

October 31,

Houston,

Another destroyer was attacked by a German U-Boat last night -- that would be Oct 30. It was a World War I boat, Rubin James the name. The story broke with extras in the news and much talk could be heard among the men and women alike at the office and on the street. Would the President now declare war against the Hitler government of Germany? Would America at last be officially in World War II. From Washington came the answer: The President said in his press conference today that he saw no reason for the U.S.

to change its foreign policy and that relations with Germany would not be broken off. One news man gave several good reasons for this stand taken by the President and State Dept: If war was actually declared it would mean that the U. S. would have to stop aid to Britain and Russia and prepare for defense of our own country alone - - this he added is exactly what Adolph Hitler would like to see take place - - Another reason is that our navy would have to be shifted - heavy side on the Atlantic and this is what Tokyo would like. No America's course has not been changed.

Nov. 1,

Houston,

Correction on the name of destroyer
sunk by Germans: it was the
"Reuben James" instead of Rubin James.

Nov. 16,

Houston,

Things have been running
smoothly here at home. I've been
living from day to day without
much worry, but always just
outside of that field called thought
there's that same something that
is hard to explain. It's like a
shadow, a shadow that stands
between me and the future. Some-
times when I allow my mind
to dwell upon that subject I be-
come extremely nervous and irritable

and I say and do things that I'm
sorry for after I have slept on
it. As I said before I can't exactly
explain what it is and I don't
suppose that it is any one thing
but a combination of shall I say
possibilities, ~~or~~ maybe dangers not
to life of course, but dangers that
may keep me from attaining my
ambition in life. The whole world
is changing, the change is not unexpected
the world has been due for some
sort of revolution for some time. But
a number of changes are taking
place in the world, most of them
due to the war of course. This all
goes to make the future an uncertain

thing. As I said there is a shadow hanging between this world and its future. Sometimes we think that we see light through a small hole in that shadow then the hole closes and we are even more in the dark than we were before.

So that is the way things stand with me this Sunday mite of Nov. 16. But whatever the future may hold I have made up my mind that my hat will be in the ring and that I'm going to be in there slugging, and fighting just as long as there is something to fight for.

Sun. Dec. 7, 41

Houston,

Japanese war planes bombed
Pearl Harbor Honolulu today. America
is at war!

Mon. Dec. 8, 41

Houston:

A fateful day in the life of
every American, in the historical
records of the world. For today not
long after the clock has struck twelve
noon, the Greatest Democracy in
the world will be officially at war.
Not long after that the rest of the
American nations will follow
the U.S. lead, some already have.
What does this mean to me? What
does it mean in the life of every

twenty year old American boy. It wanted
hopes, mixed up plans, uncertainty,
and sacrifice, but we are willing
no matter what the price, to
protect this homeland of ours.

Wednesday 10,
Houston,

We have been at war officially
since about 4:30 on Dec. 8. when
the President signed the resolution
made by Congress. In a speech
before Congress made on Dec. 8
the President said that America
in her righteous might would
win through to the end.

Last night in an address to the
nation he said ^{and} I think expressed

37
the feeling of all of us. We ~~are~~ don't like it, we didn't want to get in it but we are in it and we will fight to the finish. He told of the sacrifices that the American people would have to make, but that he was sure they would and expressed his faith in them.

That is about all, our chief has faith in us and we have faith in him and our armed forces. We Americans boast of being a part of the greatest, most powerful nation in the world, well now is our chance to prove it. Whether we are ~~are~~ not will, in the next few years, be recorded in the historical records of the world for

all mankind to see.

I listen to news reports all day and scramble over a map of the far East trying to locate the various names of places in the news. I still don't know what to do about but just to sit and wait and find out where I will do the most good. I go to bed weary at night, but my problems seem not quite so huge after I have slept on them. Then I turn on the radio for the news and the first news that I heard this morning made me start. The great British battleship "The Prince of Wales" has been sunk!

Dec. 11, 41

Bouston,

The United States has two more official foes today. Germany & Italy declared war on us this morning and the President signed the joint-resolutions from Congress to the effect that a state of war exists between the United States & Germany and Italy. (Separate resolution).

I'm still recovering from the shock of war declarations. I sent a letter today to the Cadet Examining Board at Ellington Field today. In it I made the statement that I was ready to take the necessary examinations for Flying Cadet.

appointment. I hope that it will be possible for me to enter the Air Corps as pilot. If this is not possible I don't know just what I will do. By Christmas I should know.

December 17, '41

Houston.

War has been on for U. S. for over a week now and all of us are preparing ourselves for a long and hard task "the destruction of the Empires of Japan, Germany, and Italy".

I have given up my plans for studying medicine at U. of Tex.

This is not easy ^{an} thing for me to do and I feel that I, in my old age, will look back upon this incident and consider it the greatest tragedy of my life. But I'm not fretting; everyone has a tragedy in his life at one time or the other, that is if he has really lived; it is these that make us tough.

