

Document #1

This radio alert was sent from Pearl Harbor at 7:58 a.m. (1:28 p.m. in Washington, D.C.), just minutes after Japanese warplanes unleashed their attack. It was the first message informing officials in Washington of the attack and led to Navy Secretary Frank Knox's 1:47 p.m. phone call to President Roosevelt.

Map Room Papers

NPM 1516

URGENT

Z ØF2 183Ø ØF3 ØF4 Ø1FØ Ø

URGENT

FROM:- CINCPAC
ACTION:- CINCLANT ;:- CINCAF - OPNAV

AIRRAID
~~XXXX~~ ON PEARLHARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL

38 - ACT

10/11 - 12 - 13 - 16 - OPDO - 38W

20 - Navairde - 05 -

BJ185Ø7DECMX

Document #2

White House press release, December 7, 1941

FDR moved quickly to control the flow of information from the White House. After Admiral Harold Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, called to confirm the attack, Roosevelt phoned his Press Secretary Stephen Early at Early's home and said abruptly, "Have you got a pencil handy?" Early thought FDR was joking. "Do I need it?" he replied. "Yes," FDR responded, "I have a very important statement. It ought to go out verbatim."

Early jotted down Roosevelt's statement. At 2:22 p.m., he read it on a three-way phone hook-up with the Associated Press, the United Press, and the International News Service. Minutes later, Early called the journalists back to report a second Japanese attack on the Philippines. That report later proved to be false. Early directed the White House switchboard operator to issue this press release with both statements to 11 important newspapers and 4 radio networks. Then he rushed to the White House.

Stephen Early Papers

TELEGRAM

The White House
Washington

IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO PRESS AND RADIO.

DECEMBER 7, 1941

2:25PM

*1st
statement
phone*

"THE JAPANESE HAVE ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR FROM THE
AIR AND ALL NAVAL AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON THE ISLAND OF
OAHU, THE PRINCIPAL AMERICAN BASE IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

*2nd statement
phone*

A SECOND AIR ATTACK IS REPORTED. THIS ONE HAS
BEEN MADE ON ARMY AND NAVY BASES IN MANILA."

*about
2:30*

STE

Left 2:35 P.M.

THE ABOVE STATEMENT GIVEN TO:

THE A.P.	THE NEW YORK TIMES
I.N.S.	THE NEW YORK HERALD-TRIBUNE
U.P.	THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
N.B.C.	THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE
C.B.S.	BRITISH PRESS SERVICE
WOL- MUTUAL;	BALTIMORE SUN
TRANS-RADIO PRESS;	PHILADELPHIA RECORD
WASHINGTON EVENING STAR;	CHICAGO TRIBUNE.
WASHINGTON POST;	
WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD.	

Document #3

Eleanor Roosevelt, Typescript of opening remarks for her NBC radio program, December 7, 1941
During the late afternoon, Eleanor typed these new opening remarks for her Sunday evening radio program. Her final handwritten changes appear in several places. At 6:30 p.m., Mrs. Roosevelt read from these pages as she addressed the nation. In her remarks, she mistakenly notes that she saw the Japanese ambassador leaving a meeting with FDR at the White House before the attack. In fact, she had seen the Chinese ambassador, who had a 12:30 p.m. appointment with the President. FDR did not meet with Japan's ambassador on December 7.
Eleanor Roosevelt Papers

dec 7 -
Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

I am speaking to you tonight at a very serious moment in our history. The Cabinet is convening, and the leaders in Congress are meeting with the President. The State Department and Army and Navy officials have been with the President all afternoon. In fact the Japanese Ambassador was talking to the President at the very time that Japan's airships were bombing our citizens in Hawaii and the Phillipines and ^{sinking} ~~sinking~~ one of our transports loaded with lumber on its way to Hawaii.

By tomorrow morning, the members of Congress will have a full report and be ready for action. In the meantime we, the people, are already prepared for action. For months now the knowledge that something of this kind might happen has been hanging over our heads and yet it seemed impossible to believe, impossible to drop the everyday things of life and feel that there was only one thing which was important, and preparation to meet an enemy, no matter where he struck.

That is all over now and there is no more uncertainty.

We know what we have to face and we know that we are ready to face it.

I should like to say just a word to the women in the country tonight. I have a boy at sea on a Destroyer. For all I know he may be on his way to the Pacific. Two of my children are in coast cities on the Pacific. Many of you all over this country have boys in the Services who

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will not be called upon to go into action. You have friends and families in what has suddenly become danger zone. You can not escape anxiety, you can not escape a clutch of fear at your heart and yet I hope that the certainty of what we have to meet will make you rise above these fears. We must go about our daily business more determined than ever to do the ordinary things as well as we can and when we find a way to do anything more in our communities to help others, to build morale, to give a feeling of security, we must do it. Whatever is asked of us, I am sure we can accomplish it. We are the free and unconquerable people of the United States of America.

To the young people of the nation I must speak *a word* tonight. You are going to have a great opportunity - there will be high moments in which your strength and your ability will be tested. I have faith in you! *Just as this* ~~Just as though~~ I were standing upon a rock and that rock is my faith in my fellow citizens.

