

# 'BLOW BY BLOW' OF WAKE BATTLE

Stirring Details of How 400 Marines Stood Off Jap Fleet, 200 Planes and Invasion Army in Historic 14-Day Fight.

By FRANK TREMAINE  
United Press Staff Correspondent

HONOLULU, Dec. 29.—The Navy described today how 400 United States marines on Wake Island, with four planes and a few guns, stood off for 14 days a Japanese fleet, more than 200 Japanese planes and a Japanese invasion army.

On the last day, Dec. 22, Japanese warships of all types, their guns blazing, closed in, their troop transports close behind, and Japanese planes swarmed over the island.

The two Marine planes remaining went up, the Marine gunners and infantrymen took their posts, and the garrison radioed: "Issue in doubt."

Both Marine planes were shot down after shooting down several Japanese planes. The ground guns grew hot as the Marines fired, but the issue was no longer in doubt.

**Victory is Costly**

The last radio came, that the Japanese had landed troops from several ships and that the transports were starting to move in. Nothing has been heard since but the jubilant Japanese announcements of their victory.

Their victory over a handful of men cost them a cruiser, three destroyers and a submarine disabled or sunk, a transport badly damaged, many planes destroyed and uncounted men killed or wounded.

The first attack was made on Wake Island at almost the moment Pearl Harbor here was attacked. Wake, however, is across the international dateline in the Far Pacific, and it was Monday instead of Sunday morning there.

**Shipper Island Defenses**

Five days before the end, practically every defense work on the island had been damaged or destroyed.

In its statement of the fight the Navy said:

"Official reports indicate that probably no military force in American history, not even the defenders of the Alamo, ever fought against greater odds or with greater effect in view of those odds."

As many as 40 planes at a time, some of them great four-motored flying boats, attacked the island.

Eight Marine planes were destroyed in the sneak attack of Dec. 8. Another was lost soon afterward. Two more were lost Dec. 14 but one was patched up during the night.

At no time did the Marines have more than four planes in action, and these had to be patched in darkness. During the closing days there were two planes.

**25 in First Raid**

Twenty-five men were killed and many wounded in the first raid.

For three days the Japanese contented themselves with aerial attack. On the fourth day, they attacked with a fleet, and the Marine guns sank a light cruiser and a destroyer and shot down six planes.

The Japanese were using land-based as well as aircraft carrier planes, the four-motored bombers, two-motored bombers and swarms of fighters. It was believed the land planes might have been based on the Japanese mandated islands southward.

There were so many Japanese planes in the final attack that they could not be counted. When the two remaining Marine planes went down, the Japanese closed in, laying down a barrage behind which came their landing troops.

**Fight Until the End**

"Even in the final phase, the batteries blasted away to great effect," the Navy said. "The last phrase of the last message was the statement that two more enemy destroyers had been disabled."

Dispatches sent from the island during the 14-day stand said that after their first treacherous attack the Japanese gave up low-altitude bombing and machine gunning for high level attacks.

The first attack was made by between 20 and 30 two-motored bombs.

## IN INDIANAPOLIS—VITAL STATISTICS

### Here is the Traffic Record

County	City	Total	
1940	60	82	
1941	66	64	
Decrease	66	130	
Accidents	51	Arrests	264
Injured	16	Dead	0

### SATURDAY TRAFFIC COURT

Violations	Cases	Convic.	Fines
Speeding	3	2	\$25
Reckless driving	3	3	15
Failure to stop at through street	0	0	0
Disobeying traffic signals	0	0	0
Drunken driving	6	2	41
All others	5	4	13
Totals	17	12	\$92

### MEETINGS TOMORROW

Modena Language Association of America, convention, Claypool, Lincoln and Seville Hotel, 7 p.m.	Alpha Phi Fraternity, meeting, Riley Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Delta Sigma Theta, luncheon, Board of Indiana University Club, luncheon, 6 p.m.	
Gamma Phi Beta, meeting, Riley Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Alpha Sigma Alpha, meeting, Hotel Seville, 7 p.m.	
Alpha Omicron Pi, meeting, Hotel Seville, 7 p.m.	
Alpha Gamma Delta, meeting, Hotel Seville, 7 p.m.	
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