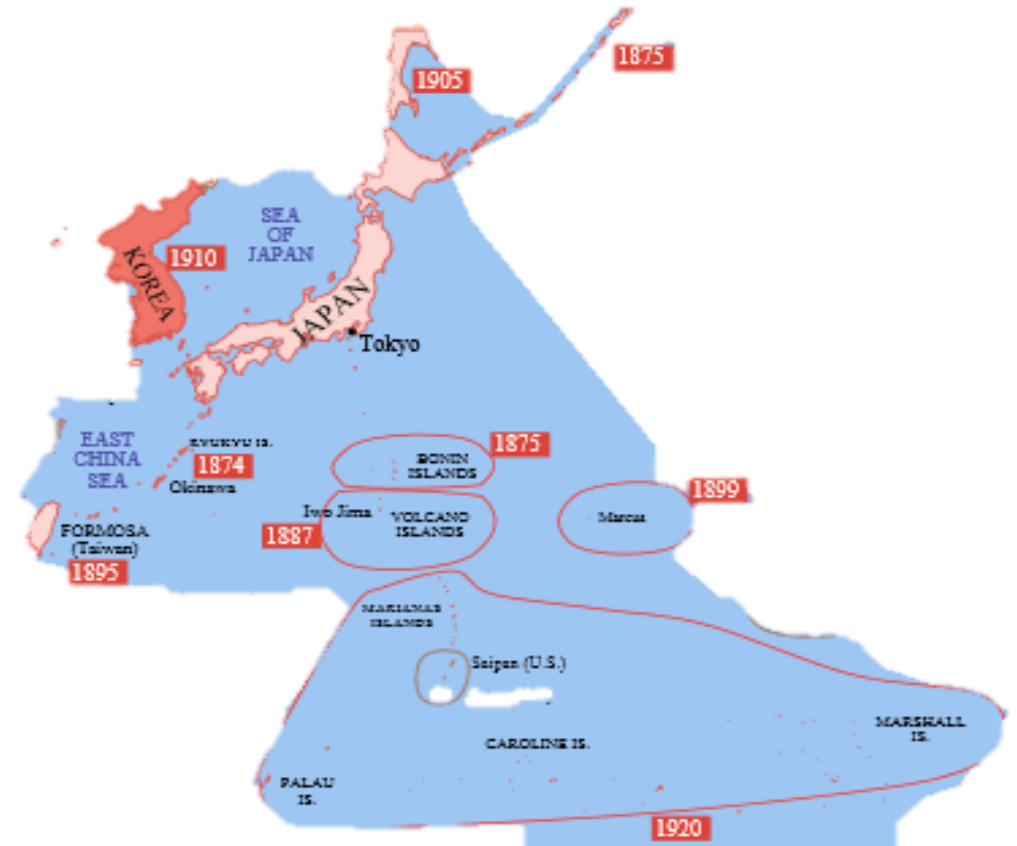
# WW1 Australian Occupation of German Colonies in South Pacific





# WW1 Japanese Occupation of German Colonies in North Pacific

- Britain requested Japanese assistance against Germany in the first world war. Japan declared war on Germany on August **23, 1914**, as required by the Anglo Japanese Alliance.
- Japanese and minor British forces attacked Tsingtao fortress, the German East Asia Squadron base, in German-leased territories in China.
- After two months of siege and naval blockade the Germans surrendered on **November 7, 1914**. Japan then took over the German holdings in China.
- Aircraft from the Japanese seaplane carrier *Wakamiya* became the first seaplanes in the world to attack land and sea targets, they also took part in another military first, a night-time bombing raid.
- The Japanese also invaded and occupied the German Pacific islands above the equator.
- The Japanese fleet assisted the Royal Navy in convoy escort in the Pacific and Indian oceans including escorting the first convoy of the AIF to Suez.
- By 1914 all new ships for the Japanese navy were being built in Japan.



