

HAWAII

P. I. - Sunoco Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1941.

The latest is -- another attack on Hawaii.

But this time ~~it's~~ not so serious -- only notable for the fact that Japanese warships should have ~~been able~~ to venture into the Hawaiian area at so late a date.

There ^{have} ~~was~~ been two attacks in the past twenty-four hours, and one ~~was~~ a bombardment by a submarine. The undersea boat sneaked up and fired shells at the island of Maui, which is on the edge of the Hawaiian group.

The other attack was by ~~a~~ Japanese surface ships. These appeared at dusk ^{at} ~~of~~ last night, and bombarded the naval outpost on Johnston Island, ~~Johnston Island is~~ some four hundred miles southwest of Honolulu, and ~~is not a place of such vital consequence.~~ The damage was slight, says the Navy, and adds -- that units of the fleet are now hunting for the enemy vessels -- which once again attacked Hawaii.

PHILIPPINES

From the Philippines, the latest dispatches say that there is little to tell. ~~There's~~ a lull, a dying down of Japanese activity. This occurs after American-Philippine forces beat off a series of attempts to land at the vital point a hundred and ten miles northwest of Manila, Lingayen Bay. In one landing attempt alone, the enemy used a hundred and fifty-four boats. They were repelled, as they were time and again in subsequent landing attempts.

At the three points where the Japanese have established footholds on Luzon, ~~Island~~, they've made no progress - are being held. And the latest is - a lull, the enemy comparatively inactive. ~~One note from Manila~~ is that the accuracy of Japanese bombing has decreased, isn't nearly as good as it was in the first attack. This is attributed to the increasing effectiveness of

the ~~defending~~ defending squadrons of the air. They've been shooting down a plentiful number of hostile planes, and the Japanese are not such sharpshooters with bombs as they were when they had the element of surprise and little opposition.

From an enemy source we have a dispatch that stirs the imagination. The Rome Radio quotes Japanese Imperial headquarters as declaring that they've completed the occupation of the Island of Guam. The enemy claim ~~xx~~ uses the words - "under great difficulties." It states that the Japanese in operating against Guam were compelled to surmount what they call "great difficulties created by the American defense system." Well, we thought that Guam, way out there in the Pacific and surrounded by Japanese islands, had been captured several days ago. And now we hear

Tokyo today saying that the operation had been completed. Which might indicate that the American garrison at Gua^W_^ was holding out until today. We can picture ^a~~the~~ magnificent feat, an unknown ^{exploit}~~feat~~, hidden by the vast distance of the Pacific. Probably the radio knocked out by terrific bombing, but the American defenders still holding out and causing what the Japanese describe as "great difficulties."

We can feel that there's a tale of heroism here - which will some day be revealed. Heroism hidden behind that veil of vast distance.

MALAYA

Tonight the danger point in the war appears to be - Malaya. British reports tell of powerful Japanese drives southward through the jungle country. The enemy is hammering on, ~~xxx~~ⁱⁿ both the eastern and western sides of that narrow strip - the Malay States. The Empire forces have retired in places before what is described as a heavy mechanized attack ^{— by} tanks and planes. Some of the British defending units have lost contact with their main command, but this is said to be natural enough in so wild a country of jungles - difficult communications, the trails of the equatorial forest.

I myself have traveled around in Malaya, and can testify to the formidable character of that land ^{— dense forest where you can scarcely see the Sun.} of dense tropical swamps. It should be the toughest kind of going in a military way, and this the Japanese must be learning to their discomfort - with their

heavily outnumbered forces, as British reports tell us.

London cautions us against undue optimism about the fighting in Malaya, and the British are mustering all their strength. The goal of the Japanese is Singapore, and that must be held at all costs by the nations fighting the Axis. Singapore, the key to the Dutch East Indies, the key, in fact, to everything east of India. The Japanese are making their greatest effort right now in Malaya, which is not surprising, and the defenders are fighting ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ stubbornly in that dramatic and frightening land of jungles.

The Japanese campaign in that area is really a two-way affair. Just as they are driving south from Siam into Malaya, they are also driving east from Siam into Burma. That's another country with plenty of jungle. It's on the road to India, and ^{the land of the} ~~it's the site of~~ [^] ~~that~~ famous Burma Road. Rangoon, the capital of Burma,

was violently bombed today - Rangoon, fabulous city of Buddhist pagodas, Rangoon on the road to Mandalay.

The latest ~~from Holland sources~~ gives no confirmation of the story that the Japanese have landed in northern Borneo, ^{that} ~~which huge~~ wild island ~~is~~ partly under Dutch and partly under British control. London gives us a report of the British company which administers North Borneo, a report stating that there is no information of any landing of Japanese troops.

