

ATTACK ON AMERICA

BY GENERAL ARD WHITE
W. N. U. Release

THE STORY SO FAR: Intelligence Officer Benning's warning that 200,000 foreign troops were poised in Mexico for an attack on the United States caused grave concern in army headquarters, but the people branded the statement as "war mongering." Without warning, four large southern cities were attacked

CHAPTER XI—Continued

In the swift jumble of action Boynton caught the fall of wounded men, heard the cries of pain, and the shrill of commanders' whistles, the bark of subalterns about the bellowing artillery. Rifle flashes stabbed the gray dawn as the enemy sprawled to the ground and fired back. Boynton hugged the earth only long enough to satisfy himself that it was an attack wave, not a mere patrol, he had encountered; then he fell back, his men firing intermittently as they ran, to the shelter of fox holes in the outpost.

The outpost line, lightly held, poured lead from its semi-automatics and machine guns. When it found itself confronted by superior forces, its defenders promptly retreated to the main line of resistance which ran a ragged, irregular line of trenches and centers of resistance over a front of ten thousand yards.

Van Hasek's infantry, in waves of men that reached across the whole front, struck the main line of resistance just as visibility exposed the attack.

Colonel Hall of the 9th, observing the attack from a vantage-point, expected nothing more than that. Later, when Van Hasek's scheme of maneuver had cut a critical hole into the division's vitals, the whole force of the frontal attack would come rushing in to mop up with firepower and bayonets.

The 9th's Garand rifles, light machine guns, 37-millimeter cannon, and small mortars poured all their hot fury into the surging assault. One enemy wave after another melted into dead and wounded, but only to be replaced by living waves that poured relentlessly on.

Half an hour of furious fighting passed before Colonel Hall accepted the evidence of his own eyes.

"My God, the fools are going to penetrate our center!" he roared.

Astride the Laredo-San Antonio highway, Van Hasek's infantry drove ahead while successive waves of men melted across open terrain where there was little benefit of cover. Desperately the enemy commanders fed in reserves from their superior hordes of men out of which they could pay the red costs of their error in underestimating an enemy who had not been expected to offer serious resistance here.

What Van Hasek's infantry lost to their slower bolt-action rifles they made up by auxiliary arms, light machine guns, mortars of many calibers, light and heavy tanks, superiority of artillery. Shrapnel, mortars, and musketry now beat down on the American centers of resistance with the red convulsions of some Satanic scourge escaped from hell. Van Hasek's men burst ahead until Boynton could see the distended eyes and gaping, grimacing terror of their faces, as they bared themselves to a death against which they did not dare turn their backs.

The enemy poured on into Boynton's strong-point. Boynton became aware that the survivors of his men were breaking, stubbornly fighting with bayonets, grenades, and musketry as they fell back. Now he saw enemy tanks rolling in on his men, tanks whose steel armor deflected the regiment's ancient 37-millimeter guns that were being used until the new anti-tank guns could be reduced from paper models to actual weapons. Boynton turned to rally his men, giving to his voice the full strength of his lungs.

"Up and at 'em!" he cried. "To hell with the swine!"

His voice rose above the storm. A second time he raised his voice, then he staggered drunkenly, spun half around, and fell as consciousness snapped from his brain and his life snuffed out.

Having committed themselves to this folly of frontal attack, the Van Hasek commanders fed in reserve after reserve regardless of cost in their determination to break through with as little delay as possible. Once they succeeded in driving a wedge deep enough into the American center, they knew that the whole American sector would roll up in a chaos of defeated regiments.

But to accomplish this, Van Hasek's infantry must drive through succeeding lines. Capturing one, they faced another equally resistant. What the Americans lacked in auxiliary weapons they made up by their unshakable fighting spirit, a discipline hard as steel that put men through the terrors of battle and turned a deaf ear to impulses of flight and surrender. Even succeeding waves of tanks failed to terrorize them or drive them out of position. All the advantages of auxiliary weapons failed to avail.