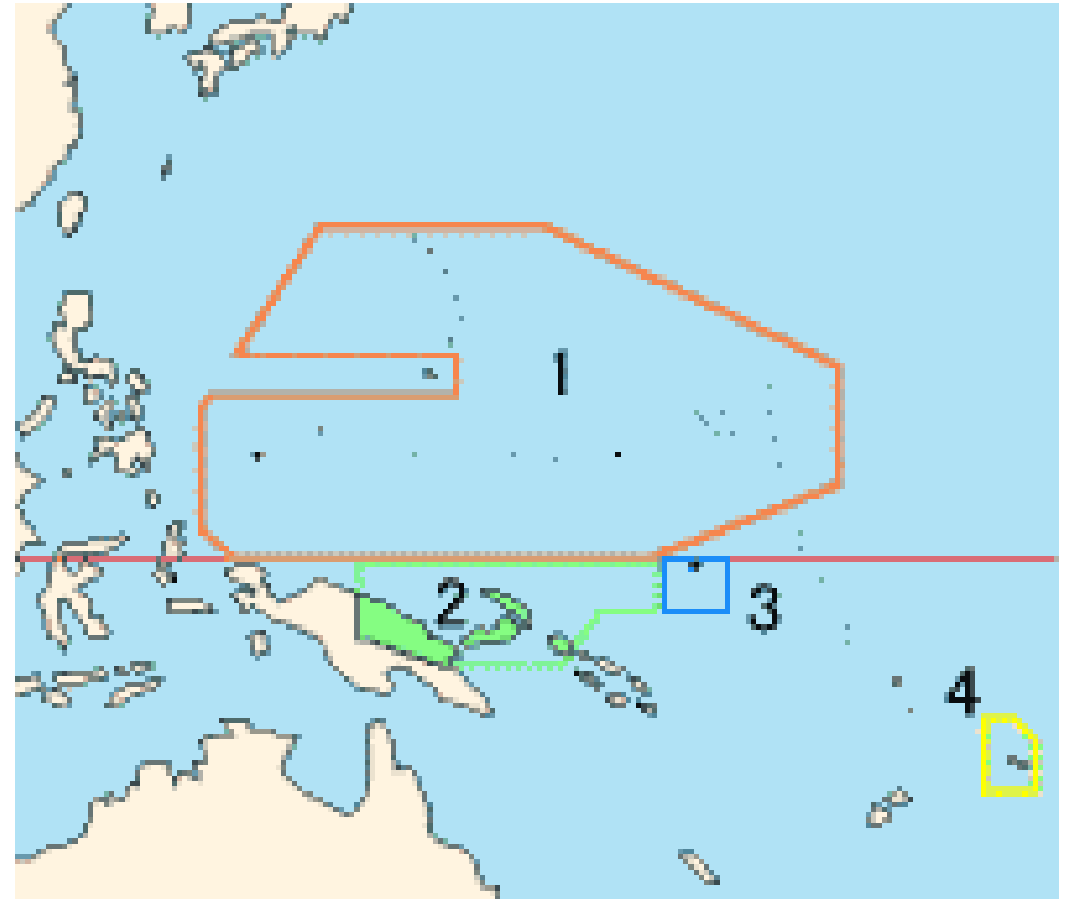
# League of Nations Mandates

The Treaty of Versailles handed over former German colonies to the victorious powers to administer on behalf of the League of Nations. The Pacific Mandates were:

1. South Pacific Mandate – Japan
2. Territory of New Guinea – Australia
3. Nauru – Australia, Britain and New Zealand
4. Western Samoa – New Zealand

The Japanese had moved an amendment to the Covenant of the League of Nations claiming equality of treatment for all members of the signatory states. The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Hughes, had a hard struggle in successfully opposing the Japanese amendment.

During the debate on the Peace Treaty in the House of Representatives on 17th September 1919, it was said that "Australia has taken its frontiers northward to Rabaul, but the frontier of Japan has been brought southward 3,000 miles to the equator, until their front door and our back door almost adjoin".



