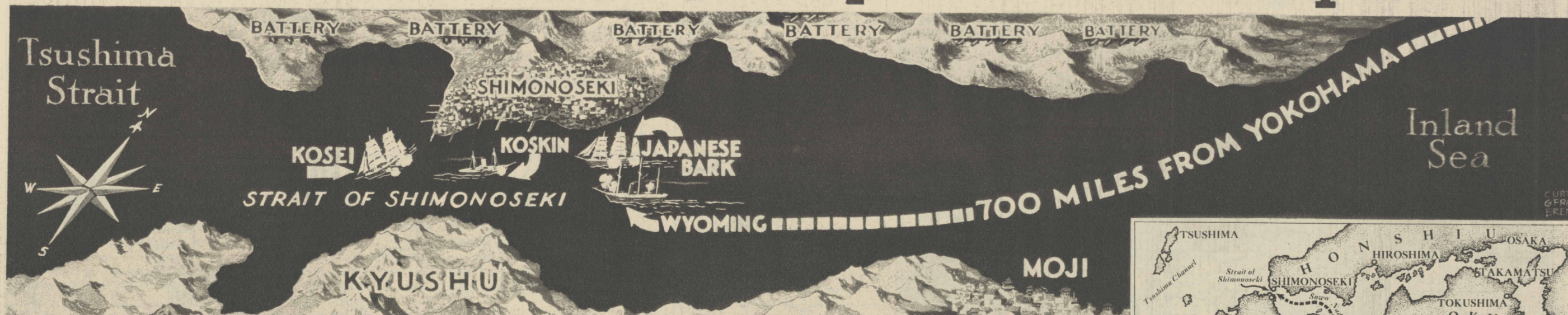


# America's Naval Victory Over the Japanese



## United States Sloop Sinks Foemen at Shimonoseki

By JOHN A. MENAUGH

WHILE speculative writers have been turning out thousands of words on the possible result of a naval war between the United States and Japan, almost every one has overlooked the fact that Americans and Japanese once actually did meet in combat on the sea.

It was on July 16, 1863—seventy-five years ago—that an American naval officer, Commander David Stockton McDougal, boldly took his ship into the narrow and shallow Strait of Shimonoseki, fought a slambang battle with three Japanese war craft and at least six shore batteries, and steamed away a victor. He had sunk two of the enemy ships, disabled the third, and silenced several of the batteries.

It happened this way: The United States steam sloop Wyoming, under the command of McDougal, was in oriental wa-

ters on the lookout for Confederate raiders, including the notorious Alabama. The American Civil war, it should be recalled, then was in progress. In June, 1863, the Wyoming was lying at anchor in Yokohama harbor when word came to its commander that the American merchant ship Pembroke had been fired upon in the Strait of Shimonoseki by orders of the prince of Nagato, a daimio who claimed sovereignty in those waters and who had little or no respect for the treaty not long before concluded between the governments at Washington and Tokio.

McDougal sailed from Yokohama almost at once, entering the Bungo channel and arriving in sight of the city of Shimonoseki about 11 o'clock in the morning of July 16.

He was facing a risky adventure, for he did not know the strength of the opposition he

Pictorial map illustrating the battle of Shimonoseki, in which the United States steam sloop Wyoming won a naval victory over Japanese. At right is a map indicating the course of the Wyoming to the site of battle.

was soon to encounter. His vessel, the Wyoming, built in the Philadelphia navy yard in 1858 at a cost of \$323,527, was not a very formidable craft. Employing both steam and sails (it was bark rigged), it was 198 feet long and displaced 1,457 tons. Its maximum speed was between 10½ and 11 knots. Its armament consisted of six guns, two 11-inch Dahlgren shell guns and four 32-pounders. The last-named were mounted two to each broadside.

As the Wyoming, its decks cleared for action, came in close to the headland that lay just to the east of Shimonoseki a hidden battery fired at it. Thereupon followed the battle that made the American flag respected in Japanese waters. The engagement was fought not many miles east of the Strait of Tsushima, where nearly forty-two years later a Japanese fleet destroyed a war fleet sent out from Russia by way of the Suez canal.

McDougal's own description of

the historic fight as entered in his log book follows in part:

"On the morning of July 16 about 11 a. m., with 14 pounds of steam, sails furled, spare tiller shipped, tide running to eastward (against him), all small arms loaded, men at quarters and armed, we entered the strait leading to Shimonoseki. As we passed a headland on the starboard hand a gun was fired from a masked battery, which was repeated by two others batteries to westward.

