Peril to Manila Recognized; Navy Aid Absence Noted

Defeat of Japanese Must Wait, However, Until Hitler Power in Europe is Shattered

(By DeWitt Mackenzie)

(Wide World War Analyst)

The gravity of our position in the Philippines has been increased by the new Jap invasion of the coast of Luzon island, only 75 miles southeast of Manila—a strategic move calculated to place the capital in a pincers movement through coordination with the enemy forces already ashore at Lingayen gulf to the north of the city.

General MacArthur thus is being forced to defend two fronts at once—a nasty business at best. A possible measure of the seriousness may be seen in the fact that U. S. army headquarters in the Philippines today was considering declaring Manila an open city to spare it as much as possible not only from air attack but from ground assault.

It is a matter of vast pride and some encouragement that American and Filipino troops were reported late today (Manila time) to be resisting stubbornly in both sectors, despite the fact that they were greatly outnumbered. However, the Japanese continued to land forces and we should be foolishly optimistic if we didn't recognize that the fate of the Philippines is on the knees of the gods.

Lack of air and naval forces sufficient to meet this onslaught adequately, at least in its early stages, is clearly evident. Still, war can't be all honey and flowers, and we must recognize that the present conflict is bigger than the China sea or even the mighty Pacific.

European Job Comes First

The focal point of this World war is—incongruous though it seem—the charming old world village of Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian alps, meaning the abode of the creator of that abnormal code we know as Hitlerism.

Our first and main job is to smash the axis in Europe. Any other operations are subsidary.

So we shouldn't thoughtlessly criticize the allied leadership for not stripping the European theater of fighting arms in order to meet this new emergency in the Far East. That's exactly what Hitler wants the allies to do so he can recover from his Russian disaster and strike another blow elsewhere. It is precisely to maintain an even balance in the direction of the whole allied effort that the great conference is being held in Washington.

Japan Due For Defeat

Whatever disposition of forces may be decided upon by the allied supreme council, we have this to remember:

If we should lose the European side of this war to Hitler, we are done for; but a temporary triumph of the Japs in the Far East wouldn't beat the allies. Nippon could be taken care of in due course, and there is no possible doubt that it will be smashed, whatever the vicissitudes of the fighting may be.

Evidence accumulates that Herr Hitler is plotting further trouble for the allies, but his objective remains obscure. Even the farseeing British Premier Churchill has said in Washington that while he expects a new offensive he doesn't know where the blow will come.

Hitler's Punch Weakened

Some signs point to a possible resurrection of Hitler's plan of reaching new African bases through Spain. This presumably would involve French colonies and the French navy. Some color is lent to this idea by the report that Marshal Petain, French chief of state, is about to resign because of German pressure for concessions which he doesn't want to make. However, that report hasn't been confirmed.

No matter what may be the nature of the attack, the allies have this satisfaction: Germany has far less striking power than it had when it embarked on its disastrous campaign against the Muscovites. Not only have there been huge casualties among the nazi shock troops, representing the best which the fatherland could produce but can't replace, but the amount of war material and supplies claimed by the reds as destroyed or captured is colossal.

Hitler likely has a lot of striking power left, but it isn't the same old fuehrer who strode onto the sweeping plains of Russia last June.

U. S. GETS ITS FIRST---AND MIGHTY WELCOME---HEAVY TANK

The Army's first heavy tank crushes an old car in demonstration before officials at Baldwin Locomotive Works, Eddystone, Pa., where 57-ton land battleship was built.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE — **With Major Hoople**

London? Not on Your Life—San Francisco, December, 1941

Mark Dec. 11, 1941, in your calendar. That's the day first sandbag protection against air raids appeared in San Francisco. Yes, it can happen here—with the first San Francisco firm to protect itself against dangers from the air being the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. Note armed guards.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

DR. CHAS. A. EDWARDS

Christmas this year finds us beset with anxieties and apprehensions, if not for ourselves for those we love. Let us not lose our way in the utter blackness of this war-torn world, but keep ever before us the realization that we have still to guide us, the Star of Bethlehem. At the first Christmas God broke through into the darkness and misery of the sinful world to declare His eternal love and saving grace. In this day of sorrow and bewilderment, God has no better word for men; and no better voice to declare it than just yours and mine. Christmas in a worn-torn world immediately suggests two realities: one a beautiful reality of faith, hope and salvation; the other a vicious reality of gloom and tragedy. One is the child of the Saviour of the world, the other is demonic leaders of war. These realities stand in diametric opposition. The Christ brings light, hope, peace to a sad and broken world; weary hearts can find rest in Him. The world of hate and war will yield to love. Peace on earth, good will toward men. What a vision. Were the church of Jesus Christ working to capacity to produce good-will; were the power of Jesus Christ released through them, then peace on earth could be possible. Let us pray that the shining dream soon becomes a reality. Amen.

Spreading the News?

PORTLAND, Ore.—The Portland air base can use a new shoe shine boy.

