

The latest tonight is a revelation of one of the most talked of secrets of the war. ~~That is~~ -- The letters ~~that~~ Chief-of-Staff General Marshall sent to Republican Candidate Governor Dewey during the Presidential election last year, Nineteen Forty-Four. The letters were read today at the Pearl Harbor inquiry in Washington.

We were informed, right after the end of the war in the Pacific, that such letters had been sent. We were informed that Governor Dewey, during the Presidential Campaign, had information that at the time of the Pearl Harbor & disaster the secret Naval Code of Japan had been broke<sup>n</sup>. And -- that the Roosevelt Administration had advance word that Japan was about to strike.

This had an obvious bearing on charges that negligence in Washington had been to blame, in part, for Pearl Harbor. The information could have provided political ammunition for the Republican Candidate running for the Presidency.

Then, General Marshall sent two letters to Governor Dewey, asking him not to make use of the information he had about the breaking of the code -- ~~don't~~ <sup>not</sup> make it public.

In his first letter, General Marshall began by asking Dewey to pledge secrecy about what Dewey would thereupon read -- and not to read it unless he was willing to pledge secrecy. Dewey read no further -- he sent the letter back by the Army Officer who had brought it.

Then came the second letter from General Marshall. It imposed no such condition, and made the same statements as had been contained in the first. Dewey read it.

These letters, as presented to the Committee today, were marked -- "Top secret, for Mr. Dewey's ~~eyes~~ eyes only." In them General Marshall confirmed the fact that we had broken the Japanese Naval Code.

More than that -- he stated that our code experts had built machines to decipher the Japanese Code.

And they were also deciphering German codes.

General Marshall told Dewey that this code-breaking had been a key factor in the winning of American victories in the Pacific -- the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway.

"The battle of the Coral Sea, " wrote General Marshall, was based on deciphered messages -- and therefore our few ships were in the right place at the right time. Further, "He went on, "We were able to concentrate our limited forces to meet the Japanese advance on Midway, when otherwise we almost certainly would have been some three thousand miles out of place."

That Midway affair was one of the dashing Naval Maneuvers of the war. History has already told us how American warships, after the battle of the Coral Sea way down in the Solomon Islands off Australia, made a long dash all the way to Hawaii -- to meet a powerful Japanese Fleet steaming against Hawaii. In that way the ships and the planes were there, to stop the Jap



Armada -- and defeat it in the battle of Midway. Now we know the reason why -- because the Navy had broken the Japanese Code and had intercepted messages giving a tip-off to the strategy of the Japs.

General Marshall told Governor Dewey that, at the time of the Presidential Campaign of Nineteen Forty-Four, the code breaking was still of vital importance. So therefore it would be a disaster -- if the secret were to be made public during the course of the ~~campaign~~ campaign.

General Marshall <sup>wrote</sup> ~~sent~~ to Dewey: "I am presenting this matter to you, for your secret consideration, in the hope that you will see yourself clear to avoid the tragic results with which we are now threatened in the present political campaign."

He added that President Roosevelt knew nothing about the letter being sent to his Republican opponent. "Neither the Secretary of War nor the President," ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Marshall wrote to Dewey, <sup>has</sup> "had any intimation whatever that such a letter <sup>has</sup> ~~had~~ been



addressed to you." The only people who knew about his writing the letter were Fleet Commander Admiral King and a few other officers in confidential positions.

To this communication Governor Dewey raised the following point: He said he didn't believe that such a letter should have been sent to him, as a Presidential Candidate, without the knowledge of President Roosevelt.

Was President Roosevelt ever informed? No. General Marshall today stated: "I never told the President. I think he died without knowing anything about this. I know he did."

What in the end did Dewey do about it? "I don't recall," says General Marshall, "that he gave us any assurances. All I know is that there never seemed to be any further reference to it in the campaign." Dewey kept the secret.

After Dewey's defeat, Marshall sent General Bissell to see him in Albany, and Bissell showed to Dewey copies of some of the intercepted Japanese messages -- to give what General Marshall today called,

"Some idea how important the secret was."

Dewey offered, in case of a discussion of Pearl Harbor in Congress, to do what he could in preventing a disclosure of the code-breaking secret. Marshall sent back a message saying that he had already embarrassed Dewey enough and had no further request to make.