"About 11:15, in passing one battery, a shot was fired at us, and then a second. I hoisted colors and opened fire in return with 11-inch shell from pivot guns and with solid shot from starboard battery [two 32-pounders]. We steamed ahead for a bark, a brig, and a steamer, all

armed, anchored off Shimonoseki, flying Japanese colors (also those of the prince of Nagato); receiving fire from four batteries consisting of from two to four guns each, and returning it with shell as fast as our guns could be brought to bear. In passing the bark she poured a broadside into us, which we returned. As we passed the brig we exchanged broadsides with her and fired our two port 32-pounders into the steamer. The brig then got under way and made for the south. [Kyushu] shore. We then maneuvered ship so as to bring her about, to head back to eastward."

The brig mentioned was the Koski, which a few days earlier had fired upon the steamer Pembroke. The steamer was the Koskin, of 600 tons, the former Lancefield, which had been purchased abroad.

"When we started back the Japanese steamer slipped her cable and went ahead," continues Commander McDougal's account. "As soon as we could come up with her, and our port battery bore, we succeeded in placing two 11-inch shells and some 32-pound shot and shell in the steamer, disabling her. The two 11-inch shells struck in her boilers and machinery, as was proved by the vessel being immediately enveloped in steam and smoke.

"Loud cries issued from the steamer, her machinery stopped, and she drifted ashore. We then steamed past the brig and bark, again firing into them from our port battery, and also landed a few shells in the land batteries.

"At 12:15 we steamed out of the Strait of Shimonoseki into the 'Suwo' channel, having passed and repassed the fire of six batteries, four to eastward and two to westward; also that of the three Japanese vessels mentioned; being under fire one hour and ten minutes.

"Our loss was four killed and seven wounded, one of whom was



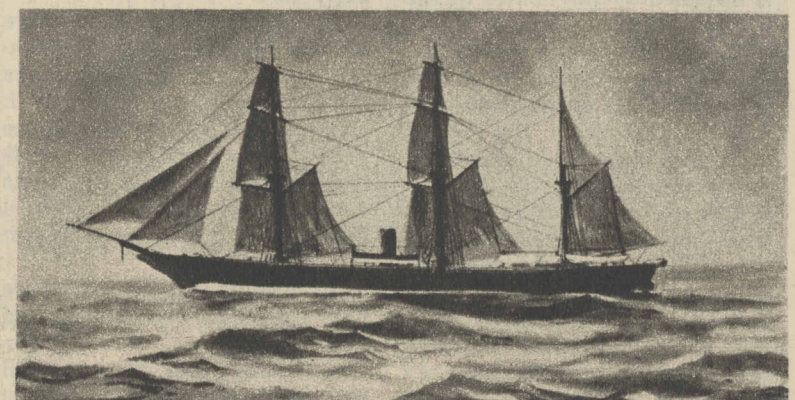
since died, and we were hulled eleven times. We had several shots through our smokestack, and our rigging was considerably damaged.

"The shore batteries must have shot over to some extent. We were compelled to haul off, as the strong currents made it difficult to maneuver ship, also because we had no charts of those waters and the channel seemed to be only 300 to 700 feet wide. Our pilot seemed paralyzed, fearing we might ground under fire, which we did once. The shore batteries continued their fire as long as we were within range. This strait is only about three-quarters of a mile wide at this point, and I attribute our damage to the fact that

Dougal, fearing capture and knowing what would happen to him if they were taken, ran a powder train to the magazine with the intention of blowing the ship to pieces in the event she became securely grounded on the shoals and the enemy closed in.

A year later American, French, and Dutch ships landed troops at Shimonoseki, took possession of the batteries, and forced the warlike prince of Nagato to sign an agreement to respect the flags of foreign ships passing through the strait.

The Wyoming returned to the United States, was overhauled at Baltimore, and rejoined the Asiatic squadron in 1866. In 1873 it was sent to Santiago de



(Courtesy Lieut. L. S. Perry, U. S. N., and the United States Naval Institute.)  
The U. S. steam sloop Wyoming, from a photograph of an old painting.