until their front door and our back door almost adjoin



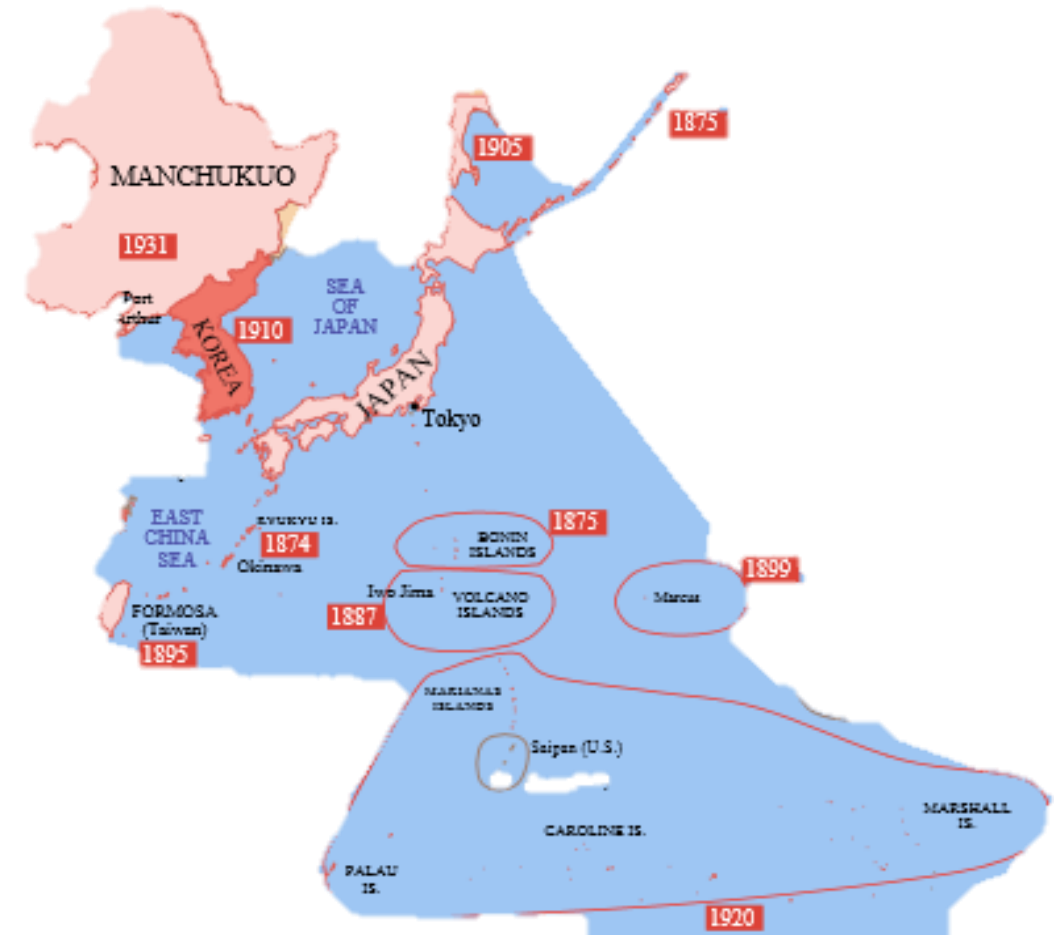


# Japanese Outrage Against the West

- The Anglo Japanese Alliance was due to be extended in 1921.
- The British, urged by Canada and with Australia dragging behind, feared that extending the alliance would lead to conflict with America.
- America invited the Pacific powers to Washington for talks on the Pacific and Far East, and naval disarmament.
- Japan joined the conference in hopes of avoiding a war with the United States. The Pacific powers, the United States, Japan, France and Britain signed the Four-Power Treaty, which defined a minimal structure for international relations in the Pacific without any commitment to armed alliances, which provided for the termination of the Anglo Japanese Alliance.
- The victors of World War I, Britain, the United States, Japan, France, and Italy, after the loser's fleets had been scuttled, agreed to prevent an arms race by limiting naval construction, in the Washington Treaty in 1922. The treaty provided:
  - A ten-year pause in the construction of battleships and aircraft carriers.
  - The limitation of capital ships to give a 5:5:3:1.75:1.75 ratio of tonnage with Britain, the United States, Japan, France and Italy respectively.
- America and Japan had large construction programs in train. Britain, impoverished by the Great War, could not afford to match them so was happy to have them stopped even though it meant accepting parity with America, instead of the two power standard which was applied when Britain really did rule the waves.
- The logic behind the 5:5:3 ratio was that America and Britain had responsibilities in two oceans while Japan was only a Pacific power. Japan did not accept the logic but accepted the treaty ratio because it could not win a building race with America.
- The Naval Treaty caused public outrage in Japan partly because it was another unequal treaty and partly because it trespassed on the Emperor's prerogative to command the Navy.
- Other causes of outrage against the West were the failure to get racial equality into the League of Nations Covenant and the termination of the Anglo Japanese Alliance.
- As the 20s and 30s went on racist immigration rules and protectionist trade policies in America, Australia and Britain provided grounds for more outrage.

# 1931 – The Manchurian Incident

- Japanese influence in Manchuria had grown following construction of the South Manchurian Railway.
- In 1931 the Japanese Kwantung army, stationed there to protect the railway, detonated an explosion near the railway line (the Mukden Incident), blamed the Chinese and invaded and occupied the whole of Manchuria after five months of fighting.
- The incident had been staged despite specific orders from the Japanese government, nevertheless Japan went on to institutionalise its control over Manchuria by installing the last emperor of China, Puyi, as head of the puppet state of Manchukuo.
- Militarily too weak to challenge Japan directly, China appealed to the League of Nations for help.
- The League's investigation led to the publication of the Lytton Report, condemning Japan for its incursion into Manchuria, causing Japan to withdraw from the League of Nations in March 1933.



# Military Influence on the Government

- Ultra-nationalist groups in Japan increased in power and vehemence. In protest against the moderation of the Japanese Government, a fanatic had shot the Prime Minister, Mr Hamaguchi, in 1930.
- Japan's political system was so constructed that the Cabinet's responsibility was to the Emperor rather than to Parliament. Further, the armed forces were able in effect not only to act independently of or even without the knowledge of the Cabinet, but to force the resignation of a Cabinet with which they were at odds.
- On 15 May 1932 the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister were assassinated by young naval officers, they had also planned to kill Charlie Chaplin, visiting Japan and due to attend a reception with the prime minister, but he had gone to watch a sumo contest with the prime minister's son.
- Another attempted coup d'état in Japan was organized by a group of young Army officers on 26 February 1936. The rebels assassinated several leading officials (including two former prime ministers) and occupied the government centre of Tokyo. They failed to assassinate Prime Minister Okada, shooting his brother in law by mistake, or to secure control of the Imperial Palace, and the coup failed.
- These affairs were very discouraging to moderate statesmen and the military increasingly controlled the government.



# 1933- 35 The beginning of Rearmament

- Japan gave notice of her intention to resign from the League in 1933
- and in December 1934 of her intention to abandon the Washington Treaty;
- Subsequently, both Japan and the United States announced increases in their shipbuilding programs.
- In January 1933 Hitler's Nazi party had been elected in Germany and then passed draconian legislation banning opposition parties. In October 1933 Germany withdrew from the Disarmament Conference and the League of Nations.
- In March 1935 the British White Paper on Defence Policy was published, announcing the decision to modernise defences; and
- the same month, March 1935, Germany announced the official constitution of an air force and the adoption of conscription to provide an army of 500,000 men. A few days later Hitler told the British Foreign Secretary in Berlin that Germany had already reached air parity with Britain.
- Under the Treaty of Versailles Germany was forbidden to raise an air force.



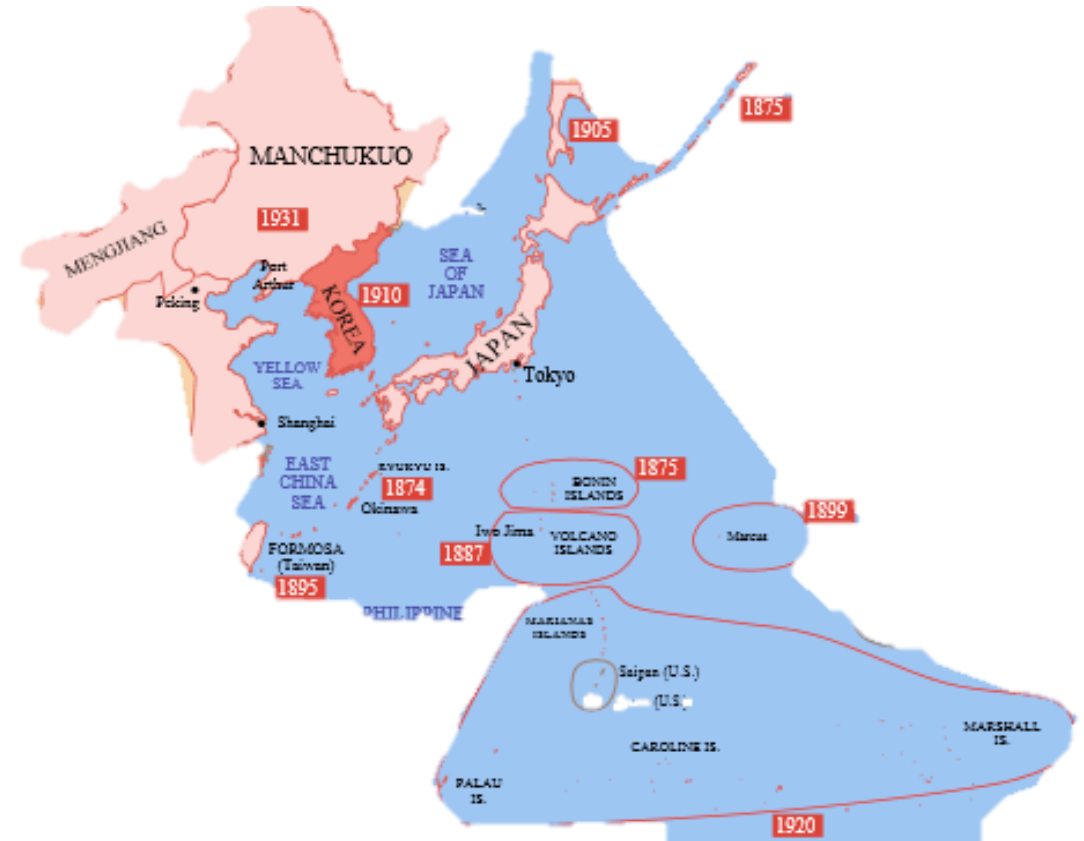
Yamato. The three Yamato class ships were the biggest battleships ever built.



