

Pacific Theatre

Part 12a: Extra Limey Edition

In which the British leave Burma, “with dignity”

by Lestrade aka Unpopular Opinion

First published: December 31, 2022

I cannot pay crisis actors £1 trillion in damages for having the wrong opinion. Please no sue.

Hello again. It has been a vicious drive-by of the entire Pacific campaign with events unravelling rapidly. I feel voracious and slightly overwhelmed; swaying, sweating and firing a shotgun wildly at the propaganda mill. Giddy from the realisation of how massive this web of lies is – an entire theatre of war being nonsense—this theatre only supported by normalcy bias, civil compliance and the vast typist pool of military intelligence. The surreal roller-coaster sensation of it all melting upon inspection, baffled that – surely – a million eyes long before me would have seen through it all.

I wanted to put my feet up and laze around playing video games (millennial variation of the Rambo 3 intro, Stallone in that monastery) but the Muses are not done with me. Plus, Miles was doing menacing wheelies on his BMX around my house so I decided to start typing.

The story of the Burma campaign (and I do mean story) was interesting for me as, initially, I had absolutely no knowledge of it. You don't get taught about it at school and it's not something history programs generally focus on. It's kind of tucked away from the “big names” of the Pacific campaign such as Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal. Now I can see why: it's not very well written.

When you look into it, what you find is that unlike with the American approach of whiz-bang Hollywood camera crews, exciting amphibious landing footage and (relatively) carefully doctored photographs, the British had to come up with a shaggy dog story and do it on the cheap. What we end up with is fan-fiction, illogic and a complete lack of supporting evidence. Also precision shooting while suffering from dysentery but we'll get to that. It very much reminds me of when I did a multi-part series on Atomic bombs being a hoax (after Miles schooled me on this and made me aware of the concept) and went from looking at the American lies (good budget) and Soviet/UK lies (bit cheaper, still fairly well done) to [the lies of India, Pakistan and China](#) which were done for about £2.50 and scrawled on the back of a napkin while bombed on tequila. Similarly we find the saga of Burma: the store-brand cola of WW2 narratives.

The short version is: the Japanese sail an invasion fleet to Thailand and nobody does anything to stop this, the Thais immediately agree to work with Japan but go through a ridiculous pretence of having a five hour war to... save face? Possibly they just wanted a better part in the script. The Japanese then walk into Burma. The British immediately abandon the country completely. The excuse for this is that we're so busy fighting Italians and Germans in North Africa that we can't deal with anything in the East. No money, no troops, we're out of pocket. The Brits then hide in India with some Americans, create a famine in India and deploy secret agent Orde Wingate. The Americans are obsessed with building a motorway to China, the Chinese sit around eating dumplings and the Japanese meditate on a secret mountain in Yunnan until 1945 whereupon the school bell rings and everyone goes home for dinner. *Fin.*

There is barely any supporting evidence for the Burma campaign other than “cos we said so” from the various militaries, which at this point is about as useful as an old mouldy sock thrown in a skip.

The longer version: it's the 8th of December, 1941. A day after ole Pearl Harbour. The Japanese want Singapore and want to kick the British out of the region by invading Burma and Malaysia. They start off by going into Thailand to flip Thailand to work for them, then push west and south.



The idea is that there's a “war” between Japan and Thailand, but as [Wikipedia](#) admits it only lasted for about 5 hours:

Date	8 December 1941 (5 hours)
Location	Thailand
Result	Ceasefire <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thai alliance with Japan• Thailand declares war on the Allied Powers.

There's two aspects to this – one is that the Thais blatantly just flipped to the Japanese side immediately but there's this amusing pretence they “fought” a “war”. The second aspect is that if this conflict were genuine the British would have made more of an effort to stop the Japanese, but didn't, so as usual it's all theatre, pre-scripted. Let me break it down for you:

*“As part of conquering Southeast Asia, the Japanese military planned to invade Malaya and Burma. In order to do this, **they needed to make use of Thai ports, railways, and airfields.** They **did not want conflict with the Thai military**, as this would delay the invasion and significantly reduce the element of surprise. The Japanese plan was seen by the Nazi government of Germany as helpful in diverting the United Kingdom's military forces, and thus assisting Germany in its own conflict”*

This is kind of stupid anyway given that the key sites you would want to control (Rangoon, Trincomalee and Singapore) are all ports. You would expect this stage of the war would be about the Japanese Navy needing to sail around the Malaysian peninsula to take Singapore, then Rangoon and then on to take Sri Lanka (because the British fleet are based at Singapore and [the port of Trincomalee](#) so if you take both you cripple the British). Instead the focus is on infantry.

Without wanting to get sidetracked: that's a weird aspect of the entire Burma campaign. All the canon history articles covering it are obsessed with infantry. What should have been a series of naval skirmishes and amphibious landings by the Japanese is instead converted into thousands of words about “Army Group X marches to this site, then Army Group Y marches here” and all the supply lines either having to be carried into the field or breaking down completely. You'll see what I mean.

It makes me think of the North Africa campaign (which someone is going to have do a series on eventually, if not Miles or another guest writer then by God I'll have a crack at it). Bury the conflict in the middle of nowhere. For the Americans it was the atoll of Wiki-Waki-Woo in the Pacific. For the British that's the jungles of northern Burma.

The Thai Prime Minister, anticipating the conflict, spoke to both the British and the Americans to say “Will you help us in the event of a conflict with Japan?”.

“Midway through 1941, Phibun sought British and American guarantees of effective support if Japan invaded Thailand. Neither the United Kingdom nor the United States could give them, although British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was in favour of a public warning to Japan that an invasion of the Southeast Asian kingdom would result in a British declaration of war. However, the United States was unwilling to agree to this, and Britain was not prepared to make it alone.”

That obviously got the Thai PM a bit nervous. The British then chose not to let the Thais know when they spotted the invasion fleet. From [Wikipedia](#):

“At noon on 6 December, one of three RAAF No 1 Squadron Lockheed Hudsons on a reconnaissance flight over the South China Sea, located three Japanese ships steaming west, and about 15 minutes later, sighted the IJN Southern Expeditionary Fleet convoy, consisting of a battleship, five cruisers, seven destroyers and 22 transports. One of the two merchant seaplane tenders with the convoy, the Kamikawa Maru, launched a Mitsubishi F1M "Pete" floatplane to intercept the Hudson, which eluded it by taking cover in the clouds. A few minutes later, a second Hudson also sighted the convoy. Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham was advised of the sightings at 14:00. He was not authorised to take any action against the convoy, as Britain was not at war with Japan, the Japanese intentions were still unclear, and no aggressive action had yet been taken against British or Thai territory. He put his forces in Malaya on full alert and ordered continued surveillance of the convoy.”

Imagine if the Canadians saw a massive Russian armada sailing towards California and were like “Oh, well, we don't know if that's aggressive or not, no need to phone that in.”

The Japanese fleet later shot down an RAF reconnaissance plane killing the crew. Interestingly, these were the first casualties of the Pacific War. Can you guess the last name of the pilot of that doomed scout plane? Go on, have a go.

It was...

...Warrant Officer William E Webb.

Because of course it was. It was either going to be that or a Stanley.

“At 23:00 on 7 December, the Japanese presented the Thai government with an ultimatum to allow the Japanese military to enter Thailand. The Thais were given two hours to respond.”

So then there's a load of guff about a naval invasion which happened in the middle of the night. We have no evidence of anything obviously, just a nice diorama:



We have no clarity on casualties, we just get vague allusions to “some civilians died” or “policemen were killed” e.g. at Surat Thani:

*“A Japanese infantry company from the 1st Battalion of the 143rd Infantry Regiment **landed from one troopship at the coastal village of Ban Don in the early hours of 8 December.** They marched into Surat Thani, where they were opposed by **Royal Thai Police and civilian volunteers.** The desultory fighting took place amid a rainstorm, and only ended in the afternoon when the hard-pressed Thais received orders to lay down their arms. The Thais lost 17 or 18 dead, but the number of injured was not known”*

Try cobbling together a civilian militia response force at 3 in the morning with no prior warning of invasion and get back to me how that goes. Meanwhile at Samut Prakan Thai police managed to talk the invasion force into not shooting anyone. “Give us a minute lads, everyone be cool”:

*“The Japanese 3rd Battalion of the 4th Guards Infantry Regiment landed at Samut Prakan in the early hours of 8 December. It was tasked with the capture of Bangkok. **The force was met by a small Thai police detachment. Despite a tense confrontation, fighting did not occur and the Japanese subsequently agreed not to enter the Thai capital until formal negotiations were concluded.**”*

A very polite invasion force. I know you'll throw popcorn at the screen and boo me for being armchair general but why are they bothering to invade small Thai fishing villages? Why not just land in Bangkok?

Oh hang on, Wikipedia tells us they did attack Bangkok:

“The Japanese bombed Bangkok with one bomb falling on the main post office, which failed to explode.”

Ah the classic “there was a bombing, honest, it just didn't explode”. This is a poor effort, Japan. You're going to need to try harder than that if you want to win this war.

“While police rounded up Japanese residents...”

In five hours... in the middle of the night...

