War in the Pacific

A CHRONOLOGY

January 1, 1941 through September 30, 1945

by

George O. Hyland, III
This book is dedicated to my wife, Libby, for allowing my hobby of 52 years to become this finished project. I also want to dedicate to all those of the Great Generation who served in the War in the Pacific and to my lifelong friend Steve Askins who died before his time of prostate cancer.

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<td>AA</td>
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<td>ABC</td>
<td>Assam-Burma-China  Air ferry supplies over the Himalaya Mountains</td>
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<td>AAC</td>
<td>Army Air Corps, United States Army</td>
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<td>AACS</td>
<td>Army Airways Communications System</td>
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<td>AAF</td>
<td>Army Air Force, U.S. Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFPOA</td>
<td>Army Air Force Pacific Ocean Area</td>
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<td>ABC</td>
<td>Assam-Burma-China</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABD</td>
<td>Australian-British-Dutch-American</td>
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<td>ABDACOM</td>
<td>American-British-Dutch-Australian Command</td>
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<td>ADC</td>
<td>Alaska Defense Command</td>
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<td>AGF</td>
<td>U.S. Army Ground Forces</td>
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<td>AFSC</td>
<td>Air Force Service Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIB</td>
<td>Allied Intelligence Bureau</td>
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<td>ALCAN</td>
<td>Alaska Canadian Highway</td>
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<td>AMMISCA</td>
<td>American Military Mission to China</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASC</td>
<td>Air Service Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATC</td>
<td>Air Transport Carriers and Air Transport Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>AVG</td>
<td>American Voluntary Group, Flying Tigers</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-17</td>
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<td>C-47</td>
<td>Douglas twin engine transport, Sky Train (Gooney Bird) Military version of the DC-3</td>
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<td>C-54</td>
<td>Douglas four engine transport, Sky Master</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLT</td>
<td>Battalion Landing Team</td>
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<td>CAF</td>
<td>Chinese Air Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATF</td>
<td>Chinese Air Technical Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBI ASC</td>
<td>China-India-Burma Area Service Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINC</td>
<td>Commander-in-Chief</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINCPOA</td>
<td>Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINPAC</td>
<td>Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Area, Pacific Fleet</td>
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CNFSWPA  Commander Naval Forces Southwest Pacific Area
COMAIRNORSOLS  Air Command, Northern Solomons
COMAIRSOL  Air Command Solomons
COI  Office of the Coordinator of Information, American Detachment 101
Col.  Colonel
COMAIRSOLS  Commander Air Solomons, Discontinued on June 15, 1944
COMGENSOPAC  Commander General South Pacific
COMINCH  Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, Admiral King
COMSOPAC  Commander South Pacific
CACW  Chinese-American Composite Wing
CVE  Escort Carrier, U.S. Navy
DEI-AF  Dutch East Indies Air Force
Detachment 101  Espionage and guerrilla warfare behind Japanese lines in Burma
EAC  Eastern Air Command, CBI combined U.S.-British Command
F4F  Grumman Wildcat, U.S. Navy carrier aircraft
F6F  Grumman Hellcat, U.S. Navy carrier aircraft
F4U  Vought Corsair, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine aircraft
FEAF  Far East Air Force
FRUMEL  Fleet Radio Unit Melbourne
FRUPAC  Fleet Radio Unit, Pacific Honolulu
HFDF  High Frequency Direction Finder
HMAS  His Majesty's Australian Ship
HMCS  His Majesty's Canadian Ship
HMIS  His Majesty's Indian Ship
HMNZS  His Majesty's New Zealand Ship
HMS  His Majesty's Ship, British
HNMS  His Netherlands Majesty's Ship
HQ  Headquarters
IATF  Indian Air Task Force
ICPOA  Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Area, United States
IJA  Imperial Japanese Army
IJAAF  Imperial Japanese Army Air Force
IJN  Imperial Japanese Navy
INA  Indian National Army
JICPOA  Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area, United States
JMUSDC  Joint Mexican-United States Defense Commission
JN-25B  A little used Imperial Japanese Navy, IJN Admiral’s code,
KIA  Killed in Action
KNIL  Koninklijk Nederlands Indisch Lege - Dutch Colonial Regular Soldiers, Dutch East Indies
KNIP  Central Indonesian National Committee
LCI  Landing Craft, Infantry
LCM  Landing Craft, Mechanized
LCVP  Landing Craft, Vehicles and Personnel
<table>
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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>Landing Ship, Dock</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSM</td>
<td>Landing Ship, Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LST</td>
<td>Landing Ship, Tank</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEAF</td>
<td>Mexican Expeditiary Air Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISLS</td>
<td>Military Intelligence Service Language School, U.S. Military</td>
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<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Military Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCAC</td>
<td>Northern Central Area Command, CBI, General Stilwell command of Chinese divisions in Burma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHK</td>
<td>Japanese radio station</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIROM</td>
<td>Netherlands Indian Radio Broadcast (Nederlands-Indische Radio Omroep)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPA</td>
<td>Office of Price Administration, United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSS</td>
<td>Office of Strategic Services, American Detachment 101</td>
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<td>OWI</td>
<td>Office of War Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>P-38</td>
<td>Lockheed twin engine twin boom pursuit aircraft, Lighting</td>
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<td>Bell single engine pursuit aircraft, Airacobra</td>
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<td>North American single engine fighter, Mustang</td>
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<td>Northrop twin engine night fighter, Black Widow</td>
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<td>Bell export version of the P-39</td>
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<td>PBY</td>
<td>Consolidate &quot;Cataline&quot; Flying Boat, U.S. Navy</td>
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<td>PC</td>
<td>Philippine Constabulary</td>
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<td>PGM</td>
<td>Motor gunboat, U.S. Navy</td>
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<td>POW</td>
<td>Prisoner of War</td>
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<td>RAAF</td>
<td>Royal Australian Air Force</td>
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<td>RAF</td>
<td>Royal Air Force, British</td>
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<td>RCA</td>
<td>Radio Corporation of America</td>
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<td>RCT</td>
<td>Regimental Combat Team</td>
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<td>RIU</td>
<td>Radio Intelligence Unit, USN</td>
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<td>RN</td>
<td>Royan Navy, British</td>
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<td>RNZAF</td>
<td>Royal New Zealand Air Force</td>
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<td>S-1</td>
<td>Sub-Committee to determine the atomic bomb can be produced and cost</td>
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<td>SBD</td>
<td>Dauntless Dive-Bomber, U.S. Navy</td>
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<td>SC</td>
<td>Submarine Chaser, U.S. Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCAP</td>
<td>Supreme Commander for all Allied Powers</td>
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<td>SEAC</td>
<td>Southeast Asia Command, with Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten as Supreme Commander</td>
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<td>SEAL</td>
<td>Allied South-East Asia Command</td>
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<td>SOPAC</td>
<td>South Pacific, Admiral Nimitz</td>
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<td>SWPA</td>
<td>Southwest Pacific Area, General MacArthur</td>
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<td>TBM</td>
<td>General Motors version of the Grummen TBF, U.S. Navy</td>
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<td>TBF</td>
<td>Grummen Torpedo-Bomber-Fighter, Avenger, U.S. Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCG</td>
<td>Troop Carrier Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TF</td>
<td>Task Force, U.S. Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>Task Unit, U.S. Navy</td>
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UDT  Underwater Demolition Team, Frogmen, U.S. Navy
U.S.  United States
USA  United States Army
USAAC United States Army Air Corp
USAAF United States Army Air Force
USAFE United States Army Far East
USAF United States Air Force
USAFFE United States Army Force Far East
USAFCPA U.S. Army Forces in the Central Pacific Area
USAFOA U.S. Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas
USCG United States Coast Guard
USMC United States Marine Corp
USMCR United States Marine Corp Reserve
USN United States Navy
USNR United States Navy Reserve
USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, Russia
VJ Day Victory over Japan Day
WAAC Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps, U.S. Army
WAFS Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of the Air Transport Command
WAVES Women's Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, U.S. Navy Women's Naval Reserve
WPO War Plan Orange
WRA War Relocation Authority
WW II World War II
YMS Motor Minesweeper, United States Navy
YP Patrol Vessel, United States Navy
YTL Harbor Tug, U.S. Navy
ZI Zone of the Interior, 48 States of the United States
INTRODUCTION

The War in the Pacific, the most violent, costly, and largest armed conflict in the history of man, was fought on the largest battlefield the world had ever seen, the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Theater of War consisted of an area approximately 16 times the size of the United States. It covered 28% of the global surface, reaching from Australia in the south, to the Bering Sea in the north, from North and South America in the East, and all the way to China and French Indochina in the west.

The question is why would Japan, a country of approximately 73 million citizens in 1941 and the tenth industrial power in the world, go to war on a battlefield of this extension against a nation of 131.6 million and the number one industrial power, the United States? To understand this question, you have to go back to the end of World War I.

At the end of the Great War, the League of Nations was part of the Treaty of Versailles. The aim of the League was to promote international cooperation and to achieve international peace and security. The League of Nations was an association of states that had pledged themselves not to go to war before submitting their disputes with each other to arbitration or inquiry. Japan began as permanent member of the League of Nations. The United States never ratified the Treaty of Versailles even though President Wilson had been a driving force in the development of the League; as a result, the United States was never a member. This factor basically gave the Japanese the opportunity to continue to station army troops in northern Siberia until 1922 as well as occupy the Sakalin Islands till 1926. Japan had joined the British in 1917 in a joint expeditionary force to protect the Trans-Siberian Railroad from Bolshevik forces. The Sakalin Islands were won in the Russo-Japanese War of 1905.

During World War I, Japan was aligned with the Allied nations against Germany. The League of Nations granted Japan trusteeship over the Germany controlled islands in the Pacific, the Caroline Islands, Mariana Islands, and the Marshall Islands against the objections from President Woodrow Wilson. These islands were located between Hawaii and the Philippines, both territories of the United States. The Japanese also took control of German holdings in China; Kiaochao in Shantung Province. With these new regions, the Japanese Empire reached from the Home Islands of Japan to Korea, to the central Pacific placing Japan as the dominant influence in Asia. To control these new lands and to keep its dominance in Asia, the Japanese began building what would become the third largest navy in the world.
In 1921, at the Washington Naval Conference, the United States was concerned that the islands granted to Japan were across their lines of communications with Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines. The British were concerned with the fact that Japan’s territories lay close to their colonies of Australia, Borneo, Hong Kong, India, Malaya, and Singapore. The United States, after the Great War wanted to return to their policy of isolation from European problems. The Americans also did not want to get into a naval arms race with the British and Japanese, so they talked the British into ending their 20-year alliance with Tokyo. The results forced the Japanese to except a 5:5:3 tonnage ratio for warships. This ratio was to prevent one country from becoming a dominant naval power in the Pacific. The United Kingdom had a large empire and the United States had lengthy coastlines on two oceans to protect as well as Hawaii, Guam, and the many islands of the Philippines. The tonnage ratio treaty that came from the Naval Conference was resented by the military in Tokyo. It was seen as a humiliation that was imposed on them by the United States and Great Britain.

In the late 1920’s, Japan had run up a huge foreign debt and the Great Depression had a serious economic impact on the country particularly with regard to a declining export market. Japan’s population was exploding and they had to rely on foreign imports of raw materials to feed, cloth, and fuel its growing industrial might. Add on the decision by many countries to protect their industrial markets through high tariffs or not to import goods from Japan put the Japanese in an economic crisis. The military and industrialist in Japan wanted to annex China’s Manchurian territory, rich in grain, coal, and minerals. Also this area would help establish new markets to export Japanese products too.

The United States, also in a depression in the 1930’s moved more towards isolationism. They became more involved in dealing with problems at home, and took on the attitude that anything that happened outside her borders was foreign concerns. The United States military as a result had their funds cut. The U.S. Navy sailed in obsolete ships. The army held field exercises with trucks marked as tanks and used wooden machine guns.

The Japanese Imperial Army embodied the values of the Samurai warrior class of old Japan. The army argued that those traditions of courage, militarism, extreme nationalism and being fearless when facing a foe in battle were being replaced by western influences. Also during this time, hard line militarists in Japan took control of parliament, the Diet, and public education by turning the schools into military-run training centers. The children were drilled and indoctrinated violently
into accepting the doctrines and traditions of the Samurai. Any moderates that opposed these traditions and history, especially towards spending on the military and territorial expansion, were accused of ignoring the nation’s interest. The hard liners became increasingly more influential in shaping foreign policies through the use of intimidation's and assassinations on any one that opposed their views. Because of these traditions of militarism and extreme nationalism, it became easy for the Japanese government to spend large amounts of money on their military through the 1930’s. So by the 1940’s, Japan had the best-equipped, well-trained military in the Far East, as well as the largest and most powerful technologically sophisticated navy on the Pacific Ocean.

In 1931, Japanese expansion into Asia began when she invaded China’s northern territory of Manchuria. This was for the purpose of setting up a buffer zone between the home islands of Japan and Korea because of the civil war that had broken out in Chinese between the Chinese nationalists and the Communists well as the Soviet Union to the north. Japan quickly turned Manchuria into a puppet state which they renamed Manchukuo. Japan also saw her annexation as away to secure new land and raw materials to develop her into a stronger and self-sufficient nation. But Japan had to be careful not to raise the ire of the United States.

The Japanese Imperial Army then crossed over the Manchukuo border into China’s Jehol province. In 1933, Japan absorbed this province into the Puppet State of Manchukuo. The Japanese purpose was to do in China what Great Britain had done in Australia, Borneo, Hong Kong, India, and Singapore create a colony to provide raw materials to be exported to Japan to help her become a world power.

The League of Nations faced its first test. Japan was condemned for her aggressions through the Lytton Commission report however her response was acute. The Japanese refused to accept the Leagues report and walked out of the assembly and withdrew from the League. The League of Nations realized that there was nothing that could be done to stop Japan’s aggressions in Manchuria and the Jehol province but to label Japan as an international piranha.

Despite the League of Nations condemned and labeling Japan for the taking of Manchuria and the Jehol province, the hard line militarist in Tokyo were determined to expand Japan’s interest and influence farther into Asia. The Diet put together a strategic objective to reach that goal: the pressure that the Soviet Union exerted on the empire from the north was to be ignored and the conquest of China should continue whenever the opportunity presented itself.
During this time that the Japanese Army was advancing in China, the Imperial Navy was concerned that the United States Navy might become involved in a conflict to stop Japan's expansion into China. Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander of the Combined Fleet, believed that the tonnage ratio set by the Washington Naval Conference was the best way to prevent a war between England and the United States however the Imperial Army never accepted the naval ratio. The Imperial Army saw it as a way for the two naval powers to humiliate Japan. Once Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy in 1936, she withdrew from the treaty of the Washington Naval Conference. She started expanding the number of capitol ships with emphasis on constructing battleships and aircraft carriers.

In 1937, tension with the United States and Japan increased when the Japanese and Chinese armies exchanged fire in what became known as the Marco Polo Bridge Incident outside of Peiping. The Japanese used this as an excuse to invade China. The Japanese needed a reason to violate the nine-power treaty and other treaties that prevented fighting between China and Japan. The Imperial Army quickly captured Peiping, the Chinese capital. The Chinese Nationalist Army along with the Communist rebels were no match for the superiority of the Japanese and their weapons however after four years of fighting, Japan was only able to control the coastal cities, never the interior.

In the United States, the military as well as the government became concerned by the brutality and the atrocities the Japanese army was exhibiting against the Chinese. The largest example being the Rape of Nanking where thousands of Chinese men, women, and children were shot, beheaded, imprisoned, buried alive, and raped. The Japanese began closing down or taking over British and American businesses. In 1938, Prince Fumimaro Konoye, Japanese Prime Minister, declared that Japan would solidify their territories in China into "A New Order in East Asia." The United States protested through diplomatic channels that Tokyo ignored. In 1939, the United States imposed economic sanctions on Japan.

In June 1940, President Roosevelt ordered the U.S. Pacific Fleet be move from San Diego to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii to counter the Japanese military growth in the Marshall Islands. This build up threatened America's lines of communication from Hawaii to Guam and to the Philippines as well as other Allied colonies in the Pacific, and British possessions in Asia. This transfer of warships was to act as a deterrent and demonstrate America's ability to move her ship quickly when needed.

In the summer of 1940, President Roosevelt asked Congress to approve a build up of the Navy to a two-ocean navy. The Japanese viewed this build up by the
United States as an attempt to challenge Japan’s power in the Far East and the Pacific. This forced the military in Japan to decide to seize countries in Southeast Asia before America could build up their navy to confront that move. The U.S. Congress, being controlled by isolationist, continued to ignore President’s attempts to upgrade either the army or navy.

Tokyo began its expansion into Southeast Asia in June 1940, after pressure from the army, by demanding that England stop moving war supplies through Burma into China. These materials were going to the Chinese Nationalist government to help fight the Communist rebels but mostly the Japanese. The British yielded to the Japanese demands mainly because of the war in Europe. The United States responded by restricting the sale of scrap metal and oil products to Japan as well as providing the Chinese Nationalist with assistance.

These restrictions by the United States succeeded in increasing Japan’s hostilities and attitudes towards America for interfering in their expansion in Asia. Tokyo’s response was by declaring to expand its New Order by establishing a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. This involved Japan installing associations in Asia and the Pacific Rim under Japanese leadership to encourage political independence from foreign enslavement and encourage economic development of raw materials. The countries to be included in this Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere was to be Australia, Burma, the Dutch East Indies, French Indochina, Malaya, New Guinea, and Thailand. These countries were to supply Japan with raw material such as oil, rubber, and bauxite for her industries as well as food for the people of Japan and the military. In return, these countries were to accept exports from Japan. The Japanese also made it clear that any country that resisted being an integral part of the New Order would be treated as an enemy of Japan.

By the end of June 1940, the Japanese army was ready to take control of the political government and established a military run government. Prince Konoye resigned as president of the Privy Council to become Prime Minister. The final step towards a military run government took place as the last political party in Japan disbanded and the Imperial Rule Assistance Association filled the void. General Hideki Tojo replaced General Hata as War Minister.

In August 1940, Japan announced that the Chinese Nationalist under Chiang-shek had set up a new war zone in southern China. The Japanese told the Vichy French that they must allow their military to use established air bases in French Indochina to attack the Nationalist Chinese build up. Along with Nazi insistence and pressure from the Japanese there was nothing that the French could do so on September 22, 1940, the Japanese move
into Indochina to set up for an attack on the Nationalist Chinese and also to develop their first country of their New Order.

The subsequent Japanese move into French Indochina was viewed by the United States as a threat to the Philippines; it prompted the United States to block the exporting of iron and scrap steel as well as petroleum to Japan. The British reopened the Burma Road into China.

On September 27, 1940, Japan allied herself with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy by signing the Tripartite Treaty. This treaty required that if any one of the signers is attacked, the others had to respond by declaring war on the attacker. This treaty was meant to be a clear warning that should Japan attack the United States, and the United States declared war on Japan, the United States would be at war with all three countries.

Now only the Soviet Union stood in the way of their expansion into the British and Dutch colonies is Southeast Asia. So the Japanese sought to neutralize that threat by negotiating and signing a five year nonaggression pact with the Russians.

Thus by 1941 these events were destined to bring the United States and Japan closer to the War in the Pacific.
1941

Prelude
to
War
1941

1941 begins with the focus of the world on the war in Europe however a new threat is growing in the Pacific which in time will end the isolation of the United States and bring her vast resources and industrial might into a global conflict. Japan’s war in China is showing signs of overflowing into Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Nazi Germany has defeated the French and the Dutch, and is menacing the British. The Japanese take this opportunity to make demands on the colonial possessions of these European nations in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Japan having few natural raw materials within their home islands desired the large reserves of rubber, tin, oil, potassium, rice, lumber, quinine, pepper, iron, manganese, copper, and copra found throughout the islands of the Pacific and Southwest Asia.

Japan’s aggression in China is a concern to the United States as well as Japan’s growing pressure on the Dutch East Indies to allow a greater number of Japanese to enter the area, provide war materials, grant permission to explore for oil and other materials, and to give consent to allow Japanese ships of war to operate in the region. Along with their winning of a French cession of Cambodian territory to Thailand and receiving a monopoly on the production of all the rice produced in Indochina. The French authorities in Indochina also have allowed Japan full use of the Saigon airport and other airfields, harbors, in addition to the right to garrison troops inside the borders of French Indochina. These events cause the Americans to declare an oil embargo and place restrictions on sales of iron and steel. The British breaks trade relations and freeze all Japanese assets. The Dutch East Indies’ Government cancels oil exports, freezes Japanese accounts, and suspend sea trade with Japan. Tokyo counters by freezing British, Dutch, and American assets in Japan as well as all silk exports to the United States.

In July, Japanese forces cross into southern Indochina. The United States responds by tightening their embargo. The Japanese military comes to an opinion that if diplomatic pressure does not end the economic grip that Japan is experiencing, they would attack the United States, the Dutch, and the British Empire. The driving force behind this strategy for expansion is Japan’s large navy, which needs oil. To setup advancement into Southwest Asia and the southern Pacific Tokyo has secured their northern boundary of their empire by arranging and signing a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union in April.

President Roosevelt mobilizes the Philippine Army. General Douglas MacArthur is returned to active duty with the U. S. Army and is given the rank of Lt. General.

The Germans are encouraging Tokyo to go to war with the United States telling them that they will join them a war. With the Nazi Germany invasion of the Soviet Union the threat on Japan's northern boundary is now eliminated and a move to the southwest Pacific is a more attractive decision for the Japanese military.

Tokyo proposes negotiations with Washington to counter problems with Indochina. Nomura offers a promise not to station troops in the Southwest Pacific area outside Indochina, and to withdraw from Indochina after the settlement of the war in China. The United States is to
suspend all military measures in the Southwest Pacific area; restore normal trade relations with Tokyo; co-operate with Japan so to get Chiang Kai-shek to make peace with Japan; and recognize that Japan is entitled to a special status in Indochina even after the Japanese forces are withdrawn.

Japanese government leaders and military leaders meet to discuss war or peace. After seven hours of talk government leaders decide to continue negotiations with the United States until October 10th. Emperor Hirohito summons Konoye together with the Imperial Army and Navy Chiefs-of-Staff, General Sugiyama and Admiral Nagano. The Emperor demands to know how long it will take for the southern advance to be accomplished.

Emperor Hirohito is told the risk of going to war against the United States. An Imperial Conference is attended by Japan's civilian and military leaders conclude that, "Although America's total defeat is judged utterly impossible, it is not inconceivable that a shift in American public opinion due to our victories in Southeast Asia or to England's surrender might bring the war to an end." Konoye is permitted six weeks to effect a diplomatic settlement of all outstanding issues with the U.S.

Washington seeks clarification from Tokyo on whether Japan plans to withdraw from Indochina and China. The President turns down the suggestion of a direct meeting with Prince Konoye, which leads to the Konoye downfall.

Italy Fascist government calls on Japan to go to war with Great Britain, saying that they feel that Tokyo is not living up to the Tripartite Pact agreement. However, Rome feels that the Japanese need not go to war with the Russians. The Americans at this time will not come to the aid of the British.

Prince Konoye resigns as prime minister of Japan after losing the support of War Minister Hideki Tojo. Tojo calls for a new government to show a firmer policy.

General Hideki Tojo is named Prime Minister of Japan. Despite the mid-October deadline, Premier Tojo pledges to continued efforts for a diplomatic settlement with the United States.

In mid-October in Tokyo, the Imperial Naval General Staff gives their blessing to Yamamoto’s Pearl Harbor attack plan.

Prime Minister Hideki Tojo is promoted to General.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's plan to attack Pearl Harbor is approved by the Japanese command. Admiral Yamamoto issues "Combined Fleet Top Secrete Operation Order No. 1" outlining naval strategy for the first phase of hostilities covering not only Pearl Harbor, but also more of less simultaneous assaults on Malaya, the Philippines, Guam, Wake, Hong Kong, and Dutch East Indies. He also designates the islands of Saipan, Truk, Ponape, Kwajalein, Wotje, Jaluit, and Maloelap as supply bases for the first phase of the Pacific War.

Saburo Kurusu, special envoy of Tojo, arrives in San Francisco on his way to Washington D. C. to assist Admiral Nomura in a last-ditch effort to maintain peace.
In November at a preliminary negotiation in Washington the Japanese present Secretary of State Cordell Hull with a list of minimum demands: an end to financial and economic embargo: stop military and economic aid to China; hands off policy in China; recognition of Manchukuo; full access to the Dutch East Indies; acknowledgment of Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The envoy request that these demands be brought to the attention of the President, since the conduct of Tokyo could not be held responsible if the answer is delayed.

The Japanese offer a new and final plan, Proposal "B", to Washington to respond on their offer of October 2nd. The Japanese stress that Japan "never pledge itself to a policy of expansion," but the tone is really an ultimatum by which the United States would not aid the Chinese and give Tokyo free hand in Indochina and China.

President Roosevelt drafts his own compromise plan to break the deadlock with Japan. The President is willing to resume oil shipment to Japan and have the United States participate in direct negotiations between China and Japan. In return, Japan would send no more troops overseas and not comply with terms of the Tripartite Pact, even if the United States becomes involved in Europe. China opposed these proposals and is supported by Churchill, and is withdrawn. Instead, proposals outlined by Secretary of State Hull are submitted.

The United States reject the Japanese Proposals "B" of November 20th, because they include some attributes which, in the view of the American government, conflict with the basic philosophy which form a part of the general arrangement under consideration and to which each government declared that it is committed. The U.S. did suggest, however, that additional effort be made to settle the discrepancies of view in regard to the useful application of the fundamental principles. The rejection marks the end of the long effort to negotiate a settlement.

In Tokyo, the council of senior statesmen meets with members of the Cabinet. Tojo presents the Cabinet view for war, however several of the senior statesmen expressed doubts about the wisdom of a war with the United States. Prince Konoye asks if it is not possible to continue with broken monetary relations but without a conflict, to which Tojo replies that the final outcome of such a path would be a slow misery.

The Japanese cabinet is reshuffled to meet deteriorating international situation. This cabinet affirms the final decision to attack Pearl Harbor, and the coded message to go ahead with the attack, "Climb Mount Niitaka," is sent to the task force under way to Hawaii.

The Japanese Embassy in Washington D. C. is ordered to destroy all but its most secret coding facilities, but to save one copy of each code for future use. Similar messages are sent to missions in Great Britain, Netherlands, Canada, Cuba, the Philippines, and the South Pacific.

On December 7th 360 Japanese aircraft in two waves from Admiral Nagumo’s First Air Fleet, a task force of six carriers, slips undetected into Pearl Harbor and other airfields scattered over Oahu destroying or damaging more than 300 planes, sinking or damaging eight battleships and seven cruisers as well as killing more than 2,400 military personnel. This act of undeclared war plunges the world into a global conflict and the United States on to the world stage as the arsenal of democracy.
The United States, Great Britain, New Zealand, Free France, the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Union of South Africa, and Panama declares war on Japan.

