

CRITICISM OF HULL ASTOUNDS CAPITAL

Diplomats Point Out U. S. Policy Gave Army, Navy 10 Years to Prepare for Jap Surprise Attack on Pearl Harbor.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—The charge that Secretary of State Cordell Hull erred in not prolonging discussions with Japan until the U. S. army and navy could get ready, has left diplomatic circles here virtually breathless.

State department records, available to the army board, reveal that for at least 10 years our relations with Japan were steadily deteriorating.

First under Col. Henry L. Stimson, then secretary of state, and afterwards under Mr. Hull, document after document appeared, each one constituting a warning that, barring a shameful American backdown, we would have to fight Japan.

If the army board refers specifically to the final phase of Japanese-American negotiations, these began in May, 1939, three months before the outbreak of the war in Europe or two years and seven months before Pearl Harbor.

Warning Never Expected

Relations between Washington and Tokyo began to be acute in March, 1941, after the arrival of Adm. Nomura. Thus the army and navy had April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and up to Dec. 7 in which to plan against surprise.

That Japan would strike without warning assuredly was a secret known to no one. My private files contain many stories, written both in this country and the Far East, not only indicating Japan's probable intentions but pointing out that traditionally Japan had always struck first and declared war afterward.

The charge that Mr. Hull might have delayed the showdown with Japan, seems all the more astounding because he did exactly that. In fact, he was constantly in hot water with a section of American public opinion because of that very policy. This section demanded a stiffer policy toward Japan, a policy which Mr. Hull knew would start the shooting.

Against Expansion

For years preceding Pearl Harbor, Japan had her eyes on East Asia and the South Pacific. She wanted to include that area because of its abundance of strategic materials which she, herself, lacked: Oil, coal, steel, rubber, tin and all the rest.

The United States was dead against Japan's policy of expansion. It tried to induce Britain and the League of Nations to join us in stopping her rape of Manchuria. It opposed her in the Yangtze valley, at Shanghai, in the Philippines, Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies.

Throughout this entire decade, state department records reveal that it was perfectly aware (1) that if we drew the reins too tightly on Japan she would fight and (2) that we were not ready to fight. So a policy somewhere in between was imperative.

Nevertheless, this policy was gradually tightened. Little by little, we shut down on the oil and scrap metal which Japan had been purchasing in this country.

Moral Embargo

At first it was a sort of moral embargo. Then it gradually became more drastic as copper, zinc, brass, nickel, potash, platinum, nitrates, airplanes and so on were added to the list.

And all the while Mr. Hull was being called names for not making the embargo total and forthright. While the demand was in a sense laudable and understandable, he knew it had to be resisted because our army and navy were still unprepared.

Vol. II, of the records dealing with Japan (1931-1941) starts off with a memo. It is dated May 18, 1939—still more than two years prior to Pearl Harbor. It tells of a talk between our ambassador to Tokyo, Mr. Grew, and Jap Foreign Minister Arita. Mr. Grew talked of the likelihood of war in Europe and made a bid for a Japanese-American understanding designed

"My conscience is clear."

to keep the war out of the Pacific.

All this was not stringing out negotiations, it is observed, the army board must have a strange idea of time. If a decade was not long enough to teach Pearl Harbor to be on the alert, the fault could hardly be Mr. Hull's.

LOCAL BRIEFS

Approximately 200 persons attended the annual coal trade picnic at Delta Lundgren as professor and head of the home economics department of Butler University was announced today by President M. O. Ross.

Former professor of economics at Miami University, Oxford, O., Miss Lundgren will succeed Dr. Edna Meskine, who has resigned to accept a position in a foreign country.

Ralph L. Schaefer, secretary treasurer of Edw. W. Schaefer & Sons, Inc., will address the Exchange Club at a luncheon tomorrow noon at the Claypool.

After striking her head on the bottom of the Broad Ripple park swimming pool yesterday when she dove too deeply, Rowena Ann Applegate, 17, of 6414 Cornell ave., suffering a possible skull fracture, is City hospital today.

Burglars got set \$75 and \$100 last night, police said, when they broke into the Blue Bird Cleaners, 2312 E. Washington st., and emptied the cash register. The theft was reported by Ralph Velandingham, 6 N. Gray st., manager.

