

DEC 3 1950

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Pearl Harbor

(15 Years After)

The Story Americans Should Never Forget

FOURTH OF SIX ARTICLES

Gen. Marshall Fails to Get Message That Night; Vague on Whereabouts

Col. Bratton went to the state department and turned the available portions of the Japanese note over to the watch officer, saying that this was a "highly important message as far as the secretary of state is concerned" and that it should be sent out to Mr. Hull's quarters.

Altho the testimony is controverted, Col. Bratton's original account was that he carried the copy for Gen. Marshall to the war department and handed it over in a locked pouch, to which Marshall had the key. It was received by the secretary of the general staff, Col. Walter Bedell Smith, afterward destined to rise to lieutenant general and to be appointed ambassador to Russia, undersecretary of state, and deputy chief of the central intelligence agency.

Bratton informed Smith that he had in his hands a highly important document which the chief of staff should see at once. The evident fact is that no delivery was made that night to Gen. Marshall. The general suffered a famous case of amnesia and was never able to account satisfactorily for his whereabouts, but he was unavailable at a highly inopportune time.

Adm. Stark, the ranking officer of the other service, was at the tower, and no delivery of the 13 parts was made to him the night of the 6th. Thus the operating chiefs of the two services placed themselves beyond reach on a night when urgent action was paramount.