

W. H. H. H.

Dec 7 1941

3:50 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Japs attacked Honolulu time about eight o'clock this morning. The first warning was from a submarine that was outside the harbor which was attacked by a destroyer with depth bombs. Result unknown. Another submarine was sunk by aircraft. They attacked with aircraft, with bombs and torpedoes. At least two aircraft were known to have a swastika sign on them. The attacks were in two divisions; first on the air fields and then on the navy yard. Severe damage. The Oklahoma has capsized in Pearl Harbor. The Tennessee is on fire with a bad list., and the Navy Yard is attempting to drydock her.

4675-
General

No. 1 drydock was hit by bombs. The Pennsylvania was in dock and apparently undamaged. There were two destroyers hit in drydock, one of them blew up. There was one destroyer in a floating drydock which is on fire and the deck is being flooded. Two torpedoes hit the sea wall between the Helena, which is 10,000 tons - 6 in. cruiser, and the Oglala. The Oglala is heavily listed and can probably not be saved. She is on fire and is an old mine layer. The power house at Pearl Harbor was hit but is still operating. The Honolulu power house was presumably hit because there is no power on it. The air fields at Ford Island, ~~Hickam~~Hickam, Wheeler and Kaneohe were attacked.

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Hangars on fire and Hickam field fire is burning badly. The
PBY's outside of hangars are burning. Probably heavy ~~PERSONNEL~~
personnel casualties but no figures. So far as Block knows
Honolulu was not hit. He does not know how many aircraft
were brought down but he knows personally of two. They have
both been so busy he has not contacted Kimmel. There are
two task forces at sea, each one of them with a carrier.
He knows nothing further on that except that they are at sea.
This came over the telephone and we are getting nothing out
here whatever. Mr. Vincent called but I have given out
nothing, pending further word from you. The Japanese have
no details of the damage which they have wrought.

Will you get me that list of people who were at the house on Sunday, December 7th? I think I will list their names in the Engagement Book, just in case the list gets lost.

g.

*Copy of attached
sent to Grace
Sunday 12/11*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Check
Mrs R's guests*

for Sunday

Dear Grace:

Here is the list as given me by West, the secretary to Crim. Is the 3.05 appointment right, or is it two appointments, one of the secretaries and one of the Cabinet Members?

Robey

*War Historic
Folder*

THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Sunday, December 7, 1941

- 12.30 P.M. - The Chinese Ambassador
- 3.05 P.M. - The Secretary of War
The Secretary of the Navy
Mr. Harry Hopkins
Captain John Beardall
Secretary Marvin McIntyre
Secretary Early
Miss Grace Tully
- 3.20 P.M. - Gen. George Marshall
The Secretary of State
- 7.00 P.M. - The Solicitor General
- 8.40 P.M. - The Vice President and entire Cabinet
- 9.45 P.M. - The Vice President
Senator Alben W. Barkley
Senator Charles McNary
Senator Connally
Senator Warren Austin
Senator Hiram Johnson
Speaker Rayburn
Congr. Jere Cooper
Congr. Joe Martin
Congr. Sol Bloom
Congr. Charles Eaton
- 10.45 P.M. - Under Secretary Sumner Welles
- 12.00 P.M. - Mr. Ed Murrow
Col. William Donovan

UT 76 13

4695-General

Year Historic folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1941.

MEMORANDUM

Remarks of the President on
the occasion of the meeting of his
Cabinet at 8:30 and continuing at
9:00 with legislative leaders, on
December 7, 1941.

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(..... indicates inaudibility)

4675-
General

.....The conversations were interrupted for six weeks to two months. They were then resumed, with the same objective in mind. Despite the Japanese move into Indo-China, they continued until about two weeks ago, when we received indications from various sources -- Europe and Asia -- that the German government was pressing Japan for action under the tripartite pact. In other words, an effort to divert the American mind, and the British mind, from the European field, and divert American supplies from the European theatre to the defense of the East Asia theatre. About two weeks ago we began to realize that the probability of Japan being in earnest was so slim that it was time to make a final and definite effort to pin them down on the one subject that they had never ever been pinned down on, and that was that they were to agree to cease their acts of aggression, and that they would try to bring the China war to a close.

The result was that the Secretary of State sent a message on that point, to find out whether Japan would be willing to discuss or consider that point of non-aggression. That was the 26th of November. From that time on we were getting more and more definite information that Japan was headed for war, and that the reply to the Secretary of State would be in the negative.

About a week ago, in adding up some of the information..... in addition to that, moving 100,000 men in Southern Indo-China, the importance of that lies in the fact that geographically Indo-China was at a hub, from which any attack can be made in a number of directions. It is only a very short distance from there to the Philippines in the east. It is a relatively short distance from

there down to the Dutch East Indies, which is the most industrial part -- southwest there is Singapore -- fortified. To the west there is the Malay peninsula, parts of Thailand, and parts of the Malay Straits, and slightly to the northwest is the whole of Thailand -- Siam, an independent kingdom, practically surrounded on two sides by England and France. Only a short distance from there, of course, lies Burma, and the entry -- the bottleneck to the Burma Road, a short distance from Siam. We are getting a very large proportion of our supplies -- rubber, tin, etc. -- from that whole area of southwestern Pacific, and we are getting out over the Burma Road -- two-way road -- we are getting a large amount of very important material, such as tungsten and some oil -- for the manufacture of paint.