Aircraft carrier Shokaku

# 1937 Second Sino Japanese War

- An incident at the Marco Polo Bridge near Peking in 1937, between Japanese and Chinese troops was escalated into a battle by the Japanese.
- The Chinese government decided that it was now necessary to mount full scale resistance to continuing Japanese aggressions and they attacked the Japanese settlements and garrison at Shanghai. This expanded to a major battle with the Japanese committing 200,000 men and extensive air and naval forces.
- After a three month battle the Japanese captured Shanghai and went on to capture the Chinese capital of Nanking in December 1937.
- These campaigns involved 350,000 Japanese soldiers, and even more Chinese.
- After the capture of Nanking Japanese troops tortured and murdered up to 300,000 Chinese and raped tens of thousands of women during the "Rape of Nanking" in December 1937 and January 1938.
- Affronts to British and American interests were frequent during the war in China. A Japanese battery shelled the British and American gunboats on the Yangtse River in December 1937 and the American gunboat Panay was bombed and sunk by Japanese planes with three of the crew killed and eleven seriously injured in the same month. It seems probable that these were deliberate attempts to discourage foreign individuals and governments from remaining in China.



# League of Nations

- Formed in 1920 to prevent wars through collective security and disarmament and to settle international disputes through negotiation and arbitration, the league was weakened from the beginning when the American Congress refused to permit America to join the League.
- The Manchurian Incident weakened the League because its major members refused to tackle Japanese aggression. Japan withdrew from membership in March 1933.
- Germany withdrew in October 1933 nine months after Hitler became Chancellor.
- In October 1933 the failure of the Disarmament Conference became evident.
- In October 1935, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini invaded Abyssinia. The League condemned Italy's aggression and imposed economic sanctions in November 1935, but the sanctions were largely ineffective because they did not cut off oil supplies. The Italians withdrew from the League in December 1937.
- When Japan began a full-scale invasion of China in 1937 the Chinese appealed to the League for help. Western countries were sympathetic to the Chinese but the League was unable to provide any actual help.

# 1938 American Protests

- The Rape of Nanking – which followed the sinking of the Panay – shocked the civilised world, but nothing was done about it.
- Almost every week, news reached Mr Grew, the US ambassador in Tokyo, of fresh outrages against American persons and property in China; the Japanese government either denied that they were done by Japanese soldiers or expressed its sorrow and assurance of no repetition.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1938 the US announced a moral embargo on the export of planes to Japan. The US was “strongly opposed to the sale of airplanes to any nation making a practice of bombing civilians from the air”.
- A legal embargo would have violated the commercial treaty with Japan.
- Mr Grew warned his government that if Japan were deprived of oil she would move south and take what she wanted from Borneo and Sumatra, so an embargo should not be imposed unless the US was prepared to see it through to its logical conclusion, which might mean war.

# 1939 A war of Attrition

- The Japanese captured Wuhan in October 1938, forcing the KMT to retreat to Chungking but Chiang Kai-shek refused to negotiate and continued the resistance.
- With casualties and costs mounting, the Japanese attempted to break Chinese resistance by launching massive air raids on civilian targets. Starting in January 1939 they hit Chungking and most other major cities in unoccupied China.
- The Japanese attempted to cut off the flow of supplies to China from the outside world by naval blockade and capture of the major ports.
- By the end of October 1938, Japanese troops had landed 35 miles north-east of Hong Kong, and surrounded it, cutting off supplies through Hong Kong, and positioning themselves for a swift and probably successful assault.
- There now remained three supply routes into China;
  - The North West from Russia,
  - French Indo China through Hanoi and
  - The Burma road.
- Chiang's main objective was to drag out the war for as long as possible, to exhaust Japanese resources.





# 1940 Exploiting French Collapse

- On the **16th June** the new French Government, formed by Marshal Petain and based in Vichy, asked the Germans for an armistice.
- Japan, on **20th June** demanded that the Vichyite French government of Indo-China stop the transport of war materials through Indo-China to China. The French complied.
- On the **30th August** the French Vichy Government consented to a Japanese military occupation of northern Indo-China and the construction of three airfields there.
- This enabled the Japanese to enforce the cutting of supply routes into China and to extend their airforce's reach into China.
- The war in China continued on the ground and in the air. Air raids on Chungking, the new Chinese capital, were usually made by 90 to 100 bombers, protected by the new, fast and manoeuvrable Zero fighter.



