

JAPAN'S CRUISERS SET NAVAL PACE IN TURRET POWER

By Glenn Hebb
TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese navy has introduced a new, highly destructive type of fighting ship to the world.

The 8,500-ton cruisers, Mogami and Mikuma, first of the swift and heavily-gunned B-class cruisers in the building of which Japan and the United States are competing, have joined the empire's sea forces.

These vessels, each carrying fifteen 6.1-inch rifles in five triple turrets, represent naval architects' efforts to obtain the last ounce of power, efficiency and destruction within London naval treaty limits.

Lesson in Tragedy
Their armament is the maximum permitted by both the treaty and the laws of naval design.

Naval experts of other nations have expressed doubt that such heavy armament could be used with safety on such small displacement. The Japanese too had doubts after one of their torpedo-boats, the Tomoruru, carrying three 8-inch guns on only 527 tons, capsized in a storm in March, 1934, with the loss of 100 officers and men.

There was then a thorough overhaul of the designs of cruisers and destroyers under construction. In the completed Mogami and her sisters the lesson of that tragedy has been heeded.

Ahead of America
The addition of the Mogami and Mikuma to the fleet means Japan is more than a year ahead of the United States in ships of this classification. The American navy is building four cruisers of 10,000 tons each, also to be armed with fifteen 6-inch guns.

These are the Savannah, Nashville, Brooklyn and Philadelphia, but the first of them will not be completed until late in 1936. Before then the Mogami and Mikuma will be joined by two more of their class.

In the Mogami class the Japanese builders unlike the Americans failed to take full advantage of the London treaty's limit on displacement of 10,000 tons.

These ships were kept to 8,500 tons each, because at that figure Japan could build six vessels within the 100,450 tonnage allowed her at London for this subcategory. She could have built only five 10,000-ton ships.

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"Every time I am introduced people exclaimed 'Are you the chap who wrote "Journey's End"?' " he says, "and I'm tired of that. It is true that the play was a great success, but that was not due to its quality as much as to a series of psychological circumstances."

Explaining the "psychological circumstances" he said "I wrote the play 10 years after the war. People had been fed up with the war; so fed up that they didn't want to hear or read anything that reminded them of it in the years immediately after it. Then, quite accidentally my play was produced at a time when people were once more prepared to think about the war and the trenches and death. And so—it caught on. That was all there was to it."

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AUSTRALIA MOVES TO PRODUCE OWN MOTION PICTURES

LONDON (UP)—Australia is to be Hollywood's next challenger.

A further move in Britain's campaign to tighten up Imperial links is seen by some observers in the dispatch from London of a film production unit to Australia. It is a Gaumont-British unit which is to cooperate in the production of Australia's first full-length feature picture.

Work is scheduled to start shortly at the new National Studios, at Pagewood, six miles from Sydney, in New South Wales. The film is to be called "The Flying Doctor." It is based on a recent Australian best-seller novel set in typical "outback" atmosphere.

Mander to Direct
Miles Mander, famous film star, writer and director, is to direct for the Australians. Others in the team from the Shepherd's Bush studios of Gaumont-British include J. O. C. Orton, well-known British film writer, and T. Conachie, who is to be production manager of the new organization.

Orton has been responsible for story work on many Jack Hulbert and other Gaumont-British successes. Conachie is a young Scotman whose overseas experience includes "Wings Over Everest," "Soldiers Three" (in India) and "Rhodes" (now in production at Shepherd's Bush but for which numerous scenes were shot in South Africa).

Large Staff Assembled
Facilities for large-scale production are said to exist at the Pagewood studios. Several executives and technicians recently came to England from there. They spent several months at Gaumont-British studios here, studying modern production methods and technique.

It is learned that this is to be only the start of a move toward further cooperation between the Australian company and Gaumont-British. It is a sequel to the Australian movie-fans' demand for locally produced material.

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BREAD PRICES KEPT AT LOWEST LEVEL BY GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON (UP)—The price of bread in England has been raised from 15 to 18 cents per 4-pound loaf, but England is still by far the cheapest country in the world for bread.

Prices for the 4-pound loaf in other countries are Germany, 47 cents; Sweden, 37 cents; United States, 35 cents; Canada, 27 cents; Italy, 26 cents; France, 22 cents.

Decreases in world supplies of wheat because of bad weather in North and South America and in the Argentine are responsible for the rise in flour prices in Britain.

Britain's wheat yield this year is estimated to be 1,576,000 tons, compared with 1,748,000 tons last year. During the past eight months Britain has imported 3,252,000 tons of wheat, compared with 3,384,000 tons in the corresponding period last year.

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NEW COMPOSERS WILL BE HEARD IN PARIS OPERA

PARIS (UP) — If all the promises of Paris' two subsidized opera houses materialize, the French capital has an interesting season ahead.

Among operas of the standard repertoire that the Opera has allowed to slumber for a year or more, but which will be revived during the year are "The Huguenots," "The Magic Flute," "Parsifal," and "Tristan and Isolde," formerly a specialty of the Opera-Comique.

The Saint-Saens centenary, at present deluging Paris with a heavy dose of this composer's music, so- counts for an exceptional number of performances of "Samson and Delilah," a standby of the Opera, together with a lesser known work of the same composer "Javotte."

The Opera ballet will also be busy. Last year's successful innovations will be repeated—Milhaud's "Salad," Pierre's "Image," and ballet-master Serge Lifar's "musical ballet," "Icarus," which is danced to percussion instruments only. The next step in Lifar's plan, restoring music to the musical dance—that is, composing the choreography first and having the score written to fit it—will be seen in Lifar's "The Naked King" for which J. Francaix has done the music.

Other new ballets promised are Gaubert's "Alexander the Great," Deodat de Severac's "Adonis," Sam- uel - Rousseau's "Promenades in Rome," and George Migot's "Confes- sions and Promises." Two of the classic ballets of the Opera's stand- ard repertoire, "Giselle" and "Cop- pella," will be entirely remounted.

The Opera-Comique has a long list of promised and tentative innova- tions. Among the newcomers are Ray- mond Bonheur's "Malva," Sylvre's "Ninety - Three," Michel - Maurice Levy's "Mayflower," and a still un- named opera which Georges Hue is composing to a book by Marcel Pre- vost.

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