

SUPREME TEST DEVELOPS FOR ISLAND FORCES

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
Wide World War Analyst

Our defenders in the Philippines appear to be in the throes of the supreme test in the bloody fighting which has developed as the result of Japanese landings in force from 80 transports in the Lingayen gulf area, a bit more than 100 miles northwest of Manila on Luzon island—strategic heart of these strategic possessions.

The Japs, already delayed in their schedule by the strong defense of General MacArthur's forces, have struck heavily with the purpose of gaining possession before the arrival of American reinforcements across the Pacific.

The news thus far is a mixture of good and bad. It is a matter of concern that the Japanese should have sufficient control of the waters about Luzon to effect such a mass landing. It is grand to hear from General MacArthur in an early report of the fighting that "our troops are behaving well."

Next to this invasion of the Philippines, the great sensation of the day is Hitler's assumption of supreme command of his armies, displacing the famous Field Marshal von Brauchitsch. The precise meaning of this extraordinary move remains obscure, but I think we are safe in saying that it was inspired by a great emergency of some sort.

One doesn't overlook, of course, that the fuhrer himself has declared he is divinely ordained to carry out his program for the fatherland. Still, it is hard to believe that this is the explanation. Admitting Hitler's genius for leadership, he might be expected to be the last to claim that his training fitted him for a position demanding the highest type of military skill, and to feel that there is no one else capable of leading his armies.

Rather, it seems to me, he is faced with a great crisis in which either (1) he is forced to depend upon the personal hold which he has on his people or (2) he and Von Brauchitsch have disagreed on a vital military issue.

It may be that Herr Hitler is compelled to use all his power of leadership in order to meet the reaction of his people to the great defeat suffered by German arms in Russia. That operation, which is still developing dangerously for the nazis, certainly takes some explaining.

It is equally possible that the fuhrer wants to undertake something that his commander-in-chief felt suicidal. There are several guesses along that line. About the wildest thing one could think of would be an attempt to invade England at this time of year. The German high command undoubtedly would balk at such a rash adventure, but Hitler says he is working by intuition and maybe his intuition tells him that now is the appointed hour for a desperate blow.

Perhaps the crisis involves a military dispute regarding Russia. It might relate to a challenge to Turkey's two million bayonets in an effort to break into the middle east. It might have to do with a drive through Spain to bring that country into the war and to open up new bases for Germany in North Africa.

Be that as may, it's my guess that Hitler is a badly worried man. There is further evidence that all is not well with Germany in the language employed by the Nazi Chief and Propaganda Minister Goebbels in their urgent weekend appeals to the public for warm clothing for German soldiers caught in the toils of the killing Russian winter.

F. D. R.'s Board of Inquiry Looks Into Pearl Harbor Surprise



(NEA Telephoto)
Here's the first full meeting of the special board of inquiry named by President Roosevelt investigating the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor which, Secy. of the Navy Frank Knox said, caught American defenders "not on the alert." From left, General Joseph T. McNarney, Admiral W. H. Standley, Justice Owen J. Roberts, Rear Adm. Joseph Reeves, Maj. Gen. Frank B. McCoy, Walter Bruce Howe, recorder.

Christmas in Honolulu To Be Both Dark, Dry

By FRANK TREMAINE
United Press Correspondent
HONOLULU, Dec. 22 (UP)—Christmas in Honolulu will be both dark and dry.

There will be a blackout of Christmas eve festivities because of the possibility of another "Pearl Harbor" and because bottled spirits are unobtainable. Christmas trees are scarce, but most residents plan to cut down tropical papaya trees and decorate them with unlighted bulbs.

After the confusion which followed the Japanese surprise attack and two weeks of war, Hawaii is approaching a pattern of living which it may follow indefinitely.

Today Lieut. Col. Thomas H. Green, executive in the office of the military governor, approved a plan for construction of 81 air raid "splinter" shelters in downtown Honolulu.

The islanders have been compressed by the war into a tightly knit group which has learned the vital necessity of cooperation in working out its problems. Total blackouts are being rigidly enforced, even to the extent of citizens warning forgetful neighbors who might neglect so much as a small radio light.

One newspaperman who went shopping with his neighbor for gifts for their children went

home instead with a few extra cans of milk and corned beef.

The new "splinter" shelters are intended for shoppers. Each shelter would have a warden. Persons employed in the downtown district could use the shelters in their own buildings.

The splinter shelters are designed only to ward off splinters from bursting shell fragments and will not be bomb-proof.

New censorship regulations have been announced by the navy for use of transpacific radio telephone service. The rules provide that conversations must be in English, and that no mention may be made of such things as weather or ship names—or other data possibly valuable to the enemy.

Supplies Dropped To Passengers of Marooned Plane

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Dec. 22 (AP)—Supplies have been dropped to Pilot Archie Ferguson and his two passengers who have been marooned on a small ice-covered lake between Kotzebue sound and Fairbanks since Thursday and efforts will be made today to land a small plane on the ice to bring the trio in.

Ferguson, flying with Dr. David Hoehn, Fairbanks, and Norman Anthony, Kotzebue, made a forced landing on the frozen lake while en route here when ice formed on the wings of his plane. He managed to radio a report of his situation before his transmitter went dead and search planes proceeded to search for him immediately, locating him Saturday.

The lake is too small for the large search planes to land upon.

Oregon Labor Supply Watched

PORTLAND, Dec. 22 (AP)—An Oregon labor supply committee, to prevent dislocations in employment caused by priorities, was organized here Saturday.

Otto Hartwig, social security advisor of the Crown Zellerbach corporation, heads the committee, which includes representatives from employers, labor and federal and state agencies.

A copy of a map made by Christopher Columbus in 1493 was found in Istanbul in 1932.

SALEM, Dec. 22 (AP)—Governor and Mrs. Charles A. Sprague will spend Christmas morning visiting all state institutions in the Salem area. The institutions will have special turkey and chicken dinners for their inmates.

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TAX PREDICTION FAVORS NO LEVY

SALEM, Dec. 22 (AP)—Prediction the state of Oregon would not need to levy property taxes for either general or special purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1942, was voiced here Saturday by Charles V. Galloway, chairman of the state tax commission.

Galloway expressed this belief in explaining the commission's levy, to be filed on Monday, for the half-year ending next June 30. The half-year levy will amount to \$4,332,300.77 under the six per cent limitation, all to be met from income tax receipts.

Income taxes received to the treasury during 1941 have exceeded the official estimate of a year ago by \$1,821,058, creating the surplus from which the two-mill elementary school tax will be lifted from property in the first half of 1942 for the first time in the state's history.

Chronicle Editor Works for Navy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 (AP)—Lieutenant Commander Paul C. Smith of San Francisco became press relations officer of the navy department today. He is on leave from the position of editor and general manager of the San Francisco Chronicle.

He succeeds Lieutenant Commander Wallace S. Wharton, of Salem, Ore. Wharton, who is on leave from his job as state tax commissioner of Oregon, will remain in the office of public relations, acting as liaison with other governmental activities. Both Smith and Wharton are naval reserve officers.

Venezuela consists of 20 states, 2 territories, and a federal district, with a total estimated population of 3,000,000.

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