

## Ackie's War Diary 1941-1942

### Key:

Items in purple are doodles and don't necessarily relate to surrounding text.

Misspellings/older spellings that are original to the text are highlighted in yellow. Other misspellings may be attributed to the transcriptionist (Paula) and should be brought to her attention (or to whoever keeps up the document).

Items in italics are inserted by the transcriptionist for clarity

Items in red are inline notes added by Ackie later

### Notes to the future reader:

Ackie is pronounced ACK-ee.

Reggie is pronounced REG-ee with a hard G

Joe and May Ulowetz were Ackie and Reggie's neighbors to the north – there was a small staircase linking the two back yards (at least, there was by the time I was around – Paula).

Stanton Roley (Ackie's brother) is also referred to by the name of Bud.

The U.N. mentioned a couple of times refers to the Allies during WWII. It was adopted January 1, 1942. The current U.N. was not established yet at the time of this diary.

### Notes on the Text: *Written by Sharon*

"Shirley" who is staying with Ackie and Reggie on Dec 7, 1941, is Shirley Beckley, Lois' daughter. She was about 14 years old at the time.

Our grandparents ("Mr. and Mrs. Repman") lived at 323 NW 14<sup>th</sup> Ave (where Faler's lived when Larry was a kid).

"Shorty" is Uncle Jimmy Repman.

Reggie was member of ROTC at Oregon Agricultural College (now OSU).

Butch? Ackie refers to Dad as Butch all the way through this journal. I do not ever remember her calling him Butch during my lifetime. The Repman relatives, Rosentreter, millworkers, old buddies always called him Butch. I wonder if Mom was like the person who adopts a pet and changes its name to symbolize new ownership.

Bonus Content: Check out the note to Reggie on [page with green paper clip. Intriguing.](#)



## Foreword

I uncovered this in the Autumn of 1997. It came as a complete surprise to me.

Arr

1997

When this was written, we were all different people than we now are. 50+ years brings about many changes in people... their personalities and attitudes.

I have no memory of having written this. It's as if someone else is telling it to me.

In 1941-42 we, as a family were still intact except for the loss of our Rock, when Mother died in '39. We were still struggling with that loss; each of us trying in some way to find a replacement. Dad, more bereft than any of us, was no help to us, nor we to him. None of us came thru' that struggle unchanged.

I believe the facts herein are fairly accurate. The personal comments were purely individual. As I then reacted.

I hope no one will be hurt.

Arr.

## The Diary

\_Poor Butch\_

Drooling

Sunday, June 22, '41

Germany declares war on Russia.

Japan has treaties with both. Pearson & Allen predict that Japan will move into Siberia, in collaboration with Germany; that she will establish air bases too near Alaska, & thus shift "danger\_spot" for U.S. to that point.

Russian generals have been in close collaboration with German generals, so Germany knows many vital things about Russian military strength. Also – Stalin has never been close to his generals. Hitler has. Possibly (P. & A. say certainly) this war will be Stalin's end.

Last week state dep't froze Soviet funds in U.S., not so Japan. Why? Churchill proclaims "still against communism", but aid to Russia, as any enemy of Hitler automatically becomes Britain's ally.

**Wrong. Still at it hard, with Snow – Sun. Sept 14** P. & A. predict Russia cleaned up in a month, giving Germany raw materials to prolong war. Also they say this will give Hitler access to Iran & Iraq – oil fields,

lifeline, etc. Then, "all out on Eng." Say they "Everyone sounds satisfied over this invasion, but – it's going to be very bad for the allies.

On the newscasts today –

Vichy – no official reaction, but people evince satisfaction.

Berlin – no official statements beyond Hitler's declaration, & few preliminary brags about Red losses. Also – British losses.

Ankara – Turkey officially neutral, but busy.

**Tokio** – no official statements or reaction to Rus.-German fights.

London – Satisfaction at this step

I, too, was pleased until I heard Pearson & Allen.

Sunday

All planes but 1 get to Eng. One night, 17 bombers got there. New route planned.

Hitler will put up a King in Russia. All cab-driving aristocracy will be back in. He loves to make kings; & tell them what to do.

Nazi – almost took Minsk – but have really passed it. Awfully mixed up – soldiers mixed. Trying to repeat a year ago in France.

Nazis seem to have best of it in air.

2 most important problems

Transportation

Keeping Army intact

American military experts don't give Rus. a chance. Only hope to hold on til Sept. rains.

Knox & J. Roosevelt say we'd better go & work, aid. Britain getting brittle morale.

Predictions

1. Jackson – Atty Gen'l – replaced by Biddle
2. M. Norman in Eng – bank – will resign. Appeaser.
3. Wall Street. Arnold will call Gr. Jury invest. of Wall Street.
4. Del. of supplies to Eng. In two weeks Roosevelt will order 13,000,000 tons shipping to offset sinking.
5. Anti Aircraft guns – Kreisler-Firestone 90 days – a record.

Mon. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> '41

Yesterday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Japanese airmen attacked the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and the Phillipine Islands. The casualties in the H.I.s alone is reported to be close to 3000. Many local boys are in that district. Of course, names of the casualties are not yet out.

The attack came while negotiations were still going on at Wash. D.C. between the U.S. and Kurusu, Japanese envoy.

This morning Pres. Roosevelt asked for, and received a declaration of war against Japan. His speech to Congress was very short, calm and pointed. Both houses applauded him heartily.

Australia, Canada, Britain, Mexico & several S.A. countries (but not Argentina!) have declared war on Japan yesterday or today. Egypt, Belgium, too.

Portland will have its 1<sup>st</sup> total blackout tonight, beginning at 11 p.m. and ending at daybreak. All aliens are ordered to remain in their quarters.

10:30

At 6:15 p.m. about 60 planes approached to within 21 miles of San Francisco, flying at a great height, then flew off into the s.w.

All radios in n.w. except one in Seattle, & one in S.F. went silent at 7:00. The whole n.w. – in fact, whole Pacific coast is to be blacked out at 11:00. Parts earlier.

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup>

The radio was silent until 10:00 a.m. today.

Last night planes approached both the E. & W. coast, but no bombs were dropped. New York and San Francisco both had an air-raid alarm.

All aliens are being rounded up.

No signs or shop windows in the n. w. are to be lighted at all tonight.

Last night Shirley was afraid to go to bed. Reg & I took the radio into our room & kept it going until 3:00. Only one station was on. It was KPO, San Fr. all news came in, & music in between.

Double guards have been put on Bonneville, Grand Coulee, etc.

Very little news on the Pacific Island situation has come through today.

8:00 p.m.

President Roosevelt spoke for about 20 minutes this eve. He was very serious, warning of long hard days ahead & pleading for unity of effort.

Radios off at 7:30 – all except (for us) KPO S.F. Cal.

Butch Repman joined the marines today. He will leave before the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Dec. 11

This morning Congress & the President declared a state of war as existing between the U.S. and Germany and Italy.

Butch Repman left for the marines this morning. He'll go to San Diego this evening.

Yesterday Melba, Butch and I went to Portland. Butch signed up, and his brother tried to. We saw Mr. and Mrs. Hoxie, who were in Portland with Ward, who was joining the Navy.

The news was being given at a corner in the busy part of town. A large crowd listened.

The Interstate bridge was being patrolled by soldiers carrying guns.

Blackout began at 1:30 a.m. and ended at 8 this a.m.

All radio stations go off at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Melba & Butch had breakfast here right after 7 a.m. I cooked it by the light of one small candle. They couldn't see what they were eating.

Friday, Dec. 12. Noon

I just heard that 3 local boys were killed in Honolulu. They are Charles Moe, Tommy Nolan and Milton Knode (Later – Nolan & Knode o.k. Moe – I don't know.)

There is lots of airplane activity around here today. Some kind of patrol or drill, I suppose. There's been no n.w. radio broadcasting since 2:20 yesterday. The radio seems completely dead so far today.

Blackout last night (this a.m. rather) from 1:30 to 7:30. We were reminded that our bathroom light leaked through. By tonight we'll have it fixed. My face was pink!

There's a sort of excitement in the air today. I suppose it is from having no radio, and no news. Silence always seems ominous in times like those.

Joe Ullowetz seems to have acquired a car. For evacuation?

My house has become a sort of “flop house”. Anyone who can’t drive home drops in for a nap.

I think Reg will be called soon, either as an officer, or a selectee.

There is much discussion of the possibility of the rationing of gasoline etc, and the shortage of times etc. I’ve heard no mention of the hoarding of things likely to become scarce.

(Friday 1:55 p.m.)

Yesterday Mayor La Guardia spoke from Portland. Today, Mrs. Roosevelt spoke. They are Chairman & Vice ch. Of the Civilian Defense Program.

The radio came on for Mrs. R. speech and war news at 1:35. By some mistake the Star Spangled Banner was played 3 times, out of a dead silence. It was a little startling.

Unconfirmed reports are coming in that Wake Isld, Guam Midway Islds are taken. Maybe so – maybe not.

Blackout orders same tonight as last night.

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup>

Last night’s blackout was called off. No more unless an emergency. Anyway – I’ve my dog-food can lamp shade fixed up in case.

Ward Hoxie leaves tonight for San Diego with the navy. He told me there will be around 80 Camas boys stationed there in the various branches of service.

Now that we are in the war, propaganda besieges us. Therein lies problems. We’ve been so well educated by the propaganda of Germany, England, Italy and Russia, that I’m afraid we won’t believe anything we’re told, and will suspect all news items.

Last night one Capt. Kelly was the subject of a barrage. He died a hero, we hear; his wife, young, with a 14 mo. baby, shed no tears. “I know he was happy to die so gloriously for his Country.” I’m afraid our intelligence is being underrated. However – I’m for whatever it seems necessary to do. But I hope it is skillfully done.

What of Christmas? I’m afraid we’ve lost the spirit. As Reg points out, it’s hard to think of war and murder, and at the same time prepare a festival in memory of Christ.

Lois says Melba is spending this afternoon crying. She is a very good actor, for she was very jaunty about Butch’s going, as long as he could see her. I thot she felt deeply the risk he is taking.

Melba says Butch will have only 8 weeks of training – then action. Given his choice of land or sea duty – he chose sea duty, which will include duty at island outposts, etc.

I'm worried over France, her fleet and Martinique; also Russia. I can't quite trust her.

It begins to look like the hundreds of soldiers, sailors, marines, flier and civilians on Midway, Wake, Guam, and possibly the **Phillippines** are to be sacrificed to military economy.

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup>

Melba was here this a.m. She seems very unhappy.