One surging mass of enemy infantry engulfed the right of the 23d, and left of the 9th Infantry, late in the forenoon. Now the storm rose to new heights of desperation as Van Hasek's infantry sought to break on through.

INSTALLMENT ELEVEN

from the air; Washington was bombed and the President killed. National forces were ordered mobilized, but they were ill prepared for immediate action. General Brill, area commander of the army in Texas, reported to General Hague, chief of staff at Washington, that he was being attacked by greatly superior

its regimental reserve line. A second attack launched against that line, if it succeeded, meant inevitable defeat.

Into the melee came rushing American reserves, a co-ordinated counter-attack by the 3d Battalion of the 23d and the 2d Battalion of the 9th. They hit with a vigor that halted the menacing enemy masses. Their semi-automatics, pouring death as fast as fingers could work triggers, gave to the attacking American battalions the infantry weight of twice their numbers.

Van Hasek's men fell back, dug themselves into fox holes, waited. A lull came into the firing. The artillery roared on, machine guns, light cannon chattered and boomed. Now the volcanic eruption of battle lost something of its volume. The cries of the stricken could be heard, plaintive wails of "First aid!"

Van Hasek had lost the first round. He had committed the blashfolly of underestimating his enemy. In his haste to blast his way through to San Antonio his conceit had misled him to disregard sound tactical principles. No matter if the enemy



The enemy tanks rolling in.

had done the same thing by making a stand, the next move now was up to Van Hasek.

At the division command post, General Mole had slept through the morning preparation fire. Only by vigorously shaking him had his aide been able to rouse him out of his sleep. Dosing himself with strong coffee, Mole coolly watched the development of attack. The Van Hasek strategy had a right to suppose that the Second would hold lightly and run off to successive delaying positions.

Anxiously, Mole and his staff scanned information as it came in over the field wires and from observation planes. Van Hasek's tortuous columns still were moving up from Laredo. But no fresh movement of reserves was located in the immediate American front. Both the Brownsville and Eagle Pass columns were several hours' travel from striking range of either flank.

Casualty reports came in, roughly computed, by noon. One hundred and seven officers, most lieutenants. Nineteen hundred men. A fifth of his command gone, many of them officers and men with whom he had served through long years of peace.

But discipline held up, and a stern, stubborn fighting spirit pervaded the ranks. That word came from the commanders of infantry who had taken the brunt of the losses, it came from the artillery regiments which were still being pounded by long-range artillery.

Against odds of men and weapons there remained the valor of a manpower that could be conquered only in death, or lawful order of retreat.

CHAPTER XII

As succeeding battle reports from the Texas front poured into Washington over the radio, Captain Benning was assailed by growing restlessness as his own inaction in the face of momentous events. Throughout the day he had lolled about the cafes along Connecticut Avenue looking for the Van Hasek staff spies, Fincke and Boggio. Evening found him holding the bag.

That red weller of the 11th Infantry's retreat from Laredo had been reported in meager but graphic detail along with the heroic stand of the 5th and 12th Cavalry Regiments. Captain Boll's achievement in piloting his men through the storm of Van Hasek's air attacks had stirred the country.

Benning and Boll had been classmates at the Military Academy, had gone to the 11th Infantry together as

forces. General Hague ordered him to resist the enemy's advance at all costs. Brill hastily prepared plans with the help of General Mole, division commander. Suddenly the American outpost was attacked by a strong force crossing the Rio Grande.

Now continue with the story.

subalterns. Benning had served with the 11th for nearly a year until he went to the air corps, from which service he had been snatched for military intelligence duty. Breathlessly he followed every scrap of available information on the 11th.

Benning was picking at his dinner at the Mayflower when there came a final flash on the Boll incident.

"You heard this afternoon of the gallant young officer, Captain Boll of our infantry," the broadcaster announced. "You recall that, although wounded in the cheek, he ignored his own wound and saw his men through to the Second Division south of San Antonio."

