

ATTACK ON AMERICA

BY GENERAL ARED WHITE
W. N. J. Release

THE STORY SO FAR: More than 200,000 foreign troops secretly assembled in Mexico by Van Hasek suddenly invaded the United States. Vastly superior in numbers and equipment to the American forces which opposed them, Van Hasek's troops pushed relentlessly

INSTALLMENT SIXTEEN

forward. The U. S. army was not prepared for this sudden attack, and could only retreat in the face of overwhelming force. While an American spy in Mexico City, Benning had gained the confidence of two enemy officers, Fincke and Bravot. Weeks later he unexpectedly met

Fincke in Washington, and continued to pose as his friend. Benning accompanied him on a boat loaded with dynamite bound for the Panama Canal. On board he aroused the suspicions of Schmolz, the skipper.

CHAPTER XVII—Continued

Benning went to bed after watching for several hours and managed to sleep through part of the day. From his porthole, Benning saw flying fish scurry out of the course of the ship in late afternoon, which confirmed fast progress south. With evening he caught the blink of distant light myriads on the coast line. He explored the possibility of escape in the night by whaleboat, but concluded he stood slender chance of success in such an exploit. At dark he resumed his reconnaissance of the deck in his effort to locate Bravot.

Schmolz' stateroom was empty at nine o'clock, again at ten. On his third trip down the boat deck, Benning found that half a dozen men had assembled, including Bravot and Schmolz. He stationed himself again in the shadows of a whaleboat and waited. An hour passed without development, then the group fled out and went to the rail to strain their eyes into the starlit night.

One of them set off a flare, and ten minutes later a second flare. Benning's ears caught the distant hum of an airplane. The sound grew in volume until a plane zoomed overhead and circled to a stop.

The engines of the ship slowed down. Four men lowered a boat. Bravot shook hands with Schmolz and climbed over the rail to disappear down the ladder. A few minutes later Benning caught the flash of oars in the starlight. The plane burst into a roar of sound, lifted into the void and streaked off into the night and it had come.

Benning returned heavily to his cabin. Bravot's departure by plane clearly meant that the ship would not pause at Tampico or Vera Cruz. But at least, Benning consoled himself, he could play a stiffer game on deck with the French renegade out of the way.

Somehow, in the tense days ahead, he would find a solution to this hideous problem, he vowed. If nothing better, a chance at the radio room whence he could flash a warning code to the coast artillery forts and naval base guarding the Canal from Limon Bay.

During the next few days, while the dynamite ship ate up the long miles to Panama, Benning carefully went over the vessel and watched his chances. Land had vanished, escape by boat he had dismissed finally as out of the question.

Benning's interest centered on the radio room as his best chance. The radio station lay in a cubbyhole under the bridge. Several times he visited the room, pretending interest in its mechanism. But the radio operator, one Smidt, was sullenly uncommunicative and resentful of visitors.

"You been around here enough, mister," Smidt complained at Benning's third appearance. "I got work to do, so you please keep away."

After that incident, Benning gained an uncomfortable suspicion that he was being watched. Twice he tested his trail by an abrupt about-face on deck. Both times a hatch-faced steward slouched past him with exaggerated preoccupation.

Only one chance remained if he failed at the radio. That was to reach the American officers who would come aboard to check cargo before the ship was permitted in the locks. But Benning decided that he must not wait on that last desperate extremity.

Benning kept up a careful estimate of the speed and progress of the ship. His calculations told him when the ship must be approaching Limon Bay. Schmolz' plan, he guessed, was to detonate the ship as it passed through Gatun Locks.

Benning's plan of direct action crystallized on what he judged to be the last afternoon at sea. In his cabin he blocked out, on a sheet from his notebook, a blunt warning message:

"Commanding General, Panama—Halt American freighter now approaching Limon Bay from New York with cargo of high explosives. General plot in effect to wreck Panama Canal. Instant action imperative.—Benning, Major G-2."

Until he saw Schmolz go to the bridge, Benning loitered about the boat deck, then went direct to the radio room.

"Mister, didn't I tell you to keep out of here!" Smidt exploded as Benning stepped into the little room. Benning said quietly: "I want to use your radio, Smidt. You'll be good enough to do just what I tell you to do."

