

Philippines, Bataan and Corregidor, as well as Darwin and
Australia's war against Japan's Military (Monster's) Bakimono's
By : Jaime L. Calero

27th September 1940 - Japan/Germany/Italy - 'Tripartite
Pact'Agreed "to sustain each other politically, economically and
militarily."

On the 5th November 1941, Japans "Fleet Admiral Yamamoto issued
an order authorising "secret reconnaissance of strategic points in
the Australian area and in case of discovery, make immediate
preparations to attack and destroy the (enemy) unit responsible."

In Australia - Eric Nave (and British - James Rusbridge) in their
book 'Betrayal at Pearl Harbour', stated that "on the 19th November
1941 - Japan commenced hostilities. Not against America or Britain
but Australia, when the German surface raider Kormoran met the
Australian cruiser HMAS Sydney off the western coast of Australia
and fought the most mysterious naval battle of World War II."

It was later confirmed that the HMAS Sydney could only have been
sunk by a Japanese submarine as indicated in a series of
cryptograms found on, Kormorans' Intelligence Officer, Dr. Fritz
List. When one of them was decrypted - it stated, "Honour was
conferred on the Kormoran .. until reinforcements arrived. In the
evening conquered the victim, a Japanese gunfire attack from Japan
itself."

Two month's after on the evening of 19th January 1942 - a Japanese
submarine followed a merchant ship cruiser entering Darwin
harbour. The submarine was sunk and one of the items recovered
by the Australian divers was a 'Japanese Naval Code Book'. (Could
this have been the submarine that helped the Kormoran sink the
HMAS Sydney?)

For those who are not aware, the original plan of the Japanese Navy
was out to seize important points in Australia as far down in
Queensland as Townsville.

Luckily the Japanese Army refused to cooperate with their Navy in
the plans of an Australian invasion, which required a minimum of
10 Combat Divisions as the Army said it could not spare them at
the point in time.

The Japanese however did land their forces in New Heberdies, to
cut off Australia and bring Northern Australian parts and airfields
within range of Japanese warships and bombers.

The General Staff in Tokyo wanted to attack Australia and rightly
argued that Australia would become the springboard for the Allies
counter-offensive against Japan as they felt that there was an
urgent need to have Australia under Japanese control, or at least
cut it off from the US.

So it was that the Federal government in Canberra, still reeling from the shock of loosing 20,000 men in the debacle at Singapore, recalled two of it's veteran Divisions from the Middle East to help defend the homeland.

The invasion of Australia now seemed inevitable. The capture of Java had left it virtually defenceless. One by one, its lines of transportation and communication with the rest of the world were broken.

At that time there were 7 million Australians and many of them, civilians and military alike - talked freely of the Brisbane Line (an imaginary line drawn from Brisbane on the central - east coast to Adelaide in the south), on which the fight for the then true heart of Australia would be made.

The vast empty areas comprising three-quarters of the Continent to the north and west seemed un-defendable and after a token of resistance would be abandoned to the Japanese.

During that time there was little doubt that the Philippines would be lost, as Malaya, Singapore and the Dutch East Indies were doomed, and even Australia faced grave danger of invasion.

The world had never seen anything comparable to the concrete victorious Japanese offensives which followed that first bold strike at Pearl Harbour (December 8, 1941).

Allied commanders had speculated over whether the Niponese would attack the Philippines, HongKong, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies or Hawaii.

No one dreamed that they would lounge simultaneously towards all of them, and overwhelm all in twenty-one weeks, at negligible cost to themselves.

London had assured Washington that Singapore the 'City of the Lion' could hold indefinitely. The Dutch were sure that the Malay Barrier, that chain of islands which runs from the Isthmus of Kra in the southern Siam to Timor, north of Australia, was impenetrable.

The Australians and New Zelanders, confident that their homelands were safe, had sent virtually all their own troops to fight Rommel in the western desert.

When 90,000 Allied troops surrendered at Singapore, Churchill wrote that it was "the worst disaster and largest capitulation of British history."

Less then two weeks after, 74 Japanese warships wiped out the combined American -British - Dutch - Australian Fleet in the seven hour battle of the Java Sea, the largest surface engagement since Jutland.