



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors - Hawaii State Chapter
Military Officers Association of America

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November 2006

Invasion Not Found in the History Books

by James Martin Davis

(This article originally appeared November 1987 in the *Omaha World Herald*; it is reprinted here with the author's permission.)

Deep in the recesses of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., hidden for nearly four decades, lie thousands of pages of yellowing and dusty documents stamped "Top Secret". These documents, now declassified, are the plans for *Operation Downfall*, the invasion of Japan during World War II. Only a few Americans in 1945 were aware of the elaborate plans that had been prepared for the Allied Invasion of the Japanese home islands. Even fewer today are aware of the defenses the Japanese had prepared to counter the invasion had it been launched. Operation Downfall was finalized during the spring and summer of 1945. It called for two massive military undertakings to be carried out in succession and aimed at the heart of the Japanese Empire.

In the first invasion - code named *Operation Olympic* -

American combat troops would land on Japan by amphibious assault during the early morning



hours of November 1, 1945 - 50 years ago. Fourteen combat divisions of soldiers and Marines would land on heavily fortified and defended Kyushu, the southernmost of the Japanese home islands, after an unprecedented naval and aerial bombardment.

The second invasion on March 1, 1946 - code named *Operation Coronet* - would send at least 22 divisions against 1 million Japanese defenders on the main island of Honshu and the Tokyo Plain. It's goal: the unconditional surrender of

Japan. With the exception of a part of the British Pacific Fleet, Operation Downfall was to be a strictly American operation. It called for using the entire Marine Corps, the entire Pacific Navy, elements of the 7th Army Air Force, the 8th Air Force (recently redeployed from Europe), 10th Air Force and the American Far Eastern Air Force. More than 1.5 million combat soldiers, with 3 million more in support or more than 40% of all servicemen still in uniform in 1945 - would be directly involved in the two amphibious assaults. **Casualties were expected to be extremely heavy.**

Admiral William Leahy estimated that there would be **more than 250,000 Americans killed or wounded on Kyushu alone.** General Charles Willoughby, chief of intelligence for General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Southwest Pacific, estimated **American casualties would be one million men by the fall of 1946.**

(Continued on Page 7)

Coming Events November

4 Nov (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.

4 Nov (Sat) Chapter Annual Meeting (Luncheon) 1130
Ft. Shafter Hale Ikena at the Golf Course
Admiral Ron Hays speaks on *Pacific Aviation Museum*

17 Nov (Fri) Excom/Board Mtg., MCBH O'Club 1130
The MOAA Party Bridge group has suspended play
until further notice.

Coming Events December

2 Dec (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.

15 Dec (Fri) Excom Meeting, MCBH O'Club 1130

15 Dec (Fri) Annual Christmas Party 1730
Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom
USMC Band of the Pacific
John Lundgren Band, Music of the Swing Era



**IT'S THE SEASON TO BE
THANKFUL**

I find it interesting that our Country is one of the very few (i.e., Canada, Israel) that has a National Holiday or Day of Recognition for being "thankful", our Thanksgiving.

Of course we all learned as children the story of the origin of our holiday with the Pilgrims and some of the local Indians celebrating the safe arrival and survival of these first colonies. For a full and very interesting read on all that happened I recommend Mayflower - A Story of Courage, Community, and War by Nathaniel Philbrick.

When we look and read about other societies and the hardships and difficulties they continually sustain, hopefully we start to see how thankful we should be we were born in

YOUR PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVES

By Colonel John Harms - USMC (Ret.)

America. When hypocritical individuals denounce our Country's ethics and values and debase our leaders in such crude and low terms, I would love to have some means to ship them out to a society to live a while where real injustices and hardships occur on a daily basis.

It is interesting that the "peace nicks" that went over, primarily to Iraq after the war began to bring "peace" by discussions and example, not the military approach in effect by our Government, were never really heard from again once they saw the "real world".

