The attack itself, minute by minute

The mood of a nation plunged into war
REMEmBERING

A DAY of INFAMY

3
THE ATTACK ITSELF

10
NEWS OF WAR
When the U.S. unleashed “shock and awe” against the regime of Saddam Hussein in 1993, the assault was broadcast live. Not so in 1941, when it took hours for news of the Pearl Harbor attack to reach American homes.

14
MOBILIZATION
Although the United States had had a draft since 1940, the armed forces remained small. That changed swiftly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when thousands of draft boards sprang up around the country, and millions of men were conscripted for military service.

17
ISOLATIONISM
World War II officially began in September 1939 when Germany invaded Poland, but the United States did not enter the war for more than two years. After Pearl Harbor, the U.S. sprang into action. What was life like before America entered the war?

20
CHRISTMAS 1941
Coming just 18 days after the attack, this was a holiday unlike any other. For many Americans, it was the last time they would be together.

25
INTERNMENT
World War II is often characterized as the great crusade against tyranny. That’s hard to reconcile with the treatment of Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast, more than 100,000 of whom were uprooted from their homes and sent to internment camps.

32
COULD IT HAPPEN AGAIN?
What would such a surprise attack look like now? What keeps our national security forces up at night?

34
LEARNING MORE
Recommended reading, viewing, memorials to visit

36
TRIVIA
Test your knowledge

39
NAMES OF THOSE KILLED

BLIPPAR
Throughout this section we are using an app called Blippar to direct you to online content via your smartphone.

1. Download the free app in the Apple App Store or Google Play, for Android phones and tablets.

2. When you see these icons near a story or photo, open the app and point your smart device’s camera at the page.

3. Blippar will bring up related digital content on your phone or tablet.

For example, open the Blippar app and hover your phone over the text of FDR’s Christmas Eve speech on Page 23. Audio of the speech should start playing on your device.

ONLINE
Visit our website to dive deeper into the history of Dec. 7, 1941. Look for ‘Pearl Harbor’ on your newspaper website’s homepage under Our Picks and you’ll find:

• More historic photos
• Video and audio archives from the Library of Congress
• Links to more resources
• An interactive quiz of the trivia on Pages 36-38
‘Sunday in Hell’ author details two hours on Pearl Harbor that changed history

The following is an excerpt from the book “Sunday in Hell: Pearl Harbor Minute by Minute” by Bill McWilliams. Copyright (c) 2011 by Bill McWilliams. Reprinted with the permission of Open Road Integrated Media, Inc.
On Thursday, 4 December, the U.S. Navy’s guarded, highly classified radio receiving station in Cheltonham, Maryland, intercepted a Japanese overseas “News” broadcast from Station JAP (Tokyo) on 11980 kilocycles. The broadcast began at 8:30 a.m., corresponding to 1:30 a.m. in Hawaii, and 10:30 p.m., 5 December, in Tokyo. The broadcast was probably in Wabun, the Japanese equivalent of Morse Code, and was originally written in syllabic katakana characters, a vastly simpler and phonetic form of written Japanese. It was recorded in Cheltonham on a special typewriter, developed by the Navy, which typed the Roman-letter equivalents of the Japanese characters. The Winds Message broadcasts, which Japanese embassies all over the world had been alerted to listen to in a 19 November coded message, was forwarded to the Navy Department by TWX (teletype exchange) from the teletype-transmitter in the “Interceptor” receiving room at Cheltonham to “WA91,” the page-printer located beside the GY Watch Officer’s desk in the Navy Department Communication Intelligence Unit under the command of Navy Captain Lawrence F. Safford.

The 4 December message was one of the last key intelligence intercepts the Navy was decoding and translating, in attempts to determine Japanese intentions and plans during their deteriorating diplomatic relations and negotiations with the United States. There was some delay and uncertainty in decoding and translating the message, which, as indicated in the Japanese government’s 19 November message, would be contained in the Tokyo news broadcasts’ weather reports. After considerable discussion of the 4 December intercept, senior Naval Intelligence officers concluded the message meant an imminent break in diplomatic relations with Great Britain, at least, and probably the United States – since the embassies had received instructions to destroy their codes. Code destruction and replacement was a routine procedure at regular, specified intervals throughout the year, but ominously, the most recent order to destroy codes didn’t fit the normal pattern of Japanese behavior in managing their most secret codes.

But unknown to American intelligence another more ominous message had been sent to the combined fleet at 0730 hours on 2 December, Tokyo time, Monday, 1 December in Washington and Hawaii. Sent by Admiral Yamamoto’s chief of Naval General Staff, Rear Admiral Matome Ugaki, it was to become one of the most famous messages in naval history. “Climb Mount Niitaka, 1208.” It signaled that X-Day – the day to execute the Japanese war plan – was 0000 December 8, Japan time. Nagumo’s task force received the information at 2000 hours, and at this hour was about 940 miles almost directly north of Midway, well beyond the arc of U.S. reconnaissance flights.
Gordon W. Prange, in “At Dawn We Slept,” recorded the chain of events that followed the deployment of the Japanese Empire’s midget submarines early the morning of 7 December: “A waning moon peeked through the broken overcast to glimmer on the waters off Pearl Harbor. About ‘1 3/4 miles south of entrance buoys,’ the minesweepers Condor and Crossbill plied their mechanical brooms. At 0342 something in the darkness ‘about fifty yards ahead off the port bow’ attracted the attention of Ensign Russell G. McCloy, Condor’s Officer of the Deck. He called to Quartermaster Second Class R.C. Uttrick and asked him what he thought. Uttrick peered through binoculars and said, ‘That’s a periscope, sir, and there aren’t supposed to be any subs in this area.’

***

In just 90 minutes the Japanese had launched 350 aircraft toward their targets.

The Zeroes’ (fast, highly maneuverable, heavily-armed fighters, also called Zekes) first, low-altitude strafing passes at Kaneohe were deadly, and the effects of the remaining 32 in the first wave would prove devastating everywhere that morning. Each carried two rapid-fire 20-mm canons, one in the leading edge of each wing, and two 7.7-mm machine guns mounted on the nose of the fighter, in the engine cowling. To increase the amount of damage caused during their strafing runs, the Japanese loaded their ammunition in the following order: two armor piercing, one tracer; two armor piercing, one tracer; two armor piercing, one incendiary. With this loading the bullets would not only kill, but would shred thin metal, pierce light to moderately thick armor, gasoline and oil tanks, do fatal damage to vehicles, engines, aircraft and anti-aircraft guns – and start fires.

In the first eight minutes of the air assault on Oahu, the Zekes were commencing the near-total destruction of
the Navy's long range patrol capability on the island. Follow-on attacks by Zekes and horizontal bombing Kates (equipped with torpedoes) and additional fighters in the second wave would bring more death and destruction to Kaneohe Naval Air Station.

Along the beach in Waimanalo to the southeast of Kaneohe, all was serene at Bellows Field until about dawn, when the acting first sergeant ran into the tent area to rouse the sleeping men, yelling that Kaneohe had been ‘blown all to hell.’ Corporal McKinley thought he was crazy and just turned over in his bed. At 0810, someone called from Hickam Field and asked for a fire truck because they ‘were in flames.’ A return call disclosed ... they had been attacked, so the Bellows fire chief left for Hickam with the fire truck.

While the men of the 86th rushed to defend against the next onslaught, the three 44th fighter pilots were determined to get into the air as soon as possible. Squadron maintenance men scrambled to disperse, fuel and arm their aircraft. Time was of the essence. In another half hour, the second wave's attack would bring much more than a single Zeke fighter strafing Bellows Field on one pass. Though none from the 86th died at Bellows Field that day, and only three were wounded on a field still under construction, two more of their number received wounds in the Japanese assault on Hickam Field - and two of the 44th's three pilots would die at Bellows, with the other wounded in desperate, vain, raging attempts to get airborne and strike back at the now-declared enemy. The worst was in progress elsewhere, far worse. Between dawn, when the 86th's acting first sergeant told of Kaneohe's attack, 0810 hours, when the call for a fire truck came from Hickam, and 0830, when the Zeke roared through on a strafing pass, hell was visiting the island of Oahu.

Wheeler Field, the home of the Hawaiian Air Force's air and fleet
defense, the 14th Pursuit Wing, was the first Army Air Force field struck on Oahu. By 0900, when the second wave struck Bellows and completed their work on Kaneohe, the fierce Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and other military installations on the island had become a never-to-be-forgotten, bloody, American national disaster.

