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Remembering Pearl Harbor

80 years ago today, on the [morning of December 7, 1941](#), Japanese bombers and torpedo planes staged a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, propelling the United States into World War II. In less than 2 hours, the U.S. Pacific Fleet was devastated, and more than 3,000 Americans were either killed or wounded.



The USS Arizona Memorial the night before the 62nd Commemoration of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, 12/6/2003. [National Archives Identifier 6669640](#)

Within the holdings of the National Archives, you will find records chronicling [U.S. military history and battles](#), including [photographs](#), [video footage](#), [maps](#), ship plans, and other records related to the events of Pearl Harbor.



US servicemen on the USS ARIZONA Memorial retire the colors at a mass re-enlistment ceremony, 7/20/1984. [National Archives Identifier 6389552](#)



Sailors pay tribute to casualties of the Pearl Harbor attack at a Hawaiian Islands cemetery, circa Spring 1942. [National Archives Identifier 12009116](#)



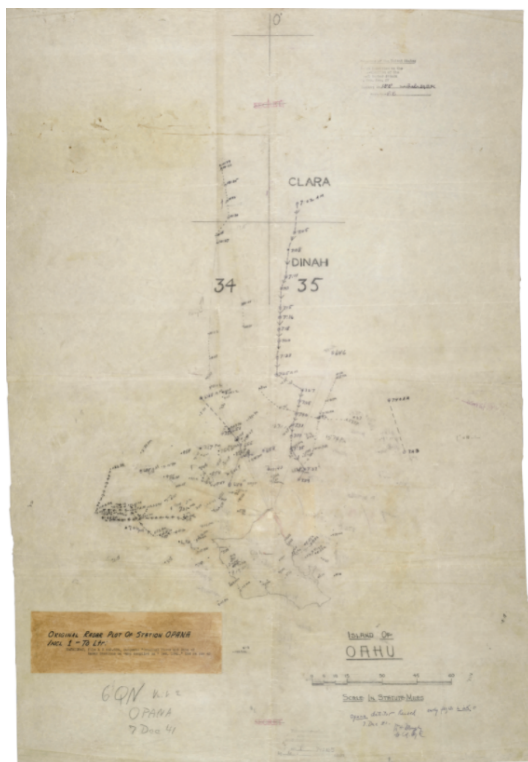
Photograph of Pearl Harbor, 12/7/1941. [National Archives Identifier 12009098](#)



Wreckage at Naval Air Station, Pearl Harbor. [National Archives Identifier 520595](#)



USS Shaw (DD373) lies in drydock YFD-2 after being hit by three bombs which exploded her forward magazine. Part of the drydock at right is under water while while the other side is listing heavily. [National Archives Identifier 12008979](#)



Radar Plot from Station Opana, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, ca. 1941. [National Archives Identifier 2600930](#)

“This is not a Drill” Dispatch, 12/7/1941

This [Navy dispatch](#) sent from the Commander in Chief of the Pacific announces the attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii by the Japanese Navy. It was received at the Squantum Naval Reserve Aviation Base on December 7, 1941 from the First Naval District. It states, “AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL.”

BOSTON NAVY YARD 7 9 41

FIRST NAVAL DISTRICT RECEIVED DISPATCH N. A. S. Squantum

FROM: CONFIDENTIAL CALLS RELAYED TO:

TO:

INFO:

PRIORITY	RESTRICTED	RELEASED BY	DATE	TIME
ROUTINE	CONFIDENTIAL		7 DEC 41	
DEFERRED	SECRET	SENT BY	REF. NR.	

HEADING: NZW V NCO NR1 / NSS F NR977 Z 0F2 1030 0F3 0F4 1F0 0 BT

AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL

TOR 2004/AD/NCO NR 1/3195 KC/7 DEC 41

ACTION OFFICER *R. J. Hoey* O. O. D.

[National Archives Identifier 596244](#)

DocsTeach, the online tool for teaching with documents from the National Archives, has online teaching activities related to Pearl Harbor. In [Pearl Harbor Dispatch Analysis](#), students analyze the “This is Not Drill” naval dispatch in an activity that encourages students to look for evidence to decode the true meaning of the message.