The war news today seems a little better. Soviet Russia continues to **route** the Germans. I wonder where Hitler is going to send the troops he is obviously withdrawing from Russia?

Only this morning I became aware that Japan has used deadly gas in their war against China. I read of an attack (made) 'way back in Oct. I've never read anything so horrid. It was written by a Seattle girl who was (and is) over there at the time. It isn't the kind of gas used in the last war; much worse, evidently.

I think we know very little of what's going on.

The army insists that enemy (or at least unidentified) planes were over S.F. Friday night, & flares dropped. We are told that no drill blackouts, raids, alerts, etc. are being, or will be, called. Any alarm is the real thing. What in the world would planes be doing over S.F.? They don't bomb, and they fly very high. They're a long way from home – how did they get here? Seems like a carrier would be seen by the patrol. I don't understand what I hear!

Monday – 15<sup>th</sup>

Sec. of Navy Knox went to Hawaii to investigate that situation, and made his report today. It is very bad! The number of dead and wounded is much worse than was first given out. Fifth Column activities were perfectly organized, and the high-ups were napping. There'll be an investigation. Much is being told of individual courage among our men.

Wake still holds out – unaided. Poor devils!

Today being 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights there was a very impressive program on the radio. Pres. Roosevelt spoke.

The **Phillippines** are said to be doing o.k. Hong Kong & Singapore are both being attacked ferociously. The Dutch are doing quite a lot of sea damage to the Axis.

A 2-man submarine was one weapon used by the Japs in the Hawaiian attacks.

I'm watching the progress of the new military draft bill with interest.

We got a new radio today so we could get more & better news.

Thurs. Dec 18.

No startling new developments in the war recently.

There's been a shake-up in the military set-up in the Hawaiian Islands. Several commanders have been replaced. They were found negligent.

Jean Engles, the aviatrix, was arrested in Washington D.C. today for espionage etc. Heavens! Who would have thought that? And she's had free run of the airplane plants etc. Also, a member of the Isolationist group.

I bought my 1<sup>st</sup> bond this week – a \$37<sup>50</sup> one. I'll get another very soon.

The Soviet seems to have the Germans on the run. I wonder where they're running to?

There are many rumors concerning the Nazis – Hitler is ill, typhus is sweeping the army, the men are fighting among themselves – they're starving, freezing, etc. etc. I treat it all as wishful thinking, but I can't help hoping.

The **Phillipines** holds out - & things are quiet there. In fact, the Pacific is quiet. Is that ominous?

Hong Kong & Singapore are both still in danger.

Today the U.S. took possession of an island in Portugal's group, hoping to head off a move in that direction by the axis.

The Libyan fuss seems to be going smoothly in our favor. May it continue so!

I'm preparing my first pkg. for a service boy – candy & cookies for Butch Repman.

Vichy seems to be climbing on a fence. However – I don't trust them. I wish we had their fleet and Martinique.

Tues. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Hong Kong's garrison still holds out, but it is expected to go anytime.

Japanese forces are reported to be making landings on Wake & Midway Isd. Huge groups of soldiers and equipment are landing on the **Phillipine** Isds, but are paying dearly for their footholds.

Submarines have sunk tankers less than 200 miles off San Francisco. Lots of subs seem to be working in both oceans.

Yesterday W. Churchill landed in the U.S. for conferences with F.D.R. Today there was a press conference, but the main business will be private.

A military speaker on the radio this a.m. says very few people realize the seriousness of the situation in the N.W.

Most of the Camas boys earlier reported lost have sent word that they're o.k. Of course, with fighting still going on – there's no real rest from worry for their folks.

The usual Christmas gayety is absent around Camas. The town is very quiet, and not very busy. The 1<sup>st</sup> bomb on Pearl Harbor damaged Christmas, as well as planes, barracks and human beings.

Planes have been very numerous over Camas today.

Singapore is still in British hands. We hope it stays there.

German forces are in a bad way in Russia & Lybia. Hitler has taken full charge of all his armed forces. There is much speculation as to why, and what next. He will almost certainly try a new offensive somewhere, to regain lost morale in his own country. One thing is certain: German people are hungry, tired, cold and discouraged.

The stories of typhus, dissension, break-down etc. still go on. Rumors are as numerous as planes. Too much wishful thinking, I'm afraid.

Friday (the day after Xmas)

Yesterday Hongkong laid down her arms. Drinking-water ran out.

Today P.M. Winston Churchill addressed the joint session of Congress. I shall save his speech from the paper.

Manila is declared an "open city". Will that mean anything to the Japs? Yesterday a large Jap sub was sunk off the coast of California. The Phillipines are having mighty tough going.

The Free French took possession of some French isds. Off New Foundland. Due to the Monroe Doctrine, and an agreement with Vichy, and a hope of keeping the French Navy in French hands, the U.S. had to protest.

The 1<sup>st</sup> war wounded arrived in the U.S. today, at S.F. They were from Honolulu, and were hospitalized. No information as to names, or numbers, was given out. I had a letter from Geo. Repman today. That 1<sup>st</sup> 6 weeks is plenty tough on young kids just fresh from home.

Bernard Zollo joined the Aviation Corps. & left today.

Stanton announced yesterday that he will quit his job the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, take a quick trip to Nebraska, come back, and join the Navy if it'll take him.

Mrs. Repman told me today that James has joined the Army, and is at Camp Roberts, California.

The Russian successes continue; also the British successes in Africa. The Pacific war is going badly, however. We'll have many scores to even, when our turn comes.

It is announced that there will be no new tires for civilian use for a very long time. Recaps, retreads etc. are available yet.

Well – there'll be many changes before another Christmas rolls around. May they not all be bad!

Friday, Jan. 2, '42

Manila fell yesterday. This doesn't necessarily mean that the Phillipines will fall, but I think we're being prepared to accept the loss of them. W.C. is back at Wash. D.C. again, after having spent several days at Ottawa.

Singapore is still in grave danger. Of course, I know nothing about it all, \*\*\*\*\*

Mon. Dec 29 '41

Sarah's baby boy was born last eve.

Manila has been bombed repeatedly since being declared an open, undefended city. Much indignation throughout U.S. but little surprise. It is believed that the Japs hope to have the P.I. entirely in their hands by New Year's Day. Pres. R. has pledged to "redeem" the Isds. Does that mean they're to be sacrificed now?

We're in a bad way for planes, that's what's losing us this war so far.

! I'm reading (a little late) Shirer's "Berlin Diary". What a fatuous bunch of mugs the Am. & Eng. Diplomats have been! Almost as criminally stupid and gullible as the peoples they represent.

Singapore has not yet been take. Things aren't looking too good over there tho.

Upton Close believes the big A.E.F. will fight this war in Australia.

Reggie will begin soon to take a 'turn' sitting atop Prune Hill to watch for planes.

W. Churchill is at Ottawa. Anthony Eden is at Moscow. W.C. will return here (to W. D.C.) before returning to Eng.

There was a report yesterday that two generals discharged by Hitler had landed in Ireland. That's not confirmed. Everyone is eager to believe anything hinting at discord in high German circles. W.C. warns us not to wait, or plan, on an inside breaking-down, however. He says it'll take some hard blows from the outside.

It is estimated that the U.S. won't be able to take the offensive before 1943. My God — what a long time!

\*\*\*\*\* (error Jan. 2, con. From preceding page)

I keep waiting and hoping for U.S. reinforcements in the Islands and Singapore.

We are warned that the west coast is in danger of being shelled from Submarines. The Hawaiian Isds. Were shelled so yesterday, but with little effect.

Russia goes on winning back her territory. A Russian newspaper published a very critical comment on the U.S. method of conducting the war in the Pacific. The "Open City" idea came in for particularly harsh comment.

No new cars are to be sold before Jan. 15, at which time a rationing system will go into effect, Only defense workers etc. may get new cars.

Even retread rubber is soon to be rationed. I hadn't realized that so much (about 98%) of our rubber was imported – and from places hard to reach now.

An announcement from Wash. Just told that 26 nations had signed an agreement to fight the Axes, and not to make any separate peace with any member of the Axis. Roosevelt signed for us, W. Churchill for England.

Reggie had his picture taken for his identification button at the mill.

Sat. Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

An official announcement from W<sup>n</sup>.D.C. stated that Gen. Wavell had been named Supreme commander of air, land & sea forces in the Far East. His aide is an American Admiral Hart (U.S.) is over the combined fleets, under Wavell, and his aide is a Britisher. The Chinese general is, & will be, in charge of all land forces that are, or will be in China, & nearby districts.

Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> (Tues.)

Yesterday's war news sounded a little more hopeful from our viewpoint. Little **Corrigador** holds out, Gen. McArthur & his men escaped a pincers attempt, & did some work on their own. Reinforcements are beginning to have effect on the Singapore defense. Reports came in of direct hits on Japanese ships & flying boats. Some U.S. fliers, calling themselves the International Air Corps, brought down some Jap fliers near Burma? (I think!)

The Chinese report their most significant victory in 4 ½ years. It took place in or near Chang Cha, & thousands of Japs are reported to have been killed.

No civilians will get cars or tires this year.

Pres. Roosevelt made his report to Congress this a.m. It was broad cast – a fight talk. Mentioned a 56 billion dollar war appropriation he'll ask. I'll save his speech from the newspaper.

Mon. Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>

The question being tossed about but never answered is still "Where is the U.S. Navy?" We wonder – so, too, do Hitler & the Japs.

The reports of grief for Hitler are growing. Cold, disease, hunger and dissention are taking toll from Hitler's strength. One is afraid to believe too much.

The war in the Pacific still goes badly. The P.I. are expecting an all out attempt to invasion momentarily. Singapore is in danger. The richest rubber & tin-producing sections are being invaded in Borneo, & Malaya. Gen'l Wavell is moving to that section. I hope that changes things somewhat.

Russia goes ahead; so the Allies in Africa.

There are many reports of Hitler's placing troops, etc. etc. along his "invasion coast", also along the routes to Spain.

Ireland still holds out against granting air bases to Allied forces.

There is a report that Lindbergh will go to the Whitehouse for a talk with F.D.R at the invitation of same F.D.R. Frankly I'm agin' giving the guy any time or attention. Even in the cause of unity, I doubt its value. Most of the Lindbergh followers are not the type our cause can depend on.

Knox today said that the battle of the Pacific is still secondary to the war of the Atlantic. He warned that no big moves in the Pacific could be hoped for in the near future. If Hitler can be beaten, the whole Axis force will crumble, he believes.

The Chinese & Dutch continue to get in their good licks.

The Pegg's had letters from Gene, finally. They were mailed the 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of Dec. & arrived Saturday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

There are many warnings to coastal towns regarding possible "terror invasions" before this is over. Well – we'll see.

