

Transcribed Excerpt from "Many Local People in Pacific War Zone" Newspaper Article, December 11, 1941

Relatives Here Await Word Of Their Safety

Mrs . L. C. Thornton Gets Radiogram From Daughter In Honolulu

Pocahontas residents, like 130,000,000 other Americans, are filled with resentment against the treacherous attack which the Japanese made on Hawaii and the Philippines without warning Sunday, Dec. 7, thus forcing the United States into war. Local residents, who have kept their ears to their radios since Sunday have received President Roosevelt's war messages and most of the information concerning the outbreak and progress in of the conflict.

While the Japanese successes have made grim news our readers must consider that these successes are far from decisive and should not cause any discouragement — We must remember that the Japs created a vast advantage by the surprise attack. Our navy and air force will soon be chasing the "Saps" back home.

Whatever may come, Americans have now proven that they are united and ready. Local citizens are already making plans to aid our country in a war which we MUST WIN and WILL WIN.

The local draft board office has been a busy place since Monday. Many men are inquiring as to how they can enter service and do their bit for their country. Men cannot enlist at the draft board office. Those not of draft age who desire to get into service immediately are advised to go to some recruiting station and volunteer for the service they want.

S.E. Spriggel, chief recruit officer in the navy station at Ft. Dodge said that 80 young men joined the navy through that office Monday and Tuesday. Because of the rush of young men want to enlist, recruiting stations over the nation are open all hours of the day.

Atty. F. E. Van Alstine, chairman of the Pocahontas County Civilian Defense Council, said Wednesday that there is nothing to be done for defense at the present in the local field. He received a letter which confined activities at this time to the coastal areas. For the rural sections the policy is to "sit tight" and keep ready to go into action when called.

The local municipal airport was affected when Uncle Sam put a sudden end to local aviation by ordering all private planes grounded in accordance with war time precautions. The airport has been ordered guarded 24 hours a day. Many from Pocahontas county are known to be in Hawaii and the Philippines. There are a number of Pocahontas county young men serving in the armed forces in the zones attacked by the Japanese naval and air forces. Among the men associated with the defense construction crew on Wake Island which was reportedly seized by the Japs was Maurico Acklund of Laurens, husband of the former Esther Krug, Paul Brewster and Robert Parks, both of Laurens.