

Revamp Works

SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"It is quite possibly the most readable, yet informative account of the Pacific war." —Chicago Sun Times

WINNER

THE Decline and Fall of RISING Japanese Empire, 1936-1945 SUN

JOHN TOLAND
AUTHOR OF THE LAST 100 DAYS

At dawn on December 8, while bombs were falling on Oahu, Japan attacked across the border from Cambodia into Thailand. Their first air action was the bombing of the rail head at Aranyaprathet. This began their drive which led them to Singapore to the south and across Burma to the valley at Imphal and back.

Each air battle we will present is a small piece of a large campaign, unlike isolated events such as Pearl Harbor, Wake Island and Force Z. We will present the story along with the briefing. This may force us to condense some very interesting tales to the point where you cannot fully enjoy them. We would highly recommend you read *Flying Tigers* by Daniel Ford and, if possible, acquire an old out-of-print Time/Life Epic of Flight series book called *Soldiers of Fortune* by Sterling Seagrave. One is the work of a dedicated historian and the other, an inspired writer, whose father was a missionary in Burma at the time and knew all the players. For all else, *The Rising Sun* by John Toland.

These are the stories of young men on both sides of a war far from home a long time ago who fought in airplanes.

UPDATED AND REVISED EDITION

"A first-rate history . . ." —Boston Globe

FLYING TIGERS

CLAIRE CHENNAULT AND
AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS, 1941-1942

DANIEL FORD



By attacking Western colonial military targets, Japan hoped to buy time to capture the resources of Southeast Asia they needed to continue their war with China. While Pearl Harbor gained the attention of the world, the main show was Southeast Asia.

The French colonial government in Indochina had agreed to give the Japanese military rights to transit through French Indochina and to station 25,000 troops in North Vietnam. In March 1941, Japan stationed a garrison in Cambodia of 8,000 troops. Soon, Vietnamese and Cambodian airfields were home to the air forces of the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy secretly deployed there.

On December 7, 1941, Thailand received a request from Japan to allow their troops through Thai territory to attack British forces in Burma and Malaya. If this request was refused, Japan would use force. While the issue was being debated, the Japanese attacked. The first Japanese forces crossed the border around 0400 hours the next day.

Burma had resources. It stood between the Japanese and British India. And it had the last open port through which China could receive supplies over the mountains into Kunming.

They started at dawn in Cambodia.

We start in California eight months earlier.





Epitaph on an Army of Mercenaries

These, in the day when heaven was falling,
The hour when earth's foundations fled,
Followed their mercenary calling,
Took their wages and are dead.

Their shoulders held the sky suspended:
They stood and earth's foundations stay.
What God abandoned these defended
And saved the sum of things for pay.

--A. E. Housman

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President Roosevelt, alarmed by the possibility of a Japanese victory in China, issued an executive order over-riding the heads of the Army and Navy authorizing military pilots to sign contracts with CAMCO and go fight with Claire Chennault for one year in China.

CAMCO, with offices in Manhattan and a factory in Burma, would provide cover for the operation whose primary purpose was to defend China from Japanese bombing and guard the Burma Road open to allow supplies to flow from the port at Rangoon to the Chinese capital at Kunming.

The pilots were to be paid around \$650 a month and \$500 for each Japanese airplane destroyed. It was to be called the American Volunteer Group (AVG) and shipped its pilots to Asia as tourists, entertainers, salesmen, bankers, and missionaries. Missionaries they were not.

In April they began sailing from California to Rangoon.