Smidt scowled at Benning's leveled pistol and yielded with a sullen nod of his head. Benning strapped the fellow's hands behind his back and forced him to stretch out face downward on the floor. Sitting down calmly, Benning started putting his message into Panama. He had buzzed out the words, "C. G. Panama—Halt"—when a voice challenged from the door.

"So, my ship has a new radio man!"

his voice a raucous sneer. Murder burned in his round green eyes as he covered Benning with a long-barreled Luger pistol. Behind Schmolz were his mate, steward, and a member of the crew. With an oath he unstrapped Smidt's hands and kicked the operator to his feet. Smidt took Benning's pistol and message and passed them to Schmolz.

"El, himmel!" Schmolz gasped, as he read the message. "A spy aboard!"

In a surge of savage fury Schmolz seized Benning by the collar and jerked him out on deck. With a sudden swing of his ham of a fist, he dropped his prisoner and crashed down upon him with his two hundred pounds of beef and brawn.

"Got here—just in time—didn't I!" Schmolz bellowed. "Not for nothing—did I have you watched!" Schmolz' beefy fists pummeled emphasis to his words, flailing Benning's face and head.

"Chuck him overboard to the sharks!" he roared.

Benning was driven to the rail. He gripped the rail with his hands and held tenaciously against the fatal plunge into the Atlantic. One of his assailants clutched his legs, and

mered in his ears. He guessed that the dynamite ship had come to the locks and was being made fast to the electric mules that would tow her.

By now Schmolz and his henchmen must have abandoned the ship, after setting detonators in motion for the explosion, he reasoned. Innocent hands were seeing the vessel through, a hundred seamen whose lives would roar into nothingness with his own.

Into the black hole there came the soft yellow glow of a ball of light. Benning shook his head dazedly against what must be a phantom of his tortured imagination. The ball swung crazily toward him, gaining in brightness, and a hushed voice came to his ears from overhead.

"Say, mister, ain't you pretty hungry about now?"

Benning's voice leaped from his throat as his mind oriented itself to this intervention.

"Quick, Grimes! Get a rope down here and pull me out of this hole!"

The ball of light ceased its rotation, grew stationary on a thin cord in front of Benning's eyes. Grimes mulled through priceless seconds, and countered, "But the cap'n might get sore when he comes back, and kick me off the ship."

"Schmolz isn't coming back!" Benning shouted. "Quick, get a rope for me or it's only a matter of minutes until we'll be blown to pieces!"

Grimes did not answer, but jerked the lantern back up out of the hold. Benning's fingers bit into the palms of his hands through an eternity of waiting until the lantern reappeared, hitched this time to the end of a stout inch-rope.

Benning detached the lantern when it reached him, passed the end of the rope under his armpits and tied a hurried knot. He put the force of his lungs into an order to heave.

With legs braced across the open hatch, Grimes put the strength of his powerful arms into the job and brought Benning to the deck. Benning staggered to his feet and started for the rail.

"Come on, Grimes," he ordered. "We got to get off this ship!"

Under the soft light of a new moon, as he ran to the rail of the ship, Benning saw the thick concrete walls of the locks. Beyond were the rows of squad tents of an emergency guard detachment. Ahead the electric locomotives tugged at heavy cables.

Benning drove the force of his lungs along the deck in warning to the crew and climbed down the ladder, closely followed by Grimes. At coming abreast of the top of the walls, he leaped, propelling himself outward with his legs, and landed on chest and stomach. For several moments he lay stunned, then staggered to his feet and ran toward the tents. Sentries barked a challenge, a figure in pajamas burst out of a tent to level a vibrant voice.

"I'm the commanding officer—what's all this yelling about!"

Benning panted: "I'm Major Benning, of G-2. The cargo of this ship is dynamite—it will detonate at any minute! Get everyone clear here!"

The commander swung on his heels with cool promptness and began shouting orders. "All out! On the run! Leave everything behind! Get moving to Mindi!—on the wagon-road—never mind formation!"

There was intensity rather than excitement in the officer's voice.