The announcer paused, his voice shook with feeling as he read a brief dispatch from San Antonio that brought the incident of Boll to tragic consummation:

"Captain Henry Boll, 11th United States Infantry, died early this evening of wounds received in action. Captain Boll collapsed a few minutes after reaching the hospital and died this evening without having regained consciousness."

For a long time Benning sat looking across the blur of somber faces in front of him, then he left his unfinished dinner and went out into the street. The soldier spirit flared into revolt within him against this soft spot of his own present duty when there was a man's role on the border.

He walked to the Shoreham to get himself in hand. Even Flagwilt's assertion that the Coalition spy nest was more dangerous to the country than Van Hasek's present invasion brought him small comfort. But he finally reminded himself that he had a job to do and not until he had done it would there be hope of transfer back to the line of the Army.

Washington, the whole country, was in a state of furor. All day Benning had been shut off from the War Department with its staggering problems, black uncertainties, and crushing workload.

Official reassurance was being fed out over the radio to those sections of the country outside the immediate reach of Van Hasek's invasion. They were told there was no immediate danger of new air raids. The Army was pushing through its interception nets and extending its intelligence service to bring timely warning well in advance of any future raid.

New Orleans, Galveston, and other cities were being organized against air raids that could not be circumvented for the time being. It was a matter of avoiding crowds, of getting underground against demolition bombs and gas. People who could leave those cities were urged to take refuge in towns and hamlets until the danger could be brought under control, although tens of thousands needed no such warning and were pouring into the country with such of their effects as they could carry along.

In New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and other centers of population, organization against air attacks had been feverishly undertaken. The Middle West and West were told there was no present need for alarm. However, some highly alarming, if unconfirmed, reports of a mysterious brewing of mischief in the Orient, had the coast cities on edge.

Mobilization of the four existent Regular Army and eighteen National Guard infantry divisions was reported sixty per cent complete. The Third Army was to concentrate in Texas as rapidly as possible, but the War Department refused to give out military details. No censorship of military news had been clamped down as yet and the press was printing, without restriction, whatever news it could get.

Benning ordered an elaborate dinner at the Shoreham. Though he had no appetite, he made a pretext of eating while he kept under observation those who came and went.

Before starting on his rounds, Benning had stationed Lieutenant Jones, an Intelligence assistant, on guard over the Massachusetts Avenue apartment of Mme Pujol, with whom Boggio had dined and danced on the capital. Jones' instructions were to hold Boggio under close observation and let Benning know as quickly as possible if the Italian appeared.

Seven-thirty o'clock passed, the Chief of Staff of the Army would soon be on the air in a nationwide hookup. New dispatches came in from San Antonio.

Flash—"Bombers reported approaching New Orleans, Galveston, and Houston. The Government's intercept nets and intelligence service will give prompt advance warning if any planes fly north of Texas. Everyone is urged to remain calm."

Several persons got up from table at this news and anxiously left the room. Others kept determinedly in their seats, a few affected nonchalant composure. Into the dining-room at this moment came Fincke, his face lined in a surly frown. He sat down at a table across the room from Benning.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Neckwear Gives Fresh, Sparkling Charm to Spring Suits, Coats

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**



For a fashion-right approach to chic and charm for your Easter costume, try the lacy, crisp-white neckwear way. It will work like magic. The new jabots and animated cascades of sheer white, the smart detachable lace-trimmed and befrilled yokes, likewise the huge immaculate white sailor collars that stress the new low-cut, deep-throated lines are performing miracles in adding "the touch that tells."

You will find the neckwear quest one of high adventure this spring, for fashion is dramatizing the theme. Versatile lingerie touches will carry your costume to dizzy heights of allure.