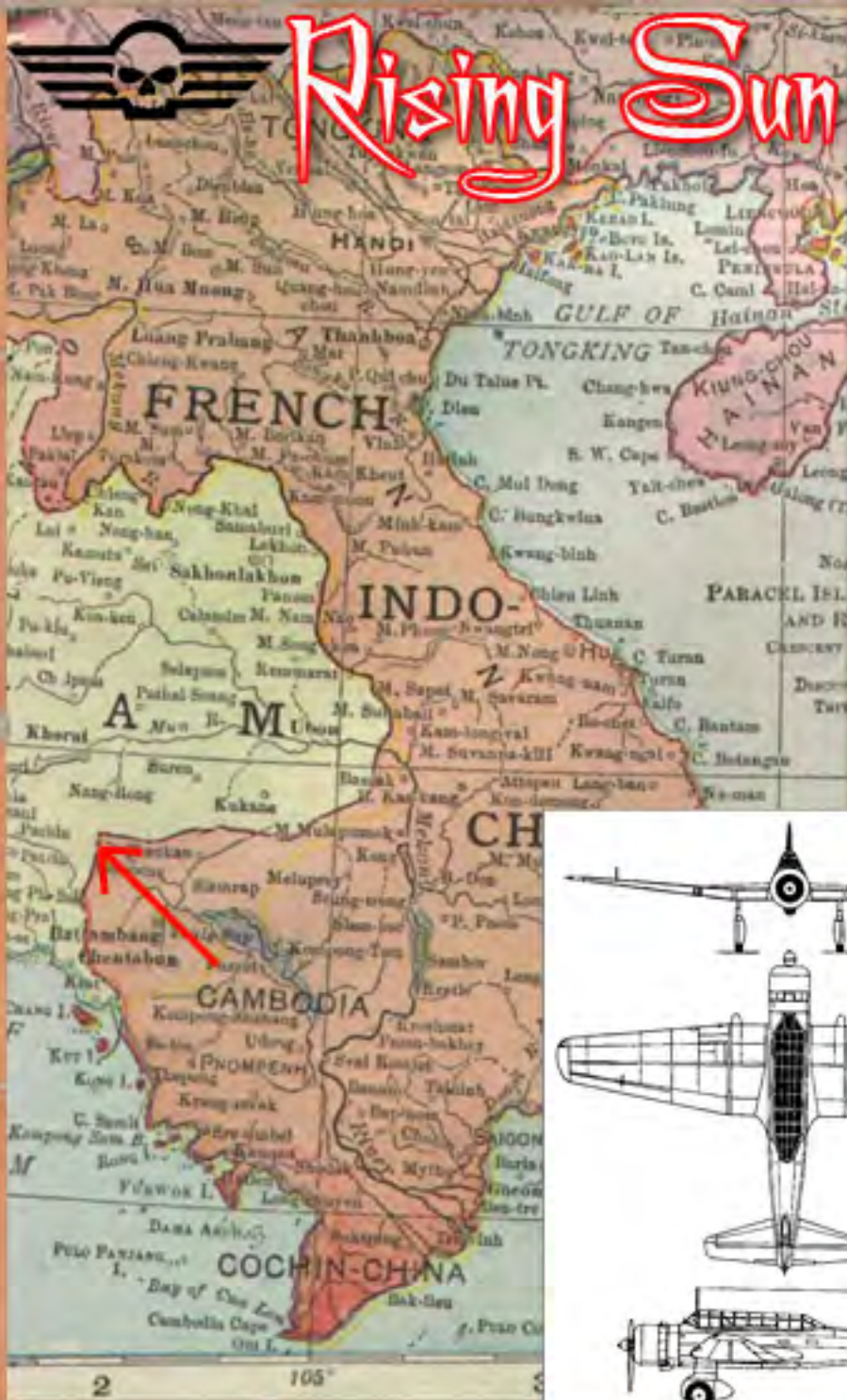
They were equipped with P-40B's taken from a shipment built for the RAF. They were assembled at Mingaladon airport north of Rangoon and ferried to Toungoo where the pilots trained.

By December 8, they were as ready as they were going to be and plans were set to move the unit to Kunming to stop the daily bombings. He left one squadron in Rangoon to help the RAF with the defense of Burma.



CAMCO at Loiwing

Rising Sun



411208 Aranyaprahet

AircraftType=Ki-30 Nagoya 九七式軽爆撃機,

Unit=31st Sentai, Batdambang Cambodia

StartTime=0730

Weather= ☀ 4000 m

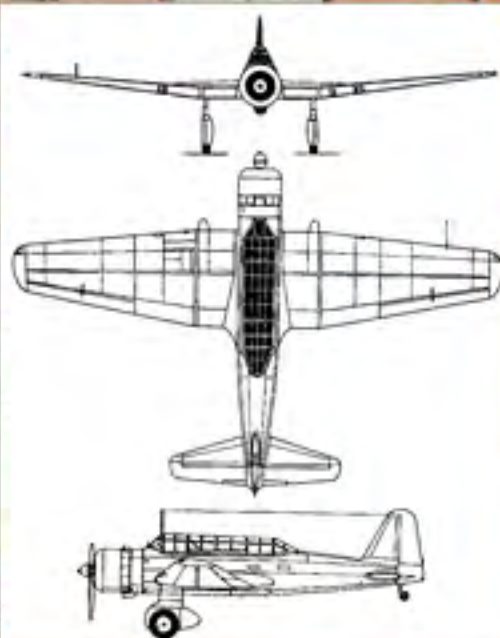
Take off as Python lead for the 100 NM flight to Aranyaprahet, Thailand. You are to bomb the train station.

Select bombs and the bombsight will depress to the floor. Shift your view to the floor and toggle the cockpit to invisible. Select the crossbar that matches your altitude and pickle when it arrives just short of the target.

You will be escorted by a flight of Ki-27's in case the Royal Thai Air Force chooses to oppose you. Expect some ground fire from soldiers but no serious flak.

Then return to Batdambang to pack your bags, You are moving to Thailand soon. It's a long flight so speed up the ferry legs.

Canopy, Rear CTRL-4



Rising Sun



410618 Yosio Hirose

AircraftType=Ki-27 Otsu 九七式戦闘機
Unit=77th Sentai, Phnom Pehn Cambodia
StartTime=0730
Weather= ☀ 4000 m

Hirose was born on 8 February 1912 in the Ibaragi Prefecture. He graduated from the Academy in July 1933 and was promoted to Second Lieutenant. He was serving with the 16th Rentai in Manchuria when the China Incident commenced.

