

THE STORY SO FAR: In an effort to substantiate rumors that 200,000 foreign troops were in Mexico preparatory for an attack upon the United States, Intelligence Officer Benning went to Mexico City. Here he joined the staff of the unsuspecting Van Hassek, leader of the

#### CHAPTER VII

In the War Department at Washington the evening had passed on in feverish staff preparation for future trouble, but with small belief that the first thunderbolt of Van Hassek's attack would fall before midnight. Even Flagwill, gifted Chief of Military Intelligence, had muffed the ball, interpreting the evening rumors from Fort Sam Houston as symptoms of a slowly brewing mischief that might not fester into violence for days or weeks.

On getting clear of the staff sessions in General Hague's office shortly after eight o'clock, Flagwill put his shoulder to the wheel of what now had become a major responsibility of his own section. He assembled his sub-chiefs and announced his decision.

"Gentlemen, the President has authorized a spy roundup with the gloves off. I needn't tell you that in past months we haven't even scratched the surface. You all know your leads, now get into action. With gloves off, and nobody to be spared who looks to us like a foreign agent. Any questions?"

In grave silence the small group of officers rose. They knew that not even an order of battle had greater significance nor more vital importance. A secret army of termites, entrenched by years of organized stealth in arsenals and factories, was more dangerous than a dozen attacking divisions. By means of an organization that reached into every agency of investigation and law enforcement throughout the United States, our G-2 would launch attack on organized espionage at once.

'Very well, gentlemen, that's all," Flagwill said when he read from their faces that his section chiefs had no questions to ask. He added, swinging his level eyes to Benning, "You will wait, Captain, for special instructions."

Benning stood in front of the Flagwill desk until the swinging doors closed behind the others. The colonel spoke at once.

"In your report on Van Hassek's neadquarters at Mexico City, Benning, you mentioned that Colonel Bravot left on some mysterious mission, ostensibly to Europe. I think you said your Austrian friend also disappeared the last day you were in Mexico."

"Yes, sir," Benning affirmed. "You'd better have a look-see among the hot spots in Washington. It's entirely possible you'll see someone you know. A break of that kind might lead us anywhere."

Benning took a taxicab to the Army and Navy Club where he effected some slight changes of appearance.

At the Shoreham his gaze was making a first round of the tables skirting the dance floor when it centered with a start upon a familiar face. The man, dressed in dinner clothes, sat alone, his eyes gleaming with some inner excitement as he puffed at a cigar. Benning moved up for a closer view and found prompt verification. Undoubtedly here was the Austrian captain, Fincke, of the Van Hassek staff.

Benning walked casually up to the Fincke table and sat down beside the Van Hassek spy. "Hello, Fincke," he said.

Fincke started, his right hand jerked toward his pocket, then he relaxed with a nervous laugh as he recognized his unexpected visitor from the Palacio Nacional.

"My, Bromlitz, but you startled me!" he gasped. "I didn't know you were within a thousand miles of Washington."

Benning said in a matter-of-fact way: "Flew up yesterday, Fincke. Hoped I might be lucky enough to run into you tonight. How are things

Fincke leaned across the table and lowered his voice. His eyes gleamed

with excitement. "Did Colonel Bravot send you to

work with us tonight?" he whispered. Benning pretended annoyance and warned, "Not quite so free with names, Fincke." He added with a bantering smile, "I thought the colonel promised that you were to go back to your artillery when the show

started?' "Himmel, but there's bigger game here than a battery of field artillery!" Fincke retorted with a snap of his fingers. "Already I am a major, Bromlitz. If I succeed tonight it will be because of my knowledge of ballistics, my training in the artillery, and there'll be another pro-

motion for me." "Then what?" Benning mocked. "Then, in a week or so, the big cruise. There'll be real history, Bromlitz, when we cut this little old country right in half, and it will

make me a full colonel! Are you in on that one, Bromlitz?" "I'm not saying anything," Benning answered, with a quizzical smile that suggested full understanding of

the Austrian's cryptic words. Benning's eyes had been wandering about the room and he thought there was something vaguely familiar in the thin man with the shiny bald head who sat nearby.

INSTALLMENT SIX foreign forces, and gained the confidence of two other officers, Fincke and Bravot. He was joined in Mexico City by Lucette Ducos, a French spy who posed as his sweetheart. When he discovered that the foreign troops were ready for an invasion of the U.S., Ben-

ning returned to Washington to report

to Colonel Flagwill, chief of military in-

telligence. Flagwill stated that forces

were reported massing in the Mediter-

ranean and the Far East. That night Fort

Houston, Texas, was heavily bombed.