The lad, at work when news was flashed of the attack on Pearl harbor, set a shined shoe down beside its unpolished mate and left.

He hasn't been seen since.

Series of Crises Fails to Affect Roosevelt Energy

By JACK STINNETT

WASHINGTON — President Roosevelt's ninth year in office eclipses all that went before. The dark days of national recovery; the battle for labor legislation; the bitter court fight and the unsuccessful political purge that followed; even the third term nomination and election seem insignificant in the light of events of 1941.

So far as the president is concerned, the year began on that bitter cold day in late January when he took office for the third successive time; and watched Washington's biggest military parade which was no more than a hint of the great mechanized war machine that would be rolling and soaring into world conflict a little more than 10 months later.

Fortitude Amazes

There followed the great lend-lease appropriations; the mammoth tax bills; the congressional battle for extension of the draft; the sad death of the president's mother; that dramatic and unprecedented secret meeting of the president and Winston Churchill on the high seas; and at last a great nation double-crossed at its own peace table and plunged into the holocaust that now rages in every part of the world.

Friends and foes alike have watched the president at every turn and even some of the bitterest of the latter have expressed amazed admiration at the quiet fortitude; the physical stamina; and the unflagging optimism which the president has brought to bear in every crisis and especially in the last and greatest.

It was at the president's first press conference after his third term nomination. I was present at those which followed the declarations of war.

Seldom Irritable

Physically, the president has changed little in this strenuous year, only twice has he had the colds and sinus which irritate him.

There have been gray days when he looked older and wearied from the strain but oddly enough, these almost invariably have been in the lulls between major events. A crisis seems to challenge him physically as well as mentally and from that seemingly inexhaustible well of energy, he draws what is necessary to rise to fresh buoyancy and see it through in the pink.

Remarkably few have been the times in press conferences this year when the president has been sharp or irritable. More often his good humor, a little quieter than it used to be but no less present, has risen unfailingly to lighten the load in hand.

Chuckles During Danger

Even when the congressional delegation came to the White House offices to discuss the declarations of war on Germany and Italy, they found the president chuckling over a clipping of "instructions for air raid wardens" that had gotten grotesquely garbled in the printing.

These little outbreaks of humor throughout the day seem to whet his appetite for the gruelling work which he now is putting in from almost dawn to midnight.

To most of his intimates, however, the president's trait most often referred to is his unwaivering optimism. When he took his brief message to congress calling for the declaration of war on Japan, he was surrounded by army and navy and government officials who wore stony, funereal stares. But not the president, he already was looking ahead.

A little more than 24 hours later, when he spoke over the radio to an estimated 90,000,000 people, he spoke words and phrases, on which he had no opportunity to spend hours of deliberation—yet official Washington almost unanimously called it his greatest speech and pointed out that although he pulled none of the punches about the seriousness of what had happened or what was to come, he left no doubt about his confidence in ultimate success.

Uruguay Plans to Send 50 Fliers to Help U. S.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Dec. 23—(AP)—A subscription was launched today to equip and send 50 Uruguay airmen to serve in the United States' air forces.

Uruguayan cattle raisers also have begun a fund-raising drive to buy an ambulance as a gift for the United States army. They previously had bought one for Britain.

Growing Americans

People in the United States are getting taller, and the standard bed length eventually will have to be increased, according to scientists.

SPECIAL
If taken before Christmas — $180 Singer sewing machine, new model, electric, specially priced. Call at 125 W. Cass.
SINGER SEWING CENTER

Merry Christmas
Christmas greetings to our hundreds of "customers" and neighbors. Much cheer!
Gomes Upholstering and Mattress Shop

WITH THE
BEST OF GOOD WISHES
FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR
FROM EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS FIRM TO EACH OF YOU.
UMPQUA DAIRY PRODUCTS CO.
PHONE 38

Greeting You at Christmas and Wishing You Every Happiness
DOYLE BROTHERS
444 N. Jackson

MERRY CHRISTMAS
And may the Happiness of the Holiday Season be yours through all the coming—
NEW YEAR
CHURCHILL'S HARDWARE
IRONMONGERS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
We realize more than ever how much it means to have the friendship and good will of folks like you.
Please accept our sincere thanks and our good wishes for a Prosperous NEW YEAR
Haynes' Store

Wishing You A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year
Once again we arrive at the season in which we like to forget business and extend our thanks for the pleasure we have had serving you throughout the year.
Caterpillar Tractor Co. joins us in wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.
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MAY THE JOYS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON REMAIN WITH YOU THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR
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IT'S CHRISTMAS
MAY YOURS BE A MERRY ONE AND THE NEW YEAR FILLED WITH JOY AND HAPPINESS
SHORTIES AUTO WRECKING
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES
FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, OUR FRIENDS!
A Merry Christmas To All
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR A NEW YEAR OF HAPPINESS
MONOGRAM CIGAR STORE