

PEARL HARBOR... FIRST PICTURES

The December disaster at Pearl Harbor. This is how the great American Naval base looked after waves of Japanese bombers had carried out their "stab in the back" raid. The battleship, "ARIZONA, and four other warships destroyed; the air base on the Island, and large numbers of aircraft bombed and burnt-out in one devastating, treacherous blow. Japan's vicious attempt to cripple the American Pacific Fleet before any declaration of war. Taken by surprise, the fighter aircraft at Hickam Field and Wheeler Field had little chance of engaging the enemy bombers, who were thus able to wreak their destruction almost unimpeded.

In that hard blow which brought America into the war, perished the warships ARIZONA, OKLAHOMA, UTAH, DOWNES, AND CASSIN.

For a long time the Japanese war lords had planned this lightning stroke. When the time came the yellow fever swept over the Pacific ocean and today we begin to realize, that what we call the War East, is as close to us as the rest of this war. The Pacific Ocean is 66 and a half million square miles of water, and in that area the second half of this world war is taking place.

The Japanese may have broken a great Naval base, but the same hard knock did much more than that. It united a nation overnight. "Remember Pearl Harbor" became the battle cry of America. Isolationists vanished into thin air, and 132 million people squared their shoulders and fell in behind their fighting President.

The one-time home of a mighty Fleet presents a sorry sight indeed. It was the hinge of United States Naval strategy. The only base west of San Diego where its Navy could be sheltered, fuelled and repaired in wartime. With a heavy burden on her shoulders, America came into the war. But these pictures make good propaganda. A 100 per cent war effort is the answer. Remember Pearl Harbor. We in Britain have also lost a key position - Remember Singapore.

That "Battle of Britain" spirit is wanted back, and it's wanted back in the right places - everywhere.

"No Easy conquest of a savage foe, but by the efforts of the whole and not the few, will come the vengeance for a heavy blow".

A lot of people in our combined ranks have got to wake up, so that out of the fiery wreckage which is a perpetual monument to incompetence and complacency, will emerge the men necessary to convert defeat into Victory. What has been lost has got to be rebuilt, regained, revenged.