

*Handwritten note:* The Army and Navy of Kamehameha I

THE ARMY AND NAVY OF KAMEHAMEHA I

Fellow-Americans and friends, today in a vital area of a world at war, we are gathered around the statue of a great man to pay homage to him and to commemorate his birth. We of Hawaiian descent, are proud that our history had been blessed by him whom we call Kamehameha the Great. He it was who consolidated these islands of the sea, and who founded the first Hawaiian dynasty which ruled for more than 50 years. He it was who uttered and enforced the Law of the Splintered Paddle that the aged, the women, and the children shall lie unmolested on the highway. His name is thus permanently emblazoned in the hearst of all Hawaiians, and on this particular day, they sing his praises and extol his virtues. It is therefore proper and timely that we dedicate this day to his memory. Ka-lani-nui-meha-meha-kau-i-ke-kapu, or Paiea as he was fondly called by his people and warriors, was a young man when Capt. James Cook arrived in Hawaii nei 166 years ago. It was subsequent to that time that the people became exposed to elements of foreign culture, including guns and ammunition. When Kamehameha observed the effectiveness and terrifying power of the white man's guns, he made up his mind to acquire them for himself. In 1795, he laid down an edict prohibiting the people from disposing of hogs and other refreshments to European and American visitors under penalty of death, for any other/than than <sup>as</sup> commodity whatever arms and ammunition. He gathered around his person the most powerful chiefs, and skilled artisans of foreign extraction. Such men as John Young, Isaac Davis, George Beckley, *James Stewart*, *Peter Cornay*, *Alexander* and John Adams, some of whom have descendants among those of hapa-haole stock in Hawaii today, are endeared in the hearts and memories of all Hawaiians. These men formed Kamehameha's Board of Strategy similar to Japan's once famous Genro, and President Roosevelt's Brain Trusters.

*Greatness of Kam. I.*

*W. ed. of strategy*

*Vancouver*

Another of these white men to whom Kamehameha became much attached was Captain George Vancouver, *of the Eng. Navy*, whose men built the first Hawaiian warship in 1794. She was to be called the Britannia, and she was intended to protect the royal person of Kamehameha. Vancouver also rigged one of Kamehameha's largest double canoes replete with a full

*Kamehameha visited the main part of Hawaii to England  
persuaded Vancouver to leave the armed men Chatham to protect  
the islands. This however was never acted upon.*

set of canvas sails, sloop fashion, and gave him a union jack and a pendant. Before sailing, he left several rockets and hand grenades with the injunction that they should be used only for Kamehameha's protection, and promised that a man-o-war loaded with brass guns and European articles would be sent from England. This promise was later fulfilled after Kamehameha's death. Vancouver's men also taught the Hawaiian warriors how to drill as a body of soldiers, in extended and closed order, in methods of deployment and as skirmishers. It may therefore be said that Vancouver was largely responsible for the origin and organization of Kamehameha's army and navy, despite the fact that he refused guns and ammunition to his Hawaiian friend.

*STRESS!* In 1802, Captain Turnbull, a visitor ~~to~~ <sup>the harbor of</sup> Hawaii remarked: "Kamehameha's grand and favorite object was the establishment of a large military and naval force."

The ancient Hawaiian warfare method consisted of a solid body of warriors moving towards the enemy in a wedge-shaped phalanx. At the point of this V shaped formation was placed a volunteer called the maka <sup>or eye.</sup> Warriors were said to have fought amongst themselves for this coveted position. With spears as their weapons of fire, this plan was effective enough, but with the introduction of guns and canon, more deadly and longer ranged fire weapons, the plan of attack had to be altered. Kamehameha re-organized his army into the following divisions; *before setting out on his campaigns*

*STRESS!* The Mamaka-kaua, this was the regular body of warriors.

The Huna-paa, consisted of the reserves to the main body whose numbers were kept from the enemy.

*STRESS!* The Huna-lewa, were the scouts sent out to locate the enemy, and to find out their number, state of preparation, location, and plans, and report to the waa-kaua.

The Waa-kaua, was the war council of chiefs, or board of strategy which formulated the plan of attack.

The Pu-ulu-kaua, were the re-inforcements held in reserve to fill in gaps and weak spots along the line of skirmish.

The Aua-lau, consisted of the engineers who prepared the terrain for future flank movements or attacks.

The Alapa, was the regiment of young chiefs, thoroughly trained in the art of warfare.

The Kahuna-nui or High Priest was the Chaplain of the Hawaiian Army.

Besides, strategy was planned according to the lay of the land, and methods of attack were worked out, as follows:

Kahului was an order of deployment executed in an encircling manner, so as to entrap the enemy forces from all sides; a pincers movement.

Makawalu, was an attack in ever succeeding waves, one after the other.

Moemoe, was an ambush, effected in a prone position, before day break.

