

Student Tells First-Hand Account of Pearl Harbor

(Editor's Note: The following was written by a freshman in journalism at the University, who was in Honolulu at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.)

By AL HOWARD

In Hawaii, back in the 1930's, we heard numerous rumors in regard to the ideas which people on the mainland United States have about the Islands. In many cases it was the lack of ideas which was most apparent. Rumors had it that people think that pineapples grow on trees, that the girls wear hula skirts all the time, that many of the inhabitants live in grass shacks. Some people went so far as to put foreign postage on letters to Hawaii—an integral part of the United States.

Opportunity Now

Now that I have had an opportunity to talk with people here on the mainland I haven't found anyone who thought such things. But, the trouble is, I am afraid, that they have not had much occasion to think about Hawaii at all. Why? Because news from the islands does not appear in papers here on the mainland. For a period of about a month after Pearl Harbor there were undoubtedly many articles about Hawaii in the papers and on the radio; but there has been positive evidence that many of them were misleading.

Hawaii Resident

For instance, a resident of Hawaii who happened to be on the continent on December 7, 1941, remarked upon his return to Honolulu that he had expected to see the waterfront with its famous Aloha tower, and the city itself in ruins. That was the impression he had gleaned from the reports available here on the coast, and you can imagine his pleasant surprise when he found that nearly everything was as it had been when he left with the exception of the damage done at the military bases, and the definitely changed attitude of the people.

The other day on a well-known radio program, a woman, who was in Hawaii at the time of the attack, remarked in the course of the interview that in the week following the 7th, there was, as she termed it, "a panic," which resulted in a rush on foodstores and service stations. A few observations in way of clarification of the actual situation may help to discredit her use of that term.

Food Rush On

There was a rush on the foodstores only in the sense that people were merely following the course of storing food which all along had been advised by civil and military authorities. I do not mean that hoarding was officially sanctioned, but rather that the officials were trying to distribute the storage space and by so doing to increase the amount of food that could be stored.

People bought all the blue lights and flashlights they could, simply because blue lights were the one type permitted in the total blackout which went into effect the night of the 7th. Very few, if any, of the homes were blacked out prior to the attack and so, until they were, even one flashlight with blue paper over the bulb was a great blessing. People did fill their gas tanks, but only because they feared that the supply would be cut off before long. These reactions were typical of human nature, not a "panic."

Real Interview

In two different interviews which appeared in this paper last term, the people interviewed, who incidentally were only malihinis (newcomers to Hawaii), and both of whom, I believe, left on the first convoy out, painted a rather "panicky" picture of life immediately after the attack.

In very few cases were the ex-

amples of fear that they cited actually true of the whole situation. One of them said that people rushed down to the steamship company in an endeavor to book passage home. But that is exaggerated. A few individuals did get queer ideas and made a clamor to leave. Army and navy officials suggested that as many people as could make arrangements should leave.

First Went Army

However, nearly all of the people who did leave on the first few convoys were the relatives of army and navy personnel, most of whom, I am positive, would not have left if they had not been ordered to do so. The civilians who rushed to get out were mostly tourists enjoying the end of the tourist season. Exceptions to the previous statement were the members of the visiting football teams of Willamette university and of San Jose, who surprised everyone by volunteering for temporary police duty until they could get passage home.

I think that a few concrete facts about the islands and their people, (not meant in a way of boasting) may help to dispel some of the false and exaggerated ideas that may have been placed in your minds, and arouse in you a desire to learn more about Hawaii.

Honolulu Largest City

Honolulu, which is the capital, is located on the southern shore of the third largest island in the group, Oahu. In 1940, before the influx of large numbers of defense workers started, the population of Honolulu was set at 179,359 persons. Now it is estimated to be about 200,000 persons.

There are three big pineapple canneries in the capital, Honolulu. Two of them are owned by nationally known food produce companies and the third, owned by the Hawaiian Pineapple canneries, is believed to be the largest fruit cannery in the world.

Sugar Chief Industry

Hawaii's chief industry, sugar growing, operates under the the third largest sugar quota in the United States. The year-around employment of the sugar plantations is approximately 40,000, and Hawaii is the highest annual-wage-paying sugar area in the United States.

Hawaiian Airlines, Ltd., which operates among these islands in the group, up to November of 1941, had flown in excess of 25,000,000 passenger miles and had carried more than 250,000 passengers without fatality to either crew members or passengers.

Fully Accredited

The University of Hawaii in Honolulu is fully accredited by the Association of American Universities. In 1941 the number of credit students enrolled in the university was 2,219. Of course, since the war began, the enrollment has dropped greatly, but the university is still operating on a restricted basis.

Schofield barracks, which was started in 1909, is today the largest military post in the United States. Before the Jap attack on December 7, 1941, it was estimated that in monthly pay of mili-

Lost in Action

A headline in the Wednesday Emerald announcing the death of Lieut. Norman R. Angell, Oregon alum, was incorrect, although the accompanying story gave correct details. Lieutenant Angell has been reported "lost in action" and no announcement of his death has been received.

tary personnel, and in disbursements in Honolulu for routine supplies and services, the army spent about \$4,500,000 a month.