Startled, at-first-uncertain and disbelieving men on the ground and aboard ships, all disciplined and trained to respond in a crisis, and fight, were momentarily puzzled. Then they saw bombs or torpedoes released, the white-hot blinking of machine guns and 20-mm canons, the flash of orange insignia - “meatballs” - on the underside of wings or the sides of fuselages, heard a few shouted warnings, the roar of low flying airplanes, and the violent explosions of bombs or torpedoes in the stunning few moments before reality struck home. In the normal preparations for Sunday morning breakfast, church services, a weekend of liberty, lowered crew manning, absence of warning, and low defense alert condition, disaster quickly flourished. While torpedoes, bombs, cannon fire and machine gun bullets tore into the attackers’ primary target, the Pacific Fleet, setting off thunderous explosions, starting numerous fires, and a huge, all-consuming inferno on the battleship Arizona, the men on Army Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps airfields suffered their own brand of hell. Before one hour and forty-five minutes passed, total Army Air Force casualties on Oahu climbed to 163 killed, 336 wounded, and 43 missing. Of these, Hickam Field’s losses were 121 killed, 274 wounded, and 37 missing. Out of 231 Hawaiian Air Force aircraft, 64 were destroyed, 93 damaged and only 74 were left in repairable condition. Hangars at both Hickam and Wheeler were severely damaged. An aircraft repair station in Hickam’s Hawaiian Air Depot was completely destroyed. 12 Kate torpedo-bombers charged low across the water from the southeast and east, after passing at 50 feet altitude southeast of Hickam Field’s hangar line, and past the south and north ends of Ford Island across the harbor from the west toward the main dock and ships in the north harbor, while other torpedo-bombers pressing in from the east and southeast unleashed devastating attacks on the battleships and other ships in the harbor. Val dive bombers, with a two-man crew of pilot and radioman/gunner, and Kate horizontal bombers from the northeast and southwest almost simultaneously launched shattering dive-bomb and fighter attacks on aircraft and hangar facilities on Hickam Field, Ford Island, and nearby Marine Corps’ Mooring Mast Field at Ewa - while to the northwest, Wheeler Field took staggering blows beginning moments following the assault on NAS Kaneohe Bay.

Wheeler Field, struck shortly before 0800, was home for the Hawaiian Air Force’s entire pursuit (interceptor) force, which was the 14th Pursuit Wing, composed of the 15th and 18th Pursuit Groups. A successful attack on Wheeler would virtually assure air superiority. The Japanese took Wheeler Field completely by surprise, as they did every other installation on Oahu. No one on the ground sighted the oncoming Val dive bombers until they made their final turn for the attack. Aircraft and maintenance facilities along the flight line were the primary targets. Supply depots, barracks and people anywhere in the vicinity of these targets, were secondary but also received devastating blows. The Japanese pilots were too well trained to waste their bombs and ammunition on insignificant targets. One bomb did land in the front yard of a house, but it was the result of a miss rather then a deliberate attack on the housing area.

The multi-direction attacks by the bombers and fighters added
confusion and chaos to the abject fear and terror of defenseless men scrambling for cover and weapons to defend themselves against an enemy bent on destruction of the field’s mission capability. Observations and recollections of events differed widely among those on the receiving end of the destructive weapons tearing Wheeler Field apart. According to some, the first place hit was the gas storage dump on the southwest corner of the base, where all of Wheeler’s flammables such as gas, turpentine, and lacquer were kept. Most witnesses, however, reported that the first bomb struck Hangar 1, where the base engineering shops were located. The tremendous blast blew out skylights, and clouds of smoke billowed upward, making it appear the entire hangar was lifted off its foundation. The explosion decimated the sheet metal, electrical, and paint shops in the front half of the hangar, but spared the machine and wood shops, and tool room, which were protected by a concrete-block, dividing wall. 20 The bomb that hit Hangar 3 had struck the hangar sheltering the central ammunition storage area, where, because of the Hawaiian Department’s Alert One status, the ammunition unloaded from aircraft, including rounds pulled from machine gun belts, had been stored. The hangar’s exploding ammunition, going off like firecrackers in the flames, severely limited the ability to defend Wheeler Field against the continuing air attack.

Immediately behind the completed first wave of dive bombing attacks came the bombers, back again joining the fighters in follow-on, low level strafing attacks. The 72nd Pursuit Squadron tent area between Hangars 2 and 3 came under heavy attack.

The new P-40 fighter planes were being blown to bits, their burning parts scattering along the ramp in all directions, setting other planes on fire. One P-40 fell in two pieces, its prop pointing almost straight up. A P-36 exploded, hurling flaming debris upon a nearby tent, setting it ablaze.

At times there were over 30 fighters and dive bombers attacking Wheeler from every direction, a tactic used on every target complex on Oahu. The well-planned and executed tactic was designed not only to destroy fighter opposition on the ground and ships in the harbor, but to confuse and overwhelm gunners who might try to mount an effective antiaircraft defense.

By the time alerts were shouted, torpedoes were in the water. No time to react and more Kates followed behind, coming at the largest, most exposed targets among the battleships: Oklahoma, West Virginia, Arizona, Nevada, and California.
Surprise attack

On December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched a surprise attack on the United States' Pacific Naval Fleet at Pearl Harbor. The U.S. lost 2,335 military personnel in the attack, as well as 68 civilians, and another 1,178 were wounded. The next day President Franklin Delano Roosevelt asked Congress for and received declaration of war against Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S., marking the entry of the United States into World War II.

TWO WAVES
The Japanese attack proceeded in two waves consisting of 353 aircraft targeting the fleet at Pearl Harbor and other targets throughout Oahu.

First wave:
183 aircraft

Second wave:
170 aircraft

JAPANESE AIRCRAFT USED IN THE ATTACK

Aichi 3A2 Val Type 99
Dive bomber
Crew: 2
Bombs: 2 (132 lb), 1 (551 lb)

Nakajima B5N2 Kate Type 97
Torpedo bomber
Crew: 2 or 3
Bombs: 1 (18 inch) Torpedo
or 1 (1,100 lb) bomb

Mitsubishi A6M2 Zeke or Zero
Fighter plane
Crew: 1
Bombs: 2 (132 lb)

NOT A TOTAL LOSS
The Japanese had hoped to decimate the U.S. fleet with the attack so it couldn't interfere with their advance through the Western Pacific, but three aircraft carriers were not in port at the time and were spared. Those carriers would help defeat the Japanese navy at the Battle of Midway six months later.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAPAN</th>
<th>CASUALTIES AND LOSSES*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Submarines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ships lost/damaged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aircraft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITED STATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruisers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battleships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Totals vary depending on source. These totals are taken from the National World War II Museum.

Sources: The National World War II Museum; National Geographic; The Pacific Aviation Museum
When the unthinkable happened on Dec. 7, 1941, social media was more than 60 years in the future, phones existed solely for voice calls, and television was in its infancy. The government, not ordinary citizens, rang the alarm about the assault upon Pearl Harbor, and most Americans, many disbelieving, heard the news from radio, word of mouth and newspaper extras.

Americans glued themselves to their radios in the days following. The networks broadcast for 34 hours straight. On Dec. 8, a record of between 79 and 81 percent of Americans listened to President Roosevelt request that Congress declare war. The next night, a whopping 60 to 90 million Americans, the largest audience to date, heard him deliver a fireside chat on the predicament confronting the country.

Today we learn about breaking news instantaneously. One tweet becomes a torrent as we struggle to grasp the enormity of what we’ve read. Our phones buzz incessantly with news alerts and texts from friends and family. Within minutes we can watch nonstop coverage on a dozen television networks, not to mention digital platforms. We discover what happened in little blips, sometimes incorrect, as journalists rush to share what they know and average Joes contribute cellphone video and observations from the scene.

Before social media, television dominated breaking news coverage. Most Americans beyond their teenage years remember witnessing the World Trade Center towers collapsing on that tragic morning in 2001. An older generation recalls the sight of CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, clearly grappling with his emotions, removing his spectacles and informing the nation of the death of President Kennedy.

Yet for all that television seared those images into our minds, the medium only dominated breaking news for a relatively short time. Television didn’t take off until the late 1940s and early 1950s. Television networks emerged in 1947 and 1948, and the number of television stations exploded in the early 1950s. As recently as 1948, only 0.4 percent of homes had televisions (by 1958 that number would climb to 83.2 percent).

While television eventually usurped radio’s primacy as America’s broadcast news source, during the late 1930s and the early 1940s, it was radio that surpassed newspapers in covering breaking news. Newspapers couldn’t match radio’s ability to provide instantaneous information and to “transport” Americans to happenings around the globe.

As tensions heightened in Europe in the late 1930s, path-breaking correspondents like CBS’ Edward R. Murrow shared the sounds of war and familiarized Americans with the people and ideas propelling the conflict. Americans listened to speeches from Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain and other European leaders. Harnessing shortwave transmissions, an expanding stable of correspondents and stringers, and a burgeoning pool of commentators, radio tackled the biggest stories live as they unfolded.
On that fateful Sunday, Japanese bombs started pelting Pearl Harbor shortly before 8 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time. By 8:04, KGMB in Honolulu jettisoned regular programming to air an announcement beckoning all military personnel to report immediately for duty. The station kept repeating this call, with competitor KMU soon joining in.

At 1:47 p.m. Eastern, roughly a half hour after the barrage began, Navy Secretary Frank Knox alerted President Roosevelt. FDR reacted with disbelief. He called Press Secretary Stephen Early, still at home reading the Sunday papers in his bathrobe, and at 2:22 p.m. EST, Early phoned the three wire services with a bulletin notifying Americans of the incursion. At 2:36, still at home (some reporters actually beat Early to the White House), Early erroneously informed the wire services that the Japanese had bombarded Manila, Philippines, as well.

The scheduled network radio programming that wintery afternoon included a New York Philharmonic concert on CBS, a Brooklyn Dodgers-New York Giants football game on Mutual Broadcasting System, and the “University of Chicago Roundtable” on NBC Red (RCA operated two networks, NBC Red and NBC Blue). Between 2:25 and 2:31 ET, all four networks interrupted programming to share what little information they had.

Even though more than 80 percent of households had radios in 1941, many Americans weren’t tuned in that Sunday afternoon, and learned about the attack from neighbors, friends and relatives, who breathlessly queried whether they had heard the news — sometimes hours after the fact.

