

War in Pacific Hinges On Trip of Matsuoka

Japan, Eager to Expand, Would Risk U. S. Enmity If Hitler Can Hold Off Russia.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Times Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka's journey to Berlin, via Moscow, which began today at Tokyo, is brimful of danger to the United States. It may bring the war to the Pacific. The journey, it is observed here, may parallel the epochal excursion of Joachim von Ribbentrop, Nazi Foreign Minister, to Moscow just before Germany invaded Poland. And the purpose may prove to be identical, namely to obtain for Japan's south Pacific aspirations a free hand from the Soviet Union.

In March, 1939, Hitler's plans depended almost entirely on Moscow. Moscow was fighting with London and Paris. If Moscow joined the proposed "peace front" of the democracies, Hitler would have to forego or postpone his contemplated scheme to dominate the rest of Europe.

So Von Ribbentrop went to Moscow. There he won Stalin's approval. Germany was given the green light for her invasion of Poland and her war against France and Britain. But for this there would have been no war. Hitler would never have risked war on two fronts at the same time.

Japan Eager to Expand

Today Japan faces much the same situation. Japan wants to expand southward to the Dutch East Indies and Singapore if no farther. But she is afraid of Russia and the United States. She might take a chance on war with one or the other, but not with both. Like Germany, she does not intend to involve herself in a war on two fronts at the same time, at least against powers like the United States and Russia.

One of the secret aims of Foreign Minister Matsuoka's trip, therefore, according to informed sources here, may well be to obtain from Stalin a guarantee not to attack Japan in the event her southward expansion results in a clash with the United States.

So, just as Von Ribbentrop's mission to Moscow in 1939 was the prelude to the European war, the Japanese Foreign Minister's trip today may precede the spread of the war



Mr. Simms

It is to Russia's advantage, as the Kremlin sees it, for Japan and the United States to lock horns. And that is exactly what might happen if the Japanese carried their aggression to Netherland's East Indies, against Singapore. But just as Germany did not challenge Britain and France until Moscow gave her the "go" signal, Japan is not likely to burn her bridges behind her in the South Pacific unless and until Russia tells her it will be safe to do so.

Matsuoka, therefore, may now get what Japan has long wanted—perhaps with Berlin's aid. For Stalin is aware that sooner or later Russia and Japan will have to fight it but unless something happens to one or the other beforehand, so he naturally wants to see Japan weakened if not destroyed before that fateful day arrives.

For the United States, the great American democracy is regarded by Stalin as the heart and soul of capitalism. He knows that the rank and file in America enjoy far and away the highest standard of living in the world. He knows that despite its admitted shortcomings, the American form of government has brought more creature comforts and even luxuries to more of the masses than any other system anywhere. War with the Axis powers might change that picture.

Finally, war between the United States and Japan would complete the involvement of all the great powers, save Russia. Only Russia would be on the sidelines where she could wait and plan for the ripe fruit to fall into her lap.

Probe Istanbul Bombing

ISTANBUL, Turkey, March 12 (U. P.)—Police worked today on the theory that bombs which exploded in luggage of British legation and consular staffs returning from Bulgaria were planted in an attempt to destroy important secret documents as well as to kill as many of the British party as possible.

It was understood that some baggage of the British party was missing as the result of the explosion in the lobby of the Pera Palace Hotel. But British Minister George W. Rendell, it was learned, was unpacking secret documents in his room when two bombs burst in the lobby, and this would indicate that he had taken care immediately on his arrival to insure the safety of all important papers.

Police closed all frontiers to automobile and railroad traffic as soon as the explosion occurred yesterday and communications remained closed.

Turkish soldiers with bayonets affixed to their rifles guarded all approaches to the hotel.

Aiding the Turkish police was a former Scotland Yard detective.

Police centered their examinations on an unexploded bomb, resembling a storage battery, which Stanley Embrey, secretary to the legation attaché, found in one of his suit cases in his room at the hotel. He

heard the bomb ticking and threw it from a window into a vacant lot. He called police who removed its detonators. Soon afterward two bombs exploded in the hotel lobby.

Legation spokesmen said that they believed the suggestion that Germany had planted the bombs in Bulgaria was too fantastic to be entertained. They suggested that anti-British Bulgarians were more likely to have been responsible.

The death toll in the explosion had risen to six today.

One of those killed was Miss Gertrude Ellis, private secretary to Minister Rendell.

Miss Gertrude Armstrong, a secretary in the legation, was terribly wounded and hope for her survival was abandoned.

One member of the staff saw two women near him on the third floor just before the explosion. Afterward he could find no trace of either.

Bombs Peril Royal Palace

INDIANAPOLIS, March 12 (U. P.)—A German bomb partly destroyed a garden wall and a porter's lodge of Buckingham Palace during a recent air raid, it was made known today. Six other bombs struck in the palace grounds.

The King and Queen were absent at the time.

Three of the bombs fell in a palace fore court and three nearby. The palace itself was undamaged. But the lodge of the keeper of the garden gate in the north wall, only a few yards from the Royal apartments in the palace proper, was wrecked.

A young policeman on duty outside the palace was killed.

It was the fourth time the palace had been bombed.

The bomb which did the most damage broke down a wall alongside the garden gate. This gate is used by the Royal family and their friends. It leads to the "King's door" through which the then Mrs. Simpson used to visit the Duke of Windsor when he occupied the Palace as King Edward VIII.