The situation at Hong Kong is serious for the isolated British defenders. The Japanese, having taken the mainland section of the Crown colony, are concentrating on the narrow strip of water across which lies the island. ~~We hear of heavy air and artillery bombardments, with the Japanese xxxxxxxx attempting a thrust across the narrow water to the fortress of Hong Kong. London reports effective~~

LIBYA

In Libya, the Axis reverses continue. The British, driving on in the desert, report that they've isolated the German tank forces west of Tobruk. And mechanized Empire units are approaching the Number One Axis base at Derna - still further to the west. London declares that the time for decisive victory in Libya is at hand, with every expectation that the surrounded Axis forces will be annihilated.

RUSSIA

The Red Army announces new progress. - ^{Today}~~today~~
reoccupying the City of Kalinin, north of Moscow.

That was a place which the Nazis captured after long and bitter fighting. All along the line, the Germans are retiring under Soviet attack. And today the Finns tell of the Red Army launching a general offensive in their area. A Russia radio dispatch states that military leaders are meeting in the Soviet temporary capital and are drafting plans for a major offensive to drive the enemy out of Russia altogether.

London informs us of new British-Soviet discussions. British and Russian military leaders are laying plans for strategy on a large scale. Meanwhile, British and American leaders are conducting similar discussions - and London says the two sets of conferences are parallel, have a coordinated aim.

FRANCE

New terrorism against the Nazis in France.

Vichy reports the bombing of two buildings in Paris - buildings occupied by the Nazi Gestapo. Powerful bombs blew up in these Gestapo headquarters, and at least six members of the hated Hitler secret police were killed. In addition, a German officer was assassinated in another terrorist attack, and Vichy says that this makes a total of five outbreaks of anti-Nazi violence in the past few days.

HITLER

It looks as if Hitler were having a nervous breakdown - and no wonder, after the way his blitzkrieg in Russia has failed. The report comes from Turkey and is attributed to what is called "informed German sources." They say that Hitler's doctors have ^{warned} ~~informed~~ him that he has been straining his nervous system to the breaking point during several months at the eastern front. ^{That he's} ~~He's~~ about to have a nervous breakdown, ^{and} ~~so~~ they ^{we} told him he ^{ll} ~~should~~ have to have a rest. If not, the consequences might be serious. He might crack up completely if he continues under the strain. So Hitler has finally agreed to retire to Berchtesgaden for a while - and have absolute seclusion at his Bavarian mountain retreat - a rest cure.

But what rest can the soul of a Hitler have?

INVESTIGATION

Congressional inquiries into the Pearl Harbor attack are being delayed. The ~~Gen~~ Chairmen of both the Senate and the House Committees on Naval Affairs announce that the ~~congressional~~ investigations that were planned will be put off until a joint army and navy board has turned in its report. The army and navy board is going to work right away to determine who was responsible for negligence in Hawaii - the negligence which, according to Secretary of the Navy Knox, was responsible for the extent of the damage done by the surprise assault.

Meanwhile, Dies of the Dies Committee ^{stated} ~~declared~~ today that there was evidence as early as September last - that the Japanese planned an attack. He said that he and his Committee had unearthed information which pointed to something like the blow against the

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fleet at Pearl Harbor. This information, he said, had been transmitted to high officials in the course of disclosures about Japanese espionage activities.

MIDGET SUBMARINE

The Navy Department today gave us full particulars of the Japanese suicide submarine.

Yesterday Secretary of the Navy Knox, in his report on the Pearl Harbor sneak punch, disclosed ^{that} ~~for the first time the existence of midget submarines used by the Japs for suicide attacks. In the Pearl Harbor attack~~ our forces captured three undersea craft, and one of them was that new and hitherto unheard of weapon. Since then naval experts have been studying the suicide submarine, and here's what they find.

It's forty-one feet long, about one-seventh ~~of~~ the length of the average American submarine. It has a beam of only five feet -- five feet wide. ~~It~~ ~~is operated by two men, one an officer.~~ ^{It's} ~~Small~~ enough to be launched from a surface ship, just as a lifeboat might be launched. It's of slow speed and short range -- only about two hundred miles. The one

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captured at Pearl Harbor is believed to have travelled about a hundred miles after having been launched -- probably from a Japanese aircraft carrier.

is operated by 2 men, one an officer. It
The pigmy submarine is armed with two torpedoes surprisingly large, almost ~~these~~ of standard navy size - eighteen inches as against twenty-four inches. Moreover the midget submarine carries three hundred pounds of high explosive, that destructive charge placed at the stern. The idea is that the charge of high explosive can be blown up against the hull of a warship. This makes the craft indeed a suicide submarine. It can fire its torpedoes, and the boat can explode itself -- -- crew and all -- the boat functioning as something like a torpedo.

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A Navy bulletin uses these words:- "There are indications," it says, "that the persons operating the submarine will go to any extreme however desperate -- even to self sacrifice - to carry out their objective."

We are not told how many of these suicide submarines the Japanese have or how formidable they are likely to be in the battle of the Pacific. It isn't

clear ^{either} whether they played any destructive part in the

attack on Pearl Harbor. — whether they accomplished anything!

