

Japanese Ultimatum and Declaration of War Germany

(1)

15 August 1914.

(21)

Official Gazette Extra

Sunday, 28 August 1914

Printing Bureau

IMPERIAL EDICT

By the Grace of Heaven, we Emperor of Japan seated on the Throne occupied by the same Dynasty from time immemorial, state to you our faithful and courageous people. We hereby declare war against Germany. Our Army and Navy shall devote themselves to the warfare with all their strength and all our government officials shall perform their duties to achieve the objective of this militant nation. You shall take every possible means available under the provisions of International Law and be sure not to make any infringement thereof.

We have deeply grieved over the disasters caused by the present European War and it has been our earnest desire to observe neutrality in order to maintain the peace of the Orient. Now, the actions of Germany have finally compelled Great Britain, our ally, to commence hostilities, and at KIAOCHOW Bay, her leased territory, she has been busily preparing day and night for war while her war vessels have made frequent appearances on the waters of East Asia. This placed pressure on the commerce and trade of our Empire and its Allies, and the peace of the Far East was greatly endangered. Therefore our Government and the Government of His Majesty the King of England carried out heart to heart talks between them and both Governments agreed to take necessary measures for protecting all the interests contemplated in the Treaty of Alliance. So we desired to take all possible peaceful steps for attaining this objective. We first had our Government sincerely advise the Government of the German Empire. Our Government, however, received no reply of assent up to the appointed day.

It has not been long since we came to the Throne and are still in mourning the death of our Mother. Despite our constant love for peace, we were at last compelled to declare war. This, we deeply regret.

We rely upon the faithfulness and courage of you, our people, and expect to restore peace promptly to enhance the glory of the Empire.

Imperial sign-manual and seal

23 August 1914

Premier and concurrently Minister of Home Affairs	Count OKUMA, Shigenobu
Minister of Agriculture and Commerce	Viscount OURA, Kanetake
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Baron KATO, Takaaki
Minister of War	OKA, Ichinosuke
Minister of Navy	YASHIRO, Rokuro
Minister of Finance	WAKATSUKI, Reijiro
Minister of Education	Doctor of Laws, ITSUKI, Kitokuro
Minister of Justice	OZAKI, Yukio
Minister of Communication	TAKETOMI, Tokitoshi

Translated by D. Iwanoaga

Official Gazette. Extra ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Year~~ ①

Sunday, 28 August, 19~~18~~¹⁴

Printing Bureau

Imperial Edict

By the Grace of Heaven, ^{the} Emperor of

Japan seated on the Throne occupied

by the same Dynasty from time

^{our} ~~my~~ faithful and courageous
immemorial, state to you people.

^{We} ~~I~~ hereby declare war against Germany.

^{our} ~~my~~ Army and Navy ^{shall} ~~should~~ devote themselves

to the warfare with all their strength and

(2)

all ^{our} ~~my~~ government officials ^{shall} ~~should~~ perform
their duties to achieve the objective of this
militant nation. You ^{shall} ~~should~~ take every
possible means available under the provisions
of International Law and be sure not
to make any ~~violation~~ ^{infringement thereof}.

We
~~we~~ have deeply grieved over the disasters
caused by the present European War and
it has been ^{our} ~~my~~ earnest desire to observe
neutrality in order to maintain the peace of
the Orient. ^{Now,} ~~At this time,~~ the actions of
^{Love} ~~the~~ Germany, finally compelled Great Britain,

~~my~~ Our Ally, to commence hostilities; and

at KIAOCHOW Bay, her leased Territory,

she ~~was~~ ^{has been} busily preparing for war ^{day and night} ~~day~~ while

~~and night~~ ^{have made} making frequent appearances

~~of~~ (her war vessels) on the waters of East

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commerce and trade of ^{our} ~~my~~ Empire and

its Allies, and the peace of ^{the} Far East

was ^{greatly} ~~bitingly~~ endangered. Therefore, ^{our} ~~my~~

Government and the Government of His

Majesty the King of England carried out

heart to heart talks
 a confidential negotiation between them
 and both Governments agreed to take
 necessary measures for protecting all the
 contemplated interests anticipated in the Treaty of Alliance.