In addition to that, of course, is the fact that if the Japanese did move to the south, to the Dutch East Indies, from Indo-China, the Philippines would be virtually surrounded. They would have the Japanese on both sides -- Indo-China -- the Mandated Islands to the west, this side of the Philippines, and the Dutch Indies, and the Japanese possessions in the South. They would be completely encircled by a military power.

And so the thing went along until we believed that under the pressure from Berlin the Japanese were about to do something..... And so yesterday I sent a final message to the Emperor.....The Japanese, we learned, were to bring the Secretary of State today a reply to his note of November 26. Actually, in point of fact (?), they telephoned to the State Department, after Hawaii had been attacked, for an appointment. They came to the State Department --

they were given an appointment within three-quarters of an hour, and they actually arrived at the State Department one hour after the terrific bombing attack on the Island of Oahu.

Which of course was an act which is almost without parallel in relationships between nations, equaled only by the Japanese episode of 1904, when two squadrons -- cruisers -- lying in the Harbor in Korea (?) and without any warning -- I think on a Sunday morning, by the way -- Japanese cruisers sank all of them. There are other parallels, of course, such as the descent on Denmark and Norway in this war, without any warning whatsoever. In fact right in the face of their treaties of non-aggression.

.....Sending that message to Congress, which is -- after you have read and studied it -- one of the most.....falsehoods that I have had.....

And finally while we were on the alert -- at eight o'clock -- half-past seven -- about a quarter past -- half-past one, a great fleet of Japanese bombers bombed our ships in Pearl Harbor, and bombed all of our airfields. Shortly thereafter this was followed -- about eleven o'clock, three hours later -- by a third attack, which was not as violent, but most of the damage had already been done. The casualties, I am sorry to say, were extremely heavy. I cannot say anything definitely in regard to the number of ships that have been sunk. It looks as if out of eight battleships, three have been sunk, and possibly a fourth. Two destroyers were blown up while they were in drydock. Two of the battleships are badly damaged. Several other smaller vessels have been sunk or destroyed. The drydock itself has been damaged. Other portions

of the fleet are at sea, moving towards what is believed to be two plane carriers, with adequate naval escort.

In addition to that, this afternoon, in Guam -- Guam was being bombed by two squadrons of Japanese planes, and we know -- and it is entirely possible that at this moment Guam -- which was not defended except by a few Marines, without much in the way of guns -- in all probability has fallen to the Japanese.

Wake Island was also attacked, and we have no further word at the present time.

We believe that Manila was attacked, but that has not proved true, and it is possible that other ports of the Philippines -- some ports in Mindanao -- have been attacked. Those are merely reports.

.....Three or four, probably, of the landing fields were very heavily bombed, and a very large number of aircraft were destroyed in the hangars, or on the fields.

I have no word on the Navy casualties, which will undoubtedly be very heavy, and the best information is that there have been more than one hundred Army casualties and more than 300 men killed and injured.

I do not know what is happening at the present time, whether a night attack is on or not. It isn't quite dark yet in Hawaii. I suppose it's four o'clock in the afternoon, and it will probably be dark in a couple of hours.

There might be.....nothing definite on it.....if the Japanese force turns out to be a good deal larger than we expected.

The fact remains that we have lost the majority of the battle-

ships there. Of course, in the long run, probably most of them can be salvaged, or repaired, to take their place in the line of battle again. That, however, is a long process, and will last very many months, depending on the damage.

I think probably -- Oh yes -- one more thing -- Out in Shanghai the one small gunboat we have there has been taken over by the Japanese, and a British gunboat has been blown up. We still have two hundred Marines there.....and we are not certain yet whether they have been gotten out or not. Probably not.

The Japanese at the same time.....which were set for one o'clock Washington time -- the Japanese made an attack on the Malay peninsula. That is definite. And the British fleet now in Singapore is now conducting war operations against the Japanese ships in the Gulf of Siam, and on the eastern side of the Malay peninsula, at the north end -- top north end of the Malay Straits, just short of the -- we will have to look up the map -- just short of the Siamese -- Thailand part of that peninsula, short of what they call the (?) Isthmus.

The Dutch government has declared that a state of war exists between the Netherlands Indies and the Japanese.

The British cabinet is in session. I have heard nothing from them on that -- just the fact. And at nine o'clock tomorrow morning, their time, a special session of the Parliament is being called.

The Japanese have attacked the Malay Straits.

Now I think that is all there is in the way of information, but it has been suggested that the Army and Navy losses, and the

rather definite statements that I have made about these ships, could not be spoken of outside, because we must remember that detailed military information, such as the damage to ships, or even the loss of personnel -- that information is of value to an enemy. I think that is a matter of discretion, which all of you will accept.

Q. Didn't we do anything to get -- nothing about casualties on their side?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a little difficult. We think we got some of their submarines, but we don't know.

