

Hawaii's Flowers Hide Sting for Jap Invaders

Great Defense Works, Accomplished Since Pearl Harbor, Concealed by Gorgeous Screens

BY KYLE PALMER

Times Staff Representative

HONOLULU (Delayed.)—One of the worst fates that can overtake a newspaperman—and one most frequently encountered in the battle-threatened Hawaiian Islands—is to hear a lot, see a lot and learn a lot about things that thrill a reporter's heart, and then be told to keep it to himself. Practically all of it.

The censor has a word for it: "Security."

Maybe the reporter has a word or two, but the censor has the last word. It is "no."

DON'T ENJOY SECRETS

Of course, reporters can keep secrets when they must, but they don't enjoy the experience; and the arguments between war correspondents and military censors would, in themselves, make mighty interesting reading.

Some reporters go back home and write books in which they devote impassioned paragraphs to descriptions of censorship and the censors themselves, but the censors, supplied with an inexhaustible number of red pencils, keep right on censoring.

Sitting here ruefully looking over one of my own pieces rejected by the censor, I have found the task of salvage virtually out of the question; and so here goes for a slightly different and less graphic discussion of the interesting subject in hand.

AMAZING CHANGE

Escorted by Army or Navy officers I have been permitted to look over the whole establishment. I covered much of the same ground a few months be-

fore the Pearl Harbor attack. The change in all respects is amazing.

Ground and air inspection of the placement of Army and Navy strong points—and, believe me, strong points is a modest description—brings many a shock of raw astonishment, and many a thrill.

What has been accomplished in the Hawaiian area in 13 months represents a many-phased miracle.

VAST WORK COMPLETED

The planning and the executing—the breath-taking magnitude of the physical effort involved—highlight the difference between decades of preparation for a war of theory and short months of getting ready for a war of reality.

Everywhere there is tangible, deadly evidence of the unremitting toil during the 24 hours of the day and all the 365 days of the year that has been necessary to produce this eye-filling result.

NOT EASY TO FIND

One wonders where ships were found in sufficient numbers and of sufficient size and speed to transport the millions of tons of the vast impedimenta of war which has been assembled here since the Japanese attack—the

vicinity is something in the nature of a preliminary blinding flash of lightning, followed by a really businesslike roar of thunder—the same being accompanied by a fairly respectable earthquake.

WAIT FOR PAY-OFF

Nothing to get disturbed about. In fact the noise and the bouncing around seem quite pleasant. So reassuring, under the circumstances.

All of it is a part of the process that men in the armed forces down here describe as "waiting for the pay-off."

They know the pay-off's coming and they feel grimly sure they know who'll do the paying.

tells, bombs, the guns and the tanks, the concrete and the steel.

Even those who saw these installations carried into effect, who work in them and operate from them by day and by night, who discuss them with false nonchance in the presence of the bug-eyed newcomer, are a little wed and fairly bursting with pride that comes from work well done.

Don't conclude for an instant that all of this shows on the surface or that it is easy to see or find.

In this semitropical clime the vegetation is rank and the growth of vines and shrubs—even trees—is rapid.

Over many an important place-

ment of one kind or another the twining morning glory raises an innocent pale blue eye to greet the sun and rain, or a Japanese invader if he should come.

FATAL SPELL BROKEN

Wild orchids nod around harmless-appearing mounds already covered with grass and creeping plants; coconut palms sway serenely over the concealed presence of a gun that can sink a Japanese cruiser not sighted from the land; banana, breadfruit, papaia and kiawe trees, giant koas and banyans and monkeypods, perform like military service.

In the pre-Pearl Harbor-attack days there seemed to be a fatal and almost magic spell over the

islands' defenders, persuading them that the Jap would never come. This spell was swirled away in the smoke and fire and death and destruction of that terrible Sunday in December.

RETURN EXPECTED

Now the assumption is that the enemy will return when he feels himself strong enough or when his situation becomes sufficiently desperate. The emphasis is on readiness to meet the expected blow.

At their posts, like busy ants, the alert soldiers and sailors carry on their appointed chores.

Comings and goings at sea are matters strictly of official concern and knowledge, and in the hills and valleys and along the

beaches you can pass within a few feet of an entire company of soldiers, armed to the teeth and ready for action, and never hear a sound or see a movement.

HEAR GUNS ROAR

And all the while, the fighters and bombers, the darting scout planes and the great roaring transports fill the skies; surface war vessels move swiftly across the horizon; huge convoys creep in and out; submarines come and go; men march and counter-march.

The boom and bang and rattling pop of the big and little guns are heard near by and far off. When some of the big fellows let go the effect in the general

STAKES ARE HIGH

They are the Isei—the immigrants from Japan.

