



PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii

December 7, 1941

archived by www.calie.org

Pearl Harbor

On Sunday, December 7th, 1941 the Japanese launched a Surprise attack against the U.S. Forces stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. By planning his attack on a Sunday, the Japanese commander Admiral Nagumo, hoped to catch the entire fleet in port. As luck Would have it, the Aircraft Carriers and one of the Battleships were not in port. (The USS Enterprise was returning from Wake Island , where it had just delivered some aircraft. The USS Lexingtonwas ferrying aircraft to Midway, and the USS Saratoga and USS Colorado were undergoing repairs in the United States).

In spite of the latest intelligence reports about the missing Aircraft carriers (his most important targets), Admiral Nagumo Decided to continue the attack with his force of six carriers and 423 aircraft. At a range of 230 miles north of Oahu, he launched the first wave of a two-wave attack. Beginning at 0600 hours his first wave consisted of 183 fighters and torpedo bombers which struck at the fleet in Pearl Harbor and the airfields in Hickam, Kaneohe and Ewa. The second strike, launched at 0715 hours, consisted of 167 aircraft, which again struck at the same targets.

At 0753 hours the first wave consisting of 40 Nakajima B5N2 Kate" torpedo bombers, 51 Aichi D3A1 "Val" dive bombers, 50 high Altitude bombers and 43 Zeros struck airfields and Pearl Harbor. Within the next hour, the second wave arrived and continued the Attack.

When it was over, the U.S. losses were:

Casualties

USA : 218 KIA, 364 WIA.

USN: 2,008 KIA, 710 WIA.

USMC: 109 KIA, 69 WIA.

Civilians: 68 KIA, 35 WIA.

TOTAL: 2,403 KIA, 1,178 WIA.

<http://www.historynet.com/pearl-harbor>

Battleships

USS Arizona (BB-39) - total loss when a bomb hit her magazine.

USS Oklahoma (BB-37) - Total loss when she capsized and sunk in the harbor.

USS California (BB-44) - Sunk at her berth. Later raised and repaired.

USS West Virginia (BB-48) - Sunk at her berth. Later raised and repaired.

USS Nevada - (BB-36) Beached to prevent sinking. Later repaired.

USS Pennsylvania (BB-38) - Light damage.

USS Maryland (BB-46) - Light damage.

USS Tennessee (BB-43) Light damage.

USS Utah (AG-16) - (former battleship used as a target) - Sunk.

Cruisers

USS New Orleans (CA-32) - Light Damage..

USS San Francisco (CA-38) - Light Damage.

USS Detroit (CL-8) - Light Damage.

USS Raleigh (CL-7) - Heavily damaged but repaired.

USS Helena (CL-50) - Light Damage.

USS Honolulu (CL-48) - Light Damage..

Destroyers

USS Downes (DD-375) - Destroyed. Parts salvaged.

USS Cassin - (DD-372) - Destroyed. Parts salvaged.

USS Shaw (DD-373) - Very heavy damage.

USS Helm (DD-388) - Light Damage.

Minelayer

USS Ogala (CM-4) - Sunk but later raised and repaired.

Seaplane Tender

USS Curtiss (AV-4) - Severely damaged but later repaired.

Repair Ship

USS Vestal (AR-4) - Severely damaged but later repaired.

Harbor Tug

USS Sotoyomo (YT-9) - Sunk but later raised and repaired.

Aircraft

188 Aircraft destroyed (92 USN and 92 U. S. Army Air Corps.)

Photo # 80-G-182874 Pearl Harbor, looking southwest, 30 October 1941





The attack began at 7:48 a.m. H.T., December 7, when this photo was taken by a Japanese photographer.
(<https://www.dailynews.com/2017/12/06/historical-photos-of-pearl-harbor-attack-on-december-7-1941/>)



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3230824



Photo # NH 97417 USS Shaw's magazine explodes during the Pearl Harbor attack, 7 December 1941