The 27,102 attending the clash between the Washington Redskins and the Philadelphia Eagles at Griffith Stadium, for instance, only learned about Pearl Harbor because news trickled out from the press box. Between plays the stadium loudspeaker implored various dignitaries and newspapermen to report to duty immediately, but stadium and Redskins management refused to announce the news both for fear of igniting hysteria and because they never broadcast non-sports news.

Similarly, while radio listeners to the Giants-Dodgers game heard the news first, the 50,051 fans at the Polo Grounds remained clueless even as a buzz grew with each announcement summoning VIPs to a box-office telephone. Only after the cold drove New York Times scribe Harrison Salisbury and his wife from the stadium and to a friend’s flat for a drink did they discover the news. That night, in Austin, Texas, Luis Calderon heard newsboys’ calls of “extra, extra” and, wanting to know what they meant, learned that war had commenced when he stopped to buy a paper.

The news stunned Americans; many instinctively assumed that it must be a hoax. A Los Angeles Times reporter dispatched to an Army post stopped in a diner to exchange bills for change to make phone calls. When he revealed the news to the diner’s patrons, they suspected a gag. Once on the Army post, the reporter again encountered incredulity and skepticism from soldiers who had yet to hear about the assault.

On the beach in Santa Monica, volleyball players ignored a radio listener’s urgent cries until he brought his radio over and they heard the bulletin with their own ears. Mutual’s initial dispatch prompted an irate call to the switchboard from a listener who protested another “stunt” like Orson Welles’ “War of the Worlds,” which had panicked her.

Once convinced of its veracity, the news indelibly etched itself into Americans’ minds. Decades later their activities from that day remained vivid. A passerby informed future President George H.W. Bush, then a 17-year-old student at Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts, as he walked by Cochran Chapel with a friend. By day’s end, the infuriated Bush had resolved to join the fight as soon as possible. In a 2014 interview, George Allen, who flew B-52s during the war, recounted hearing the news in the car with his family. On their way home, Allen’s family picked up four servicemen on the side of the highway scurrying to return to their base.
The radio networks launched virtually unprecedented coverage in the wake of the attack. Only the Munich crisis of 1938 and the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 had provided even somewhat comparable occasions for radio journalists. As such, things that seem unimaginable to modern sensibilities occurred in the hours after the bombing.

CBS immediately tapped their network of stringers and affiliates across the world, including in Honolulu and Manila, to provide news, insight and analysis. Yet, the network also persisted in airing its previously scheduled orchestra concert and evening entertainment programming, albeit with constant interruptions. Merely delaying or interrupting the day’s commercial programming represented innovation and even gumption.

The onset of war also meant strict censorship rapidly snapping into place. NBC broadcast live reports from a correspondent and eyewitnesses in the hours after the attack — though the military took over the shortwave circuit two minutes into the first report. Subsequently, however, information became scarce, parcelled out by the White House only once it could be explicitly verified and posed no risk of providing aid or comfort to the enemy. Radio was no stranger to censorship — European war dispatches had to receive clearance from government censors. In fact, CBS raised its stringer in Manila 90 minutes after the attack on Pearl Harbor, but he got cut off the air, presumably by censors.

In the days after Dec. 7, mystery shrouded the attack and its toll. Reporters felt severely hamstrung — a Dec. 11 United Press International news agency piece noted “censorship permits a cautious description of the attack.” By happenstance, voluntary radio censorship prevented the public from immediately learning the grim details of the destruction wrought.

CBS’ Murrow and his wife had dinner plans with the Roosevelts the night of Dec. 7. After the attack, Eleanor Roosevelt insisted on keeping their plans, reasoning that they all had to eat regardless. FDR skipped the meal, but he met with Murrow after midnight, confiding the devastating toll taken by the attack. While Murrow puzzled over whether their conversation occurred on or off the record, he never recounted it for listeners. Two days later, in spite of promises to the press, Roosevelt withheld these details from his fireside chat to avoid providing the enemy with information.
Americans also consulted newspapers for information — Chicagoans scarfed up “war extra” editions as quickly as trucks could unload them – but Pearl Harbor was radio’s moment. Radio journalists pioneered elements of breaking news coverage in the late 1930s and early 1940s that would shape how television, and later digital media, chronicled the most consequential stories in real time.

Radio’s coverage of the strike against Pearl Harbor suffered from the same maladies that plague modern breaking news coverage — misinformation, confusion, network personnel scrambling into place and analysts speculating about hazy facts. Nonetheless, it symbolized a quantum leap from past practices, and enabled Americans to learn more about the incursion and world reaction more quickly and intimately than would have been possible before the radio age.

"What a difference a day makes, Twenty-four little hours ..."

The Japanese attack on Pearl was at first bewildering. Those who were there remember the shock: aircraft careening in, attacking, then banking away to reveal the big red circle on their wings, the mark of the Rising Sun. Sailors on ships in nearby waters got the chilling radiogram, labeled “urgent”: AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL. Back at home, a lot of Americans didn’t even know where Pearl Harbor was, or what it was, for that matter. Remember, Hawaii wasn’t a state yet, not until 1959. Indeed, you read from time to time of a child who, on hearing that Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor, asked, “Who’s she?”

But things quickly clarified. Already that evening, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt – by now well into his unprecedented third term in office – was dictating a message to a joint session of Congress, a message he would deliver the next day. “Yesterday,” he wrote, “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 President didn’t bother with a lot of details. He didn’t stop to explain to the American people that Pearl Harbor was an advanced American naval base in the Hawaiian Islands, or to lay out a blow-by-blow account of the Japanese attack.

No, this was big picture stuff. What was Pearl Harbor? It was “America.” And what had happened there? An attack, committed “suddenly and deliberately.” It was an act of “infamy,” he said, nothing less than a crime.
No one could read the popular or political mood like FDR. He asked Congress for a declaration of war, dated precisely to the moment of the Japanese attack. The U.S. hadn’t started the war, FDR pointed out. Japan had. The Senate agreed unanimously – 82-0 in fact. The vote in the House of Representatives was all but unanimous, 388-1. Pacifist Jeanette Rankin of Montana voted no, just as she had voted against going to war with Germany in 1917.

And that quickly, America was at war. A single day before, any representative or Senator voting to send the country to war might have been tarred or feathered. War had been raging in Europe and Asia for years, Hitler’s armies had Britain at bay and were gouging deep into Russia, and the Japanese warlords were waging a murderous war in China. Americans were all over the place in how to respond. Some, a small number, wanted to get in it directly, with troops; others, a larger group, were for getting it in indirectly, by supplying Britain with ships and weapons, for example. The largest number, however, were “isolationists.” The best thing the U.S. could do, they felt, was to stay out of the war altogether. The country had already fought one world war, they noted, and had nothing to show for it. Protected by its God-given oceans on both sides, America could and should sit this one out.

The first bomb at Pearl exploded that notion, and ended the isolationist movement forever. Our enemies had proven that the ocean could be a highway, not a barrier, and had made it clear that even if Americans weren’t interested in war, war was interested in them. The Japanese militarists thought that they were launching a surprise blow on a divided people who would never come together to form a common front. Instead, the attack on Pearl united the American people as never before. Virtually every citizen living in our sprawling, diverse republic shared the same desire: to show the Japanese that the “highway” ran in both directions. American public opinion, almost unanimously, came to a conclusion: This war could only end in one way – with U.S. forces sitting in Tokyo.

War against Japan (and soon Germany, as well) was by definition a global one, and fighting across the globe required a new kind of America. The U.S. was an industrial and financial giant, yes, but few would have described it as a great military power. Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto famously described America as a “sleeping giant,” but perhaps “sleepy” is more like it. A large chunk of the population still lived on the farm, statistics for high school graduation were shockingly low by today’s standards, and millions of Americans didn’t even have basic modern amenities like electricity or running water.
The Great Depression had bit hard into the social fabric of the country, as well, ruining lives and shattering families. The U.S. military was puny, spending less on arms than minor European states like Romania. Most Americans liked it that way, in fact. No standing army, no constant skirmishes with our neighbors, a civil society dedicated to peaceful pursuits: That was America’s self-image in 1941. Much of the world agreed. No less an authority than Reichsmarshal Heinrich Goering, the chief of the German air force, declared that Americans might be able to produce consumer gizmos like “refrigerators and razor blades,” but certainly not an arsenal for modern war.

And now, suddenly, it was time for the giant to wake up, work out, and put on some muscle. With the country enraged over Pearl Harbor, few questioned the complete redesign of American society. Young men marched off in the hundreds of thousands, and soon the millions. A grand total of 15 million Americans eventually traded their civilian garb for the uniform, and this in a country with a total population of just 135 million (less than half its size of today). Millions of boys from Cleveland and Des Moines and Paducah journeyed to places they had never heard of before, shipping out to islands in the South Pacific like Guadalcanal or Saipan, or to bloody Kasserine Pass in North Africa. Some flew bomber missions over Germany or Japan, some hit the beach at Normandy, others crewed the gigantic new U.S. Navy ships roaming the seven seas. Millions worked with the supply troops abroad, making sure the bullets, bombs and bread got forward to the fighting troops. Hundreds of thousands of them died, and millions would be wounded or missing in action. Indeed, over 70,000 Americans from World War II are still listed as MIA.

