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
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

"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.

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

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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.
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 sinking of the Philippine and massive 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.
will now 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 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 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
FROM UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.,
220 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y.
FOR RELEASE MONDAY DECEMBER 8, 1941 AND THEREAFTER

MY DAY.

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 chil-
ren, 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 suffi-
cient to tell me that, finally, the blow had fallen, and we had been
attacked.

Attacked in the Philippines, in Hawaii, and on the ocean be-
tween San Francisco and Hawaii. Our people had been killed not suspect-
ing 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 stand-
ting 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 in-
security 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 begin-
ning Bible Week today. This is the first annual Bible Week, so design-
ated by the Laymen's National Committee under the honorary chairman-
ship of Dr. Frank Kingdon. This committee believes that religious faith
and knowledge of the Bible are essential to the preservation of our
freedoms.

(COPYRIGHT

E.R.)
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.
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.

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

December 7, 1941

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

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was continuing the conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu and the Philippine Islands, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent message from the Secretary. This reply contained a statement that diplomatic negotiations must be considered at an end, and that the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.
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The attack yesterday on Hawaii and on the Island of Oahu has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

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

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

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

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this猝然袭击 and win this war, the American people will in their right minds win through to absolute victory.
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 mingling 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 exists between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

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[Signature]

Full confidence in our strength.