A good friend of mine married a young Muslim lady from Indonesia. They came back to Hawaii; she entered a Community College and was on her way to become Americanized. The newly married couple went back to her home in Indonesia, and the first thing her parents did was dress her in the traditional robes and restrict her to their very menial role of a woman. Two days of that, and she rebelled; the old robe was thrown off, and they decided

to leave after a much shorter visit than planned. She stated clearly to her parents that she was now an American, and if Muslim women could experience the freedom offered women in America they would revolt against this old and antiquated system.

This may be the reason our grandparents and for some our parents have such a strong feeling for America after leaving behind all the suffering and restrictions of the old Europe or Asia.

So take some time this month to reflect on your lives, what you have accomplished and what you can continue to give to ensure that Thanksgiving continues to be real and the freedoms protected by many of you and your forefathers continue and were not in vain.

America does not have to be another Rome or Greece, where future generations are left to evaluate our accomplishments through archeology, but we do have to stay vigilant and continue to contribute to our Country and society.

Semper Fidelis, John Harms

CALL TO ACTION

Because of a quirk in federal law, Medicare will cut payments to doctors by 4 percent to 5 percent in each of the next five years. "This is a very difficult problem," Michael O. Leavitt, the secretary of health and human services, said. "Unless something changes, there will be quite substantial reductions in physician fees." Doctors have said that if the cuts took effect, they would be less likely to treat Medicare/TRICARE patients because the payments would not cover the costs of care. **MOAA is requesting all of its members to contact their congressional delegation asking them to enact legislation that stops this cut in payments and authorizes an equitable Medicare/TRICARE payment for all doctors.**

Workshop for Active Duty Engineers

In May 2007 the Honolulu Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) will sponsor a Pacific Industry Forum. This event will bring together SAME Sustaining Member firms with service leaders for a look at construction plans throughout the Pacific over the next several years. The Post would also like to hold a half-day workshop for active duty military members who are considering transitioning into the private sector. Chapter members interested in participating in this workshop may contact Jerry Lesperance at jlesperance@hawaii.rr.com or, less preferred, at 488-5205, for more information.

COLA Set at 3.3% for 2007

It's official...the Bureau of Labor Statistics has calculated the Consumer Price Index for September, which is the final number needed to determine the 2007 cost of living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay, Social Security, and other federal annuities. All will be increased by 3.3%.

Thinning of the Ranks

No death notifications have been received this month.

Binnacle List

LTC William McGarry AUS (Ret), continues in long term home healthcare.

Col Tom Dixon USMC (Ret), recovering from very specialized back surgery.

LCDR Ray DeHay USN (Ret), recovering from a compression fracture of the lower spine.

Board of Directors

- Chair, **RADM C Bruce Smith USN (Ret)**
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A TOAST by CAPT Jerry Coffee, USN, Retired

One night during a bombing raid on Hanoi, I peeked out of my cell window and watched a flight of four F-105's during their bombing run. As they pulled up, it was obvious that lead was badly hit. Trailing smoke, he broke from the formation, and I watched the damaged bird until it disappeared from sight. I presumed the worst.

As I lay there in my cell reflecting on the image, I composed a toast to the unfortunate pilot and all the others who had gone before him.

On New Year's Eve 1968, Captain Tom Storey and I were in the Stardust Section of Hoa Lo (wa-low) Prison. I whispered the toast under the door to Tom. Tom was enthralled, and despite the risk of terrible punishment, insisted that I repeat it several more times until he had it committed to memory. He then promised me that when the time came, and they were again free men, he would give the toast at the first dining in he attended.

Tom's first assignment following release in 1973 was to the U.S. Air Force Academy. During that same year the Academy hosted the Annual Conference for General Officers and Those Associated Dining In.

Tom found himself seated with Generals Curtis Lemay and Jimmy Doolittle (two men of heroic proportions in their own rights). The jovial clinking of glasses accompanied all the traditional speeches and toasts.

Then it was Tom's turn. Remembering his promise so many hears earlier, He proposed Jerry's "One More Roll."