Pearl Harbor transformed the United States into one vast armed camp. Millions of soldiers, sailors and airmen fought at the front. Many more millions of workers at home – black, white, men, women – built the guns, tanks and aircraft needed for victory. Industry completely reinvented itself. Underwood Typewriter Company shifted over to producing M1 Carbine rifles; Kaiser Shipyards figured out how to build a transport vessel in a single week, the famous “Liberty Ship”; and Ford Motors kept pace at its sprawling Willow Run Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan (dubbed “the Grand Canyon of the mechanized world”), by churning out a four-engine B-24 bomber every hour.

The departure of most of the country’s young men meant that other groups had to step in and man the factories. Check that: not “man.” By war’s end, over 19 million American women were in the workforce. Many had moved over from the traditional roles of “women’s work” as domestic servants or waitresses into war plants, manning the lathes, drills and punch-presses that formed the backbone of modern war production. Alongside them were the millions of women who entered the workforce for the first time, leaving hearth and home to roll steel, bore out rifle barrels and screw fuses onto artillery shells. Rosie the Riveter was the new American icon: wearing blue coveralls, hair tied up in a scarf, bicep flexed. “We can do it!” was her slogan. Like the rest of post-Pearl Harbor America, Rosie had the eye of the tiger.

Pearl Harbor was a turning point for another group who had traditionally been outsiders: African Americans. Total war required the military and the economy to be firing on all cylinders, and that meant putting every possible American into either a uniform or a factory. Discrimination and racism, long tolerated, suddenly became a monkey wrench in the war effort. Moreover, how could democratic America condemn Germany and Japan for their racist policies while openly discriminating against its own at home? Many African Americans spoke openly of the “double victory” they were seeking: against the Axis abroad and against second-class citizenship in their own country.

- Dr. Rob Citino is the Samuel Zemurray Stone senior historian at The National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana.
When War Came To Us

Sentiment in America before Pearl Harbor was decidedly anti-war

By Ron Milam, Ph.D.
Special to GateHouse Media

President George Washington warned the American people to “steer clear of permanent alliances,” and to “extend foreign commercial relations that could be mutually beneficial while maintaining as little political connection as possible.” These words were written in his farewell address to the nation as he watched Europe engage in wars that his own cabinet members had publically taken diverse positions about, causing friction within his administration and creating concern among warring nations. His warnings have often been cited as the beginning of isolationism by both elected officials and by the American public.
Fast-forward over 100 years, and Americans were still heeding Washington’s words as Europe continued to fight “small” wars over ideology and geography. President Woodrow Wilson kept America out of World War I for three years because he did not want to send American boys to fight what he considered to be a European war. When he reversed his position in April 1917 by asking Congress to declare war to make the world “safe for democracy,” his decision was criticized by many peace organizations and industrial leaders such as Henry Ford.

And while American soldiers did affect the outcome of the war in France and Britain’s favor, the American people were not supportive of the decision, particularly when watching American boys return home with terrible wounds and lung damage from battlefield exposure to poison gas. Isolationism set in as polls indicated most Americans believed fighting “the war to end all wars” was a mistake, and some even believed that “merchants of death” had wanted American involvement in the war so that they could profit from selling war materials.

Presidents Warren Harding and Calvin Coolidge sought to decrease the likelihood of another “great war” by negotiating limits to the size of naval armaments at the 1921-22 Washington Naval Conference. If the world’s powers – America, Britain, Japan, France, and Italy – could restrict their post-war construction of battleships to an agreed upon tonnage and gun size, perhaps the reduction in ship size would lead to less belligerence on the seas. Virtually all parties broke the treaty by 1935 as hostilities began in Asia with Japan’s invasion of China.

While most historians mark the beginning of World War II as 1939 when Germany invaded Poland, Japan had already conquered the Chinese province of Manchuria in 1931, and began to invade other provinces in 1937 when both Shanghai and Nanking were attacked. President Franklin Roosevelt wrote critical letters addressing this aggression, particularly when the American river gunboat the USS Panay was sunk by Japanese aircraft while attempting to rescue survivors of Nanking.

But the American people were not supportive of going to war with Japan, even though military planners had anticipated such a conflict by designing War Plan Orange as early as 1924. With the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 still in effect, it is unlikely that Americans would have supported further involvement in the Sino-Japanese War. Furthermore, with the American economy having been severely affected by the Depression and unemployed citizens standing in bread lines, events in Asia were not at the top of their priority list. They were, however, paying some attention to the rise of Adolf Hitler in Germany.

With the memory of World War I still fresh, there was not a movement toward involvement as long as America itself was not being attacked.

As President Roosevelt launched his New Deal to improve the living conditions of the American people, many congressional leaders became concerned about the various conflicts erupting around the world. In 1935, Italy conquered Ethiopia and proclaimed fascism as the new form of government most likely to succeed in Europe. With Benito Mussolini allying with Hitler, there was a growing concern by the president that America would have to take a more aggressive approach to world affairs.

However, the isolationist movement began to influence members of Congress, who believed that the best course of action to avoid wars was to pass neutrality acts that would have the effect of limiting America’s role in
what was perceived to be regional conflicts. Since the president needed many of these isolationists to support his domestic policies, such as the enactment of the Social Security Act and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, he allowed a series of neutrality acts to be passed. While there were many internationalists who believed America had a role to play in these disputes, they were outnumbered by a wide array of conservatives, industrialists and peace activists who believed that American intervention would lead to participation in what could eventually become a new world war.

In 1938, Hitler negotiated an agreement with European leaders to allow Germany to annex the Sudetenland areas of Czechoslovakia. President Roosevelt supported British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain’s acceptance of the Munich Agreement, even though there were cabinet members who predicted Hitler’s long-range plan to be much more expansive. When Germany then occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia, then Poland, then France, and began the bombing of Britain, America had to at least become concerned about a Second World War.

But isolationists were still successful in keeping America out of both Asian and European conflicts. An America First Committee movement began across the country in 1940, led by businessmen, leftists and celebrities such as Charles Lindberg. While there was also a group of internationalists that formed the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies in 1940, the isolationists were successful in keeping America out of what was now becoming World War II.

President Roosevelt ran for a third term in 1940, and even though he was actively working with Britain to help them in their lone action against Nazism and fascism, his campaign rhetoric was still supporting the isolationists: “I have said this before but I shall say it again and again. Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.” The new British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, knew that only America could stop Hitler’s movement toward European domination, and he appealed to the president in a very personal way. Recognizing America’s vast industrial machine, Churchill asked for help that would not require American boys to fight a foreign war, but allow America to support Britain through rebuilding its naval armaments.

President Roosevelt sent a bill to Congress that gave him the authority to “sell, transfer, exchange, lease, lend, or otherwise dispose of any war material to any nation whose defense was deemed vital to the defense of the United States.” And to assure the isolationists that this was truly a patriotic gesture, the bill was designated as HR1776.

British ships were towed to American shipyards to be repaired before re-entering service, and American vessels were “loaned” to England with commitments to return them to the United States after the war. The “lend-lease” program aided Britain’s war effort and minimally satisfied both the isolationists and the internationalists.

But President Roosevelt knew that Japan needed oil and war material in the Pacific to continue its goal of Southeast Asian dominance. Only the United States could stop Japan’s conquest of the British Commonwealth possessions of Singapore and Hong Kong, Malaya and other islands, as well as the Philippines, French Indochina and China. The United States Navy’s Pacific Fleet stood in the way of Japan’s aggression, particularly since it had recently been relocated from San Diego, California, to the Hawaiian Island of Oahu.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese attack on the fleet at Pearl Harbor would be an event that would finally bring the interests of both the internationalists and the isolationists together. America would declare war on Japan the next day, and Germany and Italy would declare war on the United States. With this attack, the attitudes and theories about economics, morality and politics were replaced by concern for the defense of the homeland.

Ron Milam, Ph.D., is an associate professor of history, a Fulbright Scholar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the faculty advisor to the Veteran’s Association at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. He serves on the Content Advisory Committee tasked with writing the history of the Vietnam War for the new Education Center at The Wall in Washington, D.C., and is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. Milam is the author of “Not a Gentleman’s War: an Inside View of Junior Officers in the Vietnam War” and is working on two book projects: “The Siege of Phu Nhon: Montagnards and Americans as Allies in Battle” and “Cambodia and Kent State: Killing in the Jungle and on the College Campuses.”
Coming just 18 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Christmas 1941 was a holiday unlike any other. For many Americans, it was the last time they would be together. In Stanley Weintraub’s “Pearl Harbor Christmas: A World at War, December 1941,” he describes the mood of the nation at the time, and President Roosevelt’s determination to keep to tradition.
After much politics-as-usual debate about the appropriate age for draft registration, Congress on Dec. 19, 1941, had timidly settled on 20 for induction and 18 for registration. On both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the services had hurriedly set anti-aircraft guns on the roofs of buildings and alongside docks. Some weapons were obsolete, others wooden fakes, there to instill spurious confidence. Sentries, often bearing 1918-vintage rifles, were posted at railway stations and armaments factories. Although the only interloper likely over the American skies at Christmas was likely to be Santa Claus with his sleigh and reindeer, a 24-hour sky watch in the Northeast was ordered for the holidays by Brigadier General John C. MacDonnell, air-raid warning chief for 43,000 volunteer civilian observers. “Experience in war,” he declared, “has taught that advantage is taken of relaxation in vigilance to strike when and where the blow is least expected.” Lights remained on almost everywhere.

