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Admiral Chuichi Nagumo led the Japanese First Air Fleet, an aircraft carrier strike force, toward the U.S fleet at Pearl Harbor, as seen in this Japanese photo taken November 26, 1941. If negotiations between Japan and the U.S. were successful, the fleet would return home. If negotiations were not successful, planes and pilots traveling aboard the carriers would attack the U.S fleet at Pearl Harbor.

November 26, 1941 marked Japan's final turn toward war. During a Washington meeting, Cordell Hull told Nomura and Kurusu the oil embargo would continue.

The Secretary then referred to the oil question. He said that public feeling was so acute on that question that he might almost be lynched if he permitted oil to go freely to Japan. (See official Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack, at page 385.)

It wasn't just the oil, though. Among other things, America wanted Japan to recognize the authority of the current Chinese leader, Chiang Kai-shek. The Imperial Government refused. Apparently resigned to the inevitable, Ambassador Nomura made a fatalistic observation.

The Ambassador took the occasion to observe that sometimes statesmen of firm conviction fail to get sympathizers among the public; that only wise men could see far ahead and sometimes suffered martyrdom; but that life's span was short and one could only do his duty.

Certain his country would not accept America's most recent proposal, Kurusu wanted to be sure there was no way to bend Roosevelt's government:

Mr. Kurusu said that he felt that our response to their proposal could be interpreted as tantamount to meaning the end...

In fact, that's exactly how the Imperial government saw things. They were ready to implement their plan for the South Pacific. On November 26, 1941 the huge fleet left port. Some vessels sailed north. Others sailed south.

Onboard the flagship carrier Akagi, Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo was in command of a well-armed, large contingent of the Imperial fleet. He and his men were sailing north of Tokyo, well outside the shipping lanes. Their destination? Pearl Harbor. The carriers were fully loaded with bombers and fighter planes.

But those ships carried something more. Something fatal. Pilots aboard the aircraft carriers were armed with

deadly knowledge. As Yamamoto and Genda planned the attack, they had inside help.

One of Japan's best-trained spies, Takeo Yoshikawa, had a job at the Pearl Harbor Japanese Consulate. To everyone outside the Imperial high command, he was known as "Tadashi Morimura."

To Yamamoto's staff, however, he was known as the man who drew meticulous pictures of the harbor and its naval ships.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/NEGOTIATIONS-BREAK-DOWN-Pearl-Harbor>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/NEGOTIATIONS-BREAK-DOWN-Pearl-Harbor>

Media Stream



Nomura, Kurusu and Hull - December 7, 1941

Photo, Japanese Archives, online via Wikimedia Commons.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Nomura-Kurusu-and-Hull-December-7-1941>



Chiang Kai-shek - A Brief Bio

Photo published in the *Illustrated London News* on the 10th of October, 1941.

U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Chiang-Kai-shek-A-Brief-Bio>



Japanese Attacks - Not Just Pearl Harbor

Library of Congress.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Japanese-Attacks-Not-Just-Pearl-Harbor>



To the Pilots: Do Your Duty!

U.S. Navy Photo # 80-G-182248.

Information on the photo from the U.S. Navy's Historical Center.

Photo, U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/To-the-Pilots-Do-Your-Duty->

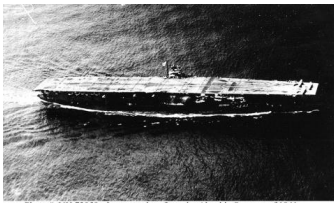


Photo # NH 73059 - Japanese aircraft carrier Akagi in Summer of 1941

Akagi - Flagship for Pearl Harbor Attack

Photo (donation of Kazutoshi Hando, 1970), courtesy U.S. Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Akagi-Flagship-for-Pearl-Harbor-Attack>



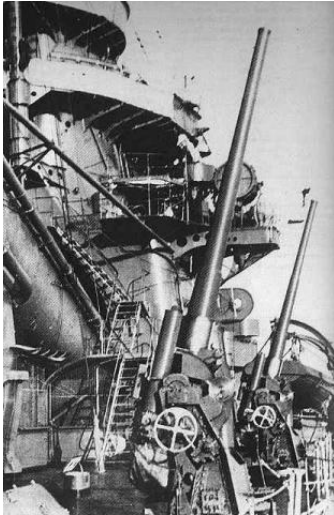
Akagi - Flagship of Japan's First Air Fleet

Drawing (for an Akagi model-kit manufactured by Hasegawa) and information on this Japanese aircraft carrier, from Combined Fleet (a web site which includes information and graphics on the Imperial Japanese Navy).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Akagi-Flagship-of-Japan-s-First-Air-Fleet>



Imperial Fleet - Anti-Aircraft Weapons

Photo and information from Combined Fleet.com.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Imperial-Fleet-Anti-Aircraft-Weapons>



Takeo Yoshikawa - His Spy Charts Used in Pearl Attack

First quoted passage - from "Japanese Spy at Pearl Harbor," (pages 72-77) by Jules Archer, in *WWII Journal #2 - Pearl Harbor*.

Second quoted passage - from "*And I Was There*" *Pearl Harbor and Midway - Breaking the Secrets*, by Rear Admiral Edwin T. Layton, USN (Ret.), with Captain Roger Pineau, USNR (Ret.) John Costello.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Takeo-Yoshikawa-His-Spy-Charts-Used-in-Pearl-Attack0>



Takeo Yoshikawa and Consulate Staff - Before Bombing

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Takeo-Yoshikawa-and-Consulate-Staff-Before-Bombing>

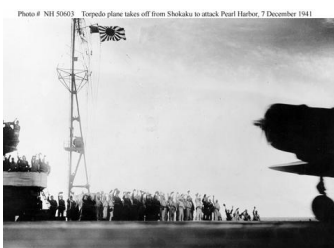


Photo # NH 50603 - Torpedo plane takes off from Shokaku to attack Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941

Type 97 Carrier Attack Plane - Kate in the Second Wave

U.S. Navy Photo # NH 50603.

Information on the photo from the U.S. Navy's Historical Center.

Photo, U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Type-97-Carrier-Attack-Plane-Kate-in-the-Second-Wave>



Type 99 Carrier Bombers - Vals Leave for Pearl Attack

U.S. Navy Photo #: 80-G-182259.

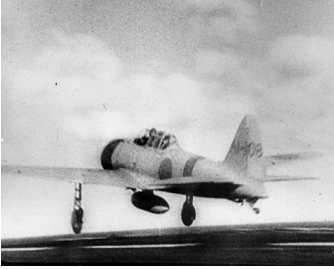
Information on the photo from the U.S. Navy's Historical Center.

Photo, U.S. National Archives.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Type-99-Carrier-Bombers-Vals-Leave-for-Pearl-Attack>



Zero Fighter - From Flagship Akagi to Pearl Harbor Attack

U.S. Navy Photo # NH 50603.

Information on the photo from the U.S. Navy's Historical Center.

Photo, U.S. National Archives. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Zero-Fighter-From-Flagship-Akagi-to-Pearl-Harbor-Attack>



Zero Fighter - Leaving Aircraft Carrier for Pearl Harbor

U.S. Navy Photo #: 80-G-71198.

Information on the photo from the U.S. Navy's Historical Center.

Photo, U.S. National Archives. PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Zero-Fighter-Leaving-Aircraft-Carrier-for-Pearl-Harbor>



NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN

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