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BACK IN 1915, '16 and '17, when half the world was fighting, President Woodrow Wilson was having a pack of trouble keeping the seas clear for American merchantmen.

Today the United States has a neutrality law, the chief function of which is to keep us out of involvements in the current war.

According to Washington Columnist Bruce Catton, Representative Melvin Maas (Rep. Minn.) will shortly introduce a bill asking congress to halt exports of war materials from this country to any nation which is guilty of selling American vessels illegally or which holds such vessels for unreasonable lengths of time.

American vessels have been held for two or three weeks while allied authorities have searched the holds for contraband. It has been delicately hinted that the British government, loyal ever to its own merchant fleet, may be co-operating with shipping interests.

So far no American lives have been lost through sinking of American vessels. Refugee Americans have perished on foreign boats, but this isn't quite the same thing and hasn't succeeded in arousing any fiery show of temper on the part of the people.

Freedom of the seas is, of course, a quaint tradition during time of war. The rights of belligerent nations are always bumping into the rights of neutrals.

At all events, the United States must take great pains now to handle this delicate matter adroitly. We don't want to become accused by "incidents." It was a collection of such "incidents" that led us into the war 23 years ago.

ITALY is urging Hungary to make some sort of peaceful settlement of the troubles arising out of Rumania's getting Transylvania (former Hungarian province).

PETER THE GREAT talked long and likely of a Russian "window to the west"—meaning the Scandavian peninsula. Peter and all his successors kept their eyes fixed on Constantinople, but (thanks largely to Britain) failed to get it.

MUSSOLINI, who is far from dumb, knows what is in the wind, and is organizing the Balkans to meet the expected Russian drive for the traditional Russian objective to the south.

Realizing (because he is smart) that a house divided against itself must fall, he is trying to patch up Balkan feuds.

OUT OUR WAY



THE LUCKY FOX

By Williams

ATTACK ON AMERICA!

Startling Expose of U. S. Lack of Defense

GENERAL ARED WHITE

WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S HAPPENED

CAPTAIN BENNING, United States intelligence officer, brings news to Washington of a proposed invasion of the United States by Van Hasek, military dictator of Mexico.

GENERAL HAGUE, chief of staff of the army and COLONEL FLAGWILL, chief of military intelligence. Reports of air raids come from New Orleans, Galveston and San Antonio.

Until those first bombs crashed on Fort Sam Houston there had been no reports given to the public of the day's alarming rumors along the Rio Grande.

Benning caught the first symptoms of coming panic along the streets of Washington as his cab raced to the Munitions building.

Benning leaned tensely forward as if to add his tension to the speed of the cab. The radio screamed on. From time to time the announcer asked that no more telephone calls be attempted.

Part of Fort Sam Houston was in flames—the second division was moving south to meet an invader at dawn—the governor of Texas had ordered mobilization of the Texas national guard.

An enemy air force of undetermined strength is reported flying north, its objective may be Washington or New York. All persons are cautioned not to gather in crowds.

As he turned into Constitution avenue, Benning found a grim confirmation of the threat from the air. An anti-aircraft regiment, de-trained late in the day from an Atlantic coast station, was rolling up to take selected positions with its machine guns in the area of the Washington Monument.

His cab swung to the curb at the Munitions building, Benning hurried inside. The corridors rang with the chatter of typewriters. Army officers of various rank gazed over desks or assembled in section conference groups as they slaved over the staggering details of the job ahead of them.

Colonel Flagwill was in his office alone. Benning found his chief locked back in a chair with heels held absurdly on top of his desk. He was puffing smugly at a cigarette, his face relaxed.

"Hello, Benning," Flagwill said. "How you feeling?" Benning said, "Well, sir, I heard the news and thought I ought to report in case you need me for anything."

"You know, Benning, I saw it had to come, and I feel better now. We've got it on our hands. All we need is his word to start general mobilization of the army and national guard. As soon as the chief gets back from the white house we'll be in motion."

"Not that our mobilization will do any immediate good or save the country a lot of headaches. But it'll be a start."

"What's the news about bombers headed this direction?" "Our air staff is divided on whether Van Hasek has any bombers that can make Washington and back to Mexico without refueling. But—my own idea—they could have an emergency landing somewhere here along the way, couldn't they? It'd work this one, anyhow."

