

# Folk & Traditional Song Lyrics

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## Wake Island

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December the seventh we heard about Pearl,  
We knew we'd be next on the list.  
The men of our Corps four fifty no more  
All swore to the death to resist.

Cho: Wake Island, Wake Island,  
It's not even marked on the map  
Our Corps raised her name into honor and fame  
When they stopped the advance of the Japs.

Cut off from supplies with no hope of aid  
We sighted the first Japanese,  
With thousands of troops and a task force of ships  
They thought they could take us with ease.

They sent in their subs, their ships and their planes  
They shelled us by day and by night,  
Surrender they said, we laughed at their threats  
We're only beginning to fight.

Our four hundred fifty cost six thousand Japs  
Our fighters downed twenty eight planes,  
We sank two destroyers and one submarine  
Six others got shelled for their pains.

Our plan was to fight to the very last man  
But Deveraux gave this command,  
There's a thousand civilians I can't sacrifice  
We'll have to surrender our band.

As we lay down our arms on the twenty third day  
The Japs cheered the news of defeat.  
But they could not believe a few crummy Marines  
Had stopped the whole Japanese fleet.

From "Tell it to the Marines", Oscar Brand