Anxiety on the Pacific coast about Japanese air raids, however absurd, had already panicked San Francisco, thanks to the paranoia of Fourth Army commander Lieutenant General John DeWitt at Fort Ord. Every Japanese fisherman and vegetable farmer along the coast was suspected of covertly warning nonexistent enemy aircraft, and the hysteria resulted in the relocation of the New Year’s Day Rose Bowl extravaganza from California to somnolent Durham, North Carolina, where Duke University would play Oregon State.

On war maps in the press, limited to much less than the actual facts, a dismal Christmas loomed, but it did not appear that way in shop windows across America. Enhanced by holiday lights, the street lamps and store fronts glittered, and a plethora of merchandise long vanished from high streets in Britain awaited shoppers now benefiting from jobs created by proliferating war contracts and a burgeoning army and navy. Christmas trees were plentiful, seldom priced at more than a dollar or two, and in the traditional holiday spectacle at Radio City Music Hall in New York, the star-spangled Rockettes, in mechanical unison, high-stepped away any war gloom. In newspapers across the nation the Japanese were thwarted in the “Terry and the Pirates” comic strip, and in film Gary Cooper as Sergeant York was defeating the Germans single-handedly in the earlier world war.

The hit book for Christmas giving, at a hefty $2.50, was Edna Ferber’s Reconstruction-era romance “Saratoga Trunk.” For the same price, war turned up distantly yet bombastically in a two-disc set of Tchaikovsky’s “1812 Overture,” performed by Artur Rodzinski and the Cleveland Orchestra. (At recruiting stations nationwide, the army was offering smart khaki garb at no cost whatever to enlistees.) Henri Bendel featured silk stockings at $1.25 a pair; stockings in the current wonder weave, nylon, sold for $1.65. By the following Christmas nylons would be almost unobtainable. The fabric would be the stuff of parachutes.

Among the long-prepared Christmas toy glut, shops across America advertised a remote-control bombing plane at $1.98, which ran along a suspended wire to attack a battleship. The Japanese high seas Kido Butai had not needed suspended wires at Pearl Harbor, nor in the Philippines, Malaya, or Hong Kong. The Royal Navy’s principal warships on the Pacific Rim were at the bottom of the Gulf of Siam, and the depleted Pacific Fleet, with seven battleships sunk or disabled at their anchorages, had only two destroyers available to patrol the long coastline between Vancouver and San Diego. As British Prime Minister Winston Churchill would put it, “Over all this vast expanse of waters Japan was supreme, and we everywhere [were] weak and naked.”
For security in wartime the Secret Service proposed to have the formidable national Christmas tree erected in Lafayette Park, a seven-acre expanse across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, as the event Dec. 24, 1941, would draw thousands of unidentifiable persons. The President insisted that tradition required the White House lawn. Within the patrolled iron-picket fence around the White House grounds, only those specifically invited would get close to the participants on the South Portico. Even so, guards warned, “No cameras, no packages.” A tent outside the two gates had been set up as a package checking station, but some visitors refused to give up their places in line at the 4 o’clock opening and dropped their Christmas bundles at the fence, hoping they would find them again afterward. The uninvited could watch from beyond — and under a crescent moon thousands were already gathering in the early winter twilight.

At the lighting ceremonies in 1940, realizing that war was approaching from somewhere, and perhaps soon, the President had told the crowd that it was welcome to return in 1941 ‘if we are all still here.’ Many were back.

Radio carried their voices across the country and abroad. As the Christmas lights glowed, Roosevelt spoke directly to the event. “It is in the spirit of peace and good will, and with particular thoughtfulness of those, our sons and brothers, who serve in our armed forces on land and sea, near and far — those who serve and endure for us — that we light our Christmas candles now across this continent from one coast to the other on this Christmas evening.”

Now, he added, “my associate, my old and good friend” wanted to speak to Washingtonians and to the world. No one in hearing distance had any doubt as to who that was, especially once his rolling,
almost antique, voice echoed across the lights and shadows. “This is a strange Christmas eve,” Churchill began:

Almost the whole world is locked in deadly struggle, and with the most terrible weapons which science can devise, the nations advance upon each other. Ill would it be for us this Christmastide if we were not sure that no greed for the land or wealth of any other people, no vulgar ambition, no morbid lust for material gain at the expense of others has led us to the field. Here, in the midst of war, raging and soaring over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearts and homes, here, amid the tumult, we have tonight the peace of the spirit in each cottage home and in each generous heart. There, we may cast aside for this night at least the cares and dangers which beset us, and make for our children an evening of happiness in a world of storm. Here, then, for one night only, each home throughout the English-speaking world should be a brightly lighted island of happiness and peace.

While far from his own hearth and family, he continued, “Yet I cannot truthfully say that I feel far from home.” He referred to his kinship with his audiences, listening rapt on the White House lawn, and nationwide:

Whether it be ties of blood on my mother’s side, or the friendships I have developed here over many years of active life, or the commanding sentiment of comradeship in the common cause of great peoples who speak the same language, who kneel at the same altars, and, to a very large extent, pursue the same ideals, I cannot feel myself a stranger here at the centre and at the summit of the United States. I feel a sense of unity and fraternal association which, added to the kindliness of your welcome, convinces me that I have a right to sit at your fireside and share your Christmas joys.

It was, he conceded, “a strange Christmas eve,” with war “raging and roaring over all the lands and seas, creeping nearer to our hearts and homes.” Nevertheless, the PM concluded, using the English equivalent for Santa,

Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grown-ups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures before we turn again to the stern task and the formidable years that lie before us ...


This telegram was sent by Richard and Harold Hall to their parents wishing them a Merry Christmas following the attack on Pearl Harbor. FLICKR/USMC Archives

Use the Blippar app to open video of FDR and Churchill’s Christmas Eve 1941 speeches.
SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2
What kind of a country was the United States in 1941? The year stands out for more than just the attack on Pearl Harbor. In the baseball world 1941 saw two feats accomplished that have yet to be matched: Joe DiMaggio hit in a record 56 straight games, and Ted Williams became the last major leaguer to hit .400 or better, with a .406 batting average for the season.

The early 1940s left a cultural mark in other ways, too. Here’s some more about what it was like to live at the time Pearl Harbor was attacked:

**Work**

By the end of the 1930s President Roosevelt’s New Deal had come to an end, as Congress grew resistant to introducing more new programs. But programs like the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), coupled with the war boom to come after Dec. 7, 1941, succeeded in bringing the country out of the Great Depression.

- In 1940 the workforce was about 53 million people, with about 5 million people unemployed. When the United States entered the war the problem quickly shifted to there not being enough workers. The working week was lengthened, 14- to 17-year-olds were allowed to work, and more women were employed as a result.
- The majority belief before the United States entered World War II was that a woman who worked when her husband also had a job was taking a job from another man. There was support for laws that would prohibit women from working if her husband made more than $1,600 in a year. That all changed after 1941, when women were asked to help with the war effort.
- Many of the jobs that became available in the early 1940s were to support the war, including building weaponry, aircraft and other vehicles. A worker with the TVA made about 50 cents an hour, or $20 a week, while public school teachers, miners and manufacturers made approximately $30 a week (or about $1,500 in a year). Doctors and lawyers made an average salary of $5,000 a year. The highest paid ballplayer was Hank Greenberg of the Detroit Tigers, at $55,000 a year, while Gary Cooper was the highest-paid movie star at about $500,000 in salary.

**Religion**

- Religion was a factor in the lives of many Americans in the 1930s and 1940s, but it wasn’t always in an active role.
- Christians were the majority, with the Roman Catholic Church its largest denomination. There was a significant Jewish population in New York City.
- Many families had religious artifacts and observed religious practices such as no meat on Fridays, but not everyone attended religious services.

**Transportation**

- The decade of the 1940s was the dawning of the automobile age. Travel across the country in a car was difficult, though – many major highways were a decade away, at least. But for many middle class families a car was becoming more common.
- For wider travel people still relied on the railroad. Airplane travel was new and expensive, and the railroads were what Americans were used to. A one-way trip on the train from Chicago to Los Angeles could take less than 40 hours.

**Movies**

During the 1940s, with the United States fully immersed in World War II, movies were very much centered on war. But the time period sometimes called “the golden age of film” also saw some all-time classics released:

- “Citizen Kane” (1941)
- “The Philadelphia Story” (1941)
- After the release of its first feature-length animated film, “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” (1937), Disney also released “Pinocchio” (1940), “Fantasia” (1940), “Dumbo” (1941) and “Bambi” (1942).
- “The Wizard of Oz” and “Gone With The Wind” were both released in 1939, the latter of which starred Clark Gable. Gable was married to Carole Lombard in 1939, forming an original Hollywood “it” couple before Lombard died in a plane crash in early 1942 after a trip promoting war bonds.

**Music**

Some of the most popular movies produced some of the most popular songs of the time, like “When You Wish Upon A Star” from “Pinocchio” and “Somewhere Over The Rainbow” from “The Wizard of Oz,” but people were listening to many kinds of music on the radio:

- Jazz from the likes of Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington.
- Classical music performances were broadcast across the country.
- Singing stars such as Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters and Frank Sinatra thrilled audiences, and the jukebox reached peak popularity, with dancing to big band music one of the most popular activities of the day.