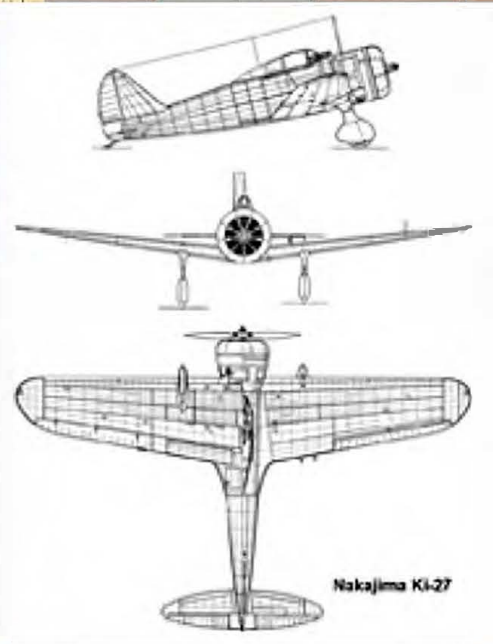
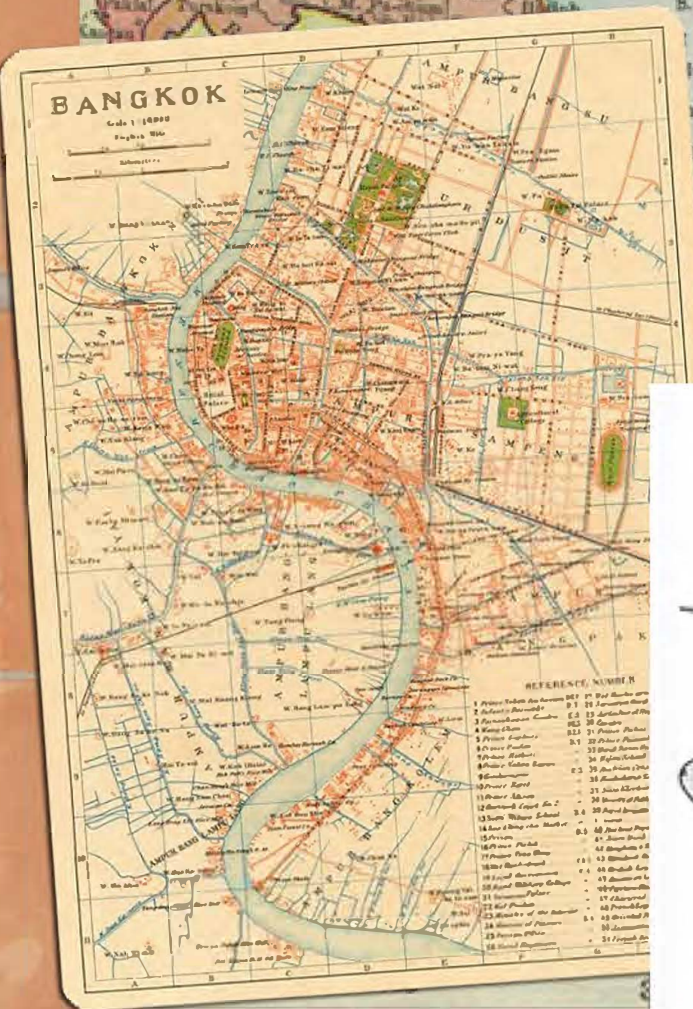
In August 1940 he took command of the 3rd Chutai, 77th Sentai, when he was promoted to Major. In December the unit was moved to forward airfields in southern Indo-China.

In the morning of December 8th 1941, nine Ki-30 light bombers of the 31st Sentai and escorted by Ki-27s of the 77th Sentai led by Major Hirose made a demonstration flight over Bangkok.

As they approach the Thai capital they were intercepted by Thai fighters. Three Curtiss Hawk IIIs of Foong Klap Lai 43 from the 1st Wing, and scrambled from Watana Nakorn airfield in an attempt to intercept. Within minutes, all three attacking Thai fighters were shot down.

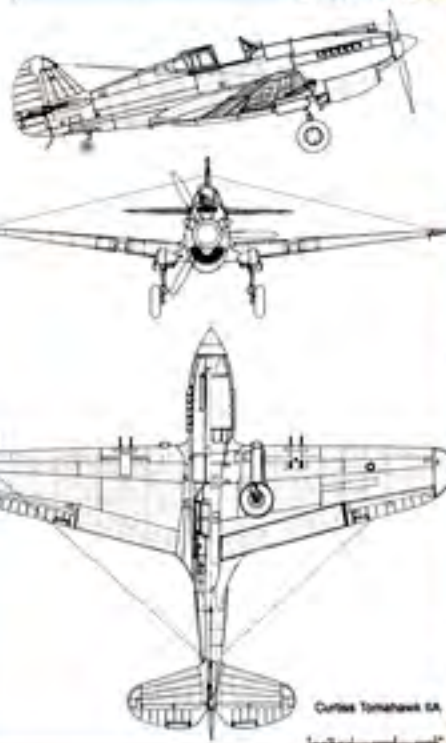
The victories were credited to Major Hirose, Lieutenant Yoshiro Kuwabara and Lieutenant Tsuguo Kojima.

When all enemies are down, go back to base.



Nakajima Ki-27

Rising Sun



411220 Sandy Sandell

AircraftType=P-40B Tomahawk

Unit=AVG 1st Pursuit, Wu Chia Ba airfield, Kunming

StartTime=1000

Weather= ☁ 7000 m

Chennault had been the advocate of fighter combat for decades and had been largely ignored. Aware that the Japanese would bomb daily, he sent one flight down the railway to intercept bombers inbound from Hanoi. He sent Jack Newkirk of the Panda Bears to the northwest as a back up flight. When attacked by the Pandas, they jettisoned their bombs and accelerated southeast, they ran into Sandy Sandell's flight of Adam & Eves.