When he was finished, there was total silence. To the men in that room, men who spent their careers flying into combat and laying their lives on the line, it was a stunning toast, and one they would never forget.

Please stand and raise your water glasses for a silent toast to our comrades in arms - -

*"We toast our hearty comrades
 Who have fallen from the skies,
 And were gently caught by God's own hands
 To be with him on high,
 To dwell among the soaring clouds
 They have known so well before,
 From victory roll to tail chase,
 At heavens very door.
 And as we fly among them there,
 We're sure to hear their plea:
 Take care my friend,
 Watch your six,
 And do one more roll for me."*

A silent toast to all our POWs, missing in action, and our comrades.



CHAPTER DONATIONS FOR 2006

The following Chapter members have generously donated funds to either our Scholarship Fund or Community Services. Scholarships of \$1000 are awarded to deserving JROTC graduates from our State Public High Schools going to a four year university or college and \$500 for those going to a two year community college. Community Services contributions go to the VA Hospital for Aging, Fischer House at TAMC, USO, to mention but a few. Mahalo for your kindness.

GOLD LEVEL (\$100 or more)

Ralph Hiatt, Tom Dixon, Hank Heyenga (X2), George and Roberta Sullivan, Doug Thomas, Judith Breitwieser, Frank Slocum, William Brown, Myrl Noggle, Emiliano Gorgas (X2.5), Bruce Smith (X1.5), E. Grant Story

SILVER LEVEL (\$50 to \$99)

Jack Miller, Tom Wells, Lloyd Vasey, Bill and Ellen McGarry, Charlie Kimak, Harland Cope, Ted and Marion Sholl, Virginia Frizelle, David Belatti, Richard Denison, Domingo Sanchez

BRONZE LEVEL (\$25 to \$49)

Norman Ault, Robert Cybron, Ron Bezanson,
Marian Williams

If you have donated in these categories and do not see your name please notify John Harms at JandBHarms@aol.com

Aviation History takes Flight with the Pacific Aviation Museum

The Pacific Aviation Museum-Pearl Harbor (PAM) will be located at the center of the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites on Ford Island, occupying the WWII hangars that witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor and still bear the scars and bullet holes today. PAM is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to showing the patriotism, valor and sacrifices made by the American aviators in the Pacific region through a world class aviation museum. Displays will trace the advancement of technology and resulting changes in our society as it tells the story of one of the most important historical events of the 20th century through first hand accounts and displays of period artifacts. Each airplane in the collection and exhibit will tell the story from a participant in history's point of view. The Museum's B-25 Mitchell Bomber will tell the story of Doolittle's Raid on Tokyo. The P-40 and Zero will put the visitor at the sight of our nation's only aviation battlefield. The Aeronca that was giving flying lessons over Oahu the day of the attack will bring to life the effect of the war on the

home front. Former President Bush's Stearman will tell of the call to arms that millions of men and women responded to. PAM's rare Wildcat will take visitors to the turning point in the war -- Midway and Guadalcanal. Hands-on volunteer opportunities are available for those interested in giving our aviation history a future in the aircraft restoration department, exhibit construction and artifact collections as well as the education department and docent program by calling 808-836-7747.

New supporters are encouraged to enroll immediately by visiting the PAM website at www.pacificaviationmuseum.org or calling 808-528-8383.

Years in the making, supported by government grants, corporate donations and the Charter Membership Program, and now scheduled to open December 7th, 2006, the Pacific Aviation Museum's time has come.

Plan to Attend a Veterans Day Ceremony

A number of Veterans Day ceremonies will be held on Saturday, 11 November.

Punchbowl

This year the Oahu Veterans Council will host the Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) at 10:00am. The keynote speaker will be LTG Edwin Smith, USA(Ret) former commander of USARPAC and currently President of the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies.

MOAA Hawaii Chapter, represented by John Harms, will present a wreath. Hank Heyenga will present the Chapter's colors.

Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

The State of Hawaii, Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony will begin at 1:00pm at the Cemetery in Kaneohe. Governor Linda Lingle will speak at the event. The Parade of Flags will begin at 1:15pm followed by Presentation of Floral Leis. MOAA Hawaii

Chapter, represented by Ralph Hyatt, will present the lei. Hank Heyenga will present the Chapter's colors.

USS Missouri Memorial

A Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony will be held at 4:45pm aboard the Battleship moored at Ford Island. The keynote speaker will be RADM Townsend G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. Access to the Missouri is by car with DOD sticker or by trolley from the USS Bowfin.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY-HALE KOA HOTEL, WAIKIKI BALLROOM

15 DECEMBER 2006

HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S THIS TIME AGAIN, BUT LET'S ALL JOIN WITH EACH OTHER IN THE ENJOYMENT AND MERRIMENT OF THE SEASON.

STARTS AT 1730 WITH THE "MARINE FORCES PACIFIC BAND" PLAYING DURING OUR COCKTAIL HOUR. DINNER, FOLLOWED BY THE "LUNDGREN BIG SOUNDS SWING BAND" WITH MUSIC FROM THE 1930'S TO 1950'S. LAST YEAR WE HAD AROUND 120 ATTENDING, AND THE DANCE FLOOR WAS ALWAYS FULL.



CLIP AND MAIL _____

NAME OF PERSON(S) ATTENDING: _____

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE': SEARED FILET MIGNON, @ \$30.00 _____ OR GRILLED MISO MARINATED MAHIMAH, @ \$27.00 _____

--- NO HOST (CASH ONLY) BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE. ---


MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: HAWAII CHAPTER MOAA

SEND TO: JOHN HARMS, 118 KAILUANA PLACE, KAILUA, HAWAII 96734-1662

IF YOU WISH TO SET UP A GROUP TABLE(S) PLEASE INDICATE THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP BELOW. SEATING IS LIMITED TO TEN PERSONS PER TABLE.

DINNER COST: \$ _____ SCHOLARSHIP DONATION: \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER
ADMIRAL RONALD HAYES US NAVY (RET.)
"The Pacific Air Museum; Concept to Reality"



Please plan on attending. This museum is the fourth leg of the monuments to the WW II War in the Pacific; Arizona Memorial and Visitor Center, Bowfin Submarine Museum, USS Missouri, and now the Pacific Air Museum. Our Chapter has members in top leadership roles in the operation of each of these monuments to our Uniformed Service men and women.

Date: 4 November 2006, **Place:** The Hale Ikena at the Nagorski Golf Course, Ft. Shafter, **Time:** 1130
Menu: Teriyaki Beef or Catch of the Day in white wine and mushroom cream sauce
Cost \$15.25 - Open (cash only) Bar will be Available

Clip and mail to John Harms/Send e-mail notification immediately to JandBHarms@aol.com
I (we) will attend!! Luncheon Fee (\$15.25 each)

Luncheon Costs: \$15.25 x (X) _____ Scholarship Donations _____

Total ENCLOSED: _____ Name Tags to Read: _____ / _____

Make Checks payable to: Hawaii Chapter MOAA
 Mail Checks and reservations to: John Harms, 118 Kailuana Place, Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1662

TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)**VISTA Is Almost Here!**

The folks at Microsoft have just released Windows VISTA RC-2...say what? OK, it stands for release candidate 2 and word is that it will be the last or next to the last beta test version before the RTM...woops, did it again...that's release to manufacturer. Once that happens, the big show begins with a probable date in January for the official kick-off. So, what should you do about an upgrade? Well, there are a number of things to consider, like, how long will XP be supported? Hard to say, but just recently MS stopped supporting XP SP1, so it's not going to be awfully long before they begin to rumble about SP2 versions, I imagine. Looks like there will be 5 versions of VISTA to choose from, Home basic, Home premium, Business, Enterprise, and Ultimate. First thing I'd suggest is to visit www.microsoft.com. Go to the VISTA page and download a small program called Windows VISTA Upgrade Advisor. It will check your computer and tell you what changes you may need to make before you upgrade. I am not sure yet about pricing...there have been a lot of numbers floating around, starting with \$50 for the Home basic upgrade, but until Microsoft officially releases the retail versions, we won't really know. Another piece of info I heard was that starting in late October, new computer purchasers will get an upgrade certificate with their purchase for a discounted price to upgrade when VISTA is released.