## Westward Rolls Imperial Japan!

(Continued from page one.)

the Japanese to dreaming of expanding their empire into continental Asia. How this dream has materialized can be seen in the map one page one, which discloses the Tokio government's territorial acquisitions from 1895 to the present time.

That Japan was forced by Russia, France, and Germany to hand back to China the portion of Manchuria which it took as a result of the Chino-Japanese war was only a temporary setback to Tokio's imperialistic dream. By and by it swallowed this part of Manchuria and all of the rest of it as well, which shall be dealt with later on in the paragraphs devoted to Manchukuo.

China had objected to Japan's taking southern Manchuria in 1895, but three years later it leased to Russia the Liaotung peninsula in southern Manchuria, at the southern tip of which today is located the Japanese province of Kwantung.

Though still on the records as Chinese territory, Kwantung to all purposes is part of Japan and is referred to in Japanese statistical works on the empire as a province of Japan. In 1919 it was given a purely Japanese civil government.

Japan virtually took control of Korea in 1905 after the peace of Portsmouth, but it waited five years before it formally annexed the country. On Aug. 29, 1910, Korea officially became a part of Japan. Thus was added to the empire a vast tract of land con-

islands lie as a huge screen across the Pacific front of Japan and are looked upon by naval and military observers as valuable assets to the Tokio government in the event of attack from the east as part of a naval war, it is to the westward rather than to the eastward that Japanese expansion is aimed.

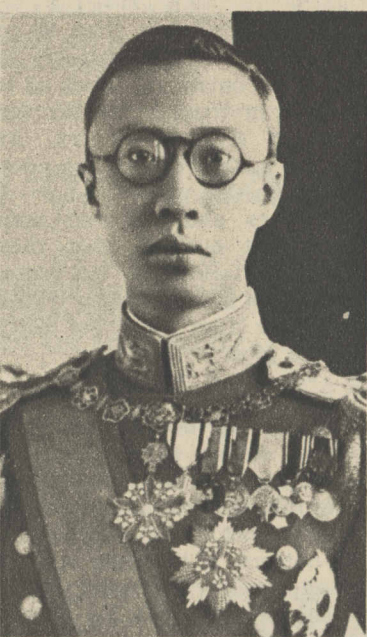
This was brought out clearly in 1931 when Japanese military forces swarmed into Manchuria. On Sept. 18 of that year the city of Mukden was occupied. By February of the following year the whole of Manchuria, comprising the three northeastern provinces of China—Fengtien, Kirin, and Heilungchiang—had been swallowed up in the Japanese invasion. The government in Tokio proclaimed Manchuria, including the province of Jehol, seized in 1933, an independent state, gave it the name of Manchukuo, and on March 1, 1934, put upon its throne as Emperor Kang-teh, the former Henry Pu Yi, deposed boy ruler of China. Hsingking, formerly Changchun, was made the capital.

Manchukuo, although called an independent nation, actually is nothing more than a puppet state of Japan, with a puppet emperor on its throne. Behind every cabinet member of Manchukuo and behind every official in a key position is a Japanese adviser. These advisers number more than 600. They are the men in actual authority, and they get their orders from Tokio.

By swallowing up Manchukuo Japan acquired more than 460,000 square miles of territory and about 30 million people.

Still not satisfied with the progress of its program of expansion, Japan hurled its armies into China again last year. How far it will go in this campaign, which still continues, remains to be seen. So far in its 1937-'38 drive it has seized large areas. They are shown on the map inclosed within white lines. Included in these recently seized territories, as shown, are the South China port of Amoy and the island of Nansha, lying off Swatow, both occupied as the result of naval operations.

That region of China shown in lightest yellow comprises the war zone as proclaimed by Japan in June of this year. Broken lines on the map indi-



(Associated Press photo.)  
Henry Pu Yi, puppet emperor.

taining more than 85,000 square miles and a population which today has grown to more than 22 million.

Following the annexation of Korea, and for a period of more than twenty years, which was marked by the World war, Japan held its imperial ambitions in check. Out of the war the Tokio government obtained a mandate over 623 islands in the Pacific ocean, former possessions of Germany. These islands are scattered for 1,200 miles north of the equator and stretch for a distance of 2,500 miles from east to west. They include the Marian Islands, with the exception of Guam, which belongs to the United States; the Marshall Islands, and the Caroline Islands. There are said to be today more Japanese than natives in these islands.

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