“...the Thai cabinet debated its options while they waited for the prime minister to arrive. Some favoured continued resistance, including the establishment of a government-in-exile, but when Phibun finally arrived, the decision was made to relent, and the Thais caved into Japan's demands. The Japanese then moved into Bangkok, occupying Chinatown (Sampeng) and turning the Chamber of Commerce Building into a command post.”

The idea is that nobody knew where the PM was from late the previous night until he appeared in Parliament just before midday. He then tells everyone to chill out and that they're going to sign an armistice. The Thais immediately stand down and flip to being Axis. At this point the Japanese have been in Thailand for roughly 12 hours so it's unclear why it's a “5 hour” war.

In [Prachuap Khiri Khan](#) (the battle of which is amusing and worth a read) the government first sends a postman, then a clown car full of officials:

“The following morning, the exhausted Thais received a telegram from the Ministry of the Interior, brought in by a postman during a lull in the battle. The telegram ordered the defenders to cease fighting, as an armistice had been arranged by the government. The Thai defenders suspected this was a trick by the Japanese and continued to resist. The infuriated invaders now mounted assaults with renewed vigour.”

And:

“At noon, a civilian car with a small white flag arrived. It contained a number of Thai government officials, including the provincial undersecretary, Jarunphan Isarangun na Ayutthaya. Jarunphan handed Wing Commander Prawat a direct order from the Prime Minister, Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram, telling him to cease resistance immediately. Fighting officially ended at 12:35 on 9 December 1941.”

The British, meanwhile, had been fully aware that prior to taking Singapore the Japanese would want to take Thailand. This is why they had [Operation Matador](#) planned, to have British forces shipped in to defend Thailand and the peninsula between Bangkok and Malaysia. That would have helped stop the Thai's giving up so quickly and given British forces in Singapore and Burma time to respond accordingly. However, the military didn't bother to send any manpower/material to achieve this so the plan was a bust.

Aware of the vulnerability of Singapore, the local British forces then came up with [Operation Krohcol](#), aka Mini Matador, which was a budget version of the previous and was based on the observation that if you couldn't prevent Japanese forces landing in Thailand, due to a quirk of geography, if they wanted to march south to capture Singapore by land then at a specific point in Malaysia an army would need to walk along a very narrow section of road with a river/ravine on one side and a steep cliff on the other. Planting explosive charges could collapse this section of road and cause a massive delay for an invading force. Fairly straightforward – have some lads posted in the region with dynamite and radio them to detonate the charges when needed. Again, the British military don't bother to prep anything or have anything done ahead of time. [We have the Krohcol article](#) which I won't bother to quote but if you read it notice the usual numerology, cheap airport novel prose and waffle to justify why nothing was done.

The Japanese having “conquered” Thailand then proceed to swan into Burma from the east / south-east. This kicks off the [invasion of Burma](#) (14th Dec 1941-24th May 1942).

The short version of this is that the British fold immediately and run away to India. You have to understand there's a weird contradiction in the British position: they have Singapore, Singapore is considered the absolute key military/economic/logistical site in south east Asia and links up various Crown holdings (e.g. Australia) to India and so on. It's vital. Despite this, no effort is made to protect it. As per Wikipedia:

“British plans for the defence of British Far Eastern possessions involved the construction of airfields linking Singapore and Malaya with India. These plans had not taken into account the fact that Britain was also at war with Germany, and when Japan entered the war, the forces needed to defend these possessions were not available. Burma had been regarded as a military “backwater”, unlikely to be subjected to Japanese threat.”

...unless you want to conquer the region, in which case you absolutely would want to attack Singapore, the most useful port/base we had in the area. It's vital, but the enemy are unlikely to attack it. What!? So the Japanese steam into Thailand under the leadership of [Shōjirō Iida](#), who we read:

*“Iida's 35,000 men quickly outmanoeuvred British forces despite inclement terrain and limited supplies. On 8 March, Iida took Rangoon, cutting the Burma Road and isolating China. By May, **British and Chinese forces in Burma had been driven back to India and China with some 30,000 casualties, against Japanese losses numbering only 7,000.**”*

Quite impressive. Number 8 for the capital conquest of course. You might wonder what happened to Iida -

*“He retired from active military service in 1944. **However, in 1945, Iida was recalled back to service to take command of the Japanese 30th Army in Manchukuo just before the Soviet invasion.** He was taken prisoner by the Red Army and was held as a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union from 1945 to 1950. He died in Tokyo on 23 January 1980.”*

Possibly held by the Russians. Possibly. Where? We don't know. Death penalty? Prisoner for life? Nah, 5 year stint somewhere and returned to Japan to live out the rest of his life. Fun fact: the [Soviet-Japanese war](#) lasted 3 weeks and 3 days. 33. This Russia beat echoes the start of Iida's bio which says:

*“Iida was promoted to captain in December 1918. He participated in the Japanese Expeditionary force for the **Siberian Intervention** against the forces of the **Bolshevik Army**, supporting **White Russian forces** in Russia.”*

Did you know the Japanese went to war in 1918 supporting White Russians? Me either. This opens up the can of worms of the [Siberian Intervention](#).

Casualties and losses	
 7,791	 Unknown
698 killed/missing	 5,000 dead from combat and disease
2,189 died of disease	 48 killed
1,421 wounded	 33 killed ^[4]
3,482 evacuated sick/frostbitten	 19 killed ^[4]
(Jan-June 1922 only) ^[3]	

My eye is immediately drawn to how it's 33 British dead but then... this is World War 1 territory. No further must I tread. I have to draw a line somewhere in this series or pure madness beckons. Sorry Muses, someone else can tackle this. Back to Burma.

We have Rangoon being bombed as the Japanese approach and steal airfields, which gives us [this article](#) and some marvellous photographs:



A nice normal day in Rangoon.



Rangoon under the shadow of the "Protectors of Asia". Poor citizens flee as Jap 'planes approach the town.

This probably isn't a shot of people running from Japanese planes, this is likely a normal photograph of people in a busy street market.



What remained of Rangoon's 39th Street.

Obvious paste up. The jet black silhouette on the grey horizon is great.



That's proof of nothing, since large parts of it are repainted. See the legs to your right for the easiest indication of that. These figures only roughly suggest human beings.

We learn that the Japanese were awful in Rangoon, firebombing civvies and wooden buildings (for no discernable reason other than to be mean):

*“According to Japanese records, seven K-21 Mitsubishi bombers were shot down and an additional twin-engine bomber crashed on the return journey during the December 23 raid. Japanese pilots and gunners always **bragged** that they shot down 41 Allied fighters; **Allied combat claims were also excessive**. No loss can be attributed to the Buffaloes but four Tomahawks were shot down and two pilots were killed in the air battles.*

*17 Allied military personnel were killed on the grounds of Mingaladon airfield when the 62nd bombed it. **An estimated 1,000-2,000 civilians were killed during the Japanese bombing of the city's down town districts. The docks were paralysed as the labour force fled the city; public transport ground to a halt. A district near to the main docks was burnt out by the bombing; smoke drifted skywards in columns over Rangoon.***

The civil defence services broke down when many of the staff fled, though the firemen were considered to have performed well in the crisis. The raid shocked the public and caused an influx refugees as many of them fled into the surrounding jungles and some of them head north towards Prome in hopes for safety from Japanese air attack. Governor Dorman-Smith toured the city that afternoon; the dead lay still uncollected in the tropical climate.”

Pretty dramatic stuff. Now go online and look for photographs of it.

[This website](#) has some photos, but instead of Rangoon street carnage we get:



“Electrical equipment at the Yenangyaung oilfields being destroyed as part of the 'scorched earth' policy pursued by the British in the face of the Japanese advance”, original [here](#).

An obvious paste up, again. Who is that forward figure? An American tourist? Maybe Jimmy Stewart?



“23rd Dec. 1941. The first bombing of Rangoon, this photo was taken from a Japanese aircraft.” - original [here](#).

Again, that's proof of nothing. A few white poofs added to an aerial photo with zero resolution. Remember, bombs don't normally all land simultaneously over a wide area. They would fall in a line, not a square. The photo fakers just forgot that, I guess.