I've been beta testing VISTA for about 10 months and have to say I'm impressed. I went to a computer user group district meeting a short while ago and was able to attend a session by one of my fellow user group members, David Harris. He did such a good job of telling us 10 reasons why we should upgrade to VISTA, I asked if I could use some of his presentation for this column. He generously said I could use any or all of it, so what follows is the basic list...see my note at the end for more.

1. SECURITY, SECURITY, SECURITY
2. INTERNET EXPLORER 7
3. RIGHTEOUS EYE CANDY
4. DESKTOP SEARCH
5. BETTER UPDATES
6. MORE MEDIA
7. PARENTAL CONTROLS
8. BETTER BACKUPS
9. PEER-TO-PEER COLLABORATION
10. QUICK SETUP

That's a quick rundown to get you started thinking about it. If you'd like the complete version, visit <http://urlcutter.com?3139> after Nov 1 to read my Oceanic column. For even more info, visit the Microsoft webpage and go to the VISTA section, where you can learn all about it. Until next time, have fun with all those computer and electronic goodies, but remember to be careful out there on the 'net! Come see us at one of our regular monthly meetings. Check www.the-tug.org for schedules and driving directions.

Aloha, *Lou*

Invasion . . . (Continued from Page 1)

Willoughby's own intelligence staff considered this to be a conservative estimate.

During the summer of 1945, America had little time to prepare for such an endeavor, but top military leaders were in almost unanimous agreement that an invasion was necessary.

While naval blockade and strategic bombing of Japan was considered to be useful, General MacArthur, for instance, did not believe a blockade would bring about an unconditional surrender. The advocates for invasion agreed that while a naval blockade chokes, it does not kill; and though strategic bombing might destroy cities, it leaves whole armies intact.

So on May 25, 1945, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after extensive deliberation, issued to General MacArthur, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and Army Air Force General Henry Arnold, the top secret directive to proceed with the invasion of Kyushu. The target date was after the typhoon season.

President Truman approved the plans for the invasions July 24. Two days later, the United Nations issued the Potsdam Proclamation, which called upon Japan to surrender unconditionally or face total destruction. Three days later, the Japanese governmental news agency broadcast to the world that Japan would ignore the proclamation and would refuse to surrender. During this same period it was learned -- via monitoring Japanese radio broadcasts -- that Japan had closed all schools and mobilized its schoolchildren, was arming its civilian population and was fortifying caves and building underground defenses.

Operation Olympic called for a four pronged assault on Kyushu. Its purpose was to seize and control the southern one-third of that island and establish naval and air bases, to

tighten the naval blockade of the home islands, to destroy units of the main Japanese army and to support the later invasion of the Tokyo Plain.

The preliminary invasion would begin October 27 when the 40th Infantry Division would land on a series of small islands west and southwest of Kyushu. At the same time, the 158th Regimental Combat Team would invade and occupy a small island 28 miles south of Kyushu. On these islands, seaplane bases would be established and radar would be set up to provide advance air warning for the invasion fleet, to serve as fighter direction centers for the carrier-based aircraft and to provide an emergency anchorage for the invasion fleet, should things not go well on the day of the invasion. As the invasion grew imminent, the massive firepower of the Navy - the Third and Fifth Fleets -- would approach Japan. The Third Fleet, under Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, with its big guns and naval aircraft, would provide strategic support for the operation against Honshu and Hokkaido. Halsey's fleet would be composed of battleships, heavy cruisers, destroyers, dozens of support ships and three fast carrier task groups. From these carriers, hundreds of Navy fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes would hit targets all over the island of Honshu. The 3,000 ship Fifth Fleet, under Admiral Raymond Spruance, would carry the invasion troops.