DRAFT

The President today gave his okay to the plan to change Selective Service age limits to include all men from eighteen to sixty-four. The President ^{conveyed} ~~said~~ this in a letter to various congressional officials. He says that the need of manpower justifies the proposal to register men between eighteen and sixty-four, ^{and to} ~~to~~ make them liable for military service between the ages of nineteen and forty-four.

WAR POWERS

Congress today voted war powers to President Roosevelt. Specifically, the President is granted all of the war emergency authority conferred on President Wilson during World War Number One - that is, all such authority which President Roosevelt does not already possess.

The new war-time powers come under three general headings. First - the right to reorganize the administrative branch of the federal government, as the President may see fit. This means the combining of agencies with the creation of new agencies.

Second - control over all international transactions involving Americans. This applies to all such matters that come under the heading of - "trading with the enemy."

Third - censorship. The President ^{being granted} ~~had to have~~ the right to impose censorship on all communications to

and from the United States. This confers no special authority to censor domestic communications - inside our borders.

Here's an announcement by the President - censorship ^{to} ~~will~~ be put into effect immediately. ~~It~~ ~~will be~~ partly voluntary, ~~and~~ partly compulsory, says the White House. - ~~and~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ^{And} its aim will be to halt ~~hold~~ any information that might be helpful to the enemy. The President remarked, "All Americans abhor censorship just as they abhor war." But he pointed out that it was necessary to exert control over such information as might reach the enemy, inadvertently or otherwise, "through the medium of mails, radio or cable transmission or any other means," as the announcement phrases it. The President explained that this applies particularly to reports about the movement of ships and troops.

Who will ^{the} ~~be~~ new Director of Censorship be? That's an

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important question, and the President answers it.

Byron Price, now Executive Editor of the Associated Press. He becomes Director of Censorship.

MUSIC

Various questions arise today on the subject of -
war and music. ^{For} ~~It's~~ curious but true that when a nation
~~enters into a state of armed hostilities with another,~~
~~problems of cannon and bombs are accompanied by wranglings~~
~~about sweet melodies and the lilt of lively tunes.~~ For
example, one such controversy has been settled in
Washington. This concerns an opera, an old favorite,
which is at the same time Japanese and exceedingly
English - "The Mikado."

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~~The~~ Gilbert and Sullivan season is ^{on} at the
[^]
national capital, and naturally that masterpiece was
scheduled - the one about the Lord High Executioner,
Poobah, Yum Yum, and the Emperor of Japan. Then, the
perfidy of Pearl Harbor occurred, and it was announced
that the performances of "The Mikado" were cancelled -
our national capital couldn't listen to anything so
Japanese.

This provoked some lively debate, and the result was a compromise. It is announced that the cancellation was the doing of an employee who had been afflicted with what is described as "an unwarranted burst of hysteria." So back on the schedule went "The Mikado" - with an alteration. This consisted in a change of the word "gentlemen". Instead of "gentlemen" they made it - "gangsters", with reference to that well known phenomenon of international banditry. When the tenors and basses came to that familiar phrase - "We are gentlemen of Japan", they sang - "We are gangsters of Japan." So the Mikado began like this:-

"If you want to know who we are,

We are gangsters of Japan.

On many a vase and jar,

On many a screen and fan

We figure in lively paint.

Our attitude is clear and quaint

You are wrong if you think it ain't."

And so it went, and every time the refrain about "gentlemen of Japan" occurred -- the chorus loudly chanted -- "We are gangsters of Japan."

That seems to have made it all right. Levity is a salutary thing. Anyway, the Washington performances of "The Mikado" are scoring a rousing public /sucees.

These reflections take us along to a bit of news from Boston. From that city of culture we have a suggestion that this nation should have another Star Spangled Banner. The one who puts forth the idea is the composer and critic, Deems Taylor. The argument that Deems makes is the familiar one -- that the Star Spangled Banner is unsingable, too hard for the average person. Deems Taylor thinks that the present war will bring forth a new anthem for

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this country - something more singable. And he proposes that meanwhile, pending this new creation, we should adopt a substitute for the Star Spangled Banner. He says - let's take "The Battle Hymn of the Republic,"

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~~That of course is~~ the Civil War song, written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, who also produced "Uncle Tom's Cabin." So I wonder how well the South would take to the Civil War battle hymn of the north.

So let's stick to the Star Spangled Banner, say I - ~~xxxxxxx~~ even though it does take pretty good singers to make it sound right. Musically, it is magnificent - especially when played eloquently by a top-notch band orchestra. ^a musical ~~friend~~ friend ~~of~~ tells me [^] that it's ^a good taste of this nation to have a national anthem ^w that begins with the simple and complete majesty of the major chord, the notes that accompany the words,

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"Oh say can you see?" The theory is that when you thrill to the Star Spangled Banner you indicate not only your patriotism but your sound musical taste.

And now Hugh have you
something to appeal to our
1/2 patriotism?