

PACIFIC FLEET PANIC PLANNED

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
Associated Press Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 9.

A far-flung Japanese effort to panic the United States into withdrawing its main battle fleet to home waters appeared to be under way today as part of an almost incredible daring plan for a swift rout of all American military and naval power in the Far East.

This was the interpretation which some informed quarters here placed on the bold aerial reconnaissance of the San Francisco area last night, the reports of officials in Vancouver, B. C., that Japanese naval units were off the Aleutian Islands, and the expectation in Canada that an attack on the Pacific Northwest is imminent.

Experts pieced the puzzle of seemingly scattered actions into this significant pattern:

The Japanese grand strategy appears to call for immobilizing the powerful United States Pacific Fleet as the first major move. The first action designed to this end was the devastating raid on Pearl Harbor.

In itself this attack had the effect of greatly narrowing the Pacific Ocean in a naval sense and even raised the possibility that the coast of the United States might be temporarily vulnerable to hit-and-run operations.

Quickly taking advantage of the initiative gained, the Japanese apparently had maneuvered an aircraft carrier across the Pacific to California and sent reconnaissance planes roaring landward.

The results were that the war was brought to the doorstep of millions of Americans who but two days before had believed such a thing virtually impossible.

What could the Japanese hope to gain by such a maneuver? The most probable answer seemed to be a panic-borne demand that the Pacific Fleet be brought home. Such a move would strip the fleet of its strategic mission of protecting Far Pacific bases and keeping supply lines open, and compel it to adopt a defensive strategy in home waters.

World War Parallel

Such an accomplishment would leave the Japanese free to act with relatively small naval forces against American bases strung across the Pacific from Hawaii to the Philippines.

If this interpretation is correct, it presents a striking parallel to German submarine activities off the Atlantic seaboard during the World War. In 1918 German undersea raiders prowled in American waters and harassed naval coast defenses.

Official reports disclosed the conviction of the American High Command that the purpose was to force withdrawal of American naval units in European waters and those assigned to convoys. In that purpose, the records show, they failed.

The American answer was to impose rigid regulations on coastal shipping and turn the job of defense over to small warcraft and to such large naval craft normally based on American ports.

In the light of this history some observers believe that though the Pacific Fleet has suffered losses there will be no basic modification of its main mission, and the Japanese yet will feel the full force of its striking power.

Firms catering to society women of Santiago, Chile, are in bad odor, and have had arrested a couple representing themselves as an Arab and wife. The merchants declare the pair obtained empty bottles similar to those used for expensive perfumes, filled them with "products of the worst quality," and sold them to dealers.

Older folks say it's common sense . . .

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JUSTICE DEFERRED

By WILLIAM MACLEOD RAINE

INSTALLMENT XXVII
Capture

JACK ran to his car, got in, and started the engine. Waugh drove fast. He ought to be in time if he hurried. It was not likely that he would get a better opportunity than this to unmask his enemies. He had brought with him Fallon's rifle as well as his own revolver. If they were not expecting him, and if there was not a slip-up somewhere, he would have the advantage of the surprise.

At the junction of the roads he took the dirt cut-off and followed it another mile until he struck a fence. Here he left the car and deflected to the left, using the barb wire as a guide. It was rough going, with plenty of cholla and prickly pear in the way to force short detours. But he traveled as rapidly as possible, for if he did not reach the pasture gate before the horsemen, he had wasted his effort in coming. A wash ran close to the fence several hundred yards parallel to it. By taking the sandy bed of it he could make better progress.

When at last he came to the gate he stopped to listen but heard no sound of approaching horses. He struck matches and examined the ground in front of him. There were tracks of horses coming out of the pasture but no recent ones entering it. If the night riders were returning by this route, he was in time to intercept them.

Jack chose a position back of a clump of tall grass. He was not of an hour later he heard the faint clomp-clomp of hoofs. Billowy clouds had been obscuring the moon, but at that moment it rose out from behind them. The sound of voices drifted to Waugh. Presently from the shadows of night emerged three horses. They came to the barb-wire fence.

