



The USS Arizona Memorial sits above the sunken remains of the ship destroyed during the Pearl Harbor attack. The ship is the final resting place for 1,102 sailors who lost their lives aboard the Arizona on December 7th, 1941.

Americans were stunned by the attack on Pearl Harbor. In two hours, the Japanese sank or seriously damaged 19 American ships, destroyed almost 200 American planes and killed over 2,400 people. Congress, after listening to President Roosevelt, immediately declared war on the Japanese. Our ally, the British, also declared war on the Japanese. In response, the Germans and Italians declared war on the United States and drew us into the largest conflict man had ever known.

1. Why would the United States build a memorial over the Arizona and not other ships?
2. How many people died in the Pearl Harbor attack?
3. What was Hitler's reaction to the attack on Pearl Harbor?
4. From yesterday, describe at least one warning we were given on the morning of December 7th.
5. What are two similarities between Pearl Harbor and the attack on the World Trade Center on Sept 11th, 2001?
6. Video: What happened one hour after Japanese air squadrons commenced bombing?
7. Video: How do we know the attack was planned many weeks before December 7th?
8. Video: Name one other place Japan attacked that day.
9. Video: How many times was FDR interrupted for applause?

Ch. 26

#7



Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

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

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

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

As commander in chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

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

I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.