The Nisei comprise the largest Japanese element. They were born in Hawaii and have never visited Japan.

There remains the Kebei, the dual citizens of America and

Japan, who were born here and who, after being educated and given military training in Japan, have returned to the land of their birth. The third category, by all accounts, is considered potentially the most dangerous.

On this point, too, there is controversy.

The whole thing is a gamble—and the stakes are very, very high.

Los Angeles Times

FEBRUARY 5, 1943.—

No Truth in Hawaiian Sabotage Rumors, Declares Bill Moran

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SAN FRANCISCO — A new version of the "talking dog" story relating to rumors of Japanese sabotage at Hawaii was told early this week by Bill Moran, former cartoonist and political writer for the Hawaii Hochi, in an interview in San Francisco by the Chronicle.

Moran told of a woman calling up the authorities and telling of a "dog barking in Japanese code! And the people believed it," said Moran.

"They said, 'Don't look for the dog barking the signals—get the dog receiving them!'"

Of such rumors Moran said, "There was absolutely no evidence of sabotage found that day the Japs came to Pearl Harbor. The rumor mill worked a three-day shift on that job.

"But there were no Jap flyers shot down wearing McKinley High rings or rings of any other American alma mater. There were no helpful arrows scythed in the sugar cane pointing to Hickam Field. There were no Jap drivers zig-

zagging up the highway to keep army officers from their post. None of that stuff.

"All these rumors were tracked down by intelligence and they ended where they began, in thin air."

Of the change in Hawaii since the army took over, Moran said,

"When the army moved in, all that (Japanese language schools, imported Japanese teachers, etc.) came to an end. The textbooks and Jap teachers went out and in their place the army launched an educational campaign to teach the Japanese in Hawaii just what democracy is and how it works, even in the front lines, so to speak.

"The army has done a splendid job and the Japanese, instead of looking upon democracy as a joke, a soft, flabby concept, now look upon it with respect. The Japanese still live and work at the jobs they did before Pearl Harbor with the exception of the dangerous element which was scooped up that morning by the army and navy intelligence and the FBI, working hand in glove."

TROUBLE FEARED

Those who rely on the loyalty of the Japanese population point to this over-all situation as proving that no considerable fifth column exists here and that no mass support of the enemy would be forthcoming if a major attack develops.

Not so with respect to the opinion of the group that feels serious trouble awaits only the word to "go."

To the challenging assertion of "no sabotage," they tersely ask: "So what?"

Their answer also is their explanation.

They see the Japanese sneak attack as solely for the purpose of crippling or destroying warships, airplanes and military installations. By the very nature

of the assault no paralysis of military or civilian movements on the ground was sought.

SECRECY VITAL

Moreover, it was vitally important that secrecy be maintained throughout; that no general knowledge of the imminence of the event be known even to sympathizers or general confederates in the islands.

The attackers came literally to hit, and then to run. They brought no landing troops and needed no co-operation of any kind from supporters here. Such help as they needed already had been given in the information supplied prior to the attack.

Fifth-column activity, sabotage and active armed co-operation, it is argued, would have been pointless so far as the first attack was concerned; would be held in abeyance until a more auspicious occasion—such as an actual invasion attempt when disruption of traffic, internal disorder, destruction of vital installations, would count.

OPPOSITE CONCLUSIONS

Thus, it may be seen, from the same set of facts and potentialities, two diametrically opposite conclusions are drawn. What makes the situation all the more incomprehensible is that each contending opinion is backed by the judgment of competent observers and investigators.

Most of the aspects of the issue discussed here have been checked and rechecked with officials whose specific duty has been—and is—to learn all there is to know about a problem which conceivably might represent life or death, victory or defeat, for the defenders of America's great military bastion in the Pacific.

All have discussed the matter freely and candidly, and only with such "off the record" reservations as ordinary discretion would dictate.

Yet the fact remains: with an identical problem before them they have reached different solutions.

FEEL JAPS TREACHEROUS

Back of their immediate divergence is a fundamental disagreement concerning the basic character of the Japanese as a race.

One student of the situation sincerely believes the Japanese is inherently treacherous, fanat-

ic, wholly incapable of breaking through a shell of tradition and inherited race motives and influences. From this viewpoint it is obvious that a Japanese cannot comprehend true democratic principles; cannot be assimilated into a democracy.

The other view regards him as being no different from any other member of the human family; feels he is well along the road—in Hawaii—of development as a true lover of liberty; thinks of him here as being misunderstood, unappreciated—the innocent victim of circumstances.

NO MIDDLE GROUND

One group believes he has earned a chance to be trusted; the other feels any trust is misplaced and any confidence a reckless disregard of essential precautions.

There is little middle ground upon which to take a stand. Both groups wind up their analyses with a triumphant: "Wait and see."