"Dewey replied," said General Marshall today, "that it was not a case of personal embarrassment -- it was a question of the progress of the war."

The General and the Governor met personally for the first time at the funeral of President Roosevelt, and there in Washington Marshall took Dewey to the War Department and showed him some more messages that had been intercepted through the breaking of the Japanese code.

General Marshall today stated one more dramatic thing. He told the Committee that he was talking by telephone with Pearl Harbor while the Japanese bombing attack was going on -- and over the telephone, he heard the explosions.

## BIG THREE

There's to be another conference of the Foreign ministers of the Big Three.- <sup>So</sup>~~There~~ announced in London tonight.

And ~~it~~ this Big Three meeting will concentrate on the atomic bomb. It is officially stated in London, ~ that the atomic problem to be taken up by the foreign Ministers of ~~the United States~~, Great Britain, ~~and~~ Soviet Russia, ~~and~~, the U.S.A.



## LOAN

There was a move in the British Parliament today to reject the American loan announced yesterday ~~xxxx~~ as the four billion, four hundred million dollar loan to Britain. ~~xxxx~~ Two conservative M P's introduced a motion to turn it down - on the ~~xx~~ ground that the loan would mean a return to the gold standard and would abolish economic ties within the British Empire, the sterling block and empire preferential tariffs.

## BYRNES

The Secretary of State appeared today before the Senate Committee to discuss charges made by the Former Ambassador -- charges that certain officials in the State Department were pro-Communist and had sabotaged American policy in China.

Secretary Byrnes denied this. He declared that the Hurley accusations were unfounded.

To this the Former Ambassador, retorted to the Committee: "He did not answer the question I had raised -- that Acheson recommended the arming of the Chinese Communists with Lend-Lease." Hurley demanded the documents pertaining to this be made public. Byrnes offered to let the Senators on the Committee see the documents, which presumably concerned lend\*lease weapons and the Chinese Communists -- but argued that they should not be made public. The Committee will scrutinize the documents tomorrow.

~~Government is having an argument with Soviet Russia. This part of the proceedings ties in with an announcement made by the State Department today -- official American assurance given to the Iranian Government.~~

Secretary Byrnes has informed the Persian Foreign Minister that the policy of the United States remains the same in advocating the independence, the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Iran. This, said Byrnes, was in accordance with the Teheran Agreement between the Big Three -- ~~Rxx~~ Roosevelt Stalin and Churchill.

Today's declaration puts Washington on the side of Iran in the dispute over a rebellion in the Northern part of Persia, a revolt which, according to the Iranian <sup>government,</sup> is being aided by the forces of Soviet Russia. ~~And all this coincides with a Moscow rejection of an American proposal that all Foreign Troops be withdrawn from Persia by January First. According to agreement, American and British Soldiers will move out, but not Russian -- Moscow turning down the American proposal.~~



## GENERALS

Well, we're going to have fewer Generals -- fewer of the brass wearing the stars. Of course, after mustering out millions of G.I.'s, we ~~would~~ <sup>don't</sup> need so many Generals. And today the War Department gave the figures.

How many Generals did we have at the gold braid peak during the war? Many times more than we ever had before -- fifteen hundred and forty Generals. And that's a lot -- ask any G.I. who might have to salute them all. Or just think of the fifteen hundred and forty Generals gathered at one place. ~~enough~~  
~~rank to suffocate you.~~

~~I was somewhat dazzled~~  
~~I nearly lost my breath the~~ day before yesterday  
when I gave ~~this program~~ <sup>my broadcast</sup> before a Mitchel Field Conference on the integration of the veteran with the community. Several dozen Generals were gathered <sup>there.</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>But</sup>  
~~over one hundred~~ but not fifteen hundred and forty.

Well, the number is to be cut to less than a third, and by next July the Army will have a mere five hundred

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Generals. While the G.I.'s are being discharged, the Star Spangled Brass will be mustered out also -- five hundred by January First. Another five hundred during the first half of next year. Most will retire from service, while others will take a cut in rank -- even though they may have had distinguished records in the war. ~~Many Generals, faced with a reduction, prefer to~~  
~~retire~~

Well, anyway, wartime was a great time for  
Generals -- ~~we had~~ almost as many <sup>of them as there were</sup> ~~as we had Kentucky~~  
~~Colonels~~ of us Pre-war Kentucky Colonels.

