

Conclusion

Before the opening of hostilities, the landing on Java in the Dutch East Indies invasion operation was expected around the 103d day and the surrender of the Dutch East Indies around the 120th day from the opening of hostilities, assuming that the southern operation could be carried out smoothly. However, [the operation was] concluded [ahead of time] with the landing on Java on the 84th day, the surrender offer by the Dutch East Indies Army on the 90th day, and the surrender of the army on the 92d day.

Here, I will look back on the execution of the plan and give consideration to some principal matters.

1. As factors that enabled the Dutch East Indies operation to be completed in a shorter period, the following can be considered:

(1) The success in the surprise attack on Hawaii and the decisive military gains in the sea battles off Malaya.

The former not only removed the threat from the Pacific Ocean but also enabled [the Navy] to send reinforcements to the Southern Task Force. The latter facilitated the progress of the operations in the Malaya theater and also led to Britain's abandonment of the idea to deploy its main fleet.

(2) The success in the attack right at the opening of hostilities to destroy the enemy air power as well as the success in the surprise landings in the Philippines and Malaya.

(3) The Southern Army's operational leadership to make the most of the initial military gains and to keep on pursuing the enemy.

(4) The excellent cooperation between the Army and the Navy, which in particular enabled the rapid advance of air bases.

(5) The complete isolation of Java before the landing of the Sixteenth Army, the defection of the indigenous people from the Dutch side, and also the success in the black clandestine broadcasts.

(6) The Shōji Detachment's attack on Bandung, the main base of the Dutch East Indies Army, with the support of the Endō Air Division, and the Sakaguchi Detachment's seizure of Cilacap, carried out by a sustained pursuit over a long distance at one go.

2. The distinctive characteristics of the leadership of the Sixteenth Army and of the way each corps operated.

(1) The planning and conduct of the operations by the Sixteenth Army was cautious.

(2) The operational conduct of the 2d Division was hindered at the time of its advance by the fact that it was under the direct instruction of the aforementioned Sixteenth Army as its main corps, that the division was organized as a horse-carried [unit], and that many of the bridges [on its way] were destroyed.

- (3) The Shōji Detachment and the Sakaguchi Detachment carried out bold charges in their Java operations.
The Sakaguchi Detachment conducted six operations [in total] (i.e. operations at six places) from the opening of hostilities. In every operation, it carried out the operation with imagination and full of energy.
 - (4) The 48th Division commander conducted the operations [of the division] with great attention to control and mobility. Especially in the operations east of the Solo River, the advance guard [commander] achieved decisive military gains by acting on his own judgment.
 - (5) The main force of the 38th Division carried out its assignment with careful planning and bold execution of the operation.
 - (6) The Eastern Detachment carried out its assignment in close cooperation with the Navy, and it was [also] able to smoothly carry out the capture of Dili in Portuguese [Timor.]
 - (7) Although the 1st Paratroop Raiding Group had to employ the 2d [Paratroop] Raiding Regiment, which came behind and had not been trained sufficiently, for the operations both against the airport and the oil refineries, it boldly engaged in battle and lived up to the expectations of the entire Army.
3. The cooperation from the indigenous people.
- The indigenous people defected from the Dutch side and cooperated with the Japanese. The following reasons can be thought of:

- (1) The Dutch East Indies government and the Dutch people were removed from the indigenous people.
- (2) Of old, there had been exchanges between the Japanese and the Indonesians, and the indigenous people felt an affinity with the Japanese for having common ancestors and being of the same race. Also, a legend had been widely handed down from olden times that a savior (*Topi merah*) would come to Indonesia to free them; the people felt that the Japanese advance this time was it.
- (3) The propaganda of the Japanese Army had been effective.

4. Oil
- We have seen that the main issue that caused the Greater East Asia War was the oil issue, and that the Southern Army as well as the Sixteenth Army went to all kinds of great pains to obtain the oil.

On 2 March 1942, the Liaison Conference between IGHQ and the Government could hold the following bright prospect:⁽³⁾

The current estimate of the amount of oil obtained is as follows:

Fiscal Year 1941	
British Borneo	1,400 kiloliter
The Tarakan area	2,000 kiloliter
Fiscal Year 1942	
British Borneo	700,000 kiloliter
The Tarakan area	250,000 kiloliter
The Sanga Sanga area	300,000 kiloliter
Southern Sumatra	500,000 kiloliter
In total	1,750,000 kiloliter

After that on 9 March, the following rosy decisions were made in the Liaison Conference between IGHQ and the Government.⁽³⁾

1. The amount of oil for private use for the fiscal year 1942, which was set at 1.4 million tons just before the opening of hostilities, shall now be revised to 1.9 million tons.
2. The Separate Oil [Categories] A and B (note by the author: the separate oil [categories] for the Army and the Navy) to be used on site shall also be incorporated in the plan for the mobilization of materials.
3. To implement the above, the amount of oil to be acquired in the Southern areas is decided at 1.7 million tons.

In this way, abundant oil resources were secured. The amount of oil to be acquired from the Dutch East Indies in the first year of the war had been estimated at 300,000 tons before the opening of hostilities, but now it was estimated to be 1.7 million tons.

However, with its tankers necessary for the transport destroyed or sunk one after another by the allied forces, submarines in particular, Japan ended up continuing the war, again suffering from an extreme shortage of fuel.

