

# Blackout of Welders Here Appears Imminent MIKADO GETS NOTE BY FDR IN FINAL APPEAL LONG BEACH INDEPENDENT

## GERMAN FORCES FACE RUSSIAN TRAP

U.S. Planes Prove Worth in Libya



Orient Teeters on Brink of Conflict  
As Fresh Nippon Troops Sent to Thai

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—(AP)—The State Department announced tonight that President Roosevelt has sent a personal message to the Emperor of Japan following the receipt of information that about 12,000 Japanese troops are now concentrated in Indo China.

The State Department announcement did not reveal the contents of the President's message to the Emperor of Japan.

It made a clear statement, that it resents the increasingly threatening actions of Japan in South East Asia, as well as elsewhere.

The Department said that information has reached Washington that 12,000 Japanese soldiers are now concentrated in South Indo China.

A State Department spokesman said that the Japanese are now concentrating their forces in the region of Thailand to Japan, the greatest

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# COAST AIR RAID! LONG BEACH INDEPENDENT

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Long Beach, California, Tuesday, December 9, 1941 261 East Third St. Phone 599-40

## LONG BEACH ON ALL OUT WAR BASIS AS NIGHT LONG BLACKOUT PREVAILS

General William O. Ryan, commanding officer of the Fourth Army Interceptor Command, announced late last night that hostile enemy aircraft had approached the San Francisco Bay area but were turned back. This apparently indicated that the blackouts of both radio and lights along the entire Pacific slope was not a test but was an actual hostile raid attempt. Details were completely lacking outside of the terse official announcement. San Francisco was blacked out at 8:10 p. m.

As the third day dawned in the war between Japan and the United States and its allies, details of U. S. military and naval action were conspicuous by their absence. There were numerous reports of Japanese attacks upon Malaya, upon Singapore, Hong Kong, upon Manila, upon Guam, Wake Island, Midway Island and other Pacific outposts. The Russian position remained an enigma.

Self Moves Prepare City for Any  
Hostility as War Measures Taken

President to Talk  
Via Radio Tonight

The war now embraces the entire world and the Pacific areas from the China seas to the waters of Alaska down the coast of California and southward, were potential war areas.

Long Beach remained under a complete blackout through

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—(AP)—The White House tonight announced that President Roosevelt would speak to the nation via radio tonight.

THE FRONT PAGE of the Long Beach Independent for Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, left, carries the latest news of the war in Asia and North Africa, as main headline foreshadows the maelstrom that was about to strike. Two days later, the Independent (which later merged with the Press-Telegram) warns that a Japanese attack on the U.S. mainland may be imminent.

12-6-81 (Sun.)

# The day the war came home

Editor's note: Monday will mark the 40th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II. While the brave deeds of America's fighting men have been well-chronicled, the picture of the home front has had less attention from historians. In a three-part series beginning today, columnist Tom Hennessy looks at life in America during the war years.

It was a trademark Southern California day; blue and balmy with just a vague hint of rain and absolutely no hint that America had awakened to the most memorable Sunday in its history.



Tom Hennessy

There were 16 shopping days until Christmas, and Long Beachers already were scouting the lots where a tree could be bought for as little as 15 cents.

The day began with the usual Sunday pursuits: families at church services; adults catching up on the war news from Europe, North Africa and Asia; teen-agers prattling over the latest record-

ings of Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey, the Andrews Sisters and the Ink Spots.

Long Beachers who planned to spend part of their Dec. 7 at the movies had a choice that included Humphrey Bogart in "The Maltese Falcon" and Greta Garbo in "Two-Faced Woman."

If spirits were high that day, there was reason for it. America had emerged from that nightmare called the Depression. Shipyards and aircraft plants were filling lend-lease orders for war-stricken England and bolstering our own defenses in view of war clouds which, on this pleasant Sunday, seemed so distant.

In Southern California's fledgling aircraft industry, a few men were becoming legends — innovators like Donald Douglas, an engineer who, it was said, disliked flying.

Some 56 million Americans had joined the civilian work force (another 1.5 million were in the armed forces) and were earning a median \$40 a week in an economy which offered a restaurant dinner for 65 cents.