Japanese troops cross into the International Compound in Tientsin disarming 63 U.S. Marines, also neutralize British troops and taking over American and British establishments at Tangka, Taku, and Chinwaangtao. Japanese forces of the 25th Army lands in Malaya at Singora, Patani, and Kota Bharu, and Thailand. The British battleship *Prince of Wales* and the cruiser *Repulse* are sunk off Kuantan, Malaya. Guam surrenders to a 6,000 man Japanese invasion force.

In the Philippines Japanese first bombing raid is against Clark and Iba airfields. This raid destroys much of the USAFFE airpower. Japanese bombers damage the majority of the naval base at Cavite destroying the entire stock of torpedoes for the U.S. Far East Fleet. 4,000 Japanese troops from Formosa go ashore on northwest Luzon without much resistance.

On December 10 Japanese forces go ashore at Aparri on Luzon in the Philippine Islands, then Legazpi on the 12th, and on the 22nd they land at Lingayen Gulf. They then commence to advance on Manila.

The Japanese attempt to land troops on Wake Island, but the Marines, heavily outnumbered, drive the enemy back.

Japanese troops complete the occupation of southern Thailand.

Japanese planes take off from bases in Thailand to open the invasion of Burma by bombing the Tavoy airdrome.

Germany and Italy declares war on the United States.

Wake Island falls and the Japanese conduct their first air attacks against Rangoon in Burma on December 23rd.

December 25 The British garrison at Hong Kong surrenders.

1941 ends as Manila is being evacuated by American forces after transferring most supplies or destroying anything of military value. Japanese forces realize that the Americans and Filipino forces are in mass migration into Bataan and try to capture a major road junction above Calumpit, but are turned back.
JANUARY 2
President Roosevelt announces a new program to produce 200 7500-ton freighters to standardized designs. They will be known as Liberty ships.

U.S. Navy *Long Island*, the first escort carrier, commissioned at Newport News, Virginia.

JANUARY 3
Hideki Tojo, Army Minister, orders a new code of ethics be published and issued to every member of the Japanese armed forces; “The duty of every soldier of the military is to die for the Emperor.”

JANUARY 4
The increase in Japanese influence and power in Southeast Asia causes Australia to decide to sends ground forces to Malaya.

JANUARY 6
President Roosevelt outlines the lend-lease program and enunciated the "Four Freedoms" principle. Roosevelt asks Congress for approval to extend arms credit "to those nations which are now in actual war with aggressor nations." He refers to the United States as the "arsenal of democracy."

JANUARY 7
In the United States the Office of Production Management is established.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto begins outlining Operation Z, a plan to attack U.S. and British military positions in Hawaii, the Philippines, and Java in the Dutch East Indies.

JANUARY 8
President Roosevelt's budget message to Congress requests a defense appropriation of $10,811,000,000 for fiscal 1942.

The U.S. Navy is ordered by President Roosevelt to bring the crews of capitol ships up to full war strength on a gradual timeline.

JANUARY 9
U.S. Transport *William Ward Burrows* arrives at Wake Island in the North Pacific with the first influx of workmen, Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases, to begin building a naval air station.

Thailand attacks southern French Indochina. This move gives Japan a reason to move into Saigon, French Indochina.
JANUARY 10
A bill to provide lend-lease is introduced into Congress. Senators Wheeler and Nye, former Ambassador Kennedy and the flyer Charles Lindbergh are prominent opponents of the bill.

The United States issue a directive requiring export license for the shipment of copper, bronze, brass, nickel, zinc, potash, and semi-manufactured products made from these materials.

JANUARY 11
Rear Admiral Harold M. Bemis relieves Captain Eugene T. Oates as Commandant, Sixteenth Naval District and Navy Yard, Cavite, Philippines. Captain Oates has been acting commandant since the incapacitation of Rear Admiral John M. Smeallie in December 1940.

A more aggressive Japanese negotiating team under Yoshizawa arrives in Batavia, Dutch East Indies.

JANUARY 16
Japan request that the Dutch East Indies allow a greater number of Japanese to enter the area, provide war materials, gives permission to explore for oil and other materials, give permission to allow Japanese ships of war to operate in the region.

President Roosevelt asks Congress for immediate appropriation of $350 million for 200 new merchant ships.

Armed conflict continues between French Indochina and Thailand.

JANUARY 17
French cruiser destroys close to one third of the Thai navy off the island of Kho Chang located on the Gulf of Thailand's eastern seaboard.

Japan again pressured the French to yield up the disputed border regions in spite of a French naval victory at the Battle of the Gulf of Thailand.

JANUARY 20
President Roosevelt is inaugurated for his third term as president of the United States, an unprecedented event in American political history.

JANUARY 23
Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura leaves Japan for Washington D.C. to discuss diplomacy with Secretary of State Hull.

JANUARY 24
The Japanese prime minister, Prince Fumimaro Konoye, stresses that “firm
establishment of a Mutual Propersity Sphere in Greater East Asia is …necessary to the continued existence of this country.”

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto hypothesizes that should war start “between Japan and the United States, it would not be enough that we that we take the island of Guam and the Philippines, nor even the Territory of Hawaii and the city of San Francisco. We would have to …dictate the terms of peace in the White House. I wonder if our politicians… are prepared to make the necessary sacrifices.”

**JANUARY 25**
The keel of the battleship *Wisconsin* is laid at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. She will be the last battleship ever built by the U.S. Navy.

The construction of the Army's Fort Mears at Dutch Harbor, Aleutian Islands of Alaska, begins.

In Australia the central government assumes control of all state budgets for the war effort.

**JANUARY 26**
Minister of Foreign Affairs Matsuoka repeats Japan's determination to impose a "new order" in Asia.

**JANUARY 27**
Ambassador Grew advises Washington of reports circulating in Tokyo of a Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor being planned by the Japanese military in case of trouble with the United States.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Matsuka tells a budget committee of the Japanese Diet that Japan must dominate the western Pacific if it were to achieve its goals.

In talks between the United States and Great Britain the U.S. decides that if Japan enters the war on the side of Hitler’s Germany, and if the U.S. comes into the war, Germany is to be dealt with first, then Japan.

**JANUARY 28**
Lauchlin Currie, President Advisor, leaves China after examining the economic and military situation for lend-lease.

**JANUARY 29**
British and American (staff with associate representatives) of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand meet in Washington D. C. to determine joint strategy in case of United States involvement in the war. The conference produces the code named ABC1 which state that the Allied policy in the event of war with Germany and Japan should be to put the defeat of Germany first. The talks also mark an important stage in the development of cooperation between the U.S. and Britain.
**JANUARY 30**

Liaison Conference is held between civilian leaders and military leaders to enforce mediation on to the governments of Thailand and French Indochina to get payment from both.

**JANUARY 31**

Japan 'brokers' a truce between Indo Chinese and Thai authorities.

**FEBRUARY 1**

Liaison Conference held in Tokyo where it is decided that French Indochina and Thailand will accept the Japanese plan.

The first Zone of the Interior (ZI) MP, Military Police, Battalion is formed with the activation of the 701st MP Battalion at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. The unit is activated with 20 officers and 93 enlisted men, from the 1st Infantry Regiment. The battalion will provide security for vital installations in the United States prior to the war.

Admiral Yamamoto writes an unofficial letter to Rear Admiral Takijiro Orisha outlining a plan and asking him to carry out a second study of the feasibility of a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii.

The United States Fleet renames the Pacific Fleet, Asiatic Fleet remains. Admiral H. E. Kimmel relieves Admiral J. O. Richardson as Commander-in-Chief U.S. Fleet.

Marine Corps expansion occurs as the 1st and 2nd Marine Brigades are brought up to division strength. 1st Marine Division is activated aboard the battleship Texas.

In Japan announcement is made that it will be necessary to introduce rice rationing.

**FEBRUARY 3**

The Dutch East Indies rebuff the Japanese request of January 16, 1941.

Tokyo holds a Liaison Conference between the Emperor, the Cabinet, and the Imperial Army to set guidelines for Matsuoka visit to Moscow and Berlin.

Navy Department creates three independent fleets, each commanded by an admiral. Admiral Husband E. Kimmel becomes Commander-in-Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet (and also Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet in the event that two or more fleets operate together); Patrol Force U.S. Fleet becomes U.S. Atlantic Fleet.
under command of Admiral Ernest J. King; Admiral Thomas C. Hart continues as Commander in Chief U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

**FEBRUARY 4**

Uranium appears on a list of items not to be shipped to Japan.

In the United States the United Service Organization (USO) founded.

**FEBRUARY 5**

Admiral Kimmel receives a letter from Secretary Knox which in part says: “If war eventuates with Japan…hostilities… would start… with a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.” The letter goes on to tell Kimmel to “increase the joint readiness of the army and navy to withstand such an attack.”

**FEBRUARY 7**

General Walter C. Scott becomes the Commander of the Hawaiian Department.

In Tokyo the Thai-French Indochina Dispute, Mediation Conference convenes to settle a dispute concerning the boundary between Thailand and French Indochina.

**FEBRUARY 8**

The British intercept a Japanese merchant ship at the entrance to the Persian Gulf and confiscate all the mail it is carrying. A protest is filed with the British.

The Lend-Lease Bill passes the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill is designed to provide a structure through which the United States can assist their Allies while maintaining neutrality.

**FEBRUARY 10**


**FEBRUARY 12**

In Washington D.C., Admiral Nomura presents his credentials to Secretary of State Hull.

**FEBRUARY 13**

Light cruisers *Brooklyn, Philadelphia*, and *Savannah* and stores issue ship *Antares* arrive at the island of Midway in the North Pacific Ocean with the remainder of the 3rd Defense Battalion.

**FEBRUARY 14**

President Roosevelt holds his first talk with the new Japanese Ambassador Admiral Nomura.
Counselor of the American Embassy in Tokyo, Doorman, tells the Japanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ohashi, that the People of the United States are determined to support the British even if it means going to war.

28 officers and 556 enlisted men of the U.S. 3rd Defense Battalion arrives at Midway Island in the North Pacific Ocean to construct defensive fronts.

**FEBRUARY 15**
Admiral Kimmel sends a Pacific Fleet Conference letter that said they [U.S. Navy] are facing a possible surprise attack on ships in Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii.

**FEBRUARY 17**
The United States Senate begins debating the lend-lease bill.

**FEBRUARY 19**
The Australian 8th Division arrives in Singapore, Malaya.

U.S. Coast Guard Reserve is established.

Japanese Ambassador Nomura Kichisaburo say there would be a war between Japan and America only if the United States wants a war.

**FEBRUARY 20**
Matsuoka leaves Japan for Moscow, Berlin, and Rome.

The first flying squadron assigned to Alaska is the 18th Pursuit Squadron. They arrive at Elmendorf Army Air Force Base near Anchorage in Alaska with 20 P-36As in crates.

**FEBRUARY 21**
U.S. Navy carrier *Enterprise* arrives off Oahu, Hawaii and launches 30 P-36s that will be based on Wheeler Field in central Oahu.

**FEBRUARY 23**
German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop advices the Japanese ambassador in Berlin that Japan should enter the war against Britain "as soon as possible-in its own interest."

**FEBRUARY 24**
40,000 Japanese military personnel sets sail for French Indochina to begin construction of naval and air bases near Camranh Bay on the southeast coast and Saigon.

**FEBRUARY 26**
In United States the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, FBMS, is instituted in the Federal Communication Commission by a Presidential directive. This service is set up to monitor foreign short wave broadcasts from four different listening centers. The FBMS will record shortwave propaganda radio programs that are being beamed at the United States on plastic disks. Then selected material will be transcribed, translated, and analyze then sent to war agencies with weekly reports.

MARCH 1
In China Chiang Kai-shek tells the open meeting of the Peoples Political Council will never reach a compromise with Japan.

MARCH 3
Heavy cruisers Chicago under Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force and Portland, light cruisers Brooklyn and Savannah, destroyers Clark Conyngham, Cassin, Case, Tucker, Reid, and Downes, and oiler Sangamon, depart Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii for the island of Samoa in the western part of the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

United States takes possession of German, Italian, and Danish ships in American ports.

MARCH 4
U.S. economist Lauchlin Currie leaves China after examining the economy and military situation for lend-lease.

MARCH 5
Minister of Foreign Affairs Yosuke Matsuka stops in Moscow and offers Stalin and Molotov a non-aggression pact, however, Molotov proposes neutrality agreement.

The Japanese foreign ministry wires Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura informing the admiral that the ministry feels fairly certain that the United States “is reading your coded messages.”

MARCH 7
U.S. Transport William P. Biddle, escorted by light cruiser Concord, arrives at Pago Pago, Samoa of the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific Ocean and disembarks the Seventh Defense Battalion, the first unit of the Fleet Marine Force deployed to the Southern Hemisphere in World War II.

MARCH 8
The United States Senate votes to approve lend-lease by a vote of 60-31.

Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura and Secretary of State Hull start first earnest talks in the hope that peace and order will come about for the Far East.
Uranium isotope Plutonium-239 is discovered by a team of American physicists. This isotope will prove critical in the development of atomic weapons.

**MARCH 9**

Heavy cruisers *Chicago* under Rear Admiral John H. Newton, Commander Cruisers Scouting Force and *Portland*, light cruisers *Brooklyn* and *Savannah*, nine destroyers and oiler *Sangamon*, arrive at Samoa of the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific Ocean.

**MARCH 10**

The Japanese resolve a number of outstanding disputes in Southeast Asia by winning a French cession of Cambodian territory to Thailand and receives a monopoly on the production of all the rice produced in Indochina. French authorities in Indochina also grant Japan full use of the Saigon airport in French Indochina.

Admiral Takijiro Onishi hands over to Admiral Yamamoto a draft of his plan for attack on Pearl Harbor, built on Commander Minoru Genda’s plan but with some modifications.

**MARCH 11**

U. S. lend-lease arms trade is permitted under provision of an amendment to the Neutrality Act signed into law by the President.

Vichy France succumbs to pressure from Germany and Japan and accepts Tokyo's mediation plan.

Selected troops of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 2/22 board the steamship *Katoomba* for Rabaul located on the island of New Britain in the Bismarck Archipelago to boost the islands defense.

**MARCH 12**

Matsuoka begins his trip to Germany to support Ribbentrop's plan for a grand quadruple alliance uniting Germany, Italy, and Japan.

President Roosevelt presents an appropriations Bill for Lend-Lease to Congress for $7,000,000,000.

Thai-Soviet exchange notes establishing diplomatic relationship.

Light cruisers *Brooklyn* and *Savannah*, and destroyers *Case*, *Shaw*, *Cummings* depart Samon in the western part of the Samoan Islands in the South Pacific Ocean for Auckland, New Zealand.
Heavy cruisers *Chicago* and *Portland*, accompanied by destroyers *Clark*, *Conyngham*, *Cassin*, *Downes*, and *Reid* depart Samoan waters for Sydney, Australia.

**MARCH 14**
Nagao Kita arrives in Honolulu in the Territory of Hawaii to take over the post of Consul General.

**MARCH 15**
President Roosevelt announces the beginning of lend-lease aid to China and invites the Chinese to submit their request.

**MARCH 17**
U.S. Navy Task Group 9.2 comprising light cruiser *Brooklyn* and *Savannah* and destroyers *Case* and *Shaw*, and *Tucker*, arrive at Auckland, New Zealand, beginning a three-day goodwill visit.

**MARCH 19**
Admiral Raeder meets with the Japanese ambassador in Berlin and "expressed his desire for a Japanese attack on Singapore, Malaya.

**MARCH 20**
Japanese spy Yoshikowa boards the Japanese liner *Nitta-Maru* at Yokohoma, south of Tokyo on the main island of Honshu, Japan for a trip to Hawaii for intelligence gathering.

Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura responds to the foreign ministry message of March 5th: “Though I do not know which ones, I have discovered that the Americans are reading some of our codes.” He goes on to say that he would give details in a “safe” way. However the purple Code is not changed.

U.S. Navy heavy cruisers *Chicago* and *Portland* and destroyers *Clark*, *Conyngham*, *Reid*, *Cassin* and *Downes*, arrive at Sydney, Australia, beginning a three-day goodwill visit.

U.S. Navy Task Group 9.2, comprising light cruiser *Brooklyn* and *Savannah* and destroyers *Case* and *Shaw*, and *Tucker*, concludes its port visit to Auckland, New Zealand and sails for Tahiti located in the archipelago of the Society Islands in the southern Pacific.

**MARCH 21**
Secretary of State Hull has his first extended conversation with the Japanese Ambassador Admiral Nomura.
MARCH 23
U.S. Navy heavy cruisers *Chicago* and *Portland* and destroyers *Clark*, *Conyngham*, *Reid*, *Cassin* and *Downes*, depart Sydney, Australia, for Brisbane in Australia.

MARCH 25
U.S. Navy heavy cruisers *Chicago* and *Portland* and destroyers *Clark*, *Conyngham*, *Reid*, *Cassin* and *Downes*, arrive at Brisbane, Australia, beginning a three-day good-will visit.

U.S. Navy Task Group 9.2 comprising light cruisers *Brooklyn* and *Savannah* and destroyers *Case*, *Shaw*, and *Tucker* arrive at Tahiti located in the archipelago of the Society Islands in the southern Pacific.

MARCH 26
Troops of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 2/22 on board the steamship *Katoomba* arrive at Rabaul located on the island of New Britain to boost the islands defense.

The Australian trawler *Millimumul* is sunk by a mine off the coast of New South Wales on Australia.

MARCH 27
British and American staff, meeting in Washington D. C., ends with an agreement that embodies basic strategic direction of the war in the advent the Americans enters the war.

President Roosevelt's $7,000,000,000 Appropriations Bill for Lend-Lease passes into law.

Matsuoka begins talks with Hilter and Robbentrop.

Tadashi Morimura, A.K.A. Ensign Takeo Yoshikawa, arrives at Honolulu in the Territory of Hawaii to provide Admiral Yamamoto with intelligence on Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy Task Group 9.2 comprising light cruisers *Brooklyn* and *Savannah* and destroyers *Case*, *Shaw*, and *Tucker* depart Tahiti Island in the Windward group of islands of French Polynesia the southern Pacific Ocean for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

MARCH 28
U.S. Navy heavy cruisers *Chicago* and *Portland* and destroyers *Clark*, *Conyngham*, *Reid*, *Cassin*, and *Downes*, depart Brisbane, Australia, for Suva, Fiji Island, South Pacific.
MARCH 29
Morimura/Yoshikawa begins his first phase of espionage in Hawaii. His first report covers the type of ships and aircraft in and around Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

MARCH 30
Iwakuro arrives in New York City to help Normura with his talks with U. S. Government.

Element of the First Defense Battalion, 5-inch artillery, Detachment "A", arrives at Palmyra Island, one of the Northern Line Islands located almost due south of the Hawaiian Islands, in stores issuing ship Antares to begin construction of defenses.


APRIL 1
Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka begins talks in Rome with Italian officials.

Matsuoka Yosuke arrives in Moscow from Berlin in Germany to discuss with Stalin a neutrality pact.

Japanese Admiral Yamamoto's Fast Carrier Force is concentrated into the First Air Fleet made up of all seven light and fleet carriers in the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN). The First Air Fleet conception set the standard for a true carrier task force. This task force became the most powerful grouping of naval air power on all the oceans with 474 aircraft.

U.S. Navy heavy cruisers Chicago and Portland and destroyers Clark, Conyngham, Reid, Cassin, and Downes arrive at Suva, Fiji Islands, South Pacific.

The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in Washington, D.C., sends out an alert to district commanders that “the Axis Powers [Germany, Italy, and Japan] often…attack on Saturday and Sunday of on national holidays” and that commanders should put “proper watches and precautions…in effect”

APRIL 3
U.S. Navy heavy cruisers Chicago and Portland and destroyers Clark, Conyngham, Reid, Cassin, and Downes depart Suva, Fiji Islands in the South Pacific, for Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii.

APRIL 4
In Berlin, Germany, Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka has a meeting with Adolf Hitler to talk about an attack on Singapore in Malaya and the possibility of
war with the Americans. Hitler assures the foreign minister that Germany will fight the United States if Japan attacks the U.S. in the Pacific.

APRIL 5
Japan is reduced to a month's supply of rubber stocks by Dutch East Indies.

APRIL 9
Hull and Nomura takes notice of a draft towards peace and order in the Far East. The Japanese government will use peaceful means in the Southwest Pacific and support Germany only if attacked. The United States restores normal trade with Japan, assist Japan in getting raw materials from the Southwest Pacific and ask China to sue for peace on Japanese terms.

The U.S. Navy battleship *North Carolina* is commissioned.

APRIL 10
The Japanese Imperial Navy General Staff create the First Air Fleet under Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo with the carriers *Aragi* and *Kaga*. The Second Air Fleet will be made up of the carriers *Hiryo* and *Soryu* and the Fourth Carrier Division would be the carrier *Ryuho* and two destroyers.

U.S. Navy heavy cruisers *Chicago* and *Portland* and destroyers *Clark*, *Conyngham*, *Reid*, *Cassin*, and *Downes* arrive at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii thus winding up the Australia-New Zealand good will cruise.

APRIL 11
In Washington President Roosevelt creates the Office of Price Administrations under the management of Leon Henderson. He is given the task of controlling prices and profits as well as balancing civilian and defense needs.

APRIL 12
Foreign Matsuoka Yosuke, in his talks with Stalin, proposes that problems in the relationship with Tokyo and Moscow could be resolved by Japan looking the other way if the Soviets would like to have the warm water port of Karachi in the Indian Ocean.

APRIL 13
Japan and the Soviet Union sign a five-year neutrality pact in Moscow. Stalin feared Germany's intentions and needed Russia's Asian flank protected. Tokyo is increasingly determined to move south and wishes to protect its northern flank.

APRIL 14
Ikowa tells Nomura that he has arranged a private meeting with Hull at the Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.
Hull, meeting with Nomura, proposes that Tokyo present the April 9th document as a first step in negotiations with changes by both sides.

APRIL 15
President Franklin Roosevelt signs an Executive Order authorizing the formation of the American Volunteer Group (AVG). The Order permitted members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Army Air Corps to resign from their branch of the service with the assurance that they would be reinstated to the former rank or grade upon completion of their contract. The group is to defend the Burma Road, China's lifeline to Burma in Southeast Asia and Indian Ocean ports.

Hemisphere Defense Plan No. 2 goes into play. Ships of the United States are required to follow and report positions of any Axis vessels in the western hemisphere.

Lend-lease materials start leaving the United States for China.

APRIL 16
Roosevelt outlines his four essential points as a foundation for relations between nations: (1) territorial integrity; (2) Non-interference in the affairs of other countries; (3) Equal commercial opportunity; (4) A status quo in the Pacific.

The points are made as talks begin in Washington D. C., between the U. S. and Japanese officials.

APRIL 17
Second half of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 2/22 board the passenger ship TSS Zealandia for New Britain Island, Solomon Islands, South Pacific.

APRIL 18
Admiral Kimmel request that work on the defenses of Wake Island in the Central Pacific be given higher priority and a battalion of Marines be assigned to the island.

APRIL 19
Construction begins on an airfield on Wake Island in the Central Pacific.

APRIL 21
Japan announces that she will declare war against the United States if the United States enters the war against Germany.

U.S. Navy battleship Arizona and destroyer Davis collide while fueling during exercises in Hawaiian Operating Area.
American, British, and Dutch officials hold secret security conference in Singapore, Malaya. Here they co-ordinate the proposed roles of each in the military defense against aggression from Japan with an attack on the island of Singapore in Malaya.

**APRIL 22**

The Japanese army occupies Foochow, China.

The U.S. Navy is authorized to increase strength to 232,000 men.

**APRIL 23**

General George Marshall, Army chief of staff, disagrees with President Roosevelt decision to keep the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the Territory of Hawaii because “our bombers and pursuit planes…could put up such a defense that the Japanese wouldn’t dare attack.”

**APRIL 24**

Second half of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) 2/22 onboard the passenger ship *TSS Zealandia* arrives at Simpson Harbor at New Britain Island, Solomon Islands.

**APRIL 25**

Emperor Hirohito ratifies a neutrality pact between Moscow and Tokyo.

**APRIL 27**

American, British, and Dutch military representatives, meeting in Singapore, Malaya, agree on action on combined operating plan of defense in the Pacific if Japan enters into the war.

**APRIL 28**

President Roosevelt issues a presidential directive permitting General Chennault to recruit members for the American Volunteer Group (AVG) on military and naval bases.

The British question the U.S. decision to strengthen the Atlantic Fleet at the expense of the Pacific Fleet. They asked would the removal of three battleships, four cruisers, 17 destroyers, three oilers, three transport ships, ten auxiliary ships and the aircraft carrier *Yorktown* not unduly encourage the Japanese.

**APRIL 29**

Japanese Prime Minister Konoye summons a Liaison Conference of high government and Military leaders to review Washington's terms of settlement for the Far East.
MAY 1
Office of Public Relations is established as an independent office directly under the Secretary of the Navy, "to serve as liaison between the people and their Navy and, within the limits of military security, to keep the public informed of the activities of the Navy."

MAY 2
Fleet Air Photographic Unit, Pacific, is established under Commander Aircraft Battle Force.

MAY 5
Tokyo advises the Japanese ambassador in Washington D. C., "According to a fairly reliable source of information, it appears almost certain that the United States Government is reading your coded messages." The information is correct but investigations in Tokyo and Washington leads the Japanese to conclude their Purple diplomatic code has not been compromised.

MAY 6
U.S. Navy carrier Yorktown suffers slight damage, a long dent and scraped paint, when the ship's prominent "knuckle" rubs one side of Miraflores Lock, during night transit of the Panama Canal.

MAY 9
Representative of Thailand and French Indochina complete a peace treaty in Tokyo with the Japanese guaranty of new borders.

MAY 11
Secretary Hull tells the Japanese Ambassador, Admiral Nomura, that if Japan really desires a resolution of the Pacific state of affairs on a basis of peace and friendliness, there should be no serious difficulty. The Secretary questions why it is that Japan continues in using the watchword "New Order in Greater East Asia," unless Japan is using it as a cover to continue her policy of conquest by force.

MAY 12
Japan proposes a general settlement of all its disputes with the United States. Japanese Ambassador Nomura says the proposal will lead to a "just peace in the Pacific."

Informal test are conducted on a converted 36' Higgins Eureka landing craft on Lake Pontchartrain located in southeastern Louisiana. This prototype has a ramp in the bow to allow troops and equipment to be debarked on a beach. This craft is to be known later as LCVP, Land Craft Vehicle, and Personnel.

MAY 14
The last ship full of military dependents sails out of Manila on the island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands.

Pacific Fleet Exercise No. 1 commences off coast of California. The maneuvers involve a landing on San Clemente Island and a bombardment exercise in which heavy cruisers and destroyers bombard shore targets.