Dad is much depressed over the prospects of Bud's & Warren's entering the service.

Mon. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> '41

During the past week many reports have come (mostly out of Sweden) of friction between Hitler & his generals. Another one (general) has been withdrawn from his duties. Apoplexy killed another. Then – we are warned that Hitler himself is planting these reports, especially for benefit of the Allies. Again, we are warned that if Hitler did lose out to his military, the result wouldn't mean much to us. The military machine also plans to dominate the world. The differences between H. & his military men are only differences of ideas as to when, & just how to accomplish the same end.

The war in Malaya isn't going well. The Australians have come to help, also some of our fliers, but Japs are swarming in by thousands, & the Allies are still moving slowly backward in many places. The P.I. are still holding out valiantly.

The Allies have been told that the main enemy is still Hitler, & the main war, in the Atlantic. China takes issue with this view. China, by the way, is doing o.k.

Burma is endangered, and it becomes obvious that her Sarong-ed shah has been dealing with the Japs. He is now in custody, I think.

Saturday ~~night~~ there was an Air transport (T.W.A.) crash, killing 12 lieutenants in the air corps, as well as the crew, Carole Lombard (Gable), her mother and press-agent. She (C.L.) had been on a Defense-bond selling tour. The plane burned, after crashing into a mountain.

Then, the next day an army bomber crashed at Pendleton, killing 9 army fliers.

Reg wrote in to hdq. asking concerning the possibility of regaining his commission.

Bud was in this a.m. to tell me he is on his way to Bend for a visit with Charlie. After that he'll join the Army, he thinks. We thòt it'd be the navy.

Germany claims a victory in Russia today – the first in a long time.

A very disturbing thòt is being tossed at us these days. It seems that, with the advent of Spring, Germany may be able to regain all she has lost in Russia this winter.

Churchill is once more safely in England.

A Mr. Nelson has been put in charge of all war production, thus streamlining for speed and efficiency (we hope.)

A letter to Dad from Charles says "I wish there was some provision for taking care of married mens' families. I want to get into this. The way I see it, I have just about 5 times as much reason for fighting as a single man."

Reg bought a \$75 bond today. That's \$112 we've bòt so far.

75

37.<sup>50</sup>

112.<sup>50</sup>

Yesterday the Japs took a British-owned [New Guinea](#) island group 800 miles off the coast of Australia. It seems likely they want it for a base for operation on Australia & the Indies.

The Allies crying need is still for planes. Nelson has abolished the O.P.M and thereby eliminated some time-wasting quibbling. No passenger cars for civ. Use are to be made after Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Oh- the slowness of us!

Our men – many of them – have been sent abroad. We don't know just where, except for the H. Isds. But it seems likely that some have gone to Australia.

Reg wrote to inquire about regaining his commission. The answer was to the effect that appointments, except in certain categories, had been discontinued since Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, '41. He was sent a blank to fill in for the purpose of his being considered when app'ts are once more being made.

The aluminum plant, already begun at Troutdale, was sent to Spokane instead. Great indignation in Oregon, but I'm pleased. I think it might as well be built further inland for strategical reasons, & besides (selfishly) I don't want this to become a metal-making community. Too many people, labor troubles, smoking chimneys etc.

Russian winter is even worse than it was. Russia seems to be doing o.k. but the Nazis not so well, if one may believe the news given out.

In the Crimea Germany seems to be attempting to make a stand.

How long the P. Isds. can hold out seems problematical. A new "all out" attempt was launched against them yesterday. Thousands of troops, planes & machines were thrown into the war against Gen M<sup>ac</sup>A's brave men.

I'm curious about B's attitude and motives as regards the service. Time will reveal, I guess.

Mon. Jan. 26 '42

The report on Pearl Harbor has been given to the public. It's a case of petty rivalries etc. between the brass hats in the two services. It is shown that the War Dep't. at Wash. D.C. sent 7 separate warnings to Short and Kimmel, but they never once met to confer, and had no system for defense from air-raids worked out. It's a sorry mess.

Something that annoys me is Fish shouting for court-martial, & Fish congratulating MacArthur on this, his birthday. Fish – who would like to have people forget the investigations started (what became of them? The evidence was very damning!) regarding his tie-up with distribution of Nazi propaganda. He is dragging a red herring, methinks.

Today 7,000 troops from the U.S. landed in Ireland (Not Eire). Just what they're to do isn't known.

There have been some very heartening reports regarding our navy and the Japs. To date there have been somewhere around 30 J. ships reported sunk by our men, as well as many planes brought down, in the Malaya region.

The Japs continue to move in near Australia. Also, Singapore is in grave danger.

MacArthur still holds out, in spite of tremendous Jap reinforcements.

**Róme** is doing too well in Egypt.

The Russians continue their successes, with the severest winter in a decade as a strong ally.

Thurs. Feb. 5, 42.

The war news all seems crucial, to me. Singapore is the object of an all-out attempt at invasion; the Dutch East Indies, also, Java is being bombed, the Br. isds. off Australia are being invaded, and MacArthur is still being bettered. In Russia, with the possible exception of the Crimean sector, the Reds are still slowly but steadily pushing the Nazis back, tho Nazi resistance is stiffening. In Africa, Gen. **Rommel** seems to be shoving the English around some.

Russia is criticizing the U.S. for its pokiness in getting down to business – a justified criticism, I feel sure.

China still does pretty well.

A Washougal boy – 18 yr. old kid – was killed. He only signed up in the navy 5 weeks ago. That makes me wonder about Ward Hoxie, who signed up about that time. He's shipped out somewhere.

U.S. reinforcements are said to be arriving at Singapore, tho in what numbers isn't known.

Congress voted itself pension, and is besieged by "Bundles for Congress". It seems likely they will repeal the pension soon. They aren't happy about the public attitude.

Japanese public were warned by its leader via radio this a.m. to prepare for a 10-20 year war in the Pacific. I hope they're wrong! One year is enough to appall most of us.

I'm afraid Germany is pretty strong yet. I dread Spring.

Sunday Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 42

Singapore fell last night. Its fall has been expected momentarily for days. This weakness at Singapore, which the world has regarded as a strong fortress, is a great shock to the allied peoples. This blow, coupled with the escape this week of a small German fleet from Brest, through the channel, has brought a deluge of criticism onto the Churchill regime.

We're really waking (I hope) to the fact that we're in a serious war, and we're Losing it! Both Eng. & the U.S. seem so damned slow and clumsy. Shake-ups, reorganizations, appointing committees etc. – I'm afraid it isn't winning a war so far.

MacArthur still holds out – but why? Fighting for time? Is time so precious as to be bought with the lives of our men on the P.I.? If so – why are we still being permitted to have strikes, business as usual etc. etc. in the U.S. proper?

Hell! I think a large percent of the people are still reaching to grab rather than give. We are still being told what will begin to happen in 3 or 4 months in the way of converting factories to war production. Why 3 or 4 months? If days are worth lives in the P.I. they are worth sacrifices of a few dollars and comforts here.

Australia is mad, & expecting to be attacked. Batavia is being invaded. We're losing everywhere. Only the Russians – brutal as their enemies – are getting anywhere. I think we'd better get tough – and soon!

The slogan – or epitath – of this war will be "Too Little & Too Late".

Congress fusses over pensions (the hogs), the car manufactures squabble over a months profits, welders & ship builders fight over "over-time", who they'll pay dues to etc. etc.

Oh Nuts! The wrong people are being killed in this war!

Saturday, Feb. 21 '42

The president has authorized the army to clear any district of all Enemy aliens, charging the army with feeding and transporting them.

Raids are still rounding up aliens with countraband.

American fighter planes & Bombers are getting in some good licks off Java.

Tues. Feb. 24 '42

Last night F.D.R. spoke to the nation. While he was speaking, a large submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California. It was a sort of exclamation point to the speech.

Java is being prepped for invasion. Bali is taken. The fighting is going badly for us at Burma, and Gen. Rommel is showing strength again in Lybia. The Japs are using fire-bombs on Gen. MacArthur's positions, and are believed to be getting ready for a new offensive.

Sub damage in the Atlantic is becoming increasingly bad. Our tankers are being sunk all up & down the coast. In fact, nothing looks good tonight but Russia. She's still doing o.k.

The naval battle off Bali is reported to have resulted in our sinking or badly damaging about 30 sea craft, as well as dropping some air-craft. We lost some air-craft, tho.

Java will fight – hoping for **re'inforcements** – but I've no idea she'll get any – or **enuf** to enable her to hold.

Fri. Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> '42

One night this week – Tuesday – planes (still unidentified) caused anti-aircraft guns to go into action in Los Angeles. The whole coast of Southern Cal. was blacked out. No bombs were dropped, & no planes were shot down.

Java seems to be getting reinforcements from the U.S. Planes of all sorts are making themselves felt among the Japs preparing to invade Java.

The fighting isn't going well at Burma. Allied lines are being forced back.

Russia is doing well. Litvinoff is urging the Allies to force Germany to fight on at least one more front this spring. He holds out the hope of "finishing off" Germany if Russia gets proper coöperation this summer.

The pension-for-Congressmen bill was repealed, definitely.

MacArthur not only holds out, but did a little offensive work on the Bataan peninsula yesterday.

Sat. Feb. 28

The news from Java continues good. One invasion attempt was frustrated by allied action. Of course, another will be made soon.

Stanton went for his P. Exam. Today. I'm eager to hear the outcome.

(error) Shorty Repman has been shipped overseas – but no one knows where. He phoned his mother to say "So Long".

Short & Kimmel will be court-martialed "when such action is compatible with the public good".

The bill to eliminate time & a half pay for the duration didn't pass. I wish this labor mess could be straightened out. It seems horrid in view of the fact of military conscription, etc.

English paratroops invaded German-occupied France last night. Their project was entirely successful, we hear. They destroyed a radio station and other objectives, aided by troops landed on the beach, and embarked on craft sent for them, reaching England safely. So the report goes.

Today's reports all were fairly good. I hope it can last. Even H. Kaltenborn seemed a bit optimistic.

Vichy & America?  
French fleet?  
Vichy & Germany?  
India & England?  
Germany & Spain?

Japan & Russia?  
New fronts on Germany?  
Spring's offensives?

Sunday, Mar 8 '42

Java is probably lost to the allied powers. Communication has been cut, but last word was to the effect that Jap conquest of this last stronghold was accomplished.

Burma is in danger of being completely taken, too. Already the feeding railway to the all-important Burma Road has been severed.

MacArthur still holds out, even taking the offensive once in a while.