Benning saw that the crew was bursting from the doomed ship. Some, in their panic, leaped into the water of the narrow locks, others made the long leap to the top of the locks. He ran after the officer, Grimes trailing. A puffing sprint brought them to the railroad grade that led into Mindi. Another long run and the officer halted in a deep cup in the Sierra Quebrancha. He commanded his soldiers to scatter into the foothills.

Two miles lay behind. Half an hour had passed, Benning judged. The captain introduced himself, Marlin. He began asking questions, suddenly suspicious that he might have been tricked away from his post of duty. Benning quickly established his identity.

"But how do you know the ship's cargo is—?"

Marlin cut off his query as his cheeks caught the peculiar stir of air as from a gust of wind. Benning's hands dove to cup his ears. He felt himself pitched forward on his face. The earth heaved violently, his head rang with the pain of the volcanic might of the explosion that filled the world. All existence had been reduced to roaring, crashing, maddening bedlam.

A clap of thunder shattered his thoughts. It crashed out of distant hills and jungles far down the Isthmus from Gatun Lake. Benning halted. There came a second crash, a third, a fourth. The detonations followed one another successively, within the limits of a few minutes.

Newest wrist watches are square, made of pink gold, set with diamonds and rubies and fastened with a maroon wrist cord.

Benning was framed in the door, Schmolz was framed in the door,

Linen Assumes Important Role As Fabric for Summer Wardrobes

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



IN ASSEMBLING the new summer wardrobe, don't overlook the importance of linen for all-occasion wear. There really is no material that more faithfully holds its own than handsome Irish linen. With women of discriminating taste, fine linen is a tradition, and now, because of scientific processing, the new linens are rendered practically non-wrinklable.

Aside from the practical view, which ranks linen high because of its complete washability, crease-resistance and adaptability to any type of wearing apparel, style experts are suggesting linen because of the beautiful colors in which it may now be purchased.

A trend this season is the combining of linen with another fabric. You'll see many linen dresses with wool coats, lined and collared to match the dress. Linen also may be combined with silk or rayon prints very effectively. Often a monotone linen coat is lined with the print of a matching frock. In these instances, the linen used is one of the heavier, sturdier weaves, either plain or with self-plaid woven into the fabric.

A fashion highlight this season is the newly styled longer jackets of solid colored linen, worn over bright gingham checks or printed cottons. The attractive ensemble centered in the photograph illustrates the idea. The jacket, of deep green linen, is cut as expertly and fits as suavely as any painstakingly tailored wool. It tops a black, white and green checked dress which follows carefully the lines of a classic shirtwaist frock.

The use of linen in two-toned combinations is a this-season theme that stresses the popular contrast-color

vogue. Two shades of Irish linen, a rich tan and a deep green, combine to dramatize the South American influence shown in the simulated bolero of this good-looking dress. This is a fashion designed by Schiaparelli for gay young folk.

It's "three cheers for the red-white-and-blue" when the classic shirtwaist dress shown to the left in the group marches along in the fashion parade. The dress is of blue wrinkle-resistant Irish linen. The double blue-and-white collar and cuffs are edged with red rickrack, and the chic crocheted belt also combines the three colors.

A fashion that women will welcome is the redingote that is styled of linen in handsome dark monotones. This is worn over print frocks very effectively and over linen dresses of a contrasting shade. A practical as well as smart item in any wardrobe is the linen suit that is fashioned with the longer jacket. In navy or dark green or toast brown it invites many uses, for the jacket may be worn over casual frocks when not worn with its matching skirt.

The young set glories this season in the new line middie blouse fashions. As summer advances, dance floors will boast linen dinner dresses. On beaches, dressmaker bathing suits in linen will take to the water and many play suits and beach dresses of Irish linen will be worn by vacationers.

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Dramatic Bags



Dramatic bags, with swank shoes of shiny perforated leather to match, are smart as can be. In the under-arm bag designed by Jenny which the young modern pictured is carrying, shiny black patent leather is cleverly used to form wings of ruffled and perforated patent. This bag is roomy but compact and is styled with all the "last word" improvements. You will find it the perfect complement for your new tailleur and particularly chic carried with the now-so-voguish black faille jacket suits. By the way, the topknot that surmounts the pretty head of the young lady here posing is a very new-fashion chapeau.