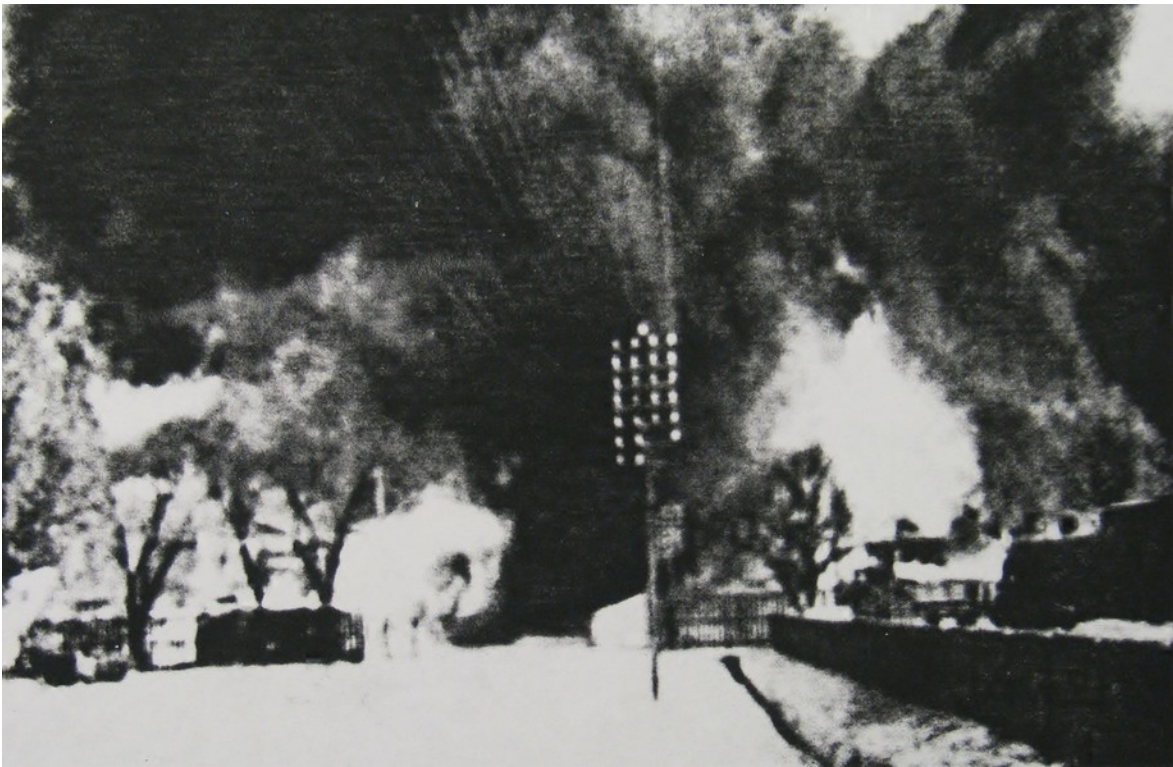
“Bomb damage, Sule Pagoda Rd., Rangoon, 1945” – original [here](#).

No, that’s not “bomb damage” that’s a construction site. You can see the materials stacked up to be used and the fencing and so on. Come on internet, don’t make me say the bombings are fake...



“Rangoon 1942, the "denial" – original [here](#).

Not helping. They made the smoke wall layer too big when they slotted it in above a normal shoreline photo so the scale is off.



“Japanese bombs on Mandalay Railway yard, Good Friday, 1942” – original [here](#).

Nope.



“City Hall, Rangoon 1945 – bomb damage in the foreground” – original [here](#).



(Sighs)

So that last one, of City Hall, demonstrates a) that by the end of the war a major landmark/target in the capital city is completely unscathed and b) they've done the [same thing they did in the Firebombing of Dresden](#) by inserting ruin chunks into a normal picture as a collage. Look at Captain Picard to let your eyes rest. Then look back at City Hall. Foreground, dead centre, white glow around it where they cropped it in. You can see it now, right? Like a magic eye picture.

So Rangoon didn't get bombed then.

Meanwhile the Japanese are slowly walking over to Rangoon from Thailand, as somehow there are no troop transport aircraft, parachutes, trucks, or amphibious landing craft in Japanese possession. You might think this would be a lightning strike looping around Singapore and sailing up the west coast of Burma but no, they walk west and fight the chaotic regiments of the British bit by bit. I guess the writers thought that was more dramatic.

That brings us to the amusing [Sittang Bridge Disaster](#). Imagine a battlefield with a wide river (the Sittaung) flowing north-south dividing the map in half and one very big, iron bridge allowing vehicles/troops to pass from East to West. To get to their destination the Japanese must pass over the bridge to the west side. The British occupy the west side.

Pretty good defensive position, right? The Japanese don't want to damage the bridge as they need to cross so you can hold it as a choke point. You'd pop your men on the west bank and fire away as they get close.

What the British did was set up a field hospital on the east side of the bridge, then position the bulk of their men and ammunition supplies on the eastern bank. They then wired the bridge to explode and, once the Japanese had arrived and before their men/materiel could be repositioned, they blow the bridge cutting off their army at the knees. Mass panic, casualties, disaster. So that's the actual historical narrative and that's bad enough by itself. We then look to The Numbers and see this:

Commanders and leaders	
 Sir John Smyth	 Shōjirō Iida
Strength	
1 understrength division	1 regiments

What? What nonsense is this? We always get actual numbers for the number of troops involved and their losses. At least give me estimates! Then we get [this](#):

*“The Japanese could have wiped out the 17th Division, **but they did not**. They wanted to **take Rangoon fast**, and the delays involved in a mopping up operation were **unacceptable**; so they **disengaged and headed north in search of another crossing-point**. Later on 22 February, **survivors of the 17th Division swam and ferried themselves over the Sittang in broad daylight**. After smaller actions at the Battle of Pegu and Taukkyan Roadblock, **the Japanese went on to take Rangoon unopposed, on 9 March**. Fortunately for the survivors of 17th Division, they had **dismantled their roadblocks, so those Indians who had escaped Sittang Bridge were able to slip away to the north**.”*

So a couple of things here. First of all we have the psychopathic cannibal Japanese deciding to let all the men go free. You would think we'd have some gory “severed heads stacked in pillars” stuff. Eli Roth-style torture-porn-horror. Instead the Japanese let the British troops walk away. OK. We then have them cross at a different point on the river and take Rangoon unopposed. There is no battle for Rangoon to be captured by the Japanese. The British have left already. We'll come back to this in a minute. Finally we have all the British troops cross the river and head north at their leisure, despite being caught up in the advance of the Imperial Japanese Army front lines. They are now in fact behind enemy lines. This is all ridiculous, but it goes on:

*“The 17th Division's infantry manpower after Sittang was 3,484—just over 40% of its establishment, though **it was already well under-strength before the battle started**. **Most of its artillery, vehicles and other heavy equipment was lost**. Between them, they had 550 rifles, ten Bren guns and 12 tommy guns remaining. **Most had lost their boots swimming the river**. Still, 17th Division could be replenished and re-equipped, and it was. **The artillery losses were of First World War-vintage 18-pounders, and the anti-aircraft provision had only been Lewis guns**. 17th Division remained in almost constant contact with the Japanese from December 1941 to July 1944, when it was taken out of the front line just before the Battle of Imphal.”*

Now we have the troops walk away, but are unarmed and barefoot. Note that the division was already under-strength. I'll bet there was no Sittang Bridge battle and this is why we have no casualty figures and they're fudging that a small division is actually a division with numbers reduced by conflict.

*“According to Louis Allen, “The blowing of the Sittang Bridge with two brigades still on the wrong side of the river was the **turning point** in the first Burma campaign. Once the Sittang Bridge had gone and the 17th Division rendered powerless, the road to Rangoon was open, and **the fate of Burma sealed**.”*

What happens when they get to Rangoon then? [Well](#):

*“On 7 March, the Burma Army evacuated Rangoon after implementing a scorched earth plan to deny the Japanese the use of its facilities. **The port was destroyed and the oil terminal was blown up**. As the Allies departed, **the city was on fire**.”*

They burned the city and ran away.

*“**The remnants of the Burma Army faced encirclement as they retreated north from the city**, but broke through the Taukkyan Roadblock as the result of an error on the part of the local Japanese commander. Colonel Takanobu Sakuma, commanding the Japanese 214th Infantry Regiment, had*

*been ordered to block the main road north from Rangoon to Prome while the main body of the 33rd Division circled round the city to attack from the west. The retreating British and Indian troops were thrown back when they attempted to break through Sakuma's road block. **Alexander ordered another attack but found the Japanese had gone. Not realising that the British were evacuating Rangoon, Sakuma had withdrawn the road block, as ordered, once the 33rd Division reached its intended positions. Had he not done so, the Japanese might have captured General Alexander and much of the rest of the Burma Army.***”

Waffle, waffle, waffle, hand wave... and that's why the British were able to walk north unscathed when they should have been surrounded. Ridiculous. So instead of a massacre where the Japanese steamroller the British and decimate them, they all get to flee to India. How convenient.

Jumping ahead for a minute, this is mirrored by the eventual Allied re-taking of Rangoon in '45, if we refer to the (amusingly named) [Operation Dracula](#) article:

*“During April 1945, units of the British Fourteenth Army advanced to within 40 miles (64km) of Rangoon, but were delayed until 1 May by an improvised Japanese force which held Pegu. On the same day, as part of Operation Dracula, a composite Gurkha parachute battalion landed on Elephant Point at the mouth of the Rangoon River. Once they had secured the coastal batteries, minesweepers cleared the river of mines. On 2 May, the Indian 26th Division began landing on both banks of the river. The monsoon also broke on this day, earlier than had been expected. **However, the Imperial Japanese Army had abandoned Rangoon several days earlier, and the units of the Indian 26th Division occupied the city and its vital docks without opposition. They linked up with Fourteenth Army four days later.***”

So the capital of Burma, in the Burmese campaign, is both lost and regained by the Allied forces without either side meeting the other. We are told there are these skirmishes on the outskirts, or at Pegu for example, but... well. If America was taken by a Chinese army would you expect Washington D.C. to change hands twice without any actual fighting in the city? Just a “fierce skirmish” in Germantown? Quite so.