Will H. Smith, United States collector of internal revenue, today announced that the Indianapolis office is now on a 40-hour week. The office will be open eight hours a day Monday through Friday and together with all Indiana branch offices will observe the Labor day holiday.

Appointment of Miss Hattie Cor-

Leathernecks See Big Guns Japs Used Against Yanks



Marine Radio via Acme Telephoto.

Members of the 6th marine division inspect huge coastal defense guns at Ft. Fults.

'BEEDLE' SMITH CRITIC'S TARGET

Board Says He Didn't Rush Word to Marshall.

Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, the Indianapolis army officer who signed the German surrender terms last May, was among the higher-ups criticized today in the Pearl Harbor investigation.

The army board found that on the night of Dec. 6, 1941, Gen. Smith, for some "unfortunate" reason, did not immediately convey to Gen. George C. Marshall a vital message from army G-2 (intelligence), which implied that war was coming—"and soon!"

At the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, Gen. Smith was a colonel and served as secretary of the general staff.

Since that time he has participated in the planning of allied invasions from the North African coasts to Germany. He is now chief of staff to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"Beedle," as he was often called, came back to Indianapolis last June after signing the German surrender terms in the little red schoolhouse in Reims.

Marshall Away on Horseback Ride

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (U. P.)—Gen. George C. Marshall was horseback riding on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, when U. S. army intelligence (G-2) received a vital message boding "an almost immediate break in relations between the United States and Japan."

It was nearly three hours after the message came in, the army board revealed in its report on Pearl Harbor, before Marshall reached the office of G-2 and received the important information from Col. R. S. Bratton.

Short Says His Conscience Is Clear

DALLAS, Tex., Aug. 30 (U. P.)—Maj. Gen. Walter T. Short, on whom an army board of inquiry placed partial blame for the Pearl Harbor disaster, said last night that he had acted "in accordance with information which was available to me."

Short, army commander at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on Dec. 7, 1941, said in a signed statement:

"On Dec. 7, 1941, I was obeying my instructions from Washington as I understood them, and was acting in accordance with information which was available to me at that time. A commander must base his decisions on information before him at the time."

"Although the entire facts are yet to be revealed to me and to the public, the recent statement of the Pearl Harbor board shows beyond question that there was available to authorities in Washington before the attack, critical information which was not disclosed to me and which was vital to my decision."

"My conscience is clear."

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ARMY PRIVATE KILLS KIN, REST OF FAMILY

MACKENACK, N. J., Aug. 30 (U. P.)—Vermont authorities sought removal of Pvt. Bernard Romprey, 28, charged with killing all four members of an Essex Center, Vt., farm family before he left his home to return to his Georgia army camp.

Romprey will be arraigned in the presence of Vermont police officers who said they expected him to waive extradition.

Vermont State Attorney Clark A. Gravel charged in warrant yesterday that Romprey shot and killed his brother-in-law, Bliss Mansfield, 31; Mrs. Marion Mansfield, 30, and their two children, Faye, 7, and Richard, 5.

Clark said Mrs. Mansfield was found in the kitchen of the Mansfield farmhouse. Her husband was found in the garden and the two children, clasped in each other's arms, were found in the barn.

Neighbors found the four bodies when one of them sought to free the Mansfield cat which was clawing at a window. Clark said the Mansfields apparently had been shot Tuesday afternoon.

Don't Wait for Tax Cut on Fur

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (U. P.)—The fur industry today advised unlikely to go ahead and buy that fur coat. Rumors that federal taxes on furs may be cut soon, it said, just aren't true.

Treasury officials pointed out that under existing law the present fur tax of 20 per cent will automatically go down to 10 per cent six months after President Truman or congress decides that the war is officially over.

The catch is that Mr. Truman has indicated he doesn't intend to issue such a proclamation for a long time. After the first world war, the proclamation wasn't issued until three years after the armistice.

Industry officials became alarmed after thousands of women cancelled orders for coats in expectation of a lower tax.

HOOSIER IS APPOINTED

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 30 (U. P.)—Lt. Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, 27, of Pleasant Lake, Ind., has been named deputy commanding officer of the fourth ferrying group, officials announced today.

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