Q. Well, planes -- aircraft?

THE PRESIDENT: We did get, we think, a number of their Japanese planes. We know some Japanese planes were shot down, but there again -- I have seen so much of this in the other war. One fellow says he has got fifteen of their planes, and you pick up the telephone and somebody else says five. So I don't know what the report on that is, except that somewhere Japanese planes have been knocked down on the Island. I should say that by far the greater loss has been sustained by us, although we have accounted for some of the Japanese.

Q. There is a story coming over the radio that we got one of their airplane carriers.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Don't believe it. It was reported about eight o'clock. I didn't believe it. A Japanese carrier has been discovered off the Panama Canal and sunk by our forces. I wish it were true. But about the same time, the commanding officer

in the Canal Zone said they were on the alert, but very quiet.

So that is literally everything I have got here. I think I have even covered the rumors as well.

Of course, it is a terrible disappointment to be President in time of war, and the circumstances.....came most unexpectedly. Well, we were attacked. There is no question about that.

I thought that tomorrow, if it was agreeable to Senator Norris (?) he would be good enough to ask me to deliver a short message. I can't tell you what is in it at this time, because ofI will probably have.....It has been reported but not verified that Japan has done one of two things. She has sent out word that her army and navy are in a state of hostilities with the United States; and the other reports state that they have declared war on the United States.

I frankly -- I haven't any specific information whether both of those are true or not. Of course, the fact is that the -- it might be called the principal defense of the whole west coast of this country and the whole west coast of the Americas has been very seriously damaged today. That is why I thought I would ask you -- after all, there are two sides -- I would ask you if it was all right if you would let me come before you tomorrow -- I think the regular Senate session tomorrow.

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: The House ---

Q. Twelve o'clock.

Q. May I make one suggestion, Mr. President, and that is that you come as early after twelve as possible, at your convenience. Are

you going to suggest what the resolution will be before we leave?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet.

Q. A resolution inviting you to come?

THE PRESIDENT: A resolution asking me to come.

Q. You don't want to continue any further than that tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Think what's happened in the last nine hours.

I don't know what's going to happen by twelve o'clock tomorrow.

Q. My suggestion was made for this reason -- after the prayer and the reading of the Journal, we stopped the long speeches, but it is the habit now to ask unanimous consent (?) I would like to introduce this resolution as soon as the Journal is read. Then you could come in at an early enough hour.

THE PRESIDENT: Half-past twelve?

Q. Yes, I think ---

THE PRESIDENT: In the Senate?

Q. Five minutes to get there. We have to get that resolution ---

THE PRESIDENT: The concurrent resolution?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if that's all right with you, I will come any time --- roughly half-past twelve is all right with me. Is that all right?

Q. Yes, yes. Sam and I discussed that.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it is an awfully serious situation. There is a rumor that two of the planes -- Japanese planes have a rising sun painted on them -- but two of the planes were seen with swastikas on them. Now whether that is true or not, I don't know. It was a rumor, and therefore news until something a little more definite

comes in. But that is a rumor.

Q. I can't help wondering what can we do to do anything ---

THE PRESIDENT: The only specific thing to do.....our ships -- we don't know what ships -- are out trying to get the Japs at this moment.....They can't send for fear of disclosing their position.

Q. There are two airplane carriers of the Japanese navy over there.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably -- in other words, if you take the timing out, those planes -- carriers and their attending cruisers, and probably battleships -- I don't know -- at sundown last night, at about dark, were roughly twelve hours of darkness -- standing in the dark, away from where they launched their planes. Now, let us assume that they launched those planes at a distance of a hundred miles at daylight. That means that they had twelve hours to get to that point in the dark, and running at perhaps 25 knots, that would be three hundred miles further away. In other words, at dark, last night, they might very well have been four hundred to five hundred miles away from the Island, and therefore out of what might be called a good patrol distance. Patrol out of a given point -- 300 miles under normal conditions, but 500 miles is a long way for reconnaissance patrol. The planes run all through the night. At dawn they were one hundred miles away from their Island -- they launched their planes -- they steamed this way and that way, or reversed their course. The planes dropped their bombs and went back.

Q. Well, they were supposed to be on the alert, and if they had been on the alert.....I am amazed at the attack by Japan, but I am still more astounded at what happened to our Navy. They were all asleep. Where were our patrols? They knew these negotiations were

going on.

THE PRESIDENT:Here is a dispatch from General MacArthur in the Philippines. All possible action being taken here to speed defense. Pursuit planes are now reporting that by a counter-attack about fifteen enemy planes north of the Far (?) in Central (?)which means that those Japs are over the Island of Oahu (?). Report has been received that bombing attack.....far end of the Island of Mindanao..... In all probability.....attack may come from the Japanese Mandated Islands, which lie to the west of the Philippines. The only damage caused, said the report, is a hangar of a civilian airport. A report has just been received of a bombing attack on Camp John Hayes at Baguio.

That message was sent twenty minutes ago, and it is just about dawn in the Philippines at this moment -- tomorrow of Monday.

Two hundred Marines are in Northern China (?). They have been asked by the Japanese army to disarm, to turn in all arms and ammunition, to assemble..... The reply accepts the demands as of two o'clock today. That takes care of that. You have got the rest of it.