**Radio shows**

The radio wasn’t just for music. Families gathered around to listen to serials, comedies, FDR’s “fireside chats” and, especially after the Pearl Harbor attack, reports from the war. Some of the more popular radio shows of the time were:

- “The Shadow”
- “The Guiding Light”
- “Ma Perkins”
- “Superman”
- “The Lone Ranger”

**Toys**

The 1940s saw the creation of some of the most popular toys in history, including the Slinky and Silly Putty, both of which were accidental discoveries made during the war effort. Before they came along, though, kids were playing with:

- Dolls and doll houses
- Toy guns
- Tiddlywinks
- Mainstays like electrically powered model trains

- Information for this article was gathered from “Daily Life In The United States 1920-1940” by David E. Kyvig, “America 1941” by Ross Gregory and “A Cultural History of the United States: The 1940s” by Michael V. Uschan
The internment of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor is a dark chapter in American history, but one that we can learn from as the country again struggles with religious and ethnic tensions. "Remember and learn," said George Takei, the actor best known as Mr. Sulu from the original "Star Trek" who spent four years as an internee with his family.

Earlier this year, politicians called for bans on Muslims or Syrians from entering the U.S., placing the security of the nation over the rights of individuals who are targeted simply because of the way they look, said historian Franklin Odo, founding director of the Smithsonian Institution’s Asian Pacific American Program and former acting chief of the Asian division at the Library of Congress. Citing the post-Pearl Harbor internment of American citizens, politicians said things like, “If we need to lock them up, we’ve done it before,” and “If the government did this in the past, it must have been a good idea,” Odo said.

“Politicians are particularly adept at gauging and exploiting the fears of the populace, and so it is in some ways no surprise that we are seeing the ugly specter of racial and religious profiling arise again,” Takei said. “There are striking similarities because, frankly, the same fears are as easily stoked today as in World War II. Human nature does not change so quickly. The important thing to understand today is not that these similarities exist, but rather that we as a people learn from our history. Our people’s democracy can do great things but, at the same time, fallible humans can make disastrous mistakes.”
Understanding how the United States worked itself into a panic that led to sequestering Japanese and Americans born to Japanese immigrants after the bombing of Pearl Harbor requires a long look back at America’s history of anti-Asian racism, Odo said.

More than a century before World War II, Chinese people came to America to work in the gold fields and to build railroads. Welcomed as a source of labor, the country stopped short of letting them become citizens. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first time in American history that an ethnic or racial group was restricted from immigrating in an effort to maintain the country's white racial purity.

“That racism carried over to the Japanese,” the next group of Asians to make their way to America, Odo said. Asians were seen as “so foreign, so other, that they could not assimilate,” Odo said.

America needed cheap labor and the Japanese provided that, especially in the Hawaiian islands where they were recruited to work on the sugar plantations. By 1900, most of the workforce on the plantations was Japanese, Odo said.

By Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese accounted for close to 40 percent of the total population of the Hawaiian islands, Odo said.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt is warmly remembered today, but “he was a racist,” Odo said. “We know from his writings. He had friends in Japan, and that was where he thought Japanese-Americans should go — back to Japan,” Odo said.

Before social media and television, our idea of what kind of people the Japanese were came from newspapers, magazines, the radio and dime novels where they were depicted as “evil and cruel,” Odo said.

“The press was flagrantly anti-Japanese and actively stirred up anti-Japanese sentiment by waving the threat of a Yellow Peril,” the sentiment that Asians were a physical and economic threat to the West, said Rotner Sakamoto.

As a nation, Japan had been building up as a military power in the Pacific. Japan defeated China in the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895 and Russia in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Odo said.

“When Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931 and the Sino-Japanese War erupted in 1937, anti-Japanese emotions flared further. Japanese aggression abroad was perceived as ominous at home. By the time Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the soil had been tilled for an extreme reaction towards ethnic Japanese in the United States,” said Rotner Sakamoto.

“Before World War II there was more than 40 years of thinking Japan is rising in power. The Japanese were seen as inferior but the country could be a possible military rival in the Pacific. The thought was that Japan could never launch a successful attack on America,” Odo said.

Needless to say, the surprise military strike that devastated the naval base at Pearl Harbor changed people’s minds.

“The Pearl Harbor attack was successful, and it was a big shock and a major blow to America’s sense of security,” Odo said.

The following day, the United States declared war on Japan and joined World War II.
It was hard, almost impossible, for people to believe Japan could have carried out the attack, Odo said.

“There must have been a ‘fifth column,’ Japanese immigrants who told the planes where to go, spies who created an unfair playing field,” he said.

This profound suspicion led to a hysteria, especially on the West Coast, and cries for the Japanese to be locked up. The stigma was stoked by inflammatory news stories, pressure groups and even the United States government, Odo said.

“After the fact, it became known that there were many nefarious forces urging internment of Japanese-Americans. Some were driven by political ambition — something that today holds particular currency,” Takei said.

Earl Warren, who would later become governor of California and chief justice of the Supreme Court, was then an up-and-coming politician and the attorney general of California.

Warren “saw that the ‘lock up the Japanese’ movement was raging in California. He knew better but he decided to seize the leadership of this movement. He built his platform on anti-Japanese hysteria and made the statement that the fact that no acts of espionage or sabotage had been committed by Japanese Americans was ominous because the ‘Japanese are inscrutable.’ He said that it would be ‘prudent’ to lock up the Japanese before they did anything. We were damned either way,” Takei said. “I like to believe that, later in life, Chief Justice Warren regretted what he had done to all of us, and spent his tenure on the Supreme Court repenting for the sins of his early political career.”

People thought that Japanese immigrants and Americans born to Japanese immigrants (called “Nisei”) had aided the Japanese military and would do it again.

“The philosopher George Santayana wrote, ‘Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.’ I don’t believe that history repeats itself, but there are discernible patterns that emerge over time. If we perceive and comprehend them, we have an opportunity to sidestep tragic and deplorable mistakes. Learning about a dark chapter of our nation’s past should not bring despair, but rather clarity and light.”

– Pamela Rotner Sakamoto, author of “Midnight in Broad Daylight: A Japanese American Family Caught Between Two Worlds,” the true story of a family that found itself on opposite sides during World War II

About these photos

In 1943, Ansel Adams, America’s most well-known photographer, documented the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California and the Japanese-Americans interned there during World War II. When offering the collection to the Library of Congress in 1965, Adams said in a letter, “The purpose of my work was to show how these people, suffering under a great injustice, and loss of property, businesses and professions, had overcome the sense of defeat and despair by building for themselves a vital community in an arid (but magnificent) environment....All in all, I think this Manzanar Collection is an important historical document, and I trust it can be put to good use.”

“Since they couldn’t tell the good from the bad, who is loyal to America and who is loyal to Japan, they had to lock them all up.”

– historian Franklin Odo

“Since they couldn’t tell the good from the bad, who is loyal to America and who is loyal to Japan, they had to lock them all up.”

– historian Franklin Odo
On Feb. 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which called for the internment of all Japanese Americans from the West Coast with the exclusion of Hawaii.

“It’s baffling” that Japanese Americans living in Hawaii “where the attack happened and America was most vulnerable” were excluded, said Odo, who was 2 years old at the time and living in Honolulu. “If I had lived in California or Oregon, I would have had to go,” he said. Japanese Americans were such a large part of the workforce in Hawaii “it became impossible to lock them up,” Odo said.

“Order 9066 was posted on telephone poles with instructions to take only what you can carry and report when notified to a location to be taken away,” said Mary Murakami of Bethesda, Maryland, who was born in Los Angeles and was living with her family in San Francisco’s Japantown in 1942. Murakami spent her junior high and high school years interned.

While the Japanese were reporting to be interned, government-ordered curfews were set up.

“My father and sister could not go to work. My brother could not attend high school and myself no junior high school. My family sold everything,” Murakami said.

It was a time of great fear. There were rumors that children would be taken away from parents.

“My parents shared our family history with us and had a family picture taken just in case,” Murakami said.

The internment shared shocking similarities with what was happening all over Europe.

“The strongest memory I have is of the day armed soldiers marched up our driveway, carrying rifles with bayonets and pounded upon our door, ordering us out. I remember my mother’s tears as we were forced to leave our home, with only what we could carry with us,” Takei said. “My siblings and I were all Americans, born and raised in Los Angeles. My mother was born in Sacramento and my father was a San Franciscan, yet we were being sent from our home for the crime of looking like the people who had bombed Pearl Harbor.”

Things happened fast and “120,000 people are a lot to put away,” Odo said. The first temporary camps were set up in large open spaces such as fairgrounds, race tracks and stadiums.

“For weeks we had to live in a horse stable at the local racetrack while the camps were still under construction. My parents tried valiantly to shield us from the horror of what was happening, and for that they are my heroes,” Takei said. “I think often of my father, who felt the greatest anguish and pain of that imprisonment as the unspoken protector of our family. He felt so powerless to help what was happening to his family, to all he had worked so hard for throughout his life. It was truly a devastating blow.”

Murakami’s family reported to the Tanforan Race Track near San Francisco where a “lucky family had a room in temporary barracks in inner track, while others lived in horse stalls. There was no schooling for the children and the food was terrible,” she said.

When a permanent camp was ready in October 1942 her family was taken in old train cars with shades drawn to Topaz Permanent Camp in Topaz, Utah.

“We lived in black-tarred barracks surrounded by barbed wires and guard towers. It was a hard life for three years for everyone, especially our parents. Our family lost everything. There were very basic schools, food and accommodations,” Murakami said.