Benning leaned tensely forward as

if to add his tension to the speed

From time to time the announcer

asked that no more telephone calls

be attempted. Information would be

given to all over the air as fast as re-

"An enemy air force of undeter-

mined strength is reported flying

north, its objective may be Wash-

ington or New York. All persons

are cautioned not to gather in

crowds. Please remain calm and

stay where you are. It may be that

His cab swung to the curb at the

Munitions Building, Benning hurried

inside. The corridors rang with the

chatter of typewriters. Army offi-

cers of various rank were glued over

desks or assembled in section con-

ference groups as they slaved over

the staggering details of the job

Colonel Flagwill was in his office

alone. Benning found his chief lolled

back in a chair with heels laid ab-

surdly on top of his desk. He was

puffing composedly at a cigarette,

"Hello, Benning," Flagwill said la-

Benning said, "Well, sir, I heard

the news and thought I ought to

The colonel stretched himself.

"Our air staff is divided on wheth-

that can make Washington and back

to Mexico without refueling. But-

my own idea-they could have an

emergency landing-place somewhere

along the way, couldn't they? It'd

"Then there may be a real air

"I urged General Hague to get the

President to leave the White House

and go over to Chevy Chase for the

night," Flagwill averred. "At least

to set up in less vulnerable quar-

ters in Washington. There's no use

pretending a fool's paradise in this

country any longer, Benning. Any-

A major from the chief of air

service banged into the room, his

face ashen, though he spoke col-

"We've picked up what appears

to be confirmation, Colonel," the ma-

jor reported. "As near as can be

made out a squadron of seven bomb-

ers, with an undetermined force of

smaller ships, passed over North

Carolina a short time ago. Speed

estimated at two hundred miles per

hour. Our best time calculations

suggest that they could cross the

Potomac in approximately two

"Very good, Major, keep me in-

He stretched himself again and

casually lighted another cigarette.

Then he swung his feet to the floor

and pulled himself up to his desk.

leads, sir," Benning interposed

"Would you care to hear my re-

cisively. "I've just had a few min-

utes' relaxation-now for the tough-

est decision I ever tackled. I've

got to have my estimate of this

whole tangled situation ready for

"Now you get out among your

spies-or you might take a look-see

at what our anti-aircraft does for

itself. But report to me here at

midnight. I may want you to sit

Benning took a taxicab and drove

to a point near the Washington Mon-

ument where .50 caliber Brownings

were setting up to look after attack

on smaller ships that might venture

within machine-gun range if the as-

sault on Washington materialized.

The gun batteries and searchlights

had been thrust across the Potomac

into Virginia to catch raiding bomb-

ers before they reached the bomb-

release line from which they would

lay their eggs of destruction as they

approached Washington. The search-

lights were echeloned, a full comple-

ment of fifteen lights, five thousand

yards beyond the city. The techni-

cal sections with their sound loca-

tors, effective up to eleven thousand

yards, and their intricate systems

and instruments for raking the skies,

were perfecting their plans of such

defense as a single regiment, at

peace strength and short two gun

batteries, would be able to give the

(TO BE CONTINUED)

nation's capital.

General Hague by midnight.

in at the chief's conference."

"Not right now," Flagwill said de-

"I've found a couple of good spy

formed," Flagwill answered, with-

out change of posture or position.

hours, if this is their objective."

report in case you need me for any-

conically. "How you feeling?"

nothing will happen-"

ahead of them.

his face relaxed.

headed this direction?"

work this once, anyhow."

thing can happen now."

threat, sir?"

lectedly.

port?"

thing."

ceived.

Now continue with the story.

"You knew, of course," Benning | day's alarming rumors along the Rio said casually to Fincke, "that the Grande. old hawk, Colonel Boggio, is here in Washington?"

Fincke shook a waggish finger and of the cab. The radio screeched on. accused, "I thought you warned me we mustn't be so free in mentioning names."

"Correct, but please note that I lowered my voice. Of course, if we're going to be so technical as all that, Fincke, perhaps we'd better identify ourselves to each other officially. Go ahead."

"It's the best cover-up I've ever heard," Fincke replied with enthusiasm. "You can say anything you want so long as you mention just those two things. That's vastly better than having a regular formula for identification which the enemy might pick up on you."

"Fine enough, but let's hear you identify yourself, Fincke."