Q. That means two hundred of our Marines are now prisoners of the Japanese?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Well, any of you good people got any questions?

Q. I didn't hear you say anything about sinkings between Hawaii and Oahu.

THE PRESIDENT: Those are two reports. One was an armed transport supposed to be carrying a load of lumber. Is that right Harry?

Mr. Harry (Hopkins)?: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: And the other one is -- that was 1500 miles off San Francisco -- the other report which might release the same -- that an American merchant ship had been sunk 700 miles. But they are just flabby (??)

Q. If that report is true, it is pretty close to California, is that right, Harry?

Q. Mr. President, you said you don't know what you are going to say tomorrow. Are you going to detail to Congress all the facts you have at that time, assuming they don't get any better you might..... so far as the Japanese ---

THE PRESIDENT: Active hostilities, yes.

Q. Yes, that is what I mean.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me get a little more time on it.

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, at my Press Conference, they start off with the question "If". It's a little bit of "if" -- what I will say tomorrow at half-past twelve.

Q. Have you any report of a mass meeting in Tokyo to be held at 7.30, in which Togo and Tojo and some other officials were to make speeches?

THE PRESIDENT: I heard that the Prime Minister is going to make a statement, or a declaration, or speech, in Parliament at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Q. The radio inferred about eleven o'clock.

Q. That would be about 7.30 our time. That's another rumor. It isn't confirmed.

Q.make a formal declaration of war? They are so tangled up in the Axis that a declaration of war by Germany on us.....

THE PRESIDENT: We have reason to believe that the Germans have told the Japanese that if Japan declares war, they will too. In other words, a declaration of war by Japan automatically brings

Q. You haven't made any declaration yet?

THE PRESIDENT: It is awfully difficult to know.

Q. Well, Mr. President, this nation has got a job ahead of it, and what we have got to do is roll up our sleeves and win this war.

THE PRESIDENT: Doc (?) I am glad you said that because there are a lot of people all over the country who have been saying for the past few weeks -- saying, well let's go in and clean up -- blank -- blank -- blank. But of course that popular feeling -- you can't do it -- just wade in and clean them up.

Back in 1922--1923, I wrote an article for the Asiatic Magazine, and I pointed out at that time that from what I had seen of the Navy Department, war between the United States and Japan would be won by us; but that it would be won primarily by the starvation and exhaustion of Japan -- starvation or exhaustion. And always remember that they have no naval bases -- they have nothing. And the old asiom used to be that a fleet loses five percent of its efficiency for every thousand miles it gets away from base. That is a rule of thumb. We saw our fleet at Hawaii, three thousand miles away to Japan itself..... If anything happens to the ship, there is one thing in particular. If you are in home waters you can get it back to drydock or Navy Yard, but if you are in enemy waters

you have an awfully tough time getting back home. And therefore a fleet attack over in Japanese waters is almost an impossibility. And they are going to go through. We will have to, to prolong our national existence, but it makes this treacherous attack impossible in the future. We may have some very heavy losses. And the Japanese know perfectly well that the answer to her attack is proper strangulation of Japan -- strangulation altogether.

Q. How big is the Russian Army now?

THE PRESIDENT:The greater part of it is there. From our best information there will be no offensive on land from now on until the end of April.

Q. Not much danger in Siberia.....?

Q. Try to play this down, Mr. President, but I presume that we think of this problem -- we probably have varied interpretations to place on the situation, so that we will probably have a declaration against Japan. Whether it goes any further will depend on conditions from now to then.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we ought not to say anything about it -- what action will be asked for, or what action will be taken by the Congress tonight.

Q. About all you can tell them is about the Message?

THE PRESIDENT: But lots of things may happen.

Q. I was trying to get it from our points of view.

THE PRESIDENT: The fact is that a shooting war is going on today in the Pacific. We are in it.

Q. By twelve o'clock tomorrow you will know whether Japan's formality has taken a declaration of war on us, or a state of war

exists.

Q.Japan had stated that a state of war existed between us, or that war existed. That does not necessary mean a declaration of war. That comes from some authority that has power to declare war.

THE PRESIDENT: Bill, this is the only thing that we have -- from Shanghai. Who is Stanton? Is he our Consul there?

Q. Consul of China.

THE PRESIDENT: Captain Smith of the U.S.S. ? received a telephone call at 4.15 this morning. Japanese naval officers stated over the telephone that a state of war exists between my country and yours. I am taking control over the U.S.S. ? . That's the nearest official thing I have got, and that's a telephone message. I think we had better not say anything about it. Remember that out there it is nearly just about dawn. They are doing things, and saying things during the daytime out there, while we are all in bed.

Q. We are in bed too much.

Q. Well, if that's -- well, that's all we can say.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. That is all we can say.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

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December 7, 1941

file
personal

was Historic

4675-General

HOW HAPPEN I WERE AT PEARL HARBOR, ON THE MORNING OF SUNDAY, 7th OF DECEMBER, 1941.

