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D-Day in the Philippines

Judging by local reactions, there is an unfortunate complacency in this country regarding the Philippine invasion.

Nine out of ten people in this neighborhood, at least, seem to think this is going to be little more than a dress-parade, with the Yanks probably celebrating Thanksgiving in recaptured Manila, with roast turkey, stock market reports and all the trimmings!

NOW, of course, that MIGHT happen. Almost anything COULD happen in this surprising war. But it is far from likely.

And it is puzzling, therefore, that OWI has not prepared the American people for the worst, rather than the best—for what might very well develop into a long and difficult campaign, rather than doing nothing to dispell the assumption, that taking over the Philippines will be as easy as taking over the small islands between Australia and Corregidor.

Anything of that sort CAN'T be! Not only because of the greater area (except for New Guinea) and complexity of the Philippine terrain, but because in attacking the Philippines we are, for the first time, attacking a vital and essential bulwark of Japanese defense.

UNLESS Japan's situation is far weaker and more desperate, than most observers in the South Pacific theater declare, Japan will fight with everything she has to keep the northern part of the Philippines—the island of Luzon and Manila.

That this effort will be in vain, as far as the ultimate result is concerned is certain—at least as certain as anything in this uncertain life can be.

But that it will not resemble in any way the previous one-sided engagements between our forces and the Japs is also certain. For the Japanese High Command undoubtedly, after the crushing air and sea defeat at Midway, wrote off the islands from Guadalcanal to Mindanao as expendibles. But they did not write off the Philippines and can't do so, unless Japan is willing to abandon her traditional dreams of empire—and in Japanese war psychology that would involve a loss of face which would be equivalent to an admission of defeat.

No, that can't be. American soldiers in Germany have been forbidden to flirt with Frauleins on the Rhine. Human nature being human nature, this can be accomplished by putting "blind-ers" on the flirts and the flirts.

Hill residents report chilly nights, with ice in the morning on mud puddles and unemptied wash-basins left on the back porch. "Joe" had bad luck with both wives. The first divorced him and the second wouldn't. (Herington (Kan.) Sun). Fate plays a mean trick.

The first signs of winter are showing up. Several state communities have reported the theft of potatoes, after they were dug and sacked, of course. A Colorado hunter, shot and wounded for a deer while yodelling, exonerates the shooter but vows he will never hunt again. All things considered, it also looks like a good time to swear off yodelling.

The ex-boy mayor of K. Falls and chronic senatorial candidate, has the ear of the administration, an admirer states. With the other hand for 12 long years, he has tenaciously clung to the presidential coat-tails.

"SCORCHERS" (Oakland Tribune) Stunned by the news that 80 mishaps had occurred since January 1, "nearly every one attributed to reckless scorching" in which automobiles were traveling from 30 to 40 miles an hour, city officials of Chicago were preparing to consider legislation reducing the speed limit to 10 miles an hour. Fifty policemen will constitute a "scorching squadron" to make arrests on the West Side. (From 1900 files.)

The Nipponese, as they have often done before, reported the invasion of the Philippines while it was being nursed by American sources of information, as a military secret. Later confirmation arrived of what Tokyo had already reported. The Berlin radio, also heralded the bad news to their Axis partner. This causes the American people to suspect they are the victims of "a diet of discouragement", a policy that worked well, about the time Orson Wells scared the daylight out of the nation with his radio invasion from Mars.

The Chinese pheasant hunting season, in the rural regions has subsided due to the feathered targets making themselves scarce. Farmers are once more stooping over fearlessly in their own backyards. UNSOCIAL STORK "Time, tide and the stork wait for no man—or woman. When friends of Mrs. Nelson Butler gathered at her home last night for a surprise "Stork party" they found the surprise was on them. Mrs. Butler was nowhere to be found. Not very much later they discovered why their hostess had been so un hospitably absent. She was at St. Elizabeth hospital, giving birth to a seven pound daughter. (Red Bluff (Cal.) News).

Yes, what a time to be alive. As Winston Churchill remarked when things looked so dark in England: "So one stands in awe before the unfolding scroll of human destiny!" And in this direction what a theme for some modern Kipling—to paint a word-picture of the scene presented yesterday as Gen. MacArthur steamed into the gulf of Leyte, to fulfill the promise made when driven from the Philippines—that someday he would return. An epic surely for all the future generations to read with pride and inspiration! And a return so much sooner and more triumphant than anyone THEN expected.