# Development of the Axis

- The first step was the treaty signed by Germany and Italy in **October 1936**.
- On **18 November 1936** Japan recognised the Italian occupation of Ethiopia, in return Italy recognised the Japanese occupation of Manchuria.
- The next step was the signing in **November 1936** of the Anti-Comintern Pact, an anti-communist treaty between Germany and Japan. Italy joined the Pact in 1937.
- The "Rome–Berlin Axis" became a military alliance in 1939 under the so-called "Pact of Steel".
- The Tripartite Pact was signed by Germany, Italy, and Japan on **27 September 1940**, in Berlin.
  - Japan, Germany, and Italy .... undertake to assist one another with all political, economic and military means if one of the Contracting Powers is attacked by a Power at present not involved in the European War or in the Japanese-Chinese conflict.
- The Soviet–Japanese Neutrality Pact was signed on **April 13, 1941**, two years after the brief Soviet–Japanese Border War (1939). The pact permitted the Soviet Union to concentrate on its Western borders and permitted Japan to strike south without too much concern about its borders with Russia.

# American Intervention against Japan

- During air raids on Chungking on **6-7 July 1939** bombs fell on an American church near the embassy and close aboard the river gunboat USS Tutuila.
- On **26 July** the United States gave notice that her commercial treaty with Japan would be abrogated, clearing the way for the imposition of economic sanctions when the treaty expired in **January 1940**, and also increased her economic aid to China.
- In **July 1940** the United States initiated economic sanctions against Japan.
  - Congress passed an Act authorising the President to prohibit export of munitions he considered necessary for defence. The President then prohibited the export, except to Britain and her allies, of aviation fuel and certain kinds of iron and steel scrap.
- On **26th September** America placed a virtual ban upon export of any grade of iron or steel scrap to Japan.

# Naval Precedents

- On the night of **11–12 November 1940** British naval aircraft attacked the Italian battle fleet at anchor in Taranto Harbour. 24 Swordfish torpedo bombers, from the aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious*, attacked. Half carried torpedoes. Despite the shallow water in the port the 12 torpedo armed Swordfish sank three battleships.
- In **May 1941** swordfish, from HMS Ark Royal, attacked the German battleship Bismark in the open Atlantic and scored a hit, which so damaged her that she was only able to steam in circles until the pursuing battleships came up and sank her.



A Fairey Swordfish Mk I Naval torpedo aircraft



# 1941 – More exploitation of German victories

- In **March** the Vichy French Government gave Japan the right to occupy the airport at Saigon, which enabled her to dominate the whole of Indo-China and brought her within bombing distance of Singapore.
- After the Netherlands were occupied by the Germans, Japanese economic delegations visited Batavia and pressed for access to more oil and larger immigration quotas. After many weeks of discussion they were refused, and negotiations were finally broken off on the **18th June 1941**.
- **On 22nd June** Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Initial German successes further reduced Japanese concerns about possible attacks from Russia.