On the 6th of December, Saturday afternoon, I had made arrangement with Tech. Sergeant Christen to have all his Guard to be at the Main Gate between 8:30 and 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning to have a group of pictures taken in front of the new concerte entrance as a setting with the "Pearl Harbor" for Christmas card to send home to their family.

Sunday morning I left my home for Pearl Harbor after 7:00 o'clock. I was waiting for my bus at corner Wilder Avenue and Metcalf Street. Saw the sky full of antiaircraft gun firing up in the air. I call my friend to look up in sky, explain them how the Navy used their Antiair Craft gun firing in practising, at that time I didn't realize we were in actual war. Our bus stop at Bishop and King Streets. We heard the alarm ringing from the third story building of the Lewers & Cooke, Ltd. Saw the window shattered. I walk up to Young Hotel corner and cross the street. Stop for a cup of coffee at Swinky and Franky. Suddenly all excitement arouse the Honolulu Fire Engine rush down Bishop Streets and all directions. Taxi full load of sailor and marine dashing toward Pearl Harbor, I'm very much surprize what's all this excitement. I wave the taxi to stop and get on it to go back to Pearl Harbor. When I approach to Pearl Harbor surprize with great shock. Thought one of our oil tanks caught in fire, showing black velum of thick smoke in the air. I got off at the main gate of Pearl Harbor, met all the guards with arms and machine gun in placed. I was great shock with surprize the war are on. Watching many Japanese war planes attacked Pearl Harbor, dropping bombs right and left on dry docks and Ford Island. Suddenly terrific explosion. Fire broke out. I was very calm and waiting for the opportunity to get a ride to the Studio to get my camera. I was at the Main Gates standby with Marines. Guards at the Main Gates were bravery and cool headed to keep the by standing away for safety and clear traffic. There were the young, fighting marines. We were under fire. The Japanese Planes painted in aluminum, Red Ball under each wing, flew very low toward the Main Gates.

I wish my Graflex with me. I would had a wonderful close up shot of the Japese. Again the Japese Flew around the Navy Housing Area and turn back, head direct to Hickam Field, very low to drop a bomb to the Hangars, with terrific explosion, set fire the buildings. More planes flew direct the dry dock. Suddenly, I saw one plane had a hit. It flew direct toward West Locke stream of smoke screen... Now this my opportunity to get in the Yard, one of the Leadingmen of Machine Shop drove in his automobile. I hop in, he take me to the studio and pick up my Graflex Camera to take some picture, second thought I change my mind, reason is because first place I didn't had no order, the second place I didn't had my famous Trade-Mark helmet on. I had a new English Helmet from Singapore, given by Admiral Murfin a year ago, so I'm afraid some one will make a mistake me as a Jap and shot me down.

I went up to the Administration Building everythings O.K. I met Mr. Wm. McIlhenny and Mr. W. C. Bohley at the stairway. We talk and both went toward the dry dock. I went to the Supply Dept. and saw many boy had a Steel Helmet on, so I went to see Lt. Cdr. Supply Officer for permission to hat one, the size are too large and heavy for me so I select one smaller size, painted green and white stripe. I went direct to the dry dock to help put out the fire on

U.S.S. CASSIN had the depth charges on her stern the U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA bow between CASSIN and DOWNES. I knew it was very dangerous it may exploded damaged the dry docks and the U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA. We put our hoses directed the depth charges keeping wet. An Officer came near by said keep up the good work we had out hose right at it all the time, and I turn around and saw Lt. Spear, order all men stand back, some things may happen, so I obey his order and ran back toward U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA, sudden really happen the terrific explosion came from the Destroyer few people were hurt and some fell down. I notice some large pieces of Steel Plates blew over the dry dock when I turn around and look, afterward I notice two extra hoses without nozzles, so I went to the Fire Station and brought back 2 volunteers pointed direct the depth charges, I call for more volunteers to help me clear and straighted up the hose around the First Street to clear for traffic at the same time purpose to gave the fire fighter a chance to extended the hose across over the bow of U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA to fight the fire at the DOWNES on Starboard side. Here comes another Fire Engine from Submarine Base, I direct them to place their engine and connect this Hydrant #151 and direct them to the depth charges, so everythings are well done and successful accomplishment of their services. A few words of my appreciation and vote of thanks and successful credit to Lieut. Spear, in charge with his gallant spirit to kept his staff and volunteers calms, right at the job to see the depth charges were wet and kept away the fire. The Marines of the Fire Dept. of the Navy Yard, are the Heróis of the Day of Dece. 7, 1941 that save the CASSIN and DOWNES and U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA in Dry Dock No. 1.

