

Autumn 39 to Winter 41/42

Chinese nationalists retreat to the mountains and leave the fighting to the Communists. Japan strikes hard at Britain on land and sea, but America gets off lightly at Pearl Harbour. The Dutch surprise everyone with a string of tactical victories.

China by the Summer of 1941. The nationalists have given up all but a mountain redoubt bordering Burma. British agents are abroad, promising future assistance. Chinese factories toil night and day to produce ancient-looking cannons using old American machine tools.



The only major fighting took place in Chungking, which was abandoned by the nationalists and immediately occupied by a horde of Communists. Their reign did not last long as the Japanese descended on them, but they sold their lives dearly for Chairman Mao. Three elite Japanese divisions fell in the campaign to eliminate six Communist counterparts!

In they go ...

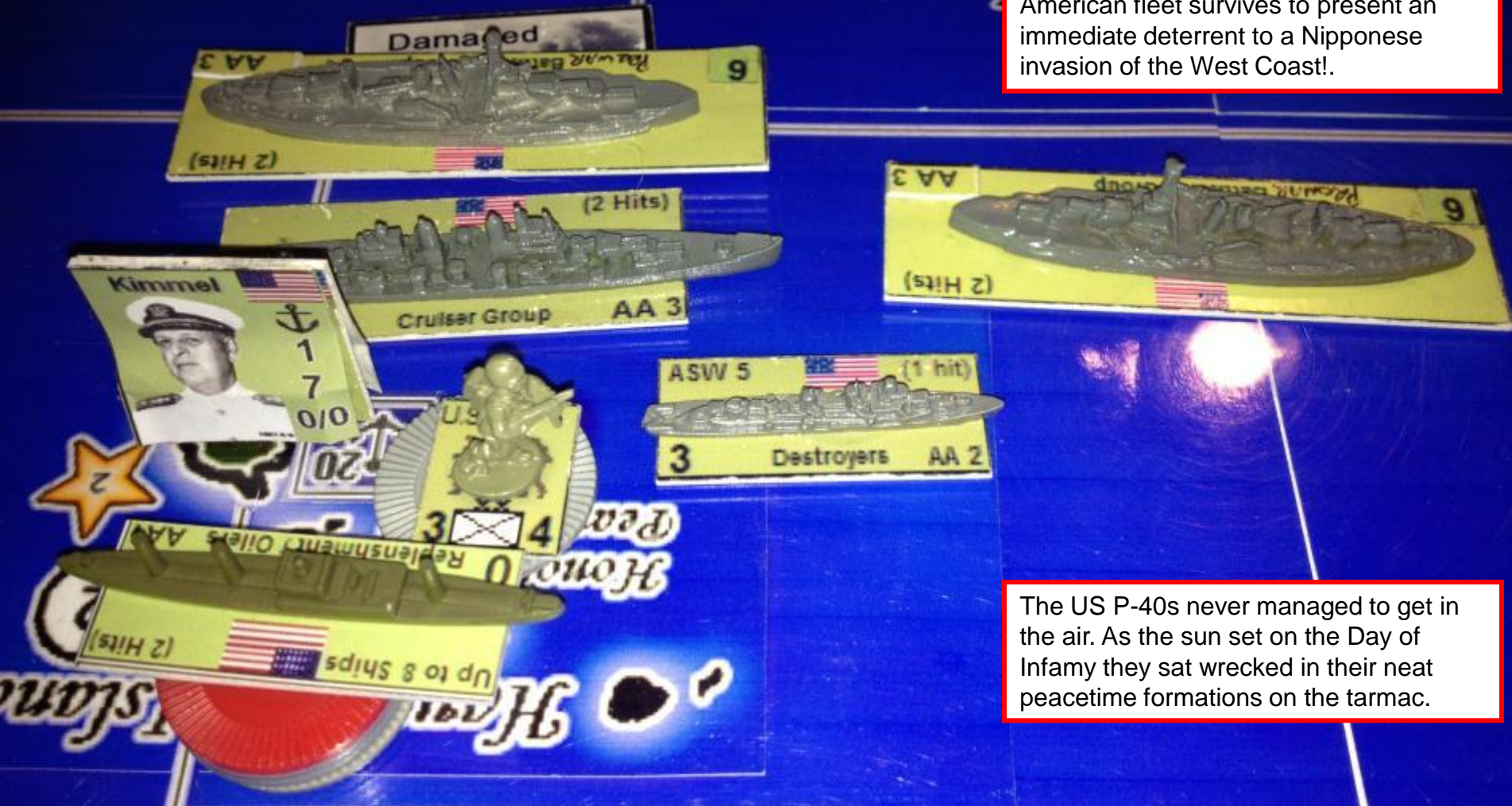
TORA TORA TORA!!

Separate strike groups converged on Pearl from three launch bases. The Imperial Japanese Navy went through some oil this day!



Note the attack on our oilers and sub! They're thinking long term!

Though all the Japanese ravens eluded our AA to complete their attack runs, only two hits were scored – damage on a battleship and a destroyed submarine squadron. Subsequent analysis showed that Japanese bomb and torpedo fuzes were defective. By the grace of God, the American fleet survives to present an immediate deterrent to a Nipponese invasion of the West Coast!.



The US P-40s never managed to get in the air. As the sun set on the Day of Infamy they sat wrecked in their neat peacetime formations on the tarmac.

The oiler survived despite the Japs using their reroll to re-attack with a second wave.



Using airborne forces, and unescorted transports, the Japanese spill out across Melanesia and the Solomons.