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White-Ground Prints New In Summer Fashion Picture

It is the white-ground prints that have the coveted "new" look. The black-on-white combination is especially smart. Wear with these black-and-whites one of the very voguish large-Milan hats, carry a patent bag matched with pumps, splash a dash of red or yellow in gloves and your boutonniere—the sum total will be "style."

Blue on white is also new and the prints that pattern red or yellow on white are exceedingly chic.

Handknit Apparel Enjoys Increase in Popularity

There is a large demand for handknit apparel. Even the machine knits have been brought to such a point of perfection that they have the water of the narrow locks, others made the long leap to the top of the locks. He ran after the officer, Grimes trailing. A puffing sprint brought them to the railroad grade that led into Mindi. Another long run and the officer halted in a deep cup in the Sierra Quebrancha. He commanded his soldiers to scatter into the foothills.

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Star Dust

By VIRGINIA VALE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

TWO April weddings in the Hollywood movie colony are still topics for conversation, one because it was so conventional, for Hollywood, the other because it was so unusual for that colony and just the accepted thing anywhere else.

The Yuma marriage of Constance Bennett and Gilbert Roland was Hollywoodian. It was Miss Bennett's fourth marriage, they drove to Yuma by themselves and the clergyman had to supply witnesses. The other, Deanna Durbin's marriage to Vaughn Paul, was a big church wedding, very beautiful, and motion picture stars who were friends of the bride and groom were invited but not featured as part of the performance. An achievement, in Hollywood!

Rudy Vallee is ready to chuck his career and undertake a new one at the drop of a megaphone. Now appearing in Columbia's musical picture, "Time Out for Rhythm," with Ann Miller, Rosemary Lane and Allen Jenkins, he's ready to drop acting and singing if he can get a chance to direct pictures. He's even bought a home in Beverly Hills to be near the center of the movie business.

During the next few months there will be a virtual parade of film stars to the Latin-American countries. Spencer Tracy and Eleanor Powell are slated for good-will visits; Douglas Fairbanks Jr. will be a sort of good-will ambassador, and Marsha Hunt plans on spending six weeks in South America after she's finished "Blossoms in the Dust."

"Citizen Kane," Orson Welles' first RKO Radio production, aroused plenty of controversy long before it was released, and will be one of those pictures that people will argue about years after they've seen it. It may not be the best picture ever made, but certainly it is one of the best—but there are those who maintain that it should never have been made at all. Welles himself scores superbly as writer, actor and producer; the rest of the cast is so good that you forget that they're acting.

The first day she appeared on the "Manpower" set Marlene Dietrich announced that she'd take whatever punishment the script asked George Raft to hand her. That included his slapping her twice across the face, knocking her down a flight of stairs, then leaping after her and hitting her across the mouth with the back of his hand.

But George hit her harder than he intended. Marlene tumbled down the stairs (as per script), but wound up by severely spraining her ankle (which the script did not call for!).

Two more well known stage and screen players—Martha Sleeper and William Harrigan—have joined the cast of "We Are Always Young," Mutual chain's star-studded serial. That cast probably includes more "name" actors than any other serial on the air; among them are Jessie Royce Landis, Linda Watkins, Margalo Gilmore, Joe Laurie Jr., Horace Braham, Pert Kelton, George Coulouris, and William Janney, who's starred.

Andy Hardy's own, a squadron of RAF fighters, will soon take to the air. Mickey Rooney, the Hardy series "Andy," received a letter the other day from a young RAF flier who wrote "We're all young fellows in this squadron and we all think you're an o. k. sort of lad, so we've nicknamed our squadron (soon to see action) for you."

Stirling Hayward lost Madeleine Carroll in "Virginia," but he's slated to win her in "Dildo Cay." As originally planned, it was Dorothy Lamour whom he was to win, but she will be unable to finish her current assignment in "Aloma of the South Seas" in time to appear in the picture.

