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Naval General Staff Directive No. 209

Date: March 25, 1943.

From: Chief of Naval General Staff, Admiral NAGANO, Osami.

To : Commander-in-Chief, Admiral YAMAMOTO

1. The Imperial Naval Operational Policy for the Third Phase of the Pacific War is decided as set forth in Annex I.
2. The Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet shall conduct operations in accordance with the Policy of Operations as defined in Annex II.

ANNEX I.

IMPERIAL NAVAL OPERATIONAL, POLICY FOR THIRD PHASE
OF PACIFIC WAR.

Chapter I

The Campaigns against the United States, the
British Commonwealth, and the Chinese Republic.

I.

The aim of the Imperial naval operations for the 3rd phase of the war is to demolish hostile naval and air forces encroaching upon the east Asiatic waters, to destroy enemy sea traffic lines, and to establish speedily the strategical structure of the Empire so firmly as to insure her self-consolidation and ultimate victory and thereby to frustrate the fighting volition of the enemy. In order to realize these:

1. First of all the foundation of never-failing victory shall be obtained in aerial warfare.
2. Enemy fleets shall be destroyed by surprise in their advanced bases or elsewhere as may be feasible, enemy positions of strategic importance shall be taken or destroyed by surprise as required, and thus the offensive designs of the enemy shall be forestalled; at the same time attempts shall be made to draw out enemy fleets to meet them and destroy.
3. The defense of our strategic positions shall be speedily consolidated, and when enemy forces are seen approaching to our

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areas they shall be destroyed by the closely concerted actions of our sea and air forces which shall initiate attack in ahead of the enemy.

4. By means of intensifying sea traffic destruction warfare the lines of enemy reinforcement and supplies shall be disrupted thus to contribute to a speedy frustration of enemy's fighting morale.
5. Efforts shall be made to protect our lines of sea communications as fully as possible.
6. Stern vigil shall be maintained against enemy's airraid upon the homeland of the Empire.

II Defense

The defense shall be executed in accordance with the below stated division. And the special emphasis of the defense shall be put upon anti-submarine and anti-air measures in the case of the interior lines of the defense, and upon the measures to checkmate invading enemies in close cooperation particularly with local army forces as well as the measures of anti-submarine and anti-airraid protections in the case of the exterior defense lines.

(The forces of the major and minor naval stations

(The forces of the Hainan Minor Naval Station is excepted) the patrol areas under their respective charge;

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The 4th Fleet ... the Mandated South Sea Naval District, and the areas including the Gilbert Islands, Nauru Island, Ocean Island, Wake Island, Guam, Douglas Reef;

The 5th Fleet ... the occupied area in the Aleutian Islands;

The Southeastern Area Fleet ... the occupied areas to the east of and including of British New Guinea;

The Southeastern Area Fleet ... the occupied areas to the west of and including Dutch New Guinea; and

The China Seas Fleet the occupied territories along the China Coast.

III. The Sea Communication Protection

1. The all Major Naval Station Forces, the all Minor Naval Station Forces, the China Seas Fleet, and the Southeastern Area Fleet, the Southwestern Area Fleet, the 4th Fleet, and the 5th Fleet shall protect the lines of sea communications in the waters around Japan, along the China coast and in the vicinity of the occupied territories respectively in accordance with the division of their assignment.

The sea lanes stretching between two or more jurisdictional waters shall be protected by a special force to be designated as situation may demands.

2. Besides the above, units belonging to front line forces shall

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be made to cooperate with the local forces originally assigned to each specific area in the anti-submarine hunt while operating in such area, if their original mission permits as well as if situation so demands.

VI. Transportation and Supply

1. In transporting supplies to the outlying bases for front line field forces, the ships to be employed, the routes of the sailing, and the time of supply shall be adequately selected, and necessary guarding measures shall be taken against the attacks by hostile naval or air forces, in order to insure safety of the supply activities to those front line field forces.
2. Bases situated at the very head of front lines shall be supplied by means of submarines or the like combatant vessels if occasion demands.
3. Every possible assistance shall be made in transporting supplies to army units disposed on outflung positions.

Chapter II

In case War Breaks Out With U.S.S.R. During War

With U.S.A., British Commonwealth, And China (Campaign B)

1. Basic Principle of Operational Policy

The strategical aims to be attained by the Imperial Japanese navy in case war breaks out with the Union of Soviet Socialist

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Republics while we are at war with the United States, the British Empire and the Chinese Republic shall be in the demolition of the hostile naval and air forces in the eastern part of the U.S.S.R. and in the capture and secure possession of strategically important positions in the Kamchatka and northern Sakhalin area aside from the fulfillment of the strategic ends original to the campaign against the U.S.A., the British Commonwealth, and the Chinese Republic.

For this purpose:

1. It shall be striven to attain the operational aims in a short time by means of instituting attack ahead of the enemy at the very beginning of the war using as large forces as possible in close cooperation with the army.
2. In aerial warfare a speedy and complete demolition of enemy air power shall be accomplished, especially through initiating attack ahead of the enemy, in order to pave the way for a speedy favorable development of our operations, both on land and sea, and in order to securely protect the supply routes and important establishments behind the front lines.
3. Special precautions shall be vigilantly maintained against various obstructive measures by the enemy and efforts shall be made to forestall them.
4. The connections between the United States and the U.S.S.R. shall be disrupted as fully as possible.
5. The campaigns against the United States, the British Commonwealth, and the Chinese Republic shall be continued almost in accordance with the operational policy now in operation.

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II. Defense, Sea Traffic Protection
Transportation and Supply, Etc.

1. The important positions of our Empire shall be defended tight and firm, especially against air attack; and the Tsushima Straits, the Tsugaru Straits, and the La Perous Straits shall be blocked against the passage of the enemy vessels.
2. The lines of communications in the waters along the Pacific coast of the Japanese mainland, and along the China coast and in the interim sea area between the above mentioned waters and the occupied southern territories shall be secured laying special emphasis upon the routes from our mainland and China to Korea and Kwantung Peninsula.
3. The following is the schedule for the division of the use of operational bases:

The forces with the 5th Fleet as the main strength

..... in the early stage of the campaign: --

the major naval port at Yokosuka and the minor naval port at Ominato; and later than the middle stage of the campaign:- the major naval port at Maizuru and the minor naval port at Ominato.

The other forces ... same as those now observed.

CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, DOHI, Kazuo, who occupy the post of the Chief of the Historical Section of the Material Readjustment Branch of 2nd Demobilization Section of Demobilization Bureau, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 13 pages and entitled "Naval General Staff Directive No. 209" is an exact and authorized excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (2nd Demobilization Section of Demobilization Bureau).

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 10 day of July, 1947

/S/ DOHI, Kazuo (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place,
on this same date

Witness: SOMIYA, Shinji (seal)