What does the American-born Japanese himself think of his position? He was born here, has attended school here, been taught the doctrines of democracy, followed a common life. Also, he has been thoroughly exposed to the culture and heritage of his forefathers.

First, he is self-conscious and aware of the questionable light in which he stands. His attitude is a mixture of philosophical resignation, submerged resentment and confused thinking. Judging by impressions one gets from talking with many persons of Japanese ancestry, the American-born Japanese is ashamed of the infamy of the Pearl Harbor attack.

JAPANESE PRESS

Japanese-language newspapers, published in English and Japanese, vie in printing accounts of United Nations successes and Japanese navy and army defeats; prominently display photographs of Japanese warplanes falling into the sea, Japanese warships going down in fire and smoke.

Both alien and American-born Japanese buy War Bonds in commendable quantities, go readily to the blood bank, do all the

things good citizens—or smart enemy sympathizers—would do. Scores of American-born Japanese doctors have pleaded for opportunities to go to the battle fronts in Europe and Africa.

In all probability no satisfactory answer to this critical and genuinely tragic question will be found until destiny itself adds up the score.

JOIN LABOR BATTALIONS

Meanwhile, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino and Caucasian live and work and play here side by side in amity and common endeavor. Japanese have been important factors in helping to construct fortifications, in advancing the rapid excavation and completion of air-raid shelters, in all other activities where they have been asked or permitted to serve.

Before this war is finished, some say, the valor of American-born Japanese on some far field of battle in defense of American institutions may assist the nation as a whole to resolve some of its doubts.

Hundreds of university students of Japanese descent, unable for more than a year to enlist in the armed forces, have insisted upon being enrolled in labor battalions, and have performed prodigious feats. In talking to some of these boys, the feeling is inescapable that they are bewildered by the shadow of suspicion that lies upon them; that they would gladly risk their lives to prove their loyalty.

JAPS ENLIST

Under orders just issued by Lieut. Gen. Delos C. Emmons,

commander of the Army in the Hawaiian Department, they will be permitted to volunteer for combat service overseas. Within a few hours after the order was made public they began enlisting as rapidly as their applications could be passed upon.

An initial combat team of 1500 American-born Japanese will be sent from Hawaii to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, within the next few weeks.

There are in Hawaii, in addition to the round figure of 100,000 American-born Japanese, some 40,000 aliens.

Males in the alien category are for the most part beyond military age. Their passive loyalty to the Emperor of Japan is conceded. They have been away from Japan most of their lives. Their probable actions in the event of attack, or the damage they could or would do, falls obscurely into the general maze of contradictions on the entire local Japanese problem.

Los Angeles Times

Hawaiian Japs Reach Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK (Ark.) Nov. 26. (AP)—Arrival at the Jerome (Ark.) relocation center of 107 alien and native-born Hawaiian Japanese from Honolulu, the first of several contingents to be evacuated from the islands to the mainland, was announced today by Regional Director E. B. Whitaker of the War Relocation Authority.

Whitaker said the group is composed largely of women and elderly people who volunteered for removal from the Hawaiian theater of operations. They were transported to the camp by the Army.

Whitaker said he did not know how many more would be sent from Hawaii but that, by crowding the present occupants of the Jerome and Rohwer camps, approximately 2400 could be accommodated.

Arrival of Hawaiian Evacuees at WRA Center Reported

The arrival of the first group of Hawaiian evacuees of Japanese ancestry at a relocation center in Arkansas was announced Thursday by an Arkansas WRA official, according to a radio report received in Salt Lake City.

The initial group from Hawaii consisted mainly of "children and old men and women," according to the report.

Japanese Workers Jailed for Slowdown Tactics in Hawaii

HONOLULU—The United Press reported Monday that five Japanese workers at Hickam Field Army air base on Oahu, had began prison sentences because they had ridiculed conscientious Japanese workers and tried to get them to work less hard, according to charges filed against them in court.

Major Samuel E. Murrell of provost court sentenced one to a year in jail and the others to nine months each.

Hawaii Official Jailed on Illegal Flag Charge

HONOLULU, T. H.—Sanji Abe, Republican territorial Senator from the First District on the island of Hawaii and of Japanese ancestry, was charged formally last week with illegal possession of the Japanese flag.

The charge, filed under the general orders of the military governor, is subject to review by the Provost Marshal before trial in a Provost Court. Senator Abe, who is 47 years of age, was arrested Saturday.

Abe, who served for 22 years with the Hilo police, was elected to the Hawaiian Senate in November, 1940, and gave up his dual citizenship the same month.

He served in the United States Army during World War 1 and is president of the Society of American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry.

Hawaii Calm, Stages Drive

HONOLULU, Dec. 7.—(INS)—December 7, anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, proved uneventful in Hawaii.