An attack upon Australia's mainland is expected soon.

Work by the Japs has already begun on India. Even if Eng. grants India her freedom (if she ever gets around to it) it's doubtful if the Indian leaders will be kindly disposed toward the Allies. She has been badly treated at British hands, and most of her leaders hate the British. The Japs have already launched propaganda campaign there. Britain chickens are coming home to roost, and it seems the whole Allied Cause will be in a position to be splattered by their droppings. (original, bigosh)

We can't know where our troops & fleets are being sent. There's a general cry for a Spring offensive on our part. Just whether we're in a position to start a drive seems doubtful. I'm afraid the whole Pacific must remain lost to us until after Hitler is definitely beaten. After that, we'll concentrate on the Japs, I imagine. But oh the waiting, losing of men and ground, is hard, & will grow harder. We'll probably be all split up internally, with people shouting "Out with Roosevelt & In with MacArthur" or someone like that, such as is going on in England regarding W. Churchill & S. Cripps. I'm afraid this business of changing horses in midstream is a sinful waste of time & energy. We aren't good waiters, or good losers, and this is especially true when (as is necessary) we are kept more or less in the dark regarding the aims and activities of our military leaders. Sometimes I think we're too smart for our britches. Everyone has a better idea how things should be done. Everyone has a fear of being "gullible" so he doubts everything handed out by officials, & believes every damn rumor which emanates from Heaven-knows-where.

The labor situation still drifts on in endless bickering losing time & efficiency. Why doesn't the gov't step in – with a pair of spurs? Nelson & Roosevelt have coaxed til they're blue in the face. C.I.O. and A.F. of L, as well as many employers disregard their pleading & warnings, still holding out for their own small, selfish demands. It's a damned shame, with the boys giving their lives, that the home front can't at least settle down & go to work to give them guns planes and ships to fight with. I'm not proud of us. We're a greedy people who have to be forced to do the right thing. But the forcing had better start, & soon!

Russia marches on.

England still has small raiding parties messing up plants in occupied France. Vichy protests, of course.

Tues. March 17<sup>th</sup> '42

MacArthur is in Australia, taking charge of all forces there. There, we are led to believe, will be the next great battle of the Pacific. Just what will happen in the Phillipines, I can't guess. It seems that we just couldn't afford to keep a man of MacArthur's caliber on that small peninsula at this time.

Sunday's news was bad. The Allied forces were defeated in a naval engagement off Java. Our losses were very heavy. Casualties haven't yet been given out – but they'll be dreadful.

Mon. March 23 '42

Today we learn that about 22 Jap planes were ruined, and a small fleet of ships, too, off Australia.

Activity to remove the resistance from the P.I. is expected hourly. Gen. Wainwright will do his best.

The Japs are bombing cities on the coast of Australia.

This morning's news commentator stated that Japan is massing land troops for an attack on Siberia. It is beginning to look as if Japan will concentrate her land forces there, and her air and sea fleet at Australia this spring.

Germany is throwing in heavy reinforcements to try to turn the tide in Russia. So far – no luck.

The worst thing in the daily news is the sinking of ships in the Atlantic. It's awful! About 68 since the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, I think. 3, just over Sunday.

Tues. Mar. 31, '42

Today Stanton left for Tacoma, and went from there to Monterey, California. He wired from Tacoma.

Ward Hoxsie was home last week. He has already been to Australia on a cargo transport. He's very much the young sailor home on his first leave.

The general war news seems fairly good. India has been offered dominion status, and has not yet answered. Much anxiety over her decision.

This week the air wardens are to distribute rules for raid protection.

Sunday we heard a discussion group, with Dr. Change, John B. Hughes, a Dutchman and an Englishman. Hughes and (I think) the Britisher honestly believe the U.S. will be attacked by the Japs within the next 6 weeks!

R.A.F. raids have raided the big munition works in Germany and Occupied France.

A commando group also attacked the huge locks at Nazaire, with telling results. They report that the locks are ruined. It was the base for large submarines. Also, it was the only berth safe and suitable for the huge battleship "Scharnhorst" and "Tirpitz".

I think the service men are to be given \$42 a mo. Instead of \$21.

We continue to lose too many ships in the Atlantic.

Japs are being sent to camps. In Portland the Alien curfew went into effect Friday.

Sat. Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>

Most of today's news isn't favorable. Another bomber fell in a training flight from Utah to Idaho, killing at least 6 men.

The Allies are getting the worst of the fight around Burma.

The loss of 4 more ships in the Atlantic was officially announced today. Also the loss of the Pecos & **Langlie**, off Java, was announced. It happened some time ago. Hal Wolfe, a New York lad who was a member of the **Langlie**'s crew, later put aboard the Pecos, & rescued from it, too, told of the incident. The Japs really do machine-gun floating survivors, & set fire to oil slicks in order to burn them. I s'pose it's just a part of war.

Russia still keeps the offensive, but is meeting with stiffer resistance.

England & India are still dickering. India demands complete freedom Now. She'll get it I think.

Bulgaria is expected to line up with the axis at any moment.

R.A.F. continue to bomb Germany & occupied France. Germany bombs England's coast.

Free French have set up a hdq. of some sort in Africa. We seem to be dealing with them. I hope it's all on the level.

More r.r. trestles in California were burned today.

I think last night's news reporter said somewhere around 700 U.S. men were killed in the sinking of the **Langlie** & Pecos.

I wish we'd hear from Stanton.

H. Kaltenborn says 12 ships were sunk in the Atlantic this week.

Thurs. Apr. 9, '42

Bataan fell today. The brave little army, short on rations and shorter on rest, with no hopes of help from the mainland, finally was forced to give up. What becomes of the survivors is still problem. Corregidor still holds out, but it can't last long, now.

I can't realize that this had to be.

Today I had a card from Stanton. He is at Mathew Field, near Sacramento, & is in the Air Corps, much to everyone's surprise. He's very pleased with the situation.

Sunday – Apr. 12 '42

3500 Americans & Filipinos have been moved to Corregidor. Just how long C. can hold out I don't know. But I figure they, too, must be darn low in food. The poor devils on Bataan hadn't had eggs, fruit or vegetables for months & had been eating their mules. No wonder the malaria & fatigue. Then – wholesale slaughter.

India has refused England's offer. No hard feelings -- & we won't hinder Allied efforts to defend us!

Russia feels optimistic with April being ½ done – no great Nazi offensive anywhere.

Both Kaltenborn & Close found things to be grateful for today. Me – I find it hard. Things look very Eeyorish to me since Bataan. The Burma situation is certainly no Hurrah, either. Or the Indian Ocean set-up.

Bulgaria shows traces of kicking over the Nazi pot. If she flatly refuses further aid, Turkey will too, I guess.

Today was the day all Norwegian Clergymen were to be imprisoned for their wholesale resignation in protest at the imprisonment of their head bishop. I doubt if Quisling dares to do it. Too much rebellion already, and the Norwegian is deeply religious.

Sunday, Apr. 19 '42

Night before last Tokyo reported that American planes bombed the capital city. There's something funny there. No report or confirmation of any such activity has come from any Allied Nation. All reports come from **Tokio** & Berlin. Several things keep me wondering. The **Tokio** radio never went off the air while the raid was supposed to be going on. Again, the news was immediately broadcast from **Tokio** in English & Chinese. Why? I've a feeling there's more to this than meets the eye.

A Camas boy, Bob Tracy, was killed when a training-plane crashed, early this week.

Joe Ulowetz has already received his classification in the last draft. He is in class 3. Just what that means, I don't know.

The Burma situation looks hopeless. The Allies are already destroying the rich **oilwells**, as the Japs take over.

Gen. MacArthur has been mad Commander in Chief of the Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific, and has been ordered to prepare an offensive.

Last week American bombers flew from 'way over at Australia to put bombs on the **Phillipines**. Also, they took some passengers back with them. Now – this week, (maybe,) it was **Tokio**. From where? No one pretends to know – but the guess is – carriers.

Upton Close thinks the raid was genuine. He's feeling pretty high. He thinks the Aleutian islands are soon going to be very important.

I guess we may expect retaliation in attacks from Japan.

Mon. Apr. 27 '42

Letmesee – American troops have occupied the French island of New Caledonia. Laval (but of course!) protests. This occupation is probably only a forerunner of following moves, since Laval's appointment leaves no room to hope for help or neutrality from France.

Hitler made a long speech on Saturday. He didn't say much that was new, but betrayed his worry regarding the home front. The overwhelming disasters wrought by the RAF bombing, the most

continuous and gigantic in history, is having its effect on Germany. There are signs that Hitler isn't entirely satisfied with Goering and his air-force.

We continue to lose too many ships in the Atlantic.

"Butch" phoned from San Diego yesterday, and caught Melba here. Pure luck.

No sugar will be sold after midnight tonight, until rationing is in effect, about a week hence.

M<sup>c</sup>Arthur's men are doing some air-work on the Jap held isds. off Australia.

Burma (& the Burma Road) is in a bad way. I guess the Japs are going to get the road, oil wells etc. Poor China, & poor Allied Cause.

Corregidor still holds out. Also, small groups on several of the islands.

Russia still hammers & shoves the Germans slowly backward. The past week saw huge air reinforcements bröt in for the Nazis, but they still lose, we hear.

Russia is getting awfully eager for an invasion by G.B. & U.S., into Germany. Give us time, Stalin!

The mystery of "from where, and whence?" still holds. Russia says she interned a 4-motor bomber's crew, when it made a forced landing after the **Tokio** party. 4-motor bombers don't travel on carriers.

The general outlook seems a little brighter this week.

Thurs. Apr. 30

Burma seems a lost cause. There's still fighting, but no hope.

Hitler & Mussolini are to have a meeting this week, we hear. Some new move or just more starvation for the Italians. It seems Mussolini is definitely on his way out. Even King Victor Emanuel can hold meetings and count him out.

RAF raids still hammer hell out of German plants in occupied France & Germany.

Russia still wins on her fronts.

Pres. F.D.R. mad a Fireside speech Tues. eve. It dealt largely with his plans and hopes for avoiding undue inflation. I hope he gets cooperation.

There seems a dangerous movement in England. Certain groups are demanding an invasion immediately or else – changes in gov't. hi places. When any part of the public sets itself up as authority on military tactics, and brings pressure to bear, I'm afraid no good can come of it.

Stanton's letter today told of his first leave. He can't see any gal but the girl in Nebraska. He also tells me that James Stewart is at Mather Field, where he is.

Tonight's paper says there seems little likelihood that the west coast will have to be rationed on gasoline. I hope the same is true of fuel oil.