The first mass flight of 21 B-17Ds arrive from Hamilton Field located along the western shore of San Pablo Bay, California, and touchdown at Hickam Field adjacent to Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu in the Territory of Hawaii.

British Air, Army, and Naval forces arrive in Singapore, Malaya, to reinforce the island.

**MAY 15**

U.S. Naval Commander Joseph Rockefort takes over the Pearl Harbor intelligence unit, Harpo, Territory of Hawaii.

The U.S. Navy battleship *Washington* is commissioned at Philadelphia.

Japanese sends an ultimatum to the Dutch East Indies government, demanding that the Japanese be given more influence and presence in the region.

**MAY 17**

Boeing is given a contract to build 250 heavy bombers known as the B-29.

**MAY 20**

Ambassador Nomura informs Tokyo that United States is reading coded Japanese diplomatic messages. The Japanese embassy in Washington is informed to have only one person handle sensitive cipher messages.

**MAY 26**

Ensign Takeo Yoshikowa, spy Tadashi Morimura, reports that three U.S. Navy battleships and three cruisers have disappeared from Pearl Harbor.

Admiral Kimmel sends off a fiery letter of eleven pages noting that 72 per cent of the new naval officers in the Atlantic Fleet came at the expense of the Pacific Fleet and his fleet needs are subordinate to those of England and the Atlantic Fleet.

**MAY 27**

The President of the United States proclaims that an unlimited national emergency confronts the country, requiring that its military and civilian defenses be put on the basis of readiness to repel any and all acts or threats of aggression directed toward any part of the Western Hemisphere. He also announces that the Atlantic
Neutrality Patrol is extended and the Pacific units of the Navy will be transferred to the Atlantic.

Because of the threat of global war the U.S. military activate reserve nurses.

U.S. Navy Department Continuing Board for the development of a landing boat recommends that Higgins convert one of his 45' Eureka boats into a tank lighter by installing a ramp in the bow.

The 12-inch defensive at Fort Barry, San Francisco, are tested fired, lighting up the night sky.

**MAY 28**

Congress extends the National Defense Act to all territories, dependencies, and possessions of the United States. Roosevelt, also, has the act apply to the Philippines. This prevents the Japanese from getting iron, manganese, copper, copra, and abaca.

Congresswoman Rogers introduces a bill to establish a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps for service with the U.S. Army of the United States.

The U.S. Secretary of the Navy endorses the plan, "ABC-I Staff Agreement," developed at the formal Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff Conference.

Japanese Ambassador, Admiral Nomura, and Secretary of State Cordell Hull start negotiations in Washington, D.C.

Matsuoka asks Ribbentrop to avoid war with Russia by any and all means, in the view of the external and internal situation that Japan faces.

Chunking in China is bombed by one hundred aircraft.

**MAY 29**

Secretary of the Navy approves conversion of a 45 foot Eureka boat by Higgins into a tank lighter landing craft by installing a ramp in the bow.

The Army Field Forces, Alaska Defense Command, is activated, Headquarters Alaska Defense Command, with the responsibility of overseeing the training and planning the execution of the air defense of Alaska.

**JUNE 2**

U.S. Joint Army-Navy Board adopts Rainbow 5 (U.S. and British Commonwealth Joint Basic War Plan) that is in event of hostilities between the U.S. and the Axis, the Allies would conquer Italy and Germany first.
JUNE 6
Washington, D.C., authorizes the acquisition of all idle foreign merchant ships in U.S. waters "for urgent needs of commerce and national defense."

Production engineering starts on 264 service model B-29s.

Talks between the Dutch and the Japanese collapse causing the Dutch East Indies government to reply that no concessions will be made to Tokyo and that all strategic products (including oil and rubber) have been contracted for shipment to Britain and the United States.

JUNE 9
U.S. military adopts the M1 Helmet, a two piece design with the outer part made of manganese and a inter fiber liner patterned after a football helmet, to replace dishpan helmet of World War I.

JUNE 10
The government of the Dutch East Indies formally refuses to accept the "peaceful" demands of the Japanese for greater economic and political privileges within its territories.

First units of the AVG sail from San Francisco for Burma in Southeast Asia.

JUNE 11
Japan and Russia agrees to expand their trade under terms of a new treaty of commerce.

Members of the United States Naval Reserve are called to active duty.

Amendment to the Act creating Coast Guard provided "The Coast Guard shall be a military service and constitute a branch of the land and naval forces of the United States at all times."

JUNE 12
All American Naval Reserve personnel not in deferred status are called to active duty.

JUNE 15
Japanese land attack aircraft bombing Chungking, China, drop bombs near the river gunboat Tutuila, U.S. military attaché's office and U.S. Navy canteen. Japanese Admiral Shimada Shigetaro expresses regret over the incident and assures U.S. representatives that the bombing is "wholly unintentional." U.S. military and naval attachés privately concur, however, that the bombing "was either criminal carelessness or [with] deliberate intent to bomb Embassy and gunboat..."
Naval Air Station, Kodiak, Alaska, is established.

**JUNE 13**
Tojo brings the militaries southern project before a Liaison Conference.

**JUNE 16**
The U. S. government stops shipment of 250 gallons of lubricating oil to Japan because of defense needs.

**JUNE 17**
Canada and the U. S. establish joint economic committees to effect "a more efficient and more coordinate utilization of the production of defense requirements" and to plan on postwar economic recovery.

Tokyo orders home delegates from Washington, D.C.

**JUNE 18**
Japan breaks off trade talks with the Dutch East Indies government because the Dutch insist on unilateral rights to decrease the export of goods that are deemed essential by the Japanese.

**JUNE 20**
The U.S. Army Air Corps becomes a subordinate element of the Army Air Forces as part of the army reorganization.

United States announces that no oil will be exported from eastern ports except to the British Empire, Egypt for the British Army, and the Western Hemisphere.

**JUNE 21**
Secretary of State Hull gives to the Japanese Ambassador, Admiral Nomura, a document containing a comprehensive statement of the attitude of the United States: 1. Pronouncement by both Governments that their national policies are directed toward the foundation of a lasting peace and the inauguration of a new era of reciprocal confidence and cooperation between the two peoples. 2. A suggested modus operandi that the "Government of Japan maintains that the purpose of the Tripartite Pact is defensive and is designed to contribute to the prevention of an unprovoked extension of the European war" and that the "Government of the United States maintains that its attitude toward the European hostilities is and will continue to be determined solely and exclusively by considerations of protection and self-defense". 3. A suggestion by the United States to China that China and Japan enter into negotiations, provided that Japan first communicates to and discusses with the United States the general terms which Japan contemplated proposing to China. 4. Mutual assurances by the United States and Japan that each country would supply the other with such commodities
as are required and are available and that steps will be taken to resume normal trade relations between the two. 5. Provision for cooperation between the two countries toward obtaining non-discriminatory access by peaceful means to supplies of natural resources which each needed. 6. A mutual affirmation that the basic policy of each country is one of peace throughout the Pacific area and a mutual disclaimer of territorial designs there. 7. A provision that Japan declare its willingness to negotiate with the United States, at such time as the latter might desire, with a view to concluding a treaty for the neutralization of the Philippine Islands, when Philippine independence should have been achieved.

**JUNE 22**
The German invasion of Russia gives Japanese more assurance that Japan could advance toward the south without concern for the possibility of Soviet action in Manchuria in northeast China.

Matsuoka recommends to Emperor Hirohito that Japan make war on the Soviet Union.

In Australia the government establishes the Department of War Organization of Industry.

**JUNE 23**
Japan’s Naval General Staff, Navy Ministry, Bureau Heads, and Section Chiefs agree in a meeting to take over military bases in French Indochina. Even at the risk of war with England and the United States.

**JUNE 24**
Ground is broken for Plant II at the Stearman facility in Wichita, Kansas, where B-29s is to be built.

**JUNE 25**
Japan abandons plans it had developed for the occupation of Portuguese Macao in China.

In Japan, plans are laid out for French Indochina. Japan is to obtain air bases, harbors, and have the right to station troops in the south. Vichy government would be asked first for the privilege. If the request is refused then they would take the right by force.

**JUNE 26**
Vichy France allows the Japanese to occupy French Indochina. The United states react by impounding Japanese credits in the United States.

President Roosevelt nationalizes the Philippine Army.
**JUNE 28**
Japanese leaders decide not to attack the Soviet Union, feeling they could not spare forces from the Pacific and China.

Office of Scientific Research and Development is established under the direction of Vannevar Bush, to develop atomic energy.

**JUNE 30**
Germany ambassador in Tokyo request that Japan should attack Russia.

In the United States, Vought is awarded a production contract for their version of the F4U-1 and Grumman is awarded a contract for two prototypes of a new aircraft.

**JULY 1**
Japanese merchant ships in United States eastern ports are ordered to return to Japan, but they must clear the Panama Canal by July 22.

The first landing, takeoff, and catapult launching of an airplane from an escort carrier is made aboard the escort carrier *Long Island*.

In Berlin, Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop meets Matsuoka, Japan’s Foreign Minister, to urge the Japanese to declare war on the Russians. But the Japanese government has made the decision to move into the Dutch East Indies and South East Asia.

**JULY 2**
Japan calls up one million men for military service. This call follows an Imperial Conference in which it is decided to move into Thailand and French Indochina even at the risk of war with the United States and Britain. Military leaders chose not to attack Russia but to wait until Germany has achieved a through military victory. In anticipation of eventual war against the Russians, the Japanese decides to raise the strength of the Kwantung Army from 400,000 to 700,000. Also, at this conference the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere is established.

All Japanese merchant ships in the Atlantic area are ordered to return to Japanese home waters.

The Emperor attends an Imperial Conference to hear a discussion of the document "Outline of National Policies in View of the Changing Situation." This document establishes the "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere."

Prince Konoye calls an Imperial Conference to discuss with the Imperial Army and Navy concerns about moving into French Indochina.
JULY 3
Japan complains to Germany about what Tokyo considers to be pro-Chinese, anti-Japanese German officials in China. The Japanese want these officials replaced with officials that have more spirit of National Socialism.

General Marshall coordinates a plan with the Chinese for their requirements for war material to fight the Japanese and U.S. production plans. He sets up the American Military Mission to China (AMMISCA) under Brigadier General John Magruder.

Hitler sends a message to the Japanese Prime Minister referring to reports which are being received from varied sources that Japan has decided to attack Russia. The message stated that such military conquest and aggression would destroy our hope that peace in the Pacific might not be disturbed anew but rather might be reinforced; that it is our sincere hope that such reports are incorrect; and that assurances to this effect by the Japanese Government would be appreciated.

JULY 5
President Roosevelt orders that the Panama Canal be closed to Japanese shipping.

American citizen Iva Ikuko Toguri, later to be known as Tokyo Rose, leaves Los Angeles, California, by ocean liner for Japan to visit a relative in poor health.

JULY 7
Soviet Brigadier Mikhail Gromov and a party of 87 fly into Nome, Alaska, on their first leg of a top-secret trip.

1st Marine Aircraft Wing is established at Quantico, Virginia.

JULY 8
Japan informs the United States it hopes to maintain good relations with Russia.

The Japanese reply to Hitler’s on his message of July 4th is to the effect that prevention of the European war from spreading to the regions of Greater East Asia and preservation of peace in the Pacific area has always been the sincere and genuine desire of the Japanese Government; that the Japanese Government has not so far considered the possibility of joining the hostilities against the Soviet Union.

JULY 10
2nd Marine Air Wing forms at San Diego, California.

JULY 11
The first contingent of the AVG sails from San Francisco aboard the Dutch vessel Jaeggersfontaine.
The OSS, Office of Strategic Services, Coordinator of Information (COI) is empowered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a civilian agency in the executive branch reporting directly to Roosevelt. The COI’s job is to "collect and analyze all information and data which may bear upon national security, and to carry out such supplementary activities as may facilitate the securing of information for national security not now available to the government."

**JULY 12**

Japan land 50,000 troops on the Cochinchina region of southern French Indochina.

Sotomatsu Kato, the Japanese Ambassador at Vichy, is ordered to ask Marshal Petain for the right to occupy eight air bases, the use of Saigon, and Camranh Bay as a naval base. He is to tell Vichy if the consent is not given then the Japanese would enter without their consent.

Office of the Coordinator of Research and Development is established to unify the Navy's research activities, and to evaluate the best ways of advising tactical officers of air, ground, and sea forces of the "latest applications of science to the problems of modern warfare."

**JULY 16**

The Japanese government resigns. Foreign Minister Matsuoka holds out for a hard-line position in dealing with the Washington, even a break in the talks.

**JULY 18**

Prince Konoye forms a new but basically identical government in Tokyo with Vice Admiral Soemu Toyoda becoming Foreign Minister.

President Roosevelt meets with his cabinet to discuss the Far East situation after reading decoded Japanese messages between Tokyo, Japan, and Washington D. C. The conclusion is that strong action must be taken against Japan.

Justice Department is given the responsibility for controlling enemy aliens in the continental United States in the event of war.

**JULY 19**

The Japanese government issues a virtual ultimatum to the French authorities in Indochina that will give the Japanese full military control over the Vichy colony.

Tokyo asks Germany to support their ultimatum served to Vichy.

**JULY 21**
The Vichy government signs an agreement with the Japanese after appealing unsuccessfully to the Germans and the Americans. This agreement allows 50,000 Japanese troops to be quartered in Indochina as well as planes to be based and ships to be anchored. The French get to retain sovereignty and control of the civil government. The Vichy government, in no position to resist, states that they "see no inconvenience in permitting Japan temporarily to occupy military bases in Indochina on the condition there is any menace to Indochina’s integrity and French sovereignty." In reality the Japanese sent in about 125,000 men.

Admiral Nagamo, Naval Chief-of-Staff, suggest that Japan should go to war with the United States.

Shipping through the Panama Canal is curtailed, ostensibly for repairs, but the action has the effect of preventing Japanese ships from using the canal.

**JULY 23**

Under Secretary of State Welles tells Ambassador Nomura the U.S. feels there is no reason to continue talks since the Indochina’s action shows the "Japanese Government intended to pursue the policy of force and of conquest."

In clarification of this action the Japanese Ambassador informs Under Secretary of State Welles that Japan must be assured of an uninterrupted source of supply of rice and raw materials, whose flow to Japan might be obstructed by Chinese and DeGaulist activities in southern Indochina; and that the step taken is a safeguard against a policy of encircling Japan on which the latter believed certain powers are intent.

**JULY 24**

The Vichy French in Indochina agree to permit the Japanese full use of military bases.

Elements of the Japanese fleet sail into Camranh Bay, French Indochina, best natural harbor in Southeast Asia.

Admiral Stark, Summer Wells, Admiral Nomura talks with President Roosevelt. Roosevelt offers Japan guarantees of free access to Indochina for its materials in return for Indochina keeping its neutrality.

Under Secretary Welles, tells the press that the Japanese Government is giving clear indication that it is determined to pursue an objective of expansion by force or threat of force; that there is no apparent valid ground upon which the Japanese Government would be warranted in occupying Indochina or establishing bases in that area as measures of self-defense; that there is not the slightest ground for belief that the United States, Great Britain, or the Dutch have any territorial
ambitions in Indochina or has been planning any moves which could be regarded as threats to the Japanese; that the U.S. Government could only conclude that the action of Japan is being undertaken because of the estimated value to Japan of bases in that region primarily for purposes of further movements of conquest in adjacent areas.

President Roosevelt receives the Japanese Ambassador. The President tells the Ambassador that the new move by Japan into Indochina has created an exceedingly serious problem for the United States. The President said that the Japanese Government surely could not have the slightest belief that China, Great Britain, the Dutch, or the United States have any territorial designs on Indochina or are in the slightest degree providing any real threats of aggression against the Japanese.

Japanese new cabinet meets to reaffirm old policies.

**JULY 25**

Foreign Minster Toyoda tells the United States Ambassador Grew that hostile forces in the Southeast Asia are encircling Japan. He compared Japan's move into Indochina to that of Britain’s occupation of Syria.

President Roosevelt breaks off all trade relations with Japan.

The commander of the Army Air Force, General 'Hap' Arnold, and the Secretary for War Henry Stimson secure Roosevelt's approval for the dispatching of large numbers of heavy bombers and fighters to the Philippines.

Japan announces a "protectorate" over French Indochina.

30,000 Japanese troops land at Saigon, French Indochina.

**JULY 26**

All Japanese assets in the United States are frozen and at the same time, at the request of Chiang Kai-shek, all Chinese assets are frozen.

Britain freezes all Japanese assets in the United Kingdom and denounced all commercial agreements.

President Roosevelt mobilizes the Philippine Army. The War Department then organizes a new command which includes both American (16,000 strong) and Commonwealth troops (12,000) to be called the United States Force in the Far East, USAFFE. General Douglas MacArthur is returned to active duty with the U. S. Army and is given the rank of lieutenant General. Even with these combined forces the troops are poorly trained and equipped for an adequate defense of the Philippine islands against an invasion from Japanese.
**JULY 27**
Japanese assets in the Dutch East Indies are frozen.

**JULY 28**
The Japanese begin landing troops in French Indochina.

Emperor Hirohito suggest to General Sugiyama that Japan should halt building up troops in Manchukuo, the puppet state set up by the Empire of Japan in Manchuria northeast China and Inner Mongolia, so that the Soviet Far Eastern Army could deploy to the German Eastern Front.

United States places an embargo on the sales of oil to Japan, freezes assets in the U.S., and closes all ports to Japanese ships.

The Japanese freezes all American, British and Dutch assets.

The first contingent of AVG personal arrives in Rangoon, Burma, on a Norwegian passenger ship.

Dutch East Indies Government begins requiring special permits for all exports to Japan, and for all payments to or receipt of payment from Japan.

**JULY 29**
Vichy France and the Japanese conclude an agreement that recognize "that should security of French Indochina be menaced, Japan would have reason to consider the general tranquility in East Asia and its own security endangered."

The United States denounce Japan's military buildup in French Indochina. Washington notes that the Japanese build up jeopardize the procurement of essential materials such as tin and rubber needed for normal economy in America.

Roosevelt proposes Japanese troop withdraw from French Indochina in exchange for its neutralization.

Dutch East Indies' government cancels oil-export accord with Japan, freezes bank accounts, and suspends sea traffic.

England blocks Japanese bank accounts.

Admiral Yamamoto selects Admiral Mitsumi Shimizu as Commander of the Sixth Fleet Submarines and Chuichi Nagumo Commander-in-Chief of the First Air Fleet for the Pearl Harbor attack.

**JULY 30**
The U.S. Navy riverboat *Tutuila* is bombed by a Japanese naval plane near Chungking in China as 26 other planes attack the capital. The Japanese say it is an accident.

Sumner Wells holds a meeting with Nomura at the President's request to protest the near miss bombing of the riverboat *Tutuila*.

Dutch government-in-exile promises to hold a conference on Indonesia after the war.

**JULY 31**

The Japanese apologize for the bombing of the *Tutuila*.

Iwakuro and Ikawa leave Washington D. C. after realizing that their attempt at independence diplomacy had failed.

The Office of the Provost Marshal General is reactivated. Major General Allen W. Gullion, The Adjutant General, is appointed as acting Provost Marshal General of the Army.

In Australia the first groups of men begin training as instructors in guerrilla warfare for the Special Forces at Wilson’s Promontory near Victoria.

**AUGUST 1**

The U.S. embargoes the export of all aviation fuel to Japan.

Japan halts the export of silk to the United States.

Thailand recognizes Manchukuo, the puppet state set up by the Empire of Japan in Manchuria northeast China and Inner Mongolia, as a gesture to appease Tokyo in order to maintain Japanese recognition of Thailand's neutrality and independence.

President Roosevelt demands that Japan guarantee the neutrality of French Indochina and Thailand in Southeast Asia.

The Naval Air Station at Midway Island Atoll in the North Pacific Ocean is commissioned.

The United States changes its Pacific policy in regards to the Philippines: WPO (War Plan Orange), a defensive plan in which the Philippine garrison would hold the Bataan Peninsula in Manila Bay and the forts dominating the entrance to Manila Bay while the United States Navy battle across the Pacific to a their rescue. The plan calls for the defending of the Philippine Islands using aircraft with the assistance of land or naval forces.
Royal Australian Air Force forms the 20th Squadron on New Guinea at Port Morseby. They will be using PBYs and Empire Flying boats.

Japanese Imperial troops occupy Saigon in French Indochina.

**AUGUST 4**

Konoye tells War Minister Tojo and Navy Minster Oikawa he plans to meet with President Roosevelt privately to settle questions of China.


**AUGUST 5**

U.S. Navy heavy cruisers *Northampton* and *Salt Lake City* arrive at Brisbane, Australia, for a goodwill visit.

Lt. General Sir Iven MacKay is appointed General Officer in Charge of the Home Forces in Australia.

Tokyo sends a new proposal to Nomura to be presented to the United States.

**AUGUST 6**

Tokyo proposes negotiations with Washington to counter-proposal Indochina. Nomura offers a promise not to station troops in the Southwest Pacific area outside Indochina, and to withdraw from Indochina after the settlement of the war in China. The United States is to suspend all military measures in the Southwest Pacific area; restore normal trade relations with Tokyo; co-operate with Japan so to get Chiang Kai-shek to make peace with Japan; and recognize that Japan is entitled to a special status in French Indochina even after Japanese forces are withdrawn.

Executive order transfers Coast Guard's Honolulu Hawaii District from the Treasury Department to the Navy in the first step toward shifting the Coast Guard to naval control.

U.S. Congress votes to extend the length of the Selective Service Act for another 18 months.

American and Britain warn Tokyo against attacking Thailand, Southeast Asia.

**AUGUST 7**

President Roosevelt along with Generals Marshall and Arnold, Admiral Stark, and Sumnar Wells arrive at
Newfoundland to hold a conference with Prime Minister Churchill.

At the Japanese Naval General Staff Headquarters, Admirals Yamamoto, Kuroshima, and Tomioka meet to talk about the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on the island Oahu as well as operations to the Philippines.

**AUGUST 8**

Ambassador Nomura proposes a meeting in Honolulu between Konoye and Roosevelt to resolve the differences between the two countries.

Japanese carrier *Shokaku* completed.

**AUGUST 9**

The British withdraw from Shanghai located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China.

During a conversation between Secretary Hull and the British Ambassador the Secretary refers to the Japanese plan "to invade by force the whole of the Indian Ocean and the islands and continents adjacent thereto, isolating China, sailing across probably to the mouth of the Suez Canal, to the Persian Gulf oil area, to the Cape of Good Hope area, thereby blocking by a military despotism the trade routes and the supply sources to the British".

Roosevelt and Churchill meet at Placentia Bay in Newfoundland, Canada, with their military staffs to discuss military option in the Pacific and Europe. They agree to send a warning to Tokyo stating if the Japanese attack the Dutch or British possessions in the Dutch East Indies or Malaya the United States would enter the war.

The Imperial Japanese Army decides to plan operations to the south against the English and the Americans and not to the north against Russia.

**AUGUST 10**

U.S. Navy heavy cruisers *Northampton* and *Salt Lake City*, arrive at Port Moresby, Australian Territory of New Guinea, for a goodwill visit.

**AUGUST 11**

The U.S. government becomes the sole buyer/seller of raw silk. Silk is needed for parachutes and ammunition powder bags.

**AUGUST 13**

Australian Women’s Army Service is formed. The purpose is to release men for certain military duties with fighting units.

**AUGUST 14**
An attempt is made on the life of the 74-year-old vice-premier of Japan, Baron Hiranuma.

During Japanese bombing raid on Chungking, China, Japanese planes approach the city from the east, passing directly over the U.S. Embassy chancery and the river gunboat Tutuila. There is no repetition of the incident of July 30th.

AUGUST 15
Naval Air Station, Palmyra Island, Northern Line Islands located almost due south of the Hawaiian Islands, and Naval Air Facility, Johnston Island in the North Pacific Ocean west of Hawaii, established.

Japanese Imperial Army subscribes to the fact that a war with the United States will be largely a naval conflict.

A detachment of Australian troops arrive in Singapore, Malaya.

Imperial Japanese Navy new night fighting tactics in which substantial numbers of Long Lance torpedoes would be launched outside the gun range of battleships at night to devastate the U.S. Navy fleet as it move toward Japan goes into effect as the Combined Fleet is ordered to a war footing.

AUGUST 16
In Hawaii the Honolulu Coast Guard District is transferred to the U.S. Navy.

U.S. Navy heavy cruisers Northampton and Salt Lake City arrive at Rabaul, New Britain, Solomon Islands, for a goodwill visit.

The Australian liner Neptuna docks at Rabaul on New Britain carrying 54 members of the AIF Air Defense unit with a pair of 3” guns.

Admiral Nomura meets again with Hull to discuss diplomatic relationships between their two countries.

AUGUST 17
President Roosevelt agrees to renew informal discussion with the Japanese.

Roosevelt sends for Ambassador Nomura to talk about Japan's expansion in China. The President hands the Ambassador a document stating that notwithstanding the efforts of the United States to reach a sound basis for negotiations between the two countries for the maintenance of peace with order and justice in the Pacific, the Government of Japan has continued its military activities and its disposals of armed forces at various points in the Far East and has occupied French Indochina with its military, air, and naval forces. Therefore,
the statement continues, the Government of the United States "finds it necessary
to say to the Government of Japan that if the Japanese Government takes any
further steps in pursuance of a policy or program of military domination by forge
or threat of force of neighboring countries, the Government of the United States
will be compelled to take immediately any and all steps which it may deem
necessary toward safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of the United
States and American nationals and toward insuring the safety and security of the
United States."

Australian government approves the formation of the Women’s Army Service.

**AUGUST 18**
Foreign Minister Rear Admiral Teijiro Toyoda sends for the United States
Ambassador Grew to his office to have a candid talk as a naval officer and not as
a diplomat. Japan had gone into French Indochina to resolve the China issue not at
the request of Germany and the freezing of Japanese accounts by President
Roosevelt had caused “a black spot on the long history of peaceful relations”
between the two countries.

Steel is put on mandatory priorities; no steel will be sold without the purchaser
having a government priority. Capacity is only 90% because of a shortage of
scrap metal. Over 8 million tons had been sent to Japan.

An amendment to the U.S. Selective Service Law of 1940 is enacted to extend the
length of service for U.S. citizen’s inductees from one year to two-and-a-half
years.

**AUGUST 19**
In the Central Pacific the Wake Detachment (173 Marines and 9 officers), 1st
Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, Major Lewis A. Hohn, USMC, arrives at
Wake Island on the cargo ship *Regulus* to begin work on defense installations.

**AUGUST 20**
The Japanese Army issues a broad training directive for the upcoming Malayan
campaign.

**AUGUST 21**
Morimura/Yoshikawa starts his second phase of his espionage by preparing bomb
plots of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

**AUGUST 22**
The U.S. Army doubles since the President has called 60,000 National Guardsmen
for 12 months service.
AUGUST 23
The Dutch East Indies tells Tokyo that to be able to trade Japan must withdraw its forces from French Indochina territories and publicly promise not to attack.

