

Notes on the Text:

"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 14th 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.

Discovered
this in the

Autumn of 1997.

It came as a complete
surprise to me.

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 Rocks, 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 here 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

- Poor Butch -

Current

Left

Dröding

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 dept 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. P. & A. predict, Russia ^{sup. capt 44} 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 fight.

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.

Transportation
Keeping Army intact) ² most important
problems.

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 to work, aid. Britain
getting brittle morale.

Predictions

1. Jackson - Atty Genl. - replaced by Biddle

2. M. Norman, in Eng - bank - will resign. Appeaser.

3. Wall Street.

Arnold will call on - 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 - Kreiser - Firestone 90 days - a record.

Mon. Dec. 8th '41

Yesterday, December 7th, Japanese airmen attacked the Hawaiian Islands, Guam and the Phillipine Islands. The casualties in the H.I. 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 1st 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~~ at 11:00. parts earlier.

Tuesday, 9th

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 & 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 to night.

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 11:30 — all except (for us) KPO S.F. Cal.

Butch Repman joined the Marines today. He will leave before the 16th 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. & 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 could not 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
these.

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 tires etc. I've heard no mention
of the hoarding of things likely
to become scarce.

(Friday 1:57 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, ^{Wake} ~~Wake~~ Maybe so — maybe
not.

Blackout orders same tonight as
last night.

Saturday, 13th

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 Peg 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 that 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, fliers and civilians on Midway, Wake, Guam, and possibly the Philippines are to be sacrificed to military economy.

Sun. 14th

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 ^{unsubstantiated} 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 is of 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 - 12th

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. 7th 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 150th anniversary of the signing of the Bill of Rights — there was a very impressive program on the radio. Pres. Roosevelt spoke.

The Phillipines 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 attack.

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.

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I bought my 1st bond this week — a \$37⁵⁰ 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 Philippines 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!¹⁰

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. 23rd

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

Japanese forces are reported to be making landings on Wake + Midway Isds. 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.P. 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 last 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 gaiety is absent around Camas. The town is very quiet, and not very busy. The 1st 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 & Rhybia. 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, breakdown 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 Newfoundland.

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 1st 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 1st to 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 1st 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) Shire'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 taken. 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 — & from places hard to reach now.

An announcement from Wash. just told that 26 nations had signed an agreement to fight the Axis, 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 3rd.

An official announcement from W.^{A.}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. 6th (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 4½ 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 broadcast — a fight talk. Mentioned a 56 billion dollar war appropriation he'll ask. I'll save his speech from the ~~the~~ newspaper

Mon. Jan. 12th

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

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. Genl Navell 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 any 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 some F. D. R. Family - Jim again giving the guy any time or attention.