"Open the gate, Clem," one of the riders ordered.

Jack recognized the voice. He had heard it at Jim Fallon's cabin. There was a nasty rasp to it. The owner of it was Waugh. Peake opened the gate, grumbling the while. "I'm not yore slave, Tracy," he snarled.

From back of the cholla came a curt order: "Get your hands up, all three of you. We have you surrounded on all sides."

There was a dead silence. None of the men moved. Waugh's crisp command rang out again: "Get 'em up—quick. Or we'll drill 'em." Then, apparently to his own men: "Cut 'em down, boys, if they make a suspicious move—any one of 'em."

Slowly Peake's hands wavered into the air. The fingers of Tracy dropped the bridle reins and went up. Parker sat motionless.

"What is this—a hold-up?" he asked.

"It is that—and stick 'em up, fellow."

Reluctantly the hands of Parker reached skyward.

"Get down from your horses, but don't drop your hands," Waugh ordered.

Tracy swung heavily from the saddle. The little gunman joined him.

"What's the big idea?" Parker asked. "We haven't \$10 among us."

"Keep them covered, boys, every second. If they try any funny business, pump lead into them." Jack's next order was to Peake. "You, fellow, at the gate, unbuckle your belt and let it drop."

Peake obeyed silently. "You've got the drop on me, fellow, with a bunch of other guys at yore back, or I'd smoke this out with you," he growled.

Jack lined them up with their faces toward the barb wire and made Peake disarm the others. He backed away to Tracy's horse, unfastened the rope at the saddle horn and tossed it to Peake.

"Cut the rope and tie their hands behind them," he told the man.

"I haven't got a knife," growled Clem.

Obligingly Waugh threw him his. "We got a right to know who is pulling off this outrage," Tracy rasped.

"A posse. Don't worry about that, Tracy. You'll know all about it as soon as necessary."

Under Jack's supervision Peake tied the foreman's hands behind him. Parker slewed his head around.

"It's that fellow Waugh," he told his fellow victims out of the corner of his mouth. "And I don't believe he has got any posse. I think he's alone."

"Blazes, it can't be Waugh," Tracy bleated. "I saw him crumple up when—"

He pulled his sentence up in the middle of it. The crook had almost shaken a confession out of him.

"—when you shot him, Tracy," Jack finished for the foreman. "Get here I am, good as new. I told you once that you had overrated yourself." He dismissed the bully from the picture and spoke curtly to Parker. "Start acting on any notions you have. Parker, and you'll

FIRE ALARMS

MONDAY

4:37 p. m.—First Avenue Northwest and West 36th Street. Bonfire. No loss.

7:45 p. m.—8149 34th Ave. S. W. Defective oil burner. No loss.

9:40 p. m.—23rd Avenue and Yester Way. First-aid case. To Harborview County Hospital.

11:07 p. m.—517 Washington St. First-aid case. To Harborview.

11:12 p. m.—15th Avenue West and West Thurman Street. Nominal loss. Overheated furnace.

TUESDAY

1:51 a. m.—Fourth Avenue and Pike Street. Remove large piece of plate glass from second-story window ledge.

IF NOSE CLOGS UP TONIGHT

Put 3-purposes Va-tro-nol up each nostril. It (1) shrinks swollen membranes, (2) soothes irritation, (3) relieves transient congestion . . . and brings greater breathing comfort.

Follow the complete directions in folder. **VICKS VA-TRO-NOL**

JAPAN BOASTS OF SUCCESSSES

TOKYO, Tuesday, Dec. 9.—(Official broadcasts picked up by Associated Press)—Great initial successes and a widening scope and increasing tempo of Japan's air, land and sea war of the Pacific with the United States and Britain were reported by the Japanese today.

A Navy Ministry spokesman declared the Japanese navy already had landed blows which had changed the old balance of American and Japanese sea power to such an extent as to nullify President Roosevelt's "high-pressure Eastern policy."