U.S. Navy







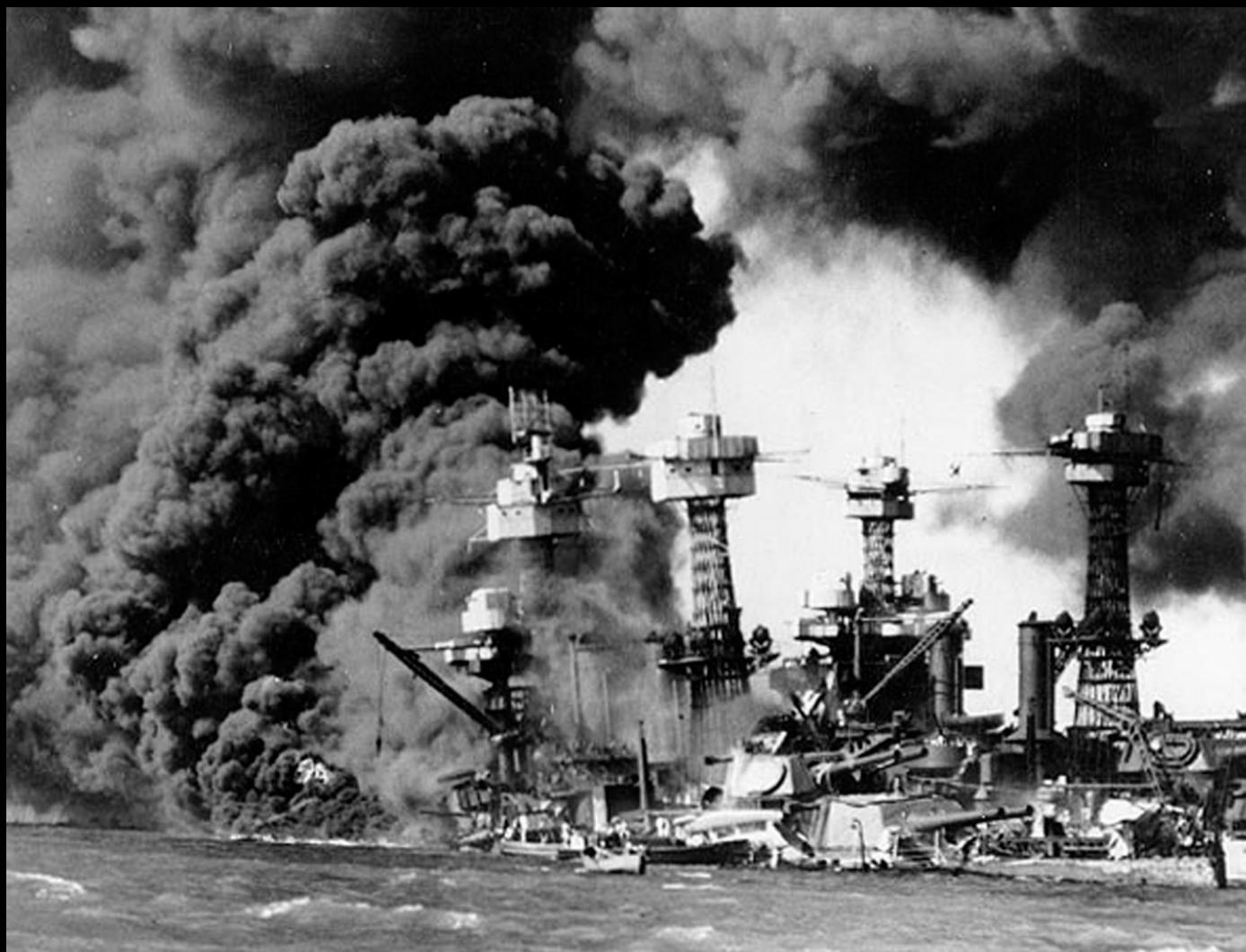
Photo # NH 64482 USS Cassin & Downes wrecked at Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941

















