



TOGO CHRONICLE

A Powder Keg in the Pacific A Significant Event in the North Sea

Introduction

February 1898 was an ordinary winter month in Europe and North America, though it was scorching hot in the Southern Hemisphere.

A heatwave in Australia contributed to a massive bushfire in South Gippsland (southeastern Australia, Victoria), resulting in the deaths of 12 people and the destruction of over two thousand buildings. Australians hoped that in the future, such devastating fires could be prevented.

Meanwhile, in Poznań, preparations were underway for the launch of the first electric tram, though it had not yet been fully operational. The first scheduled departure is expected in March of this year.

In the Purley district of London, while descending a hill, Henry Lindfield of Brighton lost control of his automobile and crashed into a tree.

Local newspapers reported that Lindfield had become the first casualty of an accident involving this extremely dangerous technology—automobiles.

It seems our civilisation must decide whether it is more important to eliminate the growing problem of horse manure accumulating in our streets or to embrace this evidently highly dangerous technology that eliminates the need for horses.

The future will reveal which option is chosen.





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The Japanese Continue Their Expansion in the Pacific and Secure Tsushima



Japanese Prime Minister Hirobumi Itō decided that the Japanese fleet should finally counter the increasing activity of the Russian navy in the Sea of Japan, even at the cost of slowing Pacific expansion.

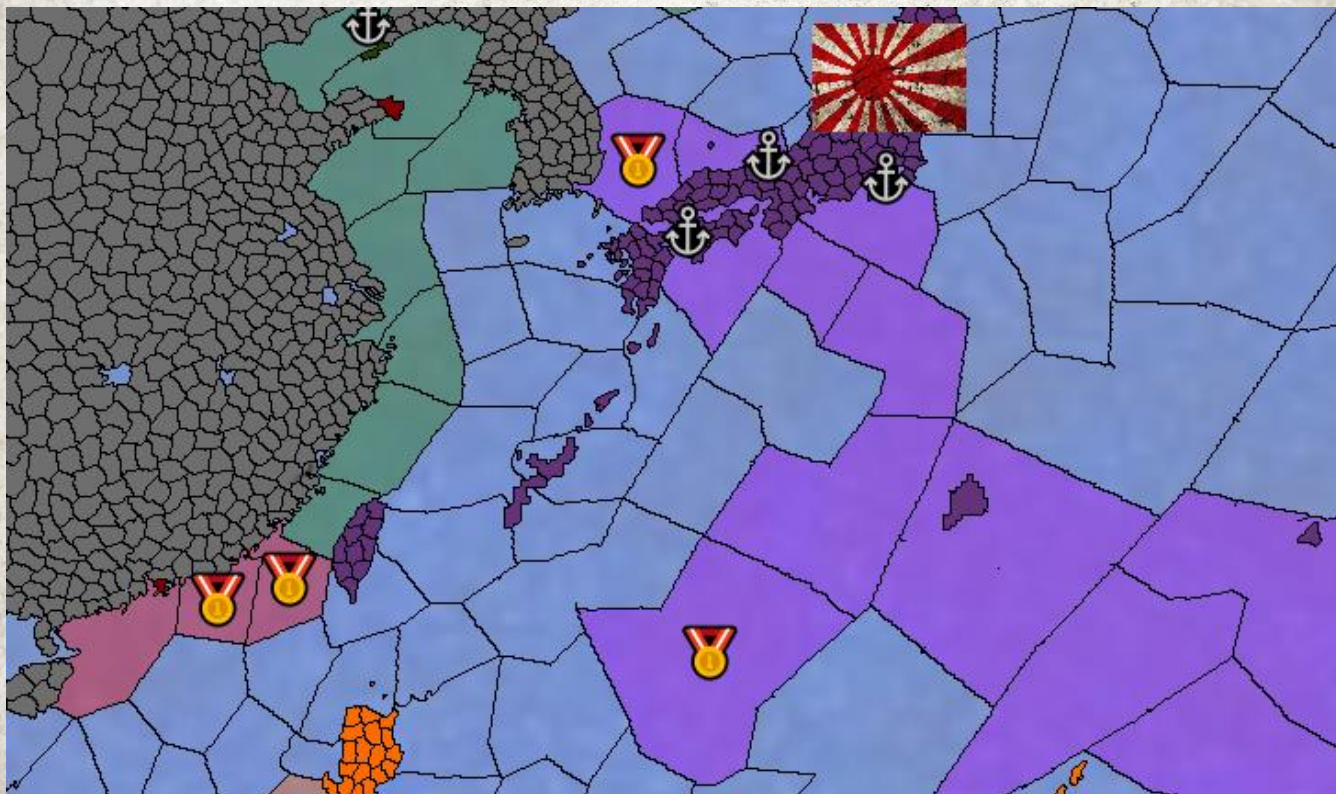
Following his orders, Japanese warships conducted manoeuvres around Tsushima Island, strengthening Japanese control