Another observation: if the British had to evacuate from Rangoon to India... why would they walk to the north through the whole of Burma? It's a port city. We've established the Japanese aren't using naval forces so you could just sail away... but no.

From [Wikipedia](#):

*“The retreat was conducted in horrible circumstances. **Starving refugees, disorganised stragglers, and the sick and wounded clogged the primitive roads and tracks leading to India. At least 500,000 civilian fugitives reached India, while an unknown number, conservatively estimated between 10,000 and 50,000, died along the way. In later months, 70 to 80% of those who reached India were afflicted with diseases such as dysentery, smallpox, malaria or cholera, with 30% "desperately so".** On 26 April the British, Indian and Burmese forces joined the civilians in a full retreat.*”

As per [this Youtube video](#) entitled “Burma Campaign The Stilwell Road”, at 5:20 confirms that when the British pulled out of Burma they did a scorched earth policy to destroy everything useful (e.g. blowing up the port at Rangoon, the oil fields, etc.). I wonder how much of the destruction of Rangoon is due to this (hence the availability of Allied camera crews to capture it).

The British (after a brief scuffle around Mandalay) eventually fall back to India and the Chinese to Yunnan respectively. The Japanese have taken Burma, then the monsoon season kicks in and everything comes to a halt.

While the retreat is ongoing, we have [General Joseph Stilwell](#) come into the picture.



Stilwell's bio is interesting, some things jump out: the emphasis on "*eighth-generation descendant of an English colonist who had arrived in America in 1638*". My intuition said "that's the warning shot he's a bloodline spook/special boy". He's supposed to be a normal kid from Yonkers, New York, but [as we read](#):

"Stilwell's rebellious attitude led him to a record of unruly behaviour once he reached a postgraduate level at Yonkers High School. Prior to his last year, Stilwell had performed meticulously in his classes and had participated in football (as quarterback) and track. Under the discretion of his father, Stilwell was then placed into a postgraduate course and immediately formed a group of friends whose activities ranged from card playing to stealing the desserts from the senior dance in 1900. The last event in which an administrator was punched led to the expulsions and suspensions for Stilwell's friends. Meanwhile, since he had already graduated, Stilwell was once again by his father's guidance sent to attend the US Military Academy at West Point, rather than Yale University, as had been originally planned."

But wait, American high schools don't have postgraduate levels. So this entry was written by some Brit who was just making it up on the fly. Note the spelling of behaviour.

"Despite missing the deadline to apply for congressional appointment to the military academy, Stilwell gained entry through the use of family connections, via which US President William McKinley was approached."

After dear old dad stops him getting expelled for assaulting teaching staff... and missing the deadline to apply for West Point... he gets into West Point that year anyway because his father has a word with the President of the United States to make it happen. Right there in the bio like that's

normal. You couldn't make it up. These people, I swear they could walk naked through Times Square firing a revolver and nobody would blink.

There are Stilwells in the peerage, but they are all recent. Our general's grandmother was a Seymour, which helps. He is a Sayre in another recent line, which also helps: you will remember the name is Jewish and Zelda Fitzgerald was a Sayre. They hail from Salem, of course. Stilwell is also an Owen, a Voorhees, a Fulman, a Lake, and a Bergen. His ancestor is Micah Lake, reminding us all these names are Jewish. Before they came over to Brooklyn in about 1690, they were from Wales, being descended directly from Lord Holland, 4th Earl of Kent, and the Langleys, Dukes of York. To get there at Geni, take the Stilwell line to Hopton, then follow Kemeys, Morgan, Vaughan, Whitney, Touchette, Holland, Langley. He takes us to King Edward III, Philippa de Hainault, and so on, hitting all the stops I have already taken in previous papers. The Hoptons take us back to the Willoughbys, Welles, and Greystokes. The Vaughans take us forward to David Icke.

Stilwell gets posted to China and oversees the lend-lease among other things, but if we skip ahead to him being in the middle of Burma when Rangoon falls we read:

*“After the collapse of the Allied defences in Burma, which cut China off from all land and sea supply routes, **Stilwell declined an airlift offer from General Chennault and led his staff of 117 out of Burma into Assam, India, on foot.** They marched at what his men called the “**Stilwell stride**” of 105 paces per minute. Two of the men accompanying him, his aide Frank Dorn and the war correspondent Jack Belden, wrote about their experiences in *Walkout with Stilwell in Burma* (1971) and *Retreat with Stilwell* (1943) respectively. The Assam route was used by other retreating Allied and Chinese forces.*

Stilwell's walkout separated him from the approximately 100,000 Chinese troops still there. 25 thousand of them would later perish during their retreat due to the harsh jungle conditions, poor logistics, and Japanese military operations.”

So just to hammer that home, he “declined” an evacuation via plane and instead consigns himself and his staff to have to walk from Burma to Assam. Not only does he pull this off, he does it while being shadowed by a war correspondent who gets a book out of it. And despite all the other military personnel using the roads to Assam Stilwell, he is just so damn tough he outpaces literally tens of thousands of soldiers and gets to India first. We may reflect that the Japanese are using both vehicles and aircraft at this point to chase the fleeing Allied soldiers and Stilwell manages to walk so quickly he escapes them all. This seems like a Patton-level flex.

We have this nice commemorative photo:



“General Stilwell marches out of Burma” – original [here](#).

That proves it, right? You can't stage a few people walking in a line.



“Chiang Kai Shek and wife with Lieutenant General Stilwell” – original [here](#).

Someone just made a joke about the war being a big fake, I guess.

While we're looking at the Chinese element:

[Chiang Kai-Shek](#) as per Wikipedia was born **31 October 1887. Halloween.** His father dies when he is 8 years old and grows up in poverty, as is tradition when writing the bio of a spook descended from some important bloodline.

*“In a 1969 speech, Chiang related a story about **his boat trip to Japan at nineteen years old.**”*

We then get this gem:

*“Chiang decided to pursue a military career. **He began his military training at the Baoding Military Academy in 1906, the same year Japan left its bimetallic currency standard, devaluing its yen. He left for Tokyo Shinbu Gakko, a preparatory school for the Imperial Japanese Army Academy intended for Chinese students, in 1907. There, he came under the influence of compatriots to support the revolutionary movement to overthrow the Manchu-dominated Qing dynasty and to set up a Han-dominated Chinese republic. He befriended Chen Qimei, and in 1908 Chen brought Chiang into the Tongmenghui, an important revolutionary brotherhood of the era. Finishing his military schooling at Tokyo Shinbu Gakko, Chiang served in the Imperial Japanese Army from 1909 to 1911.**”*

Wow so that's a lot to unpack. The future head of the National Revolutionary Army gets his military training in Japan, from the Japanese. This was at [Tokyo Shinbu Gakko](#), the article about which tells us:

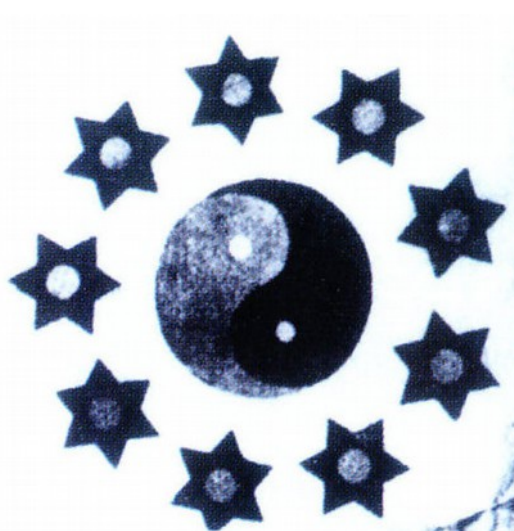
*“The Tokyo Shinbu Gakkō (東京振武学校) was a military preparatory school located in Tokyo, Japan. **Established in 1896** by the Imperial Japanese Army for the purpose of providing basic military training to students from China, **many of its students later played important roles in the Xinhai Revolution and in the early period of the Republic of China.** The school closed in 1914.”*

Cool, so... founded after the Meiji Restoration colour revolution, after the British and French train up the Japanese with western military systems, the Japanese (who are now just Phoenician proxies) then pick some Chinese natives to use as assets in China. You can't blend with Chinese to subvert them if you're not Chinese. White people/Phoenicians stand out a bit in Xi'an.

*“The Imperial Japanese Army General Staff dispatched General Fukushima Yasumasa and General Utsunomiya Taro to open discussions with Zhang Zhidong, Liu Kunyi and Yuan Shikai about sending Chinese students to Japan for military training. **On the diplomatic side, Yano Fumio, the Japanese minister to China, advised the Chinese government that the Japanese government was willing to bear all expenses for the first two hundred students.** The first thirty students were sent the same year to the newly established Foreign Student Division of the Seijō Gakkō, a military preparatory school in Tokyo attached to the Imperial Japanese Army Academy. **As the number of students grew year-by-year, in 1903, a separate Shinbu Gakkō was established in Tokyo specifically for Chinese military students, who numbered over 1,000 by 1908.**”*

This school closes just a couple of years after Chiang Kai-Shek graduates. The whole thing stinks to me of being a training camp for ethnically Chinese agents of the west, to operate in China, which would overlap with the “controlled opposition” interpretation of the conflict. Of course we can't have China be independent, that would cause trouble. I haven't studied it in enough fine detail but the prediction would be: this is why you have so much conflict and revolution in China in the decades prior to World War II, it was the period where China was being reorganised in line with the Phoenician Empire's needs for the fake “war”, which is actually a cover/justification of reorganising how a country is run and how people live their daily lives.