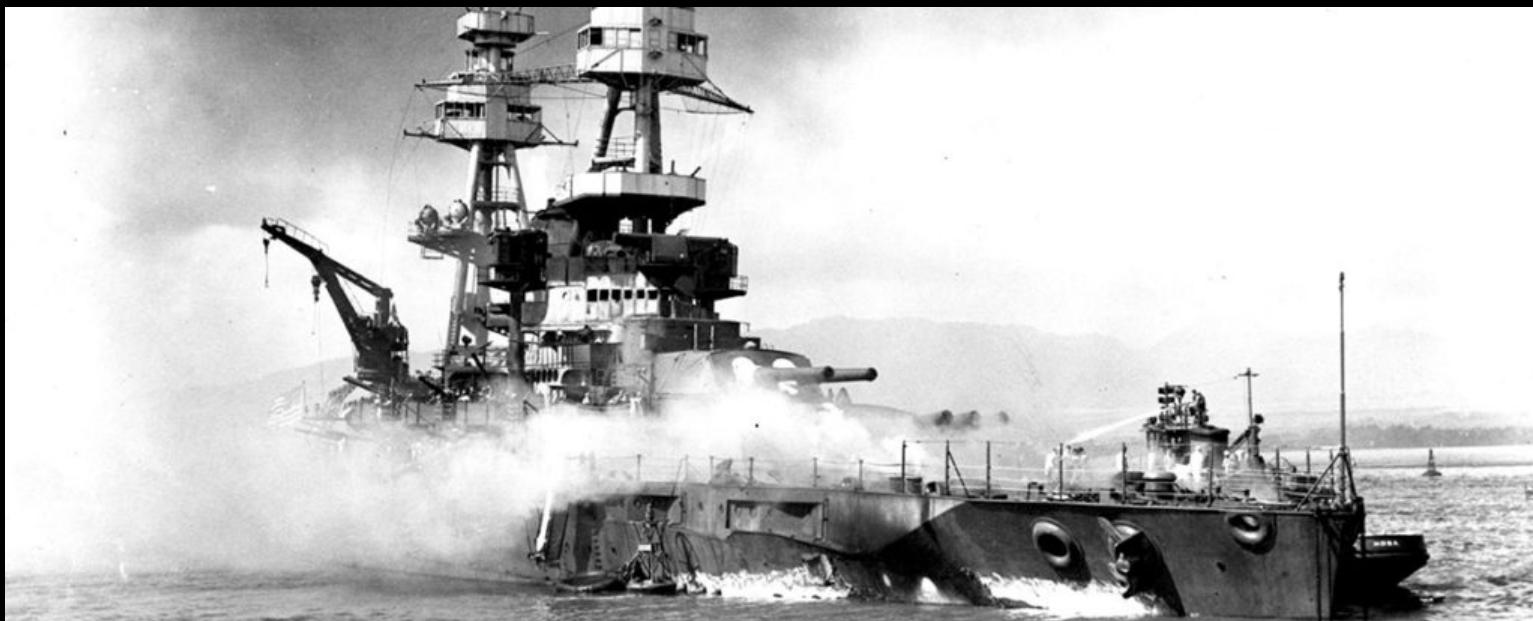




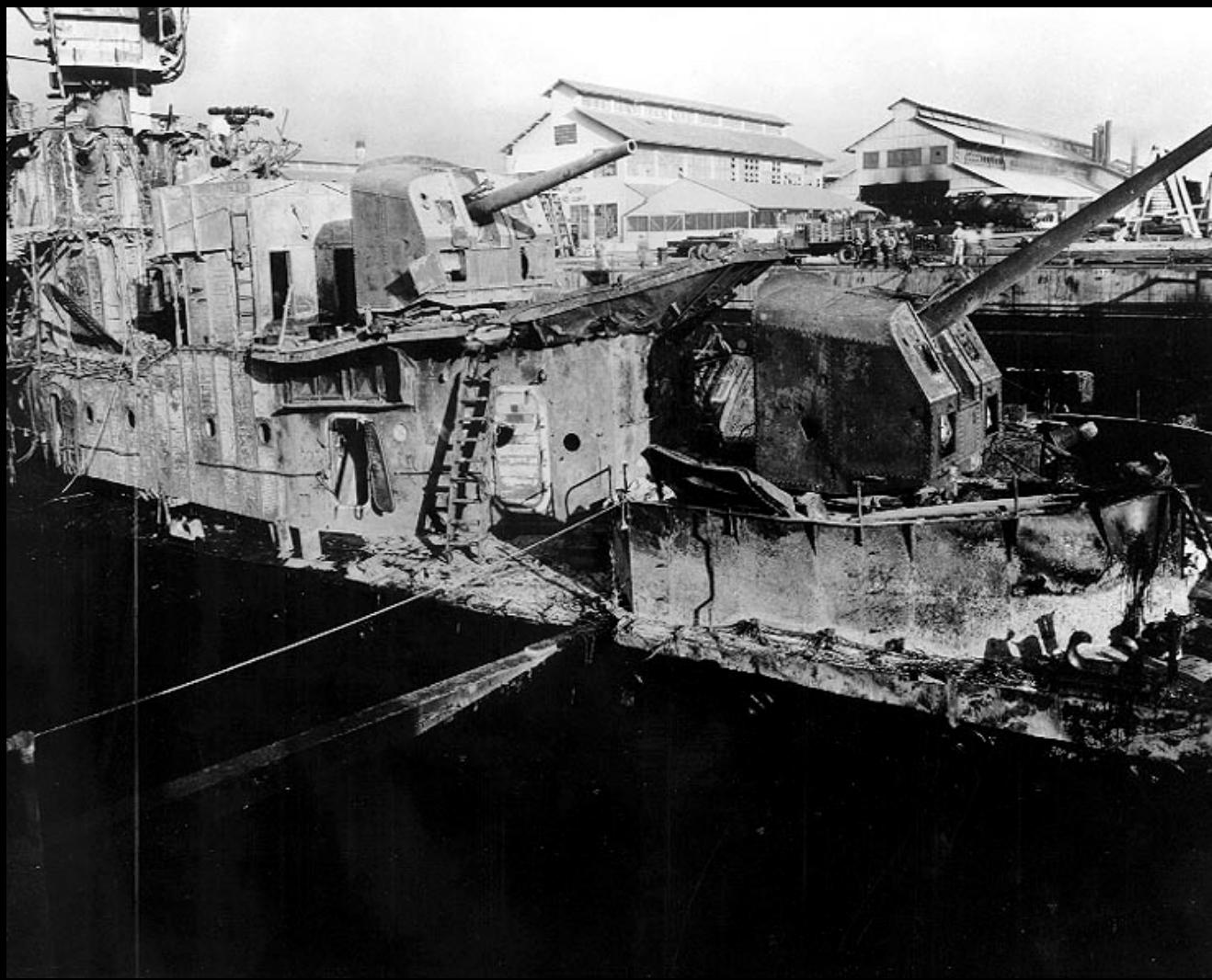
















AP



Photo # 80-G-32906 Army P-40 destroyed by Japanese attack on Wheeler Field, 7 Dec. 1941



THE WEATHER
City and State—Rain,
Snow, Colder
(Details in Daily Almanac)

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20 PAGES

FIVE CENTS

U. S. DECLARES STATE OF WAR

One Battleship Lost, 1,500 Killed in Hawaii

FDR Aide
Bares Toll
In Air Raid

Navy's Failure
To Block Quick
Blow Explained

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (UP).—The United States forces have downed 100 Japanese planes and submarines" in operations against Japan in the battle of the Pacific, the White House announced today, and the Japanese dive bomber attack on Hawaii left 3,000 casualties.