Sat. May 9<sup>th</sup>

Corregidor fell last week-end. Several thousand prisoners were taken. Food, ammunition and medical supplies ran out, and the Japs launched a continuous attack. So – Corregidor, with the other Forts (Drum & ?) finally surrendered. Casualty lists haven't come out, but we are warned of very heavy losses.

This week seems to have been an important one for the Allied cause. We are just now getting news of a gigantic naval battle in the Coral Sea. The way we hear it, we came out on the big end. We are told that our own losses were light, while those of the Jap fleet were very heavy. About 17 ships are said to have been ruined by our navy. **Tokio** & Berlin both claim that the Japs won. MacArthur says the victory was ours. It was an invasion fleet, presumably on its way to Australia, or to cut off our lifelines in the Far East.

The Burma news has been bad all week, until today. Some Chinese troops got in some good licks today! But Japan really is entering both Free China & India.

Russia still claims to be winning, with impressive numbers of dead to her (verbal) credit.

RAF raids with some American fliers too continue on Occupied France & in Germany & Holland, always centering on war industries. The raids are large-scale operations and do great damage. Of course, their losses are high, too.

This week we began actual use of sugar-rationing books. I registered, but haven't yet bought this week's sugar. ½ lb. per person per week to begin with.

Gasoline rationing will begin on the east coast this week, I believe, allowing not more than 3 gallons per week to civilian users.

Ray Borigo, who left a week after Stanton did, has already been shipped to parts unknown.

India's Congress has decided on a policy of passive resistance to the Jap invasion. Fine thing!

There was (or is) a strike in one of the Bethlehem Steel works. I'd thòt that nonsense was finished for the duration. 'Sa Damn Shame.

France continues to have trouble. Sabotage attacks on Nazi soldiers go on in spite of wholesale murder of Frenchmen for every German killed.

MacArthur has never ceased to bomb all the nearby invasion bases off Australia. We are told that many Jap planes were destroyed on the ground! Air support seems to have been lacking to support the Jap ships involved in the big Coral Sea battle. We're all eager to hear the real **faits** of this battle, and more of its meaning in the general scheme.

Mon. May 25, '42

The early part of the week, a wave of optimism swept the U.S. The later part of the week destroyed it.

Russia is finding tough going on that peninsula leading to the oil lands. In fact, I guess that section is in the hands of the Nazis. The fighting is severe around **Karkov** & fighting is increasing around Moscow. We are told that Hitler plans to take Moscow soon.

Burma is lost, Chinese troops cut off from Allied help. Stillwell & his men are now in India. Indications point to a probably successful effort on the part of the Japs to finish off China soon, thus freeing soldiers for other attacks – probably on Siberia, since Hitler needs another front in Russia.

We are repeatedly told that our rubber, gasoline & general transportation problem is a very serious one – one which may lose us the war unless a solution is found. Reg & I argue too heatedly as to the actual seriousness of this situation. I feel that it is impossible to over emphasize the seriousness; he disagrees and sees politics, mismanagement, ulterior motives, propaganda etc. in the warnings we hear in this matter.

The bill adding women's auxiliary to the Army & Navy is finally passed, and officers' training schools opened.

Sometimes I think ignorance is a good thing. For example – I, as many others – want to have faith in our leaders, and to follow and believe their advice & information. But golly! Every columnist is in a position to get the "inside" dope on some man, group, situation etc.; the dope discloses pettiness, personal spite & greed, politics, hypocrisy – in short, feet of clay. It makes me doubt everything, & wonder just how much we sacrifice is being used properly; just how big & many "suckers" we are. I wish I didn't have to doubt. This uncertainty doesn't add a thing to the efficiency and unity of our war-effort, that I know.

Mexico is expected to declare war on the Axis this week, following the sinking of two of her ships by Nazi subs.

Today the pres. of Argentina (I think) received birthday congrats from Roosevelt & Hitler. Also, and Argentina freighter was sunk by a Nazi sub.

Everyone is now predicting a very long war. Boys 18 to 20 will soon be eligible for military draft.

Gen'l Doolittle was cited by the President for his successful bombing-raid on **Tokio** some time ago. It now develops that nearly all the fliers taking part in that raid were Westerners, recently stationed at Pendleton. Much amusement over Axis broadcasts repeating as serious F.D.R.'s statement that the bombers were based at Shangri-la. Evidently Hitler & Hiro Hito haven't read "Lost Horizons".

June 7, '42

Things have happened!

Wednesday of this week there was a Japanese air-raid on Dutch Harbor, military base in the Aleutians. We are told that there were two trips; the first contained 19 bombers & fighters, the second was smaller, & dropped no bombs. We hear that the raid was not unexpected, damages and casualties light.

Then, on Friday, an attack was begun on Midway Island. This attack, we read, has turned into a decisive Allied Victory. All our activity so far was in the air. We sank at least two carriers, with all planes on board, & damaged badly other carriers, cruisers, transports, etc. This activity is continuing, with the crippled Jap fleet in full retreat, we are told. The battle is hailed as a major victory for us.

The R.A.F. has staged the biggest air-offensive in history, which still continues. The invasion coasts, industrial centers etc. are the targets. The British have averaged 1000 planes every 24 hours, that have

roamed over Germany, occupied France, & even the Lowland countries. German resistance has been astonishingly weak, I don't understand it.

The Lybian battle seems to be going in favor of the Allies at present, thò no decisive action has taken place. It's hot as Hell down there now.

Russia & Germany are still locked in fierce battles all along the Eastern front. We understand the Reds have the edge.

China's news is not so good. In fact, it is very bad. The routes by which the Allies had been sending help have been shut off, & unless some very definite amount of help goes to China soon, the Japs may have them out of the war, thus clearing the way for an invasion of Siberia, rendering useless any bases we may have used for attacks on Japan. China needs planes – needs them badly & very soon.

M<sup>c</sup>Arthur's planes continue to batter invasion bases off Australia.

Melba contacted Butch, thank Heaven. He hasn't yet gone, nor she returned.

Stanton sent me his picture in uniform. Oh --- so stern!

Today, on the 6-month anniversary of Pearl Harbor, 125 men took mass oath of allegiance to the U.S.N. at Portland. I think Aaron Dunn was one of them.

The rumor that Germany will invade Sweden still persists.

Today's darkest spot is China.

Mon. June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Exactly 1 year ago I wrote my first entry in this book. On looking back, I realize how wrong was the general impression of Russia's chances in this war. It was a year ago that Germany went to work to lick Russia. Today they're still at it, and althò it may be that Germany will take Sevastopol at huge costs, their Russian campaign would still seem far from over.

About Saturday, Britain acknowledged the loss of Tobruk, with many casualties and prisoners among British forces. This is a tremendous blow to the Allied cause.

A serious attitude is developing toward the occupation of our outlying "Rocks" in the Aleutians by the Japs.

Saturday Vancouver Island was shelled (probably by a submarine); and last night, at about 11:30, a spot near Astoria, Ore., was shelled. I'm curious to know about that particular shelling. I can't help wondering if there's any tie-up between the fuss over Stimson's "ruining morale in the West" by his statement regarding lessening of danger to coast, Gov't-urging motorists to save tires, gas, cars, stay off road etc. etc. and a beach being shelled, where no damage was or could be done.

Right now – nothing looks very good.

Subs still take large Allied tolls.

China is failing fast.

India continues to cause trouble.

Russia is hard-pressed

African brawl goes against us.

Japs in the Aleutians.

People distrust Congress in U.S.

Great criticism of Churchill in England. (He, by the way, is in U.S. talking about the "2<sup>nd</sup> front"?)

Summer may have arrived today. At least, the sun did.

Vance seems to have joined the Coast Guards – both he & his boat, in fact.

Wed. July 15, '42

This is an awful lapse. And much has happened too. I find in myself a deplorable tendency to not write, read, listen to or discuss the news when it's bad. And nearly all of it is bad, these days.

Russian Front: the Reds are very hard pressed by a 6-prong offensive by the Nazis. Huge German reinforcements, etc. The **Caucasas**, with their vital oil supply, is about to fall to Germany, thus cutting Russia's vital supply for her war machine, and giving Hitler the oil he needs.

Russia is crying for help, mostly in the form of a "2<sup>nd</sup> front", but it seems we aren't prepared yet. The general public of both Britain & U.S. is clamoring for an Allied Offensive, and must disgust & impatience is being expressed. My personal conviction is that we must be thoroughly prepared before any offensive on the European continent is begun, or such action will result in wholesale slaughter of our men, and loss of vital war equipment. I prefer to believe the "big-shots" know what they're doing.

**Lybia**: Very bad. The British (reinforced by Australians & Americans) are being pushed backward toward Alexandria, their last stand, and once lost, a vital port to aid the Axis in getting supplies. All in all, a terrible crisis seems to have come there, & things look very black for us.

China: Awful! Those poor devils are being slaughtered, starved, & what-not, but they fight on. Of course, they're crying for help, & they need, deserve, & have been promised our aid, but it seems we must do the European chores first.

The Aleutians: Two or 3 far-flung islands are actually occupied by Japs. Just what is being done up there seems a little vague in the news.

Last night the official communique (Naval) on the Midway action of June 4, 5, 6<sup>th</sup>, was issued. Seems as tho we actually raised hell with quite a sizeable invasion fleet, thus saving Midway, and possibly the Hawaiian Isds, as well. (About 250 officers & men of ours were lost)

In Australia, we keep bombing the Japanese invasion bases, & they keep bombing our coastal forts, etc.

Butch R. has evidently been shipped out. Melba has had no word for at least 2 weeks. Before that, daily letters.

Reg got a letter from the War Dept. re his commission. "Too old for recommission in your rank". Hard on his ego.

San Diego has become the woikin'-goil's Mecca. Every single girl in town tries to get there on her week-vacation-with-pay. Of course, practically everyone has friends or relatives stationed there.

I signed for our canning sugar yesterday - & got 32 lbs. The maximum for 2. 'S funny Oregonians get more. Seems it would be uniform.

Guess Sue is on her way to Sacramento to take Bud's car down to him. I hate to see Dad lose it. Also, I'm afraid Bud is leaning a little heavily on the fun side of his job these days. Guess the v boys have it coming to them thò.

Our ships continue to be sunk in the Atlantic, **Caribbean**, etc. Of course we're being "sold out" by people inside who give information on sailings, etc.

8 Nazi saboteurs are now on trial, & are involving many others. The 8 came in on a Nazi sub, with plans & equipment to raise hell. They had accomplices already here, of course. It's a wonder a great deal more harm isn't done, in the way of explosions etc. J.E. Hoover deserves a great deal of credit on this score.