Supporting the idea of Kai-Shek being an asset, he immediately returns to China to take part in the [Wuchang Uprising](#), the faction flag of which is hilariously the Chinese yin and yang symbol surrounded by nine Jewish stars:



That's pretty funny they did that. How blunt can you get!

That same year he was also involved in organised crime in Shanghai:

*“Chiang's friendship with Chen Qimei signalled an association with Shanghai's criminal syndicate (the **Green Gang** headed by Du Yuesheng and Huang Jinrong). **During Chiang's time in Shanghai, the Shanghai International Settlement police observed him and eventually charged him with various felonies. These charges never resulted in a trial, and Chiang was never jailed.**”*

Never went to trial, never jailed. Because he's a spook. The page on the [Green Gang](#) tells us more:

*“By the 20th century it had acquired such wealth and power that it had become corrupt, and included many successful businessmen. Under Du Yuesheng, **it controlled the criminal activities in the entire city of Shanghai. The Green Gang focused on opium (which was supported by local warlords), extortion, gambling, and prostitution. Shanghai was considered by some the vice capital of the world at that time.**”*

If you remember my earlier papers in this series you'll recall the whole thing about Jews living in Shanghai and having a special International district as a refuge to “flee” from Russia. It continues:

*“The Green Gang was often hired by Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang to break up union meetings and labour strikes and was also involved in the Chinese Civil War. **One of the leaders of the Green Gang, Ying Guixin, was also involved in Yuan Shikai's assassination of the rival politician Song Jiaoren in 1913. Carrying the name of the Society for Common Progress, it was — along with other criminal gangs — responsible for the White Terror massacre of approximately 5,000 pro-Communist strikers in Shanghai in April 1927, which was ordered by Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek. Chiang granted Du Yuesheng the rank of general in the National Revolutionary Army later.***

The Green Gang was a major financial supporter of Chiang Kai-shek, who became acquainted with the gang when he lived in Shanghai from 1915 to 1923. The Green Gang shared its profits from the drug trade with the Kuomintang after the creation of the Opium Suppression Bureau.

Chiang Kai-shek's brother-in-law and financial minister T. V. Soong also partnered with the pro-Chiang Green Gang to pressure Shanghai banks to buy up national securities."

15-23 is 8 years. Chiang Kai-shek – the enemy-military-educated, strike-breaking, organised crime affiliated, true friend of the common man – would flit between a multi-national western enclave in Shanghai and Japan:

*"Chiang became a founding member of the Nationalist Party (a forerunner of the KMT) after the success (February 1912) of the 1911 Revolution. After the takeover of the Republican government by Yuan Shikai and the failed Second Revolution in 1913, **Chiang, like his KMT comrades, divided his time between exile in Japan and the havens of the Shanghai International Settlement.** In Shanghai, Chiang cultivated ties with the city's underworld gangs, which were dominated by the notorious Green Gang."*

A funny coincidence is then found in the article on [Sun Yat-Sen](#), first leader of the Nationalist Party of China/Kuomintang. We have this quote:

*"In 1917, Sun Yat-sen moved his base of operations to Canton (now known as Guangzhou) and **Chiang joined him in 1918. At this time Sun remained largely sidelined; without arms or money, he was soon expelled from Guangdong (Canton province) and exiled again to Shanghai.** He was restored to Guangdong **with mercenary help in 1920.**"*

I'll translate that for you: Sun Yat-Sen was kept in power by the spook money / mercenary support flowing out of Shanghai, that Kai-Shek was involved with. Japan trains the spooks, Shanghai's special trade/settlement zone is the forward base to operate out of. This is how they seeded western agents in China to subvert the social order to their liking. I'm kind of getting off topic with all this China stuff (although I think it's interesting and supports the overall picture of the war being fake) so I'll jump back to Burma now but as a parting gift let me point out two things: firstly that Sun Yat-Sen had family in Hawaii who owned large tracts of land (12,000 acres of cattle ranch which is a fair bit of turf to own near Honolulu). This wealthy US-based relation helped raise Yat-Sen and give him his education. We're not talking about some guy from deep rural China who has no western connections. Secondly that if we jump [to this part](#) of Yat-Sen's bio we read:

*"While in exile **in London** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) in 1896, **Sun raised money for his revolutionary party and to support uprisings in China.** While the events leading up to it are unclear, Sun Yat-sen was detained at the Chinese Legation in London, where the Chinese Imperial secret service planned to smuggle him back to China to execute him for his revolutionary actions. **He was released after 12 days through the efforts of James Cantlie, The Globe, The Times, and the Foreign Office; leaving Sun a hero in the UK. James Cantlie, Sun's former teacher at the Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese, maintained a lifelong friendship with Sun** and would later write an early biography of Sun. Sun wrote a book in 1897 about his detention, titled "Kidnapped in London"."*

He was in London, co-ordinating with the British to raise money for revolution in China. The Chinese government try to grab him to bring him to trial for being an intelligence asset/revolutionary trying to overthrow their government but the British government do something behind the scenes to thwart this, plus invest energy into a PR campaign via the newspapers to portray him to the British public as the hero. Spook! Spook! Spook! Furthermore:

*"**Sun travelled by way of Canada to Japan to begin his exile there, he arrived in Yokohama on 16 August 1897 and met with the Japanese politician Tōten Miyazaki. Most Japanese who actively worked with Sun were motivated by a pan-Asian opposition to Western imperialism.** While in*

Japan, Sun also met and befriended Mariano Ponce, then a diplomat of the First Philippine Republic.”

...which again highlights that this no doubt fake-spook-revolutionary is able to travel internationally, get financial support from the British and visit Japan. Because Japan definitely wasn't the regional office of western spy-craft influencing the region. Too much heat on the mainland? Pull him out, park him in Japan while we debrief him and plan the next mission.

Anyway, [back to Stilwell](#), who didn't particularly like the Chinese leadership:

*“Stilwell was infuriated by the rampant corruption of Chiang's regime. Stilwell faithfully kept a diary in which he began to note the corruption and **the amount of money (\$380,584,000 in 1944 dollars) being wasted on the procrastinating Chiang and his government. The Cambridge History of China, for instance, estimates that 60%–70% of Chiang's Nationalist conscripts did not make it through their basic training, with 40% deserting and the remaining 20% dying of starvation before their full induction into the military. Eventually, Stilwell's belief that Chiang's and his generals were incompetent and corrupt reached such proportions that Stilwell sought to cut off lend-lease aid to China. On two separate occasions, Stilwell drew up plans to assassinate Chiang and replace him, but ultimately they were never carried out.**”*

Because he would have been told not to. Because Chiang is a western intelligence asset. Suggestion: given the Chinese military is ridiculous and the bulk of conscripts don't even complete basic training, that 400 million quid is going to have to have gone somewhere and it clearly wasn't in their armed forces. What else is a revolutionary military movement going to spend money on? One can only assume the finer things in life: dark rum, quality steak and red-headed hookers. I may be projecting on the specifics there but you get the idea.

By the way, don't think that the con only applied to money being blown on the Chinese side. You've heard of the Flying Tigers I assume? The transport craft flying from India to Yunnan? Very heroic stuff, very stars and stripes, fearless and brave, etc. We read:

*“From 1942 to 1944, however, **98% of US military aid over the Hump had gone directly to the 14th Air Force and US military personnel in China.**”*

Given that the Air Force and “US military personnel” in China do absolutely bugger all between 1942 and 1944 (seriously what are they even doing in China in that period?), to learn that the Flying Tiger shipments of equipment almost entirely went to the Americans themselves raises a heap of suspicion. Can you say “black market profits”? We're talking about [650,000 tonnes of material](#) after all. Imagine what was being shuttled back and forth.

The Flying Tigers were commanded by [Claire Lee Chennault](#), who as you can see from his photo is just daring you to crack a joke about his first name. Don't do it. He'll deck you.



Marvellous start to his bio here:

*“Chennault is generally said to have been born in Commerce, Texas, on September 6, 1893, **although there is no documentary proof of his birthdate or place of birth.** For **most** of his life, he gave **1890** as his birth year, but **his widow corrected that to 1893** after his death. His parents were John **Stonewall Jackson** Chennault and Jessie (née **Lee**) Chennault. His surname is of French origin; the French pronunciation is “Shen-oh”, but his family pronounced it “Shen-awlt”.*

*He grew up in the Louisiana towns of Gilbert and Waterproof. **He began misrepresenting his year of birth as either 1889 or 1890, possibly because he was too young to attend college after he graduated from high school** and so his father added three years to his age. His mother died of tuberculosis in 1901 and he was raised by his aunt, Louise **Chase**, along with his brother and her sons.”*

So we’ve got no clue as to where or when he was born, he’s misrepresenting his age and despite his father presumably still being alive he’s raised by his aunt who is a Chase. I wonder if that’s the same Chase as with Chevy or Chase Manhattan? He works in the Air Corps for a couple of years, but then:

*“**Poor health (deafness and chronic bronchitis),** disputes with superiors, and the fact that he was passed over as unqualified for promotion led Chennault to **resign** from the military on April 30, 1937; he separated from the service **at the rank of major.** As a **civilian**, he was recruited **to go to China and join a small group of American civilians training Chinese airmen.**”*

Smells like spook business to me. How’d he get to the rank of major when he’s deaf and has constant chest infections? Surely that would be a massive impediment? He resigns but then immediately gets relocated to China.