White House Secretary Stephen T. Early announced that 1,500 persons were wounded and about the same number killed in the dive bomber attack on the Japanese launch of the island of Oahu at dawn yesterday. He added that despite the large number of bombs dropped on the city of Honolulu itself, there were relatively few casualties there.

Asked how many Japanese aircraft had been downed, Early replied: "The outer defenses of the United States' strongholds in the Pacific, Early gave this explanation, representing "expert consensus":

"Probably most if not all, of the planes that attacked came from Japanese carriers and planes were the dive-bomber type. "The attack came at dawn and the carriers naturally had to hold all night, under cover of darkness, to approach.

Counter-Offensive Begins
Navy officials, meanwhile, said that the U. S. offensive against Japan began the moment the first Japanese bomb exploded on the Islands.

The White House statement said:

Japanese Embassy Staff Burns Papers



Now We Know—and
We Stand Firm

After the first cold, brutal shock after the flaming re- sentment, born of surprise and pain, one can hear on all sides now: "Well, at last we know where we stand."

With the reports still coming in and still lacking complete details of the sinking of this battleship and that, and the downing of so many planes and the quick, sudden death of men caught in their barracks, so much at least is certain—"At last, we know



Lone Vote Against
War Cast Following
President's Appeal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (UP).—Congress today proclaimed existence of a state of war between the United States and the Japanese empire 33 minutes after the dramatic moment when President Roosevelt stood before a joint session to pledge that we will triumph—"so help us, God."

The senate acted first, adopting the resolution by a unanimous roll call vote of 82 to 0.

(See LONE VOTE AGAINST, Page 7, Column 1)

By Lyle C. Wilson

Associated Press Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (UP).—President Roosevelt today in person asked congress to declare that "a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire" as a result of Japan's "unprovoked and dastardly attack."

The President made his request to a joint session of congress, giving it a brief but detailed account of Japan's attack on American territory yesterday—a date which he said "will live in infamy."

"The facts of yesterday speak for themselves," he said. "The people of the United States have already formed their opinions, and will understand the implications to the very life and safety,

★ ★ ★
British Join
U. S. in War

"As commander-in-chief of the army and navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense." "Always will we remember the character of the onslaught made upon us." He predicted that the American people "in their righteous might

:- Late War Bulletins :-

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (UP).—The National Broadcasting company's correspondent at Manila reported today that "Manila is now under Japanese bombardment."

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (UP).—Federal bureau of investigation agents and New York police at 6 a.m. today had rounded up 85 Japanese in New York City considered "dangerous" to the country's security. Most of these were taken to Ellis Island, but some were detained for questioning.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (UP).—The German radio announced today that Manchukuo had declared war on the United States and Great Britain. NBC heard the broadcast.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (UP).—At least 200 casualties were reported today after two air raids on the Philippine islands by high-flying Japanese planes. Thomas Worthen, CBS correspondent in Manila, said today in a broadcast from that city,

ROME, Dec. 8 (UP).—The Rome radio today blamed hostilities in the Far East on President Roosevelt, saying "as a result of Roosevelt's war mongering program the first hostilities occurred between Japanese and American forces."

Nazis See 'World Curse' on FDR;
U. S.-Reich Status 'Unimportant'

