

Yesterday in Mekeel's:

December 1941: Japanese Attack Pearl Harbor!

By Bear Rowell (*From Mekeel's Weekly, December 6, 1991*)

1 December—Malaya—Following reports of Japanese preparations for an attack, British authorities have declared a state of emergency.

2 December—Eastern Front—In the Moscow sector some small German forces have reached the northern suburbs of the capital, reportedly within sight of the Kremlin, less than 20 miles distant. On Hitler's direct order, Kluge's troops are renewing their efforts to the west of the city. The weather—called General Winter by Soviet troops—continues to grow colder; blizzards howl and swirl over the previous hard frosts and heavy snow. Both Bock, commanding German Army Group Center and Brauchitsch, the Commander in Chief, are on the sick list, unable to perform their duties.



Japan 178, Mt. Niitaka,
Taiwan

4 December—British Home Front—Parliament has passed a National Service Bill. Provisions include compulsory direction and conscription for female labor.

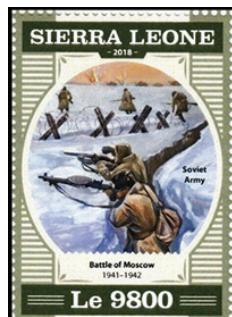
4 December—South China Sea—A Japanese landing force bound for Malaya has departed Hainan.

5 December—Eastern Front—Hitler has agreed to halt the German Moscow offensive: the ravages of winter and the growing weakness of German troops are taking their toll.

5 December—Mediterranean—Hitler has ordered the transfer of the whole of Fliegerkorps II from the Eastern Front to the Mediterranean. He hopes they will reduce the effectiveness of British Malta forces against Axis convoys.

5 December—Moscow—General Sikorski, head of the Polish Government-in-Exile, is in Moscow to see Stalin. They have signed a friendship and mutual aid agreement here.

6 December—Eastern Front—Early this morning, Soviet troops began a major counteroffensive along the 500 miles of the Moscow sector. Fresh from Siberia, troops have been sent in at Kalinin, West and Southwest Fronts. Prominent units include First Shock and Twentieth Armies in the advance against the Klin area and the Tenth Army, which is leading the move against Guderian's Panzers east of Tula. The Soviet aim is to cut through the Panzer wings of Army Group



Sierre-Leone,
Moscow, Winter 1941

2 December—Pacific—A special code order: "Climb Mount Niihawa" has gone out by radio from Japanese Naval HQ to the ships of the carrier force steaming for Hawaii. Translation: Negotiations have broken down; execute Pearl Harbor attack.

2 December—East Indies—The British battleship *Prince of Wales*, carrying many newly minted naval officers on their shakedown cruise, and the battlecruiser, *Repulse*, have just put in at Singapore. (Their arrival is noted by the Japanese but it is too late for them to have the planned deterrent effect.)



Great Britain 2801,
Women in Factories



Poland 2442,
Wladislaw Sikorski

Center, then isolate and destroy it. Soviet commanders include Zhukov, who has planned and is in command of the whole effort, Rokossovsky and Kuznetsov, among the Red Army's ablest war leaders in the years to come. First reports are that they are meeting with marked success against the weak and overextended German forces.

6 December—Washington D.C.—Roosevelt has made a final appeal to the Japanese Emperor for peace. (There is no Japanese reply.) Late today, the Japanese begin transmitting what is to be their final message to the U.S. Government, the first 13 parts of which are intercepted, quickly decoded and passed to the President. Although the crucial 14th (and last) segment is not available, Roosevelt correctly interprets its message: War.

Also reported is the urgent request of a Japanese agent in Honolulu for a special situation report on the U.S. Pacific Fleet, but since similar requests to agents elsewhere have also been intercepted, no special significance is given to this one.

6 December—Pacific—Japanese forces are departing Palau, bound for the attack on the Philippines.

7 December—Hawaii—7:55 AM, Honolulu Time:



Pearl Harbor Attack: Left, Japan B7, right U.S. 2559i
Below, Sao Tome 2021 issue



On this Sunday morning, 423 Japanese planes, from six carriers, have attacked Pearl Harbor, where most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet lies at anchor. All eight U.S. battleships in port are damaged, five of them sunk. (*Arizona* is lost; *Oklahoma* will be raised but scrapped; *California*, *Nevada* and *West Virginia* will be rebuilt to rejoin the fleet) Three cruisers and three destroyers are sunk; altogether 19 ships are sunk or disabled.