I'm afraid the general public is becoming very distrustful and a bit contemptuous of Congress. They do seem a greedy, short-sighted lot! It's a bad time for distrust, thò.

The rubber situation continues grave. Much scandal over log-rolling, profiteering, string-pulling & general mismanagement in getting started on synthetic rubber. Also, more smell on the Standard-Oil-German tie-up on that score. We've been sold short plenty of times, even in '38, & later. That looks like treason.

More marriages, more babies than ever in history of U.S. What's that thing about "Breed & Die"?

Aug. 10 '42

Word is coming in of big naval battles being fought in Solomon Islands, off Australia, and up north in and around the Aleutians. Both places, now occupied by Japs, must be cleared if our supply-lines are to be kept open. Nothing definite yet, as to who's winning, casualties, etc.

The Germans have gotten thru to some of the oil, grain sections of the **Caucases**. That's very bad, and is causing heightened interest in this much-discussed "2<sup>nd</sup> Front", if, & when.

Kaiser, shipbuilder, has talked the big-shots into trying big air-transports "The Mars" for carrying men & supplies to the various fronts. It should eliminate some of the damage and waste caused by enemy subs.

6 saboteurs (Nazis) were electrocuted last week. 2 others were given 30 years & left, resp. for helping the gov't make its case. We don't often kill in large number, and so fast.

I wish I could be sure that everything that can be done, is being done to win this horrible war. We read & hear so much of politics, stalling, grabbing & business-as-usual, that it's pretty hard to have confidence.

Melba got word that Butch has safely reached his overseas destination, wherever that is. We wonder if he's taking part in the Solomon Is brawl.

Aug 19, '42

Last night a sustained raid was made on the coast of France – at Deippe. It was quite a large-scale operation, the first where U.S. men (Rangers) Canadians, English and Fighting French worked together. Everything went according to schedule, we are told. Planes were lost on both sides, of course. Land equipment such as tanks were used. Planes protected the landings, operations and withdrawals. The thing lasted 9 hours. Much is being made of this “first”. Hope is expressed that it may be an immediate forerunner of the badly-needed 2<sup>nd</sup> front.

Russia is in a bad way, with some oil-fields already taken (thò the installations were first destroyed) Stalingrad threatened seriously, and huge reinforcements being sent in by the Nazis. Oh Lord – if Stalin can only hold off a while longer, till winter hits the country. But things are very bad!

A shake up in Britain's desert command is taking place. **Auckincheck** (or whatever) is being replaced by a Sir Something-or-other Alexander, I believe. Several other brass-hats are being replaced, too. It seems that W. Churchill paid a visit there on his way to or from Moscow, (where he saw Stalin) and little liked what he saw.

Kaltenborn returned from a 5 day visit in England, & says that there he saw a nation intent on winning a war. On returning here, he was a nation intent on winning an election. It seems the big-shots want to take time out to bla-blah a bit, & assure their re-elections. Important action & decisions can wait. Even F.D.R. is doing some fooling around with N.Y. elections, also Texas (is that where “Please Pass the Biscuits Pappy” is from?). Nuts!

If Ham Fish gets back in, I give up. The people “is”, indeed, an ass.

In the Solomon Islands we are in control, I guess, with bases established. Now we must keep the supply-line open, or we have an Allied Dunkirk.

No news of casualties yet. No letter from Butch yet.

Stanton will probably go to Nebraska on his furlough, and marry Marjorie. So he tells me. Well?

We're still hittin' 'em where we find 'em in the Aleutians.

Damn it all – the men in the service do all they can, while the big-shots brawl, stall, squabble, dicker & grab at home. Also, at this date, there are still strikes in defense industries. Right now the Reynolds Metal Co. is having a jurisdictional squabble. Result – needed plane parts are lacking.

Quite a large contingent of flying fortresses, with escorts, bombed Abbeville, Fr. last night. All returned safely.

I think Reg will be “in” by Autumn. Also, I think Warren plans on joining the Infantry before this month is over. Coast Guard refused him because of his forefinger. Picky.

Aug. 24, '42

Brazil declared war on Germany and Italy the latter part of the week. I think a total of 19 Brazilian ships had been sunk by the Axis subs. Uruguay and Chile may follow suit, that would leave only Argentina. And Argentina is said to be almost run by Nazis – big concerns in Argentina are owned by Germans, etc. etc.

Russia is in a bad way. I'm afraid both winter & the 2<sup>nd</sup> Front are going to come too late to help her – & us. Right now, bombing parties in Germany meet almost no resistance. Every man, machine etc. Hitler can draw is over fighting Russia. Poor Russia – & poor us, when she's licked.

In the Pacific, the picture is brighter. We hear that the Solomons was just a starting place for regaining all our islands and Allied possessions. Last week a party of Marines took an Island in the Gilbert Is. – Macon, I think. Jimmy Roosevelt, president's son, was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command.

Nimitz issued a communique stating that on one Marine-held island, a landing-party of japs invaded. There were 700 of them. 670 were killed. 30 were taken prisoner. 35 (I think) of ours were killed. 80 (?) wounded. That sounds pretty communique-ish.

So far, no word of Butch. Melba read that many tiny unoccupied islands had been taken over by the Marines, too. She is hoping Butch landed on one of those dots – where there was no one – not even a "dusky maid".

Fred Rosentreter goes into the Coast Guard this week, I think.

Wed. Aug. 26 '42

The Duke of Kent, youngest brother of the King of England, was killed in a 'plane crash yesterday. He was on his way to Iceland. Everyone in the plane was killed.

A battle of huge proportions is probably going on on & near the Solomons. The Japs are trying to take back the islands taken from them by the Marines. It is a major sea-battle, & much depends on it.

English reporters send word that it is going in our favor. I hope that's right. So far, we have had no official news to that effect.

China seems to be doing much better lately. There is a "mysterious" withdrawal of Jap troops in parts of China. Probably they are either (1) going to help out in the Solomons, or (2) preparing to strike somewhere else now that so much of our Pacific strength seems to be occupied down there.

Stalingrad is in a state of siege, with street-fighting going on. Poor Russia! Seems like they deserve more help than they're getting! However, we hear that Churchill's visit with Stalin last week was all sweetness & light, & ended in plans agreeable to all concerned. Unless he promised an immediate 2<sup>nd</sup> front, I doubt that. I think plans are being made to handle Hitler after he goes thru the **Caucasas** – but heck! He'll have all the oil, etc. & can prevent Stalin from oiling much of a war-machine, I'm afraid.

We aren't hearing much of India the last few days. That's a pretty bad mess, with **Ghandi** in jail, & his followers raising Hell. It looks like an awful lot of countries are going to pay for Britain's neglect (for generations past) to educate the Indians & prepare them for self-rule.

Sunday, Sept. 13 '42

The past week saw the British take Madagascar with little trouble. I wish they'd take Dakar, too, right now. Also, seems to me (an ignorant bystander) that we should grab Martinique. But the big-shots should know their business.

Speaking of big-shots – F.D.R. made a speech telling the people we need farm-price ceilings, labor legislation to keep men on their jobs, and wages at a level. He went on to point out that he had asked (repeatedly) Congress for such legislation, but with no results. So, says F.D.R., they must act by Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> or “I will”. Tsk! Tsk! Such an outburst from Congress! Just when they were all set to stall diplomatically until after election, too.

In the Solomons, the Japs still do battle. They're attempting to reach Port Moresby by an overland route, too. On the Islands held by the U.N. forces, the Japs manage to sneak in once in a while to raise a bit of Hell.

Stalingrad still stands, but I guess it's a matter of time. Hitler reported a week ago that it would fall inside 48 hours. If winter could only come to Russia a month early!

U.N. fliers still batter Occupied France, & Germany, with little air-resistance.

China is doing nicely, thanks to the fact that Japan is withdrawing her strength from that area to send it somewhere else, probably to the Siberian border, for an attack there.

India is still boiling.

So are many of our columnists.

Not much is happening in the desert scrap. Rommel's offensive there met with disaster.

No word from Butch.

Many industries are having their labor “frozen” in their jobs, to cut down loss of hours & efficiency by men running from one job to another.

Gas-rationing is very near

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> '42

Warren was just in to tell us of the arrival of his order to report for his physical exam. He took his local, and passed o.k. He's very jubilant over everything, full of plans for a last hunting-trip in Oregon, storing of his boat & car, etc. etc. Well – I'm glad he's so happy over it. I feel pretty boggy. It all seems so - - - well – what's the sense?

Increased activity, heavy fighting in Solomons. Japs trying to regain islands held by our leathernecks. Hold that line!

Russian lines on the west of Stalingrad gave a little.

Navy announced loss of “Yorktown” air-plane carrier Jun 7, in Midway scrap. Also U.S.S. Hammond.

Tokio broadcast told Jap people that Asia theatre of war was about to enter a new phase. India or Siberia? Or what?

A bomb (incendiary, I guess) was dropped by (probably) a sub-carried air-plane of Jap origin, on the Oregon coast Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. It (the plane) passed several populated and industrial areas to park the bomb in a forest area. The fire was immediately put out. First, their shelling an unoccupied beach, & now their bombing a forest (1 bomb, with high-humidity weather) stumps me.

We're really in a tough situation where rubber is concerned. Drastic steps must be taken, & soon. The Baruch committee report makes that clear. It'd be awful to be licked by our own carelessness, greed and politics. So far, the rubber situation has been aggravated by just that.

I've been seriously considering what's best to do when Reg goes. It's hard to know.

Sun. Sept. 20, 42

Street-fighting in Stalingrad.

Hitler announces that he has destroyed a huge Allied convoy on its way to Russia.

Another large contingent of American troops has landed in England, after a safe and uneventful crossing.

Madagascar is practically in the hands of the British.

Vichy has made prisoner a Roman Catholic Cardinal, for his protests at mistreatment of Jews in France. Laval has ordered his people to work for Hitler, wherever they may be needed.

Quisling is having his troubles in Norway. His people refuse to cooperate, Hitler is indignant at his (Q's) helplessness.

Renewed battling in the Solomons. A fleet (Jap) was met approaching the Guadalcanal region, & sent off, but is expected to return!

The Dieppe raid, we now hear, took about 27,000 Canadian lives as its toll.

Congress is giving F.D.R. the powers he demanded, with which to fight inflation.

Manpower shortages are showing up everywhere, and especially in the less remunerative industries.

This week sees the beginning of an intensive scrap-metal drive.

We haven't heard from Bud for quite a while, but I imagine he's just busy.

A letter came from Butch, but was an old one, dated while he was still at sea, so we still know nothing of his well-being or whereabouts.