"Then there may be a real air threat, sir?" "I urged General Hague to get the president to leave the white house and go over to Chevy Chase for the night," Flagwill averred.

"At least to set up his less vulnerable quarters in Washington. That's a lot of pretending a fool's paradise in this country any longer, Benning. Anything can happen now."

"A major from the chief of air service banged into the room, his face ashen, though he spoke collectively. 'We've picked what appears to be confirmation, Colonel,' the major reported. 'As near as can be made out a squadron of seven bombers, with an undetermined force of smaller ships, passed over North Carolina a short time ago. Speed estimated at two hundred miles per hour. Our best time calculations suggest that they could cross the Potomac in approximately two hours. If this is their objective...'

"Very good, Major, keep me informed," Flagwill answered, without change of posture or position. He stretched himself again and casually lit another cigarette. Then he swung his feet to the floor and pulled himself up to his desk.

"I've found a couple of good spy leads, sir," Benning interposed. "Would you care to hear my report?"

"Not right now," Flagwill said decisively. "I've just had a few minutes' relaxation—now for the toughest decision I ever tackled. I've got to have my estimate of this whole tangled situation ready

for General Hague by midnight. Now you get out among your spies—or you might take a look-see at what our anti-aircraft does for itself. But report to me here at midnight. I may want you to sit in at the chief's conference."

Benning took a taxi cab and drove to a point near the Washington Monument where 50 caliber Brownings were setting up to look after attack on smaller ships that might venture within machine-gun range if the assault on Washington materialized.

From a staff officer Benning learned that the one anti-aircraft regiment alone was available and was distributed to protect, as best it could, the area of principal government buildings which doubtless would bear the brunt of the raid if one developed.

The gun batteries and searchlights had been strung across the Potomac in Virginia to catch raiding bombers before they reached the bomb-release line from which they would lay their eggs of destruction as they approached Washington. The searchlights were anchored, a full complement of fifteen lights, five thousand yards beyond the city.

The technical sections with their sound locators, effective up to eleven thousand yards, and their intricate systems and instruments for raking the skies, were perfecting their plans for such defense as a single regiment, at peace strength and short two gun batteries, would be able to give the nation's capital.

Cavalry was ordered into the city from Fort Myer to help police clear masses of people who flooded the streets despite frantic radio warnings that crowding up was dangerous.

Benning dismissed all thought of trying again tonight for the Van Hasek spies. He wondered again if he had made a serious error in failing to arrest Fincke. It was plain now that the Austrian had known this was the night of Van Hasek's zero hour. What mischief was the fellow up to? What use had he planned of his vaunted knowledge of ballistics?

A finger of light leaped into the air across the Potomac. Benning went tense as he saw the restless movement into the skies of that ominous beam. Another bolt of light shot up, the sky filled with those long pennants rising from the Sperry drums, driven upwards with the intensity of their thousand million candlepower.

The check of a cannon crept across the sky. It told Benning that the lights had picked up an enemy craft within their six thousand yards' range of observation. Other cannon barked. The three-inch guns were driving at the skies.

Grimly he lifted his wrist close to his eyes and strained at the luminous dial of his wrist watch. Thirty racking seconds ticked by. Forty. Benning braced himself, wet his lips, his hand was sticking on a key. Through the crackle of artillery he caught the muffled roar of motors in the sky.

At this instant bombs were plummeting downward, he reckoned, released three thousand yards or more to the southwest of Washington while the planes flashed toward the city.

A vivid yellowish sheet of light winked over the city, low against the earth. In the next instant came a cloud of thunder as the mighty detonation smote the earth. Benning felt the earth reel under his heels, his ears rang with the reverberation. Another crash, a third, fourth, fifth. The titanic wrath of the bombers smothered all sound of the anti-aircraft in a bedlam of volcanic fury that filled all existence. Two more crashes, unparalyzed by short intervals of silence.

Silence came swiftly, a hush that yielded no sound for several seconds. Then, as his ears recovered, Benning caught the shrill roar of motors overhead, the sharp staccato of machine-gun fire. Near by, the crews of the 50 caliber anti-aircraft machine guns were peeping away lamely. A few rounds of bullets whizzed and they ceased fire. Now came the sound of excited masses of people.