Depart Kunming leading a flight of 8 P-40's and follow course southeast until you hear a "bandit" call. SHIFT-8 will lock your view on that caller. Turn and head that way at full speed. You and your flight must down the first 3 Ki-48's or get them to jettison their bombs. Ignore the others. If the lead element bombs, you have failed.

After this day, Kunming was never bombed again while the AVG was on station. Chennault's long-planned trap had finally been sprung.

All pilot canopies are controlled by the flaps.





Rising Sun



411220 Sandy Sandell

AircraftType=P-40B Tomahawk
Unit=AVG 1st Pursuit, Wu Chia Ba airfield, Kunming
StartTime=1000
Weather= 7000 m



This free-for-all was now joined by Ed Rector of the Panda Bears. Rector was off-duty that day, for his plane was overdue for its twenty-five-hour engine check. So he had been forced to sit out the excitement, watching the Adam & Eves and his own squadron take off, then seeing Jack Newkirk's flight return with the gun barrels whistling—audible proof that they had been in combat. (The muzzles were taped over for flight, to keep water and dust from entering.) A crew under Henry Fox was still working on Rector's Tomahawk, but he sprinted out to the flight line and yelled: "Get that goddamned cowling back on!" While Fox and the others readied the Tomahawk for takeoff, Rector buckled himself into his parachute and climbed into the cockpit. He taxied out onto the field, awed by the sight of the billowing clouds that awaited him. "I fired up that P-40 and got out and chased them," Rector said years later, banking his hands to represent his plane, the fleeing Lilys, and the Tomahawks diving among them. "I saw eight damned airplanes out there engaging them. They were pulling up like this, and shooting, and it was bizarre beyond compare." But Rector remembered his navy gunnery practice and Chennault's lectures at Kyedaw airfield. He took the high perch and came down in a long, sweeping turn behind one of the Lilys:

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Rising Sun



Reconnaissance aircraft report the presence more Allied aircraft at Rangoon. The 7th Hikodan is ordered to attack Rangoon while the rest press forward into Malaya.

The Battle of Burma was to begin with a two-pronged raid on Rangoon. The first would be at Mingaladon airport to destroy the aircraft seen by reconnaissance aircraft.

This would be a mixed-force of Ki-21's (62nd Sentai) and Ki30's (31st Sentai) from Bangkok and Ki-27 Otsu (77th Sentai) fighter escort from Tak/Raheng.

The second was to attack the Rangoon docks with their cargo ships and piles of supplies. This would include Ki-21's from Bangkok (98th Sentai) and Phnom Penh (60th Sentai).

Since the 21st Hikotai's loss of 40% of their aircraft in the raid on Kunming was not known to the 7th, their Ki-21's were sent to Burma without fighter escort.

The various rendezvous did not occur according to plan so the 62nd Sentai arrived over target miles ahead of the 77th who could have protected them. The 98th did not wait for the 60th so they arrived separately overhead Rangoon.

Both waves were spotted by the ground network and called in to the RAF. The AVG was not informed of the approaching bombers until the order to "Clear the Field" was issued. Upon hearing the RAF Buffaloes leaving the Hell's Angels took off.



Rising Sun



411223 R T Smith

AircraftType=P-40B Tomahawk
Unit=AVG 3rd Pursuit, Mingaladon airfield, Rangoon
StartTime=1230
Weather= ○

George McMillan's flight scrambled off the ground to the east in search of the attacking bombers. At 10000 feet, Tom Haywood yelled, "Hey, Mac! I see the bastards!" It was the 62nd sentai. McMillan lead them in on the attack.

Crammed into the cockpit of No. 77, R.T. Smith experienced for the first time the symptoms of combat--the cotton mouth, the pounding heart, and the bladder ready to burst:

"And now it was my turn. driving and turning to line up my gunsight...squeezing the stick-trigger and hearing the crackling sound of my four .30 caliber wing guns and the slower, powerful thudding of the two .50's in the nose...the pungent smell of cordite filling the cockpit, a good smell...the bombers were firing back, tracers crisscrossing the sky in every direction, black smoke and flames streaming from the left engine of a bomber up ahead, and all the while that creepy-crawling feeling at the back of the neck, knowing that fighters must surely be about to pounce down on us."

Stay on the wing until McMillan attacks, then pick your targets well. Land at Mingaladon.





Rising Sun



Gulf of
Martaban

411223 Shinjiro Nagoshi

AircraftType=Ki-27 Otsu 九七式戦闘機

Unit=77th Sentai, Raheng Thailand

StartTime=1300

Weather= ○

During the raid, no Ki-30 was lost due to the fighter cover provided by the 77th Sentai. No Ki-27 Otsu was lost either.

But several of the Ki-27's, seeing the larger bombers in trouble, flew to their rescue. The P-40 flown by Paul Greene was shot down by a group of three Ki-27, which he identified as A5M's, another fixed gear fighter.

Stay with the Ki-30's until they are jumped by Allied fighters. Then shoot it down. Remember, you have rifle-caliber guns and the Tomahawk has armor so your shooting has to be very accurate.

Then return to base in Thailand and land. You will need to know the way later.