On Battleship Row, not a wisp of smoke floated from a stack; one third of all ships' officers were on Sunday shore leave, sailors idled on deck or tended to perfunctory chores below. At the nearby Army airfields—Bellows, Hickam, Wheeler—dozens of fighters and bombers were lined up wing to wing, like toys on a game board. They never got off the ground; Japanese pilots destroyed 188 of them. As the wreck of the Arizona exploded, rising out of the water in smoke and flames, one sailor was so frustrated he threw potatoes at the bombers.

The U.S. commanders have been kept fully informed of intelligence developments; nonetheless, since none of the evidence points more significantly to Pearl Harbor than elsewhere, they felt it unnecessary to order a very high state of readiness. There are no torpedo nets to protect the fleet anchorage; partly because it is Sunday, officers and crews are ashore and few anti-aircraft guns were manned; many ammunition boxes for AA guns were locked because peacetime custom decrees that every round must be accounted for, and with officers scattered on a peacetime Sunday, men broke into ammunition stores, wasting precious time when neither keys nor orders could be dispensed.

Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Lieutenant General Walter C. Short; CIC U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander of U.S. forces in Hawaii respectively, will be dismissed for this catalog of errors.

Final toll: 2,403 soldiers, sailors and civilians dead, 1,178 wounded. Though orders from Japan were to deliver the message that relations were severed at 1300 hours, Washington Time, to coincide with the first wave of Japanese bombers over Pearl Harbor, the Japanese Ambassador and his aides, in no hurry, leisurely put finishing touches on their note and didn't get in to see Secretary of State Cordell Hull until two hours after Pearl Harbor had begun. By this time, the Secretary had already received reports of the surprise attack and swore at them like a Tennessee muleskinner as they hemmed and hawed through the diplomatic niceties, then finally presented the Japanese Declaration of War.

At 2:22 PM, EST, the Associated Press sent out a Flash: "WHITE HOUSE SAYS JAPS ATTACK PEARL HARBOR," and word of the surprise attack rolled like thunder across the country as movie theaters and radio broadcasts interrupted programs of ball games and music. Millions more learned from friends and neighbors, over the back fence, on street corners, from the driver in the next car at a stoplight. After a generation of peace, America's turn had come.



Maldives Islands 2016 Issue, Pearl Harbor Attack

Army Air Force pilot Paul Tibbets, flying between Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Hunter Field in Georgia, tuned in his radio about twenty minutes before he was to land his Douglas A-20. The Savannah station announcer interrupted a Glenn Miller record with the news of Pearl Harbor.

At Fort Sam Houston in Texas, Brigadier General Dwight Eisenhower's Sunday afternoon nap was interrupted by the ringing of the telephone. His wife heard him say, "Yes? When? I'll be right down." He ran out the door, dressing as he went and calling over his shoulder that he was on his way to headquarters and didn't know when he'd be back.

In Cleveland, eighty Far East experts had gathered to discuss ways of resolving the regional crisis. When news of Pearl Harbor arrived, there was dead silence for two minutes. In those 120 seconds, eighty different opinions were resolved. And in Redwood City, California, a motorist who had been listening on his car radio to the increasingly serious reports, died at the wheel of a heart attack: the home front's first casualty. Telephone calls to Alaska were cancelled. The Navy began censoring cables, the Army, international mail. The government grounded private planes and silenced the nation's 50,000 ham radio operators.

Some recruiting offices opened on Sunday "By popular demand" and lines formed around the block. In Detroit, a grandfather, his son and his grandson showed up at a Navy recruiting station. On the West Coast, mass hysteria gave wings to rumors of enemy planes, spies, and Japanese farmers who had planted crops to form arrows pointing toward military installations. When a University of San Francisco student walked into the living room of his boarding house and flipped on the light, his landlady yelled: "Turn out the lights! The Japs are coming!" The enemy had already bombed the Golden Gate Bridge, she informed him.

In Washington D.C., a crowd saw the smoke rise from the Japanese Embassy as diplomats hastily burned their papers. Embassy staffers carried boxes of papers into the garden out back and lit them with kitchen matches. In New Orleans, a crowd watched Japanese consular officials burning papers in their courtyard. Some blew away before they could burn, however, and diplomats chased them around like chickens while observers hissed. The Japanese consul in San Francisco was in such a hurry to burn his files that he ended up accidentally setting fire to his home.

Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress, prepared the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence for removal to Fort Knox. "I have never been as frightened for the Republic as I was by midnight," he said.

