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TEXAS' OLDEST
NEWSPAPER

GALVESTON, TEXAS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1941.

TEXAS' OLDEST
NEWSPAPER

ESTABLISHED 1842

JAPAN ATTACKS U.S. IN PACIFIC

At Least Five Persons Killed

BULLETIN
HONOLULU, Dec. 7. *AP* Japanese bombs killed at least five persons and injured many others, three seriously, in a surprise morning aerial attack at Honolulu today.

BY EUGENE BURNS

HONOLULU, Dec. 7. *AP* A naval engagement is in progress off Honolulu, with at least one black enemy aircraft carrier in action against Pearl Harbor defenses.

Some aerial dogfights are in progress in the skies over Honolulu.

At 9:30 a. m. (Honolulu time—2 p. m. CST), the attack still was in progress.

What damage was done by the swift surprise raid was not immediately apparent. But reports said enemy bombers scored a hit at Hickam Field, army airport, and another on an oil tank at the Pearl Harbor naval base.

At least two nine-plane formations of four-engine black bombers flew over Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. Each plane bore Japan's rising sun insignia.

There was a report from persons who came past Pearl Harbor that one ship there was lying on its side in the water and four others were on fire. This could not be immediately confirmed.

The sky was filled with puffs of smoke from exploding shells fired by American army and navy anti-aircraft units.

Whether surface units of the United States fleet were in action against the enemy could not be immediately determined, but columns of water rising from the sea, as shells hit the water, indicated a naval action.

Viewed from the hills back of Honolulu, where many city folk went to view the fight, columns of heavy black smoke went skyward from Pearl Harbor.

The citizens of Honolulu have been cleared from the streets by military and naval units, assisted by civilian volunteers, all carrying arms.

But a lot of citizens have left the city for hills, to watch the planes and anti-aircraft, and get a general view of the excitement.

I heard one man say, as he passed me on route to the hills: "I'll bet the mainland papers are going to exaggerate this."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7. *AP* The White House announced at 3:35 p. m. (EST) today that the army had just received word that an American vessel, believed to be a cargo ship, had been sending out signals of distress approximately 700 miles west of San Francisco.

Whether it had been torpedoed was not immediately learned.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7. *AP* The British radio reported today without confirmation that "a foreign war ship appeared off Pearl Harbor and began a bombardment." The report, heard by CBS, followed British radio quotation of American news that an aircraft carrier was in operation off Hawaii. Whether this was second ship was not stated.

BERLIN, Dec. 7. *AP* A German spokesman declared tonight there could be no reaction from Germany to the announced Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor until all sides of the case were at hand.

We can not comment," the spokesman said, "until full and exact details of the Japanese as well as the American statements are available."

NEW YORK, Dec. 7. *AP* Untold damage has been done to the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor and to the city of Honolulu itself by unidentified bombing planes, an NBC observer reported today in a broadcast direct from Honolulu.

The observer, standing on the roof of the Advertiser building in Honolulu, said the planes, undoubtedly Japanese, made the raid unexpectedly. His report was suddenly broken off.

Attack Believed Effort to Break U. S. Blockade

BY JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7. *AP* Strategists here suggested today that one of the prime purposes of the initial air attacks on the American insular outposts in Manila and the Philippines was to break an attempted blockade of Nippon before it could be well organized.

They said a general conflict in the Far East, fought over vast areas of land and ocean simultaneously, would be primarily a war of blockade. The initial objective of the United States, with whatever aid comes from other powers, would be to cut off Japanese sources of supply from the outside world and at the same time undertake an air offensive designed to destroy transportation facilities, power plants, munitions factories and other sources of military power in Japan.

Estimates of the Japanese air force, made

before today, varied widely, ranging from 2500 to 3600 planes. Military experts said the Japanese had been so preoccupied with keeping their armies going in China that they had not been able to keep their planes up to the high competitive levels of speed and firepower reached by Western nations. They likewise were said to have neither the resources nor mass production methods engaged in the building of British and American air forces.

Recent months have brought many evidences of reinforcements of American air bases in the Philippines. Numerous Japanese military objectives are within easy bombing distance of long-range planes operating from the Philippines, and bombing-patrol operations can be carried out from new army and navy bases in the Aleutian Islands off Alaska.