The achievements of the Japanese navy, the spokesman declared, had "completely shattered all naval strategy popularized by United States naval experts."

Roosevelt's program of encircling Japan had been based upon a miscalculation of Japan's strength, the Japanese added. "The fruit of this irresponsible estimate has been to deprive America of the very foundation—naval superiority—of its hopes of obstructing and frustrating the natural growth of the Japanese empire."

Nichols Field Pounded

The army announced that its bombers had hammered Nichols Field, United States air base near Manila in the Philippines, in a mass attack which demolished "important air facilities."

A ring of Japanese warships, which shelled tiny Midway Island, a United States possession 1,400 miles west of Honolulu, set hangars and fuel stores ablaze in a bombardment yesterday, said a communique.

(A Tokyo broadcast heard by C. B. S., declared that the United States stepping stones across the Pacific from Pearl Harbor to Manila, were now under the Japanese flag. The broadcast was heard last night, and there was no subsequent elaboration.)

The Japanese said they shot down nine planes in their attacks on Wake Island yesterday.

At the same time Imperial Headquarters announced that Japan's air and land forces began an attack upon the area of Singapore this morning.

Bangkok Occupied

The announcement said that the attack opened at 10:20 a. m. (8:20 p. m., Seattle time, Monday) and that many Japanese planes swarmed over the city, dropping many British fighter planes at their Malay bases.

Two contingents were reported by Dometi to have completed occupation of Bangkok, Thailand capital, under terms of the new Japanese-Thai agreement of protecting that country "against the democracies."

Dometi said it was understood most British and American in Thailand were now in their locations, and said more than 100 Thais, including 40 police, were killed Monday night in a British attack on the frontier.

(A Berlin broadcast, heard in London, said the Japanese also had arrived in Central Thailand, and from the northern part of the country already were launching an attack to cut the Burma Road, presumably by a drive through Burma. The Rome Radio also reported a Japanese landing in North Borneo. A British communique from Hongkong announced the Japanese yesterday launched an attack upon that stronghold at two places on the island yesterday. The British were hurriedly demolishing bridges and railways to hinder any advance.)

(Both Hongkong and Manila reported air raids. Hongkong said the alarms there were almost continuous. The Manila radio announced a raid was on there at 5:55 a. m., Seattle time.)

200 Vessels Seized

The seizure of more than 200 vessels of "enemy nationalities," including the 10,500-ton American liner President Harrison, the 3,000-ton Panamanian vessel Carrier and the 2,695-ton British vessel Mary Moller, on the Chinese coast and in the Whangpoo River at Shanghai, was announced in a Dometi dispatch.

The cabinet approved a measure for establishing prize courts in Tokyo, Yokosuka and Sasebo to consider disposition of captured ships.

It was announced that Gen. Prince Naruhiko Higashi Kuni, 54 years old, head of one of the collateral branches of the imperial family, had been appointed commander in chief of the home-defense forces.

The prince is a former commander of Japanese troops which took Nanking in 1937.

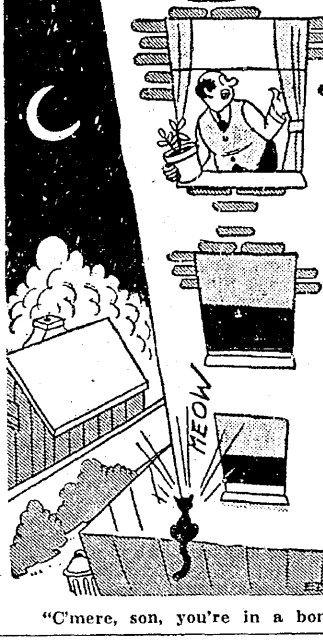
(This step was in keeping with the army's practice of enlisting the prestige of the imperial family by naming princes to high commands. During most of the Manchurian and China wars imperial princes were chiefs of the army and navy general staffs.)

The prince's chief of staff is Lieut. Gen. Asazaburo Kobayashi.

