

"United States Is At War But Citizens Are Calm" Newspaper Article, December 10, 1941

United States Is At War But Citizens Are Calm

While Japan unexpectedly struck a heavy blow at the United States Sunday in its premeditated war in the Pacific Ocean, life in this community continues on an even keel. Consternation and anxiety were rife when the impact of the blow fell, but a determination and confidence to win the war is voiced on every hand and business and social life goes on as usual.

A number of boys from this community are in the trouble zone and prayerful hopes are expressed on every hand that they may be spared from any mishap.

In-Troubled Area

Robert French grandson of Mrs. Harvey French, of Postville is stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the U.S.S. New Orleans; William Hofer, son of Mrs. Sam Hofer of this city is likewise at the same naval station on the U.S.S. Holland; Loyle Beitz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Baltz, Ted Szabo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Szabo of Castalia, is with the marines doing duty on the U.S.S. Arizona. A letter from Ted appears in today's Herald which should be timely reading with what has occurred during the last several days. Kenneth Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Evans on route 3, Postville, is also at Pearl Harbor, stations on the U.S.S. Pensacola.

Another Postville boy located in the Pearl Harbor sector is Martin Hilmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hilmer. He is a cook in the U.S. armed forces stations in the fortified zone.

A number of other local boys are in the naval service, some in the Atlantic but as far as we were able to learn the above are the only ones in the Pacific.

Steele's Friend a Casualty

First American officer killed in the Jap-U.S. war was Lieut. Johann S. Greene of Colfax Iowa, intimate friend of Joseph B. Steele of this city. While in the University of Iowa as law students they were inseparable pals so the news of Greene's death came as disheartening jolt to Joe.

Wars Start False Rumors

Unfounded rumors are produced by wars. Some of these were bandied about here the past week concerning the boys in the nation's armed forces. Reports had some of our boys in the casualty lists and they have been found to be untrue, and this should serve as a warning to refrain from repeating unsubstantiated reports. Eventually they reach the ears of loved ones at home and add to the anxiety already held for the safety of these defenders of our country.