Rising Sun



411223 Ken Jernstedt

AircraftType=P-40B Tomahawk
Unit=AVG 3rd Pursuit, Mingaladon airfield, Rangoon
StartTime=1230
Weather= ☉

Parker Dupouy's flight had been ordered to the Syriam oil refinery southeast of Rangoon. While orbiting, they spotted a tight formation of Ki-21's inbound to the city. This was the 98th Sentai.

After seeing Neil Martin's Tomahawk destroyed by the combined fire of the greenhouse gunners, Ken Jernstedt attacked from the side against a bomber on the wing of the formation.

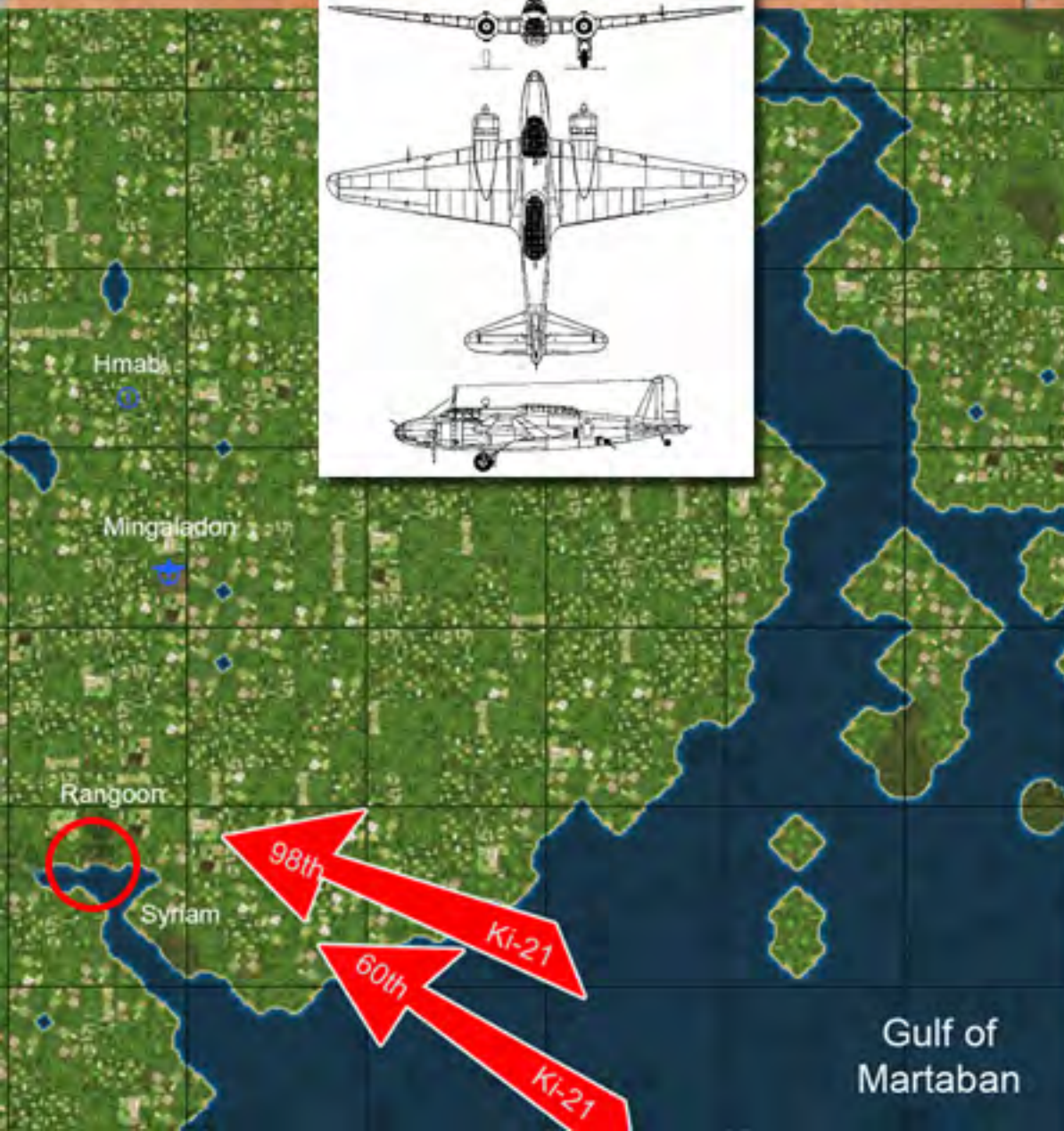
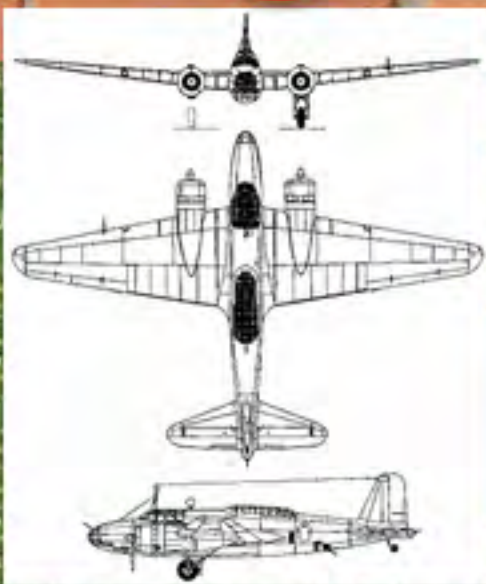
The target had been the Rangoon docks but the AVG attack caused some of them to shift their sights on the city itself.