(In retrospect, several priority targets were unavailable or ignored by the Japanese: repair shops, power plants, massive oil storage tanks and more than 70 vessels were left unscathed. Perhaps most significantly, the Pacific Fleet's three aircraft carriers, key targets for the Japanese, were either at sea or on the West Coast and escaped destruction. In the months to come, the three flattops, the *Enterprise*, the *Saratoga* and the *Lexington*, became the nucleus of a more modern and effective fleet.)

A blow they surely did not intend to strike was the mortal wound they dealt the powerful isolationist movement: At 7:55 AM, Honolulu Time, isolationist senators and congressmen, the 500 chapters of Robert E. Wood's America First Committee, boasting members like Teddy Roosevelt's daughter Alice Roosevelt Longworth, author Kathleen Norris and actress Lilian Gish, about faced. Outright collaborators and anti-Semites—the German-American Bund, and the Ku Klux Klan—were silenced.)

In Tokyo, Emperor Hirohito declared war on the United States and Great Britain eight hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, accusing them of prolonging the war in China by aiding Chiang Kai-shek's government. The war declaration "has been truly unavoidable," the Emperor said.



Japan 335: "Enemy Country Surrender" (See also, page 12)

A Sampling of Pearl Harbor Anniversary Issues



Additional WWII issues, page 13

The Origin of the Design of the 1945 Enemy Surrender Stamp of Japan

by Capt. Wm. H. Talbot (*From STAMPS Magazine, December 18, 1948*)

On May 1, 1945, there mysteriously appeared a new stamp in the Post Office at NAGOYA. It was a 10 sen valued stamp, and was very poorly printed in grey-black ink on white paper, perforated 13, but was ungummed because of haste and also because of "Enemy Action." The design of this stamp was an old frame, upon which appeared the Japanese characters "TEKKOKU-KOFUKU" which translated into English, means "Enemy Country will surrender" or "SUBJUGATION OF THE ENEMY," whichever translation you prefer.

This saying has generally been credited to the Emperor Daigo-Tenno (921 A.D.), but to date I have not found any authority to confirm it, but what I can say, with authority, is that the diversification and the perpetuation of "TEKKOKU-KOFUKU" can be ascribed to the Emperor KAME-YAMA (A.D. 1249 to 1305) for Japanese History is very definite concerning him. In the year A.D. 1274 the forces of Kublai-Khan attacked Japan at HAKATA and FUKUOKA and then again in A.D. 1281. It was during this latter attack upon Japan and at the same places that the Emperor Kameyama prayed for the preservation of the Empire. At or about this time, the Emperor Kameyama decided to relinquish the "Throne" for the "Cloister," and he personally emblazoned thirty-seven prayers, in gold letters upon black paper which read "TEKKOKU-KOFUKU," or "The Enemy will surrender," which undoubtedly became responsible for the diversification and perpetuation of these prayers throughout the Empire.

At the spot where the attacks of Kublai-Khan had twice occurred, it was decided to build a Temple, which when finished was dedicated to "HACHI-MAN DAI JIN," the God of War, for it was believed that his spirit would protect the Japanese Empire.

This temple was built at FUKUOKA, and until September, 1945, it was the proud possessor of one of the original prayers of "TEKKO-KU-KO-FUKU" emblazoned by the Emperor Kameyama. In the Year Bunroku 3 (A.D. 1592-1595) a noted Japanese General, TAKA-KAGE KOHAYAGAWA, who had been chosen to lead an Expedition against the Koreans, caused the two-storied Gate (illustrated herein) to be built as his offering and prayer to the god of war "Hachi-man Go" that his efforts would be successful.

He could not, of course, place the "TEKKOKU-KOFUKU" scroll over the Gate, so he did the next best thing; he caused the frame with the same characters to be made and placed over the entrance gate. This two-story Gate was built without the use of a single metal nail.

We must now jump in time from 1592 to 1945, at which latter time the



Left, the illustration of the subject stamp from the 1948 article, right a recent illustration of the stamp, Sc. 335

Japanese Islands were being invaded. This time the invasion was by aircraft of the United States of America; Japan's shipping practically destroyed; threats of landing parties imminent. Someone had a brain-wave, resulting in the government deciding to resuscitate the waning enthusiasm of the people by bringing before them the old, old prayer of the Emperor Karnevama "TEKKOKU-KOFUKU." So someone was sent to the Hakozaki Temple at FUKUOKA to take a photograph of the Frame still hanging above the Entrance of the Gate (see the illustration, taken in August, 1947) and to use this frame with its characters to become the DESIGN OF STAMPS TO BE ISSUED.