There's big news in the revival of frilly jabots this season, and history is also repeating itself in the animated white fluttery cascades, the kind that will help "lift" any blouse, frock or jacketed tailleur right into spring. The sheer organdie and Val lace jabot which cascades from a tiny turnover organdie collar (pictured above to the left in the group illustrated) is warranted to give springlike froth and freshness to any Easter costume. The jabot is attached to an organdie vestee, so it stays anchored and serves as a blouse.

A magic panel in embroidered organdie and lace (shown above to the right) may be depended upon to perform magic on any dress, be it print or plain, smart navy, unerring black or a delectable pastel shade. A clip attachment under the bow adjusts to any neckline. Clip it on to your newest frock and presto! it will sparkle with lacy loveliness.

Colored embroidery, especially

cross stitch and petit point, is an important spring 1941 message for neckwear. The collar and cuff set below to the right in the group is one of the charming new versions. Rambler roses are embroidered on linen in red and black cross stitch.

You will be seeing quantities of this type of embroidery as the season advances, for petit point, especially, is being featured on handkerchiefs, handbags, and in fact, quite generally throughout the mode.

All dressed up and ready to go stepping in the Easter parade is the smartly clad maiden in the panel portrait to the left. For that fresh-out-of-a-band-box look, Evelyn Alden, American designer, has created a youthful redingote (redingotes are "tops" this spring) with a crisp lingerie bib attached to the neckline of the dress beneath. Be sure to wear a fruit-laden hat with this ensemble, for fruit trimmings are tremendously important.

A new trend, and one that is rich with possibilities, is the wide use of pleated white lingerie frillings in unique and dramatic ways. You can buy these pleatings by the yard at neckwear counters. Newly arrived navy or black suits and dresses are finished off at throat and wrist with generous ruffings done in the dandified Regency period manner.

You can give your bolero frock or suit a fresh spring uplift by sewing in a white ruff that extends down the front edges of your bolero or even all the way round if you prefer. As most fashion-alert women are aware, the newest dresses are styled with yokes this spring. For a final swank accent, follow the outline of the yoke of your frock or your blouse with crisp white lingerie pleating. Many best shops are featuring this very new idea.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Patriotic Emblems



Patriotic emblems are proving an endless source of inspiration for decorative motifs in costume design. Flags, stars, eagles, nautical insignia seen in bright embroidery or in glittering colorful jewels. They lend enchantment to new fashions in endless ways. Here you see a stunning white rayon hi-hat turban and matching scarf. This twosome is inexpensive, and at the same time is good looking and decidedly practical.

Thoroughly American in color and design, these decorative pieces give wardrobes that pro-America look!

Low-Cut Necklines Tell

New Fashion Story
There is a new movement in necklines that will be a dominating influence in blouses and dresses from now on. The collar opening continues down to form a low deep slender point. Some dresses have an extra little camisole device to wear on less formal occasions. The deep-throated effect is extremely flattering. To wear at the low point, stunning jewelry clips are being especially designed. These will tell a fascinating new fashion story.

Deep Pleated Flounces

Popular on Navy Coats
There is a very smart new-type coat being shown which is particularly striking in navy. The body line is fashioned after the fitted princess lines, to which a knee depth pleated flounce of the self fabric is seamed. You can get stunning costume suits that have these long coats, worn over a matching one-piece dress.

Enchanting Blouses

The new blouses are simply enchanting. They are frilled, tucked and lace-trimmed in fascinating profusion. Their feminine frou frou is distractingly pretty. On the Easter parade they will appear in endless procession, adding winsomeness to the legions of navy suits and caped costume ensembles.

Pale Coats, Pale Furs

Beige coats are taking under themselves fur trimmings in delicate tones to match. Reefer fronts of furs are chic

FARM TOPICS

LIQUIDS REPLACE DRY FERTILIZER

Helps to Prevent Big Loss Caused by Drouth.

By **DR. V. A. TIEDJENS**
(Associate Olericulturist, N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station.)

