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Illinois Valley News, Thursday, March 6, 1941



THE STORY SO FAR: Intelligence Officer Benning learned in Mexico City that 200,000 foreign troops under Van Hassek were poised along the Rio Grande for an invasion of the United States. He succeeded in gaining the confidence of Fincke and Bravot, two enemy officers, before returning to

CHAPTER VIII

Captain Franklin Boll, in command of two outpost companies of the 11th United States Infantry in the vicinity of Laredo, had patrols along the Rio Grande watching for the first Van Hassek wave. Word had flashed through of the bombing of San Antonio and Boll knew that the land invasion must be shaping itself already for a vital blow at Texas when daylight came.

Colonel Denn had spent a fretful night, well knowing the tight pinch in which he might find his regiment at dawn. His regiment was at peace strength, rifle companies running as low as seventy, total strength 1,132 officers and men. No artillery support had been sent him from Fort Sam Houston, his only supporting weapons were the 37-millimeter and small mortars of his weapons companies. His ammunition supply was less than one day of fire.

Such a thing as interdicting suspected points of enemy river crossing was out of the question. He had given Boll, in outpost, eight machine guns and some light mortars.

Lightning flashed in the distance. A shrill screech came plowing through the night. High explosives crashed in to turn night into bedlam. Fragments found a victim who fell with a howl of pain. The crew of a machine gun was dropped. Men scattered, lay flat on their faces, helpless against this hurricane of destruction that howled down upon them across the Rio Grande. All existence was now engulfed by the seething uproar of artillery. Boll saw that the regiment was claiming the fullest force of Van Hassek's rage.

INSTALLMENT EIGHT Washington. Flagwill, acting chief of Military Intelligence, told him that forces were also reported massing in the Mediterranean and the Far East. Benning continued to pose as an enemy agent when Fincke later appeared in the capital. Without warning, four southern citles were attacked from the air. Wash-

番 * * put an officer of lesser mettle in a dizzy whirl.

Inventory disclosed that the Second Division had escaped the sudden storm with loss of forty-odd cargo trucks, seventeen men, five officers, and two pieces of artillery. Having given the Second its orders to assemble and march on Kirk, Brill set about his final tactical plans.

From time to time Brill and his staff were interrupted by reports of air disasters over New Orleans, Galveston, and Houston. Total losses there aggregated twelve hundred.

General Brill directed his senior aide to get General Hague at Washington on the long-distance. The hour was nearing three o'clock when the Chief of Staff of the Army reported ready to talk.

"My best judgment is to pull out of here," Brill said, after he had reported latest developments in Texas. "We're too thin to make a fight for San Antonio, but we can do some good delaying back of the Colorado and Brazos while you get troops enough into the Fort Worth country to make a stand."

The Hague voice responded with quiet firmness, "You'll proceed at once against the enemy, Brill, and make a stand in front of San Antonio with your Second Division." Brill groaned. "But Hague, you sure you understand the whole situation down here? It's simply inviting a lot of nasty losses to no purpose. I haven't force enough

ington was heavily bombed and the President killed in the assault. National forces were ordered mobilized, but the army was ill prepared to repulse the well trained and equipped enemy columns which were about to advance against them.

Now continue with the story.

the distant hum of this new menace.

Boll broke out the glass windows of his station wagon with the butt of his automatic. He thrust his head out and peered into the sky. Planes were circling overhead like so many mad wasps waiting the instant of better visibility. There was not long to wait. As night shed its last veil, the war falcons swooped one at a time to pluck the little caravan to bits with their talons of steel

Men in the trucks opened fire with their rifles. But the attacking planes flew with the speed of the wind. They dashed low, pumping bullets from hot machine guns, releasing their fragmentation bombs, and in a twinkling were gone. Then back they came, one at a time at irregular intervals, to plaster the road with their fury.

Overhead the flock was growing. Fourteen planes, he estimated. Two squadrons, force enough to tear him to pieces bit by bit unless miracles ANOTHER of good fortune and bad marksmanship attended him along the red course to the Nueces. Inevitably, dropping down time after time without other hindrance than the random fire of his riflemen, the airmen would take their relentless toll. 1. What is the only state in the Union which is bounded by one A truck went out, the third one back from Boll. It cracked up across the road under impact of a bomb. The driver slumped dead in his seat. Men piled out and began scattering out of the storm. Boll



draw in to just the slimness you want, by means of the sash belt in the back

The high-cut skirt is very slenderizing to the hips and waist. The gathered bodice gives you a nice round bosom-line. Make this of percale, calico or gingham and trim with bright ricrac and buttons. Untrimmed, it's a good style for runabout, if you make it up in flat crepe or spun rayon. Send for the pattern today, and be among the first to wear it! . . .