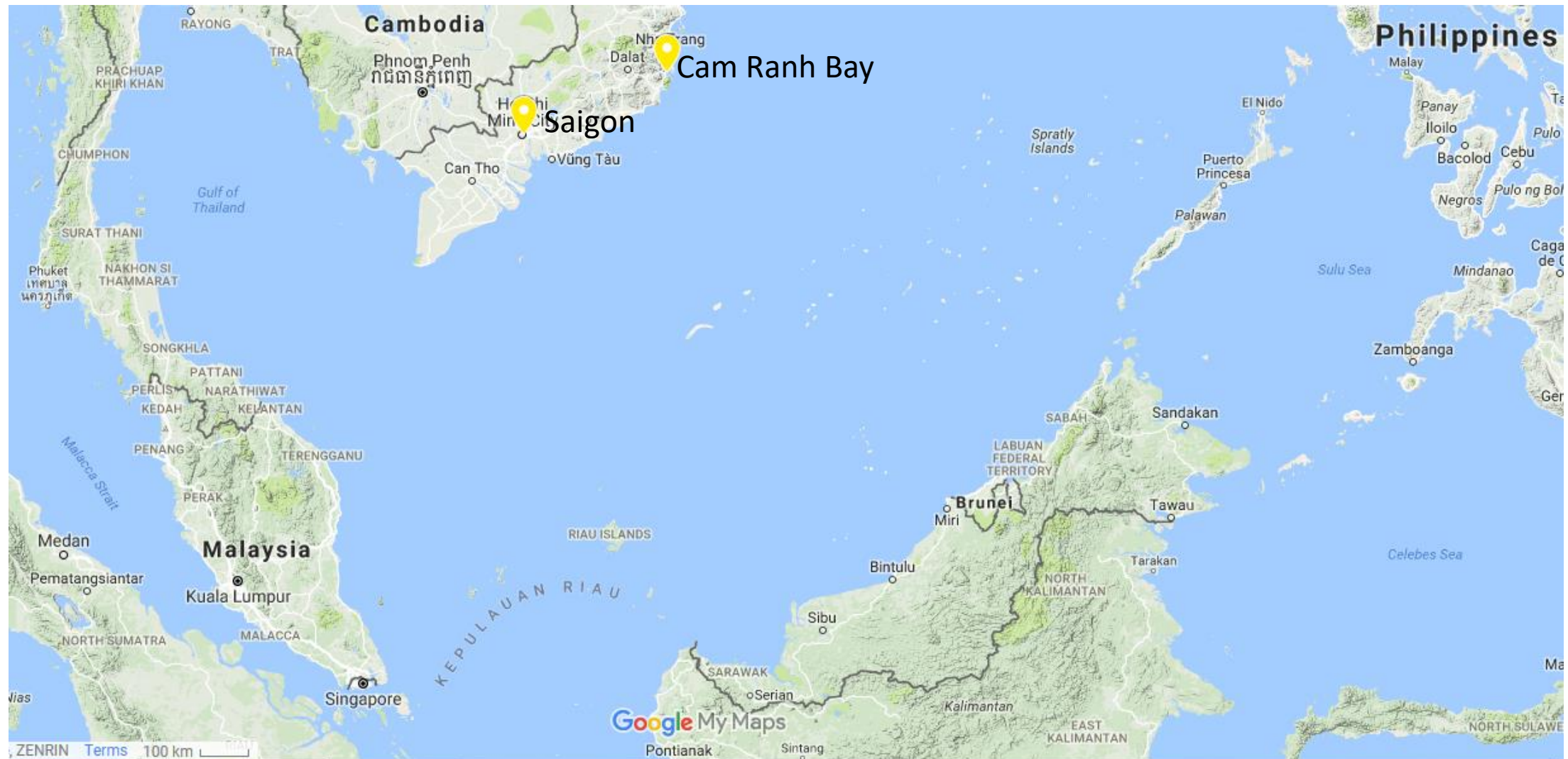




# 1941 American sanctions

- The Lend-Lease Bill, which allowed the US to provide supplies to countries fighting tyranny, without requiring payment, was passed on **11th March**. This provided supplies for China, but delivery was limited by the capacity of the Burma road.
- On **23rd July** the Japanese demand for bases in French Indo-China became known and on **24th July** Japanese troops began moving into southern Indo-China. They secured the use of a naval base at Camranh Bay, 750 miles from Singapore, and airfields within 300 miles of Kota Bharu, nearest point in Malaya, and Japanese troops reached the frontier of Thailand.
- On **26th July** President Roosevelt froze all Japanese assets in the United States by executive order. The British and Netherlands Governments promptly did the same. The concurrent action of all three governments deprived Japan at a stroke of her oil imports.
- Japan depended on imports for 90% of its oil consumption. Imports reaching 37 million barrels of crude and products in 1940/41. The US, Britain and the Netherlands controlled over 80% of world production and another 10% was in the USSR so there were no alternative commercial sources for the sort of quantities of oil that Japan needed.
- The Netherlands East Indies was the nearest source with sufficient production to replace Japanese imports from America, but the Dutch government was also a party to the freeze of Japanese assets.
- The United States intercepted and decoded a message from the Japanese Foreign Minister, on **31st July 1941** to the Ambassador in Berlin, telling him to explain to Hitler why Japan was moving south instead of against Russia.

# 1941 – More exploitation of German victories



# 1941 US Japan Negotiations

- On **August 6<sup>th</sup>** the Japanese special envoy in Washington, presented a proposal for a general settlement.
  - Japan would undertake not to advance further into South East Asia, and offered to evacuate Indo China on settlement of “the China incident”.
  - In return the United states were to renew trade relations and help Japan to obtain all the raw materials she required from the South West Pacific.
- On **17th August**, on returning from his meeting with Churchill off Newfoundland, Roosevelt warned the Japanese that if Japan took any further steps in pursuance of domination, by force or threat of force, of neighbouring countries, the Government of the United States would feel compelled to take immediately any and all steps to safeguard the rights and interests of the United States and American nationals and towards ensuring the safety and security of the United States.
- On **18 October** Prince Konoye, the Japanese prime minister, resigned and was replaced by the war minister, General Tojo, who also retained both the war and home ministries.



General Hideki Tojo Prime Minister and  
leader of the Imperial Rule Assistance  
Association

# 1941 US Japan Negotiations

- On **5<sup>th</sup> November** US codebreakers deciphered an intercepted radio message from Tokyo to its Washington embassy, sent that day; advising that it was absolutely necessary that negotiations with the Americans be successfully completed by the **25<sup>th</sup> of November**.
- On the **20<sup>th</sup> November** the Japanese envoys handed to Hull a six - point proposal for a temporary agreement or modus vivendi, but it was not significantly different from the 6<sup>th</sup> August proposals.
- The American Chiefs of Staff needed, and asked their Government for, time (convoys of troops to reinforce the Philippines were at sea in the Pacific).
- On **22<sup>nd</sup> November** US codebreakers deciphered an intercepted radio message from Tokyo to its Washington embassy, sent on the same day advising that the deadline for negotiations could be extended to the **29<sup>th</sup> November** as long as there were real hopes of a successful outcome.
- The talk in Washington of *a modus vivendi* had greatly scared China, who feared that any form of Japanese-American settlement would mean that she would lose the American support she had received in the past and any hope of armed American support if the Japanese attack on her should be intensified. A protest by Chiang Kai-shek direct to Roosevelt (reinforced by similar protest to Churchill) had the effect of causing Hull to make fresh proposals to Nomura on **26 November**, demanding complete Japanese withdrawal from both Indochina and China.
- On **27<sup>th</sup> November** a message from Japan's Foreign Minister, to the Washington embassy was intercepted which stated that the negotiations would be ruptured. "I do not wish you to give the impression that the negotiations are broken off," said Togo. "Merely say to them that you are awaiting instructions."
- On **30<sup>th</sup> November** President Roosevelt had before him an intercept from Tokyo to Berlin telling the Japanese ambassador to warn Hitler that "there is extreme danger that war may suddenly break out between the Anglo Saxon nations and Japan, this may come quicker than anyone dreams".