"Once I knew a man named Palacio Quatres who owned a fine pair of silver sabers," the Austrian con-

Benning quickly searched through Fincke's remark and decided that the key words, by which Van Hassek agents identified themselves to one another must be "palacio quatres" and "silver sabers."

He said: "How do you like this one, Fincke? There's an old shop known as the Palacio Quatres that has for sale some interesting an-

tiques in the form of silver sabers." "Just as good as mine, maybe better," Fincke approved.

'You know, Benning, I saw it had to come, and I feel better now we've Boggio had finished his dance. got it on our hands. All we need is Benning observed that the Italian was getting ready to leave the Shorethe President's word to start general mobilization of the Army and ham. He made a hurried estimate. National Guard. As soon as the The instant arrest of these two men Chief gets back from the White would only net the secret service House we'll be in motion." Flagwill two more spies who would spill nothindulged a sardonic smile. "Not ing. Only by holding them under that our mobilization will do any close observation could the ramificaimmediate good to save the country tions of their mischief in Washinga lot of headaches. But it'll be a



"That means we are at war."

ton be traced down. He decided that Boggio was bigger game and got to his feet. "Where'll I find you later,

Fincke?" he demanded. Fincke stared at his watch and its

dial seemed to bring a nervous quiver to his fingers. His eyes lighted up again in that strange excitement of his.

"I'll be about for only a week or so, Bromlitz," he answered. "If this place closes, we can find each other at meal-times at one of the good places on Connecticut Avenue. But after tonight-we must be very careful."

Benning's cab swung sharply and without warning to the curb as it turned into Pennsylvania Avenue. Vaguely Benning had noted that the driver had his radio tuned in on a dance program. As the car jolted to a stop, the cabman put his radio on full blast and turned to Benning with gaping eyes.

"Did you hear that, mister?" he

An excited broadcaster, striving for control of his voice, was talking

"The report is just confirmed-San Antonio attacked from the airhundreds reported killed by explosive bombs-New Orleans is being bombed at this minute-Galveston is being bombed-air attack on United States without warning-"

Again the driver turned a face distorted by a frenzy of excitement. "My God, mister!" he shouted. "Is

that the real thing?" Benning said in a firm, calm voice. 'Please drive me quickly to the Munitions Building. That means we're

at war." Until those first bombs crashed on Fort Sam Houston there had been no reports given to the public of the

**NEXT WEEK** 

Another Absorbing Installment

Designers Use Chinese Styles In Spring Jackets, Capes, Hats

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



SPRING 1941 promises a program of exciting new fashions. In answer to the challenge flung to American designers to carry on the style traditions of the world, there has been projected into the field of costume design a to-do and to-dare spirit that makes for refreshingly new ideas in clothes this season. Because of the encouragement given to originality and play of imagination there is that "something different" about current styling which "What's the news about bombers | fashion-minded women welcome and

One of the most vital movements er Van Hassek has any bombers is the change taking place in the silhouette, especially in regard to suits. The new formula calls for longer jackets, straighter skirts and modified shoulders, and in these points is sounded the death knell for the carried-over suit you had hoped would be good this season.

As to shoulders, they certainly are under lively discussion. So important has the shoulder theme become that one is almost justified in coining a slogan declaring that a dress, suit or coat this season is only as chic as its shoulderline. Instead of exaggerated padding as heretofore the tendency in the newer versions is toward gently sloping and subtly rounded lines of grace.

There are breathtaking innovations, too, that are adding zest to the mode, not the least of which is the Chinese influence that is seen in colors, in millinery (coolie hats are the | (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Success for the new Chinese movement was mentioned at "Fashion Futures," that brilliant event at which authoritative style forecasts were dramatically presented in a spring prevue. Beauty and suavity of lines and simplicity in Chinese technique were pointed out in several fetching evening wraps and daytime suits. Two of the latter are pictured in the illustration here-

The jacket to the left credits green as a leading color for spring. The Chinese influence is apparent in its neat, trim lines and the gentle, natural shoulder slope. An allround pleated black skirt completes this twosome. That the fashion group sponsors green is again evidenced in the jacket to the right, which also is Chinese-inspired. Note the styling in the black skirt.

thrill-capes! Watch capes go on the patient requires a tonic. parade this season along the highways and byways of fashion. There count, and doubtless you will be wearing a cape yourself for design- applications again. ers are turning them out in endless short to long.

Much attention will be given to cape linings. A demure monotone cape is lined the South American way in purples, Peruvian pinks, blues, reds and yellows nicely assembled. The cape costume centered in the group pictured with its matching turban is typically a new vogue. It's smart in any color but particularly so in oatmeal tweed with dashes of brown or gay tangerine.