Follow your leader to a point overhead Syriam until the bombers appear. Then pick one out and shoot him down. Land at Mingaladon and taxi to the thatched brick AVG hangar.





Rising Sun



411223 Ogawa Shojiro

AircraftType=Ki-21 Type 97 Heavy 九七式重爆撃機

Unit=60th Sentai, Phnom Penh Cambodia

StartTime=1300

Weather= ○

Having arrived unaware of the defenses., the attacking bombers of the other sentais were heavily engaged by RAF Buffaloes and the AVG who both hammered away at them.

The 60th Sentai under Col. Ogawa Shojiro approached Rangoon from the ocean and flew over the east side of the city at 23,000 feet. They found it very quiet.

The Sallys reported that they had hit the harbor facilities and destroyed a mid-sized cargo ship; afterward, they were attacked by a few enemy aircraft, with one crewman shot through the forehead and killed. All returned to Pnom Penh, but evidently one bomber was destroyed by a crash landing.

Arrive and line up on the docks. Get your wingmen to attack them also. Then turn back to the sea and head for Cambodia.

Animation Controls

Canopy CTRL-3



Gulf of
Martaban

Rising Sun



The 62nd Sentai has been wrecked as a fighting force. The 98th Sentai had lost its commander. Some officers wanted to cancel further raids and send fighters to destroy the Allied defenses. General Sugawara decided that he need only provide fighter escort so he called for reinforcements for a raid on December 25th.

From Phnom Penh, the 12th Sentai would provide heavy bombers. From Malaya, the 64th Sentai flying Ki-43 Hayabuses under Major Tateo Kato ferried to Bangkok.

The 62nd was to follow its previous orders again; join with the Ki-30's and Ki-27's over Raheng and bomb Mingaladon airport.

The 98th was excused while in mourning for their commander but the 60th was to join with the 12th and be escorted by the Ki-43's to Rangoon.

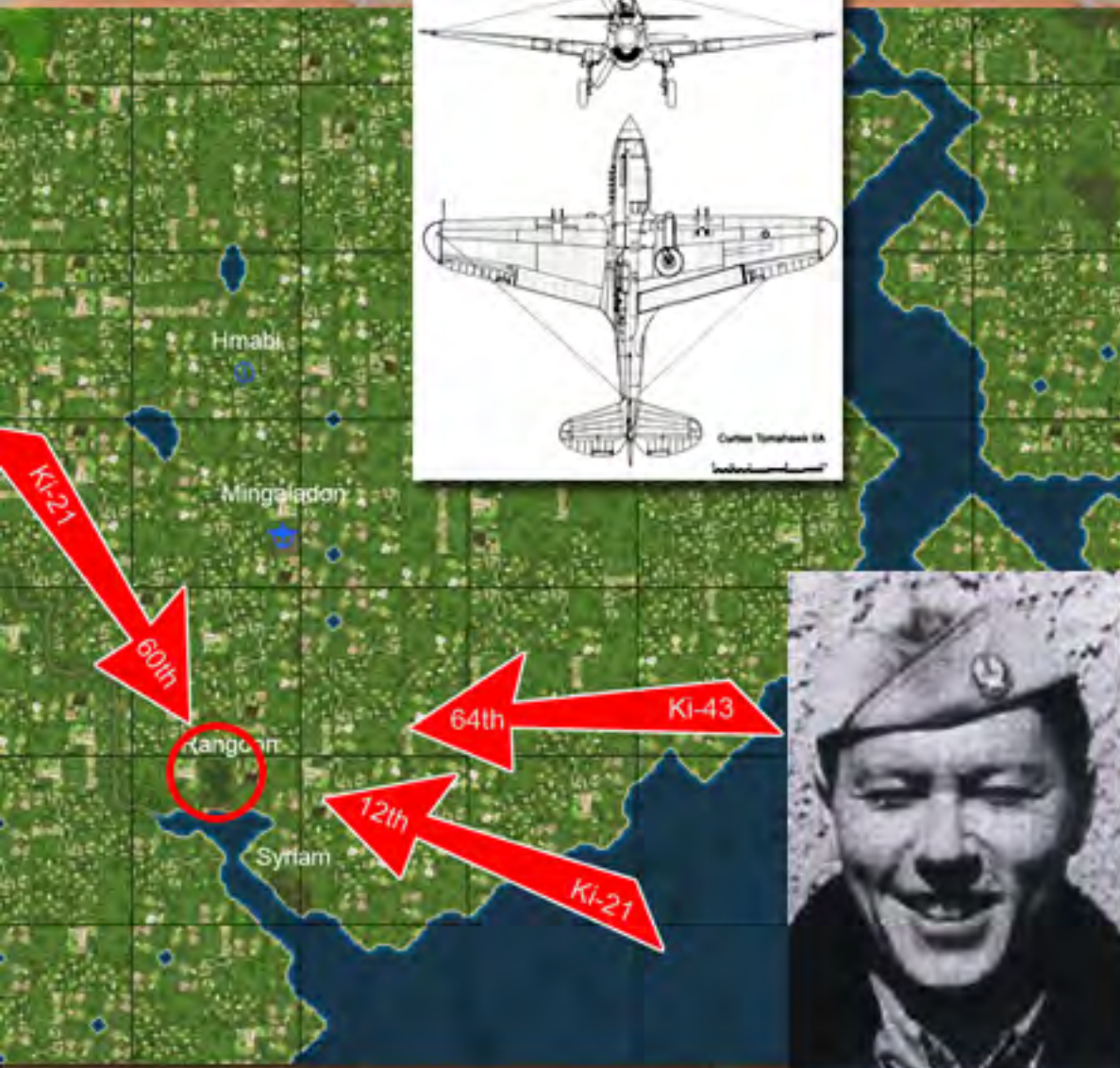
Again, the formation fell apart. The 12th fell behind so took a direct line across the bay stripping the 60th of it's escorts.