Benning headed into Fifteenth street. People were running this way and that on the heels of hysterical, unbridled terror. Others were massed in stricken silence gazing into the skies. Taxicabs and automobiles sped crazily in all directions. Benning saw by wheeled vehicles, left floundering on the pavement. Scattered policemen were trying to stem the tide of panic.

Sirens screamed as ambulances and police cars raced into the targeted area. It was a few minutes before midnight when Benning turned into Pennsylvania avenue. There was no such thing as a taxicab in the present disorder, he walked rapidly on past the white house, intent on reaching Munitions by twelve. Bayoneted sentries paced placidly back and forth in front of the president's official mansion. The place loomed solemn and tomblike in the vague light of a quarter moon, the somber mass of its great wall unbroken by a single lighted window.

But Benning, as he hurried on, knew that behind those screened windows grave conferences would carry through the night as the heads of government charted the desperate course of an unready nation plunged suddenly into war.

(To be continued)

Apple For Bounty—E. H. Thrust, of Canas Valley, applied to County Clerk Roy Lee yesterday for bounty on a wildcat.

Cattle and Beef Imports Increase

Figures Provide Ammunition For Opponents of Trade Treaty Extensions.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—(AP)—Cattle and beef imports increased 44 per cent during the first 11 months of 1939 over the like period in 1938, the agriculture department reported today.

The figures provided fresh material for congressional argument over the proposed extension of the administration's trade agreements program.

Secretaries Hill and Wallace have contended, at the house ways and means committee hearings, that the pacts have not injured American farmers, but congressional critics have disputed this and much of the program's opposition has come from cattle-producing states.

Support for continuation of the program came, meanwhile, from the group of 69 industrial and financial leaders comprising the commerce department's business advisory council. A resolution of support for the program was adopted yesterday at the group's annual meeting and transmitted to Secretary of Commerce Hopkins.

Imports of canned beef increased from 173,116,000 to 205,208,000 pound during the 11-month period. The house committee's issue took a weekend recess after two days of questioning Hull and Wallace.

Wallace, who has urged a third term for President Roosevelt, suggested that L. J. Taber, head of the National Grange, had opposed the trade program because "Taber hoped 'F' for secretary of agriculture." If the republicans won the fall election.

"Maybe you're supporting it because you want a third term," he put in Rep. Treadway (R., Mass.). "I'd like to continue as secretary of agriculture," Wallace replied, laughing and blushing.

Rep. Knutson (R., Minn.) wanted to know why the duty on eggs and egg products had been reduced when these were the chief cash in come for thousands of farm women.

Wallace quoted figures to show that imports of dried eggs had declined.

"That's because of the war in China," Knutson interrupted. "That's our chief supply source and they have been chasing the hens around as much as they can't lay. Wait until they get a chance to roost and see what happens."

Lions Aim to Keep Roster Laurels

Hoping to repeat its achievement of last year, when the club received a plaque from international headquarters for distinction in membership campaign week, the Roseburg Lions club laid plans Wednesday night for this year's membership month campaign. The club hopes to surpass last year's record.

At the club's business session, conducted by Vice-President A. C. Berryman, Donald E. Foltz was appointed as entertainment chairman and Bob Franks and J. P. Motesbacher as the attendance committee for the month of January.

A proposal to change the time of weekly meetings was tabled for further discussion. Entertainment included a group of piano selections by Bette Owen, who played two popular numbers and an original composition, and a group of vocal selections by Maebryn Waldron.

Guests at the meeting included Ray Hopp of Marshfield and Wayne Lake, Western States Grocery company representative, whose application for membership in the club was received.

Local Banks Make No Staff Changes

Personnel of Roseburg banks remained unchanged following the annual elections and appointments made this week. Stockholders of the Douglas National bank re-elected the officers who have served during the past year, naming J. H. Booth, president; G. V. Wimberly, vice-president; F. W. Booth, secretary and cashier; V. J. Mitchell, assistant cashier; George Kohlhaizen and Catherine A. Booth, directors.

The U. S. National bank of Portland reappointed E. S. McClain, manager, and V. M. Orr, assistant manager, and by change was made in employees.

The Roseburg branch of the U. S. National has completed installation of an attractive new electric sign.