Now we will go back to the program which we had arranged for tonight, ~~and as~~ I spoke to you a few weeks ago on the subject of Army morale

Document #4

Eleanor Roosevelt, Typescript of My Day column, December 8, 1941

Mrs. Roosevelt wrote a nationally syndicated newspaper column, titled My Day, that appeared in over 60 newspapers with a total circulation of more than four million. She wrote this column on December 7. It appeared in print on Monday, December 8.

Eleanor Roosevelt Papers

FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.,
220 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y.

FOR RELEASE MONDAY DECEMBER 8, 1941 AND THEREAFTER

MY DAY.

(TR. MK. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.)

By Eleanor Roosevelt.

Washington, Sunday -- I was going out in the hall to say goodbye to our cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Adams, and their children, after luncheon, and, as I stepped out of my room, I knew something had happened. All the secretaries were there, two telephones were in use, the senior military aides were on their way with messages. I said nothing because the words I heard over the telephone were quite sufficient to tell me that, finally, the blow had fallen, and we had been attacked.

Attacked in the Philippines, in Hawaii, and on the ocean between San Francisco and Hawaii. Our people had been killed not suspecting there was an enemy, who attacked in the usual ruthless way which Hitler has prepared us to suspect.

Because our nation has lived up to the rules of civilization, it will probably take us a few days to catch up with our enemy, but no one in this country will doubt the ultimate outcome. None of us can help but regret the choice which Japan has made, but having made it, she has taken on a coalition of enemies she must underestimate; unless she believes we have sadly deteriorated since our first ships sailed into her harbor.

The clouds of uncertainty and anxiety have been hanging over us for a long time. Now we know where we are. The work for those who are at home seems to be obvious. First, to do our own job, whatever it is, as well as we can possibly do it. Second, to add to it everything we can do in the way of civilian defense. Now, at last, every community must go to work to build up protections from attack.

We must build up the best possible community services, so that all of our people may feel secure because they know we are standing together and that whatever problems have to be met, will be met by the community and not one lone individual. There is no weakness and insecurity when once this is understood.

Last evening Mr. Arthur Lablanc, a young Canadian violinist, played for us and we forgot for a little while, in the enjoyment of his music, the clouds which were fast gathering around us.

I think, perhaps, it is significant that we should be beginning Bible Week today. This is the first annual Bible Week, so designated by the Laymen's National Committee under the honorary chairmanship of Dr. Frank Kingdon. This committee believes that religious faith and knowledge of the Bible are essential to the preservation of our freedoms.

E.R.

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Document #5

Telegram, Franklin Roosevelt to Winston Churchill, December 8, 1941

Shortly after signing the war resolution, FDR sent this message to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Roosevelt often addressed Churchill as "Former Naval Person" in their correspondence. The title refers to Churchill's previous service as First Lord of the Admiralty. Churchill adopted this code name in his exchanges with FDR after he became Prime Minister in 1940.

Map Room Papers

December 8, 1941.

WINANT

FOR THE FORMER NAVAL PERSON

LONDON

The Senate passed the all-out
declaration of war eighty-two to
nothing, and the House has passed
it three hundred eighty-eight to one.
Today all of us are in the same boat
with you and the people of the
Empire and it is a ship which will
not and cannot be sunk.

F. D. R.

Document #6

Draft No.1 of December 8, 1941 War Message to Congress

Several hours after learning of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt dictated a short address to be delivered to a Joint Session of Congress the following day. FDR's handwritten revisions- visible in this December 7 draft of the speech- made the "Day of Infamy" speech one of the most memorable in American history.

DRAFT No. 1

December 7, 1941.

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in ~~world history~~ ^{infamy}
the United States of America was ~~simultaneously~~ ^{suddenly} and deliberately attacked
by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. ~~with that nation~~

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was
~~continuing the~~ ^{still in} conversations with its Government and its Emperor looking
toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after,
Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in ~~Hawaii and the Philippines~~ ^{Oahu}

the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered
to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a ~~former~~ ^{recent American} message, ~~from the~~

~~Secretary.~~ ^{While} ~~This reply contained a statement that diplomatic negotiations~~ ^{started} ~~must be considered at an end, but~~ ^{it seemed useless to continue to} ~~contained no threat and no hint of an~~ ^{or} ~~armed attack.~~ ^{war or}

It will be recorded that the distances ~~of Manila, and especially of~~
Hawaii, from Japan make ^{it} obvious that the ~~attack~~ ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{or some weeks} deliberately
planned many days ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Govern-
ment has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false
statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

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DRAFT NO. 1

-2-

The attack yesterday on ~~Manila and on the Island of Oahu~~ *the Hawaiian Islands* ~~has~~

caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ~~ships~~ ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Sumatra.
Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending *the Philippine Islands*

throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications ~~these attacks~~ *of such* ~~bear on the safety of our nation.~~ *to very*

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

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

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

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DRAFT NO. 1

-3-

I speak the will of the Congress and of the people ~~of this~~
~~country~~ when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to
the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall
never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no mincing
the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in
grave danger.

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

*Our people in
full confidence in our might*