From the war's first minutes the Japanese began shaping operations against the Philippines.

First an air strike was launched on the US squadrons on Luzon, which miraculously managed to get airborne and massacre their would-be murderers. Take that Tojo!

The Japanese air strike on our sub base also failed, resulting in a strange inconclusive one-turn surface action between Japanese destroyers and US submarines.

At turn's end, Manila was out of supply. Time to trek south!

Who would have thought the Dutch would fight the hardest of the ABDA powers this turn!

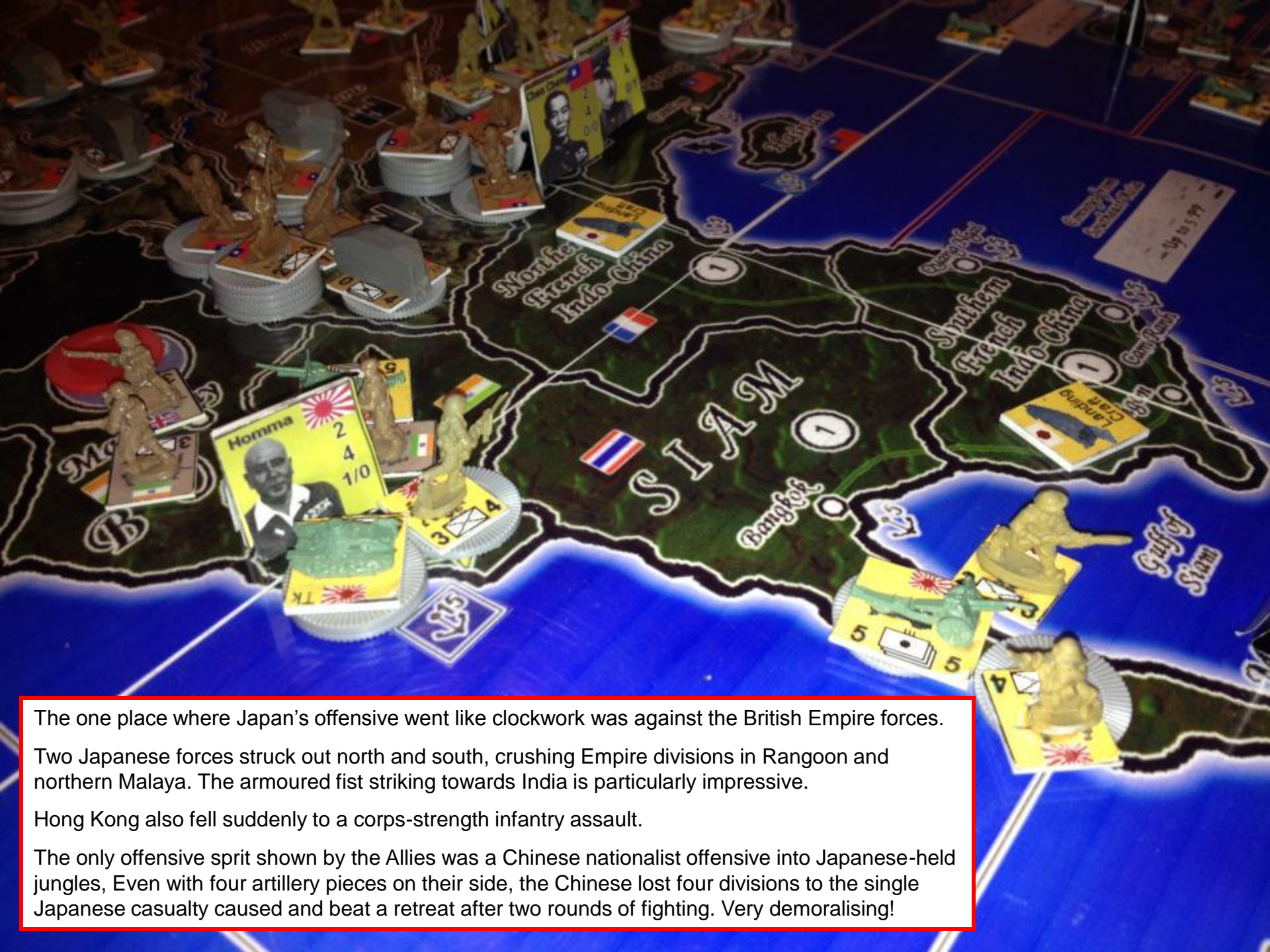
The Dutch troops in Borneo traded their lives to defeat the amphibious invasion, keeping the island out of Japanese hands until the spring.

In the Java Sea the Dutch destroyer squadron fought a plucky action, surviving the fire of two heavier Japanese cruisers and damaging one of its assailants with a torpedo spread before retiring to join the Royal Navy fleet off India.



Force Z needs all the help it can get. Two Jap bombers came out to cripple the Indian Ocean fleet: one was returned, but the second struck a fatal blow at the Courageous carrier group.





The one place where Japan's offensive went like clockwork was against the British Empire forces.

Two Japanese forces struck out north and south, crushing Empire divisions in Rangoon and northern Malaya. The armoured fist striking towards India is particularly impressive.

Hong Kong also fell suddenly to a corps-strength infantry assault.

The only offensive spirit shown by the Allies was a Chinese nationalist offensive into Japanese-held jungles. Even with four artillery pieces on their side, the Chinese lost four divisions to the single Japanese casualty caused and beat a retreat after two rounds of fighting. Very demoralising!