# The Gathering Storm

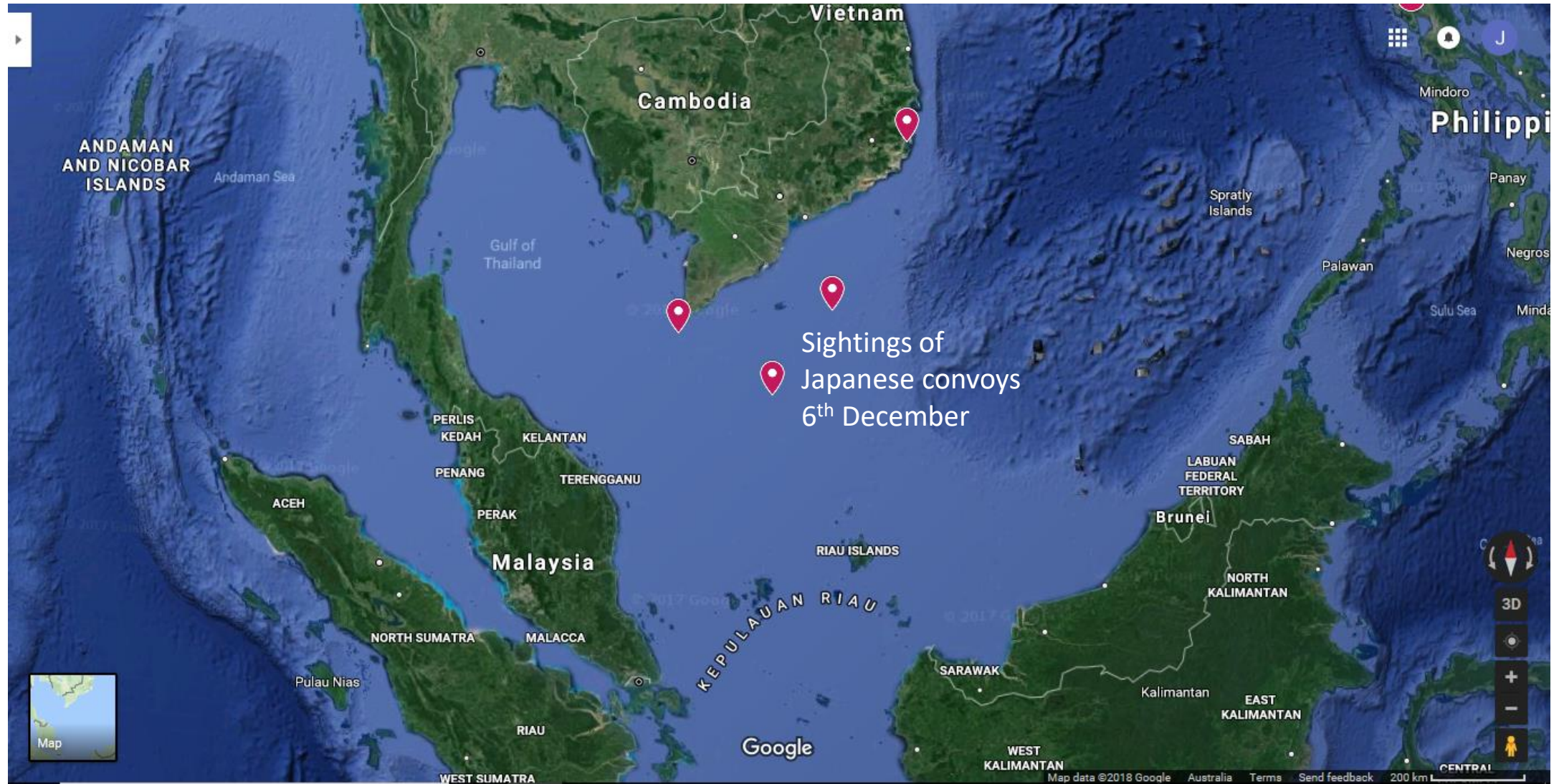
- **29 November 1941:** At 00.27, USS Luzon, carrying Admiral Glassford, and USS Oahu depart Shanghai.
  - 1 December 1941: Formosa Straits, Luzon and Oahu en route Shanghai to Manila encounter a large Japanese convoy headed southward. An IJN floatplane circles the Americans, followed by seven Japanese warships of various types.
- **1 December:** A Summary issued by ONI Washington, circulated to Pacific and Asiatic Fleets, stated:
  - “Deployment of naval forces to the southward has indicated clearly that extensive preparations are underway for hostilities. .. troop transports and freighters are pouring continually down from Japan and northern China coast ports headed south, apparently for French Indo-China and Formosan ports. Present movements to the south appear to be carried out by small individual units, but organisation of an extensive task force .. will probably take sharper form in the next few days. To date, this task force .. appears to be subdivided into two major groups, one .. concentrating off the South-east Asiatic coast, the other in the Mandates. Each constitutes a strong striking force of heavy and light cruisers, units of the Combined Air Force, destroyers and submarine squadrons. .. the major capital ship strength remains in home waters, as well as the greatest portion of the carriers.
  - equipment being carried south is a vast assortment including landing boats in considerable numbers. Activity in the Mandates (includes)..large reinforcements of personnel, aircraft, munitions”
- **2 December:** PBYs of patrol wing 10 at Manila reported 20 Japanese ships at Camranh bay on the coast of Indochina.
  - Next day 50 ships including cruisers and destroyers were reported at Camranh bay.
  - On the 4<sup>th</sup> there were none.
  - Further reconnaissance had to be abandoned because of violent weather.