ODDS AND ENDS—Mutual's news analyst, W. H. Williams, is sponsored on more stations than any fellow analyst—has 100 stations. . . Robert Donat has leave from the British army to make "Pitt the Younger" in an English studio. . . Warner Bros. have bought a story called "Coffin for Dmitriy," and Columbia is making one called "Obituary" . . . and trying to think up a new title for it. . . As soon as Abbott and Costello finish "In the Navy" they'll begin "Ride 'em Cowboy" . . . Shirley Temple will have a brand new hair-do when she returns to the screen, and her hair, growing darker as she's grown older, is brown instead of golden.

Vitamin B₁ Of Value in Anemia Cases

By DR. JAMES W. BARTON

TWO friends of mine died of pernicious anemia just a few years before Doctors Minot and Murphy (Boston) made this startling discovery that death from pernicious anemia could be prevented by the use of liver. Since that time liver extract and extract of hog's stomach have been found effective in this formerly fatal disease.

While the cause of pernicious anemia is unknown, I know that severe emotional upsets and extreme mental work or overwork had undermined the health of these two friends and that this might have been a partial cause of their death by pernicious anemia.

Just as mental or emotional strain can affect the organs of the body—heart, blood vessels, stomach, intestine—so can they also affect the life stream.

That more than the quality or quantity of the red blood cells are affected in pernicious anemia is shown by the fact that even after the blood becomes normal in the number and iron content of its red corpuscles, the patient may continue to have symptoms such as pain and exhaustion.

Drs. F. Scielouoff and M. Naville, in the Swiss Medical Journal state that in a series of cases of pernicious anemia in which the blood was up to normal, the patients continued to have the symptoms. They administered thiamin chloride (vitamin B₁) to 13 of these cases and found that this treatment can relieve and often cure the symptoms due to the disturbances of the nervous system. In favorable cases there was improvement in movement and in sensitiveness, and the pain stopped in a short time.

Nerves Prolong Symptoms. The thought then in pernicious anemia is that the nerves are apparently damaged to some extent, thus prolonging the symptoms even after the blood is restored to normal. The treatment to relieve these symptoms is the use of vitamin B₁ (thiamin chloride) which, as stated before, enables the oxygen in the blood to get directly to the nerve cells. Foods rich in vitamin B₁ and therefore of help in conditions affecting the nerves—neuritis, arthritis, nervous exhaustion—are ham, bacon, peanuts, beef, liver, malted milk, wheat germ and yeast.

Pain in Chest Due to Effort AS YOUNGSTERS when we played hard a pain would occur in the chest and we would have to stop playing or play more leisurely. This pain was due to the fact that we were playing so hard, or were so excited while playing, that too much waste—carbon dioxide—from the exercise accumulated in the blood.

Today, when adults get this tight or gripping pain in chest or under the breastbone, it is called angina pectoris. This is due, as with youngsters playing hard, to something preventing enough pure blood to flow through the little blood vessels carrying pure or unadulterated blood from the lungs to the heart.

When this pain comes on from effort, stopping what you are doing or doing it less rapidly will in most cases cause the pain to disappear.

In speaking of angina (pain) due to effort, Dr. Geoffrey Bourne, London, in the British Medical Journal, states that in the majority of cases rest is not needed; in fact, the patient should be encouraged to take regular exercise to increase the strength of his heart and lungs. If during the exercise pain occurs, exercise may be stopped for a time, but a gradual increase in the amount of work that can be done or exercise taken before the pain appears will be noticed soon.

Patients who are overweight, in whom this pain in the chest occurs, can be greatly helped by a reduction of their weight.

Standing, sitting and walking in an erect position, carrying abdomen drawn in, will often prevent this pain. When exercise cannot be taken, holding the abdomen in by means of a well-fitted abdominal belt will prevent or postpone the pain.

QUESTION BOX
Q.—Could you suggest a remedy for nose bleed?
A.—Most cases of nose bleed are due to a small vessel being near the lining surface of the nose. Blowing nose is often sufficient to cause bleeding. Nose bleed can be due to other conditions of the body.

Q.—Where there is an exudative retina condition and a small part of the vision is lost, can it be restored?
A.—Your own physician can best answer your questions or could refer you to any eye specialist.

NEXT WEEK
Another Absorbing Installment

(TO BE CONTINUED)