Farmers need no longer fear the bugaboo of drouthy years that heretofore have robbed them of returns they should have had on their fertilizer dollars. They are liking the problem by applying fertilizer in solution instead of in the dry form to vegetables, farm crops, pastures.

By thus applying chemical fertilizer dissolved in water, the burning of fertilizers applied dry is eliminated and phosphates are made more available.

Liquid fertilizers are used as starter solutions applied to the roots of plants when they are set, or applied in the drill with beans, corn, and other seeds. They may also be applied as a side-dressing as the crops are growing.

Regular fertilizer mixtures may be used for liquid applications, but they usually have so much residue that the solution must be prepared a day or two in advance and the liquid separated from the residue. These mixtures are too acid for starter solutions, but may be used for side-dressing purposes.

Higher analysis mixtures have been used to better advantage when the phosphorus was derived from mono-ammonium phosphate. A 13-26-13 mixture, made with urea, mono-ammonium phosphate, muriate of potash and nitrate of soda and used at the rate of 2 to 4 pounds in 50 gallons of water, has given very good results as a starter or side dressing solution. This mixture is almost wholly soluble and can be made up as it is used. It becomes sticky when exposed to the air.

Liquid fertilizers have given more economical results than dry mixtures due to the greater availability of the phosphates.

Liquid fertilizers have been used successfully to grow large acreages of tomatoes, beans, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, sweet corn and celery. In every case yields were better because, as growers stated, the crops grew in spite of dry weather.

Spring Pasture Feeding

Changes Flavor of Milk

Slight defects in flavor may prevent full enjoyment of milk and thus curtail its use, says H. A. Herman of the Missouri college. It is to the interest of every producer or handler of milk then to protect the flavor of milk and its products.

Flavors in milk may originate at various stages in its production and handling. Bad flavors are not necessarily associated with the safety of milk for food purposes.

In early spring, and in particular on short and weed-infested pastures, weed flavors are quite common since cows are forced to eat herbage they might otherwise refuse. Cows in milk should not be forced to depend too heavily on pastures infested with wild onions or similar weeds. If the dairyman has no other choice, however, he can hold the flavors imparted by these various weeds to a minimum by removing the cows 3 to 6 hours before milking time.

A change from dry feeding to grass always results in a different flavor appearing in the milk, and customers sometimes complain. These flavors can be prevented by following a well planned routine of feeding.

Farm Notes

Total American crop production this year was the second largest on record, being surpassed only in 1937, reports the U. S. bureau of agricultural economics.

More than 1,000,000 frozen-food lockers in more than 3,200 plants are now available to families of the United States, reports the Farm Credit administration.

Good pasture is the best source of vitamin A for live stock. Vitamin A promotes growth, health, vigor, long life, appetite, digestion, reproduction, and resistance to infection.

An Ohio survey made in 1924 in nine counties revealed that 47 per cent of the farm homes were more than 50 years old and the average distance from the well to the kitchen was 74 feet.

Forest land in the United States so heavily cut over that it is practically idle represents an area equal in size to Italy, says U. S. forest service.

A recommended remedy for riding hogs of worms is a full feed of whole oats which have been soaked in buttermilk given after the hogs have been kept off feed for 24 to 30 hours. The oats should be soaked for 10 or 12 hours. Buttermilk can be prepared by mixing one gallon of semi-solid buttermilk with 12 gallons of water.

PATTERNS

SEWING CIRCLE



PERFECT for slim, young figures, this flaring frock has a tiny corselet waistline, and bodice gathers to hold you out a bit. With the bolero, it serves as a "little suit" for street wear. Make this of gay silk prints, or flat crepe, plain or with lots of braid in bright contrast.

Pattern No. 8880 is designed in even sizes 12 to 20. Ensemble, size 14, 5 1/2 yards 39-inch material without nap. For this attractive pattern send to

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT.
Room 1324
211 W. Wacker Dr. Chicago
Enclose 15 cents in coins for
Pattern No. Size
Name
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Conscience's Sake
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