# The Gathering Storm

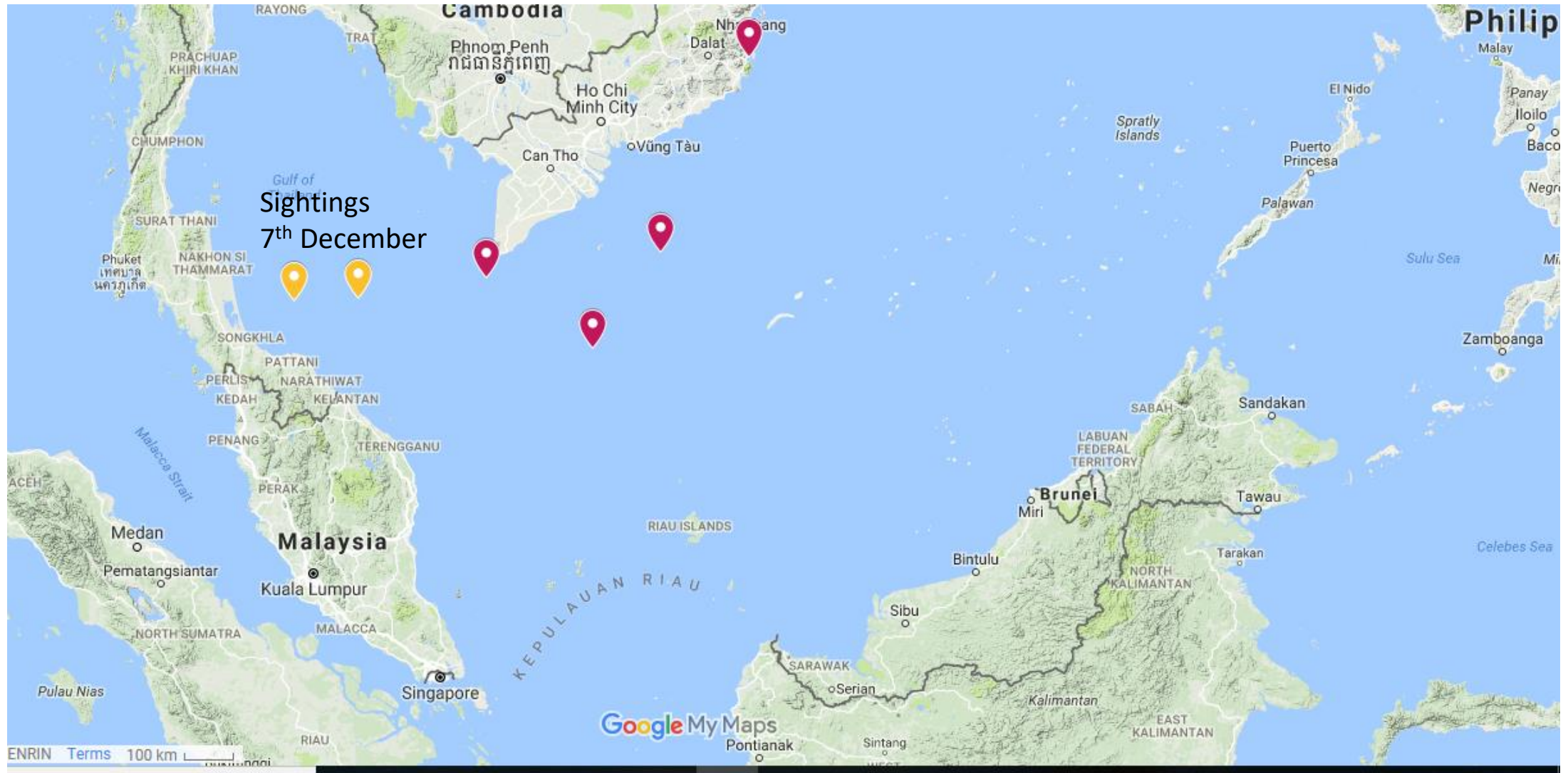
- **2 December:** an unidentified aircraft was detected over Clark Field at approximately 05.30.
  - Pursuit pilots of the Far East Air Force received orders to intercept any such plane thereafter.
  - A plane was detected, on each of the next three nights but attempts at interception failed.
- **4 & 5 December:** At Kota Bharu, the monsoon deluge had turned the airfield into a morass so that for two days all aircraft of No 1 squadron RAAF were grounded. The searches by Hudsons of No. 8 Squadron and the Dutch Catalinas produced no information.
- **5 December:** The Melbourne Age reported:
  - Reports from Shanghai state that the Japanese are continuing to concentrate troops in the vicinity of Shanghai, apparently awaiting transport to the south.
- **6th December:** three Hudsons from No. 1 Squadron RAAF managed to get off the water-soaked runway at Kota Bharu to fly searches.
  - At 12.15 p.m. Flight Lieutenant Ramshaw, sighted three Japanese vessels—a motor ship, a minelayer and a minesweeper, he decided—185 miles from Kota Bharu, on a bearing of 052 degrees and a course of 340 degrees.
  - A quarter of an hour later Ramshaw recorded a second sighting; of one battleship, 5 cruisers, 7 destroyers and 22 transports, 265 miles from Kota Bharu, steering due west towards it.
  - At 12.45 p.m., Flight Lieutenant Emerton, reported sighting a comparably large force bearing 072 degrees, 360 miles from Kota Bharu and on the same course as that reported by Ramshaw.

# The Gathering Storm





# The Gathering Storm



# The Wave Breaks

- 7 December
  - A Catalina flying boat sent to take over the search in the early part of the night returned to Singapore at 8 a.m. on the 7th without having seen anything of the enemy convoys because of bad weather; another, dispatched at 2 a.m. on 7th December, failed either to report or return.
  - The Dutch Catalinas, the remaining Catalina of No. 205 Squadron and Hudsons from No. 1 and No 8 Squadrons and the photo reconnaissance Beaufort continued the reconnaissance. But the crews were defeated by the heavy monsoon weather.
  - At 3.45 p.m. a Hudson of No. 8 Squadron reported intercepting a Japanese merchant ship steaming south with "a large number of men on deck in khaki.
  - A Hudson, piloted by Flight Lieutenant Lockwood, signalled that at 5.50 p.m. it had sighted a cruiser and a motor-ship 112 miles from Kota Bharu, on a bearing of 009 degrees and a course of 270 degrees. The cruiser opened fire on the Hudson which took successful evasive action.
  - Flight Lieutenant Douglas, at 6.48 pm reported four large vessels steaming almost due south in a position about 60 miles north of Patani on the Kra Isthmus. Night had fallen and he was unable to describe the force with certainty; he thought it comprised a cruiser and three transports.
- 8 December
  - **00.35 in Malaya (03.05 Melbourne):** Kota Bharu airfield hear gunfire from the beach two miles away.
  - **07.57 at Pearl Harbour (04.27 Melbourne):** 14<sup>th</sup> Naval District broadcasts "Air raid Pearl Harbour—this is no drill."