*“Chennault arrived in China in **June 1937.** **He had a three-month contract at a salary of \$1,000 per month,** charged with making a survey of the Chinese Air Force. Chiang’s English-speaking wife, **Soong Mei-ling,** known to Americans as “Madame Chiang”, **was in charge of the Aeronautical Commission and thus became Chennault’s immediate supervisor.** Upon the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in August, **Chennault became Chiang Kai-shek’s chief air adviser, assisted in the training of new Chinese Air Force pilots, and sometimes flew scouting missions in an export Curtiss H-75 fighter.** His duties also included organizing the “International Squadron” of mercenary pilots.”*

Pretty sure a grand a month was great pay for the 30s. So he’s a spooky asset for the Air Force working in China for the Kuomintang and aiding the Chinese by training up their forces. This is prior to Pearl Harbour and the open hostilities between Japan the US so what you’re seeing there is similar to the current bullshit in the Ukraine where you have members of the US Army or Marines or whatever “quitting” and then immediately signing up to fight in the Ukrainian Army against the Russians as a “neutral” civilian. The Russians roll their eyes and go “Look you’re obviously US

troops attacking us we can see through this” and the Americans go “Uh-uh! They’re not official military assets so we’re not doing anything to you”. It’s just about creating plausible deniability.

As per the above quote Chennault reports to [Soong Mei-ling](#), wife of Chian Kai-Shek. She is the sister-in-law of Sun Yat Sen, so that’s cosy. She’s also the daughter of “[Charlie](#)” [Soong](#), whose Wikipedia bio is quite interesting:

*“At about the age of seventeen a **childless maternal relative** adopted him, changing his family name to **Soong**, and took him to **Boston**, Massachusetts where he owned a tea and **silk shop**. After working as an apprentice in the shop for a time, **Soong ran away and signed up as a cabin boy in the U.S. Revenue Marine (the forerunner of the U.S. Coast Guard)** on board the USS **Albert Gallatin** under the command of **Captain Eric Gabrielson**. After approximately a year of service, Gabrielson was transferred to Wilmington, North Carolina. Soong followed Gabrielson to North Carolina not long afterwards to work on the USS **Schuyler Colfax**. After arriving in Wilmington, Soong eventually converted to the Christian faith and was baptized as **Charles Jones Soon**. In later years he changed the spelling of the family name to **Soong**. **Converted from what? Ba'al worship?**”*

*Soon after Soong's arrival, the Fifth Street Methodist Church in Wilmington, led by the **Rev. Thomas Ricaud**, began making preparations to train and educate Soong for the purpose of sending him back to China to work as a Christian missionary. These plans included the Durham, North Carolina philanthropist, fellow Methodist, and tobacco magnate **Julian S. Carr** (of "Bull Durham tobacco" fame), who volunteered to serve as Soong's benefactor and sponsor. Carr had been a great contributor to **Trinity College (now Duke University)**, and was subsequently able to get his Chinese protégé into the school in 1880, even though he met none of the qualifications for entry to university. The prospect of having a native Chinese as a missionary in China thrilled some of the ministers there. They set him to mastering the English language and studying the Bible. One year later, Soong transferred to **Vanderbilt University**, from which he received a degree in theology in 1885. **In 1886, he was sent to Shanghai** on a Christian mission after spending almost half of his life to that point abroad.”*

Now re-read that and understand you don’t know his real name, he’s relocated to Boston, his eventual given name includes “Jones”, we also have a Carr, [Trinity](#) College and [Vanderbilt](#) University. He’s taught English and then sent “on a mission” to China.

I mean.

Come on.

Everything just keeps looping back to Shanghai and Chinese natives trained overseas by western elites, doesn’t it? Once he returns to China, Soong’s fake cover story of being a Christian Missionary immediately melts into him “deciding” to be a political revolutionary:

*“In the late 1880s, Charlie **had begun to tire of the mission** and felt that he **could do more for his people** if he was not bound to the restrictions and methods that came with working for the church. When he founded his first businesses—a small **printing establishment** and in 1892 a **publishing house, the Sino American Press** (he would also later co-found The Commercial Press) - he seemingly found it appropriate to resign from preaching. **Instead, another society required his time and loyalty. Around this time, Charlie had secretly been initiated into Shanghai's thriving anti-Qing resistance movement, more specifically an organization that went by the name of Hung P'ang, or the Red Gang. Better than the Purple Gang, I guess. This organization had its***

roots in the movements to reinstate the Ming dynasty in the latter part of the 17th century, but had since transformed into a republican revolutionary force."

Eerily similar to Chian Kai-Shek, right? Comes in from overseas, hooks up with organised crime, gets funding, gets involved in political subversion. I mean it's almost like there's a pattern here, but surely a dumb-dumb like me wouldn't have tripped over it. The [Red Gang](#) Wiki link is interesting because it admits that most of the "triads" were actually just anti-government revolutionary groups which makes me re-think how much of that is just previous Phoenician subversion efforts (rather than the canon "ancient Chinese crime sect" understanding).

"In 1894, Charlie Soong made the arguably most important connection in his life when he met Sun Yat-sen at a Sunday service in a Methodist church in Shanghai. The two men were kindred spirits of sorts, sharing their Western education, region of birth, dialect, the Christian faith and a burning ambition and craving for change in China. Perhaps most importantly, they were both members of entwined anti-Qing triads. They quickly became good friends and Charlie started funding Sun's campaigns. A political body was set up, and the plan was to connect the triads into a network of opposition. When their first uprising failed in 1895, Sun fled China, and would not come back until sixteen years later. Charlie had remained incognito during the resistance and deemed it safe to remain in Shanghai, as his name had not yet been connected to the failed coup. In the coming years, Charlie Soong funded Sun Yat-sen's travels in search of support and major financial backing."

So now we understand: the international settlement in Shanghai allows the Methodist Churches (among other places I'm sure) as a cover location for the meeting and co-operation of western-trained spooks. Later on his bio (after the bit where he sends all his children to Western universities for study) we read:

"In 1912, Ching-ling returned to China, just in time to see the republic collapse under the leadership of Yuan Shikai. The connection between Charlie Soong and Sun Yat-sen was now widely known, and Charlie felt that his family would not be safe in China. In 1913, they fled with Sun to Tokyo. They remained there until 1916, when Charlie deemed the situation in Shanghai to be safe enough to return."

Again, Japan is the fallback position if you get burned operating in Shanghai to overthrow the Chinese government. This is so weird, I was wanting to write about Burma and somehow I'm getting pulled by an invisible force to completely unravel the operational process of early 20th century spy-craft in China.

Returning to [Soong Mei-Ling](#):

"Soong Mei-ling made several tours to the United States to lobby support for the Nationalists' war effort. She drew crowds as large as 30,000 people and in 1943 made the cover of TIME magazine for a third time. She had earlier appeared on the October 26, 1931, cover alongside her husband and on the January 3, 1937, cover with her husband as "Man and Wife of the Year."

Nice to see TIME was just a military-connected propaganda bullhorn since day one. So she's travelling around the US and even speaks to Congress. She's got property in the US as well:

"In 1975, she emigrated from Taiwan to her family's 36 acre (14.6 hectare) estate in Lattingtown, New York, where she kept a portrait of her late husband in full military regalia in her living room. She kept a residence in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, where she vacationed in the summer."

I include stuff like this because it's not just about pointing out the lies/fake photos, it's also about explaining what the standard narrative doesn't get across: these "Chinese Revolutionaries" are deeply connected to the western elite (as opposed to my previous naive understanding of "some Chinese folk in the backwoods who really didn't like Japanese occupation and rose up against the invader"). So this is who Chennault and Stilwell are working alongside.

Anyway, we've talked about some of the key people involved and the ridiculous takeover of Burma. The Allies flee and the Japanese advance to the west and north-west. We then have this weird beat in the Burma campaign where the Japanese... halt. For no discernable reason. One minute they're the Terminator, stamping over mountain ranges and through rainforest like it's nothing, bayoneting everyone without mercy. The British retreat into India and modern-day Bangladesh. In India they're in Imphal, Manipur. In what is now Bangladesh they are in Chittagong, south-east of Dhaka. You have Stilwell and American forces camped over there with them. You even have some Chinese regiments who went north-west instead of north-east.

You would expect the Japanese to proceed and attack the Allies, but they don't because "monsoon season". OK, fine, it's hard to walk along jungle dirt tracks in a monsoon, that's fair enough on the face of it. But this is superficial as an explanation, for at least two reasons. One is that the monsoon season comes to an end after a couple of months and the Japanese don't resume their advance. The second is that this weird stalemate lasts for **two years**, which is unjustifiable for either side.