Kukulu, consisted of the placing of outer guards to watch the movements of the enemy. *During Kamehameha's time, all able-bodied men literally enjoyed a perpetual 1-A status.*

*regularly* His army consisted of ~~(regularly)~~ disciplined troops, who were trained in both the ancient war games and the modern drills, and who went on duty with the drum and fife, and relieved each other as in Europe, calling out, "all is well" at every half-hour, as on board ship. In 1804, Kamehameha had some 60 pieces of artillery, and 600 muskets, and by 1806, his army equipment increased to upwards of 2,000 stand of arms, upwards of \$12,000 in cash, and other valuable articles in proportion deposited in store-houses. *and underground arsenals.* At this time also, he had between two and three hundred body guards to attend him, independent of the number of chiefs who were required to accompany him on all his journeys and expeditions.

*ARMY*

By 1817, he had the most important and strategically located islands fortified. The ancient temple of Ahuena at Kailua, Hawaii which became his official home was fortified by a battery of 18 guns taken from the wreck of the Lark. There were 2 mortars near the door. Mats were tied over the guns and covered with greenery, indicating that Kamehameha knew something of camouflage. At Lahaina Maui, he built a palace after the European fashion, of brick and glazed windows, and defended by 10 guns which were taken from the wreck of a ship which sunk off Oahu. In 1816, the Russians built a blockhouse in Honolulu Oahu, which was shortly thereafter taken over by the wily Kamehameha. This became the Honolulu fort, after which Fort Street takes its name. The Russians proceeded to Kauai, where they succeeded in building two more fortifications, one at Waimea and one in Hanalei Valley. They were later expelled from that island by Kaumualii at the insistence of Kamehameha. After he had consolidated the entire group of islands, he declared the Law of Friendship, *and* "Love ye one another lest thy affections go to a dog," *and* "Love ye and remember thy god". He encouraged the building of fishing canoes, and bade his warriors to turn their spears into spades.

*Fortifications*

*Law of Friendship important!*

He forbade the use of intoxicating drink among his people, and refrained from its use himself. He encouraged his people by actually practicing what he preached.

In order to attain peace and security in greater abundance, he re-organized his people *during the post-war period,* into the following divisions.

The Mahi, this group when not engaged in preparing for war was assigned to farming. This made up the Board of Agriculture.

I, This group was divided between those who had charge of sea-foods and the upland food supply. They were the canoe-carvers, heralds, and messengers of state. They made up the Construction and Communications Battalion.

Palena, this group had the specific task of settling boundary disputes or allotments of cultivated areas and amount of work assigned. They were responsible as Outer Guards to prevent surprise attacks and invasions. They made up the Engineers Unit.

Luahine, this was the commissary unit and home guards, consisting of older men who had charge of the training of young men as food carriers. They were the reserves depended upon to protect the homes, women, and children.

Piipii, this was the Transportation Unit, composed of young athletes of virile strength trained to carry supplies over difficult terrain.

Alapa, this was a carry-over from the original division. They were the young chiefs and feudal lords connected with royalty, and were members of the war council. They were responsible for the faithful execution of the king's laws as well as minor disputes within their immediate bailiwick. They made up the Provost-Marshal's unit.

Hulumanu, these were the forest rangers, responsible for the gathering of feathers for the manufacture of cloaks and helmets. They were trained in woodcraft and were leaders through forest areas. They marked the proper trees to be cut for canoes.

As to his navy, Kamehameha had the largest naval force in the entire Pacific during his time, even larger than that of Japan. The Japanese had gone into seclusion and forbade anyone from leaving the country, or from building ships, *(1638-1852)* *under penalty of death.* America had not yet

reached her Pacific boundaries. In 1795, Kamehameha had a fleet of 20 vessels, tonnage of from 20-40 Tons. Each vessel was well armed and manned. John Harbottle was his admiral, and James Boyd his shipwright. By 1802, he had acquired more than 25 vessels of various sizes, from 20 to <sup>75</sup> tons, of which a number were copper-bottomed.

By 1804, the Hawaiians had made such an advance since *Van*ncouver's visit that they were ready to open up foreign trade and commerce. They acquired <sup>such</sup> skill in navigation by the compass that they were able to take over the charge of vessels and their cargo.