FEW men certainly have been as fortunate as General MacArthur. The son of a General, war his family tradition, trained for it and loving it, his career before the second World War broke out was practically over. Then, like a bolt from the blue, to have war in Europe declared, war with Japan follow two years later, and suffering at the outset a crushing defeat, to live to overcome that initial reverse and lead his troops to what can hardly help but be an overwhelming and history-making victory—participate as leader in one of the decisive battles of the world!

It is hard to picture in film or fiction, a more dramatic and altogether satisfactory final chapter of a brilliant and successful career—and somehow so few careers of "men-of-war" have been allowed by Fate to end in such a fitting and delightful story book fashion!

The Indispensible Man

Speaking of indispensable men (loud jeers or cheers depending upon your politics!) there HAVE been indispensable men in the past.

Walt Mason, the writer of prose-verse for newspapers, was one of them. He made a fortune as a syndicated writer and since his death nearly a decade ago, no one has come forward to take his place. It looks as though no one ever will.

We offer today the following typical example of his unique combination of humor and wisdom:

BE CAUTIOUS

If you've money to invest—rubles in the old oak chest—see your banker, that is best; he is wise; he is on to all the schemes of the men who deal in dreams, to the crooks who work in teams, gold brick guys. When the fact is widely known that you have an extra bone, all the fakers fairly groan for that tin; they will tag you when you walk, they will bore you with their talk, they will never halt nor balk, till they win. They will mutter, shark to shark, "here's another easy mark; it will be a pleasant lark, fleecing him; let us meet him at his gate, handing him the hot air straight, let us there impersonate Sunny Jim." You may think you're pretty keen, but they're sharper still, I warn; garnering the good long green is their trade; they are men of winning smiles, they are men of many wiles, and they heap their loot

in piles, with a spade. And they love to see a gent who is boasting in his tent, "None can trim me for a cent, nor de-fraud;" and they'd feel themselves disgraced if they didn't get, in haste, that man's wad. When you have a little roll, to the village banker stroll; let him counsel and control, mark his rede; he is wise to all the snares of the fakers in their lairs with their phony stocks and their shares gone to seed.

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

Washington, Oct. 20 — The feed box of inner politics contains both oats and thistles for each side, to wit:

A democratic congressman from a large city long-distances his wife this week he had abandoned hope of re-election in his normally democratic district. The churches, he said, are frightened at their chance of ultimately surviving the mesalliance of communism and this government, and they have turned too many people against him.

A Republican senator from the midwest is saying "off the record" to newsmen Mr. Roosevelt will win "easily," and that a large number of Willkie people (of which he is one) will not vote.

THE Democratic campaign command tried to get Senator O'Mahoney to make a few speeches, but he replied he was so scared of his home state, Wyoming (conceded to Roosevelt safely by polls), he is hastening back there to campaign even though he is not up for re-election.

You would not know an election is on in Virginia. Not a political meeting of importance has been held. The prevailing Byrd organization is doing nothing, either for or against Roosevelt.

One prominent newspaper recently announced editorially that, of course, it had to be for the fourth term, but recognized a large number of its readers were not, so it would thereafter print each day on its editorial page an anti-Roosevelt editorial taken from an anti-Roosevelt paper. The first one it printed was a scorching from the New York Herald Tribune.

A press association political man made a trip from Florida as far north as Maryland and avows Mr. Roosevelt will not get a substantial part of the registered democratic votes in that section. The Chicago convention turned the normal party appetite, he says, predicting a surprising and unexpected sweep for Dewey. He thinks a great many people through fear are saying they are for Roosevelt but will vote for Dewey when they get inside the secret booth (business men relying on the government for contracts, etc.)

WORST news for Dewey is the closeness of the unusually excellent New York Daily News poll in New York state, giving him only a wisp of a shadow of a lead. Without New York Dewey cannot win.

The best of the polls is probably Fortune's, judging from the past. It showed Pennsylvania 53 per cent for Roosevelt the last week of September.

These factors account for the 3-to-1 odds which professional gamblers are giving on Roosevelt, with little or no money in sight.

Technical inner Republican criticism of Dewey speeches is that they are too reasonable for rousing popular sentiment.

MR. Roosevelt is being scared out before the microphones by the reports of his state campaign leaders. One state leader told a luncheon bluntly this week that unless the Democratic organization got busy and Mr. Roosevelt awakened public interest by talking, Dewey would win. The Democratic theory still is that a sleeping vote is a Roosevelt vote.