between Japan and Korea and preventing Russia from taking control of this area—an action that would have brought Russian bases in Port Arthur and Vladivostok closer together.

Spanish Stagnation



This month, the Spanish fleet was simply occupied with scheduled ship repairs, painting hulls, scrubbing decks, and... observing the American battleship Maine, which was anchored in Havana.





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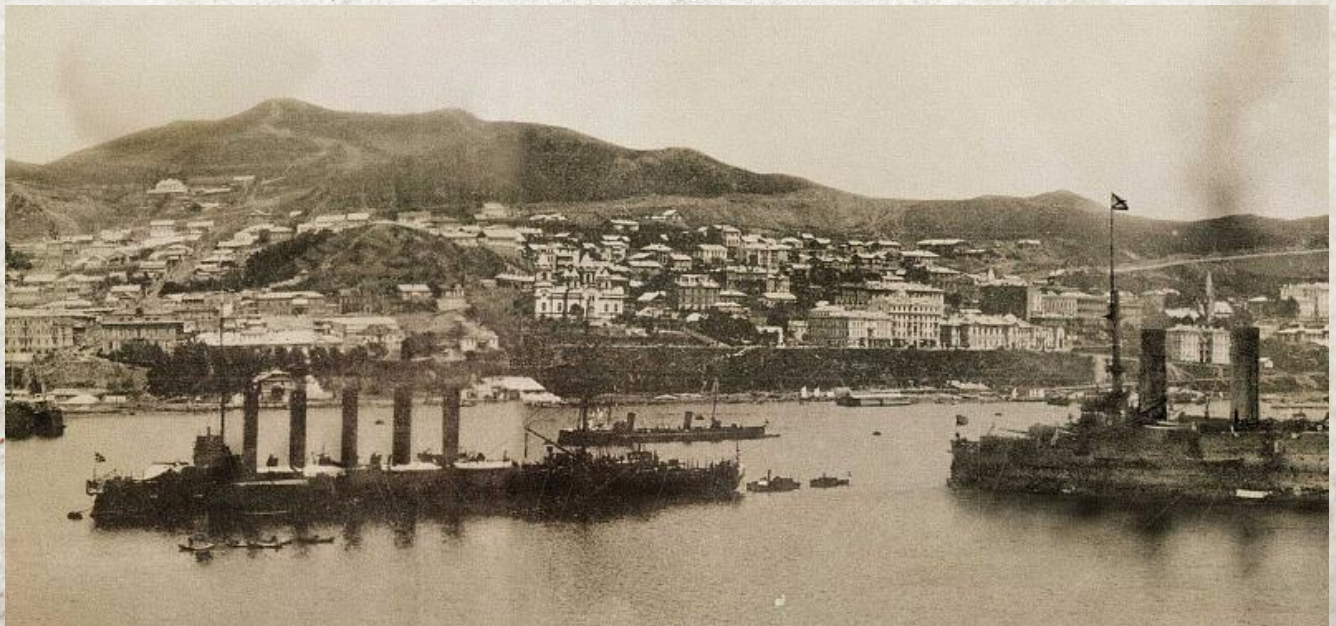
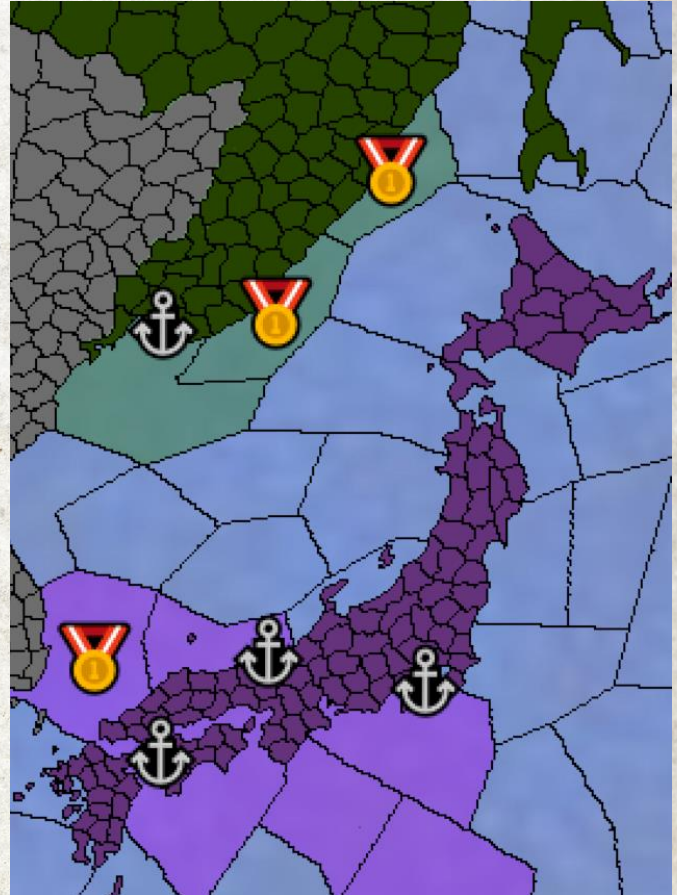
Vladivostok Squadron in Action