## Easy to Make



Take a tip from smart dressmakers and use polka dot drama when you make accessories for your spring costumes. Sewing is really fun with modern sewing machine equipment and almost every locality has a sewing center where you can learn to make these smart accessories in an afternoon. For this turban and bag you will need three-quarters of a yard of 36-inch polka dot cotton pique, or print silk, if you prefer. An additional half-yard of 39-inch rayon taffeta for the bag lining and a half yard of buckram for bag reinforcement. By attaching the hemstitcher gadget to your machine you can finish off all edges to look pro-

Flowery Prints

Very attractive for young girls are the new two-piece dresses that top a skirt of gay flowery print. Go as far as you like in way of a vivid print-the more gypsy-like the better. Either the full peasant type skirt or the all-around pleated are up-to-date in style.

### Prints Accompany Plain Materials

There is sort of a gypsy charm and fascination about the new dresses, be they cotton, silk, linen or rayon. The skirt has just enough fullness, introduced in subtle ways, to give it the casual look. For the blouse top, the material is in monotone. Quite smart is the black or navy jersey top.

For evening, lovely gowns are made of printed silk done in resplendent colors. A fitted bodice may surmount a skirt of billowy white mousseline on which is appliqued at strategic points flower clusters cut from the same print that fashions the waist.

#### Coats Take On Dressmaker Touch

Dressy coats show much dressmaker detail. Wool weaves used are light weight and yield beautiments. Allover braiding on the blouse top, done in self-color, enhances many a pastel coat. The new oatmeal shades, beige and brown, violet (very smart this season) pastel blue and muted pink are fashioned in this way. Tucking is another fabric treatment, likewise quilting which sometimes is done in an allover pattern in sprawling leaf and tendril design.

#### Handsome Plaids Come Into Picture

Coats, dresses, capes, jacket suits Made up in the new coolie jackets, min A tablets more effective than plaids top a monotone colored skirt. the injections? Capes of plaid bring drama into

## Causes of Sty And Means of Preventing It TOPICS

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.) 66 Λ STY is really a small

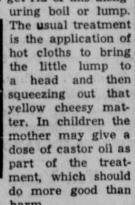
A boil and begins as a hard swelling which forms a hard lump and causes a swelling of the whole lid and TODAY'S sometimes a bloodshot ap- | HEALTH

eyeball." In most cases it is due to organisms which cause an infection in the little oil glands. The opening of the oil gland gets plugged up, the oil becomes thick and a yellow pus

pearance of the | COLUMN

surface of the

When a sty occurs the first thought naturally is to get rid of this disfig-



What is needed is a "building up" treatment that will strengthen the body so that the youngster will take a greater interest in school and play. The old fashioned but effective codliver oil, plenty of fresh air and attention to regularity of bowel movement will usually prevent the formation of more stys.

In many cases the child's blood is thin and iron tonics and eating of meat—especially liver—is advisable. Causes of Sty.

Our eye specialists tell us that some stys are due to eye strain and exercise paddock of several acres. other eye defects, but agree that in On larger farms where several bulls the majority of cases the youngster | are needed, they can be turned toand the adult also, is below par gether in pasture. Thus they will physically and needs a thorough ex- get ample exercise and will not amination by the family physician store up a lot of energy that must and dentist.

When there is a succession of stys. one following after another, it may to handle bulls occasionally in order be due to one infecting a nearby to keep them accustomed to it. This surface of the eyelid, but it is more should be done without taking any And now for a most breathtaking likely to be "strong evidence" that

#### types, and in every length from Nervousness Affects All Body Processes precautinjury.

OSLER, the greatest physician of modern times, had three ideals: One, to do the day's work well and not worry about tomorrow. Second, to act the Golden Rule. Third, to cultivate a measure of calmness.

Most of us try to live up to the calmness of spirit.

In speaking of the various symptem which causes it to play dis- bushels more than it took in. concerting tricks on the heart, blood Mr. Smith emphasized that exflesh, palpitation, rapid or irregular demnity payments. heart beat, air hunger, quivering of abdomen, intestinal cramping, diarrhoea, urticaria (hives), bloating, frequent urination, perhaps a blocking of the nose, and fear of impending disaster."

That tiredness, mental and physical, affects certain parts of the brain and deprives us of some of our calmness and so causes the above symptoms is the belief of many research fully to fabric and surface treat- workers; also that disease or injury can likewise affect this part of the

The thought then is that if you find yourself easily upset, easily discouraged with symptoms pointing to trouble in various organs, you should undergo an examination by your physician and dentist. If no infection is found, try to acquire and cultivate calmness.

