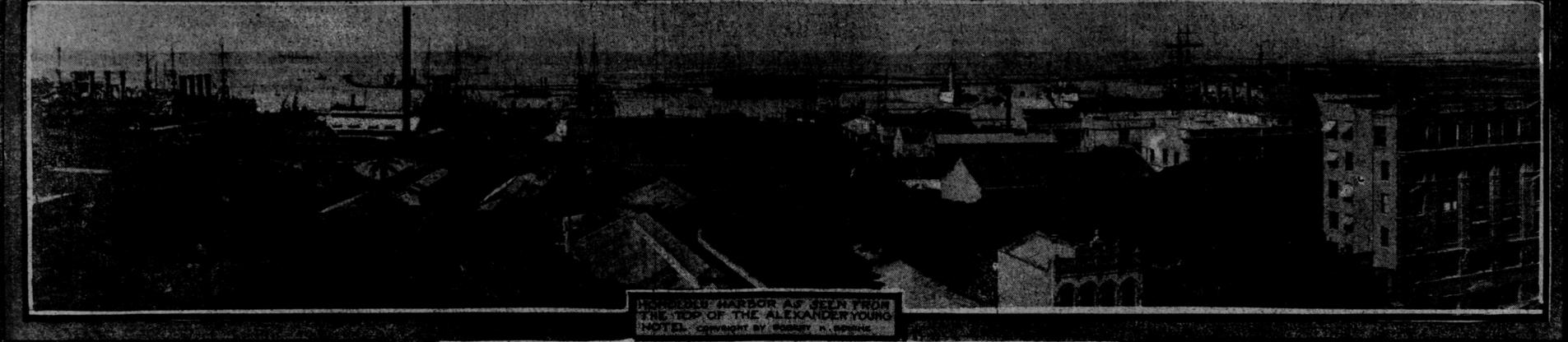


The SAN FRANCISCO CALL HAWAIIAN PUBLICITY EDITION  
**HOW the PANAMA CANAL WILL AFFECT HAWAII**



HONOLULU HARBOR AS SEEN FROM THE TOP OF THE ALEXANDER YOUNG HOTEL. COPYRIGHT BY ROBERT J. BISHOP

## “Crossroads of Pacific” Ready

By ELMER E. PAXTON

THE Panama canal—the severance of two great continents and the union of two mighty oceans whose shores mark the world's greatest empires—will soon be a reality. American history will justly claim this work as the greatest engineering achievement of modern times, to endure for all the ages. Although built primarily for the national defense, in the years to come it may be a highway of universal peace, through which an international commerce will be developed, binding the nations of the east and the west together in a strength of commercial amity hitherto impossible and unknown.

It has often been said that the Pacific ocean, with its shores and islands, will be the future theater of the world's greatest commercial activity. The possibilities of awakened China, the growing world power of Japan, the vast undeveloped resources of western America, in conjunction with the opening of the great waterway, certainly point to an ocean commerce of colossal proportions in comparison with the present day traffic.

Four thousand six hundred miles westward from Panama lie the Hawaiian islands, the “Crossroads of the Pacific” and America's greatest future naval base. These islands are unique in their location with relation to ocean routes, in their climatic and scenic attractions and in their material resources, considering limited area and population. The opening of the canal is therefore a matter of the keenest interest to every one in Hawaii who has a feeling of patriotic pride in great national achievements, who realizes the important part these islands will play in the national defense, and who looks forward to the great commercial and material benefits which will accrue to the territory under vastly improved transportation facilities.