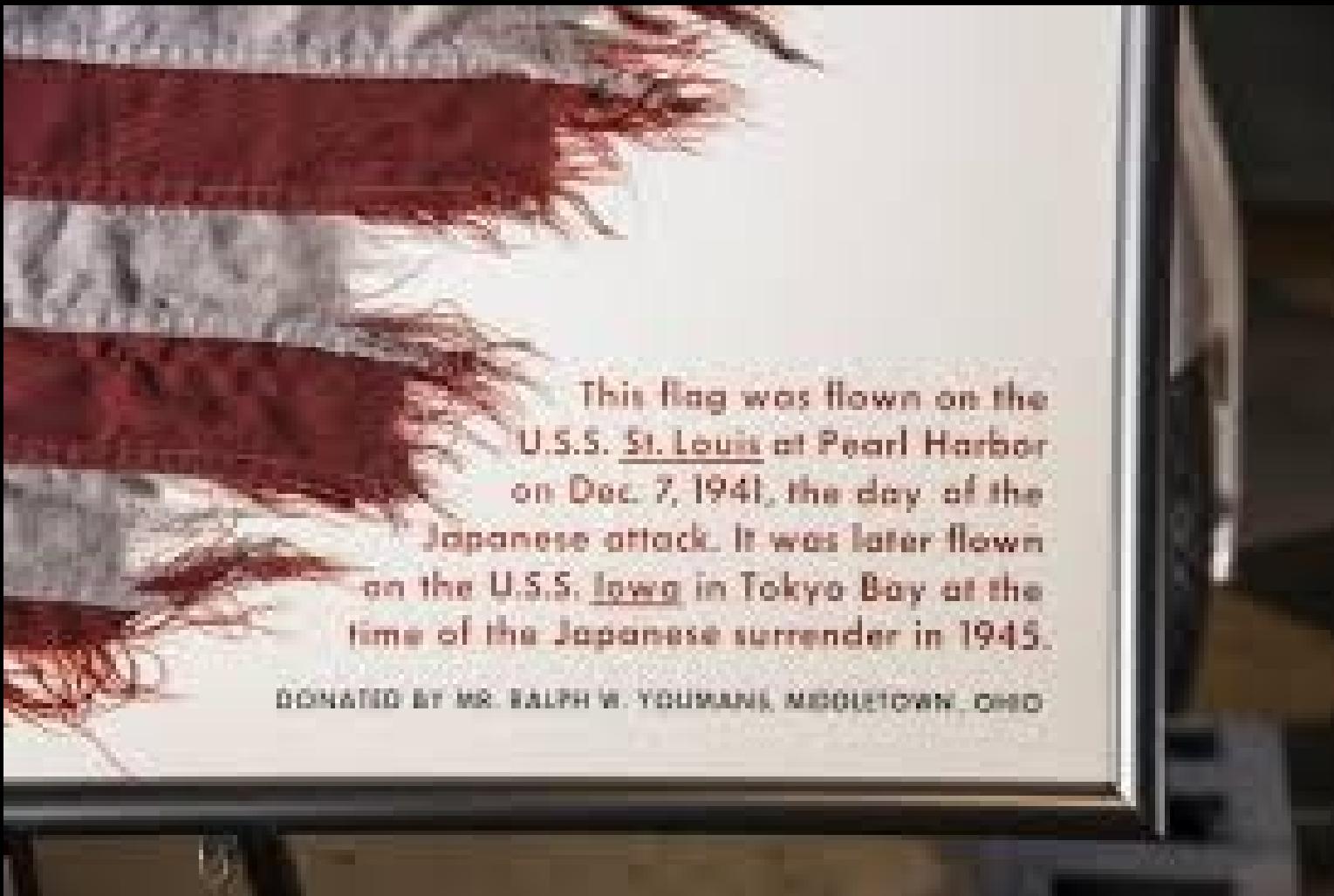
BERLIN, Dec. 8 (UP).—A Wilhelmstrasse spokesman said today the curse of the entire world would rest upon President Roosevelt, whom he called "the father of war," as he commented on the Far Eastern war.

He said he was authorized to expand on the international angle as to who was the aggressor. However, he stated: "But from my commentary there should be little doubt about that."

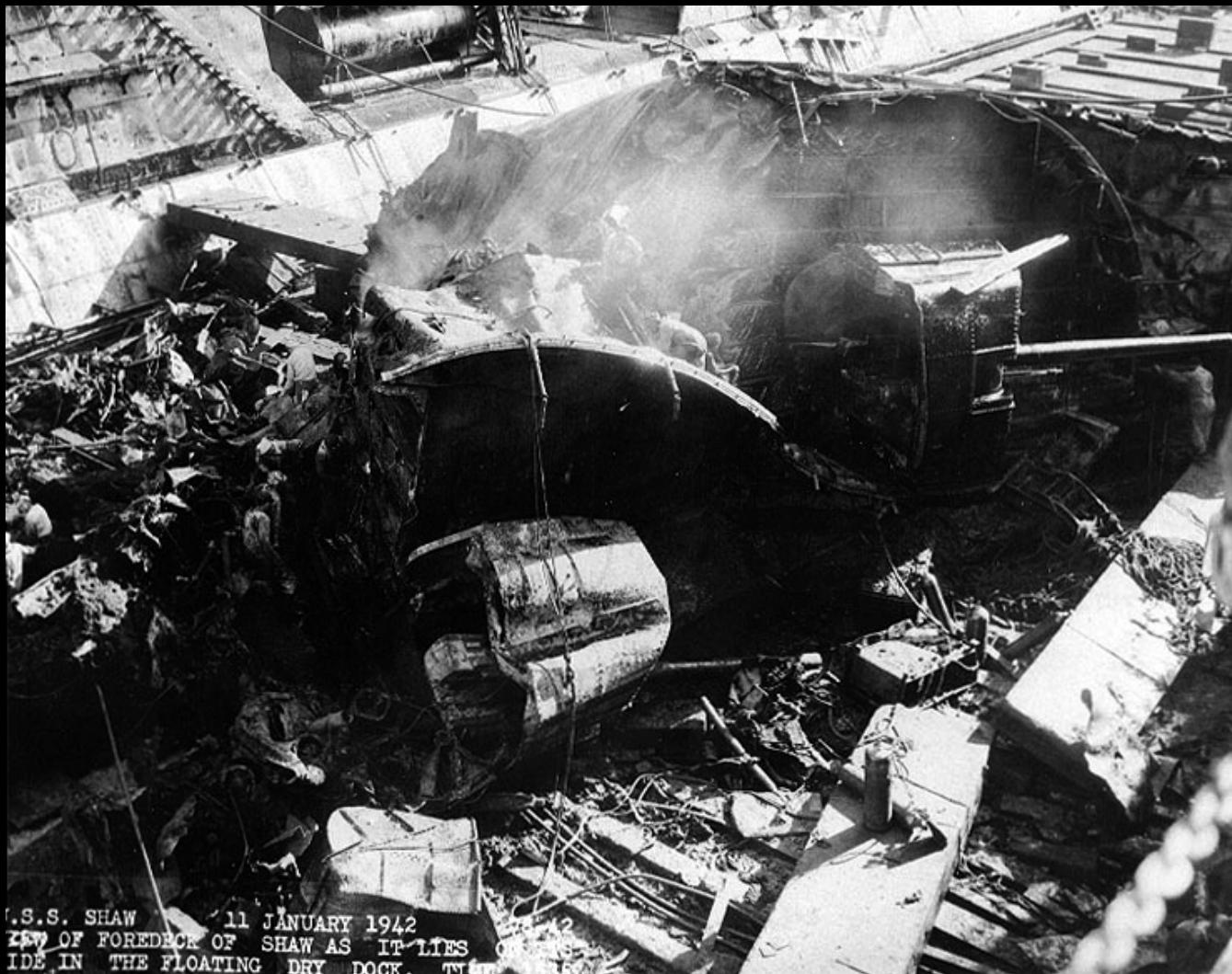
As seen from a historical point of view, he asserted, it was unimportant whether war would be declared between Germany and the United States as a result of Far Eastern events.

