

# 30 MINS TO LIVE

IN 2018, THE ENTIRETY  
OF HAWAII RECEIVED AN  
ALERT THAT A BALLISTIC  
MISSILE WAS INBOUND,  
PRESUMABLY FROM NORTH  
KOREA. AND FOR THIRTY  
MINUTES, BRIAN HOGG '00  
THOUGHT HE WAS  
GOING TO  
DIE

by Linyang Lee

# K



COURTESY / BRIAN HOGG

## PARADISE OF THE PACIFIC

Hogg never thought he would be a dad, but he cannot imagine living life otherwise (top).

Though Hogg misses some parts of Texas, living in Hawaii allows Hogg to enjoy an amazing day at the beach with his family at no cost (middle).

Banyans Beach is, in Hogg's opinion, one of the top surf breaks, and the annual Keiki Surf Classic is held there (bottom).

ids waded their way through the slick bottom out into the Pacific, surfboards in hand. On their backs, droplets of seawater glistened with the morning sun as they paddled out, away from the volcanic rocks and the parents that lined Banyans Beach.

It was there that Brian Hogg '00 stopped his bike. Lifting his one-year-old up off the seat in the back, they headed towards the surf to pick a spot to watch.

Hogg had the day off — and what a gorgeous day it was. He and his son had just been cruising along the West Coast of Big Island on their bike. There was barely any wind that day — and no gust either — making for perfectly glassy surfing conditions. There was a competition going on too, and they watched the kids, known as Keiki in Hawaii, ripping on the waves. As they watched, the waves made their usual calming whooshing sound — that relaxing ebb and flow.

What a gorgeous day.

Short. Sharp. Piercing sounds. Phones were going off.

Hogg looked around, confused. He didn't have his phone on him. What was it all about?

Moms started screaming and waving their hands frantically for their children to get off the waves.

A guy near him was screaming something with a thick French accent he could barely understand.

*The missiles are coming, we're going to be under attack!*

He scooped up his son and walked the bicycle across the street to where he lived. He needed more information. This French guy wasn't cutting it.

His neighbors were loading up their cars with weapons and ammo, readying themselves for a post-apocalyptic world.

He figured that he really only had thirty minutes. Probably more than enough time for a missile to fly from North Korea. But there wasn't really anywhere for him to go. He's never planned for an attack or natural disaster. The most thought he'd put into it was that if there was lava coming down the mountain, he'd jump into the ocean. If there was tsunami coming from the ocean, he'd run up the mountain.

He had no C-rations.

But anyway, Hawaii would probably only last four days if Honolulu was de-

stroyed. No ships would be able to re-supply the islands with food. The missile was probably going to land there too. His worry would be the nuclear fallout.

Hogg cranked his jalousie windows closed as best he could and pulled the drapes. None of it was airtight. But it was the best he could do.

Really all he could do now was just to accept his fate. Living in the skin that he was in. Hoping that it would miss.

He was going to die.

He sat there and watched his son play with his toys.

Well, at least he could spend those last few moments with his beautiful boy. Just being able to see him grow up just a little bit. He'd never thought he was going to be a dad. But he couldn't imagine living life otherwise.

His wife was working that day. And he might never see her again. Every single bit of all their planning and plotting would be for naught.

His parents, who also lived on the Island at the time, told him that they were going to take cover in their neighbor's lava tube bomb shelter.

"I was like, 'Well, have a nice life,'" Hogg said.

He frantically scoured the web for any updates he could find. Just to try to understand a little more of what was going to happen.

And soon on Twitter, he found out that it was all a false alarm. There had been some human error that caused it.

"I was just so happy that I forgot to be mad," Hogg said. "At least I was alive."

At that time, he thought that he would just cruise the rest of his life — clocking in and clocking out — surfing everyday.

And partly because of the missile alert, he's started his own business, because he knows that things can change in a blink of an eye.

"A big part of how I live is *carpe diem*," Hogg said. "I wake up really early, go to bed pretty late, and do as much as I can with the time I got."

Hogg isn't and hasn't been afraid of a nuclear missile hitting Hawaii. He's just accepted that it might happen and become numb to it. The weather outshines all that darkness. He's living his best life.

"It's just like heaven," Hogg said.