It was not a perfect world, of course. The Japanese war machine, for example, had cut off raw-rubber sources from the Orient, but Yankee know-how was

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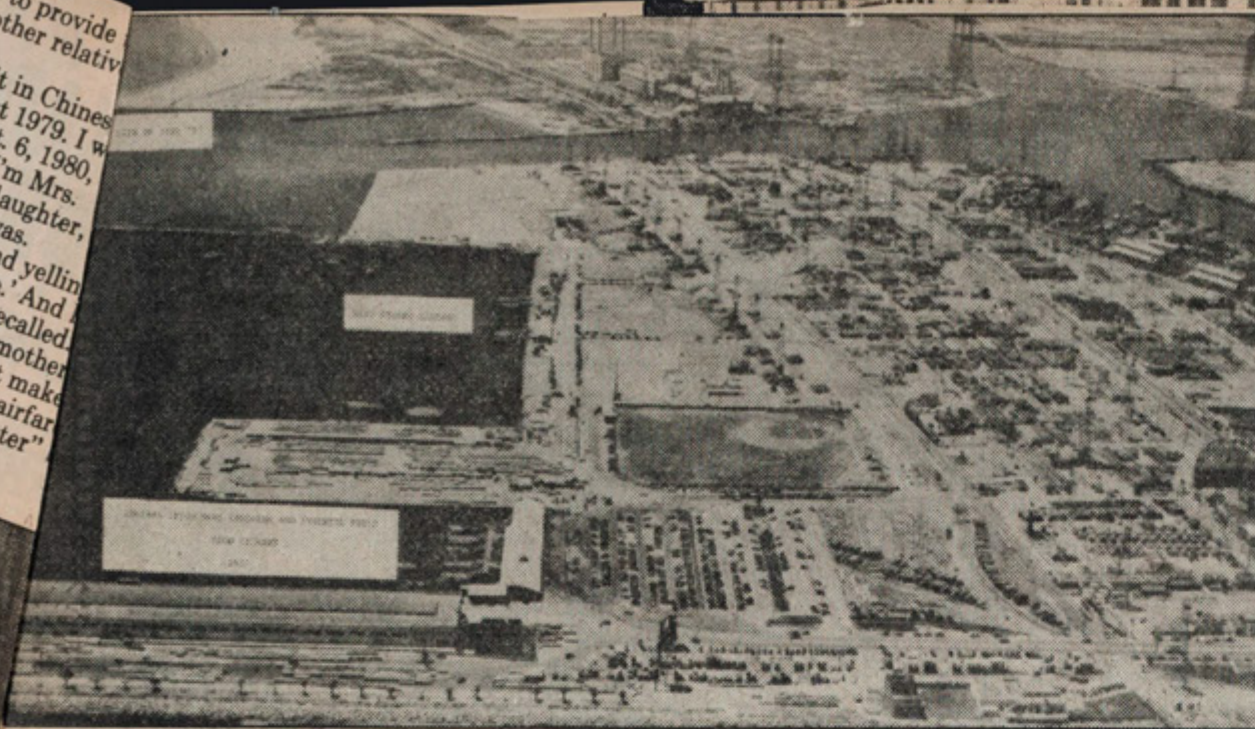


PEACETIME DRAFT preceded America's entry into World War II. In this photo, taken Nov. 22, 1940, Long Beach citizens

provide an honor guard for 25 inductees as they walk down Pacific Avenue to catch the Red Car to Los Angeles.



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**TERMINAL ISLAND** was quiet in the years just before World War II, left, with a baseball diamond as the prominent landmark and a sandy beach where the Naval Ship-

yard would soon rise. By the end of the war in 1945, right, Long Beach Harbor was busy day and night as one of the prime ports of the Navy's Pacific fleet.



# The day the war came to America

FROM/A1

meeting that crisis in part with a new substance called plastic.

Across the continent, Washington, D.C., slumbered in Sunday repose, save for Griffith Stadium where 27,102 football fans — including a naval reserve ensign named John Fitzgerald Kennedy — were cheering the Redskins and Slingin' Sammy Baugh against the Philadelphia Eagles.

In far-off Hawaii, it was 7:30 a.m., and Pvt. Joseph Lockard had just called the attention of his superiors to a cluster of blips pirouetting mysteriously on his radar screen. Assuming they were caused by friendly aircraft, the officers suggested that Lockard go to breakfast.