LONDON, Dec. 8 (UP).—The Exchange Telegraph agency reported that 30 planes burned Hong Kong this morning, causing slight damage.

SINGAPORE, Dec. 8 (UP).—Reuters said in a dispatch from Singapore today that a British communiqué declared "it is officially reported but not confirmed that mustard gas has been 'dropped' in Japanese attacks on Malaya."







U.S.S. SHAW 11 JANUARY 1942
TOP OF FOREDECK OF SHAW AS IT LIES ON ITS SIDE IN THE FLOATING DRY DOCK. THE
SHIP IS LISTING SEVERELY TO THE PORT SIDE.



Declassified Per Executive Order 12958, Sec. 3.5, DoD Directive 5200.30, March 21, 1983.

RASH #118506 - 19 March, 1943.
U.S.S. OKLAHOMA - Salvage.
Aerial view toward shore with ship in 90° position.

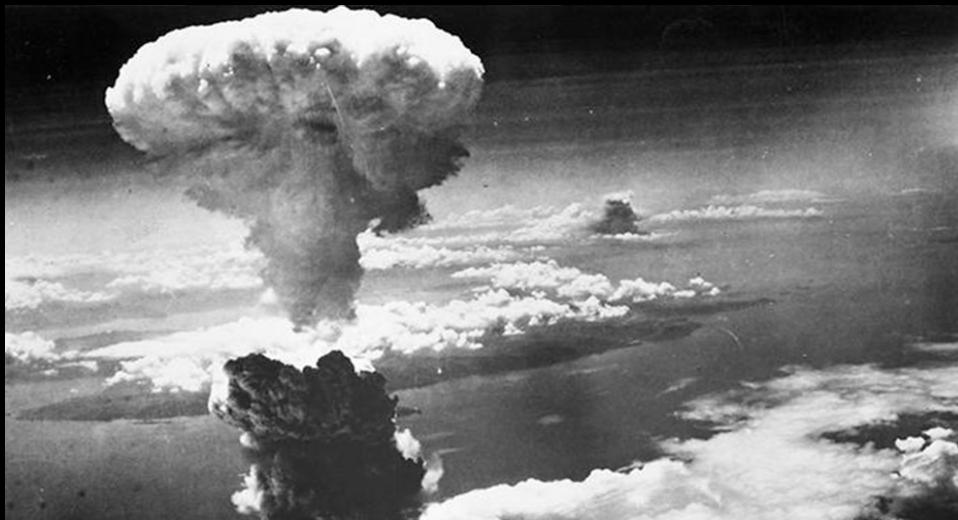


N.A.S. P.H. #118525 - 29 March, 1943.
USS OKLAHOMA - Salvage - Aerial view
from astern with ship in 34°-30°
position.



Hiroshima
August 6, 1945





Nagasaki
August 9, 1945





Following the Japanese surrender in 1945, the United States occupied Japan and assumed responsibility for transforming the militaristic nation into a modern nation that would never again threaten its neighbors.

On 29 August 1945, MacArthur was ordered to exercise authority through the Japanese government and to include the Emperor Hirohito in all deliberations. Unlike in Germany, in May 1945, when Allied forces abolished the German state, President Truman chose to allow the Japanese state to continue to exist, albeit under American control, i.e., there would be a partnership between the occupiers and occupied. MacArthur would rule Japan via the Emperor and most of the Japanese elite. Since the Emperor was a living god to the Japanese people, MacArthur realized that ruling through the Emperor would make his job much easier.

On September 27, 1945, Emperor Hirohito paid a visit to General Douglas MacArthur at the United States Embassy in Tokyo. Arriving at 10:00 AM in his custom-made Rolls Royce, the Emperor and his entourage of Imperial guards and advisers were greeted by American officials Faubion Bowers and Bonner Fellers. (<https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/hirohito-macarthur-1945/> Photo credit: Gaetano Faillace)

The Americans saluted the Emperor, who bowed and then shook their hands. Mr. Bowers then took the Emperor's top hat, an act which alarmed Hirohito, who, as the God Emperor of the Japanese people, was not accustomed to have ordinary people taking things from him.