AUGUST 25
First B-17s fly over Manila towards Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

AUGUST 26
Tokyo protests the shipment of American materials to Russia through Vladivostok.

AUGUST 27
Japanese Naval and Army Bureau Chiefs begin a two-day conference to talk about war between Japan and the United States.

Tokyo protests the violation of Japanese territorial water by American cargo ships transporting aide to the Russian port of Vladivostok.

AUGUST 28
Tokyo delivers a note to the United States stating that the Japanese will "give broad assurances of its peaceful intent, including a comprehensive assurance that the Tokyo government has no intention of using without provocation of military force against any neighboring nation."

B-17 Fly Fortress first went into service in 1939 in the USAAF. The Fly Fortress has been designed as a high altitude multi-engine bomber. U.S. Air Force photo.

Two messages are delivered to President Roosevelt, one from Konoye again requesting a meeting, the other an unofficial proposal to withdraw all Japanese troops from Indochina once the China Incident is settled or a "just peace is establishes in East Asia."

Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies resigns after his losses of confidence of the members of the Cabinet and his party and is replaced by Arthur Fadden.
AUGUST 31
After destroying the Chinese air force the Japanese withdraw the Zero fighter from China.

SEPTEMBER 1
United States National Guard is called to duty.

The American Consul-General at Shanghai, located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China, Colonel Howard, and Admiral Hart jointly recommend that all naval forces in China be withdrawn.

MacArthur orders the initial mobilization of one regiment from each of the Philippine Reserve Divisions.

Tokyo makes major changes in their worldwide shipping assignments. Merchant shipping begins receiving movement orders from the Imperial Navy. Also, naval air units and capital warships are recalled from China to be overhauled and reorganized.

Admiral Yamamoto issues orders for wartime possibility.

SEPTEMBER 2
All Japanese fleet commanders and their key staff officers gather at the Naval War Collage in Meguro, Japan, to conduct final tabletop maneuvers.

Key Japanese Staff Officers meet in Meguro, Japan to plan eventual occupation of Burma after Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii.

Air Defense Bureau is created in Japan to develop plans and give advice on air raid protection.

SEPTEMBER 3
Washington, D.C. turns down a proposal for summit type conference with Konoye.
Japanese government leaders and military leaders meet to discuss war or peace. After seven hours of talk, government leaders decide to continue negotiations with the United States until October 10th.

**SEPTEMBER 4**
Hull and Nomura hold a meeting at Hull’s apartment.

**SEPTEMBER 5**
Emperor Hirohito summons Konoye together with army and navy chiefs-of-staff, General Sugiyama and Admiral Nagano. The Emperor demands to know how long it will take for the southern advance to be accomplished.

Japanese war games get under way.

Nine B-17’s begin flying from Hickam Field, Hawaii, for Clark Field in the Philippines.

**SEPTEMBER 6**
Emperor Hirohito is told the risk of going to war against the United States.

An Imperial Conference attended by Japan's civilian and military leaders, conclude that, "although America's total defeat is judged utterly impossible, it is not inconceivable that a shift in American public opinion due to our victories in Southeast Asia or to England's surrender might bring the war to an end." Konoye is permitted six weeks to effect a diplomatic settlement of all outstanding issues with the U. S.

The Japanese make the final decision for war and detailed planning for the Pearl Harbor attack begins. Japanese Supreme War Council brings together war plans. The tempo of Japan's war preparations sharply increases to mobilize and fit out approximately 1,500,000 tons of shipping for the Imperial Army and Navy. At the same time the assembly of the troops and supplies required for operations against the British, Dutch East Indies, and the United States.

Contingency plans for an invasion of the Dutch East Indies are approved.

A report is delivered to the Japanese Supreme War Council stating if economic realities dictated a limited war to neutralize American forces in the Pacific, weather conditions necessitates that action be taken no later than the beginning of December.

Ambassador Grew is informed by telegram that Prime Minister Konoye has said that from the beginning of the informal conversations in Washington he has had the warmest support of the responsible Japanese Army and Navy leaders. The
Prime Minister also says that the Minister of War has agreed to have a full general accompany the Prime Minister to the conference; that the Navy has also agreed to send a full admiral; and that the Army and Navy vice Chiefs of Staff and other high officers who are in full sympathy with the Prime Minister's aims would also go.

Japanese Ambassador Nomura hands to the Secretary of State Hull a revised proposal that states that: 1. Japan will not make any military advance from French Indochina against any adjoining areas, and likewise will not, "without any justifiable reason", resort to military action against any regions lying south of Japan. 2. The attitudes of Japan and the United States toward the European war will be "decided by the concepts of protection and self-defense, and, in case the United States should participate in the European war, the interpretation and execution of the Tripartite Pact by Japan shall be independently decided. 3. Japan will "endeavor to bring about the rehabilitation of general and normal relationship between Japan and China, upon the realization of which Japan is ready to withdraw its armed forces from China as soon as possible in accordance with the agreements between Japan and China". 4. The economic activities of the United States in China will "not be restricted so long as pursued on an equitable basis". 5. Japanese activities in the southwestern Pacific area will be carried on by peaceful means and in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination in international commerce, and Japan will cooperate in the production and procurement by the United States of needed natural resources in the said area. 6. Japan will take measures necessary for the resumption of normal trade relations between Japan and the United States. On its part the United States will undertake: to "abstain from any measures and actions which will be prejudicial to the endeavor by Japan concerning the settlement of the China Affair"; to reciprocate Japan's commitment expressed in point 5 referred to above; to "suspend any military measures" in the Far East and in the southwestern Pacific area; and to reciprocate immediately Japan's commitment expressed in point 6 above.

**SEPTEMBER 9**

General Sugiyama, Army Chief-of-Staff, gives the Emperor a report on the military build up in French Indochina.

**SEPTEMBER 10**

Nine B-17s enroute for the Philippines leave New Guinea for Darwin Australia.

Sir Mark Young of England assumes the governorship of the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong.

**SEPTEMBER 11**

President orders naval ships to attack any vessel threatening U.S. shipping.

In Japan the top-ranking staff officers and fleet commanders of the Imperial Navy assembles at the Imperial Naval War College in Tokyo to take part in the annual
"war games." The problem presented to the officers for the games is an invasion
of the Southern area. However a restricted group of the highest officers of the
Combined Fleet will simultaneously study behind barred doors technical problems
involved in a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

SEPTEMBER 12
Admiral Yamamoto holds a secret meeting with Prince Konoye to discuss the
possibility of a Konoye-Roosevelt meeting in Hawaii.

The first of nine B-17s arrive at Luzon’s Clark Field, northwest of Manila on
Luzon in the Philippines.

President Roosevelt announced shoot-on-sight order to United States Navy in
America defense waters, following USS Greer incident of September 4 in the
Atlantic Ocean with an unidentified submarine.

SEPTEMBER 15
War Department authorized construction of a submarine net across the Golden
Gate, San Francisco, California.

SEPTEMBER 16
President Roosevelt signs the Burke-Wadsworth Compulsory Military Service
Act.

SEPTEMBER 17
The Second Battle of Changsha is launched by 125,000 troops of the Japanese XI
Corps commanded by General Tadaka Anan on Changsha, China, to drive the
Chinese Ninth War Area troops from the Hunan Province of China.

SEPTEMBER 18
Orders are issued to the Japanese Imperial Army to prepare for offensive
operations in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

SEPTEMBER 19
In China, Japanese troops cross the Milo River and continue their advance on
Changsha.

SEPTEMBER 20
The Philippine Department Air Force is activated.

SEPTEMBER 22
The First Lady of the United States, Eleanor Roosevelt, takes an official, non-
paying, job as the assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense.

SEPTEMBER 23
Tokyo repeats its call for meeting between Roosevelt and Konoye.

The Japanese Ambassador tells Secretary of State Hull that a meeting between the President and the Japanese Prime Minister would have a psychological effect in Japan by setting Japan on a new course; that it will counteract the influence of pro-Axis elements in Japan and provide support for the elements desiring peaceful relations with the United States.

**SEPTEMBER 24**

General Kita, in Honolulu, Hawaii, receives a radiogram from Captain Ogawa ordering him to send future reports on Pearl Harbor to be keyed to 5 Sub areas.

Last members of the AVG units leave San Francisco for Burma, Southeast Asia.

**SEPTEMBER 25**

Japanese carrier *Zuikaku* is completed.

The Secretary of War establishes the Corps of Military Police as a separate branch of the United States Army.

**SEPTEMBER 26**

The United States limits scrap iron and steel export to western Hemisphere nations and Great Britain.

**SEPTEMBER 27**

Japanese troops break into Changsha, China. Paratroops dropped behind the Chinese lines to eliminate the Chinese forces. Eleven Chinese divisions move into the north of the city to turn the battle around by cutting off Japanese troop from withdrawing from the battle.

Japan enters into the Tripartite Pact with Germany and Italy.

The U.S. Liberty Ship, *S. S. Patrick Henry*, is launched in Baltimore, Maryland, the first of 2,742 of these vessels to be delivered by the end of the war. The Liberty ships are built to a standardized, mass produced design. The 250,000 parts are pre-fabricated all over the country and the 250-ton sections, complete with portholes and mirrors, are miraculously welded together in as little as four and a half days.

**SEPTEMBER 28**


**SEPTEMBER 29**
AIF 17th Antitank Battery sails into Rabaul Simpson Harbor, New Britain Island, on board the Zealandia with 110 men and officers and eight two pound guns.

SEPTEMBER 30
Japanese forces trapped at Changsha, China, start to fight their way out of their encircled position, because the Chinese failed to press the advantage. Most of the Japanese troops escape the trap although badly mauled.

The M-1.30 Caliber carbine is adopted by the U.S. Army.

OCTOBER 1
Sale of War Savings Bonds to naval personnel is inaugurated on this date; under the direction of a Coordinator for War Savings Bonds, Supply Corps officers are designated as issuing agents and assigned to 28 major shore activities. Actual sales of the bonds will amount to $61,000,000--over 50 in excess of the predicted sales.

Australian Women’s Army Service is established.

OCTOBER 2
Washington, D.C. seeks clarification from Tokyo on whether Japan planned to withdraw from Indochina and China. The President turns down the suggestion of a direct meeting with Prince Konoye, which leads to the Konoye downfall.

Japanese submarine I-61 sinks after a collision with a gunboat off Iki Island in the Tsushima Strait, eastern channel of the Korean Strait between Korea and Japan.

OCTOBER 5
A select group of Japanese pilots are briefed on the plan to attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Japan breaks diplomatic relations with Poland.

Army division and bureau chiefs meet in Tojo’s office and conclude: “There is no possibility to settle the matter by diplomatic negotiations. We must therefore petition the Emperor to hold an Imperial Conference and decide upon war.”

OCTOBER 7
John Curtin is sworn in as Australian Prime Minister even though he does not have a majority in either House of Parliament.

OCTOBER 8
Italy calls on Japan to go to war with Great Britain, saying that they feel that Tokyo is not living up to the Tripartite Pact agreement. However, Rome feels
that the Japanese need not go to war with the Russians. The Americans at this
time will not come to the aid of the British.

**OCTOBER 9**

President Roosevelt gives Vannevar Bush financing for an atomic weapon through
a Presidential emergency fund. Bush’s research is named Section 1 (S-1) of the
Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Franklin Roosevelt asks for congressional permission to arm the U.S. merchant fleet. He claims that adherence to the Neutrality Act is not possible when faced with the "unscrupulous ambitions of madmen,"

Admiral Yamamoto begins a second round of table games to iron out problems with the Pearl Harbor attack before issuing orders.

American codebreakers decipher a Japanese transmission to their spies in Hawaii to report to Tokyo the exact locations of U.S. capitol ships at anchor in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

**OCTOBER 12**

Prince Konoye summons the naval, army, war, and foreign ministers of the Cabinet Planning Board to his house to discuss not stopping negotiations.

The Japanese Navy completes a second round of table games concerning the Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii.

**OCTOBER 13**

Japanese officers involved with the Pearl Harbor attack meet on board the battleship *Nagato* to discuss the plans for the attack and the problems as well as review the board game strategies.

**OCTOBER 14**

Japanese Prime Minister Konoye holds his last cabinet meeting after no diplomatic progress has been made in resolving the embargo of oil and gasoline exports imposed by the United States. The prevailing opinion within the Imperial Japanese Army is that that continued negotiations could be dangerous.

**OCTOBER 15**

In Tokyo, Konoye, Nagano, Terasaki, Oikawa, Tojo, and Toyoda meet at a liaison conference to talk over a reply by the United States to the latest Japanese proposal.

The 1st Regiment of the Philippines' national police force, Philippine Constabulary (PC), is inducted into USAFFE.
The Garbett Airdrome near Townville in Australia is chosen by the U.S. Army as a supply base for the U.S. force in the Philippine Islands.

**OCTOBER 16**

At Harbin in China's northeast region, Japanese and Russian advisors get talks under way to set the borders between Outer Mongolia and Manchukuo.

Prince Konoye resigns as prime minister of Japan after losing the support of War Minister Hideki Tojo. Tojo calls for a new government to show a firmer policy.

Oshima offers to resign as the Japanese ambassador to Berlin. He is a long-time, major source of intelligence for American code-breaking officers. The new Japanese foreign affairs minister Togo tells Oshima to stay.

In the United States men begin to register for the first peacetime draft.

**OCTOBER 17**

General Hideki Tojo is named Prime Minister of Japan. Despite the mid-October deadline, Premier Tojo pledges to continued efforts for a diplomatic settlement with the United States.

The U.S. Navy orders all American merchant ships in Asian waters to put into friendly ports.

Admiral Kimmel improves naval reconnaissance around Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, but not to 360 degrees or on a 24-hour base.

Alaska Defense Command (ADC) is established by the Army Air Force. The ADC is given responsible for training and preparing it for combat as well as responsible for its supply.

Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, sends two submarines to Midway and two to Wake in the Central Pacific on "simulated war patrols."

**OCTOBER 18**

In Tokyo, the Naval General Staff gives their blessing to Yamamoto’s Pearl Harbor plan.

Prime Minister Hideki Tojo is promoted to General.

Master Soviet Spy Richard Sorge, a German communist, is arrested in Tokyo on suspicion of espionage.
In direct disagreement to the German policy of promoting aggressive action on the part of Japan against the United States, various Italian organizations and publications are urging that Japan’s best course lay in the prevention of hostilities between the Axis partners and the Americans. According to President Aloisi of the Society of Friends of Japan, who spoke with Japanese Ambassador, Zenbei Horikiri the Nipponese would be doing an outstanding service for Italy if they could restrain the United States from participation in the war. On the other hand, he urged that it would soon be timely for Japan to strike at the Soviets in order to fulfill its Imperial dream of a Co-Prosperity Sphere in East Asia. President Aloisi predicted that as soon as Moscow falls, Germany, as well as Italy, would expect Japan’s assistance in crushing the Russians.

**OCTOBER 19**

194th Tank Battalion disembarks at Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands, with M-3A1 Stuart tanks and parade through the streets.

**OCTOBER 20**

U.S. Navy carrier *Hornet* is commissioned at Norfolk, Virginia, Captain Marc A. Mitscher commanding.

**OCTOBER 21**

Colonel Tsuji decides to make his own reconnaissance of Malaya. He takes off from Saigon in French Indochina at dawn in a twin-engine Mitsubishi. On return he reports his findings to General Hisaichi Terauchi, Southern Army commander, and new plans are drawn up.

Oshima offers to resign as Ambassador to Berlin in Germany, however the new foreign affairs Minister Togo, want Oshima to stay on.

**OCTOBER 22**

U.S. Navy battleships *Oklahoma* and *Arizona* are damaged in collision in Hawaiian Operating Area.

The Japanese liner *Taiyo Maru* leaves Yokohama for Honolulu, Hawaii. On board are several Japanese naval officers whose purpose is to gain intelligence on weather and sea conditions along the route to be used by the First Air Fleet going to Pearl Harbor as well as shipping and U.S. air patrols north of Midway Island and around Oahu Island, Hawaii.

**OCTOBER 24**

The British Battleship *Prince of Wales* leaves Clyde for the Far East.

**OCTOBER 26**

U.S. submarines *Narwhal* and *Dolphin* arrive off Wake Island in the Central Pacific on simulated war patrols.
OCTOBER 27
Two battalions from Canada, The Winnipeg Grenadiers and The Royal Rifles of Canada, 1,973 officers and men, sailed from Vancouver, Canada, to assist in the defense of Hong Kong in China.

Foreign Minister Togo verifies that one copy each of five Japanese codes were being brought by Ambassador Kenkichi Yoshizawa’s party, which was leaving Kobe in Japan on October 31, 1941.

Instructions are sent to Ambassador Sotomatsu Kato in Vichy France that he limits his requests to the demand for landing places for hydroplanes near Saigon.

OCTOBER 28
The Philippine Department Air Force activated on September 20, 1941, is redesigned Far East Air Force.

OCTOBER 29
Selection of American men for the draft starts.

Japanese Samurai Sword
NOVEMBER 1
The Japanese government leaders hold a liaison conference between themselves and the military to discuss arguments for and against war.

Tokyo changes all coded call signs for headquarters, ships, and other facilities.

The United States War Department authorizes the Military Intelligence School to supply interpreters fluent in the Japanese language to interpret both civilian and military communications.

Pacific Escort Force is formed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to protect transports and certain merchant vessels carrying troops and valuable military cargoes between Hawaii and the Far East.

The Fourth Marine Regiment, guarding the legations in China, disembarked from the *S.S. President Madison* at Subic Bay, Luzon, Philippine Islands

United States Coast Guard (USCG) ordered to operate as a part of the U.S. Navy.

London, England, comes to the notation that Air Chief Marshal Sir Henry Robert Moore Brooke-Popham should be replaced as commander-in-chief in Malaya because their feeling is near to a nervous collapse.

60 Nisie (second generation West Coast Japanese) attend the first class of the 4th Army Intelligence School, to learn Japanese, in an abandoned aircraft hanger at Crissy Field located at the Presidio of San Francisco. The Fourth Army Intelligence School is later to be called the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS).

NOVEMBER 2
General Homma Imamura and Yamashita are summoned to the Chiefs-of-Staff office. There they are told that Japan would be going to war in a few weeks and they would be the chief field commanders.

Hideki Tojo and Chiefs of Staff Osami Nagano and Hajime Sugiyama testify to Emperor Hirohito that a policy review of what had been sanctioned by the Imperial Conferences as to who was on the side of the war had been in vain. The Emperor then gave his consent to war.

In its first official meeting, the Free India Center adopts four historical resolutions that will serve as their guidelines for the entire movement in up coming months and years in Europe and Asia.

200 U.S. Marines arrive at Wake Island in the Central Pacific.
NOVEMBER 3
Washington receives a cable from Ambassador Grew in Tokyo stating the Japanese "might resort with dangerous and dramatic suddenness to measures which might make inevitable war with the United States. He goes on to say "it would be shortsighted for American policy to be based upon the belief the Japanese preparations are no more than saber rattling, merely intended to give moral support to the high pressure diplomacy of Japan."

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's plan to attack Pearl Harbor in Hawaii is approved by the Japanese command.

First Air Fleet conducts a dress rehearsal of the Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii.

American women and children are evacuated from Guam in the Mariana Islands, Midway Island in the North Pacific Ocean, and Wake Island in the Central Pacific.


In Australia work begins on the Cookstown Airfield.

NOVEMBER 4
Japanese Imperial Conference ratifies war decision.

A Japanese plane circle low over Changde, a city in Hunan Province, China. However, instead of dropping bombs the plane drops grains of wheat and rice, pieces of paper and cotton wadding that fall on to two streets in the city's East Gate District. During the next three weeks six people living on the two streets died, all with symptoms suggesting plague.

NOVEMBER 5
Secret instructions are issued to the Japanese Navy for the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. An Imperial conference results in agreement to continue negotiations with the United States but to go to war if the conference fails to produce a compromise. The Japanese military is ordered to prepare for the worst.

The Imperial Japanese South Seas Force is assigned the task of seizing U.S territory of Guam in the Mariana Islands and then the airfields in the Bismarck Islands. The Japanese Navy’s special landing forces are to take over the occupation of Guam after the island has been secured. Then they would work with the army in occupying Rabaul on New Britain Island in the Bismarck Archipelago, off the northeastern coast of New Guinea in the western Pacific Ocean. The Imperial 4th Fleet will sail from Truk Atoll in the Caroline Islands to support both the Guam and the Rabaul operations.
Admiral Yamamoto issues "Combined Fleet Top Secrete Operation Order No. 1" outlining naval strategy for the first phase of hostilities covering not only Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, but also more or less simultaneous assaults on Malaya, the Philippines, Guam Island in the Mariana Islands, Wake Island Atoll in the central Pacific, British Hong Kong Island of China, and Dutch East Indies. He also designates the islands of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, Truk Atoll in the Caroline Islands, Ponape of the Caroline islands, Kwajalein, Wotje, Jaluit, and Maloelap in the Marshall Islands as supply bases for the first phase of the Pacific War.

At an Imperial Conference Hirohito makes the decision to go to war with the United States by setting a deadline of December 1st for talks in Washington, D.C., to be completed.

The United States Congress votes to stay in session indefinitely because of the deteriorating state of relations with Tokyo.

General Marshall, Joint-Chief-of-Staff, states that the main military involvement in the Pacific will be Naval and that there will be no air action against Japanese civilians.

Tojo at a conference held before the Throne confirms that Japan’s Saburo Kurusu, an experienced foreign office man, is being flown to Washington as a special representative to reconcile rift between the two governments.
NOVEMBER 6
The Japanese Southern Army is formed under General Hisaichi Terauchi and
ordered to prepare for attacks on the Philippine’s, Malaya, Thailand in southeast
Asia, and the Dutch East Indies.

General Tomoyuki Yamashita is appointed Commander of the 25th Army.

The South Seas Detachment is organized under the direct command of General
Headquarters for operations against Guam Island in the Mariana Islands and the
Bismarck Archipelago off the northeastern coast of New Guinea in the western
Pacific Ocean. Its purpose is form a strategic perimeter to protect newly acquired
territories.

Ambassador Extraordinary Saburo Kurusu leaves Tokyo by air for Washington
D.C., to make a final effort for a peaceful solution.

A committee of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences recommends immediate
construction of an atomic bomb.

The Asama Maru evacuates about 450 Japanese men and women from Singapore,
Malaya. The Japanese Consul-General is at the harbor to wave good-bye to them.

NOVEMBER 7
Japanese naval forces are informed that December 7th will be the date for the
planned attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Normura arrives at Hull's apartment with Japan's Proposal "A".

Ryunosuke Kunusu, special envoy, leaves Japan by clipper ship for Washington,
D.C.

During a cabinet meeting Secretary of State Hull asserted that affairs between the
United States and Japan are extremely grave and that there is “imminent
possibility” that Tokyo might at any time begin a new military action of conquest.

U.S. Congress repeals sections of the Neutrality Act concerning arming U.S.
cargo ships and transporting war goods to warring nations.

NOVEMBER 8
Emperor Hirohito is informed of the attack plan against Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

U.S. Naval Intelligence in Hawaii describes a two-prong advance, one heading
south from Japan and the other east.
NOVEMBER 10
Prime Minister Churchill restates British policy to declare war on Japan "within the hour" if she and the United States become involved in an armed conflict.

A division of British troops, 22,000 men, set sail for the Far East from Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada aboard American ships protected by the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Hart receives permission to withdraw gunboats and U.S. Marines stationed in China.

Admiral Nagumo puts Yamamoto's plan into effect by issuing his first operational order.

General Sugiyama and Vice Admiral Nagano, Chiefs of Army and Naval sections of the Imperial General Headquarters, initialed an outline agreement for joint operations to seize "strategic points in the Bismarck Archipelago, off the northeastern coast of New Guinea in the western Pacific Ocean, as soon as possible after the reduction of Guam in the Mariana Islands."

General Hap Arnold asks for authority to contract American aircraft manufactures for a preliminary study for a new four-engine bomber for the Army Air Corps.

NOVEMBER 11
Ten Japanese submarines, including I-69, I-74, and I-75 leave Yokosuka Naval Base at the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Japan, for a rendezvous at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, then to proceed to Hawaii.

NOVEMBER 12
The first contingent of pilots for the American Volunteer Group, aka The Flying Tigers, arrives in Rangoon, Burma.

The United States Army and the Navy complete an agreement where as the Navy would process intercepted messages from the Japanese on odd numbered days of the month and the Army would do the same on even numbered days.

NOVEMBER 13
President Roosevelt asks Congress to repeal sections of the Neutrality Act.

The British receive a request from China for planes to fly cover over the Burma Road.

Dutch East Indies army commander G.J. Berenschot dies in a plane crash. Ter Poorten is named his successor of the KNIL (Koninklijk Nederlands Indisch
Japanese aircraft carrier *Akagi* sails for Kagoshima City on the southwestern tip of the island of Kyushu in Japan to receive allotment of planes and officers.

**NOVEMBER 14**

All United States Marines are ordered out of Shanghai, Pieping, and Tientsin, China.

The Premier of Burma, U Maung Saw, leaves England after failing to gain a promise of independence from Great Britain.

Saburo Kurusu, special envoy to Tojo, arrives in San Francisco, California, on his way to Washington D. C., to assist Admiral Nomura in a last-ditch effort to maintain peace.

In Japan, detailed operational plans are expanded by the Imperial Fleet and Army commanders in a conference held at the headquarters of the Iwakuni Naval Air Group, on the Inland Sea near the city of Hiroshima, Japan. The conference will last through the 16th.

Japanese carrier *Akagi* stops in Saeki Bay near the mouth of the Bungo Straits, separates Kyushu Island and Shikoku Island of Japan, to pick up Admiral Nagumo Kusaka, Chief-of-Staff, First Air Fleet, Oiski Commander-in-Chief, First Air Fleet.

**NOVEMBER 15**

A contingent of 1,000 Canadian soldiers arrives in Hong Kong, China, to reinforce the British.

Bishop James Walsh, just back from the Far East, delivers to Hull a long memorandum in an attempt to bring Japan and the United States together.

General Marshall invites seven Washington correspondents to a secret briefing where they are told that the Army does not want the press to upset U.S. strategy in the Pacific.

U.S. Army General Headquarters maneuvers begin in North and South Carolina. Two U.S. Navy and two Marine Corps squadrons take part in the large-scale war games.

Lt. General Masaharu Homma and Lt. General Hideyoshi Obata and Vice Admirals Ibo Takahashi and Nishizo Tsukahara finalize plans for the invasion of the Philippine Islands.
American codebreakers decrypt a Japanese message requesting agents to report back to Japan at least twice a week on irregular bases the location of U.S. naval ships in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Normura meets with Hull to discuss relations with Tokyo and Washington.