I saw the crew throw out empty 5" shell on the dock, I gather up in piles with some sailors, so I met Chief T. to help me order some hose from Supply Dept. to place in this Hydrant No. 151, Corner Avenue D and First Street. I also request Lt. Foster to order me more hoses, with in half an hour the Chief brought back 6 new hoses and other load from Lt. Foster and other Chief which I have about 12 lengths of hose to stand by. Why I order this hoses for? The answer - for emergency something may happen I will be there with readiness, reason why, the magazines were taking out from the U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA, any many casing and empty shell, at the same time were under fired the Jap Airplanes flew overhead where up in the cloud. The U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA Antiair Craft crews were in full action, I wasn't excited and very calm about Street to protect the 2 new hoses, I were little worry because I have no nails and lumber to nail between the two planks separated while the heavy traffic going by with Emergency Cases to the Naval Hospital without crushing the hoses. I met Captain Swain passing by I had his permission to have the Carpenter of the Boat Shed to help me nail this planks together. He went to telephone, within few minutes four men marching down with nails and lumber. I were very happy, here comes the Carpenters ready to started nailing, suddenly the roaring Anti Air Craft Guns in action, I call my men to dodging for Safety, after the enemy planes disappear we all returns to our duty, the four men didn't came back at all left the hammers, nails and lumber, so I was very fortunely for two of our local boys passing by and helping me to finish the job, it were very thankful to volunteers their service to stand by with during the Emergency, I had two men standing by the Hydrant #119 locate Corner Avenue E

and First Street near the head of Dry Dock No. 1, four men guarding the two hoses in emergency for readiness in case of fire broke out from the Magazine Casing.

I was self volunteer to be Traffic Police and directing the Traffic during the rushing hours of Emergency, I get a big piece of Maroon cloth to signaling the ambulance to look at those planks, easily passing over, to save my hose and other word to give the wounded patients rest easily from rough crossing on the heavy planks. I directed all four hours to keep the First Street clear of right away to the Naval Hospital. Many heavy Contractor truck passing by with all Defenders and Emergency Call Employee, to report to the Shop for standby. I direct all this group of trucks turn up to Avenue E and unloaded the Employees. Everythings were successfully executed. I enjoyed my duty and a word of appreciating to my volunteers friends of their bravery and corageous to their service, during the emergency and Under Fired. Everythings were under control and we all secure and roll up the hoses and returns to the Supply Dept. We were hungry no lunch so I brought each one a Box Ice Cream for lunch and we all dismissed about 3:30 P.M.

One of the Marine Patrol approaching toward me, if I will do the boys a great service of the Marine Guards and Sailor, which their have no lunch and some without breakfast, so I went to the garage to take my Red Put Put to the 3rd Defense Fleet Marine Mess Hall to see my friend Tech. Sergt. Newland for help, I told the story regards the Post Guard have been neglected to release for lunch. Tech. Sergt. Newland were very kind and his Cook to prepared some sandwiches ham and chicken, fruit all I can delivery to the Post. You should hear what were their saying. Charles, you are one life saver. I have been riding around and round the dry dock until every one had a sandwiches on every post except the Fuel Oil Farms. I send 50 Chicken and ham sandwiches apples and oranges and buns with ham. After I returns the Mess Sergt. report no breads be served and water are being poison. I serving some civilians and the Post and Guards Hot Tacks, apples and orange. The water is poison. At the Dry Dock all the workmen have no lunch and hungry, working on the U.S.S. DOWNES and U.S.S. CASSIN, I ran short of every think about 6:00 P.M. I told the men go to the Mess Hall of the 3rd Defense to have their meal without charges and drink tomatoes juice and fruit. About 7:00 P.M. I went to the garage to have them take me to the Main Gates. At the last though I have the driver drove me to the Mess Hall, the Mess Sgt. gave me 3 gals. can iced cold tomatoes juice and 3 dozen oranges and bag full of Hot Tacks, I gave the driver to take back to Garage night force. I left the Navy Yard at 7:30 P.M. at Main Gates. I was very fortunely an automobile pass by. Lady invited me to take me back to town, she just drive off the Ferry boat from Ford Island. She left me off the Hawaiian Electric Co. It was a black out night, I walk across to Army and Navy Y.M.C.A. to the Beretania Street to walk direct to the Thomas Square and stopped for a rest. I ask the soldier guard on patrol, with appreciated very kindly if he will halt an automobile to take me home, if convenience on their way home. I told him I came back from Pearl Harbor, I'm Chinese. He shake my hand and glad to be of service, to the Chinese friend. An automobile approach and stop, the soldier request the owner if he will help to take me home to the University. Happening the driver knew me very well, he heard my voice, so he invited me in his car and drove me to my home at the front door. I extend my appreciation and thanks him very kindly to see safely home. My wife and four children were happy and thankful I were safely at home.

- 4 -

As the Confucius say, "Every Kind Deeds its return many, many time
Folds."

/s/ TAI SING LOO.

Wm. H. H. H.

EARLY ORDERED SECRET

EARLY ORDERED SECRET SERVICE AGENTS TO TAKE ALL PRESS CREDENTIALS FROM JAPANESE NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS IN WASHINGTON.

BEFORE HE WOULD DISCUSS THE REPORT FROM ADMIRAL BLOCK, HE ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY JAPANESE CORRESPONDENTS IN THE ROOM.

"I AM NOT GOING TO GIVE THEM ANY INFORMATION," HE SAID SHARPLY.

"WILL THESE CORRESPONDENTS BE ARRESTED," HE WAS ASKED.

"THAT IS A MATTER FOR THE OCD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE," HE SAID.