As a result thereof, the first stamps of this design (Scott's A149, stamp number 335) was released and on the same day May 1, 1945, another printing was made. This time in blue, on white paper, imperforate and ungummed; later another printing was made, the third printing being in the original grey-black ink on white paper, also imperforate and ungummed. These stamps were numbered by Scott as 354A and 354 in the reverse order of their release.

As this article is concerned with the design of the stamps under review, and the origin thereof, I will close by submitting, in proof thereof: (1) Photograph, taken in 1947 with the arrow pointing to the Frame and its characters, still in position, where it has hung since 1594. (2) An enlargement of the frame itself, showing the weathering which has occurred in this great length of time, and an enlargement of the stamp itself as exhibit 3, a comparison of which will convince any unbiased person of the accuracy of my report.



Left to right: the Hakozaki Temple Gate, Fukuoka, from the 1948 article; a recent photo; the original frame and characters, from the 1948 article

Collecting The History of World War II

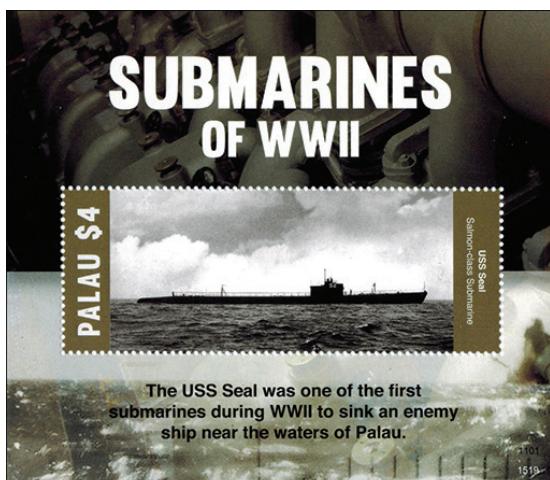
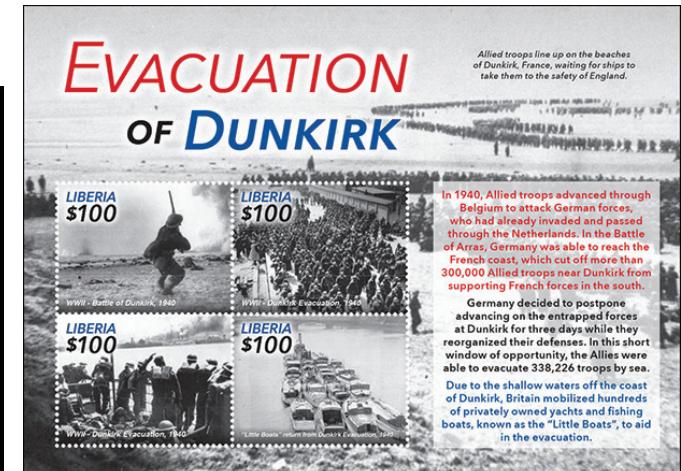
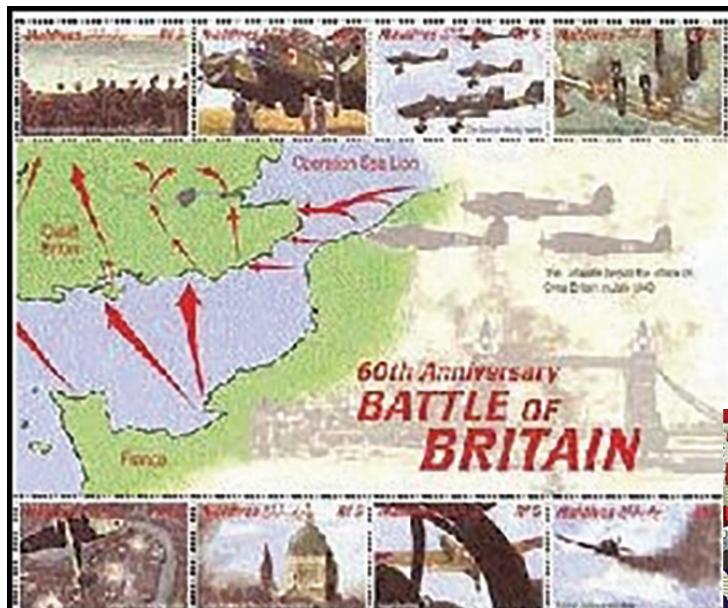
by John F. Dunn

As we work our way through Bear Rowell's chronological history of World War II, I enjoy searching for images to supplement the text. For me, it is a form of collection building.

