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Dutch to Dearest darling, 12 December 1941

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Thursday

Dearest darling,

Your Sunday letter came today. Was naturally tickled at your description of preparations for your breakfast. Am so glad that Billy isn't really missing me. That would be pretty bad.

Well, mister, I'm strictly on the front line of defense now. Last night at 7:15 Japanese planes were heard and a complete black-out of this area was called. By the time the planes got here, there wasn't a light within five hundred miles I don't believe. There were cops all over the place ordering cars to run without any lights or stop. All houses etc were completely dark. Our planes went ~~out~~ up to investigate and evidently scared the Japs off. No bombs were dropped - so far as we know. Believe me, this, it strictly gives you a gummy feeling to sit around wondering when the shooting will actually start. About an hour after the black-out, ^{started} I went with Cho and a couple of his guards from Shanghai up to a bar a couple of blocks away. This couple

were in the revolution in Cuba and the war in China and
blackouts are pretty common to them. I admit I had
a few bad moments. It lasted 'til 11:30.

At this moment, we are listening to the declarations
of war against Germany etc. It's only 7:30 here but of
course it's 12:30 in Washington. Gosh, it looks like
we're in over our heads now. Just heard that the
draft age is being extended from 18-64. That goes. That'd
even get the Chancellor!!

Cho got in touch with the president of the President
Lines last night and he has promised to find out all
possible information on the Coolidge and let me know
this morning. We are sitting now waiting for his call.
That, of course, will determine our next step.

The same guinea we were with last night have
insisted that we come out for a few days with them. They
live in a suburb near here. They have stables etc
so it should be good. I just hope there are no

defense plants near by!

Please get out the Xmas cards and finish addressing them. 'Spect you'd better mail them by the 16th anyhow. The mails are bound to be pretty messy this year.

Will wait 'til Paul calls, that's the Pres. of the Lines, to finish this so that maybe I can tell you something a little more definite.

Paul just called Chs and advised her to come on to San Francisco. I imagine, then, that we will go up either Sunday or Monday.

Guess you should continue to send mail to the St. Francis. We will leave for home, with or without Bill, not later than the 17th —

That's next Wednesday. Hope to drive home in 4 days - give or take.

So unless you hear otherwise, don't leave Elgord without me.

Am at the Farmer's Market for lunch. Just saw Fudeic Marsh - his a disappointment as are the others. Haven't heard no word from

Arvin - or Barrett as his now called.

Vicki says send any more letters or wires from now on to ^{Mrs.} Paul Bordwell, The Broadman Hotel, ~~30~~ Geary Street, San Francisco.

Must close & run. Love you

Dutch