I still believe in the philosophy that I formed early in my teens, that I was put upon this earth for a purpose and that I ~~would~~ ^{will} remain here until my purpose for being here ~~was to be~~ ~~has~~ been carried out. is carried out.

So I guess I shall attend the

greatest university of all time,
World War No. II. God helping me

Dec. 25 '41

Another Christmas and still a merry
one here in America in spite of
war. We had our tree and gifts last
night, Christmas Eve and I was
given so many good things, the
best of all being a watch from
mom that I will treasure always.

After the tree, Ben, Alvin, and
myself went into town and saw
Dumas' "Corsican Bros." with
Douglas Fairbanks Jr. And after
the show we walked along the
streets listening to the carols

pouring forth from the giant
speakers atop the Jones Bldg.
We then rode in the car out main
street for a bite to eat. Yes, nothing
special just what we have done
every Sat. night for the past three
years, yet last night it meant more
for it was Christmas. Will next
Christmas find us all here again?

1:55 A.M. Jan 1, 1942

Houston,

Resolve for '42

1. Think more
2. Talk less
3. Do more
4. Talk less.

It was a dreary day & night
this 31st, but just as the clock

struck twelve here, there was
a break in the clouds and the
moon shown through throwing
light ^{through} black night. I was with
the gang, and we sang "Auld
Lang Syne"

Sun. 11, '42

Houston.

Lard left today --- He has
been in Houston for the past
week on furlough. He will be
at work in the 11th in the
morning and I will turn to my
work again. It's getting harder
and harder to find interest in
my work and I'm very
anxious for February and

my induction into federal
service. Was with June last
night; I wish that I was in a
position to get very serious about
her.

Friday Jan. 30,

Entry of Particular note by
virtue of its probable affect on my
life.

Yesterday, Jan 29, was a day
of fate. For it was yesterday between
the hours of 10:00 & 11:00 A.M., that

I took the oath and at once became

a soldier in the armed forces of
the United States. I became a cog
in the machine that is destined

to end Tyranny, and brute force
in the world or be destroyed in
the attempt. My personal life

ended yesterday; from the moment

I said I do my life was
dedicated to the cause of democracy.

I joined the Army air force.

one of the most colorful branches of the service and I have made up my mind to due my best to make it the greatest. I will leave for Kelly Field in about three weeks (as soon as they find room), there I will begin training as an aviation cadet.

Jan. 31, 42

Houston.

This business of being a soldier in name only is going to become very tiresome I fear. I see now that I am going to have to keep my mind busy. I wrote a letter to Waley today and ask him to send me a report on the studies

that he was to take up in his
 ground school. I will try to
 grasp as much as I can from
 books before I am called to
 Kelly Field. War is moving
 back and forth and from all
 indications promises to be a
 long one. We have had a few
 heroes of battle already to one
 of most note being Gen. Douglas
 MacArthur is fighting a gallant
 battle on the Batan Peninsula on
 the northern edge of Manila Harbour.
~~insert~~ at times I believe that I ^{should} give
 up my journal. When I stop sometimes
 and look back over my past entries
 and find so many mistakes in

49
both grammar & spelling the whole idea disgusts me so that a number of times I have almost given it up as a bad job, but then again I feel that it might prove valuable some day and I continue.

I believe that if I spent more time in thought before making an entry, I would do better, but I always seemed to be pressed for time. However, I will keep jotting down facts that occur throughout my life and some day, maybe, I will find time to gather all my papers together and rewrite the whole saga in a more acceptable form.

P-38

Oh, streamlined beauty
Of man's design
The lady of the sky
Grace with strength is thine

All the air is thine
Thou rule supreme

Power and speed are thine
Fashioned of man's dream

Designed by man
To destroy man
Death is also thine
Destruction is thy plan

50

Houston

March 7, 42

The longer you resist
The easier it becomes for
you to resist.
The more we have to resist
The stronger we are.
2 W.

March 13, 42

Time draws near. The time that I
will take my place in the active
armed forces of America. I must
make good. It is my one chance
to make something of myself and
a chance like it may not come
again.


news from Wally tells that he
is doing fine. He is soloing and
is verily flying the wings
off his ship. I know that I too
am capable of be a success in

this flying business, but I can't help being just a bit uneasy. I guess it will wear off though when I get busy though. I have always been that way about every new undertaking that I've ever started, but I've never failed in doing any thing that I've ever set out to do and I pray God that I will not change now. This is by far the biggest thing I've ever tackled but, also, I want to do this more than any other job that I've ever started.

If I can serve my country by serving in the Air Corps. I shall be happy, very happy and thankful too.

March 18,

Received orders today: to report to
board at Ellington Field on 21st.
this looks like it.



53