

# DEFENSE OF WAKE ENDED WITH LOSS OF LAST AIRPLANE

### Story of Heroic Stand By Less Than 400 Marines Told in Navy Dispatches.

Honolulu, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Dispatches sent while death rained from sky and sea on virtually shelterless Wake island sketched tersely today how less than 400 marines, with only four planes aloft, held off numerically superior Japanese for 14 days, bagging 12 aircraft and five ships before being overpowered.

"Probably no military force in American history, not even the defenders of the Alamo, ever fought against greater odds nor with greater effect in view of those odds," acclaimed the navy in summarizing the reports for the first time.

Nor did those tough marines once admit defeat. "The issue is in doubt," read the last dispatch sent on December 22.

#### 200 Planes Attack

Attack after attack was hurled back. Beset by 200 planes during those 14 days, the little garrison, knowing there could be no reinforcements from Hawaii 2,500 miles away, loosed such deadly fire that the Japanese had to abandon low-flying assaults for a time.

The navy's account, pieced from the dispatches, laid bare a gripping struggle:

Dec. 8—Between 20 and 30 twin-engine bombers in the opening attack caught eight of the garrison's 12 planes on the ground, but the eight out of action and killed 25 of the marines.

Dec. 9—There were two more raids by planes which also carried incendiaries but "due to vigorous plane and anti-aircraft defenses, damage was less severe than on December 8."

Dec. 10—There was a fourth air raid at dawn while for the first time enemy warships "started pumping shells onto the flat, virtually shelterless atoll. . . . Nevertheless Wake's guns replied with such good effect to this double attack that a light cruiser and destroyer were sunk. The defenders also had the satisfaction of chalking up a total of six enemy planes destroyed to and including this third day of the battle."

#### Batteries Effective

"The effectiveness of the Wake shore batteries . . . evidently impressed the enemy." Two transports, escorted by cruisers and destroyers, kept out of range and made no attempt to land while 18 planes came over for the fifth air raid. Only 16 departed. The marines still had three planes aloft.

Dec. 11—A four-engine seaplane attacked. "Marine fliers were ready for it and promptly shot it down." The convoy reappeared. Marine fliers damaged one vessel and sank a submarine.

Dec. 12—"The enemy did not appear."

Dec. 13—By moonlight, four enemy bombers came over.

# Plan Mississippi Wedding



Will Price, film dialogue director, and his fiancée, Maureen O'Hara, film actress from Ireland, were together at a Hollywood airport before Price took off for his home town, McComb, Miss., to arrange for their marriage the last of December.

Anti-aircraft fire discouraged them from dropping bombs.

Dec. 14—Fifty bombers unloaded the heaviest air raid. "Anti-aircraft and planes brought down three and damaged several others." The marines' three planes were reduced to one—but during the brief night hours they managed heroically to patch a second one together.

Dec. 15—At night a ninth air raid caused "no serious damage."

Dec. 16—More than 25 bombers attacked.

Dec. 17—They came back again. "By now practically every installation on the island was heavily damaged. The storehouse with spare parts and other material was gone, burned to the ground. The machine shop and blacksmith shop were wiped out."

Dec. 18—Two-engine bombers devastated the few buildings left standing.

Dec. 19—There was no raid.

#### Use Dive Bombers

Dec. 20—Dive-bombers, evidently from a carrier, roared down on the dwindling group of marines.

Dec. 21—"The enemy withheld his hand."

Dec. 22—"Land-based and carrier-operated planes attacked in large force"—how large was never reported. "Several enemy planes were shot down but one of the Wake pilots was lost and the second forced down,

wounded." Wake's air defenses were lost. The enemy at long last landed in force. There came finally what the navy praised as "a bit of understatement"—

"The issue is in doubt." Even that last dispatch made clear the marines were in there and fighting. It told of the disabling of two Japanese destroyers.

# FLAG DEFILER TO SERVE PEN TERM

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 30.—(AP)—The New Jersey supreme court affirmed today the conviction of Helga Schlueter, 20, German-born alien of Lakewood, on a charge of defiling the American flag.

Miss Schlueter, now in custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was sentenced to one to two years in a women's reformatory after her conviction by an Ocean county jury. She was free on bail when the FBI took her into custody shortly after the outbreak of the war. She was charged with tearing up and throwing to the ground while a firemen's parade was in progress on June 29, 1940, in Lakewood, a small American flag that was attached to her motorcycle.

# REPUBLICAN CHAIRMEN DELAY CAPITAL MEET

Grants Pass, Dec. 30.—(AP)—The scheduled conference of Republican state chairmen in Washington, D. C., at which Oregon Chairman Niel R. Allen is to outline the new state organization plan, has been postponed from January 12 to a later date.

Allen received notification from National Chairman Joseph W. Martin along with the statement that the party would campaign as a unit toward defense of the American way of life, both on foreign and domestic fronts.

# BUILDING PERMITS IN OREGON CITIES DIP IN NOVEMBER

### Medford Down 46.5 Per Cent Compared With October—Oregon City Leads

University of Oregon, Eugene.—(Spl.)—Building permit valuations for November in 46 Oregon cities showed a decline of 17.6 per cent over the previous month, it was revealed here by Lloyd M. Faust, research associate in the school of business administration, University of Oregon.