Small Army Posts

There are smaller army posts scattered throughout the islands, and there are large permanent airfields and small temporary landing fields on all the islands. And, of course, there is the navy's great base at Pearl Harbor, about six miles from Honolulu. I am afraid that too many people think of the Hawaiian islands purely in terms of Pearl Harbor just as they think of the Philippines in terms of Bataan. This trend of thought is understandable, but it is also correctable.

Several people have asked me whether or not the resident Japanese in the islands have been interned. With the exception of a few who were actually known to be dangerous, the Japanese have not been interned. Figures released at the end of December placed the number of interned Japanese aliens at 273.

Not Many Interned

Why were not more of them interned? The most convincing answer, I think, lies in the figures that of some 450,000 island residents, about 160,000 are Japanese. Of the latter, some 35,000 are aliens. And so, we find that about 34 per cent of the population of Hawaii is of Japanese descent.

Danger? Possible, but not very probable. The Japanese language schools have ceased to exist, and most of the Shinto temples have been closed. (Shintoism is the state religion of Japan). Japanese young people's social groups have disbanded, and only two Japanese language newspapers are still printed. These two are allowed to continue for the sole purpose of informing the elderly Japanese, who do not read or write English, of the various laws which affect them.

No Violence

Despite the large number of Japanese in Hawaii, at no time prior to or since the attack on Pearl Harbor has there been reported any specific case of violence involving persons of Japanese ancestry. It is a known fact that the FBI, the army, and the navy are all on the alert; but also, the Japanese themselves realize the importance of manifesting their loyalty and obedience to America.

What I have tried to point out, is that Hawaii, as an integral part of the United States, is as civilized, as well developed, as much a part of America as is any state; and that your knowledge about Hawaii should not lie solely in the fact that Pearl Harbor is said to be located on one of the islands.

Twenty-five professors of Holland's University of Amsterdam have been dismissed under Nazi pressure.

AP Man Tells Stirring Tale Of Midway Is.

"Japanese service men have very little to live for but a lot to die for; while our men are not fighting to die but to live," said Wendell Webb, Associated Press correspondent, in his talk to the ASUO Thursday morning on the battle of Midway.

"The first day of the Midway siege was the last, for the rest was merely a chase," said Webb.

Coordinated Warfare

"I think it was the finest example of coordinated warfare between the navy, army, and marines that at least has come to public notice today," he added.

The fleet was lying in wait for the Japs who were approaching Midway on the belief that there couldn't be enough power among U. S. forces to withstand them.

Soft Side, Too

Midway was a "catch-their-breath-place" on their way to Hawaii and the United States. He explained that the Nips had only four cards left—the attack of Hawaii, Panama, the Aleutians, or the mainland of the United States.

"Our boys are not going to commit suicide or give their lives uselessly," he continued. "They have a healthy attitude but a soft side, too." He explained that when some live pigs were brought for food, the men kept them for mascots instead of eating them.

Keep Interested

"If people in the United States knew exactly what these men are doing they wouldn't complain about coffee, sugar, and other types of rationing. Those living on islands don't see people for weeks at a time, but they keep interested among themselves. Between occupation with the big thought on their minds, the Japs, they also read, write stories, poems, do some painting, and engage in other forms of amusement."

A correspondent's one order when on shipboard is "keep out of the way." Webb says they are treated like other service men, wear the same uniforms, and are accepted by most people as being in the service, except that they don't have to get up every four hours to go on watch.

Competition Keen

"I am just an ordinary, everyday working man reporter," he continued. "I report as an observer and only take assignments as they are given, leaving out personal opinion."

He explained that competition is keen among correspondents, for they don't know where they are being sent or on what ship—thus having no idea who will get the best stories.

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LOST—Gray gabardine overcoat from McClure between hours 1 and 4 Thursday. Please return to Gilbert Hunt, McClure.

LOST—Brown leather bill fold Wednesday. Call Hollis Hartwick, 3300—Ext 275. Finder may keep money.

Merchants Predict

With Oregon now leading the league in basketball, and the first home conference game to night and tomorrow night with Washington, Eugene merchants have made predictions as to the final score of the game.

Predictions will appear in merchants' ads in the Emerald today.

Weather Postpones

Salvage drive pick-ups which had been previously scheduled for today have been postponed, according to Marge Curtis, co-chairman of salvage drives of the campus war board. Adverse weather conditions—in the form of "white rain" necessitated the change.

Weatherman

(Continued from page one) bra and plane geometry and one year of high school science.

Advanced Groups

The premeteorology group requires one year of college math including college algebra, trigonometry, and analytical geometry plus the requirements for the basic class.

To be eligible for the advanced course students must have all the above requirements and differential and integral calculus, one year of college physics and have completed two years of college study.

Full College Credit

Full college credit is given for all work completed during the training period, and jobs as meteorologists following the war should be plentiful because of the predicted increase in air transportation.

Men who would like to interview Dr. Webb may make appointments with him in his office in the basement of Fenton hall.

MAYFLOWER

Guess Who?
BUD ABBOTT
and
LOU COSTELLO
in
"WHO DONE IT?"

MCDONALD

Double Feature!
"The Silver Queen"
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"TISH"
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