A tremendous Roosevelt vote-organizing job by C. I. O. can be detected in some spots, but is being kept quiet because it evades if it does not violate the law. Colorado is an instance. No such activity as C. I. O. conducted there in getting votes registered has ever been seen before by one competitive political judge. Colorado, however, is still surely Republican.

Flurry of press prognostications that Dewey would carry Truman's home state of Missouri was inspired by Democratic political reporters in Missouri who thought, at the Chicago convention, only a few weeks ago, Truman would unquestionably carry his home state. The information, therefore, carries exceptional weight here, the Truman denials being written off as a routine political responsibility.

Twenty-two per cent of the 50,000 persons accepted per year as patients at New York's Columbia University Medical Center pay nothing for the services they receive.

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20, and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY October 20, 1934 (It was Saturday)

Heavy rain, accompanied by high wind, comes to valley. Up-state soaked.

O. S. C. and Trojans, battle to 6-6 tie; Oregon defeats Idaho, 13 to 6; Medford beats Marshfield there, 7 to 0; Klamath Falls defeats Ashland, 19 to 0.

Cloudy and rainy. High 49, low 42 degrees.

France jittery over its air weakness, due to internal politics.

Republicans open county headquarters on Main street.

White Leghorn pullet belonging to Mrs. R. E. Carley, route 2, lays 359 eggs in year, to set record.

High wind blows down black oak tree that demolishes Pankey schoolhouse.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY October 20, 1924 (It was Sunday)

Army round-the-world-fliers to land here late tomorrow and spend the night here.

Landowners' committee demand action on irrigation situation in valley and want resident engineer for job.

Dirigible Shenadoah en route to San Francisco delayed by head winds off Pt. Arena and unable to make progress.

Work to start in ten days on new Ashland hotel.

Unsettled with probable rain. High 80, low 52 degrees. Trace of rain.

Supreme court denies rehearing on state income tax law.

Large crowd attends opening of New Craterian theater.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO October 20, 1910 (It was Thursday)

Philadelphia defeats Chicago, 12 to 5, in world series game.

David B. Hill, New York Democratic leader passes.

Espee to make depot grounds from Main to Sixth a park.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer. Through the use of a pen name or initials for publication is not desirable. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarity and conciseness.

A Huntress Replies to John Nealon

To the editor: It seems to me, every few weeks this column has a letter printed from Mr. John Nealon of Table Rock. Each one grumbling about something. Doesn't anything please him?

In answer to his letter published in Oct. 17th Tribune, I'd like to state one hunter's side. I should have said three hunters as this family goes hunting in full force.

My husband's hobby is guns and his one form of sport is hunting. Our son is now old enough to go hunting with his dad and myself. I'm glad of this for I know of no cleaner sport for a boy. In this family we are all pals and spend our recreation hours together.

In all of our years of hunting we have never hunted posted grounds. We have also always asked permission from the owner before hunting fenced fields. Very few farmers have ever refused our request to hunt their grounds. They have welcomed us in the belief that hunters do less damage than the pheasants. We have been able to go back year after year to the same places to hunt. We have also found that most of the posted grounds can be hunted for a price. But we don't play the same that way. However, it is the farmers privilege to keep his grounds posted if he likes.

My husband in his work has met many farmers—often being called to their farms. He has had many invitations to come out and go hunting. They say pheasants are pests and are glad to have the hunters come during the two weeks of open season.

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This proves to me that all the farmers don't agree with Mr. Nealon on this subject. Anyway just what is left to damage in a corn field this late by just walking through it?

Mr. Nealon remarks on the gas and manpower shortage. Well few employers begrudge their men one day off each week. So whose business is it how they use it. Do the hunters ask the farmers why they drive to town, sometimes, several times a week?

As to using gas for hunting trips. There are a number of pheasants still in use. Also good bicyclist hunting can be had within walking distance of town.

Mrs. S. Jones Rt. 1, Medford, Ore., Oct. 18 Use Mail Tribune Want Ads.

THE GRANGE

Sams Valley Grange Sams Valley Grange will hold regular meeting Saturday night, Oct. 21, with initiation in the first and second degrees for the three candidates who were unable to attend last meeting. Ways and means committee will sponsor a Halloween masquerade dance Saturday, Oct. 28. Everyone is urged to plan now to attend. A number of prizes will be given.

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