Lawsuits were filed beginning in 1942 first against the race-based curfews and later against the internment, but the courts ruled that the denial of civil rights based on race and national origin were legal, Odo said.

Plaintiff Mitsuye Endo was chosen as “the perfect person” to challenge Executive Order 9066 because she was an Americanized, assimilated Nisei who spoke only English and no Japanese and had a brother in the United States Army, Odo said. On Dec. 18, 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the government could not continue to detain a citizen who was “concededly loyal” to the United States.

Japanese Americans could begin returning to the West Coast, but “they had nowhere to go. They had lost their homes,
their farms. Many were terrified to leave the camps. They faced racial discrimination. They couldn’t find jobs,” Odo said.

“When the war ended, the gates of the camps were opened wide. Just like that. We were left impoverished. Each internee was handed nothing more than a one-way ticket to wherever in the U.S. they wanted to go and $25 — to rebuild a life with only that,” Takei said.

While Japan certainly had spies in the United States, “there was zero proof” that any of the people interned had committed treason, Odo said. Not a single act of espionage was ever found to have been committed.

“Yes, internment was politically motivated, definitely. There were no spies among us. Seventy-five percent of us were born in the United States,” Murakami said.

After a long campaign, in 1988 President Ronald Reagan offered an official apology and $20,000 in redress to the internees who were still living. “But by then many who had suffered the most had already passed away,” Takei said.

“About half of them, 60,000 were still alive,” Odo said. “So much time had passed. The money did not help us because we were established middle class so we donated the bulk of it to the start of the Japanese American Memorial in Washington D.C. to Patriotism, which is located a few blocks from the Capitol. The letter was uplifting to know that only in a democracy can we receive that letter,” Murakami said.

Internment story in theaters Dec. 13

George Takei’s musical “Allegiance” will screen in theaters nationwide for one night only on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 local time.

Inspired by Takei’s true-life experiences, “Allegiance” is the story of Sam Kimura (Takei), transported back nearly six decades to when his younger self (Telly Leung, “Glee”) and his sister Kei (Tony Award-winner Lea Salonga) fought to stay connected to their heritage, their family and themselves after Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II. It’s a multigenerational tale with two love stories.

In the demeaning conditions of internment during World War II, Takei said he and his family made do to the best of their ability.

“The internment camps around the country were all located in places no one else would ever choose to live: the wastelands of Wyoming, the searing deserts of Arizona and, where we’d been sent, the fetid swamplands of Arkansas. We went from a comfortable middle class home in Los Angeles to a single, tar-paper-lined barrack in Arkansas, with no running water and no privacy at all. We ate in a mess hall and were fed horrific fare, including things like cow brains, which no child in America was accustomed to eating.”

– actor and activist George Takei

“We persevered. Somewhat, through all that horror, we survived, we thrived and we held together. There was a Japanese word we all lived by, ‘Gaman,’ which means ‘to endure, with dignity and fortitude,’” said Takei.

“I am among the last survivors of the internment, and it has been my life’s mission to ensure that we never forget and never repeat the mistakes of the past,” said Takei.

The screening begins with an introduction from Takei and special behind-the-scenes footage and interviews. Tickets can be purchased at FathomEvents.com or at participating theater box offices.

– By Melissa Erickson
While many of their families were interned during World War II, thousands of Japanese-American men proved their loyalty to the United States by serving in combat, most famously as part of the 442nd Regiment of the U.S. Army. The 442nd is the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare.

As part of the 442nd, “the 100th Infantry Battalion was a segregated Nisei (Americans born of Japanese immigrant parents) unit which preceded the 442nd to the Italian front,” said Terry Shima of Gaithersburg, Maryland. Born in Hawaii, Shima was drafted into the U.S. Army on Oct. 12, 1944, as a replacement for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He arrived in Italy on VE Day, May 8, 1945, and joined the 442nd at the Garda Airport in northern Italy assigned to its public relations office.

“What people should know about the 442nd and the men who served in the Military Intelligence Service is that they served to help win the war and to prove their loyalty — the only ethnic group that fought in World War II for this reason,” Shima said. “Many of these men volunteered while they were confined to internment camps.”

Standing on the step at the entrance of a dwelling are Louise Tami Nakamura, holding the hand of Mrs. Naguchi, and Joyce Yuki Nakamura.
From aliens to heroes

About 14,000 men served in the 442nd unit and its 100th battalion, earning 9,486 Purple Hearts and 21 Medals of Honor. The Nisei unit fought in Italy, France and Germany. Their motto was “Go For Broke,” which is Hawaiian Pidgin English and means “risk your total holdings, throw in your total resources, total commitment in one roll of the dice,” Shima said. “The Nisei had something to prove, their loyalty. They were willing to risk everything, their lives, to achieve their goal.

“When World War II broke out, the draft classification of Japanese Americans was changed from 1-A (eligible for military duty) to 4-C (alien, unfit for military duty). We were offended and insulted that our government viewed us as alien, which was tantamount to being disowned by our government. We were taught that defending your nation in time of war is the responsibility of every citizen. Nisei, individually and in groups, petitioned the government to allow them to serve in combat to prove their loyalty,” said Shima, whose brother served in the 100 Battalion.

In response to these petitions and for other reasons, Washington waived the ban on enlistments and issued the call for volunteers for the 442nd unit.

“When the 442nd completed training and arrived in Italy in June 1944, the 100th had been there for nine months fighting up the boot of Italy. The 100th sustained such huge casualties that the press labeled them the ‘Purple Heart Battalion.’ The 100th merged into the 442nd becoming, in effect, the 1st Battalion of the 442nd. They were allowed to keep the 100th unit designation in recognition of their combat performance,” Shima said.

Creating leaders

The late U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye is perhaps the most well-known of the 442nd and was a WWII Medal of Honor recipient. Inouye served from 2010 to 2012 as president pro tempore of the Senate, a position that put him third in line for the presidency. “Only 70 years ago this same Nisei was assigned draft classification 4-C, alien, unfit for military duty,” Shima said.

The effect of the Nisei performance in World War II was significant for future generations of Americans, Shima said: “I believe the combat performance record of the 442nd and the combat performance record of the Tuskegee Airmen, to whom Truman used almost the same words (you fought the enemy abroad and prejudice at home) helped create the climate for post-World War II reforms beginning with the desegregation of the armed forces. These reforms leveled the playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank.”
Around 8 a.m. in Hawaii Dec. 7, 1941 – a seemingly normal Sunday morning of rest and worship – all hell broke loose when hundreds of Japanese fighter planes unloaded an arsenal on U.S. Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Army Airfield. It was the date, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt would prophesy, that would “live in infamy.”

Even though this generation experienced a greater attack on American soil in terms of casualties – 9/11’s 2,996 to Pearl Harbor’s 2,403 – what happened that infamous December day continues to be a topic of discussion and analysis.

Although both the attacks on Pearl Harbor and on the World Trade Center and Pentagon were deemed “surprises,” experts studying hindsight point to the writing on the wall. Relations with the Japanese were a powder keg since they had been ostracized during negotiations for the Treaty of Versailles after World War I. The Asian country was odd man out in a room full of Europeans. In a 2015 World News Trust article titled “What Can Pearl Harbor Teach Us about 9/11 and Other ‘Surprises,’” New York writer Michael Zezima points out that “Pearl Harbor was roughly two decades in the making.”

Following on the heels of the Versailles snub was the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that Japanese immigrants were ineligible for citizenship; they were not allowed to own property, and finally they essentially would not be allowed to immigrate to the U.S. – period – due to the Exclusion Act in 1924. More followed to bristle the Japanese prior to 1941.

Yet, as we remember and memorialize what happened at Pearl Harbor 75 years ago with museum tours and ceremonies, can we prepare for and ultimately avoid another large-scale attack on our homeland?

Sebastian Gorka, Ph.D., professor, author and vice president for national security support at the Institute of World Politics, Washington, D.C., wrote in September for Military Review an article titled “How America Will be Attacked.” In it he explains both irregular and unconventional warfare, and how adversaries are thinking differently – and so should we. He ends his lengthy article with this statement: “The sooner our strategists and policymakers recognize and acknowledge this, the better able they will be to develop relevant counters and hone our own indirect and non-kinetic modes of attack to better secure our republic and all Americans in what has become a decidedly unstable and ever more dangerous world.”
This is what three other experts had to say:

Q: What lessons did we learn from the Pearl Harbor attack that can be applied to U.S. national security today?

Eric Davis, pilot, special agent and SWAT for the FBI: Expect the unexpected. Don’t put all of your eggs in one basket. Train religiously.

David Hodge, retired Navy and current community relations manager, Public Affairs for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii: Preparedness; don’t let your guard down. Spend all the time training.

Pat Jones, Garrison Public Affairs Officer, Fort Jackson, South Carolina: Every major incident that has happened we’ve learned from. We make adjustments … we adapt. But the first thing we did learn is that we did not have an army large enough to defend ourselves. After Pearl Harbor there was a huge surge in resources. And now look at everything that has transpired regarding security.

Q: What would an attack by a foreign military force look like today?

Davis: In my opinion, an attack by a foreign military would most likely be in the form of a low-intensity insurgency operation. Our military is designed to fight and win large-scale conflicts. We are extremely effective at destroying materials and infrastructure of a country. However, if the conflict were to take place on American soil, many of our most advanced weapons platforms would be hamstrung. A low-intensity insurgency operation would bring the fighting to our cities, neighborhoods and schools. In this scenario, it becomes very difficult to differentiate enemy soldiers from civilians. This uncertainty, coupled with efforts to limit collateral damage, would act as a force multiplier for the enemy. It would take great political will to fight this type of operation in an effective manner.