QUESTION BOX Q.-What causes my eyes to be swollen in the mornings?

A .- Might be due to some food eaten the night before. This could also occur if you are sensitive to feathers. Q.-Would injections be inclined to are being made of handsome plaids. give immunity from colds? Are vita-

A .- Reports on the effectiveness of the spring style parade. These capes injections against colds vary. Some are long, and the style touch is physicians report success as high achieved in epaulet effects formed as 60 per cent. Others claim only

# FARM

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON BULL HANDLING IS DANGEROUS

> 'Quiet' Animals Suddenly Become Vicious.

By DR. GEORGE E. TAYLOR Extension Dairyman at New Jersey College of Agriculture, Rutgers University)

Every day is a "lucky day" for the dairyman who is careless about handling dairy bulls-he's lucky to be alive! It is often the "quiet" bull that

suddenly turns on his caretaker. And dairy bulls which are closely confined are likely to get playful when they are handled, and just as soon as a playful bull discovers his own strength, he becomes vicious. But there are numerous ways to insure reasonable safety.

The bull stall should be constructed of durable material that will withstand heavy blows. Cement or extra heavy metal tubing is satisfactory. The fence surrounding the outside exercise paddock should also be built of extra heavy material. Discarded boiler flues that are set in cement posts are often used. As long as bulls are properly confined they have less chance of injuring human beings. From the standpoint of safety, it is a definite mistake to allow a bull to run with the dairy herd. The use of safety breeding pens further reduces the necessary handling to a minimum.

A strong bull staff which is attached to a heavy metal ring in the bull's nose should always be used when handling becomes necessary. A bull should be trained to a staff before one year of age. It is also wise to remove the horns at about one year of age or when the bull shows the first signs of becoming ugly. Removing the horns will often tame down a young bull for an indefinite period.

From a management standpoint, it is advisable to provide a pasture find an outlet sooner or later.

It is, however, a good practice tied or handled in any way actually A sty may sometimes be prevent- get afraid of a caretaker in time ed from reaching full development and may be most unruly. Always will be more capes than you can by hot applications, squeezing out remember that any animal is usualthe contents, and then using hot ly able to sense when the caretaker is shy and timid. Train a bull so he will always understand that you mean business and that you are not afraid. A bold front plus safety precautions will avoid unnecessary

Poor Year for Wheat

Causes Premium Deficit Crop insurance last year offset heavy losses by wheat growers, particularly in four of the largest producing states where near-record first and second ideals, but many, abandonments occurred, according if not most, of us fail in the third; to Leroy K. Smith, manager of the we do not try to acquire that needed Federal Crop Insurance corpora-

Unusually large abandonments in toms affecting the body processes Nebraska, Texas, Kansas, and Okdue to lack of calmness or nerve lahoma, Mr. Smith said, accounted control, Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, for the greatest part of about 22,-Mayo clinic, in the Journal of the 000,000 bushels in indemnities paid American Medical Association says, farmers throughout the country un-"Often as I listen to the stories of der the 1940 crop insurance prothese patients, it seems to me that gram. The growers paid premiums their symptoms can most easily be for their protection with almost 15,explained as due to instability of the 800,000 bushels of wheat, but the involuntary part of the nervous sys- corporation paid out about 7,000,000

vessels, digestive tract, kidneys and cessive acreage abandonments such skin. The patient will suffer with as occurred this year will not take one or more of such symptoms as place every year, and that when dizziness, faintness, trembling, chil- the wheat belt experiences a year liness, flashes of heat, flushing of of average yields, premium collecthe skin, sweating, waves of goose tions can be expected to exceed in-

#### Agricultural News

The New York-New England area produces 16.6 per cent of the national apple crop and has 16.9 per cent of the population.

The fish planting program of the forest service placed 288,000,000 fish in the streams and lakes of 34 states and Alaska during 1939, according to the U. S. department of agriculture.

Field seeds shipped in interstate commerce must be labeled correctly as to variety. Reports from the South of the seizure of mislabeled seed oats indicate active efforts to enforce the law.

Cornell university reports progress in the search for a muskmelon resistant to fusarium wilt. One variety developed succeeds on soil where ordinary varieties are killed by the wilt.

The 1940 U.S. acreage of soybeans reached the record figure of 5,011,000 acres but a decline in yield to 16.3 on the average per acre kept the total production of 81,541,-000 bushels at 7 per cent below the