Several days before the invasion, the battleships, heavy cruisers and destroyers would pour thousands of tons of high explosives into the target areas. They would not cease the bombardment until after the land forces had been launched. During the early morning hours of November 1, the invasion would begin. Thousands of soldiers and Marines would pour ashore on beaches all along the eastern, southeastern, southern and western coasts of Kyushu. Waves of

Helldivers, Dauntless dive bombers, Avengers, Corsairs, and Hellcats from 66 aircraft carriers would bomb, rocket and strafe enemy defenses, gun emplacements and troop concentrations along the beaches.

The **Eastern Assault Force** consisting of the 25th, 33rd and 41st Infantry Divisions would land near Miyasaki, at beaches called Austin, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, and Ford, and move inland to attempt to capture the city and its nearby airfield. The **Southern Assault Force**, consisting of the 1st Cavalry Division, the 43rd Division and Americal Division would land inside Ariake Bay at beaches labeled DeSoto, Dusenber, Essex, Ford, and Franklin and attempt to capture Shibushi and the city of Kanoya and its airfield.

On the western shore of Kyushu, at beaches Pontiac, Reo, Rolls Royce, Saxon, Star, Studebaker, Stutz, Winston and Zephyr, the **V Amphibious Corps** would land the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Marine Divisions, sending half of its force inland to Sendai and the other half to the port city of Kagoshima.

On November 4, the **Reserve Force**, consisting of the 81st and 98th Infantry Divisions and the 11th Airborne Division, after feigning an attack of the island of Shikoku, would be landed -- if not needed elsewhere - - near Kaimondake, near the southernmost tip of Kagoshima Bay, at the beaches designated Locomobile, Lincoln, LaSalle, Hupmobile, Moon, Mercedes, Maxwell, Overland, Oldsmobile, Packard and Plymouth.

Olympic was not just a plan for invasion, but for conquest and occupation as well. It was expected to take four months to achieve its objective, with the three fresh American divisions per month to be landed in support of that operation if needed.

(To be cont'd in the Dec issue)

HAWAII CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
New Membership Application and/or Current Member Dues Payment

Name: _____ Male Female
Last First MI

New Member Application **Currently a Regular Member** **Currently an Auxiliary Member**

New members: Complete next items and Regular or Auxiliary Member section. Enter remittance at bottom.

Current members: Complete any items that have changed and enter your remittance amount at bottom of form.

Address: _____ Email: _____

Date of birth: _____ National MOAA membership No. _____ SSN _____ / _____ / _____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Fax _____

Regular Members: Active duty, retired, or former military officers are eligible for regular membership.
 Service _____ Rank _____ Active Duty Retired Reserve National Guard Former Officer
Dues: \$15 per year; 5 years for \$60. Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$300; 51-60 \$250; 61-70 \$200;
 71-89 \$100; 90 and older is free.

Auxiliary Members: Widows or widowers are eligible for membership whose spouses were regular members or were eligible for regular membership. Rank of spouse: _____ Service of spouse: _____
Dues: \$10 per year; 5 years for \$40; Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$150; 51-60 \$125; 61-70 \$100;
 71-89 \$50; 90 and older is free.

If married, spouse's first name: _____ Last name, if different than yours: _____

Indicate interest in any of the following Chapter activities or Committees:

Personal Affairs Legislative Affairs/Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Program/Social Newsletter Membership Finance
 ROTC Scholarship & Awards Fund Raising Community Service TUG(Computers) Party Bridge Golf Tennis

Dues Enclosed \$ _____ Optional Donation: Scholarships \$ _____ Community Services \$ _____

Total Remittance: \$ _____ Make check to Hawaii Chapter MOAA, PO Box 1185, Kailua HI 96734-1185

Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
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Return Service Requested

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UP-COMING CHAPTER ACTIVITIES:

ANNUAL MEETING, 4 NOV, 1130
 Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter

CHRISTMAS PARTY, 15 DEC, 1730
 Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom

See Page 5 for details.