It was 11:25 a.m. in Long Beach as teletype machines began to ring in newspaper city rooms across the nation. A wire service telegrapher tapped out the first report in seven awesome words: "White House says Japs Attack Pearl Harbor."

Within the hour, Navy shore patrolmen were fanning out through Long Beach, rounding up sailors on weekend liberty. "Are you trying to kid us?" asked a sailor sitting at a bar. "Hell, no, I'm not kidding," was the reply. "This is the real thing."

Long Beach resident Margaret Kemp knew better than most that it

was "the real thing." Then a "Navy brat" living only a few blocks from the center of action at Pearl Harbor, she recalls, "Japanese planes went over my house, strafing everything in sight. The sky was filled with black smoke and the explosions nearby were horrendous."

On downtown Long Beach streets, clusters of people began gathering around radios. Others began trickling into police headquarters, offering their services as civil defense workers. One of them, John Toner, 77, was told he might be too old. "I can work 12 hours a day at anything," Toner protested. He was signed up.

The desire to "do something" became contagious. A taxi company volunteered free transportation to any serviceman needing to get back to his base.

In the air over Kern County, a military plane dropped a note containing news of the attack on Pearl Harbor to a fisherman below. He was Gen. Hap Arnold, chief of the Army Air Corps. Earlier in the day, a brigadier general at Fort Sam Houston in Texas slammed down his phone, hurried out the door and told his wife, Mamie, that he did not know when he would be back.

Meanwhile, a young woman in Palm Springs could not understand what all the fuss was about. "Everybody knew

this was going to happen," she said, "so why spoil a perfectly good Sunday by worrying about it?"

By Sunday night, however, the reality of the worst naval defeat since the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar was beginning to sink in and people were indeed "worrying about it." More people than ever before in history sat by their radios, ears cocked for newscasts or bulletins that might interrupt "The Jack Benny Show" or "The Chase and Sanborn Hour" with Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

The most memorable thing they would hear that night was a broadcast by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the women of America. "I have a boy at sea on a destroyer," she said. "For all I know, he may be on his way to the Pacific. Two of my children are in coast cities in the Pacific. ... Many of you all over the country have boys in the service who will now be called into action. You have friends and families in what has become a danger zone (the West Coast)."

She concluded with a burst of confidence in America's ability to weather this awesome storm. "I feel as though I were standing upon a rock and that rock is my faith in my fellow citizens."

For decades to come, Americans would remember where they were

when they first heard the news from Hawaii. Helen Geis, of Long Beach, heard it on her car radio while driving to the job she had as a maid for an affluent Massachusetts family which had scheduled a party for that evening.

Of that evening, she recalls, "Answering the front door, Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge was returning from a public tea with Anna Mae Wong, the actress. ... Adm. Richard Byrd had sent a telegram with regrets. He was on his way to Washington, D.C."

On Monday morning, America awoke to its first full day of war — as well as a contagion of rumors: Japanese aircraft carriers were hovering off the California coast; an army of Filipinos had invaded Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, slaughtering hundreds of Japanese; California was about to be invaded by a special force of 12,000 Japanese soldiers, each of whom had once lived in the state.

The rumors were enough to put a few families into their automobiles. In days to come, the great Dust Bowl migration that had brought Oklahomans to California a few years earlier was to trickle in reverse as a few

Okies sought refuge back in their native state.

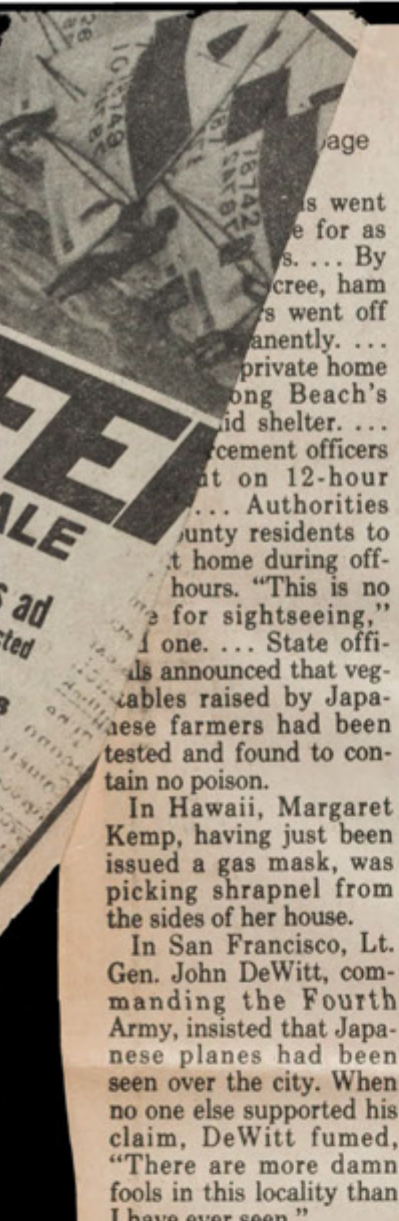
In Long Beach, lines were forming at recruiting stations even before they opened.