Crews are working 24 hours a day constructing emergency airports in New Zealand.

OFF THE RECORD

By Ed Reed



War Needs Money! Buy Bonds!

The United States Treasury Department has issued the following message:

"WAR NEEDS MONEY!"

"It will cost money to defeat Japan. Your government calls on YOU to help NOW."

"Buy defense bonds or stamps today. Buy them every day, if you can."

"But buy them on a regular basis."

"Bonds cost as little as \$18.75, stamps come as low as 10 cents. Defense bonds and stamps can be bought at all banks and postoffices, and stamps also can be purchased at retail stores."

The Times urges all Americans to support your government with your dollars.

Radio Blackout Inconvenient But Necessary, Says Wash

(Continued From Page One.)

citizens sat or slept in the dark beside radios that were strangely silent except for brief local announcements.

Those who sought to tune in distant stations heard news reports of the Pacific Coast blackout, from Western stations which remained on the air after the radio silence was imposed here at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Station on Air Nine Times

Brig. Gen. Carlyle H. Wash, commander of the 2nd Interceptor Command, designated KIRO as the official outlet for his command's announcements. The station was on the air nine times after the silence began, in the period from 7 p. m. to 9:20 this morning, for announcements of a few seconds' duration to about half a minute.

At 8:49 last night listeners heard: "This is KIRO, operating under instructions of the Air Defense Board. There are no important confirmed developments to be reported. There is a definite possibility of air attack in this vicinity. It is imperative that blackout and radio transmission instructions be carried out to the last degree. No lights from 11 p. m. tonight until 8 a. m. tomorrow."

At 11:37 p. m., the station returned to the air from the Interceptor Command headquarters, and General Wash went to a microphone to say:

"No one regrets the inconvenience and the discomfort which our defense measures will cause the many thousands of people in Washington and Oregon tonight more than we do, but we feel that the discomfort and inconvenience will be well worth while if we

can save only a few lives, and minimize damage to our West Coast."

"Only a necessity which seems imperative has made us ask all of you to give us your cooperation in this radio silence and blackout—which are at this time real—not a test."

Bulletin Broadcast

Several times during the early-morning hours this bulletin was broadcast:

"The general situation has not changed and this command is on the alert and will remain so. While there have been no further developments up to this hour, the possibility of air attack is still present and the greatest precautions should be taken between the hours of 5 and 8 a. m."

Except for that—and for the chattering of code stations, the sometimes interrupted broadcasts from western stations and the "business-as-usual" programs of inland stations, Seattle heard nothing. For many people, it was reminiscent of the days, before radio.

The shift of workers at the Puget Sound Navy Yard which ordinarily would start to work at midnight and quit at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning will not work tonight, it was announced by the 13th Naval District today.

"This shift is known as the third or 'graveyard' shift. Last night neither the second nor the third shift worked."

All regular shifts are being worked at the Boeing Aircraft Company until further notice, the company announced today. The third shift did not work last night.

Work is subject to emergency instructions from the 2nd Interceptor Command, which may mean that some shifts may be stopped prior to the regular closing time and that the employees on some shifts may be withheld admittance to the plant at the usual starting time, depending on conditions.

The Boeing plants will follow their own blackout procedure under special instructions from the 2nd Interceptor Command.

YARD CANCELS LATEST SHIFT

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Crews are working 24 hours a day constructing emergency airports in New Zealand.

In ordinary goldbeating, the leaves of foil are finally about 1/200,000 of an inch thick. An ounce of gold is thus extended to a surface of about 100 square feet. A still greater degree of thinness may be obtained, but not profitably. A thinness has been attained so quickly that a grain of gold would cover 52 square inches.

A New York inventor's typewriter writes syllables of words at each stroke of the keys on a paper tape from which they can be read.

BLACKOUT at Pantorium

Blackouts aren't much fun—but if you have Pantorium dye your blackout curtains, you can have all the light you want. Pantorium dyes curtains, draperies, spreads, canvas—all black—at special blackout prices.

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