Stilwell spends the bulk of the Burma Campaign obsessing over building a motorway between the Allied base camp in India over to Yunnan province, China, via northern Burma. This was a very silly project to be spending time on, when they were already flying planes over and one could instead do something like, I don't know, retake Rangoon. I guess they needed to justify sitting around for months on end.



Modern map of Burma/Myanmar. You can see Manipur province in India. That's where the town of Imphal is, which is where the retreating British forces end up. South-west of the "M" of Mizoram is where Chittagong is, which is another front-line town.



Bit clearer in this shot. Chittagong is called Chittogram nowadays. That dividing line between Manipur and Burma is due to forest and mountainous terrain so it's not easy to cross. So what about the coast? What about walking along the shoreline? Or using a naval force? You could literally sail up to Kolkata or Dhaka and start attacking the British. If you take Dhaka (not shown on this map for some reason, it's the capital of modern day Bangladesh and located just below the "d" of Bangladesh on the map above) you could control everything east of the [Brahmaputra](#) river as it curves up and east into Meghalaya and Assam. This would have closed off the Allied forces from reinforcements who are having goods shipped in from the west.

Likewise the main naval base of the British is down here in Sri Lanka:



The base was on the north-east coast of Sri Lanka, called [Trincomalee](#). As per Wikipedia:

“Before the Second World War, the British built a large airfield to house their RAF base, called the RAF China Bay and fuel storage and support facilities for the British fleets there. After the fall of Singapore, Trincomalee became the home port of the Eastern Fleet of the Royal Navy, and submarines of the Dutch Navy. Trincomalee harbour and airfield were attacked by a carrier fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy in April 1942 in the Indian Ocean Raid of the war. However, the installation later served as an important launching point for British naval operations in 1944 and 1945.”

Home port. Key target. So you want to take Dhaka then push east to Manipur and you want to flatten Trincomalee and/or capture Sri Lanka entirely.

First the Japanese capture the [Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#), as a half-way house. The British had a famous penal colony at Port Blair. Interestingly, this was called the [“Cellular Jail” or Kālā Pānī](#) which translates to “**Black Water**”. Like the mercenary company, renamed as Xe. It was also a “black site”, essentially, where if you caused trouble for the British in India you got shipped out to the prison and tortured. I’m not disputing the British having secret torture centres but I’ll just flag this up in case a reader (or Miles) is interested: it very much looks like the Cellular Jail was a useful place to park famous rebels who may or may not have been fakes. If we look at [this section](#) of the Cellular Jail article we learn it was horrific in its treatment of captives but also has the standard Funny Numbers:

“Hunger strikes by the inmates in May 1933 caught the attention of the jail authorities. Thirty-three prisoners protested their treatment and sat in hunger strike. Among them were Mahavir Singh, an associate of Bhagat Singh (Lahore conspiracy case), Mohan Kishore Namadas (convicted in Arms Act Case) and Mohit Moitra (also convicted in Arms Act Case). These three died due to force-feeding.”

Read on and learn about people being suspended in metal suits for years on end or drowned in milk which seems... bizarre. We then get this:

*“The Japanese launched an invasion of the Andaman islands in **March 1942**, capturing the Cellular Jail and all prison personnel. The Cellular Jail then became home to British prisoners-of-war, suspected Indian supporters of the British, and later of members of the Indian Independence League, many of whom were tortured and killed there by the Japanese. **Notionally during this period control of the Islands was passed to Subhas Chandra Bose**, who hoisted the Indian National Flag for the first time on the islands, at the Gymkhana Ground in Port Blair, appointed INA General AD Loganathan as the governor of the Islands, and announced the Azad Hind Government was not merely a Government in Exile, and had freed the territory from British colonial rule.*

On 7 October 1945 the British resumed control of the Islands, and prison, following the surrender of the islands to Brigadier J. A. Salomons, of the 116th Indian Infantry Brigade, a month after the Surrender of Japan, at the end of World War II.”

They surrender a month after the mainland surrenders, to a Solomon. Of course. The Japanese capture the prison island (which is supposed to have roughly 300 soldiers and 23 officers) by sending [a rather large fleet](#). Just look how many ships they had for this tiny settlement! Obviously everyone surrendered immediately, they then occupy the site for years [and](#) -

“The events of the next three years are not easy to establish, as the Japanese destroyed all records when they left. The principal sources are an unpublished report by local resident Rama Krishna: The Andaman Islands under Japanese Occupation 1942–5, another unpublished account by a

*British officer, D. McCarthy: The Andaman Interlude (he was sent on a secret mission to the islands in 1944), together with the **memories** of the older inhabitants interviewed by historians. All these and the published works that **draw upon them** are in agreement that the occupation saw numerous atrocities committed by the Japanese against the local population.”*

They didn't just leave, they surrendered to the British, so there would have been a formal handover of the site. We then have a British spy who is a McCarthy writing up a report that accuses the Japanese of atrocities supported by local hearsay. No actual proof as... all the evidence is destroyed. Of course. Read the rest of the article and see how obviously it's nonsense. I like the arm twisting, the sharks, the pirates, the skeleton beach and the call-back references to Nanjing.

If you refer to the page on famous Japanese collaborator and anti-British-India activist [Subhas Chandra Bose](#) who lurked at the Blackwater jail during the occupation and was mentioned a few paragraphs back, it's quite amusing.

A wealthy Indian boy with a British private education, he ends up hanging out in Nazi Germany and gets the Germans to help him start a subversion program in India to free the Indians (and by pure coincidence undermine British India which would help Nazi Germany). He has a blatantly Jewish (I mean in terms of physiognomy) wife/beard/handler called [Emilie Schenkl](#):



Aryan waifu? She looks like Bella Abzug. No proper records of the marriage, obviously:

*“As Schenkl could take shorthand and her English and typing skills were good, she was hired by Bose; the book would become *The Indian Struggle*. They soon fell in love and were married on 26 December 1937 in Bad Gastein during another visit by Bose **in a secret Hindu ceremony, but without a Hindu priest, witnesses, or civil record.**”*

Of course. No spoiler to say he wasn't very successful overthrowing British India so I want you to take a beat and guess what the end of his story is. Guess the fate of Bose. Extra point for the date. Extra points if you can guess where. Now read on:

“In February 1943, Bose left Schenkl and their baby daughter and boarded a German submarine to travel, via transfer to a Japanese submarine, to Japanese-occupied Southeast Asia; with Japanese support, he formed a Provisional Government of Free India and revamped an army, the Indian National Army, whose goal was to gain India's independence militarily with Japanese help. Bose's effort was unsuccessful, and he died in a plane crash in Taihoku (now Taipei), Japanese-held Formosa (now Taiwan), on 18 August 1945, while attempting to escape to the Japanese-held town of Dairen (now Dalian) on the Manchurian peninsula.”

Did you guess? It's easy to predict the future when things are operating according to a script. Plane crash, 18, Taiwan. Incredible. He was cremated two days after the crash and the memorial held in Tokyo.

Anyway, little diversion there about Bose and the Blackwater prison of the Andaman islands. The point I was trying to make was that the Japanese send a large fleet to capture a prison island, then proceed to attack Sri Lanka in the [Indian Ocean Raid](#) of 31st March – 10th April 1942 and the [Easter Sunday Raid](#) on April 5th specifically. From the first link:

“The island of Ceylon was strategically important, since it commanded the Indian Ocean. Thus it controlled access to India, the vital Allied shipping routes to the Middle East and the oilfields of the Persian Gulf. Ceylon held most of the British Empire's resources of rubber. An important harbour and naval base, Trincomalee, was located on the island's eastern coast. Japanese propaganda had an effect on some of the Sinhalese population, who now awaited their arrival.”

Clearly Sri Lanka would have been a massive, massive priority target for the Japanese and the wider Axis forces. You would almost see it as the British Achilles heel – you wipe out the British Navy there and you stop the link-up of the west and eastern sides of the Empire. You also cut out the rubber supply which, obviously, is a very useful resource in wartime. Given the formidable resources thrown at otherwise pointless locations such as Iwo Jima, Truk, Rabaul and the Aleutians you would expect the full hammer of a joint German-Japanese navy to come down on the island.

“Japanese intentions to mount a major offensive into the Indian Ocean were placed on hold in March 1942; strong naval forces were needed in the western Pacific against the United States, and the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) refused to allocate troops for an invasion of Ceylon.”

Of course. We then get the return of loveable three stooges Admiral Yamamoto, Admiral Nobutake Kondō and Admiral Chūichi Nagumo. I've already written about them, re-read the older papers in this series if you want a refresher.