On Monday, as President Roosevelt was signing the war declaration which ended 23 years and 27 days of American peace, Sunday's vague hint of rain came to fruition as a thunderstorm broke over Los Angeles County. Thousands hurried to their windows, thinking the awaited Japanese attack had begun.

In those first hours of crisis, the portrait of America going to war became, in reality, a frenzied mosaic:

Key California ports were immediately closed, and private vessels were ordered into shore. ... Guards were posted at defense plants. A Monday newspaper photograph of a soldier guarding a Burbank plant carried a touch of irony. He was a Japanese-American. ... After processing the first rush of applicants, recruiting stations closed for a day to train new recruiters, then reopened around the clock.





to respond to the war crisis in varying ways.

In New York City, a barrel-chested man swaggered into a government office to buy \$100,000 worth of war bonds. He was told that regulations (later changed) limited yearly purchases to \$50,000. Then give me \$50,000 now and order me \$50,000 more for Jan. 2, said Babe Ruth.

And in Los Angeles, 61-year-old Takematsu Izumi swallowed poison rather than face removal to a camp. He had been a Californian since 1896.

#### Monday: America Mobilizes.



**WITHIN HOURS** after the attack on Pearl Harbor, scores of Japanese-Americans were brought to the Los Angeles County Jail.

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In Hawaii, Margaret Kemp, having just been issued a gas mask, was picking shrapnel from the sides of her house.

In San Francisco, Lt. Gen. John DeWitt, commanding the Fourth Army, insisted that Japanese planes had been seen over the city. When no one else supported his claim, DeWitt fumed, "There are more damn fools in this locality than I have ever seen."

**NOT ALL** the enemies were perceived to be in the air, however. Waving a property map before reporters, Los Angeles County's district attorney said it proved that Japanese had leased a tract of land which could be converted to a landing place for bombers in a couple of hours.

In the first hours following Pearl Harbor, the FBI began rounding up Japanese aliens on the West Coast. Attorney General Francis Biddle, however, assured the Japanese-American community that less than 1,000 would be affected. "Procedures are being established to provide a fair hearing to all," he said.

Makeshift signs began to dot the American landscape, such as the one which appeared on the door of a Chinese laundry in Seattle: "Go to war. Closed duration. Will clean shirts after clean Axis."

And, poignantly, on a shop door in Little Tokyo: "Many thanks for your patronage. Hope to serve you in the near future. God be with you until we meet again."

In the wake of government-imposed blackouts, a rash of auto accidents hit California's coastal cities, including Long Beach. On Tuesday night, a pedestrian was killed at Ocean Boulevard and Chestnut Avenue by a motorist driving without lights. The following night, a driver was killed by a train.

War news crowded the newspapers in the first few days after Pearl Harbor, but near week's end the papers were finding enough room to report such lesser occurrences as the engagement of Mickey Rooney (a.k.a. Andy Hardy) to a little-known North Carolina actress named Ava Gardner.

**IN THE** first of many stories about Hollywood going to war, newspapers would also report that Victor Mature had donated his considerable torso to the Coast Guard. Henry Fonda, 37, became an early enlistee and — in what was to be an exception to the Hollywood rule — neglected even to notify his press agent. Clark Gable would enlist in January, grieving over the death of his wife, Carole Lombard, killed while returning from a bond-selling tour.

Before the week was out, newspaper reports gave America its first war hero — Navy pilot Colin Kelly, who, after sinking a Japanese transport ship, crashed his disabled Flying Fortress into the ocean after ordering his crew to bail out. Later in the war, his widow would move west to California to work in a defense plant, only to find that the housing shortage left her no place to live.

Americans continued