Frances Hoxsie's husband got a short "reprieve" from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, by which time he hopes to be a Papa. Frances & the baby will live with the Hoxsies.

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 42

The Repmans had a letter from Butch on Monday. It was very brief. Dated Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>. He said "If you've been reading the papers, you know where I am." So – he's in the Solomons, as we feared.

No word from Bud for too long. I'm afraid he has been moved out of the country. He's never waited so long to write before. Hope I'm wrong.

The Gigers had a note (one piece of a paper bag) from Don the same day Repman's note came – so he's probably down there, too. Also, the Arvidson who is in Butch's outfit.

Golly – Kaiser is bringing a bunch of Easterners out to work in his yards. Thousands of them. I hope they all plan on returning after the war is over.

Roberta (Stayton) Gillis' husband will leave Friday for a Marine officer's training school.

I hate the uncertainty about whether or when Reg will go. Every day seems doubly precious now – and I hate to waste my time with him. I mean – I want to spend as much as possible time with him. But, on the other hand, there is so much work needing done. There is great need of teachers, clerks, mill-workers etc. etc. I feel guilty not taking a job. I don't know what to do! Reg doesn't want me to go to work – & I don't want to – but I know darned well I should.

I do wish I'd hear from Bud. Hoxsie's haven't heard from Ward in a very long time. Everyone has someone to worry over, and the war isn't well started yet.

Stalingrad is still holding out. There is some talk of a "changing tide" there. I hope there's something to it.

The British are meeting some resistance as they approach the capital of Madagascar.

The Navy is expecting a renewed Jap drive to attempt to take back the Solomons. Be careful, Butch et al.

Sun Oct. 4 '42

Melba had a letter from "Butch" this week – dated & postmarked "Sept. 8". He's on Tanambogo Is. on the Solomons. Beyond that, little information. He didn't say "I'm well", or "safe" or "o.k." I hope that isn't significant.

This morning's paper tells us that the anti-inflation bill has been passed and signed, that Byrne, of the Supreme Court, is anti-inflation Czar, & that all wages and prices are frozen for an "emergency period" of 60 days, during which time various factors can be investigated & adjustments planned.

Also we learn that the U.S. has landed and made bases on an Aleutian Is. near the Jap-held Kiska.

Stalingrad hasn't yet surrendered, tho it's in ruins.

We had a get-together at Bend last week, Bud & Warren getting together for perhaps the last time for the duration. Everyone was there except Vance, who had a Coast-guard patrol to make.

The Descamps had a letter from Mike, in a Japanese prison-camp, this week.

Reg got a thing from the War Manpower Commission regarding his Elec. Engineering. He feels they've made a mistake, since he's had so little experience in that field since earning his degree.

John Ulowetz is visiting next door. He is being drafted, in spite of the fact that he ran a huge wheat ranch, which will now lie idle & non-productive for the duration. That's not so good, I'm afraid.

The paper-mill workers are now frozen in their jobs. Harold works at his regular office-job & works from 6-12 4 nights a week in the mill. Reg works straight 8-hours, 7 days.

Jack Christopher will leave this week, as will Don Carey, I believe.

Mrs. Russell (Sr.) is now an Airplane Spotter. Men are scarce & overworked, so women are joining the force.

Churchill announced that ½ of those participating in the Diepee raid, did not return.

Hitler made his customary party-speech last week – initiating the Nazi Winter-Relief Campaign. It is said to be his weakest speech to date.

The slaughter on the Russian front is stupendous.

Many Americans in France have been taken Nazi prisoners. Among them was Charles Bedeau, efficiency expert. He was French-born, American by naturalization.

35 mile-limits have been made law in most states, at Pres. R's request. The rubber situation is very serious. Also, the metal situation begins to be acute – hence a huge "scrap" drive.

Roosevelt visited defense industries in the west this week. Many local people saw him at shipyards, aluminum plants, etc.

Many strange-looking people are arriving in Camas, also license plates from every state. Thurs. I saw a lad in well-worn hi-heeled boots & sombrero, with a grimy-looking individual in a coon-skin cap (tail & all) sauntering up the street with the workers coming-off-shift. Every 2<sup>nd</sup> woman on the street is hugely pregnant, & most of them are shabby & untidy. I think every pregnant woman in the U.S. has come to Camas for the duration.

Sun. Oct. 11, '42

A Berlin broadcast announced this week that it was no longer necessary to take Stalingrad. Everyone is wondering what Hitler has in mind for winter activities, since Russian winter makes that theatre of war more or less inactive during the next few months.

The Solomon Is. continues to be scene of action. So far, small landing-parties have come in on some islands at night, thò no large numbers. Our bombers are still busy on Jap bases on New Guinea.

Wed. Oct. 14 '42

Warren was inducted yesterday. It seems strange to have him gone. His clothes still hang in his room, his hunting-shoes are on the back porch. His guns still set where he left them. His car is here too – but he's gone. The Army – "You can't take it with you".

Pres. F.D.R. led the way, the Army followed suit, & I daresay 18 yr. olds will be drafted soon. It's sickening! If they could only be assured of a 2-year military training course before being sent into action, it wouldn't be so bad. But, it seems to me, it's pretty tough on the average 18 year old Hi school kid, to put him thru a short training period, and have him fighting by the time he's 19. Hell – they're just babies at that age, often!

Heavy battling seems to be taking place again in the Solomons. China says a large sea force is on its way there from Japan, too.

A tanker was sunk off the coast of Oregon within the last week.

German armies seem to be "digging in" on the Russian fronts. Winter has come, already, a month early.

It doesn't seem possible that the human race can endure thru this horrible thing.

Wilkie is back in the U.S. Why didn't the Chinks keep him?

Sun. Oct. 18 '42.

This has been a bad week. Russia is taking a beating, and will probably lose Stalingrad.

There's a huge battle on in the Solomons, & we can't get any news on it. We do know that the Japs have landed reinforcements on Guadalcanal, and that strong naval forces are converging on the Solomons. How many people we have, or what fleet, we don't know.

We've occupied another island in the Aleutians, and bombed Kiska again.

The 18-19 year-old draft bill has passed both houses.

The scrap-metal drive is on. I cleaned out the garage, woodshed, etc.

Cecil leaves for some Naval Station at Pasco, tomorrow.

Warren sent a car, but knows nothing of where he's to be sent, or anything like that.

Bud made a couple of "Touches" this week in anticipation of a furlough he hopes to get about the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov. He will probably get married.

We've been able to get no bacon all week. Golly – breakfast is a flop.

We're about due for another shift in the family: Lois & family to town, Dad onto the farm, & everyone in a mess. O Lord! If Mom were only here to straighten us all out. I wonder what's wrong with us?

Charlie will probably enlist in Jan. His place would seem to be at home.

Vance will try to get in during December.

Lois & Pierce aren't happy. In fact – they never were! So it's a perpetual howl, change & **hubub** there.

Sarah & Robert squabble all the time.

Cecil enlisted because he was sore at Sue.

Warren went into the army without going to see Kathleen –

Oh nuts!

Dad won't lift a hand to help on the farm, but wants to come here, & hire out to do odd jobs around town. That smells! but "my hands are tied".

And Bud thinks he'll marry a gal who's only 17 – or will be the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. And he isn't sure it's the thing to do – etc. etc.

And Harold & Mabel howl poverty, & he's working at two jobs, & doesn't look fit to hold down one.

And I could be relatively happy if it weren't for all the above and foregoing.

Sat. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> '42

This week saw the slowing-up of the Nazi offensive in Russia. Rain, wind mud and cold are working for the Reds.

R.A.F. bombers have given Genoa & Turin, Italy, a couple of goings-over.

Today's news announced that the United Nations' Offensive in Egypt has begun.

Darlan (or Laval) has gone to Dakar, in Africa, to inspect French defenses. Germany has been saying for weeks that the Allies were about to strike there.

The Japs claim to have 4 or 6 American fliers who took part in the **Tokio** Bombing. War Dep't acknowledges the possibility.

The big offensive in the Solomons, sure to come, has not yet begun. Several sporadic attacks have been made, but are probably only "feelers" or "red herring" to distract from an intended attack in another section.

Eddie Rickenbacker is overdue on a trip in the Southern Pacific.

No word as to Warren's whereabouts. I hope he hasn't been sent out of the country, as Ray Borigo was, immediately on induction.

The new dim-out rules go into effect tonite at midnight. I certainly hope my sector complies nicely.

Mon. Nov. 2 '42

The past week saw the Allied Nations giving & receiving blows.

The navy announces the loss of another of our Air-craft Carrier in the S.W. Pacific. I believe this makes the 3<sup>rd</sup> acknowledged lost, and so we have but 4 left, at most. Japan has many more.

We are told we destroyed many Jap craft down there. MacArthur's fliers are busy.

In Egypt the Allies are doing o.k. with their offensive.

In Russia, the Reds are on the offensive in & around Stalingrad, but the oil-wells are in very grave danger.

Turkey's leader (is it a president?) told his parliament or whatever, in a special session called Sat. that Turkey is nearer to being at war than they have been during the whole conflict.

We still hold Guadalcanal, but there's no optimism on that score.

I listened to Upton Close yesterday. He is very grim. He anticipates a new attack by the Japs – somewhere else – very soon. He quoted Tojo's speech wherein he said "We have now laid the foundation for the complete subjugation of the United States". Close reminded that Tojo has never strutted or boasted, and warned that he has good reason for his statement. No conqueror in the world's history has conquered such huge territory in such short time. Close went on to say that "We're winning the war of production. But we're losing the war by our strategy – or lack of it".

Warren wrote that he was asked to give 3 choices as to placement in the air-school. He gave

- 1<sup>st</sup> choice – Aerial Gunner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> choice – Aerial Armor (or whatever)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> choice -- Aerial mechanic

Personal:

Dad married Mrs. Shraeder on Monday. They came a-calling yesterday.

Chuck Moe, who grew up with us in Oak Park, is a Japanese Prisoner, taken in the Battle of the **Phillippines**.

Action of some sort is expected in Dakar, very soon.

Lost to date:

- Wake Isd.
- Dutch Ea. Indies
- Malayan **Penninsula**
- Burma
- Much Chinese territory, inc. Burma Rd.
- New Guinea
- Some of the Aleutians
- Java, Bali, other Islands.

Sun. Nov. 8, '42

Well – News!

A huge invasion force, under the direction of Eisenhower, commander of Am. Forces in Europe, landed on the coast of French Colonial Africa yesterday. Thousands of 'em! This, coming on top of the tremendous success of Montgomery's forces up in the upper end of Africa, makes us feel better, the Nazis worse, and the Italians worried.