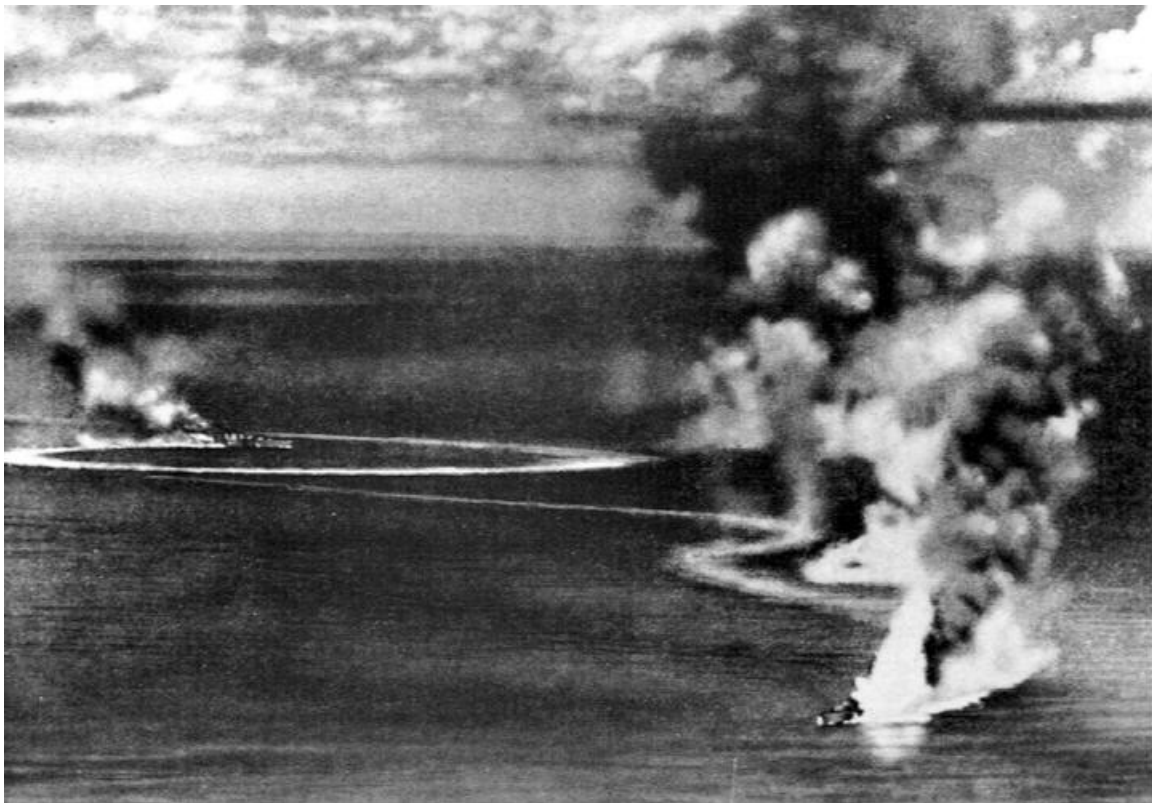
“The Japanese strike force advancing to the Indian Ocean, 30 March. Ships shown from left to right are: Akagi, Sōryū, Hiryū, Hiei, Kirishima, Haruna, and Kongō. Taken from Zuikaku.” – original [here](#).

I like the little silhouettes on the horizon. What do you think Miles, a collage? Yeah, an obvious paste, with the first and second ships being copies, and the rest being in a line on the horizon. Impossible, due to a little thing called perspective, and another little thing being called the curvature of the Earth.



“HMS Cornwall burning and sinking on 5 April 1942” – original [here](#).

Not actually on fire, just has smoke blowing sideways off the chimneys. Also very dodgy gamma on the photo where it's jet black water, then bone white water (from... salt spray?). They're keeping this one low resolution for a reason. Photographed from the moon.



“British heavy cruisers HMS Dorsetshire and Cornwall under Japanese air attack and heavily damaged on 5 April 1942.” - original [here](#).

Even worse! What is this!? Total paste-up. Wow. Look at how that “ship” in the foreground-right sits so sharply against the white plume/explosion. It’s the same with the “ship” in the upper-left, where it sits on the background, a different resolution between the image and the backdrop it was pasted into.

The idea is that British Intelligence decoded/learned of the Japanese plans to attack Sri Lanka so they sailed their fleet out of the harbours before the Japanese could arrive. They then spread out their forces to evade the Japanese. A few ships are lost, such as the [HMS Cornwall](#), which killed 424 men and left 1,122 survivors adrift in the ocean. You can read the fantastical account of the sinking of the Cornwall [here](#), from a “survivor”, who talks about his lunch consisting of two slices of pineapple, the man who went back to his cabin while the ship sank to get £50, or how his life jacket vanished, or that he was able to swim and look around after being coated in a thick layer of spilled fuel oil, how he managed to avoid being chopped up by the ship’s propeller AND getting strafed by Japanese fighter planes. And so on. It’s quite a fun read... and a piece of fiction.

From what I can see, the wreck of the Cornwall was never found, it just goes underwater and that’s that. Another one of those vanishing ships that never get detected decades and decades later. The silly action story combined with the faked photos above would indicate there was no sinking of the Cornwall.

While the main Indian Ocean Raid is going on you have the Easter Sunday Raid which is specifically about the Japanese attacking Colombo. As you can read about [here](#), the Japanese do the classic move we’re used to by now which is to attack very early in the morning and cancel all the planned follow-up attacks. As per Wikipedia:

“30 Squadron RAF had seven serviceable aircraft by nightfall. Eight Hurricanes had been shot down, and several damaged. Five pilots were killed and two wounded. 258 Squadron RAF suffered eight Hurricanes shot down and two badly damaged, as well as five pilots killed and two wounded. 803 and 806 NAS suffered four Fulmars shot down and three pilots killed. Six Fairey Swordfish from 788 Naval Air Squadron were also shot down.”

Pure coincidence with the Funny Numbers, stop being a conspiracy theorist. The historians also had a bit of a pickle explaining why the British at Colombo couldn’t detect the Japanese with their radar system, so they had to fudge an excuse by saying:

*“According to AMES 254’s logs, **its radar was operational during the battle and it did not detect the incoming strike**. Official post-war technical histories attributed the failure **to technical limitations of the radar, and operator error caused by fatigue** due to “unequally divided watch-keeping roster.”*

Of course. Sleepy technicians, using radar that totally works but can’t detect Japanese craft as a limitation. Or something. The main Indian Ocean Raid article [doesn’t help matters much](#):

*“The Japanese inflicted disproportionate damage on the enemy. They damaged port facilities, sank one carrier and two cruisers, destroyed a third of enemy ground-based fighters and nearly all of the enemy ground-based strike aircraft. In addition, 23 merchant ships, totalling 112,312 tons, were sunk, including those by the separate Japanese Malay Force. In return, the Japanese lost only 18 aircraft, with damage to about 31 more. **Conversely, they failed to destroy, or even locate, the main bulk of the British Eastern Fleet.**”*

Whoops. Failed to destroy the fleet. You got to sail all the way to Colombo and Trincomalee but you goofed and didn't actually engage the fleet properly. Or take the island with a troop invasion. Or raid the bases on foot with amphibious troops. Or properly destroy the facilities on the island the Royal Navy were using so they have to rebuild everything. The Japanese just... sail away. Their fleet gets tangled up in other fake naval battles such as Coral Sea and Midway, and as such they never have "the strength" to return and do the job properly. Funny how it all works out.

Anyway, back in Burma we have as previously mentioned the Allies camped out in Imphal and Chittagong. As per Wikipedia's section on [the history of the city](#):

"During World War II, Chittagong became a frontline city in the Southeast Asian Theatre. It was a critical air, naval and military base for Allied Forces during the Burma Campaign against Japan. The Imperial Japanese Army Air Force carried out air raids on Chittagong in April and May 1942, in the run-up to the aborted Japanese invasion of Bengal. British forces were forced to temporarily withdraw to Comilla and the city was evacuated. After the Battle of Imphal, the tide turned in favour of the Allied Forces."

Re-read that. So the city gets bombed... in April/May of '42... they evacuate the entire city... and then they start talking about the Battle of Imphal in March of '44. What about the intervening two years? So... the Japanese never attack Chittagong properly? What was the bombing run? No article. Google search?



"Bombing of Chittagong by the Japanese" – original [here](#).

I have no idea if that is Chittagong and I don't think anyone else does either. No articles, no news pieces, no photos, no video, nothing. If you look at the page for the [Chittagong cemetery](#) for the war dead, we read:

“There are now 731 Commonwealth burials of the 1939-45 war here, 17 of which are unidentified.”

So this major site for the British, a front-line city, fighting the Japanese push west, has less than 750 people killed for the entire 1939-1945 period. Make sense of that!

Given that the main British fleet at Sri Lanka wasn't destroyed and the Japanese don't go into India until 1944 you would expect some pretty sizeable response from the British. A naval assault on Burma for example. Rangoon being attacked for sure. Well in this script the British have no fleet or armed forces to deploy to re-take Rangoon until 1945. If you believe Wikipedia's canon history, the troops from India and Burma didn't even know how to fight in a jungle properly and needed training from the ground up.

Holed up and sweating in eastern India, the British needed to put together a crack team of men who could sneak over the mountains back into Burma and decimate those pesky Japanese troops. They needed some kind of military genius to train a new breed of jungle special forces. A true leader of men. Someone smarter than ten Miles Mathises and tougher than Bruce Lee after a month-long crack/steroid binge. Fortunately, they had just the right guy for the job. Tune in to part b where we cover

The Ballad of Orde Wingate