The Russian Pacific Fleet reached Formosa, but they were greatly surprised to find the formidable Royal Navy ahead of them.

Not wishing to trigger (yet) a war, the Russians decided to halt their advance southward and settled for maintaining their current control.

To compensate for this temporary setback, the Russian command ordered the Vladivostok squadron to move northeast towards Sakhalin and the strait between Hokkaido and the Kuriles.





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Americans Strengthen Their Position Near Wake. Rising Tensions with Japan and Germany

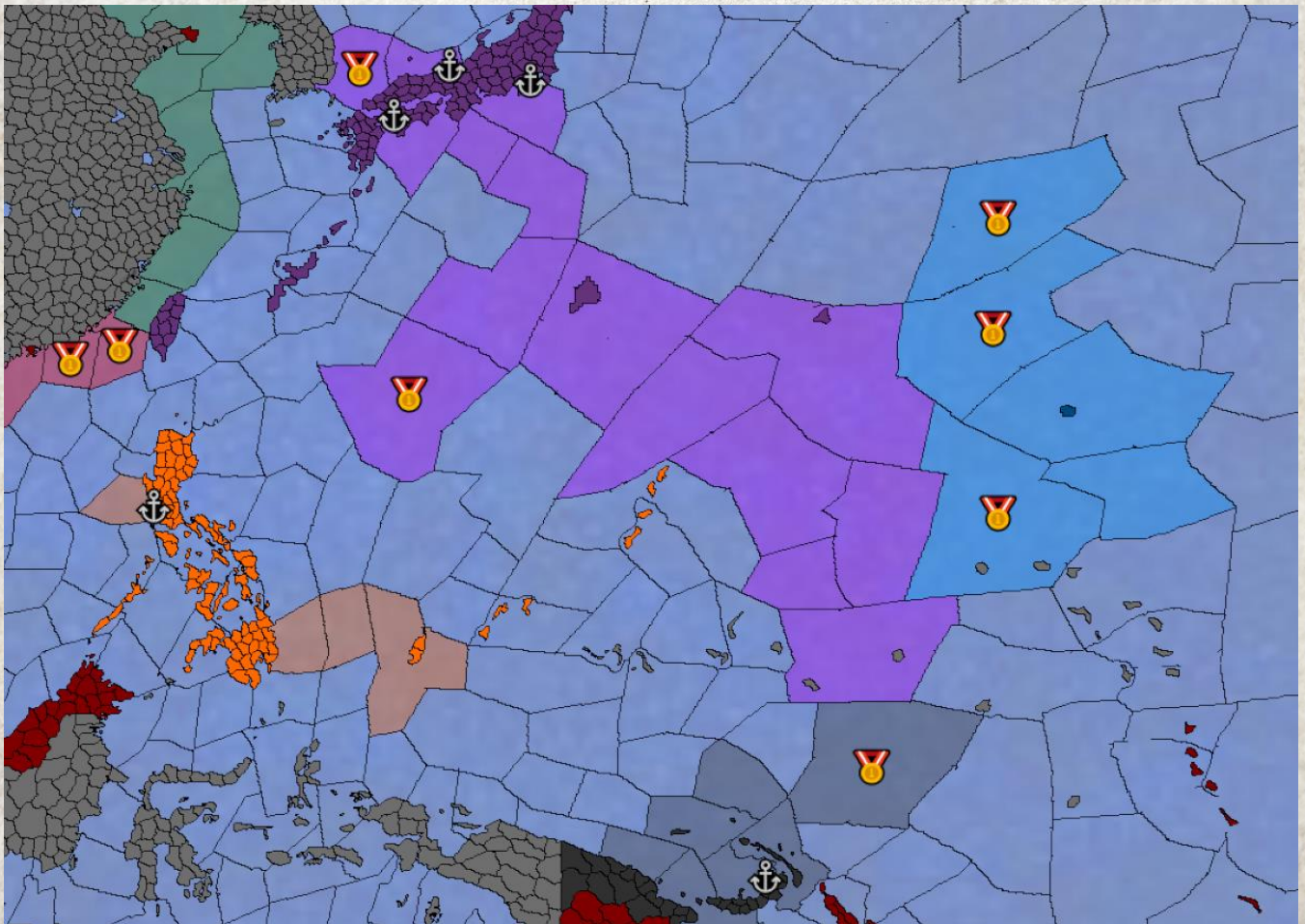


The Americans were determined to reinforce their presence near the recently captured Wake Island, which served as a shield for their even more critical holdings at Midway and, most importantly—Hawaii.

The U.S. Navy frequently encountered Japanese ships, but through a series of manoeuvres, they successfully blocked their advance eastward.