From the street it is now possible

IN INDIANAPOLIS

Here Is the Traffic Record

County City Total

1940 5 10 15

1941 13 16 25

—March 11—

Injured 7 Accidents 18

Dead 0 Arrests 76

TUESDAY TRAFFIC COURT

Cases Convic- Fines

Violations tried paid

Speeding 55 53 \$325

Reckless driving 6 4 11

Failure to stop at through street 13 12 42

Disobeying traffic signals 20 14 52

Drunk driving 7 1 20

All other 76 50 116

Totals 171 134 \$570

MEETINGS TODAY

Purdue Alumni Association, luncheon, Hotel Sevier, 12 15 p. m.

Indiana Independent Petroleum Association, convention, Hotel Sevier, all day.

Central M. C. A. Camera Club, meeting, Central M. C. A., 7:30 p. m.

Lions Club, luncheon, Claypool Hotel, noon.

Young Men's Discussion Club, dinner, Y. M. C. A. 6 p. m.

Twelfth Legion, American Legion, luncheon, Board of Trade, noon.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, luncheon, Indiana Independent Petroleum Association, drivers' vision clinic, Electric Building, all day.

Delta Theta Tau, luncheon, Seville Tavern, noon.

Indiana Optometric Club of Indianapolis, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce, luncheon, Canal Club, noon.

Forty-Five Club, meeting, Chamber of Commerce, Hotel, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Kiwanis Association of Optometrists, drivers' vision clinic, Electric Building, all day.

Purchasing Agents' Association of Indianapolis, meeting, Columbia Club, 6:30 p. m.

Department Owners, luncheon, Hotel Washington, noon.

Alpha Omicron Alpha, meeting, Hotel Washington, noon.

Institute of Credit, meeting, Hotel Washington, noon.

International American Magicians, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

MEETINGS TOMORROW

Indiana Real Estate Board, luncheon, Hotel Washington, noon.

Advertising Club of Indianapolis, luncheon, Indianapolis Athletic Club, noon.

Indiana State Hospital, luncheon, noon.

Construction League of Indianapolis, luncheon, Hotel Washington, noon.

Delta Gamma Alumnae, luncheon, Board of Trade, 11 a. m.

Indiana Nurses' Club, meeting, E. N. Ninth St., 1 p. m.

Beth Theta Pi, luncheon, Canary Court, noon.

Lambda Chi Alpha, Alumni Association, luncheon, Hotel Washington, noon.

Indianapolis Motor Transportation Club, luncheon, Fox's Steak House, Columbia Club, noon.

Indiana Association of Optometrists, drivers' vision clinic, Electric Building, all day.

Indiana Independent Petroleum Association, convention, Hotel Sevier, all day.

Delta Theta Tau, luncheon, Seville Tavern, noon.

Indiana Optometric Club of Indianapolis, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce, luncheon, Canal Club, noon.

Forty-Five Club, meeting, Chamber of Commerce, Hotel, luncheon, Columbia Club, noon.

Kiwanis Association of Optometrists, drivers' vision clinic, Electric Building, all day.

Pauline Sanders, 27, of 5630 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

James W. Sorrells, 31, of 1409 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Frank W. Price, 33, of R. R. 13, Box 208, English, 26, E. 5th Street, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Barbara J. Bunker, 20, Lafave, 100 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Raymond Studebaker, 28, 409 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

John E. Johnson, 22, of 111 N. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Frank J. Morris, 22, of 56 S. Indiana, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Hollie W. Ladd, 23, of 728 N. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Alva Sullivan, 34, of 542 S. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Georgia M. Janes, 20, of 508 N. Lexington, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Pauline Sanders, 27, of 5630 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

James W. Sorrells, 31, of 1409 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Frank W. Price, 33, of R. R. 13, Box 208, English, 26, E. 5th Street, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Barbara J. Bunker, 20, Lafave, 100 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Raymond Studebaker, 28, 409 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

John E. Johnson, 22, of 111 N. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Frank J. Morris, 22, of 56 S. Indiana, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Hollie W. Ladd, 23, of 728 N. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Alva Sullivan, 34, of 542 S. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Georgia M. Janes, 20, of 508 N. Lexington, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Pauline Sanders, 27, of 5630 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

James W. Sorrells, 31, of 1409 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Frank W. Price, 33, of R. R. 13, Box 208, English, 26, E. 5th Street, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Barbara J. Bunker, 20, Lafave, 100 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Raymond Studebaker, 28, 409 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

John E. Johnson, 22, of 111 N. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Frank J. Morris, 22, of 56 S. Indiana, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Hollie W. Ladd, 23, of 728 N. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Alva Sullivan, 34, of 542 S. Audubon Road, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Georgia M. Janes, 20, of 508 N. Lexington, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Pauline Sanders, 27, of 5630 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

James W. Sorrells, 31, of 1409 N. Pennsylvania, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Frank W. Price, 33, of R. R. 13, Box 208, English, 26, E. 5th Street, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Barbara J. Bunker, 20, Lafave, 100 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

Raymond Studebaker, 28, 409 E. W. Wyor, Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.

John E. Johnson, 22, of 111 N. 16th St., Indianapolis, meeting, Hotel Washington, 7 p. m.