Learn more on the [Education Updates blog](#).



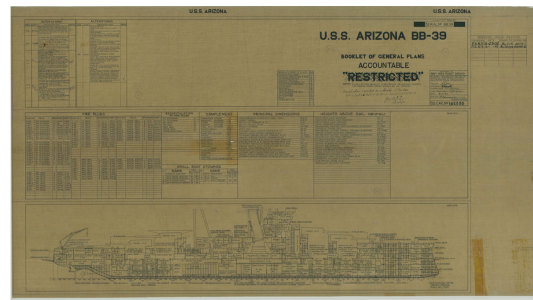
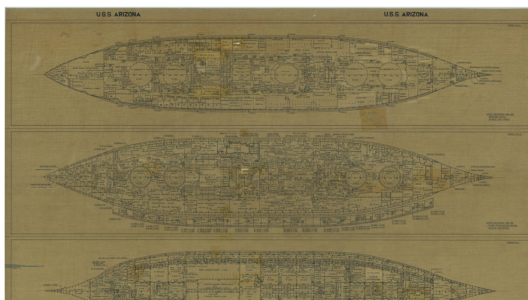
US Navy (USN) Sailors assigned to the ceremonial guard Naval Station (NS) Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (HI), preparing in the early morning hours for the 63rd commemoration of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor at the battleship USS ARIZONA (BB 39) Memorial, 12/7/2004. [National Archives Identifier 6669772](#)

The Cartographic unit at the National Archives holds maps and aerial photographs depicting Pearl Harbor, as well as plans for ships that were present on December 7, 1941.



Manuscript color Map of Pearl Harbor after the Attack, [National Archives Identifier 29032720](#). Prepared by the Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Areas to illustrate the locations of roads, railroads, airfields, buildings, storage tanks and positions of unnamed ships in the harbor.

The battleship USS Arizona (BB-39) was bombed and sunk during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The following [ship plans for the USS Arizona](#) list alterations to the ship's design dated as late as June 1941.



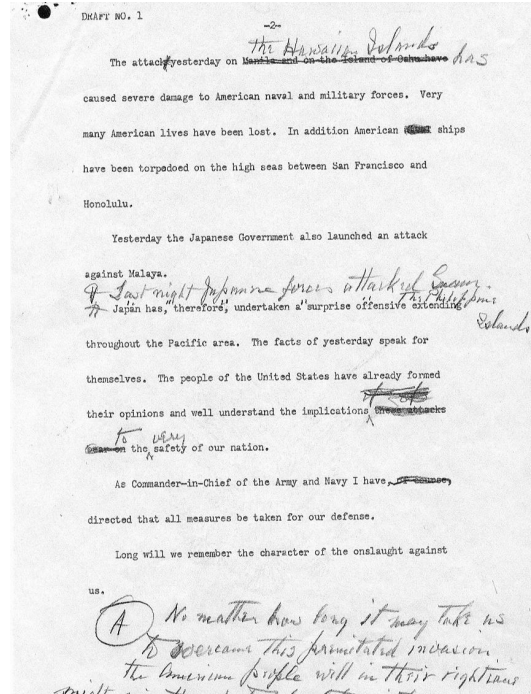
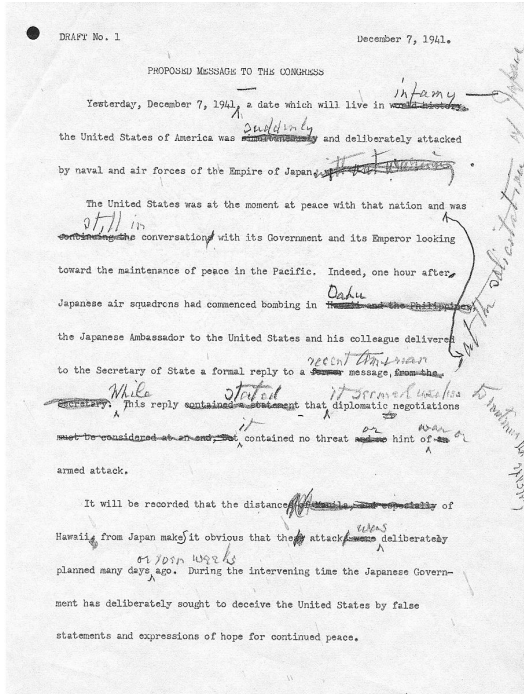
L: Plans for the Battleship USS Arizona (BB-39): Booklet of General Plans - Second Deck / Third & Splinter Decks / First Platform. [National Archives Identifier 75840426](#)