As ^{we} ~~we~~ desired to take all ^{possible} peaceful steps
 for attaining this objective, ^{we} ~~we~~ first had

^{our} ~~our~~ Government ^{sincerely} whole heartedly advise the
 Government of ^{the} German Empire. ^{our} ~~our~~ Government,

however, received no reply of ^{assent up to} ~~consent~~
 the appointed day.

It ~~is~~ ^{has} not ^{been} a long ^{since} time ago that ^{we} ~~we~~ came

to the Throne and ~~we~~ are still in mourning

(the death of)

~~our~~ ~~our~~ mother. Despite ~~my~~ our constant

love for peace, ~~we~~ ~~were~~ at last compelled

to declare war. This, we deeply regret. ~~This is certainly my~~

deep grief.

~~We~~ ^{We} rely upon the faithfulness and courage

of ~~you~~ ^{you, our} people, and expect to restore

peace promptly to enhance the glory

of the Empire.

Imperial sign-manual and seal

23 August 1914

Premier and concurrently

Minister of Home Affairs Count OKUMA, Shigenobu

Minister of Agriculture

and Commerce Viscount OURA, Kanetake

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Baron KATO, Takaaki

Minister of War

OKA, Ichinosuke

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WAKATSUKI, Reijiro

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Doctor of Laws, ITSUKI, Kitokuro

Minister of Justice

OZAKI, Yukio

Minister of Communication

TAKETOMI, Tokitoshi

Book: Diplomatic History of Japan

Author: Kiyoshi Kiyosawa

Excerpt from page 358

On 15 August, Japan delivered an ultimatum to Germany. It was in the form of an advice, and was drafted by CHOZO, chief of the Administrative Affairs Bureau.

The Imperial Japanese Government believes it to be most urgent under present conditions to eliminate all causes which may disturb peace in the Far East, and to take measures to protect all interests expected by the Anglo-Japanese Alliance in order to maintain lasting peace in the Far East as aimed by the said pact, and here sincerely advises the Imperial German Government to put into effect the following two clauses:

- (1). Immediate withdrawal of German ships and vessels from the surrounding waters of both Japan and China. All vessels and ships which cannot be withdrawn shall be disarmed immediately.
- (2). The Imperial German Government without compensation and unconditionally shall deliver the entire settlement in Kiau-Chau Harbor to the Imperial Japanese authorities by not later than 15 September 1914 with the object of returning the same to China.

The Imperial Japanese Government here proclaims that if she doesn't receive a reply from the Imperial German Government by not later than noon of 23 August 1914 to the effect that the latter consents unconditionally, to the above notice the Japanese Government will then take necessary actions.

Excerpt from page 360

At noon, 23 August when the designated terms expired, it became evident that Germany's intention was to reject our ultimatum by not answering it. On the same day the Declaration of War against Germany was proclaimed and our military powers undertook to attack Tsingtao immediately. On 27 August, Lieutenant General KAMIO, Commander of the 18th KURUME Division was appointed the Commanding General of the Expeditionary Forces and on the same day the Second Fleet under the command of Vice Admiral KATO (Baron Teikichi KATO) declared a blockade of Kiau Chau Bay.

Translated by R. Yamada. 1

Diplomatic History of JAPAN

VOL II

By

Kiyoshi Kiyosawa.

~~Vol II~~

Excerpt from page 358

~~Chapter IV. Firm establishment of~~

~~International JAPAN.~~

~~Article 3. German-Japanese War. / page 358 /~~

On 15 August, JAPAN delivered ~~an~~ an

ultimatum to GERMANY. It had the

form of ^{an} advice, ^(and was) drafted by ~~Chōzō~~

^(Chōzō) KOIKE, Chief of the Bureau of Political

2

Affairs Bureau

The Imperial Japanese Government

believes it to be most urgent under

present conditions to eliminate all causes

which may disturb peace in the Far East,

and to take measures to protect all

interests expected by the Anglo-Japanese

Alliance, in order to maintain

lasting peace in the Far East as

aimed by the said pact, and here

(advices)

sincerely ~~to~~ the Imperial German Govern-
 ment to ~~put into effect~~ ^{the} following two ^{clauses} ~~points~~ ^{subjects}:

No. 1. Immediate withdrawal of ^{GERMAN} German

ships and ^{vessels} boats from ~~both~~ ^{the} Japanese
 surrounding waters of ~~both~~ JAPAN and CHINA.

and Chinese Waters. ~~and those~~
 All ships and vessels which

which cannot be withdrawn, shall
 be disarmed immediately.

