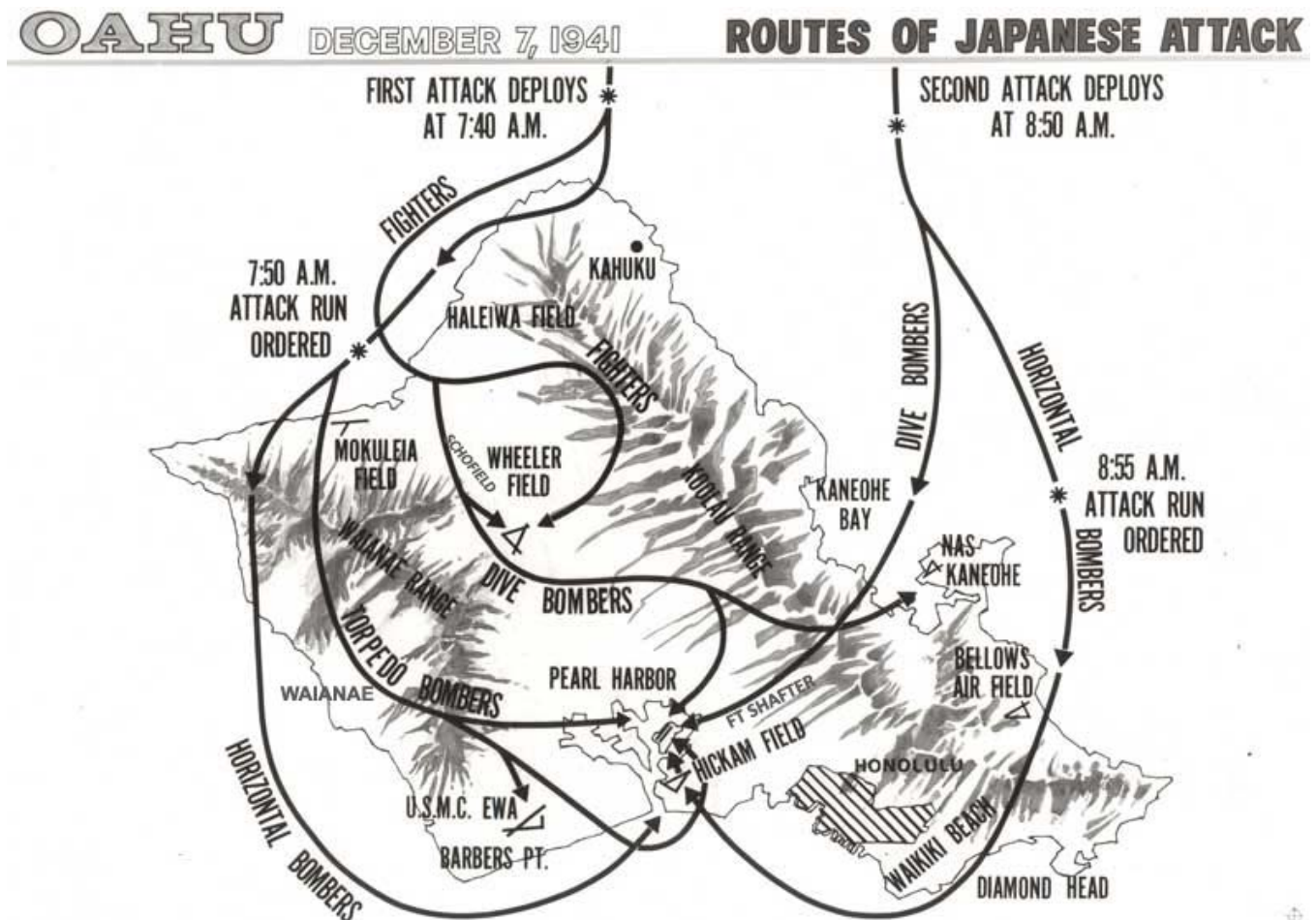


35th Infantry Regiment and the Attack on Pearl Harbor

December 7, 1941



Following the formation of the 25th Infantry Division on the 1st of October, 1941, the 35th Infantry continued its assignment on Oahu at Schofield Barracks. With the new Division barely ten weeks old, it became one of the first units to be embroiled in what was to become the Second World War following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



The men at Pearl Harbor had been caught completely off guard. Coming on a bright, beautiful Sunday morning, many were still in bed, off post or just continuing with business as usual for a Sunday morning when the attack by the Japanese began.