At the same time, American vessels ventured further south, anchoring at several islands in the Marshall Islands archipelago—territory claimed by Germany.

Will the Kaiser tolerate such an insult?





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Germany Controls Kattegat and Continues Its Pacific Expansion



Alarmed by the presence of Americans near the Marshall Islands, Germany dispatched one of its squadrons northward, securing another area north of the Bismarck Archipelago.

Meanwhile, the German Hochseeflotte sailed into the middle of the Kattegat Strait to assert that the area was within the German sphere of influence—meaning neither Russia nor Britain could lay claim to it.

But will these two nations accept such a definition?

Britain Strengthens Albion's Coasts and Sails Toward Taiwan. War with Russia Looming?



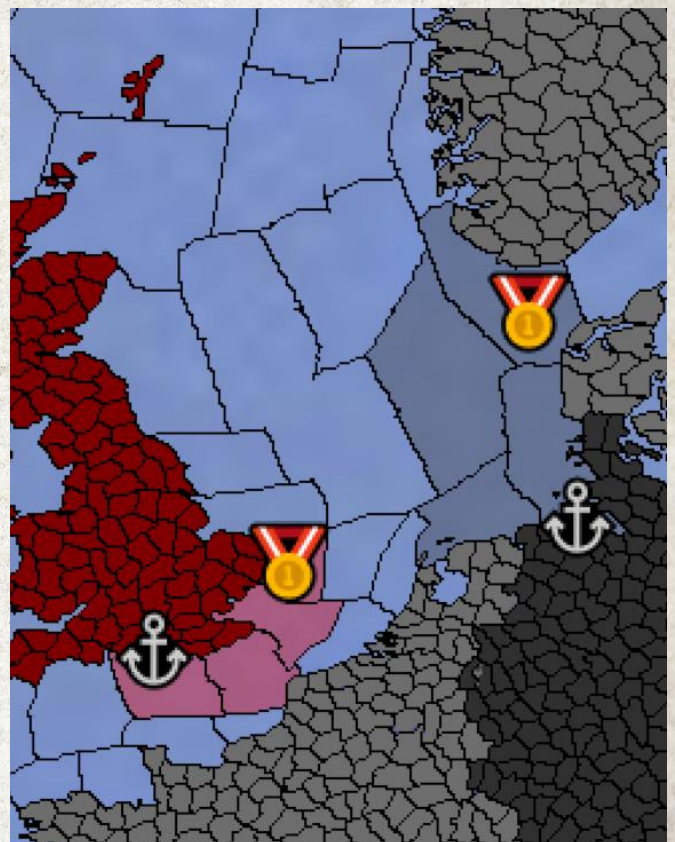
The British had been monitoring Russian movements along the Chinese coast for some time, expecting them to first alarm the Japanese.