Indeed, when asked as to how the Hawaiians had felt after the death of Captain Cook, John Young intimated that he had been told that they were afraid that the English would later return with a large force, and wreak a merited revenge. But now they were so confident in their own strength, that they bid defiance to any force that could be sent against them. <sup>By</sup> In 1805, Kamehameha had a sizeable navy, consisting of more than 40 large ships and several ~~thousand~~ <sup>hundred</sup> peleleu, all equipped with guns of various calibre. The peleleu was a long and deep double canoe with a covered platform and foreign sail, and was built for Kamehameha by his foreign friends. A swivel gun was mounted on the platform. According to the Hawaiian historian Kamakau, Kamehameha had some ~~3,000~~ <sup>500</sup> peleleu. During this same year, his navy was greatly enhanced by the addition of the Lelia Byrd, a 175 ton ship which he procured from an American trader. This was the largest of his vessels, and she became his flag-ship. His smaller ships were used as transports for carrying men and materials to various parts, while the larger vessels were used as men-o-war. By 1810, he had more than 30 sloops at Waikiki, and a dozen more in Honolulu Harbor. It may be interesting to note at this juncture that Kamehameha encouraged young natives to leave the islands aboard foreign vessels to see the world and to gain experience. Not a few had taken advantage of this opportunity, among them being three youth, Prince George Humehume of Kauai, William Kenui of Oahu, and Thomas Hopu of Hawaii. <sup>all three</sup> ~~They~~ had fought in the War of 1812 later returning to their native land. All three had been students attending the Foreign Mission School in Cornwall, Connecticut which was founded by a fellow-Hawaiian, Henry Opukahaia, and which <sup>planted</sup> ~~was~~ the seed for the ~~later~~ coming of American missionaries to Hawaii nei. Prince George also fought in the war against the Tripolitan pirates in 1815 and served under Commodore Stephen Decatur. He was aboard the Enterprise and Guerrierei and was wounded in action. Hopu, during a skirmish in the War of 1812, rescued a number of his shipmates from drowning. In 1816, Kamehameha decided to send a ship-load of sandal-wood to China. With the assistance of his English advisors, he designed a flag, containing the union jack in one corner and eight alternating stripes, white, red, blue, white, red, blue, white, red. In China, the flag was not recognized,

the ship was charged a heavy port fee, and the venture ended in a loss. Kamehameha however, began charging port fees to ships entering Honolulu harbor. Towards the end of 1817, an English ship arrived in Hawaii, was sold to Kamehameha, and added to his navy. In May of 1818, the Santa Rosa, a captured Argentine pirate ship arrived and was sold to Kamehameha for 6,000 piculs of sandalwood. However, he later learned of the circumstances, and held the ship and crew until a representative from that government arrived to take over. The first treaty that Hawaii negotiated with a foreign power was signed with Argentina on August 20, 1818, and "relations of amity and commerce" were established. Towards the end of that year, a Russian ~~visitor~~ *naval officer* named Golovnin arrived. He enjoyed a brief visit with Kamehameha, who had on the parade uniform of an English naval captain, and wore a hat with feathers and gold braid. Golovnin remarked:

Quote:

"Kamehameha is already very old; he considers himself to be 79 years of age. It is probable that his exact age is unknown even to himself, but his appearance shows that there cannot be a great disparity between the real age and his estimation. However, he is alert, strong and sober, he never takes strong drinks and eats moderately. In him one sees a most amazing mixture of childish deeds and ripe judgement and actions, that would not disgrace even a European ruler."

*unquote:*

Golovnin was surprised at the extent to which Honolulu had been civilized. Before leaving, he said; "Seeing all these vessels flying their flags and the Hawaiian flag hoisted over the fort, I could not help but be pleasantly surprised at such a step towards enlightenment on the part of this savage people, and, frankly, I was ashamed when I recalled that the eastern shores of Siberia and Kamchatka present no such sight."

*Speech*  
Less than six months after Golovnin's visit, on May 8, 1819, Kamehameha joined his illustrious ancestors, one more name added to the unbreakable tablet of Hawaii's warrior-great. According to Captain George Beckley, one of his advisors, Kamehameha spoke and understood, besides the Hawaiian language, English, French, German, and Spanish, but refrained from their use for reasons of state. During his lifetime, which spanned the gap between unwritten and written history of Hawaii, Kamehameha was instrumental in laying a solid foundation upon which his successors were to build. He stands on a par with two of his great contemporaries, George Washington, and the Duke

of Wellington. He had been compared with another contemporary the French general, Napoleon, but Kamehameha was as different from him as day is from night. Kamehameha died in all his glory, a great warrior king, and was successful in achieving his grand and favorite object, that of establishing a strong military and naval force. Lisiansky, <sup>another Naval officer,</sup> ~~the~~ Russian, in comparing Kamehameha's ~~army~~ and navy with those of other South Sea islands, styled it "invincible". He noted that it included some 7,000 warriors and about sixty Europeans, a large arsenal of modern weapons, and a fleet of many war canoes and vessels. Lisiansky was much impressed by Kamehameha's might. Kamehameha's great challenge to his foreign advisors, addressed to them, so the story goes, whilst on his death bed will live forever in the hearts of the Hawaiian people, bearers of his heritage. "E NA'I WALE NO OUKOU I KUU PONO, AOLE E PAU." ( Strive as ye may to undo that which I have established in righteousness, ye will never reach the end. ). May the nations of tomorrow's world travel the international highways and seek shelter and comfort along these highways of nations without being molested? Such is the significance of Kamehameha's Law of The Splintered Paddle when amplified by international understanding and good-will. Such is the kind of world <sup>the Allies</sup> ~~we hope to~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~should~~ build when this greatest of all wars is over, and Hawaii will become, in reality, the INN on the highway of nations.

Speech for Kamehameha Day, June 11, 1944  
An abstract from a chapter of the same title  
Taken from an unpublished manuscript by C.W.K.