## MISSING PLANES

The greatest air search ever made in this country ~~continued~~ <sup>has been going on</sup> for its second day, ~~today~~ -- the search for the five torpedo bombers that disappeared off the coast of Florida. <sup>And the</sup> ~~A~~ big Navy Patrol plane <sup>that was</sup> ~~out~~ <sup>five and then</sup> hunting for them was also lost. Twenty seven airmen missing in all.

The search continues to be fruitless -- with hundreds of planes ~~all day~~ scouting over every square mile of the sea where the missing planes may have gone down. When ~~they~~ last reported by radio, they were only a hundred miles off shore, ~~and~~ <sup>Now</sup> they could have vanished as they did is a blank mystery -- how they could have been forced down at sea without giving some radio word of their plight.

One possible clue is noted in a freak weather disturbance -- a sort of miniature cyclone that whipped with a lashing fury in the sector where the planes were flying. Still, if they were caught in that ~~x~~ -- why was there no radio flash from them.

There is a clue to the big patrol bomber lost



in the search -- a report of a flaming explosion at ~~sea~~.  
*That was the explosion mentioned last night that*  
~~was~~ spotted by the crew of a merchant vessel. ~~This is~~  
*Presumed to have been*  
~~believed to have been~~ the crash of the patrol plane.

Meanwhile, in South America -- ~~the~~ missing  
plane ~~is~~ has been found -- ~~the~~ American C-54 Transport  
that vanished on a flight from Paraguay to Uruguay. It  
crashed in rugged country along the wild border of  
Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, all occupants killed --  
the burned wreckage found today -- *not far from*  
*the falls of Iguazu it must have been.*

## PAINTING

A shipload of troops, homeward bound, arrived in New York today, and those G.I.'s certainly were in good company, artistic company. They traveled with a treasure of old masters, two hundred pictures by some of the world's legendary painters -- eighty million dollars' worth of art. These were loaded into vans and sent down to Washington.

The two hundred masterpieces are from Germany -- where, during the war and bombing, they were moved from museums to places of safety. There they were kept, ~~and were~~ <sup>until</sup> taken over by <sup>our</sup> American Forces when the land of the Nazis was conquered and occupied. The museums, in which they had been formerly displayed, had been damaged or destroyed. ~~There was~~ <sup>with</sup> no place for the masterpieces to go -- ~~so~~ they've been brought over here, *for the time being.*

The Nazis themselves made a business of stealing art works in countries they occupied. -- So are we appropriating their finest paintings? Not at all. The works of art will be held in trust for the Germany people.

~~And~~ will be returned to Germany when things have settled down over there. Meanwhile, they may be placed on exhibition in this country; -- though, not right away.

The collection includes paintings that are legends -- masterpieces by the most famous of Renaissance Painters, like Raphael, Botticelli, Titian, ~~Rubens~~ Rubens, Rembrandt. We are not told, and one wonders -- what about that one painting perhaps the most famous in all the world? The Sistine Madonna?.

That masterpiece by Raphael was in the Dresden Museum. --

*I wonder if it was*  
~~and is it now~~ among the ~~max~~ masterpieces ~~that are valued in~~  
Washington *today?*



## WIFE BEATING

At Houston, Texas, today the District Attorney's office announced -- no permits for wife-beating will be issued. No citizen of Houston will be granted a license to chastise the little woman.

This follows an application -- made by a colored man who went to the District Attorney's office and said his friends had told him that, if his wife needed a thrashing, -- all he had to do was go to the District Attorney's office and get a permit. That's what his friends told him.

The colored man went on to say that his wife sure did need a licking. "She can't keep house so good", He growled. "She's lazy, and today -- she burned the corn bread. What she needs," the husband concluded, "is a good old fashioned beating."

The District Attorney agreed that this might be the case -- especially for burning the Corn Bread. They did understand such things in Texas said the D.A., but, unfortunately, he couldn't issue the permit.

Question: -- permit or no permit what did this

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## WIFE BEATING

poor benighted husband do when he got home? Did he  
black the little woman's eye? Or did she black his? ~~as~~  
is usually the case? Or, maybe they were both full  
of the pre-xmas spirit, like you, Hugh.