Worried Man Kills Wife, Shoots Self, Daughter

OAKLAND, Calif., Jan. 12.—(AP)—Worry over the future of his "family, religion and country" were listed by J. Harold Friedman, 48, as the motive for a triple shooting today in which he killed his wife and critically wounded himself and his 13-year-old daughter.

Police Inspector Lou Jewell said Friedman, an automobile insurance broker, shot himself in the chest, that his daughter, Margorie, was wounded in the abdomen and chest and that the wife, Pauline, died before she could be taken to a hospital. Friedman's 7-month-old son, Stanley, slept through the tragedy.

Local News

Visiting Here—E. E. Harpham, of Eugene, was a business visitor here yesterday.

Here Friday—Don Ferguson, of Kellogg, was a business visitor in this city Friday.

Here on Business—J. F. Henley, of Umpqua, was a business visitor in this city yesterday.

At Soda Works—Bob Norton, of this city, has accepted part-time employment at the Roseburg Dairy and Soda works.

Visiting Here—Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Busch, of Camp McKinley, are here spending several days visiting relatives and friends.

Return Home—Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Leedy have returned to their home in Brooks, Ore., following a few days here attending to business and visiting friends.

Return Here—Ed High, representative of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance company, and Mrs. High have returned to their home here, following a few days in Reedsport attending to business.

Leaves For Home—Mrs. Beth Henderson has left for her home in Yakima, Wash., following several weeks in this city visiting at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. McEachern.

Moved to California—Alva Culp, employed for the last several years by the state highway department here, has resigned and left for Santa Monica, Calif., to enter a technical school to take up electrical welding.

Melrose Grange to Meet—The Roseburg senior high debate team will be the main feature on the program at the next regular meeting of Melrose grange, Tuesday, January 15, at the hall. The program will be preceded by a six-thirty o'clock potluck supper.

Leave For Prineville—Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Harpham, of this city, left for Prineville, to remain until Tuesday attending to business and visiting friends. The Harphams resided at Prineville for 12 years, before coming to Roseburg. Mr. Harpham is supervisor of Umpqua forest.

Leave For Portland—Mr. and Mrs. Dale Hunter and the former's mother, of Portland, left yesterday for home, following a two-day stay over at Dillard to visit Mrs. J. P. Williams, on route from a six-week's stay in San Diego.

To Go to Arizona—Ilex Applegate, senior at U. of C., has been invited to drop his studies at University of Oregon, where he is a senior, and has left for Tucson, Arizona, to take treatments for asthma. Rex, who was graduated from Roseburg high school, is a nephew of Miss Virgie Tracy, principal of the Benson school.

Son Is Born—According to word received here, a son, Gordon Ward, 16 lbs., weighing seven pounds, six tenths ounces, was born January 7th at Sacred Heart hospital in Eugene. The baby is the great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Shields of this city. His mother, Mrs. Eva Starnes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Starnes of Eugene, was born and raised in Roseburg.

Go to Conference—Mabel Melvin, Maxine Rand, Carl White, Eunice Harvey, Evelyn and Earl Wiley, Rev. and Mrs. Louis Magnin, Mrs. Earl Wiley and Paul Roeder, representing the Methodist C. E. group, left here for Salem to attend a three-day youth's conference. They were accompanied by Miss Jean Wiley, who will spend the weekend visiting Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Parkner in Salem.

Reported Better—The condition of Dr. Morris H. Roach, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of this city, was reported this morning to be improved. Dr. Roach, who has been seriously ill the last two weeks, was taken to Mercy hospital yesterday noon.

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Automobile Parked by Glide Man Found Burned

An automobile belonging to Ronald King of Glis was totally destroyed by fire Tuesday night. The car, developed motor trouble as he was on his way to his home and he left the machine beside the road. When he returned the next morning he found it had been burned. The loss was covered by insurance.

