

Long Pacific War Predicted By UP Writer Johnston

By MARGUERITE WITWERT

Wearing the green and white ribbon signifying citation for his coverage of the battle of Tarawa, United Press War Correspondent Dick Johnston, formerly a University student, said in an interview Thursday, "The same kind of spirit which took Tarawa and Peleliu is now being exhibited on Iwo Jima. It is only that kind of spirit which wins the war; the war is won on the beaches and island by the troops who are willing to go in as the third, fourth, and fifth marine divisions are going on Iwo Jima."

The six stars on his Tarawa, Asiatic Pacific, and Philippines ribbons indicate that Johnston has covered six major campaigns in the year which he spent island-hopping with all branches of the armed forces under CINCPAC, the commander in chief of the Pacific fleet, Admiral Chester Nimitz. Johnston went ashore with the marines when they took Tarawa, November 20, 1943, and was the first correspondent to wire his report to the United States. His itinerary included Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Tinian, Peleliu, and Leyte. He went back to Honolulu in November, 1944, and arrived in Eugene this week to visit his mother. His wife, Laurie Johnston, also a former student of the U. of O. school of journalism, is a war correspondent for the Honolulu Advertiser and will soon be sent to Guam to cover the action there.

Admires Nimitz

Of Admiral Nimitz, the tall former Eugenean said emphatically, "I think he is one of the great commanders in American history and is admirably qualified to lead the final attack on the Japs."

"It will be a long war and I don't think the Japs will surrender," Johnston warned, "they never have and we will have to kill every Jap in uniform. You could say that is my 'message to the people.'"

Bataan Nurses

Flying from Hawaii to San Francisco, Johnston accompanied several American nurses, veterans of Bataan, who had been freed from the Santo Tomas Japanese prison camp when MacArthur smashed into the Philippines to retake Manila from the enemy.

"They are wonderful girls! After the hell they had been through they want to go back to the Pacific as nurses again," the UP writer reported. "They had been starved in that camp for three years with 6 ounces of rice a day to keep them just barely living; now America

really means something to them."

With 50,000 miles of travel by plane and ship under him, Johnston plans to add another row of figures to that number when he flies back to see more action in April. Every war correspondent dreams of being on the scene when the Americans raise the Star Spangled banner over the imperial palace in Tokyo. Perhaps Dick Johnston's byline will appear on front pages from coast to coast when his story of the defeat of the empire of the Rising Sun is radioed to America.

Captain Meets His Public; Team Busy

With a whoop and a bang, the rally squad came charging down the aisle to begin Thursday's all-campus assembly at McArthur court. Evans Sax introduced Bob Hamilton, the captain of the Oregon basketball team and "the only man on the 1944 basketball team with clothes on"—the others were in the gym. Wishing the team luck, the rally squad led a yell for them. The ditty, "I Hate You 'Cause Your Feet's Too Big," was enacted by two male members of the student body.

Audrey Holliday introduced Helen Luvaas, who directed the vesper choir in singing "The Oregon Pledge Song," "I Wonder as I Wander," with Jerrine Newhouse as soloist; "My Heart is a Silent Violin"; "Fairy Pipers," with Enid Smith as soloist; and concluded with "Onward Ye Peoples."

State Board to Consider New Budget March 13

The state board of higher education will meet March 13 in Portland, Chancellor Frederick M. Hunter stated. Chief consideration of the meeting will be the 1945-46 budget on which the finance committee is working.

Also the board will possibly discuss financing a retirement plan if the legislation now up for consideration is acted upon favorably.

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