Pattern No. 8876 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 40. Size 14 requires 334 yards of 36-inch material without nap; 155 yards trimming. Detailed sew chart included. Send order to:

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT. 149 New Montgomery Ave. San Francisco Calif. Enclose 15 cents in coins for Pattern No..... Size Name Address

Beginner Didn't Want Possibility to Be Wasted

The driving instructor was teaching the awkward fellow to drive a car.

"Put out your left hand to signal that you are about to move off. Then with your left foot step in the clutch. With your right hand put the gearshift into first. Gradually ease up on the clutch, the while stepping gently on the accelerator with your right foot.

"When the car has gathered speed, again step in the clutch, shifting with the right hand to second. Then with the left foot slowly let out the clutch, accelerating with the right foot. Then repeat THERE'S something guileless to shift to high speed. Keep your and appealing about a yoke eyes on the road ahead all of the dress like this that will make you time." look as fresh and bright as a little

There was a long pause; the pupil appeared to be thinking. "Well, what are you waiting women alike. Yet design No. 8876 for?" asked the instructor finally.

A Quiz With Answers

Offering Information

on Various Subjects

like musty hay; and tear gas like

apple blossoms.

6. Twenty.

"There's nothing useful I could comfortable home style, with do with my nose, is there?" in-



Mother-Baby's crying because he's getting his first teeth. Little Mary-What's the matter? Doesn't he want them?

The rain rains mostly upon the just. The unjust keep borrowing his umbrella.

In the Name of Safety

'What's making you so angry?" "Nothing much. I cut myself with a safety razor, burned myself with a safety match, and nearly got run over while reading a safety-first notice."

Quite Obvious

"Isn't that a new frock you've on?" "Yes; I got it for a ridiculous figure." "Oh, I can see that!"

Grounds for Suspicions "I've searched high and low for the furniture cream recipe your mother gave me-"

"Here!" said her husband, putting down his spoon, "where did you get the recipe for this soup?"



d in the stomach or gulle on the heart. At the first sn't prove Bell-

In Ignorance

Nothing is so firmly believed as what we least know .-- Montaigne.

Relief At Last For Your Cough

Creomulsion relieves promptly be-cause it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, in-flamed bronchial mucous mem-branes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the un-derstanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis As Our Works Are Everyone is the son of his own



works.-Cervantes.

girl all dressed up in a new starched frock! It's very becoming and youthifying to misses and offers you the makings of a very waistline that you can comfortably quired the beginner.

ASK ME

The Questions

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Half an hour and Boll's casualties were twenty. Patrols had been sighted, an increasing number of skulkers were reported closing in. Boll saw that his position was becoming untenable.

He started his men slowly to the rear, with two squads covering his withdrawal. The enemy, suspicious of a possible trap in the night, followed cautiously. From this Boll guessed that only the first scattering bridgehead troops were in action. But, having guessed that the Americans were without benefit of artillery, the Van Hassek officers now would use the main bridge and move across the Rio Grande in force.

Boll had covered less than two hundred yards when a runner arrived from Colonel Denn.

"The colonel says get back as fast as you can!" the messenger pant-"Regiment is pulling out right away for the Nueces."

Half an hour later, Boll panted into the regimental position. Captain March, assistant plans and training officer, came hurrying up from a vacated regimental position.

"Regiment pulled out twenty minutes ago," March reported to Boll. "You're to follow at once as rear guard. Trucks are ready behind this hill. Colonel Denn left you some baldoliers of extra ammunition, but we ought to get back of the Nueces before we fight. Second Division is taking position somewhere back there. Hurry your men along, Captain!"

By jamming his men seventeen to the truck, Boll got his command on wheels. Two trucks went to the wounded, one to his three remaining machine guns. He studied the luminous dial of his watch, an anxious scowl on his face as his convoy made ready to pull out. The hour was a little past three o'clock.

A plane shot overhead, traveling high and fast. Its shrilling motors sent a chill down the captain's spine.

"It'll be just too bad for us if we're not at the Nueces by daylight," he muttered to Captain March. "And with light due in half an hour, I'm afraid we just can't make it!

Major General Brill, area commander, kept his head through tangled hours whose crises might have

"Let's not debate the matter." General Hague interrupted stoutly. "Is that clear, Brill?"

"Perfectly, sir." There was neither remonstrance nor equivocation

in the area commander's voice now. In a calm voice Brill repeated the Hague decision to his staff. He offered no comment. Without speaking, the staff went to work on its new plan.

Circling to the south, Brill found the due-south road to Kirk, which was under military traffic control. and sped to the village, where he found General Mole, division commander. Mole was a thin bit of military hickory now nearing retirement age.