- 7:30—Lone Ranger, MBS. 8:00—Hance Club, MBS. 8:30—Interlude, MBS. 8:35—Dick Barrie's Orch., MBS. 9:00—Aika Seltzer News, MBS. 9:15—Barbers of Beeville, Wing Cigarettes, MBS. 9:30—Laws and Lawyers, MBS. 9:45—Pulton Lewis, Jr., MBS. 10:00—Sign Off.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

DR. CHAS. A. EDWARDS

The purpose of Jesus Christ in His life and His death alike was to make men good. The true and the beautiful must be crowned by the good. If men are to become full sons of God, and heirs of His riches, in Christ, likeness is the secret of character, the secret of happiness, the secret of the world's salvation, to be good. It means more than to be perfect in one's beliefs, or to be reverent and sincere worshiper, or to be a winner in the personal fight against the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. It means to be alive and growing, to be kind and thoughtful, to be honest and loyal, to be clean, to be loving and unselfish, to be broad and generous, who is sufficient for these things. To help us to be good, in secret and in public, to be good in home and school, good to our enemies. This is what Christ gave Himself for the world. Amen.

Returns to Mosier—Zella Gaglia has left for her home in Mosier, Ore., following a visit here of several days.

Leaves For Home—Ole Leithberg has left for his home in Williston, North Dakota, following a visit here with relatives and friends.

Called to Los Angeles—R. D. Williams, of this city, left last night for Eugene to take the train for Los Angeles, where he was called by the death of his brother.

Visiting Parents—Miss Corlaine Perry, freshman at University of Oregon, has arrived here to spend the weekend visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Perry.

Mayor Young Leaving Hospital—Mayor A. J. Young, who has been seriously ill at Mercy hospital the last few weeks, was discharged today and is convalescing at his home on Flint street.

Arrives For Funeral—James Franco, of San Francisco, has arrived in Roseburg, having been called by the death of his father, Pasquale Franco, whose funeral was held here this morning.

Returns to School—Albert Chamberlin, student at University of Illinois, at Evanston, has returned here, following several weeks here visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Chamberlin, on West First street.

Leaves For Missouri—Miss Oella D. Coon left yesterday for Portland to take the train for her home at Kansas City, Mo., following a visit here of several months at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Coon, on Chadwick street.

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Mine Yields 34 of 92 Killed Workers

BARTLEY, W. Va., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Mine families, ever conscious of the danger of losing their loved ones, displayed little hysteria while preparing today for burial of the 92 men given up for dead in the Bartley No. 1 mine gas explosion.

Stoically they made ready to claim the victims as rescue crews dug deeper into blast-torn corridors 600 feet underground, no longer seeking living men but the bodies of coal diggers apparently killed in their tracks.

Rescue crews emerging from the 620-foot perpendicular shaft announced 34 bodies had been recovered from the "rooms" along the entries fanning out two miles from the foot of the shaft.

They told how one group of 11 trapped miners, equipped with canvas sheets and wood for barricades, apparently had attempted to make a desperate stand against the deadly after-explosion gases.

The group was led by Lee Hall, 43, one of the three foremen lost in the blast last Wednesday. Nine of the bodies were bundled together; a few feet away were three others and still farther down the entry, two more.

But "after damp"—the gases that remain in a mine when an explosion burns up the oxygen in the air—caught and killed the group.

Pacific Highway Assn. Membership Enlarged

EUGENE, Jan. 13.—(AP)—C. R. Lyness, of Cottage Grove, manager of the Oregon Pacific Highway association, to meet here for its annual business session Monday, said today he had received registrations from the three Pacific coast states and British Columbia.

The association was reorganized a year ago to promote improvements and travel for the Pacific highway through Oregon. Representatives from cities and towns from Portland to Ashland are expected to attend.

Dr. D. M. Erb, president of the University of Oregon, will be one of several speakers at the annual convention.

Others include William Tuzman, managing editor of the Eugene Register-Guard, George L. Warren, commissioner of publicity, Vancouver Island and Victoria publicity bureau, Victoria, B. C.; J. R. Bruckart, supervisor of the Willamette national forest.

Table Tennis Tourney in Roseburg Arranged

Ping-pong paddlers of the city will get an opportunity to demonstrate their ability in a city-wide table tennis tournament, arrangements for which are being completed today, according to Royd Bruton, who is handling the details. A small entry fee will be charged to help defray expenses and provide a prize. Both singles and doubles matches will be played. All those desiring to play in the tournament are requested to notify Mr. Bruton not later than Jan. 15.

Stock and Bond Averages

Table with columns for BONDS and STOCKS, showing various market indices and their values for Saturday, January 13, 1940.