

Tokyo Bombers Strike Hard At Our Main Bases on Oahu

By The United Press.

HONOLULU, Dec. 7—War broke with lightning suddenness in the Pacific today when waves of Japanese bombers attacked Hawaii this morning and the United States Fleet struck back with a thunder of big naval rifles. Japanese bombers, including four-engined dive bombers and torpedo-carrying planes, blasted at Pearl Harbor, the great United States naval base, the city of Honolulu and several outlying American military bases on the Island of Oahu. There were casualties of unstated number.

[The United States battleship Oklahoma was set afire by the Japanese attackers, according to a National Broadcasting Company observer, who also reported in a broadcast yesterday that two other ships in Pearl Harbor were attacked.

[The Japanese news agency, Domei, reported that the battleship Oklahoma had been sunk at Pearl Harbor, according to a United Press dispatch from Shanghai.

[Governor Joseph B. Poindexter of Hawaii talked with President Roosevelt late yesterday afternoon, saying that a second wave of Japanese bombers was just coming over, and the Gov-

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ernor said there had been heavy loss of life and property. The War Department gave the White House a preliminary estimate of 104 dead and more than 300 wounded in the Army forces alone as a result of the Japanese bombing of the Island of Oahu. The figures, which did not include civilian casualties, were released early last evening. Earlier the National Broadcasting Company observer in Honolulu had reported that 350 men were killed at Hickam Field, Army air base.]

Parachutes appeared off Harbor Point, five miles from the center of Honolulu.

Then the United States Fleet steamed out of Pearl Harbor. The sound of gunfire was heard off Oahu and gun flashes were seen from the shore. It was believed that most of the Japanese bombers operated from aircraft carriers, which might have been intercepted.

The cry, "Now let's get the Japanese," was raised as the Fleet steamed out.

[Japanese sources at Shanghai reported that an American-Japanese naval battle was under way "in the Western Pacific."]

The air attacks began at 7:55 A. M., rousing most Honoluluans from their beds. Some were still prowling the city at noon in their pajamas. "Several" persons were killed in the city.

Estimates of the number of attacking planes ranged from 50 to 150. They were said to have come from carriers anchored off Barber's Point. Pearl Harbor is protected from that direction, the northeast, by a range of mountains and the raiders skimmed the peaks and were almost over the naval base before they were detected. At least one plane was seen to launch a torpedo at warships in the harbor.

Attack Was Expected

It now is possible to reveal that the United States forces here had known for a week that the attack was coming and they were not caught unprepared. It broke with such suddenness, however, that at first the identity of the planes was not definitely known. But observers soon could plainly see the rising sun insignia of Japan on the dive bombers' wings.

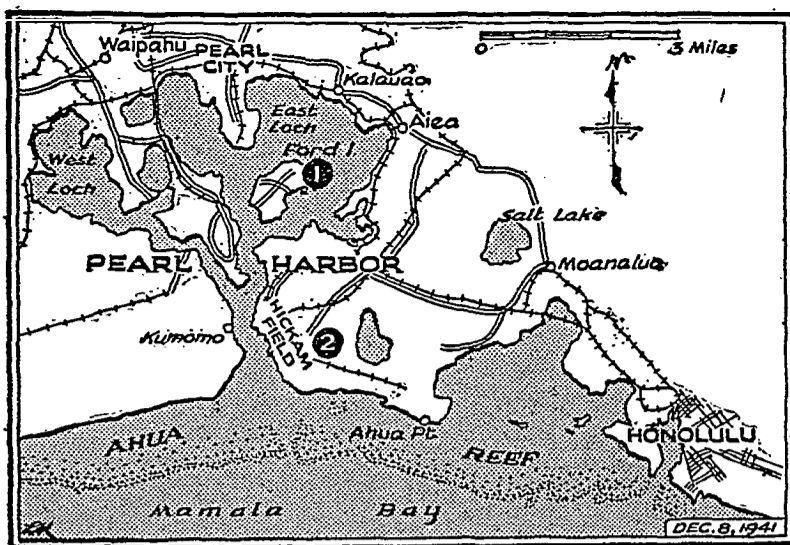
After the shock of the first bomb impacts had been absorbed, Governor Joseph B. Poindexter declared a state of emergency, ordered the public to stay off the streets and threw out police cordons to guard all roads and important intersections.

The attack on Hawaii was believed designed to knock out the centers of resistance to Japan in surprise blows. The method followed was similar to the Nazi Blitzkrieg tactics, which depend largely on surprise and powerful blows at enemy bases and communication lines in the rear.

Heavy anti-aircraft fire shook the Pearl Harbor sector as the defense forces struck back at the attacking planes, especially around Ford Island air base in the center of the harbor. Some attack planes were seen falling in flames and smoke arose over some targets.

This correspondent saw one dive

AMERICAN NAVAL BASE ATTACKED FROM AIR



In the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor fires were set at the air base on Ford Island (1) and hits were believed scored on Hickam Field (2). Casualties were caused in the raids.

bomber swoop down in an attack, the red ball on its wing tip clearly discernible.

"Many" of the attacking planes were reported shot down.

Civilians were ordered off the streets, but many gathered on the hills near by to watch the attack.

Merrit Laws, who saw the beginning of the attack on Pearl Harbor, said:

"I was returning home from work and was above Pearl Harbor when I saw a bomb fall on Ford Island, in the middle of the harbor. The bomb exploded with a deafening roar. It must have been a big one.

"I saw two planes dive over the mountains and down to the water and let loose torpedoes at a naval ship. This warship was attacked again and again.

"I also saw what looked like dive bombers coming over in single file. Some of the ships dived down very low over the water to aim bombs at warships."

Pursuit ships and light bombers led the first Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

One bomber was shot down back of the court house at Wahiawa. It had the numerals 3133-5 on its fuselage. The plane exploded and burned as it hit. The pilot's body was burned.