Special envoy Kunusu arrives in Washington D.C.

**NOVEMBER 16**

Washington rejects Japanese Proposal "A."

Tojo complains that the Americans, British, Chinese, and Dutch are encircling and blockading Japan's economy, constituting measures short of war.

Japanese 2nd Submarine squadron leaves Yokosuka Naval Base at the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Japan, for Hawaii.

Japanese aircraft carrier *Zuikaku* ways anchor and sails to Beppu City on the island of Kyushu, Japan, to take on officers and planes.

All radio traffic between Japan and their aircraft carriers stops.

The Winnipeg Grenadiers and the Royal Rifles from Canada arrive at the british crown Colony of Hong Kong in China.

**NOVEMBER 17**

The United States Congress repeals sections of the Neutrality Act. This allows U.S. merchant ships to be armed and enter combat areas.

Foreign Minister Tojo says an understanding is possible between Tokyo and the United States if the Americans would "understand Japan's national requirements and her position in East Asia and consider the situation as it exists there in light of realities."

Ambassador Grew wires Washington: "I take into account the probability of the Japanese exploiting every possible tactical advantage, such as surprise and initiative."

At a preliminary negotiation the Japanese present Secretary of State Cordell Hull with a list of minimum demands: an end to financial and economic embargo: stop military and economic aid to China; hands off policy in China; recognition of Manchukuo; full access to the Dutch East Indies; acknowledgment of Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The envoy request that these demands be brought to the attention of the President, since the conduct of Tokyo could not be held responsible if the answer is delayed.
Special envoy Kunusu is presented to Secretary of State Hull by Admiral Nomura. Later in the morning Hull takes Kunusu to talk with the President.

Admiral Yamamoto gives his final address to the commanders of the Pearl Harbor strike force.

Mitsubishi Munitions deliver the last of 180 specially modified torpedoes for the Pearl Harbor attack.

Japanese aircraft carrier Shokaku sails from Kure Naval Base at Hiroshima, Japan, to Beppu City on the island of Kyushu, Japan to take on officers and planes.

The liner Taiyo Maru returns from San Francisco, California, following the same route to be used by the First Air Fleet after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The 2nd Regiment of the Philippines' national police force, Philippine Constabulary (PC), is inducted into USAFFE.

In China, Chiang Kai-shek calls for western powers to take action against Japan.

**NOVEMBER 18**

The Japanese Diet approves a resolution of hostility directed against the United States.

During talks with the United States Noruma ask if it might be possible to arrange a type of accord other than the one the two countries are apposed to.

Tokyo sends a coded message to their agents in Hawaii asking information on certain ships in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Japanese destroyers participating in the Pearl Harbor attack leaves Saeki Bay near the mouth of the Bungo Straits that separates Kyushu Island and Shikoku Island of Japan for Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

During the night a flotilla of eleven Japanese I-class submarines leave Kura Harbor, Hiroshima, Japan, with five midget submarines for Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

**NOVEMBER 19**

Off the coast of Western Australia the Australian light cruiser Sydney fires on a suspicious ship that turns out to be the German Raider Kormoran. The two ships exchange fire with both being sunk. There are no survivors of the Sydney.
On Midway Island in the North Pacific Ocean, ground echelon crews arrive to prepare airfield for the arrival of the U.S. Marine Air Group 21.

The Provost Marshal General's School offers instruction in Military Government.

The Japanese Embassy in London, England, is altered to stay ready for a coded message about weather conditions over the Nippon Overseas Radio network. The message would announce the beginning of war at which time the embassy should start destroying all code-books and documents. If war is to be against the British Empire the message will be “westerly wind, fine;” war with Russia the message will be “northerly wind, cloudy”; and war with the United States would be easterly wind, rain.”

Admiral Yamamoto radios his admirals authorizing them to test their communications in case of war.

**NOVEMBER 20**

The Japanese offer a new and final proposal, Proposal "B", to Washington, D.C., to respond on their offer of October 2nd. The Japanese stress that Japan "never pledge itself to a policy of expansion," but the tone is really an ultimatum by which the United States would not aid the Chinese and give Tokyo free hand in French Indochina and China.

The Japanese military issue an order for an attack, but with the proviso that the attack would be held until the results of the diplomatic negotiations are known.

The Kawaguchi Brigade is activated in Tokyo, and placed under the direct command of the Southern Army. It is commanded by Major General Kiyotake Kawaguchi and it is composed mainly of units stationed at Canton, south of China.

President Roosevelt drafts his own compromise plan to break the deadlock with Japan. The President is willing to resume oil shipment to Japan and have the United States participate in direct negotiations between China and Japan. In return, Japan would send no more troops overseas and not comply with terms of the Tripartite Pact, even if the United States becomes involved in Europe. China opposed these proposals and is supported by Churchill, and is withdrawn. Instead, proposals outlined by Secretary of State Hull are submitted.

Japanese envoys Kurusu and Ambassador Nomura in Washington, D.C., presents Tokyo’s final proposal for the resolution of problems between the two countries.

**NOVEMBER 21**

The Joint Army - Naval Board endorses General MacArthur's defense program and authorizes B-17 attacks of Japanese invasion forces and their bases, not the home
islands. Also, the Board amends the War Plan for the Philippine garrison. The garrison will go from the defense of Manila Bay on Luzon to the defense of the entire Philippines.

Brooke-Popham contacts London for special instructions on the circumstances in which he could launch Operation Matador.

Japanese Imperial General Headquarters orders the Combined Fleet to move at the appropriate time to positions of readiness for the start of operations. The various Imperial Naval Task forces, though subject to recall in the event of a Japanese-American agreement, will leave for their designated theaters of operation toward the end of November.

**NOVEMBER 22**

Kurusu and Nomura calls at Hull's apartment to urge a prompt reply to Proposal "B."

Secretary Hull tells Tokyo that Washington and other governments with interest in the Pacific feel the general differences with Japan could all be settled if the Japanese could give us some satisfactory evidences that their intentions are peaceful.

U.S. codebreakers intercept a message to Admiral Nomura that the deadline of November 22, 1941, has been extended to the 25th.

In Malaya Air Chief Marshal Sir Henry Robert Moore Brooke-Popham gains knowledge that the Japanese have set up air and sea bases in southern French Indochina. He request that London put Operation *Matador* into effect.

Ambassador Kurusu receives third and last series of communiqués from Tokyo setting deadlines for successful negotiations.

On Board the Pearl Harbor Strike Force Flag ship, carrier *Akagi*, Admiral Nagumo holds a briefing with his staff officers to go over information about Oahu and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Vice Admiral Ibo Takahashi sails from the Inland Sea of Japan with nearly 100 ships for the invasion of the Philippines.

**NOVEMBER 23**

Officers and men of the Japanese strike force scheduled to attack Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, are told of their mission for the first time. The force is assembled at Tankan Bay, an anchorage at Etorofu Island in the Kurile Islands northeast from Hokkaido Island, Japan.
U.S. occupies Surinam, Dutch Guiana, pursuant to agreement with the Netherlands government to protect bauxite mines.

Captains of the different ships making up the Pearl Harbor Strike Force as well as other key figures attend a briefing conference with Admiral Nagumo on board the carrier *Akagi*.

**NOVEMBER 24**
United States lend-lease aid is approved for the Free French.

U.S. Navy commanders in the Pacific are warned that talks with Japan are unlikely to produce results and the Japanese forces are preparing for military action. The United States advises the officers of the possibility of a "surprise aggressive movement in any direction, including [an] attack on Philippines or Guam." The Japanese transports have been seen en route to the Malayan Peninsula from Formosa located off the southeast coast of the Chinese mainland.

Hull invites representatives of Great Britain, Australia, China, and the Dutch to his office and passes around copies of the latest draft of the Roosevelt plan.

Rear Admiral Takeo Takagi, Southern Philippine Support Force, leaves the Inland Sea of Japan for Palau Atoll in the Caroline Islands in the western Pacific Ocean.

**NOVEMBER 25**
The Anti-Comintern Pact is renewed for five years. Signing the Axis agreement are Germany, Italy, Japan, Hungary, Spain, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Rumania, Slovakia, Manchukuo, and the Chinese government in Nanking.

The United States Navy begins to establish compulsory convoying of merchant vessels.

U.S. submarines *Triton* and *Tambor* arrive off Wake Island in the Central Pacific on simulated war patrols.

Japanese fleet submarines steam out of Hitokappu Bay in the Kuril Islands, northeast from Hokkaido Island, Japan, into the northern Pacific to scout ahead for the Pearl Harbor strike force.

**NOVEMBER 26**
At a meeting in the White House Roosevelt and Hull agreed that the small results expected from the document *modus vivendi* (“This document states that both the United States and Japan would refrain from "any advance by force" into any areas in eastern Asia or the Pacific, and that Japan would withdraw from southern
Indochina, reduce the number of troops in that country, and not send any reinforcements there. In return, the United States agrees to modify its economic restrictions to permit the shipment of $600,000 worth of cotton a month, medical supplies, and oil "for civilian needs.") The document is to remain in force for three months. The American military wants this to buy time to prepare for war, and the army and navy is willing to buy it with minor concessions. But the slight prospect of Japanese acceptance of the modus vivendi is, in the view of the Secretary of State, hardly worth the risk of lowering Chinese morale and in their view Great Britain, China, the Netherlands, and Australia which see it as opening the way for appeasement.

The United States reject the Japanese Proposals "B" of November 20th, because they "contain some features which, in the opinion of this government, conflict with the fundamental principles which form a part of the general settlement under consideration and to which each Government declared that it is committed." The U.S. did suggest, however, "that further effort be made to resolve our divergences of view in regard to the practical application of the fundamental principles..." The rejection marks the end of the long effort to negotiate a settlement.

Nomura and Kurusu meet with Hull to talk about the problems between the two countries.

President Roosevelt and Secretary Hull decide to present a stiff ten-point note of final terms to the Japanese.

Admiral Kimmel is directed to deliver army aircraft to Midway Atoll in the North Pacific Ocean and Wake Island in the Central Pacific.

The Japanese Pearl Harbor Attack Force, under Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, completes its rendezvous and sail from isolated Tankan Bay, Iturup Island, South Kuril Islands northeast from Hokkaido Island, Japan.

Japanese submarine I-26 makes periscope observations of the harbors at Attu, Kiska, and Adak in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

**NOVEMBER 27**

Marshall and Stark meet with the President to go over their view of the situation with Tokyo. A Japanese offensive seemed imminent to them, but the direction of an attack "cannot now be forecast." "The most essential thing, from the United States point of view," they declared, "is to gain time" to complete the preparations for war.

All American military forces are placed on a "final alert" status with Pacific units receiving a "war warning". Washington says, "an aggressive move by Japan is
expected within the next few days…. The United States desires that Japan commit the first overt act.”

President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull receive Ambassador Nomura and Mr. Kurusu. The President tells the Japanese delegation that people in the United States wants a peaceful solution on all matters in the Pacific area; that he has not given up, although the situation is serious. He states that U.S. Government has been disappointed by the continued expressions of opposition by their leaders to the fundamental principles of peace and order. This attitude on the part of the Japanese leaders has created an atmosphere, both in the United States and abroad, which has added greatly to the difficulty of making mutually satisfactory progress in the conversations.

General MacArthur orders 35 B-17s at Clark Field on Luzon in the Philippines be flown to Mindanao Island, Philippines.

During a conference with U.S. Army and Naval officers it is decided to send U.S. Marine fighters to Midway Atoll in the North Pacific and Wake Islands in the Central Pacific instead of Army aircraft.

In Hawaii, General Short places men on anti-sabotage alert, fearing a 5th column movement from the 350,000 Japanese living on the island. Admiral Kimmel dispatches the carrier *Enterprise* to Midway in the North Pacific and the carrier *Lexington* to Wake Island Islands in the Central Pacific to deliver aircraft.

U.S. Marines of the 2nd Battalion, half on the Regimental headquarters along with supplies leaves Shanghai in the Yangtze River Delta in East China for the Philippines on the President Lines *Madison*.

Secretary of War Henry Stimson warns MacArthur the negotiations “for all practical purpose seems to have ended.”

Japanese submarine *I-26* makes a reconnaissance of Adak Harbor at Kiska Island in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska looking for units of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Argentina in South American decides they will no longer sell tungsten to Japan.

**NOVEMBER 28**

For the second time Hull warns the military of a possible attack by the Japanese.

United States War Council meets with the President and agrees that if the Japanese attack British or Dutch territories, or round the southern point of French Indochina and land in the Gulf of Siam and the British fight then the U. S. would also fight.
Nomura and Kurusu are instructed to do their best to keep the conversations open.

The Japanese foreign ministry advises its embassies throughout the world that relations with the United States and Great Britain have reached an extremely critical stage.

A deciphered code from Tokyo informs Ambassadors Normura and Kurusu that diplomatic talks would be broken off, but they are to pretend to try for a settlement.

In the Northern Pacific the Neutralization Force sails from Tateyama near Yokosuka, Japan. This force is to shell the airfield and runways on Midway.

A task force of the carrier Enterprise, three heavy cruisers, and nine destroyers steam from Pearl Harbor in Hawaii to deliver planes to Wake Island in the Central Pacific.

The SS President Harrison sailed from Shanghai in East China, for Manila in the Philippine Islands after evacuating a contingent of U.S. Marines.

Brooke-Popham asks for authority to launch Operation Matador as soon as the Japanese convoy is seen near the Thailand coast.

Major General Lewis H. Brereton, Air Commander of the Philippine Air Force, Far East Air Force, places all air units under his command on war footing.

**NOVEMBER 29**
The United States warns the English of an impending attack in the Asia-Pacific area.

River gunboats Luzon and Oahu depart Shanghai located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China for Manila on Luzon in the Philippine Islands. Oahu is the sister ship of river gunboat Panay.

In Tokyo, the council of senior statesmen meets with members of the Cabinet. Tojo presents the Cabinet view for war, however several of the senior statesmen expressed doubts about the wisdom of a war with the United States. Prince Konoye asks if it is not possible to continue "with broken economic relations but without war," to which prime Minister Tojo replies that the final consequence of such a course would be "gradual impoverishment."

At a Liaison Conference, in Tokyo at the Imperial Palace, final details for the opening of hostilities are decided. Agreement is reached on the form and substance of a note to the United States which, in effect, would end negotiations. The conferees agree that a declaration of war will not be necessary. The timing of
The note to be delivered in Washington, D.C., is also discussed, and it is decided to allow the Imperial Army and Navy to fix the interval between the delivery of the note and the opening of the attack. Instructions are sent to Japan's ambassadors in Germany and Italy to secure commitments whereby:

“1. Germany and Italy would immediately declare war against the United States upon the outbreak of Japanese-American hostilities;
2. None of the three Powers would enter into a separate peace with the United States and Great Britain; and
3. The three Powers would not make peace with Great Britain alone.”

The Guam Island invasion Force, Fourth Fleet, under Admiral Inoue sails from the Inland Sea of Japan.

The Second Fleet under Admiral Kondo leaves the Inland Sea for the Philippines, Malaya, and the Dutch East Indies.


**NOVEMBER 30**

Prince Konoye with the Emperor makes the final decision for war. Tojo rejects American proposal for settling Far East crisis.

A decrypted message from Tokyo is sent to the Japanese ambassador in Berlin, Germany, instructing him to tell the Nazi leaders that "there is extreme danger that war may break out between Anglo-Saxon nations and Japan.

U.S. Marines from China arrives at the City of Olongapo, central Luzon in the Philippines aboard the liner *Madison*.

Small reconnaissance seaplane from Japanese submarine I-10 reconnoiters Suva Bay, Fiji Islands, South Pacific.

River gunboats *Luzon* and *Oahu* rendezvous with submarine rescue vessel *Pigeon* and minesweeper *Finch* at Shanghai located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China.

Dutch naval forces in the Dutch East Indies begin to mobilize.
DECEMBER 1

Japan makes the decision to go to war at a council meeting in front of Emperor Hirohito that ends in a unanimous vote to begin hostilities.

Tokyo rejects Washington's terms, but request that negotiations be continued.

Imperial General Headquarters ordered the Commanding General of the Southern Army to start invasion operations.

Tokyo sends a message to their embassy in Washington D.C., to discontinue the use of their Purple code machine and to dispose of all Purple Codes by burning them. Tokyo also advises their other embassies to contact the Naval Attaché to use a special chemical to destroy all code equipment and all codes.

Japanese strike force bound for the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii crosses over the International Date Line.

A JN-25B, a little used Imperial Japanese Navy, IJN Admiral’s code, changes.

For a second time in a month Tokyo changes all coded call signs for headquarters, ships, and other facilities.

Takeo Yoshikawa gets into a taxi for what turned out to be his final reconnaissance of Pearl Harbor from the Pearl City pier of Hawaii. Later, back at the consulate, he coordinates his report with Kita. He then sees that the encoded message goes to the RCA communications office for transmittal to Tokyo.

London informs Singapore Command of the breakdown in the American and Japanese negotiations and warns that the Japanese could attack without warning. The Malayan Volunteer Force is mobilized and placed on alert. A state of emergency is declared in Singapore.

A state of emergency is declared in Singapore, Malaya.

The Alaskan Defense Command goes to war alert status after State Department warning.

Cunningham Field, Cherry Point, North Carolina, is designated as a Marine Corps Air Station.

During the night, a Japanese Army transport carrying war orders for the attack on Hong Kong from Headquarters in Ching, China, wrecks near Canton, China.

President Roosevelt orders a "defensive information patrol" of "three small ships" established off the coast of French Indochina.
The President Liner Harrison arrives at Olongapo, Philippines, with U.S. Marines from China.

**DECEMBER 2**

In a personal note from Roosevelt to the Japanese envoys in Washington D. C., Roosevelt ask for an explanation of troop build-up in French Indochina.

The Japanese cabinet is reshuffled to meet deteriorating international situation. This cabinet affirms the final decision to attack Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and the coded message to go ahead with the attack, "Climb Mount Niitaka," is sent to the task force under way to Hawaii.

The Japanese Embassy in Washington D. C., is ordered to destroy all but its most secret coding facilities, but to save one copy of each code for future use. Similar messages are sent to missions in Great Britain, Netherlands, Canada, Cuba, the Philippines, and the South Pacific.

Combined Fleet Headquarters sends the coded signal Niitakayama nobore, Climb Mount Niitaka, to signify that hostilities will commence on December 7th.

Tokyo sends a message to Consul General Kita in Honolulu, Hawaii, asking information on ship movements, anti-torpedo nets, and barrage balloons at Pearl Harbor.

The British war ships Prince of Wales and the Repulse arrive at Singapore, Malaya.

U.S. submarine Trout arrives off Midway Island in the Central Pacific on simulated war patrol.

British authorities in Malaya declare a state of emergency after reports of Japanese preparations for an attack.

General Yamashita and Admiral Ozawa receive their orders to implement war plans.

U.S. codebreakers intercept a message to Admiral Nagumo in the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., to destroy all codes.

An American Army Air Corp B-17 on a photo-reconnaissance patrol over Camranh Bay in French Indochina and finds 21 Japanese transports and nine submarines traveling south along the Indo-Chinese coast.
During the night, Japanese photo reconnaissance aircraft flies over Clark Field northwest of Manila on Luzon in the Philippines.

**DECEMBER 3**
The Japanese Strike Force heading for Hawaii refuels at sea.

Admiral Yamamoto calls at the Imperial Palace for a formal audience to receive the command of the Combined Fleet.

Japanese consul General in Hawaii sends a radiogram to Tokyo reporting the American warships are in Pearl Harbor.

The Japanese send a coded message "East winds raining." This is a signal for all diplomatic and consular agents in the United States to destroy all papers.

Japanese Imperial General Headquarters orders the "Three Alls Policy" which is a scorched earth policy for China: "Kill All", "Burn All" and "Loot All".

The Japanese Ambassador in Rome informs Mussolini that war with the United States and Britain is possible in the near future.

Yacht Isabel sails for the coast of French Indochina, deployed in accordance with President Roosevelt's "defensive information patrol" order.

U.S. submarine Argonaut arrive off Midway Island in the Central Pacific on simulated war patrol.

The first ships of the Malaya and Thailand invasion fleet, two slow transports with an escort minelayer, leaves Samah Harbor on Hainan Island in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of China during the night.

Orders are issued for the mobilization of the Dutch Royal Air Force in the Dutch East Indies.

Washington D. C. sends two alert messages to Admiral Kimmel about Japanese instructions to their embassies.

**DECEMBER 4**
In Berlin, Germany, the Japanese ambassador asks the Germans what their position would be if Japan attacks the Allies. This possibility is not covered under the Tripartite Pact. Hitler has not been advised of the plan to attack Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. General Hiroshi Oshima, the Japanese Ambassador to Germany, tells the German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop that Japan was on the threshold of war with the United States; in turn, Ribbentrop pledges that his country will declare war on the United States.
Japan declares that the Netherlands is an enemy power and it would be treated as if a state of war exists between the two countries.

Japanese naval land attack plane reconnaissance Wake Island in the North Pacific Ocean undetected.

Schedule of the Pearl Harbor attack is transmitted to the Japanese submarine fleet.

The Japanese invasion force of Malaya and Thailand sails from the Port of Samah, Hainan Island, China.

The Japanese Twenty-fifth Army begins leaving Hainan Island in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of China for the invasion of Malaya and Thailand.

The U.S. Navy carrier Enterprise delivers Marine fighter planes to the Marines on Wake Island in the North Pacific.

The SS President Harrison is ordered back to Chinwangtao, North China, from Manila to evacuate U.S. Marines from Peking, China.

The U.S. Department of the Navy orders Guam in the Mariana Islands to destroy all of its classified materials and confidential information.

River gunboat Mindanao sails from the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong for Manila on Luzon in the Philippines. She is the last U.S. Navy ship to depart Chinese waters prior to the war. Luzon Stevedoring Company tug Ranger follows subsequently, carrying spare parts and 800 3-inch shells for Mindanao's main
battery. Only two U.S. Naval vessels remain in Chinese waters: river gunboat *Wake* (ex-*Guam*) at Shanghai, located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China, to maintain communications until a radio station is established at the Consulate General with Navy equipment, and river gunboat *Tutuila* at Chungking, China, where she furnishes essential services to the U.S. Embassy.

### DECEMBER 5

United States Naval offices and facilities in Tokyo in Japan, Peking in China, Shanghai in east China, Bangkok in Thailand, Tientsin in China, Wake Island in the Central Pacific, and Guam in the Mariana Islands are ordered to destroy all but absolutely essential communication codes and secret documents.

Japan tells Roosevelt that it is reinforcing its army units in French Indochina because "Chinese troops have shown frequent signs of movement along the northern frontier of French Indochina border of China."

Vice Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, RN, arrives in Manila on Luzon in the Philippines to confer with Admiral Hart and General MacArthur.

Tokyo sends a radio message to the strike force at sea, "Climb Mount Niitaka." This is the go ahead order to attack Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Tokyo orders most members of the Japanese Embassy staff in Washington D. C., to leave by plane within the next couple of days.

Japanese submarine *I-72* reconnoiters the Kaholi Channel between Lanai and Molokai, Hawaiian Islands.

Japanese submarine *I-73* reconnoiters the Kealaikahiki Channel between the Islands of Maui, Kahoolawe and Lanai. Later she reconnoiters the Lahaina anchorage on the island of Maui in the Hawaiian Islands.

Thailand asks Great Britain that if the Japanese attacks Thailand the British would declare war on Japan immediately.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham is given the discretion to launch "Matador."

The U.S. Navy carrier *Lexington* and three cruisers with five destroyers leave Pearl Harbor to deliver planes to Midway Island in the Central Pacific Ocean.

American battleships *Oklahoma* and *Nevada* enter Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Sixteen B-17s leave Clark Field on Luzon in the Philippines for the new Del Monte Field located on Mindanao Island, Philippines.
Dutch East Indies government requests that Australia send military forces to Ambon and Timor.

DECEMBER 6
Churchill reply to the British command is that if attacked by the Japanese that they should defend themselves and that aid from England would be sent as soon as possible. Roosevelt agrees with Churchill and will also send supplies, but both will not declare war.

A Liaison conference of the Government and Imperial General Headquarters decide that Ambassador Nomura will be instructed to deliver Japan's final note ending the Japanese-American negotiations at 1:00 p.m. December 7th, Washington, D.C. time, 30 minutes before the scheduled launching of the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Tokyo begins transmitting a fourteen-part message to their embassy in Washington D. C., to be delivered to the United States Government before the strike on Pearl Harbor.

In a coded message Foreign Minister Togo continues to emphasize the importance of Ambassador Oshima’s reassurance to Germany with regard to Japan’s position with Russia so that the German government would not insist upon an exchange of diplomatic notes on this question. Ambassador Oshima is to explain that Japan would not allow American materials to pass through the Japanese sphere of influence to Russia. In the last analysis, should the German government insist upon a guarantee on this matter, Tokyo realized that it would have no alternative but to issue a statement prohibiting American shipments to Russia via Japanese waters. Ambassador Oshima is to make it clear that Japan could not carry this out thoroughly since in order to prevent Soviet Russia from attacking Japan; Japan could not capture Soviet shipments. The Foreign Minister made it clear to Ambassador Oshima that if Germany would not agree to this last clause, they would necessarily have to postpone the conclusion of such a treaty.

Yacht Isabel is sighted by a floatplane from Japanese seaplane carrier Kamikawa Maru. Later in the day, Isabel receives orders to return to Manila on Luzon in the Philippines.

Just after midnight a Japanese convoy leaves Phu Quoc in French Indochina for the Gulf of Thailand.

Pearl Harbor Strike Force turns south to their take off point.

President Roosevelt is given the partly deciphered 14-part message with
instructions that state message is not to be given to Secretary of State Cordell Hull until 1:00 p.m. Washington, D.C., time the next day.

President Roosevelt sends a message to Emperor Hirohito calling for Japanese troops to be withdrawn from French Indochina.

President Roosevelt approves research funds for an atomic bomb. A sub-committee named "S-1" meets to determine if an atomic bomb can be produced and at what cost. The Manhattan Engineering District is established. The secret U.S. project to build an atomic bomb, later to be called the Manhattan Project, is put under the direction of the Office of Scientific Research and Development.

Chemist James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, announces to a select group in Washington, D.C., the inauguration of a full-scale government program, code-named the "Manhattan Project," to obtain enough fissionable material to construct a bomb.

Japanese mother-submarines stop eight miles off Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and begin to launch midget subs.

Japanese submarines I-121 and I-122 lays a minefield off the northeast exits from Singapore, Malaya.

The battleships Utah with a seaplane tender enters Pearl Harbor in Hawaii for the weekend.

The Philippine invasion force leaves Palau in the Caroline Islands.

British air reconnaissance discovers a Japanese fleet in the Gulf of Thailand, but bad weather obscure further moves or aims.