With that, it occurred to me that collectors who are interested in history might want to build a History of World War II Collection. If you have such an interest, there are numerous sources for information, but one of the sources to which I turn is igpc.com, the website of the Inter-Governmental Corporation of New York, where you can find hundreds of issues that are

still available, including some that were issued in the 1990s. You can search from a Topics with scores of listings, or use the Search option by WW II or specific subject, such as Pearl Harbor. Shown here is a sampling of issues for events we already have covered in our Mekeel's & STAMPS.

On igpc.com you can find many additional issues taking you through the end of the war.



From the Publisher's Desk

by John F. Dunn



Pearl Harbor in 1941 Mekeel's and Stamps

This month, our World War II chronological history comes to December 1941 and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. As I got involved in the presentation from our 1991 Mekeel's, I sensed that this was an event that deserved more than our usual coverage through Bear Rowell's wonderful description.

With that, one thing led to another, and you will find assorted articles and photo presentations on pages 9 through 13.

It also struck me that it would be interested to see how Pearl Harbor was treated in *Mekeel's Weekly* and *STAMPS Magazine* subsequent to the attack. Publishing schedules being what they are, it took a couple of weeks after December 7 for any comments, but even then, the commentary was very limited.

The first mention in *STAMPS* was in the December 20, 1941 issue. In his "News, Views and Comments," publisher H. L. Lindquist opened with "Since the last issue of *STAMPS* went to press, the Japanese attack on United States territory has suddenly plunged this country into war with the axis

powers, and collectors and dealers are already beginning to speculate as to just what effect this will have upon stamp collecting.

"When war was declared, during World War No. 1, many collectors, particularly those in Europe, felt that they should give up their stamp collecting as a patriotic duty and devote all of their time and energy to more serious pursuits."

Quoting from Charles Phillips, who was head of Stanley Gibbons of London, Lindquist added, "The King of England was one of the first to do this [stop collecting]. Some six months went by when...I was informed that the King had decided to have part of one afternoon a week for his hobby as a welcome and needed rest from the worries which he had."

Lindquist went on to state, "Similar reactions were repeated in the case of thousands of other individuals.... There are few hobbies that are so effective in attaining complete mental relaxation as stamp collecting..."

"Reports from Europe of late have indicated that stamp collecting has become more and more popular, the war of nerves as well as of action having precipitated a need for something to serve as a sedative.... We look for an unprecedented boom in stamp collecting and believe that prices will tend to rise as they have been doing for the past couple of years...."

Mekeel's Weekly deliberately put off commenting on Pearl Harbor until the December 29 issue, explaining, "...it is purposely delayed to appear after Christmas. The few days delay...used in thinking what should be said.

"...a strictly luxury business and a strictly pleasure hobby like stamp collecting is bound to suffer at least a temporary eclipse.

"...If we are going to keep our mental and physical fitness to prosecute the war successfully at its peak due attention must be given to recreation of a sort. We in Portland have strong feelings that owing to the fact that it can be pursued under unfav-

orable conditions, stamp collecting will take a large place as a war time recreational activity

"This magazine desires to caution its readers against letting the war situation poison in any degree the hobby. There is no relationship between the obviously insane actions of Japan today and the fitness or unfitness of issuing Japanese stamps issued as late as 1910. The abject submission of Fascist Italy is hardly a legitimate excuse for not collecting the stamps of Sardinia or Bomba Heads if one likes either of these..."

There was no indication of who wrote the *Mekeel's* commentary. At the time, Eveleen Severn was the Editor of *Mekeel's*. William W. Wyett had been Business Manager, but the issue of December 22 passed along the sad news that he had died on December 13, which would have been around the time the Pearl Harbor commentary was written.

Tragically, the December 29 *Mekeel's* carried this announcement:

"Mrs. Anne Jewett Turner passed away at the Maine General Hospital, December 18, from shock suffered after the death of her father, W.W. Jewett. She was president of the Jewett Printing Co. and had been connected with...*Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* for the past fourteen years."

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At first, I was taken aback by the seemingly 'business as usual' commentary in *STAMPS* and *Mekeel's* immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor with no mention of the tremendous loss of life. I certainly would have handled it differently.

Absent that criticism, I will note that there was the useful reminder that our hobby was, indeed, a healthy relief from the trials and tribulations of World War II...and remains so today, whatever challenges we may face individually or as a nation.