No. 2. The Imperial German Government
 (without compensation and ^{unconditionally} ~~without condition~~)

shall deliver the entire settlement

in KIAU-CHAU Harbor ~~not later~~

~~than~~ 15 September, 1914 ~~without~~

reparation and unconditionally
(Imperial Japanese) by not

to the authorities of the Japanese
later than 15 Sep 14)

Government with the ~~aim~~ ^{object} of

returning ^{the} same to CHINA.

She proclaims

The Imperial Japanese Government states
if she does not

that when it will not receive the a

reply from the Imperial German

by not later than

Government until ~~the~~ noon of 23

August, #14 to the effect that the
(to the above notice)

latter consents ~~it~~ unconditionally, the

(then)

Japanese Government will take necessary
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Diplomatic History of Japan

Vol. II

By Kiyosawa Kiyoshi

360 / Excerpt from page 360 /

--- ~~On~~ At noon, ~~of~~ 23 August when

the designated terms expired, it became evident

clear that GERMANY'S intention ^{was} of ~~to~~ ^{reject} ~~our~~ ~~ultimatum~~, by not answering it. ~~refusal without reply for our ultimatum.~~

On the same day the Declaration of War

against GERMANY was proclaimed and

our military powers undertook ^(immediately) to attack

TSINGTAO ~~at once.~~ On 27 August,

Lieutenant-General KAMIO, Commander of

the 18th ~~Division~~ ^(Division) KURUME was appointed

the Commanding General of the Expeditionary

Forces,

~~Troops~~ and on the same day, the Second

Fleet under the command of Vice-Admiral

KATO (Baron Teikichi KATO) declared

^a
~~the~~ blockade of KIAU-CHAU ~~Harbor~~ Bay. --

外 務 省

東京都港區芝田村町二丁目二番地

Ultimatum of Japan to
Germany Aug 15, 1914

帝國政府ハ現下ノ狀勢ニ於テ極東ノ平和ヲ紊亂スヘキ源泉ヲ除去シ日英同盟協約ノ豫期セル全般ノ利益ヲ防護スルノ措置ヲ講スルハ該協約ノ目的トスル東亞ノ平和ヲ永遠ニ確保スルカ爲メニ極メテ緊要ノ事タルヲ思ヒ茲ニ誠意ヲ以テ獨逸帝國政府ニ勤告スルニ同政府ニ於テ左記ニ項ヲ實行セラレムコトヲ以テス

第一

日本及支那海洋方面ヨリ獨逸國艦艇ノ即時ニ退去スルコト退去スルコト能ハサルモノハ直ニ其武裝ヲ解除スルコト

第二

獨逸帝國政府ハ膠州灣租借地全部ヲ支那國ニ還付スルノ目的ヲ以テ一千九百十四年九月十五日ヲ限り無償無條件ニテ日本帝國官憲ニ交附スルコト

日本帝國政府ニ於テ叙上ノ勤告ニ對シ一千九百十四年八月二十三日正午迄ニ無條件ニ應諾ノ旨獨逸帝國政府ヨリノ回答ヲ受領セサ

ルニ於テハ帝國政府ハ其必要ト認ムル行動ヲ執ルヘキコトヲ聲明
ス

連絡調整中央事務局

Considering it highly important and necessary in the present situation, to take measures to remove all causes of disturbance to the peace of the Far East and to safeguard the general interests contemplated by the Agreement of Alliance between Japan and Great Britain, in order to secure a firm and enduring peace in Eastern Asia, establishment of which is the aim of the said Agreement, the Imperial Japanese Government sincerely believe it their duty to give advice to the Imperial German Government to carry out the following two propositions:-

1st. To withdraw immediately from the Japanese and Chinese waters German men-of-war and armed vessels of all kinds, and to disarm at once those which cannot be so withdrawn.

2nd. To deliver on a date not later than September 15th 1914, to the Imperial Japanese Authorities, without condition or compensation, the entire leased territory of Kiao-chou with a view to eventual restoration of the same to China.

The Imperial Japanese Government announce, at the same time, that, in the event of their not receiving by noon August 23, 1914 the answer of the Imperial German Government signifying an unconditional acceptance of the above advice offered by the Imperial Japanese Government, they will be compelled to take such action as they may deem necessary to meet the situation.