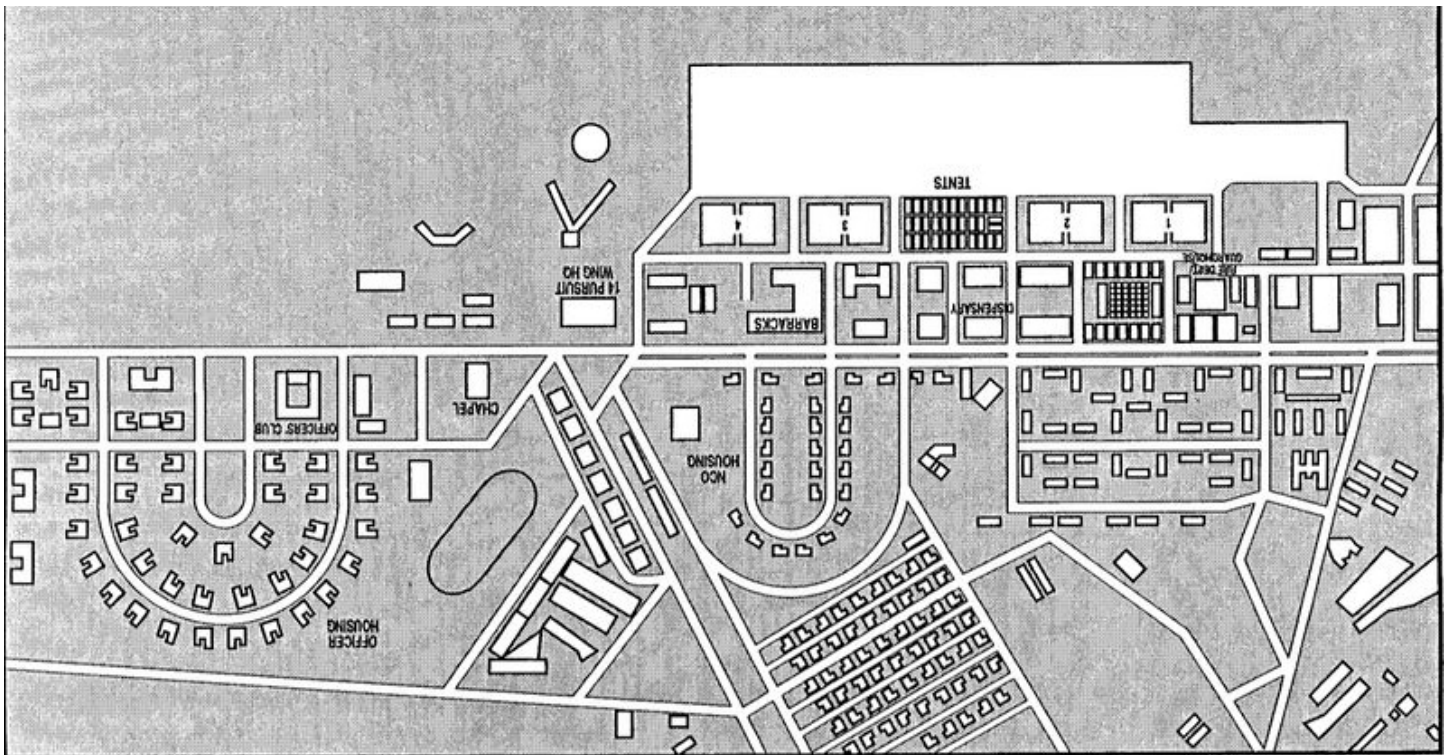


N to S View of Attack on Wheeler Field and Schofield Barracks December 7, 1941



Pearl Harbor wasn't the only target of the Japanese attack. Once it was realized what was happening, the men of the 35th, along with the rest of the 25th Division, hurried to defend their barracks. Though the main target of the Japanese was Wheeler Field and its planes, there were accounts of the barracks at Schofield being strafed as planes passed overhead. Joseph Kretzman, a corporal in the 35th Regiment, contended that two Japanese fighter

planes strafed the street along the parade grounds near his barracks. Maj. Gen. Maxwell Murray, commander of the 25th, in testimony before the Roberts Commission about two weeks later, testified that "the machine gun strafing was heavy," and American machine gunners on the roofs "were getting some strafing."



This layout flipped to coincide with bomb view above of Wheeler Field.

At 0800, reports came in that Wheeler Field had been bombed by Japanese aircraft. The first orders were sent out at 0815 to all outfits to keep all men inside their barracks. By 0825 that order was changed to have all men outside with small arms to fire upon the attacking planes. Wheeler Field had been attacked by about 40 planes.