As the American officer was taking the hat, MacArthur burst into the room: "...in that stentorian voice of burnished gold that thrilled everyone who heard it: "You are very, very welcome, sir". It was the first time Bowers had ever heard the General say 'sir' to anyone. The Supreme Commander clasped the Emperor's hand, and the emperor simultaneously bowed so deeply that the handshake took place above his head. MacArthur then led Hirohito into a private room along with the Imperial translator, Okumura Katsuzo. The Supreme Commander and the Emperor, through his translator, spent forty minutes together and swore to keep the contents of their conversation secret - although over the years some details have leaked out. According to the Americans, Emperor Hirohito offered to take responsibility for the war, unaware that MacArthur, over the objections of Stalin and the British, had removed his name from the list of war criminals, fearing guerrilla actions if he were to stand trial. This is contrasted by the Japanese. Thirty years after the meeting the Imperial translator, Okumura Katsuzo, released his memoirs which claimed that MacArthur was "a fawning courtier awed by his proximity to 'Your Majesty' and was extraordinarily solicitous in his comments".

In all, three photos were taken. In one, the Supreme commander's eyes were closed, and the Emperor's mouth gaped open. Hirohito's gaping mouth also ruined the second. The third photo was the only one published.

The impact on the Japanese public was electric because the Japanese people saw the Emperor for the first time as a mere man overshadowed by the much taller MacArthur instead of the living god he had always been portrayed as. Up to 1945, the Emperor had been a remote, mysterious figure to his people, rarely seen in public and always silent. His photographs were always taken from a certain angle to make him look taller and more impressive than he really was. No Japanese photographer would have taken such a photo of the Emperor being overshadowed by MacArthur.

The Japanese government immediately banned the photo of the Emperor with MacArthur because it damaged the imperial mystique. MacArthur, however, rescinded the ban and ordered all Japanese newspapers to print it. The photo was intended as a message to the Emperor indicating who was senior in their relationship.

Occupation and Reconstruction of Japan, 1945-52

The groundwork for the Allied occupation of a defeated Japan was laid during the war. In a series of wartime conferences, the leaders of the Allied powers of Great Britain, the Soviet Union, the Republic of China, and the United States discussed how to disarm Japan, deal with its colonies (especially Korea and Taiwan), stabilize the Japanese economy, and prevent the remilitarization of the state in the future.

In the Potsdam Declaration, they called for Japan's unconditional surrender; by August of 1945, that objective had been achieved. Between 1945 and 1952, the U. S. occupying forces led by General Douglas A. MacArthur, enacted widespread military, political, economic, and social reforms.



In September, 1945, General Douglas MacArthur took charge of the Supreme Command of Allied Powers (SCAP) and began the work of rebuilding Japan. Although Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the Republic of China had an advisory role as part of an "Allied Council," MacArthur had the final authority to make all decisions. The occupation of Japan can be divided into three phases: the initial effort to punish and reform Japan, the work to revive the Japanese economy, and the conclusion of a formal peace treaty and alliance.

The first phase, roughly from the end of the war in 1945 through 1947, involved the most fundamental changes for the Japanese Government and society. The Allies punished Japan for its past militarism and expansion by convening war crimes trials in Tokyo.

At the same time, SCAP dismantled the Japanese Army and banned former military officers from taking roles of political leadership in the new government. In the economic field, SCAP introduced land reform, designed to benefit the majority tenant farmers and reduce the power of rich landowners, many of whom had advocated for war and supported Japanese expansionism in the 1930s.

MacArthur also tried to break up the large Japanese business conglomerates, or zaibatsu, as part of the effort to transform the economy into a free market capitalist system. In 1947, Allied advisors essentially dictated a new constitution to Japan's leaders. Some of the most profound changes in the document included downgrading the emperor's status to that of a figurehead without political control and placing more power in the parliamentary system, promoting greater rights and privileges for women, and renouncing the right to wage war, which involved eliminating all non-defensive armed forces.

By late 1947 and early 1948, the emergence of an economic crisis in Japan alongside concerns about the spread of communism sparked a reconsideration of occupation policies. This period is sometimes called the "reverse course." In this stage of the occupation, which lasted until 1950, the economic rehabilitation of Japan took center stage. SCAP became concerned that a weak Japanese economy would increase the influence of the domestic communist movement, and with a communist victory in China's civil war increasingly likely, the future of East Asia appeared to be at stake.

Occupation policies to address the weakening economy ranged from tax reforms to measures aimed at controlling inflation. However the most serious problem was the shortage of raw materials required to feed Japanese industries and markets for finished goods. The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 provided SCAP with just the opportunity it needed to address this problem, prompting some occupation officials to suggest that, "Korea came along and saved us."

After the UN entered the Korean War, Japan became the principal supply depot for UN forces. The conflict also placed Japan firmly within the confines of the U.S. defense perimeter in Asia, assuring the Japanese leadership that whatever the state of its military, no real threat would be made against Japanese soil.