THE PRESIDENT, EARLY ANNOUNCED AT 4:38 P.M. HAD CONCLUDED HIS CONFERENCES WITH SECRETARY STIMSON, SECRETARY KNOX, AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MARSHALL.

12/7--W0454P

ADD ATTACK, HONOLULU.

PURSUIT SHIPS AND LIGHT BOMBERS LED THE FIRST JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR.

THE ARMY SAID ONLY THAT "THE RISING SUN" COULD BE SEEN ON THE WING TIPS, BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THEY WERE JAPANESE AIRPLANES.

ONE BOMBER WAS SHOT DOWN BACK OF THE COURTHOUSE AT WAHIAWA. IT HAD THE NUMERALS 3133-5 ON ITS FUSELAGE. THE PLANE EXPLODED AND BURNED AS IT HIT. THE PILOT'S BODY WAS BURNED.

THERE WERE REPORTS THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN.

12/7--W0445P

NEW YORK--THE U.S.S. OKLAHOMA, A BATTLESHIP, WAS SET AFIRE IN TODAY'S AIR ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, AN NBC BROADCAST FROM HONOLULU SAID.

12/7--W0456P

ADD CONGRESSIONAL REACTION.

"I THINK THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SEND A DECLARATION OF WAR TO CONGRESS NOW SO THAT WE CAN ACT WITH UTMOST FREEDOM.

"THE BOMBINGS MEAN A WAR OF TWO OR THREE YEARS IN THE FAR EAST. WE WILL ACT CLOSELY WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

"IT DOES NOT MEAN OUR ENTRANCE INTO THE EUROPEAN WAR, BUT WE WOULD MOVE NEARER TO WAR ON THAT FRONT BY COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH BRITAIN AND RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST."

12/7--W0457P

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FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 7, 1941.

The following message from the President to the Emperor of Japan was dispatched Saturday afternoon and public announcement was made at that time that this message to the Emperor had been sent by the President:

Almost a century ago the President of the United States addressed to the Emperor of Japan a message extending an offer of friendship of the people of the United States to the people of Japan. That offer was accepted, and in the long period of unbroken peace and friendship which has followed, our respective nations, through the virtues of their peoples and the wisdom of their rulers have prospered and have substantially helped humanity.

Only in situations of extraordinary importance to our two countries need I address to Your Majesty messages on matters of state. I feel I should now so address you because of the deep and far-reaching emergency which appears to be in formation.

Developments are occurring in the Pacific area which threaten to deprive each of our nations and all humanity of the beneficial influence of the long peace between our two countries. Those developments contain tragic possibilities.

The people of the United States, believing in peace and in the right of nations to live and let live, have eagerly watched the conversations between our two Governments during these past months. We have hoped for a termination of the present conflict between Japan and China. We have hoped that a peace of the Pacific could be consummated in such a way that nationalities of many diverse peoples could exist side by side without fear of invasion; that unbearable burdens of armaments could be lifted for them all; and that all peoples would resume commerce without discrimination against or in favor of any nation.

I am certain that it will be clear to Your Majesty, as it is to me, that in seeking these great objectives both Japan and the United States should agree to eliminate any form of military threat. This seemed essential to the attainment of the high objectives.

More than a year ago Your Majesty's Government concluded an agreement with the Vichy Government by which five or six thousand Japanese troops were permitted to enter into Northern French Indo-China for the protection of Japanese troops which were operating against China further north. And this Spring and Summer the Vichy Government permitted further Japanese military forces to enter into Southern French Indochina for the common defense of French Indochina. I think I am correct in saying that no attack has been made upon Indo-China, nor that any has been contemplated.

During the past few weeks it has become clear to the world that Japanese military, naval and air forces have been sent to Southern Indo-China in such large numbers as to create a reasonable doubt on the part of other nations that this continuing concentration in Indo-China is not defensive in its character.

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Because these continuing concentrations in Indo-China have reached such large proportions and because they extend now to the southeast and the southwest corners of that Peninsula, it is only reasonable that the people of the Philippines, of the hundreds of Islands of the East Indies, of Malaya and of Thailand itself are asking themselves whether these forces of Japan are preparing or intending to make attack in one or more of these many directions.

I am sure that Your Majesty will understand that the fear of all these peoples is a legitimate fear inasmuch as it involves their peace and their national existence! I am sure that Your Majesty will understand why the people of the United States in such large numbers look askance at the establishment of military, naval and air bases manned and equipped so greatly as to constitute armed forces capable of measures of offense.

It is clear that a continuance of such a situation is unthinkable.

None of the peoples whom I have spoken of above can sit either indefinitely or permanently on a keg of dynamite.

There is absolutely no thought on the part of the United States of invading Indo-China if every Japanese soldier or sailor were to be withdrawn therefrom.

I think that we can obtain the same assurance from the Governments of the East Indies, the Governments of Malaya and the Government of Thailand. I would even undertake to ask for the same assurance on the part of the Government of China. Thus a withdrawal of the Japanese forces from Indo-China would result in the assurance of peace throughout the whole of the South Pacific area.