Japanese minelayers place 500 mines between Malaya and Anamba Island, during the night.

13 B-17s takes off from Hamilton Field in California for Hawaii and Hickam Field adjacent to Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu in the Territory of Hawaii.

In the Mariana Islands on Guam the garrison destroys all classified papers.

An Australian Hudson from Kota Bharu in Malaya sights Japanese ships in the South China Sea.

U.S. Army Fourth Air Force participates in an air defense exercise in San Francisco, California, and the exercise is to continue until December 11th.
DECEMBER 7

0042-Japanese submarine I-16 seven miles off Pearl Harbor’s entrance releases a Type-A midget submarine under the command of Lt (jg) Yokoyama Masaharu. It is the first of five midgets to be released by the Special Attack Unit to attack any ships that leave the harbor. Japanese submarine I-18 is about 13 miles off the entrance to Pearl Harbor launches a midget submarine under the command of Lt. (jg) Furuno Shigemi. This midget sub will be depth charged and will sinks in Keehi Lagoon just off Pearl Harbor.

0116-Japanese submarine I-22 releases her midget sub under the command of Lt. Iwasa Naoki nine miles from the entrance of Pearl Harbor.

0257-Japanese submarine I-20 launches her midget submarine under the command of Ensign Hiroo Akira.

0342-Minesweeper Condor sights a periscope off Honolulu Harbor and notifies destroyer Ward to investigate.

0408-Destroyer Ward begins a search for a submarine reported by the minesweeper Condor but is unable to locate it.

0458-Minesweeper Crossbill and Condor enter Pearl Harbor and the defective submarine net remains open.

0600-200 miles south of Oahu carrier Enterprise launches eighteen aircraft to scout ahead, later to land at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor...ETA 0800.

0610-220 miles north of Oahu Admiral Nagumo orders launch of the first wave of 183 planes off six carriers.

0630-Destroyer Ward again notified of submarine sighting this time by supply ship Antares off Pearl Harbor entrance.

A Navy PBY is dispatched to the area.

0645-Destroyer Ward opens fire on a submarine hitting the conning tower then closes in to drop depth charges. The PBY also attacks.

0653-Destroyer Ward's commander Captain Outerbridge sends message to Commandant 14th Naval District: "We have attacked, fired upon and dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea area."

0700-Commander Fuchida flying towards Oahu directs his pilots to home in on local radio station.

0702-Private's Lockhard and Elliott of Opana Radar Station pick up what appears to be a flight of unidentified aircraft bearing 132 miles north of Oahu.

0710-Private Elliott calls in information to Fort Shafter. Only person on duty at the Information Center is Lt. Tyler, which only begun his job training on December 3rd.

0715-Capt. Outerbridge's attack message from the Ward is delayed in decoding. The message is delivered to the duty officer of the 14th Naval District and then to Admiral Kimmel's duty officer. The Japanese launch a second wave of 168 aircraft.
0720-Lt. Tyler at the Information Center feels that the unidentified planes are the B-17s scheduled to arrive from the mainland. He instructs Opana station to shut down. The two privates continue to plot incoming planes.

0733-Important message from General Marshall in Washington arrives for General Short. The message has no indication of priority and is sent by normal route.

0735- Reconnaissance plane from Hickam, Bellows, Wheeler Ewa take off. Torpedo bombers start run on ships in Pearl Harbor.

The attack on Pearl Harbor erupts along Battleship Row as newly perfected torpedoes specifically designed for the shallow waters of the harbor. Violent explosions rock the light cruiser Helen on her starboard side crippling her and the minelayer Oglala moored along side. At Battleship Row, Ford Island, target ship Utah also feels stings of torpedoes, battleship Oklahoma starts to capsize, light Cruiser Raleigh moored ahead of Utah takes measures to prevent capsizing. Commander Logan Ramsey on Ford Island's Command Center sends out message for all radiomen on duty to send in plain English "Air Raid Pearl Harbor. This is No Drill." A second dispatch orders all patrol planes to seek out the enemy. Simultaneously the call for General Quarters echoes through Pearl Harbor.

0748-Kaneohe Naval Air Station is strafed.

0749-The command to attack is broadcast by Commander Fuchida…”To, To, To.”

0753-Commander Fuchida request that signal for total surprise, “Tora, Tora, Tora,” be broadcast to Tokyo.

0753-U.S.M.C. air base of Ewa Field is attacked.

0755-Fort Kamehameha is attacked by enemy aircraft.

0800-At the same time B-17s from the mainland reaches Oahu after a 14-hour flight and planes from the carrier Enterprise arrive at Ford Island. Both flights are caught between Japanese and American fire.

Unarmed U.S. Army-chartered steam schooner Cynthia Olson is shelled and sunk by Japanese submarine I-26 about 1,000 miles northwest of Diamond Head, Honolulu. She is the first U.S. merchantman to be sunk by a Japanese submarine in World War II. There are no survivors from the 35 men aboard.

0802-Machine guns on the battleship Nevada opens fire on torpedo planes hitting two, however a torpedo hits the ship's port bow.

0808 Radio station KGMB interrupts music calling for: "All Army, Navy, and Marine personnel to report to duty." Dive-bombers drop armor piercing, delayed action bombs flying at an altitude of 10,000 feet scoring hits on the battleships.  
0810-Forward magazines on the battleship Arizona suddenly ignite resulting in an explosion and huge fireball sinking the ship within nine minutes.  
0812-General Short advises entire Pacific Fleet and Washington D. C., "Hostilities with Japan commenced with air raid on Pearl Harbor."  
0815-Radio station KGBM interrupts its music program with second call ordering all military personnel to report for duty.  
0817-USS Helm, first of several destroyers to clear Pearl Harbor, spots a midget submarine struggling to enter the harbor. She fires at the sub but misses. The sub frees itself from a reef and submerges.  
0826-Honolulu Fire Department responds to a call for assistance from Hickam Field. 
0829- KGMB makes a third call for military personnel to report to duty.  
0830- Tanker Neosho half-loaded with high-octane aviation fuel moves clear of Battleship Row and oil storage on Ford Island. In Honolulu police warn civilians to leave the street and return home.  
0839- The seaplane tender Curtiss sights a midget sub in the harbor and commences to fire on it. The destroyer Monaghan heads to ram the sub at ramming speed.  
0840-The Monaghan hits the sub and drops depth charges as she passes over the submarine. The midget sub surfaces after sustaining damage.  
0850-Lt. Commander Shimazzki orders deployment of second wave over military bases on Oahu.  
0900 -The crew of the Dutch liner Jagersfontein opens fire with her guns, the first Allied ships to join into the fight.  
0930-The destroyer Shaw explodes sending debris over the harbor. Bombs fall near the Governor's home.  
1000 -The first wave of Japanese planes begin return to their carriers off Hawaii. 
1005-Govenor Poindexter calls local papers announcing a state of emergency for the Hawaii territory.  
1030-Mayor's Major Disaster Council meets at city hall.  
1100- Commander Fuchida circles Pearl Harbor to assess damage before returning to the strike fleet.  
1115-Governor Poindexter announces a state of emergency over the radio.  
1142-As ordered by the Army all local radio stations go off the air. General Short and the Governor confer about ordering martial law.
1210-American planes flies’ north in search of Japanese carriers but nothing is found.
1230-Honolulu police raid the Japanese Embassy; they find the ambassador and staff burning documents. Black out is ordered by the military.
1240-The governor confers with the President regarding martial law; both agree it is necessary that the military take over the civilian government.
1300-Commander Fuchida lands on the carrier *Akagi*. He and Admiral Nagumo discuss the feasibility of launching a third wave attack.
1330-Admiral Nagumo orders the Japanese strike force to withdraw. Civil defense directors order blackout every night until further notice.
1458-Taadao Fuchikami delivers a decoded message to General Short from Washington regarding an ultimatum from Japan to be given to him at 1300 hours.
1625-The Governor signs a Proclamation putting martial law into effect.

Two Japanese destroyers, *Akebono* and *Ushi* shells Midway Atoll in the Central Pacific.

Japanese submarines *I-121* and *I-122* lays a minefield near Singapore, Malaya.

A flight of Japanese aircraft attacks Guam in the Mariana Islands.

Costa Rica declares war on Japan.

Canada in North America declares war on Japan.

Dutch East Indies declares war on Japan.

In Europe, Greece breaks off diplomatic relations with Japan.

Panama in Central America declares war on Japan.

Yugoslavia government in-exile declares war on Japan.

Japan declares war on the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa.

The British Ambassador to Japan informs the Japanese Government that a state of war exists between the two countries.

Japanese reply rejecting United States note of November 26, delivered at Washington, D.C.

In Malaya the all-available volunteer force is called up forming the 2nd Battalion of the Malaya Regiment.
In Singapore in Malaya, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham is given the discretion to launch operation "Matador" without prior consent from London.

Japanese Philippine invasion force leaves Formosian ports for Hozan and Takao.

During the night, Japanese troops start landing operations at Singora, Thailand, and at Kota Bahru on Malaya.

The SS President Harrison tries to make a run out of the Yangtse River below Shanghai in East China. A Japanese cruiser traps the liner at the mouth of the Yangtse River. The Captain then runs the ship aground at full speed and ripping the bottom plates from the ship.

President Roosevelt orders the Army to cooperate with the FBI in rounding up individual enemy aliens considered dangerous.

A blanket presidential warrant is issued authorizing U.S. Attorney General Francis Biddle to have the FBI arrest a predeterened number of "dangerous enemy aliens," including not only Japanese but also Italians and Germans. By the end of the day 737 Japanese-Americans have been arrested.

U.S. Congress publishes the duties of the new Corps of Military Police.

Military guards take up posts on the Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco, California, at 4:00 p.m. and searched vehicles of any Japanese for explosives.

Australian Air Force planes and personnel arrive at Ambon Island and Timor Island in the Dutch East Indies following a request from that government.

The Brooke Government, under Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, in Sarawak on North Borneo hears of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and ordered the complete and total destruction of the oil fields and airfields at Miri and Seria, North Borneo.

In Tokyo, at 11:40, solemn notes of the Japanese national anthem warned anxious radio listeners that an important announcement is impending. The voice of Premier Tojo is heard reading an Imperial Rescript declaring war on the United States. The broadcast then ends with the strains of a martial song, "Umi Yukaba."

**DECEMBER 8**

At 11:00 a.m. Tokyo time (9:00 p.m. December 7, Washington, D.C. time) the United States Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, receives a communication from the Japanese Foreign Minister, dated December 8, 1941, informing the Ambassador "that there has arisen a state of war between Your Excellency's country and Japan beginning today".
The United States, Great Britain, New Zealand, Free France, the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Union of South Africa, and Panama declares war on Japan.

Mexico, Colombia, Belgium, and Egypt sever diplomatic relations with Japan.

Manchukuo, puppet state set up by the Empire of Japan in Manchuria northeast China and Inner Mongolia in 1932, declares war on the United States.

The Canadian government fearing that some Japanese citizens in the fishing industry are charting the western coastline of Canada for the Japanese Navy ordered that all fishing boats operated by Japanese-Canadian fishermen to be impounded.

At 11:40am Tokyo time, a Declaration of War is broadcast over the radio, four hours after Japanese planes attack Pearl Harbor.

Japanese first bombing raid, by the 11th Imperial Air Fleet, in the Philippines is against Clark northwest of Manila on Luzon and Iba airfields on the western coast of Luzon in Zambales province. This midday raid destroys most of the USAFFE airpower, 53 P-40s and 18 B-17s.

The Japanese attack on the Northern Philippines, Operation "M," Vice Admiral Takahashi’s forces invade the Northern Philippines with landing troops at Appari, Lingayen Gulf, and other points.

34 Mitsubishi G3M2 type 96 land based attack planes from Roi Island, Marshall Islands, attacks Wake Island in the North Pacific just before noon.

At 1:30 pm the Philippine Clipper stripped of all extra equipment departs Wake Island in the North Pacific with all passengers and Pan Am employees. This is the last flight of a Pan Am Clipper to the East.

Colombia, Mexico, Belgium, and Egypt sever relations with Japan.

At dawn, Japanese troops go ashore on Batan Island, the northernmost group of islands in the Philippines.

Japanese forces of the 25th Army lands in Malaya at Singora, Patani, and Kota Bharu, and Thailand.

Singapore in Malaya and Hong Kong in China are bombed.

Guam in the Mariana Islands, Midway in the Central Pacific, and Wake Island in the North Pacific are attacked. The International Settlement in Shanghai located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China is occupied.

The Brooke’s Government on North Borneo orders the destruction of airfields located at Miri and Seria, the oil fields and the oil refinery located at Lutong, North Borneo.

At 8:00 am, British commanders at Singapore phones Brooke-Popham for permission to put ‘Matador’ into effect. At 9:45am, Lt. General Percival cancels ‘Matador’, because he thinks the Japanese are too strong to oppose.

Japanese aircraft attacks the airfields and ground installations in northern Malaya.
Early in the morning Japanese troops cross into the International Compound in Tientsin in China disarming 63 U.S. Marines, also disarming British troops and taking over American and British establishments at Tangka, Taku, and Chinwaangtao all in China.

14 Japanese Mitsubishi “Neil” twin-engine bombers attack Howland Island, Central Pacific, north of the equator, Phoenix Islands, and damage the airstrips of Kamakaiwi Field.

A Japanese surveillance aircraft is sighted above the Nauru Island in the Ocean Islands of the South Pacific.

Japanese floatplanes bombs Guam in the Mariana Islands, damaging the minesweeper Penguin and miscellaneous auxiliary Robert L. Barnes. Penguin, abandoned, is scuttled in deep water by her crew.

Japanese submarine I-69 while stationed off Pearl Harbor in Hawaii waiting for any midget submarine crews to return becomes entangles in an antisubmarine net. The submarines crew struggles for hours and finally breaks free from the net, but the periscope is damaged. After two days the I-69 gives up waiting for any midget submarine crews to return.

Japanese submarine I-123 mines Balabac Strait in the South China Sea, it separates the Balabac Island, Philippines from the Banggi Island north of Borneo, Dutch East Indies.


Japan makes a request that Germany declares war on the United States.

The American gunboat USS Wake and the British gunboat Peterel are captured by Japanese troops at Shanghai located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China. The U.S. garrison in the American section is captured.

Thailand in Southeast Asia signs an agreement with the Japanese granting them the Right of Passage through their country. This action allows Japanese forces to invade Burma and Malaya. This takes place after several hours of fighting between Thai and Japanese troops at Chumphon, Thailand, following Japanese amphibious landing.

London authorizes ill-fated "Matador" to go into action in reply to Japanese landings at Kota Bharu, Malaya.

Fighters and attack planes from the Japanese carrier Ryujo in Davao Gulf in the
Philippines attacks the seaplane tender *William B. Preston*; which escapes. The PBYs she is tending is strafed and destroyed on the water.

During the night dugout canoes from Saipan in the Mariana Islands paddle towards Guam in the Mariana Islands carrying native interpreters for the Japanese. They land on the northern coast of Guam.

Vice Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, Commander of the British Far East Fleet, receives information about Japanese landings in Malay. He puts to sea with the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse* and four destroyers. His mission is to smash the Japanese landings and destroy their transports.

U.S. carriers return to Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii.

*S. S. President Harrison*, enroute to evacuate U.S. Marines from Chingwang Tao, China, runs aground at Sha Wai Shan, China and is captured.

Japanese troops occupy Shanghai located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China.

Japanese ships under Vice Admiral Mineichi Koga command, begins their blockade of the Royal Crown Colony of Hong Kong.

Japanese aircraft attacks Davao on Mindanao Island in the Philippine Islands.

During the night (December 7, Hawaii) Asiatic Fleet Headquarters in Manila on Luzon in the Philippines intercepts an alert message from Pearl Harbor: “Air raid on Pearl Harbor. This is no drill.”

At 11:00 am, Manila time in the Philippines, all B-17s are recalled to be refueled and then armed for an attack on the island of Formosa off the southeast coast of China.

River gunboat *Mindanao*, en route from Hong Kong, China, to Manila on Luzon in the Philippines, encounters a Japanese fishing vessel *No. 3 South Advance Maru*, stops her, and takes her 10-man Formosan crew prisoner. *Mindanao* leaves the craft adrift.

Japanese forces slated to assault Wake Island in the North Pacific under Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi, sails from Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

U.S. submarine *Swordfish*, in her initial submarine attack of the war, torpedoes a Japanese ship west of Manila, Luzon, Philippines. Her claim of a sinking, however, is not confirmed in enemy records.
The first Japanese prisoner-of-war (POW) is captured on Oahu in Hawaii, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki, after swimming to shore after abandoning his midget submarine.

Dutch submarine sinks the first Japanese ship of the Pacific War, the destroyer *Isonami*, off Celebes Island, Dutch East Indies.

During a reconnaissance mission northwest of Vogelkop Peninsula on New Guinea a Dutch flying boat locates a group of Japanese fishing vessels and a large schooner sitting in the Straight of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, between the islands of Sajang and Waigeo and attack but causes little damage.

**DECEMBER 9**

The native interpreters from Saipan in the Mariana Islands for the Japanese are arrested and questioned on Guam in the Mariana Islands.

Japanese forces occupy Bangkok, Thailand.

Japanese troops invade Tarawa Atoll and Makin Island in the Gilbert Islands.

Dutch planes, from the Dutch East Indies, arrive in Singapore in Malaya to bolster the British defense.

Dutch flying boats attack a group of Japanese fishing vessels and a big schooner located in the Straight of Bougainville, between the islands of Sajang and Waigeo in the Solomon Islands sinking the schooner.

Japanese units penetrate the Burmese border at the Isthmus of Kra.

China declares war on Japan, even though she has been at war for years, as well as Germany and Italy.

Clark Field northwest of Manila on Luzon in the Philippines is evacuated and all equipment and supplies that can be salvaged is flown to Del Monte Field on Mindanao, Philippines.

*Kawasaki Ki-48, 'Sokei', Army Type 99 Twin-engined Light Bomber “Lily”*
Declarations of war are made against Japan by Australia, and New Zealand.

Norway severs relations with Japan.

South Africa declares war on Japan

Costa Rica declares war against Japan.

The Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai, located in the Yangtze River Delta in East China, under the Presidency of Kim Gu, declares war on Japan. The military force of the Provisional Government, Korean Liberation Army, sides with the Chinese and the Allies in the Southeast Asian theatres.

Netherlands in Europe breaks diplomatic relations with Thailand in Southeast Asia.

Poland declares war on Japan.

Thailand agrees to a cease fire with Japan.

Japanese submarine I-10 shells and sinks the unarmed Panamanian-flag motorship Donerail southeast of the Territory of Hawaii.

Japanese submarines RO 63, RO 64, and RO 68 bombard Howland and Baker Islands in the Central Pacific in the mistaken belief that American seaplane bases exist there.

Japanese submarine reports sighting the British Prince of Wales and her escort the Repulse heading towards Singapore, Malaya.

Argentina and Uruguay in South America announces that they would consider the United States a "belligerent" in the war against Japan.

Japanese aircraft bombs Davao City on Mindanao in the Philippines.


Three Japanese planes flying from the Marshall Islands bombed the wireless station at Nauru Island in the South Pacific but failed to cause any damage.
Japanese aircraft attacks Wake Island in the North Pacific around 11:45am.

Knox investigation of the Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii begins.

Joint Board approves a plan to recall the Pensacola Convoy to Hawaii.

Japanese construction crews work on the airfield at Bajco, Batan Island, Philippines, as the 24th and 50th Fighter Regiments start operations from the new field.

Thirteen B-17s are moved from Mindanao to Luzon in the Philippines, six to Clark and the rest to San Marcelino on Luzon.

Transport William Ward Burrows, en route to Wake Island in the North Pacific, is re-routed to Johnston Island in the North Pacific Ocean west of Hawaii.

The troop ships Etolin, Bliss, President Johnson, and President Garfield turn back to San Francisco, California, because of the Japanese attack in Hawaii.

The USS Enterprise sails out of Pearl Harbor to patrol against possible additional Japanese attacks on the Hawaiian Islands.

The United States Army is reorganized into three autonomous forces: Army Air Force (AAF), Ground Forces, and Service of Supply.

The construction of the Naval Ammunition Depot at Port Chicago, California, located on an arm of San Francisco Bay about 30 miles northeast of Oakland and San Francisco is authorized.

**DECEMBER 10**

The British battleship Prince of Wales and the cruiser Repulse are sunk off Kuantan, Malaya. This marks the first time that planes sink a capital ship on the high seas. This action also ends the role of the battleship in modern naval warfare.

In Malaya, the British falls back to Jitra Line.

Japanese forces land on Malaya at Kota Bharu.

At the Royal Crown Colony of Hong Kong in China the Japanese 38th Division attack the British defense line, the Shing Mun Redoubt. The defense installation designed to withstand 15 days of fighting fails after five hours causing troops to retreat.
The pro-Japanese Burma Independence Army marches from Burma into Thailand. This organization has been secretly organized and trained by the Japanese.

Guam in the Marianas surrenders to a 6,000 man Japanese invasion force. Guam has little more than 500 servicemen on the island with nothing more than a .30 caliber machine gun to defend the island.

Off Vigan, on the western coast of Luzon Island, Philippine Islands, the Japanese minesweeper W.10 is bombed and sunk by P-35s; destroyer Murasame and transport Oigawa Maru are strafed; the latter, set afire, is beached to facilitate salvage.

50 Japanese bombers damaging the majority of the base and destroying the entire stock of torpedoes for the U.S. Far East Fleet in an attack on the naval base at Cavite, on the southern shores of Manila Bay on Luzon Island in the Philippines.

Forward elements of the Japanese 5th Division cross the border into Malaya.

2,000 troops of the Kanno Detachment land at Pandan, near Vigan on the western coast of Luzon Island, Philippine Islands.

Japanese troops commence landing at Aparri, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Japanese troops of the 3rd Gunboat Division makes a landing on Camigiun Island north of Luzon, Philippines.

Japanese troops attempt a landing at Pandan Island off west coast of Mindoro, Philippines, but are driven off by a combination of weather and the Army Air Force.

4,000 Japanese troops from Formosa off the southeast coast of China go ashore on northwest Luzon, Philippines, without much resistance.

Imperial Japanese Navy occupies Makin Island in the Gilbert Islands and set up a seaplane base.

Japanese aircraft attacks Wake Island in the North Pacific around 10:20 am.

Japanese aircraft hit Cavite on the southern shores of Manila Bay in Luzon Island, Philippine Islands heavily damaging the harbor facilities, destroying important installations, and sinking a freighter.

Japanese submarine I-10 attacks and sinks the Danish freighter Nordhval with her deck gun southeast of the territory of Hawaii.
Japanese submarine *I-70* is attacked by a Dauntles dive-bomber from U.S. carrier *Enterprise* north of the Hawaiian Islands. The attack leaves the submarine disabled so it cannot submerge. Later in the day, as she is running on the surface, the *I-70* is attacked by another dive-bomber. This attack sinks the submarine. The *I-70* is the first Japanese combatant ship sunk by a United States aircraft during World War II.

Japanese submarine *I-124* torpedoes and sinks the British freighter *Hareldawins* off the island of Luzon, Philippines.

B-17s, P-40s, and P-35s carry out the first American offensive by attacking Japanese shipping unloading in Lingayen Gulf, Northwest Luzon, Philippines, but do little or no damage. Only one bomb, by a B-17, hits a transport. This is the first time a B-17 is used as an offensive weapon in World War II.

B-17s bomb and damage light cruiser *Naka* and transport *Takao Maru*; the latter is run aground. Off Aparri at the northeast tip of Luzon, Philippine Islands, minesweeper *W.19* is bombed by a B-17 and grounded; light cruiser *Natori* is also damaged by a B-17.

General MacArthur sends a message to the Russians requesting that they attack the Japanese from the north.

Joint Board decides to send the Pensacola Convoy to Brisbane, Australia.

Cagayan Force of guerrillas is formed immediately after the Japanese attack, by Major Marcelo Adduru. He is the governor of Cagayan province in north Luzon, Philippines. His guerrillas consisted primarily of Cagayan Philippine Constabulary personnel.

U.S. carrier *Lexington* returns to Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii with its undelivered load of Marine aircraft for Wake Island in the North Pacific.

U.S. submarine *Sealion* is damaged beyond repair during a Japanese air raid on the Cavite Navy Yard, Luzon in the Philippines, while undergoing a regular overhaul.

Task Force 5 of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet leaves Philippine waters for Borneo in the Dutch East Indies to pick up oil and to assemble.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Mauna Ala*, re-routed back to Portland, Oregon, because of Japanese submarines lurking off the U.S. west coast, runs aground off the entrance to the Columbia River; she subsequently breaks up on the beach, a total loss.
Pan American Airways Clipper plane lands at the Treasure Island, an artificial island in the San Francisco Bay, seaplane harbor with bullet holes from a strafing at Wake Island on December 7th.

American Naval Radio Intelligence Unit (RIU) begins working on available JN-25B messages from its local intercept site to break the code.

U.S. Treasury agent reports to U.S. Army authorities in San Francisco, California, they “estimated 20,000 Japanese in the San Francisco metropolitan area were ready for organized action.” Army staff immediately began planning for mass evacuation of West Coast Japanese.

**December 11**

The Japanese attempt to land troops on Wake Island in the North Pacific, but the U.S. Marines, heavily outnumbered, drive the enemy back. The shore guns sink one destroyer, *Hayate*. U.S. Marine aircraft sink one destroyer, *Kisaragi*, and damage three other destroyers of the nine men of wars sent on the invasion. At the time of the attempted invasion there are 383 Marines, 70 civilian employees of Pan American Airways and 1,200 construction workers on Wake Island.

Japanese reconnaissance flying boats bombs Wake Island in the North Pacific in pre-dawn raid. Later in the day, land attack planes bomb Wake Island.

U.S. submarine *Gudgeon* leaves Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii for a patrol in the Japanese home waters.

U.S. submarine *Triton*, on patrol near Wake Island in the North Pacific, fires four torpedoes at an unidentifiable ship, the first fired from a Pacific Fleet sub in World War II, but no hits recorded.

On the West Coast of the United States the Western Defense Command is established with Lt. General John L. Dewitt as commander. The West Coast is declared a Theater of War.

Germany and Italy declares war on the United States.

Japan, Germany, and Italy finishes an agreement, pledging that none of the governments would conclude a separate peace.

The Soviet Union Ambassador informs the State Department that the U.S.S.R. "could not risk an attack by Japan."

Nicaragua in Central America declares war on Japan.
The Dutch and Polish governments-in-exile declares war on Japan.

Mexico breaks diplomatic relations with the Axis powers.

In Malaya, RAF bombers are restricted to night missions because of a shortage of fighter escorts for daylight protection.

Japanese troops complete the occupation of southern Thailand in Southeast Asia.

