ATTACK ON AMERICA

By General Alfred Wahl

INSTALLMENT THREE

THE STORY TO DATE: Colonel Fleischer, acting assistant chief of U. S. Intelligence Department G-2, confirmed there were 50,000 German troops in Mexico poised for an attack on the United States. Both he and the President were prisoners in not because Germans were present.

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CHAPTER IV—Continued.

By the end of a week, Benning had gained something of Fischer's confidence together with a knowledge of the workings of Van Hussen's headquarters at the palace. He had adopted the habit of going for a walk each evening with the Austrian, usually to the Alameda.

Benning had learned that the Austrian was an artilleryman, on temporary detail at headquarters because of knowledge of the United States.

"But at headquarters, Fischer," Benning prompted, "life is not too active". Isn't it your experience that most headquarters gets its claws on an officer for a soft?"

The Austrian responded with a grunt of assent.

"I'm an artilleryman, not a staff officer!" he snapped. "My brother of seventy-seven is at Juliaca for target practice and I'm in Mexico City only until the show opens!"

Benning laughed and said, "But with your fluency in English, you chief isn't likely to part company with you when our troops hold sway the United States."

"I've Colonel Bravet's word for it!" Fischer said hotly. "Yes, and I'll remind him of it as soon as he returns from Washington, which ought to be any day now."

Benning prolonged the promenade with Fischer, stopping from time to time at the base of the Gonzales near the park for foolish-and-sots. Once the Fischer scholastic enthusiasm was aroused, the Austrian needed little urging to talk.

At first he boasted of his own gains, then branched off into the subject of Van Hussen's superiority in artillery. He painted a picture of well trained regiments splendidly equipped with the best armament.

"What a wonderful show, Bromlitt!" Fischer exclaimed after he had elaborated the weapons in detail. "Particularly when we pound their artillery to pieces with our superior ranges. Bromlitt-man! They will be helpless in counter-battery."

"But too fast, Fischer," Benning cautioned. "We mustn't forget their tremendous manpower once they get them equipped."

"But a million men can crush the Americans before they can get themselves ready!"

"A million men, perhaps, but how can we ever expect to get a million men mobilized in Mexico without rousing the Americans finally to action?"

Fischer stopped in his tracks and his blue eyes looked gravely at Benning through their thick lenses. The Austrian lowered his voice.

"That is not more surmise, Bromlitt. This I will tell you in the deepest confidence. One day in General Van Hussek's office I glimpsed his little map of the United States and on it are red arrows pointed in from the south, the east, and the west. I had only a glimpse before he returned the map to his desk, but I caught figures enough to convince me of a million men."

Benning managed an indifferent smile and decided to close this dangerous subject.

"With a million men, Fischer, a good deal might be done," he said, and added, with a glance at his wrist watch, "but it's getting late and what do you say to some dinner?"

The two went to a Mexican cafe near de Avenida Hidalgo, a favorite spot of officers of the new regime.

Benning ordered dinner and picked at his meal. Apparently he was mildly entertained by the show about him. Actually he was only vaguely conscious of his surroundings. His mind was busy with Fischer's disclosures, with a piecing together of the things Van Hussek had told him.

Benning made his decision. There was the air corps yet to work, and some verification of Fischer's disclosures. That should not be difficult. But only Van Hussek would know the broader plan of attack on the United States and Benning knew now that he must find some way to tap the Van Hussek brain, at any cost. A glance at the Van Hussek operation map might answer all questions. In some way he meant to get his eyes on that map.

His thoughts were interrupted by the action of Fischer in springing abruptly to his feet. A dark, erect man in Mexican uniform paused at their table to acknowledge the Austrian's greetings.

"My colonel, I am overjoyed to see you back in Mexico!" the Austrian exclaimed. He turned to Benning, who got to his feet. "I wish my colonel, to present our new officer, Major Bromlitt, who has reported to us from Europe in your absence. Major, our chief of service, Colonel Bravo!"

The Mexican searched Benning with a quizzical glint as if trying to associate him with some vague memory. In a moment his black eyes cleared and he passed on with a stiff bow.

Benning hardly had clicked instantly on seeing the colonel. Bravet, his chief of service, unmistakably was Sergeant Gaujos, the masque-

Kissed him ardently—

puzzled Benning. The peculiar smile on the general's thick lips was disquieting.

"Sit down, Bromlitt. I want to talk to you." Van Hussek invited. "Tell me, are you very much in love?"

Benning blinked at the amazing query, then smiled back with a shrug of his shoulders.

"There can be a young lady in Luxembourg, sir."

"Bromlitt—" instantly picked up the conversation where it had left off in Luxembourg, "you are a fool. Mademoiselle Lorette Duros."

"And you promised you would bring her to Mexico City with you the first month's pay, Bromlitt!"

"Usually, in such cases," Benning evaded, "one attempts to make parting as painless as possible."

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Lesson for February 2

THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING INTOXICATING BEVERAGE ALCOHOL

LESSON TEXT—Habakkuk 2:15, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 14:21, 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10, 9:27.

GOLDEN TEXT—Abstain from every form of evil. 1 Thessalonians 5:22, R. V.

"Responsible for the drunkards of my community? Not me; I am against the use of intoxicating liquors." Such is the answer Christian people and citizens would probably make if faced with that accusation. But wait! Responsibility means more than personal abstinence or speaking against "booze" in a church meeting. Before we finish the study of our lesson, we may be convicted of some of the charges and needing to ask forgiveness, and the end of bringing forth works meet unto repentance. We hear God's Word telling us:

I. Regard Your Neighbor (Hab. 2:15).

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!"

Habakkuk lived in a time when the Chaldeans were the dominant power in the world. Babylon was the capital of the Chaldean empire. Babylon had conquered Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, and was now in the ascendancy. Habakkuk, a prophet of God, was troubled by the wickedness of the Chaldeans and their methods of conquering and treating their subjects. Babylon was corrupted by a civil service. Men in positions of trust were dishonest and corrupt. Bribery was common. Men in power were given to drunkenness and immorality. Habakkuk was troubled by the fact that God was using such people to punish Israel for its sins. He was troubled by the fact that God was using such people to punish Israel for its sins. He was troubled by the fact that God was using such people to punish Israel for its sins. He