In the third phase of the occupation, beginning in 1950, SCAP deemed the political and economic future of Japan firmly established and set about securing a formal peace treaty to end both the war and the occupation. The U.S. perception of international threats had changed so profoundly in the years between 1945 and 1950 that the idea of a re-armed and militant Japan no longer alarmed U.S. officials; instead, the real threat appeared to be the creep of communism, particularly in Asia. The final agreement allowed the United States to maintain its bases in Okinawa and elsewhere in Japan, and the U.S. Government promised Japan a bilateral security pact. In September of 1951, fifty-two nations met in San Francisco to discuss the treaty, and ultimately, forty-nine of them signed it. Notable holdouts included the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia, all of which objected to the promise to support the Republic of China and not do business with the People's Republic of China that was forced on Japan by U.S. politicians.

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/japan-reconstruction>

Korean War and Japan's Recovery

As the Cold War came to dominate U.S. foreign policy, America extended security commitments to two nations in Northeast Asia—the Republic of Korea and Japan. The Department of State under Secretary Dean Acheson forged a series of agreements to build a permanent American presence in the region and support these two nations, creating alliances that have lasted to today.



The 25th Infantry Division prepares to go to Korean War from Japan

After Japan's unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers in August 1945, the United States military occupied the defeated nation and began a series of far-reaching reforms designed to build a peaceful and democratic Japan by reducing the power of the military and breaking up the largest Japanese business conglomerates.

However, growing concern over Communist power in East Asia, particularly the success of the Chinese Communist Party in its struggle against Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist forces, led the United States to halt reforms in 1947 and 1948 in order to focus on the economic recovery and political rehabilitation of Japan.

In this "Reverse Course," Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, General Douglas MacArthur, focused on strengthening, not punishing, what would become a key cold war ally.

The growing concern over Japanese security related directly to war in Korea. During World War II the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to temporarily divide Korea at the 38th parallel in order oversee the removal of Japanese forces. It soon became clear, however, that neither of the cold war antagonists would permit its Korea ally to be threatened by unification.

The Soviets supported Kim Il Song in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north; the United States backed Syngman Rhee in the Republic of Korea in the south. Nevertheless the United States did not make Korea a key part of its defensive strategy for East Asia, and American forces withdrew from the south in the late 1940s. Assuming that the United States did not consider South Korea of vital interest, Kim's army attacked the South in June 1950 almost conquering the entire peninsula. The U.S. military returned, leading a United Nations-authorized force to push the North's army back above the 38th parallel and beyond.

After the People's Republic of China entered the war in late 1950, the Department of State worked to isolate Peking and maintain the unity of the U.S.-led coalition. Only in 1953 did the two sides reach an uneasy truce, thus crystallizing the division between North and South that exists today. In 1953 the United States and South Korea signed a mutual security treaty designed to protect this new nation from its neighbor to the north. U.S. efforts to save South Korea from Communist invasion accelerated Department of State attempts to restore Japan to a respected international position, and make that country a prosperous ally of the United States.

Negotiated primarily by John Foster Dulles in 1950 and 1951, the Treaty of San Francisco ended the state of war between Japan and 47 of the Allies (most nations allied with the Soviet Union refused to sign), concluded the American Occupation, and excused the Japanese from reparations for the war.

Acheson signed the San Francisco Treaty on September 8, 1951, the same day he and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshida Shigeru signed the United States-Japanese Security Treaty. The treaty allowed the United States to station troops in Japan, and made the Japanese islands into an important facet of America's global containment structure. To American leaders, Japan has transformed from World War II enemy to vital ally, and Korea went from a peripheral region to a key battle ground in the Cold War.

Japan is experiencing its second longest economic expansion in the post World War II era, with economists expecting the positive tone to hold through 2018 amid strong demand at home and abroad.

One key factor behind the boon this year, according to some economists, may be that companies could spend stockpiled cash reserves more actively to raise wages and make capital investments to overcome capacity constraints and improve productivity.

As for wages, some, but not all, say they are optimistic this year will see pay increases for part-time and full-time workers.

Another theme to watch is inflation, as it is likely to pick up, since domestic demand is expected to increase despite the labor shortage. This might prompt the Bank of Japan to make some adjustments, including allowing the 10-year government bond yield to rise slightly, a sign that it may seek to end its ultraeasy monetary policy.

"In terms of the growth picture, 2017 turned out to be even better than we expected ... (and) we remain very optimistic" this year as well," said Izumi Devalier, an economist at Merrill Lynch Japan Securities.

According to estimates by Merrill Lynch, Japan's real gross domestic product growth for fiscal 2017 was 1.8 percent, which is expected to keep a moderate growth rate of 1.7 percent in 2018.

Last year, exports were strong due to vigorous external demand that resulted from a stable global economy, a trend that is likely to continue this year, albeit at a slightly weaker pace, Devalier said.

As for domestic drivers, economists said companies will be motivated more to spend a greater chunk of their reserves, an amount that hit a record ¥406 trillion in fiscal 2016.

(<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/01/04/business/economy-business/economists-generally-upbeat-japans-2018-outlook/#.Wuc7TYjwZPY>)



The Best Times to Visit Japan

Japan, while not especially large, is surprisingly vast. Frigid winters in Hokkaido make the subtropical islands of Okinawa seem worlds away. If you aren't traveling to hit the ski slopes, the months from March to May and from September to November are generally considered the best times to visit the country.

((<http://www.travelandleisure.com/travel-tips/best-time-to-visit-japan>)

The End