I address myself to Your Majesty at this moment in the fervent hope that Your Majesty may, as I am doing, give thought in this definite emergency to ways of dispelling the dark clouds. I am confident that both of us, for the sake of the peoples not only of our own great countries but for the sake of humanity in neighboring territories, have a sacred duty to restore traditional amity and prevent further death and destruction in the world.

file

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT REPORTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FIVE W/ 12 HOURS
DEC 8 9 16 AM '41
RECEIVED

THE DIRECTOR

4675

December 8, 1941

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

If message to Congress states our
war and peace aims and the Resolution by Congress
does same, it will be more difficult for Senate
later to repudiate an intelligent peace treaty.

x358

x419

Sincerely,

Lowell Mellett

x788

x394
x66

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C O P Y

December 8, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

The President desires to issue the first thing next Friday morning, December twelfth, a proclamation endorsing an appeal for war funds for the Red Cross. It will, therefore, be greatly appreciated if a draft of such a proclamation can be submitted to the President by the close of business on Thursday, December eleventh. Of possible help in the preparation of this proclamation I am forwarding draft of a statement prepared for the President by the Red Cross.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT

See 124-for first carbon

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

file

7 12/12/41

Attended signing of War Declarations,
Japan, Monday, Dec. 8th, ⁴¹ and Germany & Italy
Dec. 11th (Thurs.

The Vice President
Senator Glass
Senator Barkley
Senator Connally
Senator McNary
Senator Austin

Speaker Rayburn
Congressman McCormack
Congressman Bloom
Congressman Martin
Congressman Luther Johnson
Congressman Eaton

x419
x550

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For the Recommendation of the Bureau of the Budget

on Public Bill S. J. Res. 116,

~~Act~~

Joint Resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the Imperial Government of Japan and the Government and the people of the United States and making provisions to prosecute the same,

See: Special Budget Bureau File ^{OF 5708} under date of December 8, 1941.

See also same date for similar resolutions re war with Japan, Germany & Italy

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FOR THE PRESS

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 8, 1941

Obviously Germany did all it could to push Japan into the war. It was the German hope that if the United States and Japan could be pushed into war that such a conflict would put an end to the Lease-Lend Program.

As usual the wish is father to the thought behind the broadcasts and public announcements emanating from Germany with relation to the war and the Lease-Lend Program. That such German broadcasts and announcements are continuously and completely one hundred per cent inaccurate is shown by the fact that the Lease-Lend Program is and will continue in full operation.

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HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

December 8, 1941

CONFIDENTIAL: To be held in STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis or intimation to be published or given out until delivery of the President's message to the Congress HAS BEGUN.

Release expected about 12:30 P. M., E. S. T., December 8, 1941.

CAUTION: Extreme care must be exercised to avoid premature publication.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last Night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces -- with the unbounded determination of our people -- we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.

C O P Y

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Transmitting copy of letter which Hon. F. E. LaGuardia received from the Sec. of War, 12/6/41, recommending that the request of the Territory of Hawaii for funds for construction of sanitary and other facilities to care for civilians who must be evacuated from areas subject to air raids because of proximity to military objectives, totaling \$2,800,000 be approved, sent to the Director of the Budget, as per attached handwritten note "Harold Smith, What can I do about this? FDR".

12/6/41

hm

SEE 400 Hawaii-for first copy

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To
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
SECRETARY OF WAR,
12-8-41

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The President sent similar letters to each of the above advising re creation of Strategic Munitions Board to act under his (the President's) supervision. Outlined duties of the Board, to be composed of Chief of Staff, Chairman, Chief of Naval Operations, and Mr. Harry L. Hopkins. Asked the Board to arrange for consultation with representatives of the Office of Lend-Lease Administration of the Governments to which Defense Aid is being given. Asked for preparation of a production program for use by us and by countries fighting Hitler and Japan. Asked that the two Secretaries review with him the recommendations. --- Letters prepared and submitted by Mr. Hopkins, Dec. 8, 1941.

SEE 4680

WWII
WWI
WW
Historical

Jeanette Rankin

Dec. 8, 1941

ADD WAR RESOLUTION, SENATE
THE RESOLUTION READ:

"DECLARING THAT A STATE OF WAR EXISTS BETWEEN THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND MAKING PROVISION TO PROSECUTE THE SAME:

"WHEREAS THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED UNPROVOKED ACTS OF WAR AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; THEREFORE, BE IT

"RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THAT THE STATE OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS THUS BEEN THRUST UPON THE UNITED STATES IS HEREBY FORMALLY DECLARED; AND THE PRESIDENT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EMPLOY THE ENTIRE NAVAL AND MILITARY FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE RESOURCES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CARRY ON WAR AGAINST THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT; AND, TO BRING THE CONFLICT TO A SUCCESSFUL TERMINATION, ALL OF THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY ARE HEREBY PLEDGED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES."

12/8--R115P

Passed unanimously - 82-0

CONGRESS PROCLAIMED EXISTENCE OF A STATE OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE JAPANESE EMPIRE 33 MINUTES AFTER THE DRAMATIC MOMENT WHEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT STOOD BEFORE A JOINT SESSION TO PLEDGE THAT WE WILL TRIUMPH---"SO HELP US, GOD."

12/8--R116P