



Dear, Grandma Roberts

2/27/69

Thank you for the \$2. But, I don't know what to do with it yet. For my birthday I got a small coin collection, a model plane and \$9.00 including yours, but I spent some of it and now I have \$6.89. I'll get some more gifts later on because Mom said that she couldn't afford it now. Last month I got transferred from B class to A class at where they give much harder work.

Tora! Tora! Tora!, the movie is still being made. Today for the first time I noticed that the B-17's are flying and they make ~~the~~ twice as much of a noise as the Jap. O's.

Sincerely Yours,

Michael Roberts

Aloha, Hawaii



Letter from Michael Roberts, living in Waiapahu, Hawaii, while father Jim was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base. The movie Tora! Tora! Tora! was being filmed and the skies were filled with WWII era military aircraft every day.

'Tora! Tora! Tora!' official feels film is timely today

By Harold Morse
Star-Bulletin Writer

Stan Hough, 20th Century-Fox production manager, thinks "Tora! Tora! Tora!," the film that tells the story of Dec. 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, is "timely today," more than 27 years later.

"This is because the film portrays 'the maneuvering behind the scenes, I think on the part of both governments (Japan and the United States) that put them on an absolute collision course,'" Hough said.

He stopped in Honolulu on his way back from negotiations in Tokyo for the Japanese segment of the 20th Century-Fox film, leaving for Los Angeles today.

Hough relaxed in his penthouse suite at the Ambassador Hotel and mused about what happens in a situation like pre-Pearl Harbor 1941.

"IT BECOMES a series of confrontations, and they (the two countries involved) finally maneuver themselves to where there's no escape in the process and away you go."

Hough first laid eyes on Pearl Harbor about a week after the Japanese attack.

He was a Navy photographer's mate. He's still concerned with pictures of Pearl Harbor but on a much different plane.

Hough is overseeing the entire "Tora! Tora! Tora!" epic, a task he never dreamed he'd have in that dark December when he viewed the shattered hulks of the Arizona, Oklahoma, Utah and California from the deck of a "broken-down transport."

The transport was docked at San Diego on Dec. 7 and sailed for Pearl Harbor shortly after.

The ship was so crowded that "people slept on the deck."

WHEN IT PULLED into Pearl Harbor, sailors and Marines "were just lining the deck" viewing the wreck-



Stan Hough

age that Japanese bombs left the week before.

"I was just wondering when and if I'd ever get home again at that point," Hough recalled.

Not long before the war Hough seemed certain to land a spot on a major league baseball team.

In the summer of 1941 he was hammering Pacific Coast League pitching as a slugging outfielder and first baseman on the St. Louis Cardinal farm club of Sacramento.

That season he hit .280 and slammed about a dozen home runs.

But after the war, Hough decided he had been away from baseball too long.

He had done odd jobs for 20th Century-Fox before Pearl Harbor and decided to return to movie-making.

HOUGH BECAME an assistant director and has "done a little bit of everything" since then, including writing.

He wrote two original stories for films, "Bandolero," starring Raquel Welch, and

the forthcoming "Undeclared," starring John Wayne.

"I wanted to spend a day with the shooting company here," Hough said of his Honolulu "Tora! Tora! Tora!" stop-over.

Hough said 20th Century-Fox has "honestly made the film as factual, as accurate as we know how to do it."

"We used Japanese writers and certainly a lot of their researchers."

"We have eight or nine weeks of shooting in Japan still to do. We have completed some shooting in Washington, D.C. Our picture ends with the attack on Pearl Harbor," Hough explained.

"All of the film, including the strafing, planes, ships and the explosions," is being produced, he said. "There won't be one foot of stock film in this picture."

OF THE Pearl Harbor attack itself, Hough noted that the Japanese "really couldn't believe that they had achieved such complete surprise."

If American carriers had been in the harbor and sunk, "it could have set back the war a couple of years, because they (Japanese) were looking for them. They were priority targets."

"Tora! Tora! Tora!" doesn't blame any U.S. officials for the Pearl Harbor disaster, Hough said.

"We don't point the finger at anyone. There's no doubt there was a breakdown in communications."

Hough described "Tora! Tora! Tora!" as one of the "three or four" biggest film production of all time.

The Japanese are "keenly interested" in it, he said.

"I'm sure it will be very successful in Japan."

"What really we like about it is the way that it tells both sides. It's not a slanted story," Hough said.

Filming in Japan will resume March 3. Some attack scenes already have been filmed here.

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