The 12th was the first to reach Rangoon. It's target was the power plant. The 60th bombed the town and headed home at maximum power.

This time, the AVG was already in the air.



Rising Sun



411225 Duke Hedman

AircraftType=P-40B Tomahawk
Unit=AVG 3rd Pursuit, Mingaladon airfield Rangoon
StartTime=1230
Weather= ☀ 5000 m

McMillan's flight was over Syriam when he spotted the 12th returning from Rangoon along with its fighter escort. They sailed into the formation head-on.

"I fell behind so came up from direct rear firing...at the last bomber until it began flaming from the underneath...and went towards the earth at a 45-degree angle. I gave the next two in line good bursts...then half-rolled out.

I pulled up directly behind the leader and gave him a longer burst at 100 yards. It went straight forward into a steep dive leaving a trail of heavy pitch black smoke behind.

I half rolled and saw a Model O running away. I turned inside him and at 500 yards gave him a burst. He burst into flames and went straight down." --Duke Hedman.

Stay with lead until the shooting starts then mix it up. Hedman recovered to Hmabi north of Mingaladon. Park at the hangar on the south end.



Rising Sun



411225 Tateo Kato



AircraftType=Ki-43 Hayabusa 隼
Unit=64th Sentai, 1st chutai Bangkok Thailand
StartTime=1230
Weather= ☀ 5000

The 64th Sentai was responsible for escorting both the 60th and 12th Sentai bombers on the Christmas Raid. This left them both open to attack from the AVG.

"Anxiety grew in my mind. I went back at top speed to meet the Ogawa bombing unit (60th). On the way, I shot down 2 or 3 enemy planes." One of these may have been Eddie Overend who was forced to land in a rice paddie east of Rangoon after his controls were shot out. The other might have been Parker Dupouy whose evasive tactics might have been interpreted as a knock down.

Stay with your bombers even if the P-40's are attacking elsewhere. Intercept any P-40 within range and shoot it down. Expect them from the northwest.

You can outmaneuver the P-40's easier if you use the first flap setting which activates the "butterfly" maneuver flaps.

Kato was and is a hero in Japan.





Rising Sun



Curtis Tomahawk 64



420103 Tex Hill

AircraftType=P-40B Tomahawk
Unit=AVG 2nd Pursuit, Mingaladon airfield, Rangoon
StartTime=0700
Weather= ☀ 5000 m

“Let’s take the war to the enemy!” was the statement Jack Newkirk used to announce a strafing raid on the Japanese base at Tak (or Raheng).

Departing Mingaladon at dawn, they flew across Martaban Bay, over two mountain ranges and caught the 77th Sentai’s Ki-27’s on the runway having just returned from strafing Moulmein. Then they realized there were still 3 fighters in the landing pattern that jumped them during their strafing runs. One was on the tail of Jim Howard and Tex Hill saw him.

“I pulled around on him as quickly as I could and started firing as I did. I didn’t even look through the gunsight—just watched the tracers like following a garden hose. With my diving speed built up, I came right up on him and he blew up.”

Join up and fly to Tak. Your targets are any aircraft, on the ground but they ran into two in the air during their strike. If you get the chance, engage them. Then go home to Mingaladon.



Rising Sun



420128 Bunny Stone

AircraftType=Hurricane MkIIA

Unit=76 Squadron, Mingaladon airfield, Rang

StartTime=1900

Weather= ○



The Hawker Hurricane was the best night fighter in the RAF inventory. thanks to its good cockpit vision, shielded exhaust pipes, and wide-track undercarriage.

"We stood...staring and staring. The buzzing Hurricane still remained invisible...So we listened to the double hums coming straight in and the other waspish buzz burrowing round...Then we were yelling all at once, "The Hurricane's on her!" Hundreds of crimson dashes chased each other madly in a straight line up and up..."