Japanese planes takes off from bases in Thailand in Southeast Asia to open the invasion of Burma by bombing the Tavoy airdrome, a forward British outpost on the Andaman Sea south of Rangoon, Burma.

Japanese aircraft from Saigon in French Indochina bomb Singapore in Malaya for the first time.

The Japanese 18th Division captures Kota Bharu and the airfields at Tanah Merah and Kuala Krai, Malaya.

In Malaya, Japanese forces land on Singora beaches and at Patani. At Kota Bharu the Japanese battle Indian troops.

The Japanese 18th Division captures Kota Bharu and the Tanah Merah and Kuala Krai airfields, Malaya.

Vice Admiral Takahashi Ibo's Second Fleet of the Southern Force of the Philippines Seizure Force makes an invasion landing at Legaspi located to the east of Albay Gulf, Luzon, Philippines.

Seven U.S. Navy PBYs are attacked at Subic Bay, Luzon, Philippines, just after returning from patrol by Japanese Zeros which sinks all the PBY’s.


Japanese submarine I-56 sinks the Norwegian cargo ship Hai Tung with her deck gun near Singapore, Malaya.

Japanese submarine RO-64 fires on the radio and weather station, depots, barracks, runways, and the lighthouse located on Howland Island in the Central Pacific. Later in the day she shells Baker Island in the Central Pacific.

Japanese submarine RO-68 shells Baker Island in the Central Pacific.
In Malaya, the Battle of Jitra starts as the 11th Indian Division construct a defense at Jitra after "Matador" is aborted. After 15 hours of fighting 3,000 Indian troops surrender, the remainder of the 11th Division retreats to Gurun.

Indian troops move into Thailand in Southeast Asia to meet the Japanese advancing from Singora.

The U.S. carrier Saratoga is torpedoed off the coast of Hawaii.

One runway at Bellows Field, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, is repaired and made longer so that B-17s could land.

U.S. 2nd Army Air Force is placed under Western Defense Command.

Commercial shipping anchored in Manila Bay, Luzon, Philippines, steam out to open water at the request of Admiral Hart.

Secretary of the Navy Knox arrives on the island of Oahu in the Territory of Hawaii, to personally assess the damage inflicted by the Japanese on December 7.

Unarmed U.S. freighter Capillo, damaged by bombs on December 8, 1941, is partially scuttled by U.S. Army demolition party, off Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon in the Philippines.

The West Coast of the United States is declared a wartime “Western Theatre of Operations” by the Western Defense Command. No private vessels are allowed to sail at night into San Francisco Bay, California.

**DECEMBER 12**

Japanese forces of the Kimura Detachment, 16th Division, land unopposed at Legaspi in southern Luzon, Philippines. By 9:00am they control the airstrip and terminus of the Manila railroad.

One squadron of the AVG (Flying Tigers) is moved from their training base in Toungoo, Burma, to Mingaladon located near Rangoon in Burma, to help protect the capital city.

The American Asiatic Fleet, in the Philippines, withdraws to the island of Java in the Dutch East Indies because of no air cover.

200 Japanese aircraft strikes targets on Luzon in the Philippines in an effort to destroy the remaining elements of the Far East Air Force and Asiatic Fleet.

B-17s from Del Monte on Mindanao in the Philippines attacks transport ships near Vigan on the western coast of Luzon Island, Philippine Islands.
Japanese planes attack Subic Bay area of Luzon and airfields in Philippines.

Commander of the Pensacola Convoy is ordered to proceed to Brisbane in Australia.

MacArthur informs President Quezon at the military Headquarters, the Office of U.S. High Commissioner, and the Philippine Government will need to be ready to move to Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon on a four-hour notice.

Elements of the Tanaka Detachment reach Tuguegara airfield, Luzon, Philippines.

Thai government agrees to a military alliance with Japan.

Small groups of Japanese troops start infiltrating into Burma from Thailand in Southeast Asia.

The Flying Tigers, AVG, fly into Burma from China.

British troops start withdrawing from the Chinese mainland of Kowloon onto the island of Hong Kong in anything that can float.
Malaya Command orders a retreat to Kuala Krai and Kuala Lipis. The Japanese launch heavy frontals attack that causes heavy casualty to the 3/16th Punjab Regiment at Kroh, Malaya.

The Australian AIF 2/40 Battalion and 2/2 Independent Company arrives at Koepang on West Timor, Dutch East Indies, to defend Bay of Koepang and the Penfui airfield along with the Dutch forces.

British forces under Murray-Lyon are forced from Jitra, Malaya.

Japanese aircraft attack Wake Island in the North Pacific.

Japanese submarine shells Sand Island, Midway, Central Pacific.

Dutch submarine K XII operating off Malaya, to guard against Japanese invasion, torpedoes and sinks the army cargo ship Toro Maru off Kota Bharu, Malaya.

Dutch submarine O-16 torpedoes and damages army cargo ships Tozan Maru, Kinka Maru, and Asosan Maru off Patani/Singora, Malaya.
U.S. submarine S-38 mistakenly torpedoes and sinks the Norwegian merchantman Hydra II west of Cape Calavite, Mindoro, Philippines, believing her to be a Japanese auxiliary. Hydra II had been en route from Bangkok, Thailand, to Hong Kong, China, when she is diverted to Manila on Luzon in the Philippines by the outbreak of war.

**DECEMBER 13**

In the Philippines Japanese planes virtually wipe out the remaining American aircraft. Other Japanese planes attack the port district around Manila on Luzon.

Defenders of Hong Kong completes a withdraw from the mainland to the island. The Japanese begins a five-day bombardment of the island.

The Japanese invasion convoy for Sarawak in North Borneo leaves Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina.

In the Brunei-Sarawak area of North Borneo, a small detachment of Indian troops withdraw after destroying the oilfields and production facilities.

British troops in Malaya, at the northwestern front line, are in full retreat south of Jitra. Also, Alor Star falls to the Japanese. One of the prisoners is Indian Major Mohan Singh. He agrees to set up a unit of Indian, Burmese, and Thai troops to fight the British.

Hospital patients and all European women and children are evacuated from Penang Island to the mainland, Malaya.

The British evacuates the airfield at Victoria Point in the extreme south of Burma on the Kra Isthms.

The governor of Hong Kong rejects a surrender demand from Lt. General Taikaishi Sakai. This begins four days and nights of shelling.

British forces evacuate the airfield at Victoria Point on the Kra Isthmus, Burma.

595 Japanese and 187 German residents in the western states are interned by the United States Department of Justice.

MacArthur is informed that reinforcements are on the way to the Philippines.

Japanese submarine shells Midway Island in the Central Pacific setting on fire a 1,200 gallon of oil tank.

Japanese submarine I-68 is subjected to depth-charge attack southwest of
Oahu Island, Territory of Hawaii. The last attack wrecks many of her battery cells and causes flooding in her aft torpedo tubes. She terminates her patrol and heads for Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

**DECEMBER 14**

Bangkok, Thailand, and Tokyo, Japan, enters into an alliance. Thailand retains a measure of independence but Japan exercises whatever control necessary to operate in Thailand.

In Malaya, the Far East War Council decides that Penang can be held for another three to four days. The Japanese takes the Alor Star airfield.

The Malaya Command in Singapore orders the secret withdraw of the defeated Kota Bharu forces down the rail line to Kuala Lipis.

Japanese aircraft begins landing at the Alor Star airfield. They refuel with British fuel and take off carrying British bombs that the defenders had forgotten to destroy before retreating.

Japanese forces in Malaya occupy Gurun and Kroh.

Ten Japanese troop transports sail from Cam Ranh Bay in French Indochina for North Borneo with the invasion force on board. The convoy is escorted by three cruisers and six destroyers.

Japanese planes bomb Tarempah Islands which is part of the Dutch East Indies territory. This is an effort to eliminate the string auxiliary seaplane support bases operated by the Dutch Naval Aviation.

Knox's Pearl Harbor investigation ends.

B-17s from Del Monte airfield located by the Del Monte Corporation pineapple plantation, Mindanao in the Philippines attacks the Legaspi Landing Force in southern Luzon in the Philippines and nearby airstrip with little results.

B-17s bombs and damages the Japanese cargo ship *Ikushima Maru* and tanker *Hayatomo* off Legaspi, southern Luzon in the Philippines.

Surviving B-17s in the Philippines are ordered to Australia.

Three Japanese flying boats attack Wake Island in the North Pacific.

U.S. Navy destroyer *Craven* collides with heavy cruiser *Northampton* during underway refueling and is damaged.
The Norwegian cargo ship *Hoegh Merchant* is torpedeed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-4* east-by-northeast of Oahu Island, Territory of Hawaii.

Japanese bombers attacks a cock fighting stadium at Olongapo in central Luzon, Philippine Islands, filled to capacity with a Sunday crowd of Filipinos, killing most of the spectators.

Japanese General Maeda, Homma's Chief-of-Staff, arrives at Aparri, Luzon, Philippines for an inspection and to brief the commanders on changes in plans.

U.S. submarine *Seawolf* torpedoes the Japanese seaplane carrier *Sanyo Maru* off Aparri; Luzon, Philippines; one torpedo hits the ship but does not explode.

U.S. submarine *Swordfish*, attacking Japanese shipping off Hainan Island in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of China, torpedoes the army transport *Kashii Maru* and sinks it.

Japanese submarine *I-15* is placed on standby by the Imperial Navy, stationed west of the Farallone Islands in the Gulf of the Farallones, off the coast of San Francisco, California, to shell San Francisco, California.

**DECEMBER 15**

A small force of Japanese attempts to cross from Kowloon to Hong Kong but are forced back.

Yamashita establishes his headquarters at Alor Star, Malaya.

All remaining B-17s in the Philippines are flown to Australia.

Kahului, Maui, territory of Hawaii, is shelled by a Japanese submarine.

Johnston Island, in the North Pacific Ocean west of Hawaii, is shelled by the Japanese submarine *I-22*.

Japanese reconnaissance flying boats bombs Wake Island in the North Pacific.

Dutch submarine *O-16* is returning to Singapore in Malaya from a patrol off Patani when she strikes a mine and sinks.


Philippine steamship *Vizcaya* is scuttled in Manila Bay, Luzon, Philippines.
The first cargo ship loss of the war by Japan is caused by the American submarine *Swordfish*, which sinks the *Atsutasan Maru*.

Reinforcements for Wake Island in the North Pacific leave Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii, escorted by four destroyers.

The *USS Wake* is enlisted into the Japanese Navy.

Lt. General Lewis Heath orders a withdraw of the garrison on Penang Island, Malaya.

British air units withdraw from Malaya to Sumatra Island, Dutch East Indies.

Western Defense Command places the Army Air Force, Alaska Defense Command, under its jurisdiction. They become responsible for all Army Air Corps units and installations in Alaska less those at Ladd Field and are responsible for coordinating with the 2nd and 4th Air Forces.

U.S. Congress votes $10.1 billion for the war effort.

The Japanese Diet meets in special session to promise renewed effort to win the war quickly.

Japanese aircraft attacks Manila's port districts on Luzon in the Philippines.

Japanese troops land at Sarawak, North Borneo.

**DECEMBER 16**

Japanese Kawaguchi detachment invades British North Borneo at Lutong and soon captures Miri where the vital oil fields are located.

In Malaya the British evacuates Penang Island. Lt. General Lewis Heath orders a withdrawal to an area near Kuala Kangsar. Heath visits Murray-Lyon at the Munda River line. The 11th Division is exhausted and is no shape for combat so they are ordered to withdraw to the Krian River.

Anti-Dutch Acehnese makes contact with Japanese forces in Malaya.
The War Department gives Brigadier General John Magruder of the American Military Mission to China (AMMISCA) authority to transfer lend-lease materiel awaiting transportation in the port of Rangoon in Burma from Chinese to British control.

A Japanese submarine shells Johnston Island in the North Pacific Ocean west of Hawaii.

The Roberts Commission is appointed to investigate the disaster at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The details of the Pearl Harbor attack are reported to the public by the Nations media.

U.S. Navy carrier Saratoga, four destroyers; heavy cruisers Astoria, Minneapolis, and San Francisco; sails from Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. These ships will overtake the force formed around Tangier and Neches and their consorts that are to relieve Wake Island in the North Pacific.

Japanese Pearl Harbor Attack Force detaches carriers Hiryu and Soryu, heavy cruisers Tone and Chikuma, and two destroyers to reinforce second planned attack on Wake Island in the North Pacific.

U.S. submarine Tambor, damaged by operational casualty, retires from the waters off Wake in the North Pacific.
U.S. submarine *Swordfish*, attacks a Japanese convoy south of Hainan Island in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of China, torpedoes the army transport *Atsutasan Maru* and sinks it.


President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order to establish Defensive Sea areas off the San Francisco coast of California.

Japanese aircraft attack Wake Island in the North Pacific.

Two of the Japanese carriers from the Pearl Harbor Strike Force as well as two heavy cruisers and two destroyers leave to join the South Sea Force in the attack on Wake Island in the North Pacific.


General Yamashita establishes his command post at Alor Star, Malaya.

Japanese forces capture the airfields at Victoria Point, Burma.

Japanese troops land at Miri, Sarawak, British North Borneo 5:00 a.m. and captured the oil fields at Miri and Seria and the oil refinery at Lutong. British and Dutch authorities begin to issue orders to destroy other oil related facilities to avoid further capture.

Admiral Kimmel is relieved of command and demoted to Rear Admiral.

**DECEMBER 17**

In Malaya, the British pull back to the Perak River from Gurun.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz is named commander of the Pacific Fleet replacing Admiral Kimmel.

Vice Admiral William S. Pye, Commander, Battle Force, becomes acting Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, pending the arrival of Rear Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who is ordered on this date to relieve Admiral Husband E. Kimmel.

Lieutenant General Delos C. Emmons is named commanding general of the Hawaiian Department.
At Singapore, Malaya, an advanced party of Japan’s Imperial Guard arrives from Bangkok, Thailand.

Japanese land troops at Mire, British Borneo. British Troops are too few in numbers to counterattack begin Destroying the oil refineries and withdraw.

Admiral William S. Pye. U.S. Navy photo

The Japanese Submarine I-5 completes a periscope survey of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

A seaplane from the Japanese submarine I-7 makes a reconnaissance of Pearl Harbor. The pilot reports seeing four damaged battleships and an aircraft carrier. He also counts five cruisers and 30 other types of ships, including three destroyers patrolling off the entrance of Pearl Harbor's.

Japanese submarine I-15 surfaced to charge her batteries near the Farallones. Seeing the lights of San Francisco, California, Captain Hiroshi Imazato jokes to the crew that it was a good time to visit the famous City.


Unarmed U.S. freighter Manini is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine I-75 south of Hawaii.

Ternate, New Guinea, is hit by Japanese planes.

United States Marine Corp, USMC, aircraft, Seventeen Vindicators led by a plane-guarding PBY, arrives at Midway, completing the longest over-water massed flight (1,137 miles in 9 hours and 45 minutes) by single-engine aircraft. The squadron had been storied on Lexington when the outbreak of war cancelled the projected ferry mission on December 7, 1941.

Philippine steamship Corregidor, crowded with about 1,200 passengers fleeing Manila for Mindanao, hits an Army mine off Corregidor and sinks with heavy loss of life. Motor torpedo boats PT-32, PT-34, and PT-35 pick up 282 survivors (196 by PT-32 alone) distributing them between Corregidor and the requisitioned French steamship Si-Kiang; seven of those rescued die of injuries suffered in the tragedy. Interestingly, Corregidor was formerly the British seaplane carrier HMS Engadine which took part in the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

U.S. Navy takes over French motor mail vessel Marechal Joffre, Manila Bay,
Luzon, Philippines.

A Japanese Combined Force organized for landings at Davao, Mindanao in the Philippines and Jolo Islands in the Sulu Archipelago leave Palau in the Caroline Islands in 14 transports.

Japanese transports depart Formosa off the southeast coast of the Chinese mainland with troops and supplies for the Luzon invasion in the Philippines.

Dutch and Australian troops, two-thirds Dutch and one-third Australian, arrive at Dili, East Timor, Dutch East Indies, in disrespect of Portuguese sovereignty. Governor Ferreira de Carvalho, without means to retaliating ordered the national flag to be hoisted on all public partitions and buildings in the colony.

Admiral Hart is instructed to turn over all that remains of his command to MacArthur when the Admiral relinquishes personal control.

First group of B-17s leaves Del Monte airfield located by the Del Monte Corporation pineapple plantation, Mindanao in the Philippines airfield for Darwin in Australia a 1500 miles to the south.

In Washington D. C., General Eisenhower's plan for establishing military supply bases in Australia to support the Philippines is approved by General Marshall.

In Hong Kong, China, the Japanese control the northern part of the harbor. They send in a British woman to deliver the Japanese demand to surrender to the Governor, Sir Mark Young, but he declines to negotiate.

Japanese air raid on Ternate Island, Moluccas Islands, Eastern Dutch East Indies.

During the night, the British garrison and the European population on Penang Island, Malaya is evacuated.

Japan begins research on an atomic weapons project as scientist and naval technicians meet at the Naval Officers Club in Tokyo to discuss the feasibility of an atomic weapon.

**DECEMBER 18**

Japanese forces take Penang on the northwest coast of Peninsular Malaya by the Strait of Malacca. The British now defend Selama, along the Kriann River between Taiping and Penang.

General Percival flies to Ipoh in Malaya to meet Heath.

General Sailo tells Colonel Tanaka to invade Lei Yu Mun, northeast corner of
Hong Kong Island, and to take no prisoners. During the night, Japanese troops lands on Hong Kong Island between Lei U Mun Channel and North Point.

Dutch naval aircraft attacks Japanese invasion ships at Miri, Sarawak on the northern coast of Borneo anchorage with little effect.

Japanese destroyer *Shinonome* strikes a mine and sinks off Miri, British North Borneo, killing all 219 aboard.

Japanese submarine *I-17* shells and then fires torpedoes at the American freighter *Samoa*, off Cape Mendocino, California, but her shells and a torpedoes miss.

Japanese submarine *I-123* lays a minefield off Surabaya, East Java, Dutch East Indies.

Japanese destroyer *Shinonome* is sunk by a Dutch flying boat off Borneo, Dutch East Indies.

Japanese troops land at Capiz, Panay Island in the Philippines located in the western part of the Visayas Islands.

Japanese troops enter Naga, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Japanese aircraft begin operating from strips in northern Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Two-plane detachments from Patrol Wing 1 and 2 based in Hawaii start scouting patrols from Johnston Island in the North Pacific Ocean west of Hawaii.

Ten B-17s arrive at Batchelor Field, Darwin, Australia.

U.S. submarine *Pompano* leaves Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii on her first patrol into the Japanese held Marshall Islands.

President Roosevelt signs Executive Order No. 8984 that provides that Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet will take supreme command of the operating forces of all Navy fleets and coastal frontier commands, and be directly responsible to the President.

In another executive order, President Roosevelt directs a commission, to be headed by retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Owen J. Roberts (Roberts Commission), to "ascertain and report the facts relating to the attack made by the Japanese armed forces upon the Territory of Hawaii on December 7, 1941...to provide bases for sound decisions whether any derelictions of duty or errors of judgment on the part of United States Army or Navy personnel contributed to
such successes as were achieved by the enemy on the occasion mentioned; and if so, what these derelictions or errors were, and who were responsible therefore.” In addition to Justice Roberts, the commission's membership includes retired Admiral William H. Standley and Rear Admiral Joseph W. Reeves; Major General Frank R. McCoy, USA (Retired) and Brigadier General Joseph T. McNarney, USA.

Roberts’s commission begins their Pearl Harbor investigation.


French motor mail vessel *Marechal Joffre*, manned by a scratch crew that includes aviation personnel from Patrol Wing Ten, departs Manila Bay of Luzon in the Philippines for Borneo in the Dutch East Indies. *Marechal Joffre* will be formally acquired by the Navy on April 20, 1942, and will serve as the transport *Rochambeau*.

Wenceslao Quinito Vinzons leads a group of Filipino guerrillas against Japanese soldiers stationed at Basud Camarines Norte on Luzon, Philippines.

**DECEMBER 19**

Japanese troops crossing from Kowloon into Hong Kong are attacked by British torpedo boats. The Japanese are using junks and sampans to make the crossing. Several are lost.

The Japanese occupy Penang Island in Malaya and find that the radio station is intact, and soon start broadcasting propaganda all over Southeast Asia.

Vice Admiral William F. Halsey's Task Force 8, formed around the carrier *Enterprise*, heavy cruisers, and destroyers, sails from Pearl Harbor in the Territory of Hawaii for waters west of Johnston Island in the North Pacific Ocean west of Hawaii and south of Midway Island in the Central Pacific to cover Task Force 11 and Task Force 14 operations.

Unarmed U.S. freighter *Prusa* is torpedoed and sunk by the Japanese submarine *I-172* about 150 miles south of Hawaii.

U.S. Naval Academy Class of 1942 is graduated early, due to the National Emergency.

General DeWitt recommends to the War Department to round up “all alien subjects 14
years of age or over, of enemy nations and remove them to the Zone of the Interior,” because the West Coast had become a wartime Theater of Operations.

British troops withdraw to Kuala Kangsar, Malaya.

General Percival and Heath carry out a join reconnaissance of British positions below Ipoh, Malaya.

The Portuguese Council at Dili on West Timor, Dutch East Indies, hold a meeting and subsequent indications are interpreted as that the Governor is against the Australians and Dutch troop occupation of the island.

Japanese shell Pontianak on the island of Borneo, Dutch East Indies, causing extensive damage.

Japanese carrier planes from the Ryujo attack Del Monte airfield, Mindanao, Philippines.

During the night the Japanese land 500 men from the 56th Infantry Regiment near Davao on Mindano, Philippines, from Vice Admiral Takahashi Ibo's Second Fleet, Southern Force, Philippines Seizure Force.

Japanese carrier planes attacks the radio station at Cape San Augustin, southern tip of Davao Gulf, Philippines.

Japanese naval land attack planes bomb Wake Island, North Pacific, targeting installations on Wake and Peale islets.

The Military Police Service School is established at the Arlington Cantonment, South Post, Fort Myer, Virginia.

Dutch submarine O-20 is scuttled east of Kota Baru, Malaya, to prevent her from being capture by the Japanese destroyer Uranami. The O-20 was damaged by depth charges earlier that day by the Japanese destroyers Ayanami and Yūgiri.

U.S. Congress authorizes the President to draft men up to 44 years of age.

**DECEMBER 20**

Japanese forces, of the Miura Detachment, lands north of Davao, Mindanao, Philippines. The Sakaguchi Detachment goes ashore southwest of the city. The occupation of Davao is a combined IJN/IJA operation which involves General Count Terauchi Hisachi’s command of the Southern Expeditionary Army

Tanaka and Kanno Detachments join up and move south to Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippines.
United States Army Far East, USAFE, forces in the Cavite area, Philippines are ordered to evacuate.

The Japanese use rafts to cross the Perak River on the Malaya Peninsula to attack British positions.

For the first time the Flying Tigers, AVG, enter combat challenging Japanese aircraft over Kunming in Southwest China. They attack ten twin-engine Mitsubishi bombers flying toward Hanoi in northern French Indochina. In the action the AVG shoot down their first planes.

Belgium declares war on Japan.

Admiral King is designated Commander in Chief, United States Fleet.

British forces at Hong Kong, China, push Japanese troops from Leighton Hill.

The battleships Tennessee, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, which had been at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7th, are raised and compose a task force setting at Pearl Harbor.

Japanese aircraft attacks Manila's port districts on Luzon, Philippines.

The last B-17 flies out of the Philippines for Australia.

PBY arrives at Wake Island in the North Pacific to deliver information to the garrison concerning the relief efforts then underway.

Oakland garbage scow Tahoe rams a Japanese submarine nine miles southwest of the Farallones Islands in the Gulf of the Farallones, off the coast of San Francisco, California. Captain William Vartnaw sees the periscope and part of the conning tower as his ship passes over the submarine.

A Japanese submarine, off Crescent City, California sinks the tanker SS Emidio. The first cargo marine ship sunk in American waters by a Japanese warship.

U.S. tanker Agwiworld is shelled by Japanese submarine I-23 off Santa Cruz, California.

U.S. submarine Pompano, on a patrol to the Marshall Islands, is attacked first by an U.S. Naval plane on anti-submarine patrol then later by dive-bombers from the carrier Enterprise. This second attack leads to a oil leak, however, the Pompano continues her patrol.
DECEMBER 21

At Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, Philippines, Japanese troops begin landing forces only 135 miles from Manila.

Japanese aircraft attacks Manila's port districts.

In the Philippines on Luzon, the Tanaka Detachment reaches San Fernando, La Union.

Prime Minister Churchill radiograms the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Mark Young and tells him to resist as long as possible.

Major General Murry-Lyon, Commander of all British forces west of Perak, Malaya, orders an immediate withdrawal.

The British abandon the RAF Butterworth airbase after intense air raids over the last week.

The Japanese float down Chenderoh Lake, east of the Grik-Kuala Kangsar road to slip behind British lines to attack key road and rail bridges south of Kuala Kangsar, Malaya.

PBY departs Wake Island in the North Pacific; Japanese concern over the potential presence of patrol planes at Wake Island, occasion by the large amount of radio traffic that accompanies the sole PBY’s arrival at the island, prompts advancing the date of the first carrier strikes. Consequently, planes from carriers Soryu and Hiryu bomb Wake Island for the first time. Later that day, land attack planes bomb Wake Island.

Naval local defense forces in the Philippine Islands move their headquarters to Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon.

U.S. Navy destroyer Paul Jones is damaged when her starboard propeller strikes a sunken object off Makassar, Dutch East Indies.

U.S. submarine Seal torpedoes and sinks the Japanese transport ship Soryu Maru off Vigan, Luzon, Philippines.

U.S. submarines based in Manila, Luzon, Philippines are ordered to withdraw to Surabaya, Java, Dutch East Indies.

Dutch submarine HrMs K XIII has a battery explosion at Singapore, Malaya.

Dutch submarine HrMs K XVII sailing at night on the surface hits a British mine and sinks off the island of Tioman in Malaya.
In Malaya, General Heath orders a withdrawal first to Krian River, thirty miles from Kuala Kangsar, and then to the Perak River.

The Japanese Kobayashi Battalion makes a landing using local crafts at Penang, Malaya, and captures Penang without losing a man.

Japanese bombardment of the airfield located at Singkawang II in West Borneo of the Dutch East Indies.

Rear Admiral Kajioka leaves the Marshall Islands for Wake Island in the North Pacific.

Japanese submarine shells Midway Island in the Central Pacific.

Japanese submarine I-71, during the night, shells Johnston Island in the North Pacific Ocean west of the Territory of Hawaii.

**DECEMBER 22**

The first American troops arrive in Brisbane, Australia, on the Pensacola Convoy with supplies and aircraft to support the Philippines. Also, Major General George Brett arrives with the convoy to command the U.S. Army Force in Australia.