Total permit valuations for October amounted to \$2,072,171 while those for November were \$1,706,787. The decline was attributed to seasonal variations and to defense priority regulations.

New residential permit valuations declined 6.6 per cent while additions, alterations and repairs were off 65.1 per cent. New non-residential permit valuations increased 23.6 per cent with defense projects at Astoria and Pendleton accounting for most of the gain.

#### Oregon City Leads

Building permit valuations at Astoria increased 1208.9 per cent and at Pendleton 739 per cent. Oregon City led the list with a gain of 4712 per cent, although the gain was due to an abnormally low October total, \$250 against \$12,030 for November.

Other Oregon cities of over 5,000 population experienced the following changes in November over October:

Astoria, 1208.9 per cent increase; Pendleton, 739 per cent increase; Oregon City, 4712 per cent increase; Salem, 87.1 per cent increase; Portland, 23.9 per cent increase; Albany, 74.6 per cent decrease; Corvallis, 80.1 per cent decrease; Eugene, 78.8 per cent decrease; Marshfield, 14.2 per cent decrease; Roseburg, 92.1 per cent decrease; Medford, 46.5 per cent decrease; The Dalles, 6.5 per cent decrease; Bend, 76 per cent increase; Klamath Falls, 63.1 per cent decrease; Baker, 21 per cent increase; La Grande, 54.1 per cent decrease.

# RITES HELD FOR MRS. ALTA MOORE

Gold Hill, Dec. 30.—(Spl.)—Mrs. Alta Rose Moore passed away in a Medford hospital on December 25, following several weeks illness from complications due to injuries suffered in a fall at her home here.

Funeral services were held on December 27 at the Litwiler Funeral home at Ashland and burial was at Mountain View cemetery.

She was born September 15, 1884 and was married to Curtis R. Moore May 7, 1889. They resided in Ashland for many years before moving to Medford and finally to Gold Hill. Surviving are her husband, Curtis R. Moore; also five children Miss Marguerite Moore and Miss Mabel Moore of Gold Hill; Charles Moore, Ashland; Mrs. Cecil Fifield, Talent; Mrs. Clyde E. Moore, Roseville, Calif. Twelve grandchildren survive, one of whom, Mary Rose Bailey, resides here.

# Fanatical Nippon Fighters Press on to Slaughter in Fantastic Far East Drama

By DeWitt Mackenzie (Wide World War Analyst)

The Japanese reportedly are dying forty to one for their British enemy on the edge of the steaming jungle country of the Malay peninsula, and are being slaughtered by the Filipinos southeast of Manila—but still the Japs continue to come in ever growing numbers to increase the pressure in both these strategic centers.

And as the Nipponese soldiers flying themselves into the flames of death with that fanatical abandon which marks their race, the Japanese nation watches for Premier General Tojo to journey to the grand shrines of Ise to offer his pagan prayer for victory to the Sun Goddess, Amaterasu O Mi Kami. The whole drama of this war with its Oriental outlook and barbaric practices is fantastic—like a yellowed page of history from the days of the shoguns.

Still, fantastic though it is, there is no gain-saying it is so very real that the position of the allies in the far east grows more grave hourly as they await reinforcements. The Japanese, operating close to their island kingdom and having plenty of well-equipped bases, possess a vast advantage at this stage.

There is no telling how much ground the allies may have to give in these early days. Certainly the temporary sacrifices may be great, and we should be prepared for that possibility. As remarked before, it depends on the nature of the reinforcements and how soon they arrive.

One hears many expressions of concern that American reinforcements haven't reached Manila before this, but there is no occasion for such surprise. Even if help started immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor, it could scarcely reach the battle-field by this time, assuming that a convoy was involved. It's a long haul across the Pacific.

#### Longer Route Safer Now

Then, too, one would scarcely expect a naval contingent to try to proceed direct to the Philippines, running the Japanese blockade which has been swung across the accustomed route. There are other possibilities, however, but involving a longer voyage.

Australia provides excellent naval bases. Sydney, with its new graving dock, which is big enough for a battleship, is one of them. Brisbane is another. And then we have the northern port of Darwin, which is strategically situated in relation to the entire war zone. It is close to the Dutch East Indies, and only about 2,300 miles from either Singapore or Manila. Numerous allied island-bases lie much closer.

Since the European war started and the Japanese threat developed, Darwin has been greatly developed. Not only has the docking accommodation been extended, but a modern military airfield has been built and the port has been connected with southern Australia by a military highway which links with railways.

#### THREE RABBITS

Beardstown, Ill.—(UP)—Howard Little, Beardstown, set up a new record when hunting in Schuyler county. He saw three rabbits in a line, fired once, and killed all three. Ed Whited, his companion, verified his story.

The United States naval academy at Annapolis was opened October 10, 1845.

along the lines he trained himself for many years." The resignation was accepted.

#### 15 DIE IN TRAIN CRASH

London, Dec. 30.—(AP)—Fifteen persons were killed and about 100 injured today in the collision of two trains at Eccles, Lancashire.

# ELKS' ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

## WED. NIGHT DECEMBER 31 at the ELKS' TEMPLE

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