General Mole received his superior's battle orders with a monosyllable of acquiescence, as if to hoard his jaded energies, and promptly set to work with his staff. The division staff was familiar with the country and made prompt plans for organization of a defensive position. Orders were ready within half an hour. and since there was no enemy immediately in prospect, the regiments proceeded to their positions in their cargo trucks.

General Brill stood in the growing dawn gravely watching the Second pass out to its battle lines. A force of 10,837 enlisted men and two warrant officers, led by 546 officers.

As Captain Boll sprang into his station wagon with his lieutenants, and sped to the head of his truck column to set the pace, his eye caught the flash of light that turned the waning night into day some miles ahead of him.

"Step on her!" he barked at his "They'll spot us in a mindriver. ute-and we're still in artillery range."

Boll sat with hands gripping his knees while he observed the bursts. Luckily they were striking to the right and doing no damage. But shortly the firing ceased, the air observer roared by again with a flare, and rushed off to radio correction to the distant gunners.

He saw that there was the first touch of gray in the air, dawn only a matter of minutes. It would be a miracle if he reached the Nueces with half of his men and trucks. As the night thinned out, he caught

NEXT WEEK Another Absorbing Installment stopped his car, ran back to straighten out the snarl.

Three planes zoomed down his column, knifing the road. He saw two of his men fall. He gave instructions to a sergeant and two corporals. They were to pass word down the column. Hereafter stricken trucks were to be shoved to the side of the road, survivors and wounded distributed to other trucks as they passed along. All were to act promptly on their own initiative. Boll ran back to his station wagon. leaped in. The car was vibrating with the gentle motion of idling motors.

A shout went up from the men

in Boll's truck. A plane crashed out of the sky and whanged into the gray earth. It burst instantly into flames. Boll's riflemen had claimed another bird in this unequal clash. But the next instant brought red retaliation. Another truck nosed off the road in a crush of wounded men and dead. Boll saw the survivors act promptly to extricate themselves, gather up the maimed and flag down succeeding vehicles. The village of Encinal flashed by, Boll shook his head and swore bitterly. Encinal told him that he had little more than started on his long. desperate run. Next would come Artesia Wells, which would be little more than halfway to the Nueces.

He looked at his watch and saw the hour was short of six o'clock. He groaned and passed a tormented hand across his face. Misgivings struck him of making it through. His mind made a hasty calculation. At their rate of kill, those vultures would tear his column to pieces before he could run under the dubious cover ahead.

Decision snapped in his mind as he saw a new flight swarming into the fight. The birdmen were traveling high, but heading straight into the conflict.

More than twenty more planes he guessed in the daze of tragic discovery. His eye raced over the terrain. There were mesquite, juniper thickets, some rugged dwarf pine. Scattered, his men would have refuge until Van Hassek's columns wheeled up.

He roared an order to stop the truck and leaped to the ground. The unwounded men with him he instructed to keep up their rifle fire. Standing beside the road he signaled a halt, motioned the command to de-

(TO BE CONTINUED)

state alone 2. Which of the following is a natural magnet-Capstone, thun-

derstone or lodestone? 3. What are known as cardinal

winds? 4. When was the boundary be-

tween the United States and Canada finally determined? 5. What are the odors of the

principal gases that are used in war? 6. How many shillings are there

in a British pound? 7. How small can diamonds be

cut? 8. Who said: "I know of no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective

as their stringent execution"?

The Answers

1. Maine.

2. Lodestone. 3. Winds blowing from due

north, east, south or west. 4. The boundary between the United States and Canada was not

completely determined until 1925, or 142 years after our country signed the treaty with England. 5. As nearly as can be described, mustard gas smells like garlic; lewisite like geraniums; phosgene

THING

small diamonds for mass settings that they produce regular 58-facet stones so small that as many as 800 weigh only one carat.

7. Some diamond cutters have

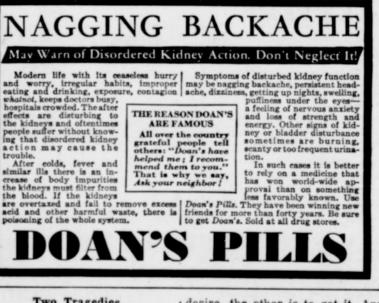
become so expert in cutting very

8. Ulysses S. Grant (inaugural

Vauvenargues. address March 4, 1869).

OR SPREAD ON ROOSTS

Art of Hoping Patience is the art of hoping .--



Two Tragedies desire, the other is to get it. And There are two tragedies in life the latter is the greater tragedy .--one is not to get your heart's Oscar Wilde.



CIGARETTE

truck.