### IMPORTANCE TO NAVY

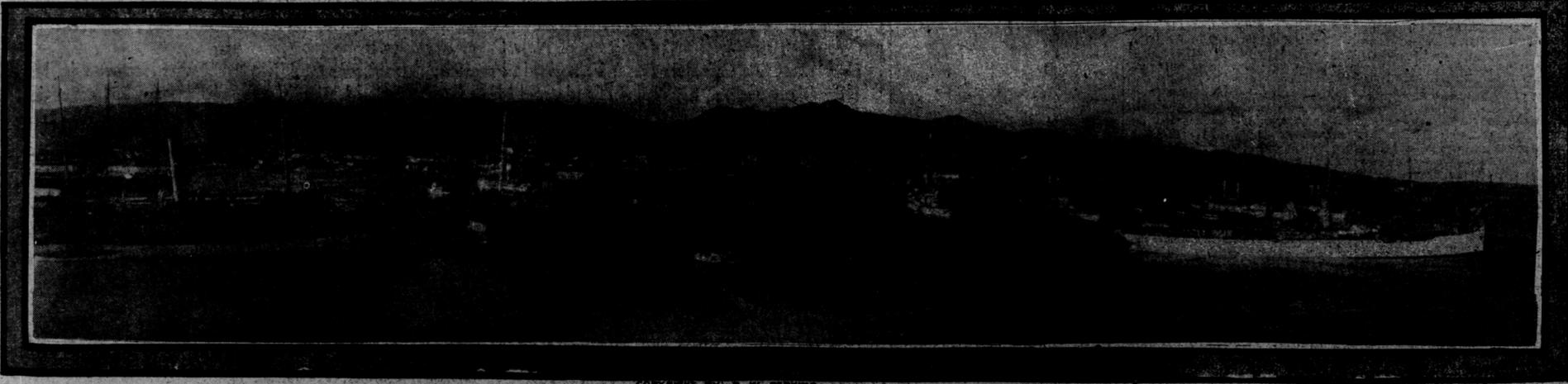
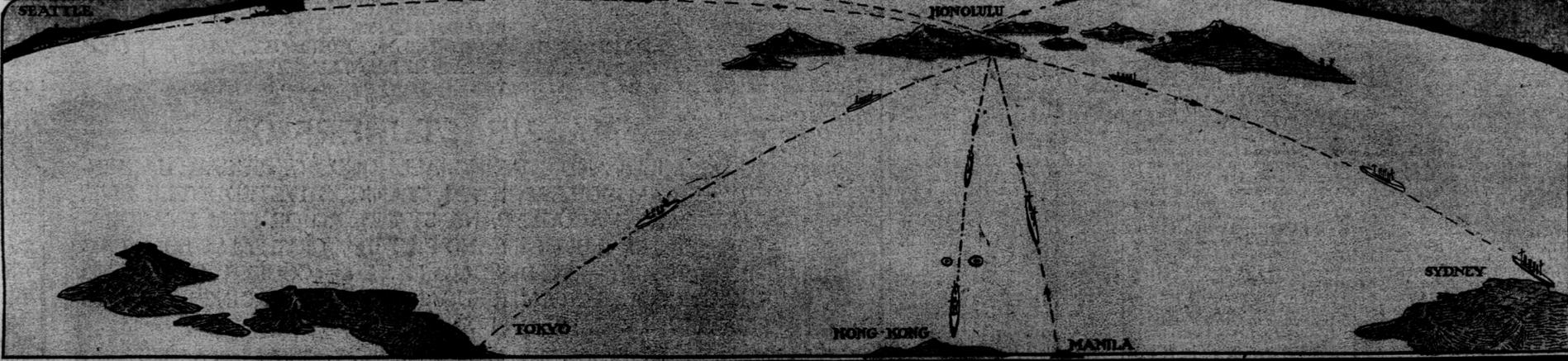
The importance of the island of Oahu as a great fortified naval base will be greatly increased by the opening of the canal. Admiral Cowles, commandant, naval station, Hawaii, sums up the situation as follows:  
 The importance of Honolulu as a naval base has

been so well recognized by those in authority, as is shown in the liberal appropriations which have been and are now being made by congress for the development of this station, that it is not necessary to say any more on the subject except in so far as the strategic position of Honolulu is affected by the opening of the Panama canal.

Its situation will then be not far from the line of communication between the canal and China and Japan. One of our fleets coming out from the Atlantic through the canal for operations in the Pacific would probably make its first stop here for final preparations. The stock of coal, ammunition and supplies of all kinds would therefore be kept at the maximum, as, whether going or returning, the fleet would naturally make this station its principal resort for replenishing or for repair. It would also furnish a rendezvous for commerce destroyers and submarines. It also offers great opportunities as a rendezvous for reinforcement to the personnel of a fleet engaged in Chinese waters; that is, a rendezvous most secure and convenient. It may also be noted that with strong defensive batteries a fleet or its component parts could not be well confined in port, as opportunities for its escape from a blockading fleet would be excellent. The same conditions would offer it as a fine field for operations of submarines and destroyers against a hostile fleet. In fact, almost in the proportion as the opening of the canal would increase the efficiency of the fleet it would increase the importance of Honolulu as a naval base.

The temperate and healthful climate of the islands and their freedom from typhoons and tropical storms in general adds not only to the safety of the fleet, but to the comfort and welfare of the thousands of men who will be stationed there, in both the naval and military branches of the service.

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