The Army and Navy maintained routine alertness and the civil population devoted most of its attention to a million-dollar war bond drive.

A Requiem Mass was celebrated at Pearl Harbor for those killed in last year's raid.

Question of Jap Loyalty in Crisis Haunts Hawaii

Opinions of Intelligent Observers Vary Widely on What Would Happen if Isle Were Attacked

BY KYLE PALMER
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HONOLULU (Delayed) — From the all-important standpoint of internal security and also of military supremacy in the event of all-out attack by the Japanese navy on Hawaii, the one big, haunting, menacing question here is the loyalty of approximately 100,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Actually, the effective potential peril is nearer 15,000, for the lesser figure represents males of military age.

But large or small, any band of determined, desperate and ably led fifth columnists in this area might turn the course of the war in the Pacific—if certain developments should occur.

PUZZLING PROBLEM

That's why the problem looms so large upon the horizon of those charged with the paramount task of maintaining this base both as an offensive and defensive factor in the global war.

Anyway you look at it, it's a riddle.

There is not a single angle of the matter that has not developed sharp and seemingly irreconcilable disagreement. There is no agreement, in fact, among the military, naval and civil agencies specially charged with securing accurate information on the subject.

Given equal opportunity to check the facts, the possibilities, probabilities and potentials, two or more persons of presumably equal intelligence, preparation and perception will arrive at different—probably violently opposite—conclusions.

WHAT'S FEARED

It's just as complex as that—and just as baffling.

One group, by no means to be regarded as alarmist, is unshakably convinced that a sizable army of American-born Japanese, trained as saboteurs, espionage agents and specialized fifth columnists, merely awaits the appointed hour to rush forth, dig up buried weapons and ammunition, shoot Hawaii's defenders in the back and create such havoc as time and opportunity will permit.

They have their reasons and their related factors.

Their predictions are dire and their forebodings uncomfortable, to say the least.

RECORD SPEAKS

They have one formidable, virtually unexpirable combination of facts to bolster their position.

The record unmistakably shows that the Japanese population significantly failed to respond to its opportunities—and the nation's peril—during the months that led up to and followed the treacherous murder that rained out of the skies over Pearl Harbor.

Despite the known presence in Hawaii of Japanese army and navy spies, and a 24-hour operation of consular agents here for years—many of them believed to be still here and undetected—there has not been a single instance in which an American-born citizen of Japanese ancestry has voluntarily exposed either their identities or their activities.

That is quite an indictment.

EXPLANATIONS APLENTY

Explanations aplenty are made for this, among them the assurance that the rank and file of Japanese on the islands had no actual knowledge or evidence of sinister activities, that they regarded the inquiries and inspections of consular agents and Japanese military personnel as merely routine or based on economic and trade rivalries.

This easy dismissal of such remarkable reticence in the face of increasing evidence of warlike preparations and menaces by the imperial Japanese government wears a little thin in places. On the other hand, it may well have logical application to the mass of local Japanese.

SABOTAGE QUESTION

Next, take the question of sabotage. No one challenges the fact that a great deal of espionage is going on; some of it successfully secret, much of it under the non-committal eyes of the naval and military intelligence services and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

All told, less than 1000 Japanese have been interned. Individuals are being picked up continually; others are known.

As to sabotage, however, there is much argument. Not about what might have been perpetrated, but about the possibilities and likelihoods.

All sides are agreed that no single act of known sabotage occurred coincidentally with the arrival of Japan's hit-and-run surface, air and subsurface craft on Dec. 7, 1941.

No one.

STORIES BLASTED

Not even the dramatic episode so often repeated on the mainland about the familiar milk wagon at Pearl Harbor, the sides of which were reported to have fall-

en away to reveal the once-smiling milkman sitting behind a battery of death-dealing machine guns. If the milkman was there, he probably was trying to make himself as small as possible in the nearest red mud ditch; and his wagon, if present, contained only milk, or cream for the morning coffee.

And while it would seem heartless to rob the Pearl Harbor tragedy of any of its murderous and hideous aspects, it still is only fair to record that no trucks or other vehicles zigzagged through Honolulu streets or along important highways to impede the passage of troops or military equipment.

IN VITAL POSTS

This popular tale, circulated on the mainland from coast to coast and still making the rounds, imply was a bit of imaginative doctoring of a picture that really needed no adornment or highlighting.

Opportunity for sabotage while the Japanese flyers were overhead lay readily available to any willing hand. Resident Japanese occupied vital posts in virtually every important Hawaiian public utility—power plants, telephone companies, gasoline stations, water works, transportation systems. They're still at those posts.

However, with only such interruptions as the terrible occasion would have brought under any circumstances all essential public functions were continued in full operation.