Jones: We cannot know, but every time there is an incident we have had to step up security. At Fort Jackson, there is 100 percent security at the gate now. If you are not an ID cardholder, there is a vetting process. This is a result of terrorist attacks. Changes in even getting onto the base are a result of 9/11. Security just needs to get tighter and tighter … Pearl Harbor was the first to teach us that.

Q: What are the most significant threats to the security of our nation?

Davis: Radical Islamic terrorists who are citizens; degradation of pride in country, history, traditions; and loss of respect for the rule of law.

Hodge: We need to never give up on working to establish peaceful relationships; we have learned much from our former enemies, the Japanese, and they have become important partners. We also need to always be trained and prepared for anything so that we are always ready to protect America in the future. And, to maintain morale … letting nothing take the wind out of our sails. America came back stronger after Pearl Harbor; we need to always remember that.

Jones: One is cyber-related. We have to focus on cybersecurity. Also, not being prepared and trained. Fort Jackson is the largest training installation in the Army; our primary purpose is training. We train 54 percent of the force. A full battalion can graduate as many as 1,200 soldiers, and there is a population on the base of about 10,000 soldiers. Things are a lot different than they were pre-WWII. But we can always make sure we are trained and prepared.
HISTORY

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

By John Sucich
More Content Now

If all of the attention surrounding the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor makes you want some more information, here are a few suggestions to further your knowledge:

books

- “Winston Churchill’s Memoirs of the Second World War,” from 1959, offers a unique perspective on the attack at Pearl Harbor and the days that followed. The chapters “Pearl Harbour!” and “A Voyage Amid World War” give the English Prime Minister's experience when he received news of the attack and then almost immediately traveled to Washington to address the U.S. Congress. The boat trip to America, Churchill's time with FDR and stay at the White House – including Christmas 1941 – make for an interesting read about what was happening thousands of miles away from Pearl Harbor.

- Considered by many to be one of the more objective accounts of the attack, “At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor” features thorough research gathered over more than 30 years by author Gordon W. Prange. The book was one of the first accounts of the Pearl Harbor attack to tell the story from the Japanese point of view as much as the American side. The book also has a sequel, “Pearl Harbor: The Verdict of History,” which features more of Prange's work put together posthumously by Donald Goldstein and Katherine Dillon, with a focus more on the reaction to the attacks as well as how the attack could have happened.

- A wider view of the meaning of Pearl Harbor is offered in “A Date Which Will Live: Pearl Harbor In American Memory,” by Emily S. Rosenberg. In the book, Rosenberg examines how Americans remember or think about the national tragedy. The book, which came out in 2003, also includes the author's thoughts on how Americans will likely remember Sept. 11, 2001, in a way similar to how the attack on Pearl Harbor has been remembered.

movies

- “Tora! Tora! Tora!” is considered by many to be the definitive movie about the attack on Pearl Harbor. The 1970 release was not favorably reviewed at the time, but its mostly accurate portrayal of the events surrounding and including the attack have resonated with viewers and helped educate them about Pearl Harbor.

- On the 50th anniversary of the attacks, ABC News collaborated with a Japanese television station to produce “Pearl Harbor: Two Hours That Changed The World.” The documentary, narrated by David Brinkley, includes first-hand accounts of the attack from both sides, as well as archived photographs from Japan and the United States.

- If you’re looking for a fictional tale tangentially related to the attack, 1953’s “From Here To Eternity” is set in Hawaii in the days leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor. The movie, which includes stars Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr, Donna Reed and Frank Sinatra, won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture.
The USS Arizona was one of the battleships sunk in the attack on Pearl Harbor. The memorial (also known as World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument) was built above the sunken ship, which remains in the water. It honors the memory of those who died in the attack.

Visiting the memorial is free, but you need a timed ticket for the roughly 1 hour, 15 minute program, which includes a video and boat ride to and from the memorial.

A hidden gem located 20 miles west of Boston in Natick, Massachusetts, the Museum of World War II touts the world's most comprehensive collection of documents and artifacts related to World War II.

For the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the museum features an exhibit called "The 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor: Why We Still Remember," featuring more than 100 artifacts. The exhibit includes the first telegram announcing the attack, the formal declaration of war by Japan on the United States, and pieces of Japanese planes shot down over Pearl Harbor.

The Museum of World War II hosts scheduled visits Tuesdays through Saturdays, with information about how to set up a tour available at http://museumofworldwarii.org/visit.html.


The museum’s website features an impressive array of digital collections on Pearl Harbor, including oral and video histories and historic photo galleries. Go to ww2online.org and search for Pearl Harbor.

Opening in June 2017, the “Arsenal of Democracy” exhibit will tell the story of the road to World War II and the Home Front, drawing on personal narratives and evocative artifacts to highlight facets of WWII-era American life through an experiential narrative. Visitors will experience history as it unfolds through nine immersive galleries, including America Besieged, featuring a wraparound screen to convey the shock and impact of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and War Affects Every Home, a reconstructed 1940s home interior goes inside the setting where average Americans grew victory gardens, collected for scrap drives and gathered around the radio to learn of the war's progress.

Find out more about exhibits and tours at http://www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/index.html
As a major event in world history, the attack on Pearl Harbor is steeped in all kinds of trivia. You can spend years dissecting the who, what, where, when and why of the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 – not to mention the time leading up to that date and the results after. How well do you know some of that information? Here are 15 questions to test your Pearl Harbor knowledge:

1. The name Pearl Harbor was given to the area by native Hawaiians due to the prominence of pearl-producing oysters. The Hawaiian name was “Wai Momi”, which translates to what?
   Wai Momi means pearl waters

2. Who was the commander of the Japanese fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor?
   Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo’s fleet departed Japan in late November and observed strict radio silence in order to keep the attack a surprise.

3. Three aircraft carriers of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were absent at the time of the attack. What were the names of those ships?
   The USS Enterprise, USS Lexington, and USS Saratoga were all away from Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack.

4. When the attacks took place, professional football games were taking place in what three American cities?
   Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C., were all hosting NFL games. The Chicago Cardinals defeated the Chicago Bears that day, the New York Giants lost to the Brooklyn Dodgers, and Washington defeated the Philadelphia Eagles.

5. Who was President Roosevelt’s press secretary when he delivered his famous speech asking Congress for a declaration of war against Japan, including the famous quote “a date which will live in infamy,” on Dec. 8, 1941?
   Stephen Early, who knew FDR for more than 30 years and helped create the president’s “Fireside Chats”.

Use the Blippar app to open an interactive version of this quiz online.

See instructions on page 2
It was December 8th, the day after Pearl Harbor, when the United States declared war against Japan. When did the country declare war against Germany and Italy?

**Dec. 11, 1941, hours after the Axis nations both declared war against the United States.**

The United States Senate voted 82 to 0 for the declaration of war, and the House of Representatives voted 388 to 1. Who did the lone dissenting vote belong to?

**Jeannette Rankin (R – Montana), a devoted pacifist, also voted against World War I in 1917.**

Pearl Harbor became the permanent home of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in 1940, in an attempt to intimidate Japan, which was increasing its presence in the Pacific. Where was the Pacific Fleet based before Pearl Harbor?

**The Pacific Fleet was based on the west coasts of California and Washington, in places like San Diego, Long Beach, San Francisco, and Bremerton.**

The wrecked destroyers USS Downes and USS Cassin in Drydock One at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, soon after the end of the Japanese air attack. Cassin has capsized against Downes. USS Pennsylvania is astern, occupying the rest of the drydock. The smoke is from the sunken and burning USS Arizona, out of view behind Pennsylvania.

**WIKIPEDIA**

9) Who was made commander of the Pacific Fleet following the attack on Pearl Harbor?

**Admiral Chester W. Nimitz was elevated to the position before the end of December 1941.**

How many Navy men received the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor?

**15 men were awarded the medal, the nation’s highest award for valor.**
11. Which of the following was NOT a ship attacked at Pearl Harbor?: a) Oklahoma b) Nevada c) Kansas d) California
   c) Kansas was not a ship attacked at Pearl Harbor. The other three were all battleships sunk in the attack.

12. Which military leaders in Hawaii were relieved of their command after the attack?
   Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Lieutenant General Walter C. Short.

13. Which Supreme Court justice led the initial investigation into the attack on Pearl Harbor?
   Owen Roberts

14. How many Japanese aircraft carriers were in the fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor?
   The Japanese planes launched from six aircraft carriers that came to a stop about 200 miles north of Pearl Harbor.

15. Japan suffered relatively few casualties. How many Japanese planes were destroyed during the attack on Pearl Harbor? 29
THOSE KILLED IN THE ATTACK

Here we list the names of all 2,403 soldiers and civilians (listed with their age) killed in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. They are listed alphabetically, categorized by their location. Source: PearlHarbor.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
<td>Hughes, Lewis Burton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You served our country with honor.

Now you can make a difference building a career with our global business in Kern County.

We’re looking for ambitious professionals to join us in mechanical, electrical, operational and supervisor roles at our mining operations in east Kern County.

Learn about Rio Tinto jobs at riotinto.com/careers

Proud participant in Kern Patriot Partnership
kernpatriot.org