British Statement Expected Tonight

BULLETINS

NEW YORK, Dec. 7. *AP* The British radio quoted the Reuters news agency tonight reporting from Honolulu that several planes were shot down in an attack on Pearl Harbor.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 7. *AP* "It's unimaginable!" That was the way Josho Muto, Japanese consul general here, reacted to word the Japanese were bombing Honolulu and Manila.

"I had no intimation of it," he cried. "I don't know what I shall do, yet, or whether there is anything I can do."

NEW YORK, Dec. 7. *AP* A naval official who declined to be quoted said today that the navy department had sent out an urgent call to all officers on leave to report at once to naval districts in which they are located.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7. *AP* The president decided today after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and Manila to call an extraordinary meeting of the cabinet for 8:30 p. m. tonight and to have congressional leaders of both parties join the conference at 9 p. m.

Mr. Roosevelt, the White House said, "is assembling all the facts as rapidly as possible and in all probability he will, as quickly as possible, make a full, informative report to congress, probably in the form of a message."

At the time of his decision for a special meeting of the cabinet and congressional chieftains, Mr. Roosevelt was conferring with his war and navy secretaries and the army chief of staff, Gen. George C. Marshall.

London Awaits Fulfillment of War Promise

U. S. Envoy Winant
Confers With
Winston Churchill

London, Dec. 7. *AP* A British statement, composed with the aid of United States Ambassador John G. Winant, was expected "fairly soon" tonight as London awaited fulfillment of Prime Minister Churchill's promise to declare war on Japan "within the hour" if she attacked the United States.

Churchill and Winant were in conference tonight, a short time after Pres. Roosevelt's announcement that Japanese planes had attacked Hawaii and the Philippines.

The prime minister and the ambassador were said by intimates to be discussing British reaction to the announcement.

The first hour after the Washington announcement was disclosed passed without notice of a British war declaration.

British sources said the cabinet probably would be called for a meeting during the night. Efforts to communicate with the

See LONDON, Page 8.

Naval Battle Off Honolulu Raging

Nipponese Planes Shot Down; Prearranged Defense Plans Declared Functioning Smoothly

350 Men Killed in Raid on Hickam Field

NEW YORK, DEC. 7. *AP* THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MEN WERE KILLED BY A DIRECT BOMB HIT ON HICKAM FIELD, AN NBC OBSERVER REPORTED TONIGHT FROM HONOLULU.

IN ADDITION TO THESE CASUALTIES FROM AN AIR RAID BY PLANES WITH THE OBSERVER IDENTIFIED AS JAPANESE, HE SAID THREE SHIPS INCLUDING THE BATTLESHIP OKLAHOMA, WERE ATTACKED IN PEARL HARBOR.

SEVERAL OF THE ATTACKING PLANES, WHICH CAME FROM THE SOUTH, WERE SHOT DOWN, HE SAID.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7. *AP* Japanese airplanes today attacked American defense bases at Hawaii and Manila, and Pres. Roosevelt ordered the army and navy to carry out undisclosed orders prepared for the defense of the United States.

The White House said that Japan had attacked America's vital outposts in the Pacific—Hawaii and Manila—at 2:20 p. m. (CST) and that so far as was known the attacks were still in progress.

Attacks Made Wholly Without Warning, Early Says

Announcing the president's action for the protection of American territory, Presidential Sec. Stephen Early declared that so far as is known now the attacks were "made wholly without warning — when both nations were at peace—and were delivered within an hour or so of the time that the Japanese ambassadors had gone to the state department to hand to the secretary of state Japan's reply to the secretary's memorandum of the 26th.

Promptly, navy officers said that long prepared countermeasures against Japanese surprise attacks had been ordered into operation and were "working smoothly."

All U. S. Military Personnel Ordered Into Uniform.

And within a few minutes, the war department ordered all military personnel in this country into uniform.

There was a disposition in some quarters here to wonder whether the attack had not been ordered by the Japanese military authorities because they feared the president's direct negotiations with the emperor might lead to an about-face in Japanese policy and the consequent loss of face by the present ruling factions in Japan.

Transport Is Reported Sunk East of Hawaii.

A little later, the White House reported that an army transport loaded with lumber had been torpedoed 1300 miles west of San Francisco. This is well east of Hawaii.

(SEE PACIFIC WAR—PAGE EIGHT)