This week has seen what is considered a complete victory for the Allied forces over Rommell's forces in Africa. A confused retreat, amounting to a rout on the part of the Afrika Korp.

Also, MacArthur has almost complete possession of New Guinea, now. Only two Jap beachheads remain, & they're being softened by constant bombings.

In the Solomons, our valiant soldiers, sailors and MARINES are still holding Henderson Field, & have withstood numerous attacks, even gained a mile or two, here & there. Oh, Lord – the casualties must be high.

Russia is holding the Nazis on all fronts.

Stalin made his big anniversary speech Friday, & more than poured it into the U.S. & British for their failure to establish a 2<sup>nd</sup> Front. Apologies are in order, Brother Stalin! And Pipe Down, Mr. Willkie!

Well – Hamilton Fish got back in! How lovely!

Golly – back into harness for me. Teaching again.

Reg will try to get into action very soon. He's afraid there'll soon be a ruling against enlistments – so he won't even wait til the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, as planned.

Warren is going to a Radio-school in Illinois. Quite a hop from Texas.

Ward Hoxsie phoned from San Diego this week.

Shorty Repman is home on leave.

There is talk of production in the local mill being curtailed soon. Only talk, so far, but we are no longer considered an essential industry.

Sun. Nov 15 '42

All sorts of conflicting rumors & reports regarding France, Darlan, the Fr. fleet, and the Fr. African situation. But we do seem to know that the tough resistance will be met in Tunis, where the Axis is sending all sorts of reinforcements, many Italian planes & men, too.

Rommel & his army are still fleeing. They are expected to try to make some sort of stand soon.

We had indirect news of Butch this week. A local boy – Meiser, I think – wrote his folks he had talked to Butch the preceding day, which was Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> & Butch was o.k. Also – both of them were to be moved to Tulagi for a comparative rest. There's hope for a U.S. rest, but we won't count on it.

Right now there's a big naval fight going on in the Solomons area. We are told that both sides are sustaining big losses.

Eddy Rickenbacker & all but one of his crew (missing since Oct. 23) were picked up alive this week. That's quite a miracle.

Word was received in Camas that Lyle Karnath, bombardier, was seriously wounded in the Med. Area. Also, the Fine boy died this week. He was in the Pearl Harbor fight, & was later honorably discharged, due to a physical disability. Details lacking.

Maas is raising quite a fuss over the Solomon Is. situation. He says we're losing down there, but are being grossly misinformed by the Navy. He ought to know – he was acting colonel, major or something

in the Marines down there. Anyway – we seem to have taken the offensive down there, with larger naval units moving in.

Sun. Dec. 6 '42

A year ago tomorrow (but it was on a Sunday) we were all shocked by the awful news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Today, a year later, we are told the actual damage done at that time. It was awful. But what no one can understand is why Japan didn't immediately follow up that first attack. We were in a very vulnerable position, then.

Nuts – Wheeler, who was such a helluva isolationist right up to Pearl Harbor, is today howling his head off about “Why weren't we given the real facts of Pearl Harbor at the time? We can stand the truth!” That, from that particular louse!

Big news on the manpower front. M<sup>c</sup>Nutt was made virtual dictator of manpower. Result, all 38-yr. olds will henceforth be exempt from military service. All enlistments have been halted. Everything goes thru sel. service, from here out. Also, men will be put in whatever job, in civilian industry, the manpower board decides to put him. This news means a lot in our household.

There's a tough scrap ahead before we get Tunisia. Right now, we're getting the worst of it, but large reinforcements are on the way. O Lord – let us win!

The Russian advance is slowed down to a walk, but the Germans are admittedly on the defensive.

On New Guinea, we are slowly closing in on the remaining strongholds of the Japs, at Buna and Gona (?), but it's a tough job, and our casualties are, no doubt, high. This week's big news down there was the flying of huge Howitzers, in planes, to the New Guinea scene of action.

We haven't heard from Butch, yet, & much is happening down there. We broke up several attempts at reinforcing the Japs on the Solomons, and in New Guinea, too.

There seems to be quite a lots of bickering going on, regarding Darlan. 'Sa Helluva time to split hairs.

I almost forgot to say that a week or two ago, the French fleet, so long an enigma to both sides, was scuttled by its French staffs. It was about to be boarded by German officers, so, at a prearranged signal, 60 ships blew up, burned, sunk, etc. 3 or 4 subs got out, & have gone to U.S. bases in Africa. So – that's what happened to the much-discussed French Fleet.

Coffee & Gas have both been rationed, during the last 2 weeks. We'll miss the former more than the latter.

Snow today – beautiful, but it will be gone by morning, I'm afraid.

Dec. 30, 42.

A lot has happened.

Today Russia made her most important conquest in a month. It helps to cut off the Axis forces in Stalingrad.

The African situation is very complex. Darlan was assassinated, his assassin executed very quickly, & today 12 men were arrested for the alleged crime of conspiring to kill Giraud, successor to Darlan, and Murphy, who belongs to us.

The Tunisian fight still seems to be in favor of the Axis, at least the ground fighting. No large-scale battle has begun, due to this being the rainy season.

We still aren't thru at Buna. We have to kill 'em off one by one. Ditto on Guadalcanal.

U.N. activity has begun in Burma, tho not on a large scale.

On the home front, we are told that all canned, dried & frozen fruits & vegetables, as well as meats & fats, will be rationed on the point system. Everyone seems to be taking this news well.

If figure given in various papers are dependable, we can expect to pay about \$400 income tax. I can scarcely believe it will be that high.

Beginning Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> we pay a 5% Victory tax from every check. I hope it helps substantially to bring Victory.

Melba had a letter from Butch dated Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. We did hope he'd get home for Xmas, but no luck.

Bud expects to be shipped out soon after Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. I hope not – he hopes so!

Warren does very well in his code work. He seems pretty well satisfied with his set-up.

We have no car at all – I mean that runs now. So – for rent: An A card. We haul groceries up the hill in huge bagsful. I guess rationing will soon take care of that, tho.

Well – it's time for New Year's Resolutions. I resolve to do what is expected of me in the way of food conservation, etc. with good grace. To put all we can into War Bonds. To try not to depress anyone with my own worries and troubles, but to cheer up my family, and try to keep our home a happy place to live in or to visit. I can Try.

Jan. 24 '42(*sic*)

Too long since I've written here. The Buna thing is long over. Russia pushes on, recapturing many of their important cities. They're winning all along the line. Germany is handing out bad news to its already depressed people.

Berlin has been bombed several times, so London has suffered retaliatory raids.

German industries still get frequent bombings.

Our worst threat now is submarines. Their tolls raise to alarming proportions. It's Hitler's strongest weapon.

In Africa, we have Tripoli. It fell to Allied forces yesterday. Unfortunately, the bulk of Rommel's army escaped, & will (I'm afraid) succeed in joining the forces in Tunisia. 70,000 added to the formidable army already there, will make mighty stiff going for the Allied nations. So far the major battle there hasn't begun. We've had the worst of it in many of the skirmishes for position.

The Marines have been relieved in the Solomons. We're all hoping Butch will get home. Last word was Dec. 24 (dated) to Melba. He was still at Guadalcanal.

We're in the midst of very severe weather (for us, here) and hear that we are to be rationed on fuel oil, probably beginning this new week. No school right now, because of icy roads.

Bud's pretty blue. All his pals were sent to Texas, & he was left at mather. Also, the gal-friend isn't too friendly. Poor Bud!

Warren finds the Army a not-too-bad place to work.

Anything old or new, will do for a teacher now. Women who haven't taught in years & years are back at it. Mae Ulowetz is even substituting.

There's a psychological problem about this war that I don't understand. I'm probably only ordinary average, so no doubt many people are like me. The smallest radio-program, letter, story or anything dealing with service men, their trials, sorrows, loneliness etc. makes me bawl like a baby. It isn't nerves. But instead of building up a defensive hardness, I'm softer, more easily moved than ever in my life. I'm sure this isn't good or right. It doesn't prepare me for things to come.

March 22 '43

An awful lapse here.

First, the personal side of the war:

Stanton was home the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month on an 11-day furlough. He is a Cpl, & may soon be a Sgt.

Warren finishes his course at Scott Field this (or last) week. "Little Man, What Now?"

Butch is probably still in Australia, where he has been since shortly after the Marines were relieved from Guadalcanal, early in January. Melba hears from him.

Now

Russia is having a tough fight. For several months they just rolled along, but now Germany has thrown in great strength, & have retaken Kharkov. On other fronts, Russia is still on the offensive.

Saturday the big Allied Offensive, long held up because of weather, got under way. We're doing o.k., but it's no pushover.

The Japs evidently haven't given New Guinea up as lost. They are attempting, with some success, to reinforce their holdings there.

Anthony Eden is in the U.S. Churchill & Hitler (?) both spoke yesterday. Hitler, rumored 1<sup>st</sup> insane, 2<sup>nd</sup> dead, lacked his customary vigor and emphasis, but says that all obstacles have now been overcome, and Russian defeat is certain.

Some time ago FDR & Winston Churchill met with military leaders, at Casablanca, in Africa. That caused quite a stir.

Our sub-losses are terrific. 8 cargo ships lost in the West Atlantic last week.

We blast at the Nips in the Aleutians, but they must've been pretty firmly rooted up there.

Guadalcanal was won early in the year. But it, along with the gains on New Guinea, were very expensive. It's a long way to **Tokio**, via the **Phillippines**, at that rate.

Mr. Emery, the hairdresser at Meier & Frank's, predicts that "this silly war" will be over early this summer. There won't be a formal armistice, he believes. It'll just sort of stop. He's very anti-administration, & brings up some very uncomfortable facts regarding cartels, appointments, playing politics, graft in high places, etc. etc. "It's all purely economic", sez he, "and it matters very little who wins it". Oh dear!

Susie is going to have a war-baby. It certainly is an epidemic of tremendous proportions.

Food rationing is here. Canned, dried, frozen & processed foods have been rationed for months. Now meat, margarine, butter, cooking-fats etc. are about to be rationed. Shoes, fuel-oil and coffee have been rationed for some time too.

The items we miss most are beef & bacon. Tho they haven't yet been rationed, we haven't been able to get any for some time. Maybe rationing will help.

We've better than \$1000 worth (in 1953) of bonds. My whole salary goes into them. Reg keeps up my allowance. We'll have a "Bond-house" God willing & the devil not-withstanding.

Our home-life is a war casualty. No time to live. Us, & millions of other. But we're lucky, and know it.

Because of everything, family visits are very rare.

Victory Gardens are very much under way. Ours is mostly spaded.