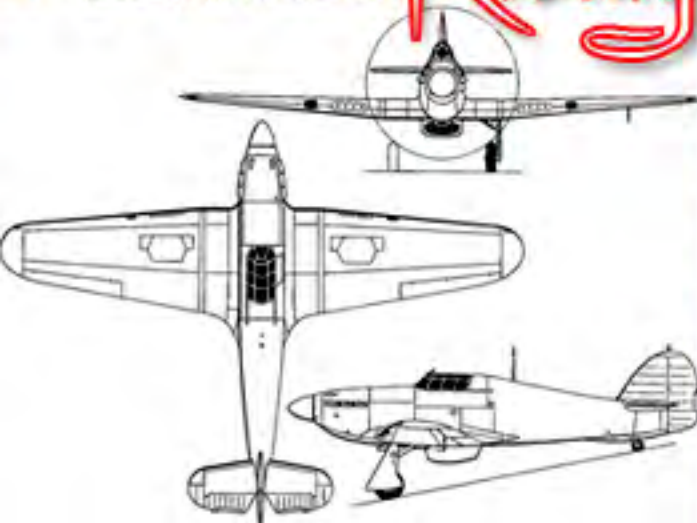
Once more that slender, stabbing chain of red flashes. But this time it slashed diagonally earthward... Then, under the darkened sky where the machinegun bursts extinguished themselves, a great flame suddenly lights up the sky. It hovers momentarily, then plunges straight down. Across that flat land, a mile and a half north of us, the horizon is illuminated with one huge flash."

The triumphant night fighter was Bunny Stone. The fireball was the Sally piloted by Akio Hirabayashi of the 62nd Sentai

Depart Hmabi to defend against a raid on Mingaladon. Try to silhouette the bombers against the stars. If you are a fixed target they will shoot you down. Land at Hmabi.



Rising Sun



420207 Allan Carvell

AircraftType=Hurricane MkIIA

Unit=76 Squadron, Mingaladon airfield, Rangoon

StartTime=0700

Weather= ☉



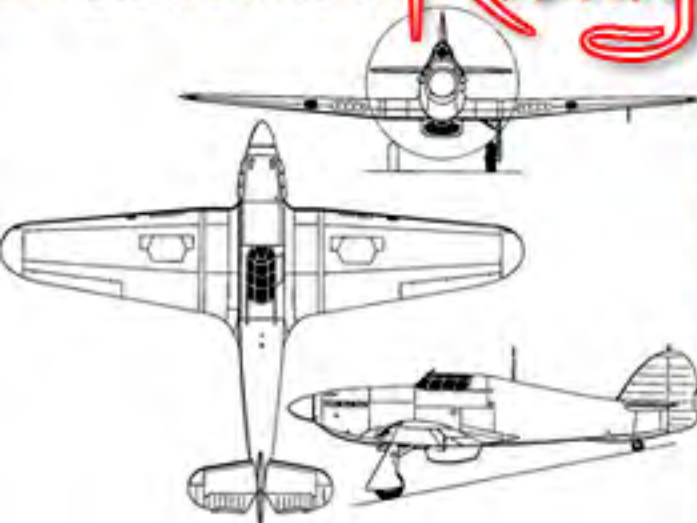
On 6 February, the Japanese launched an assault on Mingaladon. This began with attacks just after 0400 by four Ki-21s of the 14th Sentai, followed an hour later by six more from the 62nd Sentai. At 0700 15 Ki-30s from the 31st Sentai attacked, about 80 bombs landing within the airfield boundaries on this occasion, although little damage was done. Two 'A' Flight Hurricanes of 17 Squadron, on night readiness, were scrambled into the dawn sky – Flight Lieutenant Allan Carvell for the fourth time that night! He and Sergeant Ken Rathbone finally intercepted a number of the Ki-30s, each claiming one shot down.

Depart as flight lead from Mingaladon and climb. Locate the inbound flight of Ki-30's and attack them. Their guns will kill you if you remain stationary for long.

When you have exhausted your ammunition, return to Mingaladon and land. Park at the RAF hangar.



Rising Sun



420207 Tex Barrick

AircraftType=Hurricane MkIIA

Unit=76 Squadron, Mingaladon airfield, Rangoon

StartTime=1900

Weather= 4000 m

In the morning on 7 February, the 50th and 77th Sentai Ki-27s appeared in force over Burma, the 22 pilots from the latter unit reporting meeting ten P-40s near Rangoon, claiming several shot down and several probables. The unit suffered casualties when one pilot was killed and another was obliged to force land at Moulmein.

It seems that they in fact had clashed with Hurricanes since ten Hurricanes had indeed been scrambled as the sweep approached but only four had made contact, these pilots submitting claims. Sergeant Tex Barrick of 17 Squadron claimed two Ki-27s shot down and a third damaged, while fellow American Flying Officer Lloyd Thomas from the same unit, also claimed one shot down.

J. F. "Tex" Barrick had hitch-hiked to Toronto to join the RCAF before Pearl Harbor and became an ace in Burma.

In this mission, break away from your flight, climb, find and take on the Ki-27's. Then return to Mingaladon to land. This concludes Phase One of Rising Sun.

We are not through with Burma yet.



Rising Sun



The 77th Sentai returned the next day. What kind of courage did it require to cross Martaban Bay in a flimsy Nate with fixed landing gear, two rifle-caliber guns, and an unprotected tank of aviation gas--and over South Burma to meet the shark-faced Tomahawks of the AVG, which only yesterday had destroyed four of their comrades? The Buffaloes were no longer a factor in the defense of Mingaladon airport--never had been, really. The eight-gunned Hurricanes should have been more of a threat, although they had not yet managed to break even against the Japanese air forces, in Malaya or in Burma. But the Tomahawks were murder, with the power of their fifty-caliber guns, the toughness of Donovan Berlin's airframe and the maverick intensity of Chennault's pilots.

*--Daniel Ford, author
Flying Tigers*