However, the Japanese did not appear in the waters around Formosa, and to

counter the Russians, the Royal Navy set sail from Hong Kong, heading northeast.

The two fleets met off the coast of Formosa, but the Russians refrained from any aggressive action—at least for now.

Meanwhile, the Channel Fleet conducted manoeuvres off the coast of Eastern England, testing the defences of the local coastal installations against potential attacks from hostile fleets.





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Summary

For now, the Atlantic remains the calmest region, with minimal naval activity.

The situation is entirely different in the Pacific, especially in its central region, where the Americans, Japanese, and Germans all operate in close proximity—while the Spanish linger nearby. It is one enormous powder keg.

Meanwhile, the Russians continue to push along the Chinese coast, risking conflict with both Britain and Japan. Who will make the first aggressive move?

It is also worth noting Germany's assertive manoeuvre in the Kattegat Strait, a strategically vital location.

Will Russia and Britain leave this unanswered? We shall find out soon!

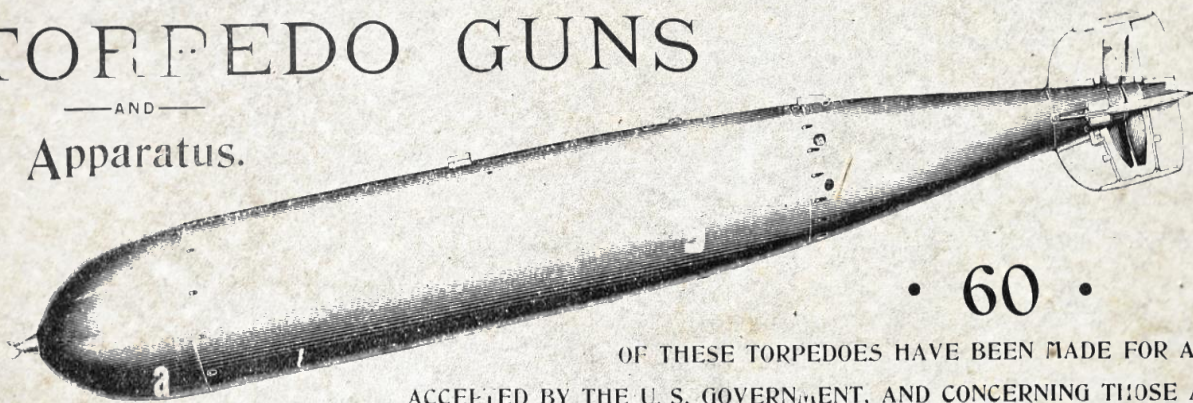
E. W. BLISS CO. 5 ADAMS STREET,
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

MANUFACTURERS IN THE UNITED STATES OF THE

**WHITEHEAD AUTO-MOBILE TORPEDOES,
TORPEDO GUNS**

— AND —

Apparatus.



• 60 •

OF THESE TORPEDOES HAVE BEEN MADE FOR AND
ACCEPTED BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT, AND CONCERNING THOSE AC-
CEPTED TO NOVEMBER 30th THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT

SAYS:—

"Of the Whitehead torpedoes fifty of those contracted for have been tested and accepted. It is gratifying to state that although the requirements of the specifications for the tests of these torpedoes were exceptionally severe, the trials resulted in the acceptance of the entire lot, and all are considered to be equal in every respect to those made abroad. The remainder of the 100 contracted for are ready for assembling and will be delivered as rapidly as they can be tested."