MB Crew of Type used to defend Wheeler Field

By 0925, the 35th Inf, 27th Inf and 298th Inf were ordered to take protective measures against sabotage and at 0945 reports of enemy planes amassing south of Pearl Harbor were sent out. The Japanese had successfully completed one of their first objectives of taking the fighter planes of Wheeler Field out of action; freeing them to attack directly on the ships moored at Pearl Harbor.

As the battle continued to rage, the 35th Inf reported they were assembled at their barracks and awaiting orders. At 1014, they were ordered to send one company to Waianae Pocket and the rest of the battalion to Ft Shafter.

By just past 1100 hrs, the 35th reported that the 1st Bn., Co F & I were on the way to their assigned positions; with the 3d Bn. enroute by truck to Ft Shafter, leaving I Co at Waianae Pocket. 1st Bn had moved into position with A Co in position at Sunset Beach.

In the following minutes and hours, various reports came in that enemy parachutists were



Ft Shafter 1938

dropping over Johnson's Camp Road and that enemy troop ships, escorted by fighters, were approaching from the southeast. Parachute troops were described as wearing blue coveralls with a red shoulder patch. Company B found a parachute near their strong point number 11. Nearby the company found a crashed and burned Jap plane. The daily journal notes the pilot was killed, but doesn't say if by B Co or from the crash. In the same vicinity, two downed Navy planes were found; one pilot identified as Lt Bog. This followed with the report of one enlisted man from 1st Bn 35th Inf killed. (Again, the journal does not say how)

At 1300 hrs, four Japanese transporters were reported off Barbers Point. At that time it would seem to the troops that the invasion of Hawaii was about to begin. Lt Shoemaker of the 53rd Brig. reported that there were landing parties off shore between Barbers Point and Wanakuli. Friendly P-40's were returning fire on three boatloads of landing troops. The boats looked like fishing boats. Another boatload was reported as about to land at the Naval Ammunition Depot at Lualualei. B Co reported that it had driven off a swimmer attempting to come ashore at Barbers Point. They had also taken under fire several sampans off shore causing them to disperse.

By 1500 hrs, the reports of parachutists had been checked out with no confirmation of landings. Troops from all units were in position, sandbags and barbed wire had been dispersed and artillery units were in place. A total blackout was ordered by command with only blue lights allowed for transport vehicles. A double load of ammunition was ordered for all weapons.

At 1750, all units of the 25th Division were notified that Marshall Law had been declared. In addition they were notified of the arrival of friendly aircraft at various locations in Hawaii and to exercise caution.

As the night progressed there were many reports of flashing lights and sporadic MG fire. All units were ordered to be prepared by 0430 to be ready for a possible air attack and landing of enemy parachutists. It would have been a tense night for all. Thankfully, it was an invasion that did not happen.

(The above movements of the 35th and reports were taken from the Daily Journal for the 25th Division, 7 Dec 1941)



Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 298th Bn of the 25th Division and the 299th Bn of the 24th Division were relieved from assignment amid distrust of the two National Guard units because of so many members of Japanese descent. The 298th was replaced by the 161st Infantry Regt from Washington State. The 298th and 299th would later be combined into the 100th Infantry Bn, going on to win numerous awards and decorations in the European theater.

Throughout the summer of 1942, the 25th continued its vigilance, guarding against the anticipated ground invasion. The American defeat of the Japanese navy at Midway, however, eased the fear of such an invasion. Elements of the division participated in various training maneuvers, including jungle and amphibious exercises.



Troops Manned Defensive Positions around Oahu



Amphibious Landing Practice on the Beaches of Hawaii



Conducting Maneuvers on the Waikane Trail 1942

When the threat of attack diminished, American leaders eager to retake the Pacific began planning a limited offensive, and Guadalcanal became the first objective. In early July 1942 the Japanese captured the island of Guadalcanal and began constructing an airfield with an eye towards advancing further south.

On 7 August 1942 U.S. marines stormed ashore, beginning the battle to capture the island and protect the allied communications with Australia. The fighting on Guadalcanal raged on for months; with the Japanese and Americans both struggling to commit additional troops.

Maj. Gen. J. Lawton Collins, commander of the 25th Infantry Division, received notice that his division would be shipped overseas in mid-October. The division, broken up into three separate regimental combat teams

(RCTs), built around the 27th Infantry, 35th Infantry and 161st Infantry, for the coming mission departed Hawaii at the end of November. Guadalcanal would be their next stop.