The main Japanese force, Fourteenth Army, commanded by Lieutenant General Maassaharu Homma, goes ashore at Lingayen Gulf of Luzon in the Philippines with 40,000 troops of the 14th Imperial Japanese Army. Other forces land on the sands of Lamon Bay, Luzon.

The Japanese Strike Force returns to Japan from its triumphant at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Chiang Kai-shek offers the British two Chinese armies to defend Burma. General Wavell accepts a division and holds a regiment in reserve.

American and British representatives met with Chiang Kai-shek. Major General George Brett is to investigate the possibility of using heavy bombers out of China. Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell is convinced that the Japanese are overextended in China offers military aid to the Chinese.

Japanese forces invade Borneo and capture Ambaina Island in the Moluccas Islands of the Dutch East Indies.

A small force of Japanese soldier’s land nears the town of Kuching, North British Borneo.
At Sarawak on the northern coast of British North Borneo, Japanese invasion force leaves for Kuching in North British Borneo.

Manchukuo, puppet state set up by the Empire of Japan in Manchuria northeast China, government announces an outline of emergency economy to support the Japanese wartime demands.

Prime Minster Churchill and his chiefs of staff arrive in Washington, D.C., to attend ARCADIA Conference.

President Roosevelt signs a new Selective Service Act under which all men 18 to 64 years of age must register, all men from 20 to 44 maybe conscripted.

Nine B-17 Flying Fortresses take off from Batchelor Field, Australia, to attack Japanese shipping and shore installations around Davao City then to go on to Del Monte Airfield, Mindanao Philippines.

General Jones on Luzon in the Philippines withdraws his troops from Bisol Peninsula when a Japanese invasion force appears off Atimonan.

In America, Boeing is selected to construct the long-range bomber to be known as the B-29.

Japanese bombers and attack aircraft covered by fighters, from carriers Soryu and Hiryu, bomb Wake Island in the North Pacific for the second time; the last two flyable USMC F4Fs intercept the raid. One F4F is shot down, the other is badly damaged.

Japanese submarine shells Midway Island in the Central Pacific Ocean.

In California, the Agriculture Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce recommends that all Japanese nationals be placed under "absolute Federal control."

American troops of Task Force South Pacific commanded by Brigadier General Julian F. Barnes, USA, arrive at Brisbane in Australia in convoy escorted by heavy cruiser Pensacola. This is the first U.S. Army troop detachment to arrive in Australia.


Japanese submarine I-17 shells and fires torpedoes at tanker Emidio off Cape Mendocino. The Emidio is run aground off Crescent City, California.
Japanese submarine *I-19* shells the unarmed U.S. tanker *H.M. Storey* southwest of Cape Mendocino, California, but fails to score a hit.

**DECEMBER 23**

Wake Island in the North Pacific falls to the Japanese. The U.S. relief force only 425 miles away must turn back to Hawaii. Uncertainty over the positions of and number of Japanese carriers and reports that indicate Japanese troops have landed on the atoll compel Vice Admiral William S. Pye, Acting Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, to recall Task Force 14 under Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher.

The Japanese conduct their first air attacks against Rangoon in Burma. The Allied air forces in Burma have only two fighter squadrons; one made up of Chennault's American Volunteer Group, AVG, and R.A.F units.

The Japanese Ando Detachment attacks Kuala Kangsar, Malaya.

The Imperial Guard crosses the river at Kuala Kangsar to attack Ipoh, Malaya.

British units cross the Perak River into the Kuala Kangsar area, Malaya.

British and American War Council meet in Washington, D.C.

General MacArthur decides to evacuate Manila on Luzon and make a stand on Bataan Peninsula in Manila Bay in the Philippines. This puts War Plan Orange No. 3 into effect.

B-17s fly out of Del Monte Airfield on Mindanao in the Philippines, to raid Japanese ships in Lingayan Gulf of Luzon, damaging the minesweeper *W.17* and the destroyer *Kuroshio* off the latter place.

Organized units of the AAF, ready for combat, begins to arrive in Australia through March 18, 1942 totaling 337 P-40s, more than 100 P-400s, and 90 P-39s.

Japanese aircraft attacks the Singkawang airfield at Kuching, North British Borneo.

Japanese forces begins landing at Kuching, Sarawak, North Borneo.

Japanese planes bomb Rangoon in Burma for the first time.

Japanese submarine *I-17* shells the unarmed U.S. tanker *Larry Doheny* southwest of Cape Mendocino, California, but the American ship escapes.
U.S. tanker *Montebello* is torpedoed and sunk by Japanese submarine *I-21* south of Piedras Blancas Light, California. *I-21* machine-guns the lifeboats, but miraculously inflicts no casualties. *I-21* later also shells the tanker *Idaho* near the same location.

Japanese submarine *I-66* sinks the Dutch submarine *K-XVI* while she is returning from attacking Japanese shipping near Kuching, North British Borneo.

Japanese submarines *I-71* and *I-72* shells Palmyra Island of the Northern Line Islands almost due south of the Hawaiian Islands.

Japanese submarine *I-123* lays mines at the northern entrance of Surabaya Harbor, Java, Dutch East Indies.

Dutch submarine *K-XVI* torpedoes and Japanese destroyer *Sagiri* north of Kuching, North British Borneo.

Dutch submarine *K-XIV* torpedoes and sinks the transport *Hokkai Maru*, army transport *Hiyoshi Maru*, and damages army cargo ship *Nichiran Maru* and transport *Katori Maru*.

P-40s and P-35s strafes landing forces in San Miguel Bay, Luzon, Philippines, damaging the Imperial Japanese Navy destroyer *Nagatsuki*.

U.S. submarine *Seal* sinks the Japanese army cargo ship *Soryu Maru* off Vigan, Luzon, Philippines.

Japanese troops land at Kuching, Sarawak, North British Borneo.

All American Naval aircraft are ordered to have red and white horizontal strips painted on their vertical stabilizer rudder.

**DECEMBER 24**

At Lamon Bay, Luzon, Philippines, 7,000 Japanese troops goes ashore.

In Manila on Luzon in the Philippines, millions of gallons of fuel are destroyed.

Japanese troops make contact with the 26th Cavalry north and west of Binalonan, Luzon, Philippines.

Japanese aircraft attacks Manila's port districts, Luzon, Philippines.

The situation at Subic Bay on Luzon in the Philippines becomes hopeless and the order is given to destroy the station and withdraw. All building on the naval station are torched while the Filipinos burned the town of Olongapo.
Japanese troops lands at Antimonan, and Mabuan, Luzon in the Philippines.

President Manuel L. Quezon transfers the seat of the Commonwealth Government to Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon.

Vice Admiral Takahashi Ibo's Second Fleet of the Southern Force of the Philippines Seizure Force makes an invasion landing at Jolo Island in the Sulu Archipelago in the southwest Philippines and quickly occupies the island.

54 Japanese bombers and 24 fighters attack airbases around Rangoon, Burma.

Japanese troops land at Kuching, Sarawak, North British Borneo, and captures the town after heavy fighting against the Indian 15th Punjab Regiment.

A small force of Japanese troops land at Laching in North British Borneo.

Tokyo cancels the shelling of San Francisco by the submarine I-15 and orders her to return to its base at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

A Japanese submarine shells San Diego, California, setting several fuel tanks on fire.

U.S. freighter Absaroka is shelled by the Japanese submarine I-17 off San Pedro, California; although abandoned, she is later reboarded and towed to San Pedro.

U.S. steamship Dorothy Philips is shelled by Japanese submarine I-23 off Monterey, California.

Japanese submarine I-66 torpedoes and sinks the Dutch submarine K-XVI near Kuching, North British Borneo. The K-XVI is the first submarine to be sunk by a Japanese submarine.


Second Marine Brigade is formed at Camp Elliott, California, to defend American Samoa in the South Pacific Ocean.

The old station ship, the ex-US New York stationed at Subic Bay at Luzon in the Philippine Islands is towed into the deepest part of the bay and scuttled.

Motor torpedo boat PT-33 is damaged by grounding on a reef five miles northwest of Cape Santiago, Luzon, Philippines.
During Japanese bombing of shipping in Manila Bay of Luzon in the Philippines by Imperial Japanese Naval land attack planes the seized French steamship *Si-Kiang* is set afire off Mariveles, Bataan peninsula.

Manuel L. Quezon, Philippines President, and American officials abandon Manila on Luzon and go to Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon.

General Brereton is told by MacArthur to go to Australia with Headquarters to "organize advanced operations base."

Bataan Defense Force is organized to prepare defensive positions on Bataan Peninsula of Luzon in the Philippines.

General Wainwright asks MacArthur for permission to withdraw past the Agno River on Luzon.

Northern Luzon Force begins to withdraw in to columns south of the Agno River towards Agunlar on Luzon to take up positions at defense Line-1.

New Zealand sends four anti-aircraft guns to Fiji in the South Pacific, the only four in New Zealand.

The ARCADIA Conference opens in Washington D. C., with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill conferring with their top military leaders to plan Allied strategy. Out of this conference the Combined Chiefs of Staff develop a strategy for the war.

Japanese 11th Army starts the Second Chang Sha Operation, China.

Admiral Yamamoto meets with Admiral Nagumo on return to Japan from Pearl Harbor attack in Hawaii. Yamamoto informs Nagumo that his failure to exploit his opportunity at Hawaii has not conquered anything, but has kindled America's will to fight.

Japanese troops reach Kuching, North British Borneo, and fight a running battle with British 15th Punjab Regiment.

Japanese attacks British forces at Kuching, Sarawak, North British Borneo.

**DECEMBER 25**

General Hutton is appointed to command the British Forces in Burma.

The British garrison at Hong Kong surrenders.
15th Punjab Regiment is ordered to withdraw into Dutolt, North British Borneo.

Japanese land at Jolo, Philippines.

Admiral Nimitz arrives in the territory of Hawaii to relieve Admiral Kimmel.

Reinforcements and supplies from Pearl Harbor in Hawaii arrive at Midway Island in the Central Pacific, later in the day Brewester Buffaloes land from the carrier *Saratoga*.

More reinforcements and supplies leave Pearl Harbor in Hawaii for Midway Island in the Central Pacific.

In the Philippines, Northern Luzon Force falls back to Defensive Line-2.

General Wainwright has the Northern Luzon force set up a defensive perimeter along the Agno River on Bataan Peninsula of Luzon.

Two-plane detachment from Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe in the Territory of Hawaii start patrols from Palmyra Island of the Northern Line Islands located almost due south of the Hawaiian Islands, a principal staging base to the South Pacific.

Chiang Kai-shek announces that Chinese troops would no longer cooperate with the British and begins to withdraw from Burma. Chiang Kai-shek is upset that the British will not release ammunition aboard the American cargo ship *Tulsa* in Rangoon Harbor.

Prime Minister Churchill promises Australian Prime Minister Curtin that Singapore in Malaya will not fall.

Japanese tanks and troops of the 48th Division on Bataan Peninsula of Luzon in the Philippines with the aid of Artillery pushes through the defensive line set by General Wainwright’s Northern Luzon Force at the Agno River.

Japanese planes attack Rangoon, Burma.

Martial law is ordered in Rangoon, Burma, to prevent looting and rioting.

Fort Wint, located on Grande Island at the entrance of Subic Bay on Luzon, is abandoned.

Clark Field outside of Manila on Luzon in the Philippines is abandoned.
The nine B-17s that take off from Batchelor Field in Australia on December 22nd returns after flying the first bombing mission of the war to cover over 4600 miles.

Admiral Thomas C. Hart turns over all remaining naval forces in the Philippines to Rear Admiral Francis W. Rockwell (Commandant Sixteenth Naval District). After Japanese bombers destroy the PBYs earmarked to transport Admiral Thomas C. Hart and his staff south, he sails in submarine *Shark* to establish new Asiatic Fleet headquarters in Java, Dutch East Indies.

During Japanese bombing of shipping in Manila Bay of Luzon in the Philippines, submarine *Sturgeon* is straddled but is not damaged.

U.S. freighter *Admiral Y.S. Williams*, under repairs at Hong Kong Island, China, for damage incurred in a grounding that had occurred on September 24th, is intentionally damaged to prevent use by the Japanese. The merchantman is salvaged, however, and is renamed *Tatsutama Maru*. U.S. steamship (ex-yacht) *Hirondelle* (also under repairs when caught by the outbreak of hostilities) and the Philippine steamship *Argus* is captured. *Hirondelle* is renamed *Gyonan Maru* and will survive the war. *Argus* is refitted and commissioned in the Japanese Navy as the gunboat *Hong Kong Maru*. Philippine steamship *Churruca* is scuttled.

Demolition crew scuttles the U.S. submarine *Sealion*, damaged by bombs at Cavite on the southern shores of Manila Bay in Luzon Island, Philippine Islands, on December 10th.
Japanese submarine *I-19* torpedoes and damages the American lumber carrier *Absoroka* but the ship is towed and beached at Fort MacArthur. The *I-19* is attacked with depth charges from the subchaser *Amethyst* off the Los Angeles Harbor entrance however the depth charges cause no damage.

Tarakan Island off the northeastern coast of British North Borneo is attacked by a Japanese four engine flying boat.

Japanese troops capture the airfield near Kuching, Sarawak, British North Borneo.

**DECEMBER 26**

Early in the morning, Japanese Imperial Guard, using small boats, breaks through the defense line on the Perak River, Malaya, and push to Ipoh, Malaya.

Although the bridges at Kuala Kangsar, Malaya, are damaged and the pontoon bridge at Blanja is also damaged, the 5th Division crosses the Perak River at Blanja and attacks Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

In Malaya, Indian troops successful ambush the advancing Japanese in two locations on the Grik Road causing heavy losses. However, this is the final British action west of the Perak River. During the evening the British blow-up the bridge crossing the Perak River, abandoning several thousand Indian troops on the north shore. The British evacuate Selama and retreat to Kuala Kangsar, Malaya.

The signing of the surrender document for the Royal Crown Colony of Hong Kong takes place at the Peninsula Hotel in Kowloon, China. Then the Japanese parade its defeated defenders through the city.

On Luzon, Manila is declared an open city. All the American troops have left after destroying military supplies. The Japanese continue to shell and bomb the city.

Japanese naval land attack planes bombs shipping in Manila Bay of Luzon in the Philippines, the U.S. Navy destroyer *Peary* is damaged by near misses.

Motor torpedo boat *PT-33*, damaged by grounding on December 24, five miles northwest of Cape Santiago, Luzon, Philippines, is burned to prevent capture.

Dutch Army planes from Samarinda in Dutch Borneo bombs and sinks the Japanese minesweeper *W.6* and collier *No.2 Unyo Maru* off Kuching, Sarawak, British North Borneo.

Japanese destroyer *Murasame* and minesweeper *W.20* are damaged off Takao, Formosa off the southeast coast of China.
Seaplane tender *Tangier*, diverted from the attempt to relieve Wake Island in the North Pacific, disembarks Battery "B," 4th Defense Battalion and ground echelon of VMF 221 at Midway Island in the Central Pacific to augment that garrison's defenses.

In the Philippine Islands, Carmen, Luzon, falls to advancing Japanese.

U.S. Marines on Bataan Peninsula in Manila Bay of Luzon are transferred to Corregidor Island in Manila Bay to man shore defenses.

The U.S. submarine *Shark* evacuates the Commander-in-Chief of Asiatic Fleet, Admiral Hart, and his staff from Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon.

**DECEMBER 27**

Japanese forces occupy Sarawak, British North Borneo.

Japanese occupies Tambelan Islands, Dutch East Indies, between Borneo and the island of Singapore in Malaya. This is the first Dutch territorial loss in the war in the Pacific.

British and Indian troops originally based in Kuching, Sarawak, British North Borneo flee into Dutch territory.

In Malaya, Ipoh is abandoned by the British allowing units on the Japanese 41st Guards to enter the city.

A platoon of Australian troops sail up the west coast of Malaya to Kuala Kangsar in an attempt to disrupt Japanese communications. These troops are first Australian units to see action against Japanese troops.

Japanese occupies Tambelan Islands, Dutch East Indies territory, between Borneo and Singapore in Malaya.

Two remaining U.S. Navy destroyers of the Asiatic Fleet leave Manila Bay of Luzon in the Philippines.

In the Philippines on Luzon, General Wainwright is ordered to hold the D-4 Line at all cost until ordered to withdraw.

U.S. submarine *Perch* torpedoes the Japanese supply ship *Noshima* in the South China Sea. She is damaged by depth charges during this attack and has to return to Darwin, Australia, for repairs.

U.S. submarine *Swordfish* takes on the organizational staff of the Submarines
Asiatic Command Staff at Manila on Luzon in the Philippines and sails for Soerabaya, Java, Dutch East Indies.

Six PBYs bombs Japanese shipping at Jolo Island in the Philippines against heavy fighter opposition; four Catalinas are lost.

Japanese bomb shipping in Manila Bay and on the Pasig River of Luzon. Philippine customs cutters Arayat and Mindoro and motor vessel Ethel Edwards are set afire, while lighthouse tender Canlaon is destroyed by a direct hit. Steamship Taurus is scuttled in the Pasig River.


U.S. Navy destroyer Allen rescues first of two groups of survivors from U.S. freighter Manini sunk by the Japanese submarine I-175 on December 17th off the Territory of Hawaii.

U.S. Army nurses stationed at Stotsenberg near Clark Field receives orders to evacuate to Manila, Luzon, Philippines.

**DECEMBER 28**

Japanese bomb Manila, Luzon, Philippines.

President Roosevelt broadcast to the Philippine People that the U.S. Navy is following an intensive plan to help them.

Alaskan Air Force established.

U.S. Navy destroyer Peary is damaged when mistakenly bombed and strafed by RAAF Hudsons off Kina, Celebes Island, Dutch East Indies.

Imperial Japanese destroyer Akikaze and army cargo ships Kamogawa Maru and Komaki Maru are damaged east of Luzon, Philippine area.

In the Philippines, American forces on Luzon fall back to the Tarlac-Cabanatuan Line.

Rear Admiral Ben Moreell request authority to organize a militarized Naval Construction Force, to be known later as the Seabees, to build advanced bases in a war zone.
A field artillery brigade and naval supplies, from the Pensacola Convoy, are placed aboard two fast transports, *Holbrook* and the *Bloenfoutein*, at Brisbane in Australia for transport to the Philippines.

British forces in Malaya complete their defense positions around Kappa.

The Japanese drop the first of propaganda leaflets on Singapore, Malaya.

British forces in Malaya withdraw from Ipoh.

Japanese troops capture Ipoh, Malaya.

In Burma, General Hutton is appointed to command the British forces.

New Zealand scraps the bottom of the barrel for manpower, but makes up the 35th, 36th, and 37th Battalions.

Train evacuates British women and children from Rangoon in Burma and leave for Maymyo in the Shan Highland, east of Mandalay, Burma.

**DECEMBER 29**

Japanese aircraft attacks Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon for the first time.

The submarine tender *Canopus* is damaged in Mariveles Harbor by bombs; river gunboat *Mindanao* is damaged by near misses off Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon. Bombs also set fire to Philippine freighter *Don Jose* and the hulk of U.S. freighter *Capillo* off Corregidor. Minesweeper *Finch* puts out the blaze on board both ships; *Don Jose* is later moved to the south side of the island to ensure a clear shipping channel. Philippine presidential yacht *Casiana* is bombed and sunk near Fort Mills dock; Philippine steamship *Bicol* and motor vessel *Aloha* are scuttled in Manila Bay. *Finch* later assists Navy-commandeered tug *Trabajador* in dumping unused mines in Manila Bay, an operation those two ships will repeat the following day as well. Cable Censor Lieutenant Frederick L. Worcester, USNR clears the Pasig River of interisland shipping and tugs and other ships that have drawn heavy bombing from Japanese planes, thus saving area from further destruction and the shipping for use in maintaining communications between Bataan Peninsula on Luzon and Corregidor and in patrol work.

Japanese submarine *RO-60*, returning from the Wake Island operation in the North Pacific, is irreparably damaged by grounding, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Japanese troops take Cabanatuan, Luzon, Philippines.
Japanese troops reach Bongabon, Luzon, Philippines.

In Malaya, the Battle for Kampar begins and will last for four days.

Imperial General Headquarters announces that the tin and rubber center of Malaya, Ipoh, falls.

15th Punjab Regiment reaches the Singkawang airfield II on the western coast of Dutch Borneo and is placed under Dutch command to bolster the airfields defense. Civilians at the airfield are sent further south to Pontianak in Dutch Borneo to await evacuation.

All enemy aliens in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington State is ordered to turn over contraband items.

**DECEMBER 30**

American and Filipino forces abandon their defense line on Luzon in the Philippines and start to fall back to their final positions before entering Bataan Peninsula of Luzon in Manila Bay.

President Quezon is inaugurated as President of the Philippines on Corregidor Island in Manila Bay of Luzon, Philippines.

President Roosevelt sends a memorandum to Secretary of the Navy Knox: "I wish that War Plans would explore every possible means of relieving the Philippines."

Admiral Ernest J. King assumes duties as Commander in Chief U.S. Fleet. To avoid use of what he considers the pejorative acronym CINCUS ("Sink Us"), he introduces COMINCH ("Comm Inch").

Roosevelt and Churchill station American-British-Dutch-Australian Command (ABDAcom) at Surabaja, East Java, Dutch East Indies appoints Lord Wavell commander is an attempt to defend the Malaya corridor.

U.S. Navy-commandeered tug Ranger lands volunteer raiding party on Sangley Point, a communication and hospital facility of the U.S. Navy situated at the northern portion of the Cavite City peninsula and is surrounded by Manila Bay. The sailors bring out diesel generators and diesel oil needed on Corregidor Island in Manila bay of Luzon in the Philippines to provide auxiliary power.

U.S. submarine Pollack arrives at her patrol station the entrance to Tokyo Bay, Honshu Island, Japan.

Japanese troops make a landing on Mindanao Island at Digon, Philippine Islands.
In Malaya, the British 1st Independent Company is sent to Telok Anson to meet the Japanese seaborne infiltration threat. The Japanese attack Kuantan, Malaya.

Six Flying Fortresses take off from Batchelor Field in Australia for a 1300-mile flight to Singosari Airfield near Malang, Java, Dutch East Indies.

Three British Blenheim aircraft from Singapore airdropped 900 pounds of food and ammunition over Singkawang II airfield in Dutch Borneo for the British, Dutch, and Indian troops.

In Singapore, Malaya, Governor Shenton Thomas invites Chinese leader Tan Kah Kee to form the Chinese Mobilization Council to supply labor to help build defenses.

Japanese planes attack Babo, Ceram Island in the Moluccas Islands, Dutch East Indies. The town is important because of the rich oilfields in the vicinity.

Japanese occupies Kuantan, on the east coast of Malaya.

Japanese submarine I-1 shells Hilo in the Territory of Hawaii.


Indian Congress Party under its new president Nehru backs Britain in the war with Axis.

**DECEMBER 31**

British General Sir Archibald Wavell is designated Supreme Commander of the newly designated ABDA (Australian-British-Dutch-American) Command area in the Pacific.

A message is received by the Dutch, owing to a severe Portuguese backlash with threats of breaking diplomatic relations. The British have asked that the Dutch withdraw to West Timor and be replaced by Australians. The Portuguese are highly suspicious and antagonistic towards the Dutch.

On Luzon in Manila, the city is evacuated, the rear echelon under General Marshall marches out after transferring most supplies or destroying anything of military value.

Last American submarine leaves Manila Bay of Luzon in the Philippine Islands.
At first light the Southern Luzon Force begin crossing the Calumpt Bridge into Bataan Peninsula of Luzon. Japanese forces realize that the Americans and Filipino forces are in mass migration into Bataan Peninsula and try to capture a major road junction above Calumpit, but are turned back.

Japanese forces storms ashore at Brunei, British North Borneo.

Japanese aircraft machine gun the harbor and airfield of Tarakan Island off the northeastern coast of Borneo and surrounding area of Menado off East Kalima on the northern part of Minahasa peninsula on Celebes Island, Dutch East Indies.

In Malaya, Japanese troops carry out a ground assault at Kuantan ferry crossing. The Japanese 5th Division starts their seaborne tactics. British artillery accurately shells Japanese positions. The Japanese discovers British Eureka fast patrol boats in the Malacca Straits and attacks them by air sinking or driving them ashore.

In the United States, the Joint Strategic Committee votes six to two that Germany be defeated first and that the Far East be defended by minimum forces until an all out assault could be made against Japan's armed forces.

General Brett takes command of U.S. forces in Australia.

General Brett orders troops on the way to Manila on Luzon in the Philippine Islands to debark at Darwin in Australia and the rest to go to Surabaja, Java in the Dutch East Indies.

Remaining oil storage tanks at Pandacan near Manila, Luzon Island, Philippines are set on fire.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz assumes command of the Pacific Fleet in ceremonies on board submarine Grayling at Pearl Harbor as his flag is raised at the Sub Base.

Japanese submarine I-3 shell Kauai, island of Maui, Territory of Hawaii.

While returning from attempting to aid U.S. Navy destroyer Peary, small seaplane tender Heron is damaged but fights off, over a seven-hour span, a series of attacks by Japanese using reconnaissance flying boats and land attack planes off Ambon, Dutch East Indies.

Submarine rescue vessel Pigeon transports an armed party to Sangley Point, a communication and hospital facility of the United States Navy which occupied the northern portion of the Cavite City peninsula and is surrounded by Manila Bay, and brings out the Luzon Stevedoring Company lighter loaded with 97 mines and eight truckloads of aerial depth charges; Pigeon then tows the barge to a point
four and a half miles off Sangley Point and capsizes it in 11 fathoms of water. The sailors also destroy the aircraft repair shop at Cavite on the southern shores of Manila Bay in Luzon Island, and one irreparable PBY.

U.S. cargo/passenger ship *Ruth Alexander*, en route from Manila on Luzon in the Philippines to Balikpapan on the southeast coast of Borneo, Dutch East Indies, is bombed and irreparably damaged by a Japanese flying boat in the Makassar Strait between the islands of Borneo and Sulawesi in the Dutch East Indies.

Mine damage imperial Japanese Navy destroyer *Yamagumo* off Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Philippine steamships *Magellanes* and *Montanes* are scuttled, Manila Bay, Luzon, Philippines.

In the United States, FBI agents are given the authority to search the homes of enemy aliens if there is a reason to suspect there is contraband on the premises.

### UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL 1941

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAVY</th>
<th>USMC</th>
<th>ARMY</th>
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In 1941, the Imperial Japanese Army has 51 divisions and a variety of special-purpose artillery, cavalry, anti-aircraft, and armored units with a total of 1,700,000 men. At the beginning of the War in the Pacific, most of the Imperial Japanese Army 27 divisions are stationed in China. A further 13 divisions defend the Mongolian border, for a possible attack from Russia.