R: Plans for the Battleship USS Arizona (BB-39): Booklet of General Plans - Inboard Profile, 8/31/1934. [National Archives Identifier 75840420](#)

“Day of Infamy” Address

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt delivered a six-minute speech before a joint session of Congress that ended with a request for a declaration of war. Congress approved within hours.

Learn more about the writing of this speech on the [Pieces of History blog](#).



President Franklin D. Roosevelt's annotated draft of a proposed message to Congress requesting a Declaration of War against Japan. The speech was dictated by Roosevelt on December 7, 1941 in the hours following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The handwritten notations are Roosevelt's modifications and corrections to the typewritten first draft. The final version of the speech incorporating Roosevelt's annotations was delivered by the President to a Joint Session of Congress on December 8, 1941. [National Archives Identifier: 593345](#)



The American flag is raised at the USS ARIZONA Memorial, 6/1/1988. [National Archives Identifier 6434051](#)

On DocsTeach, the online tool for teaching with documents from the National Archives, you can find [primary sources](#) like maps and speeches – even images taken by the Japanese military during the attack that were later captured.

DocsTeach also includes [posters](#) that used the attack on Pearl Harbor as a rallying cry for a variety of war efforts, like joining the Coast Guard, buying war bonds, or working harder in a factory. Learn more on the [Education Updates blog](#).



Learn more about the records held at the National Archives related to Pearl Harbor:

- [Visualizing Pearl Harbor 75 Years Later – The Unwritten Record](#)
- [Remembering “a date which will live in infamy”](#)
- [Remembering Pearl Harbor – The Text Message](#)
- [Spotlight on Navy Deck Logs](#)
- [How a Booklet of General Plans Helped Save 32 Trapped Sailors After the Attack on Pearl Harbor](#)
- [Dorie Miller, War Hero](#)

The American Soldier in World War II

We invite you to explore [The American Soldier in World War II](#) website, offering a portrait of Americans who served in the war and of U.S. society and culture in the 1940s.


During World War II, the U.S. Army administered more than 200 surveys to over half a million American troops to discover what they thought and how they felt about the conflict and their military service. Topics covered by the army’s troop surveys include

leave policies, food preferences, radio listening habits, combat experiences, racial views, mental and physical health, postwar plans, and more. The surviving collection of studies, held by the National Archives, is now accessible at The American Soldier in World War II. Browse and search over 65,000 pages of responses handwritten by service members, view and download survey data and original analyses, read topical essays, and access additional learning resources.


TOPICS

Essays from leading historians introduce you to some of the topics covered by the army's wartime surveys, with highlights from relevant studies, questions and answers, and handwritten soldier responses.


[BROWSE ALL TOPICS](#) ↗




INFORMATION, EDUCATION & MEDIA




ENTERTAINMENT




RACE & ETHNICITY



WOMEN & GENDER



GROUND COMBAT



MEDICAL CARE & MENTAL HEALTH

The American Soldier in World War II website is based at Virginia Tech and directed by Virginia Tech assistant professor of history Edward J.K. Gitre. It has been made possible in part by grants from the [National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom](#) (PW-253766-17 and PW-264049-19) and has also received support, resources, and cooperation from [Zooniverse.org](#), [National Archives and Records Administration](#), [University of Virginia Biocomplexity Institute](#), [Social Science Research Council](#), and [George C. Marshall Research Library](#). The records and transcriptions will be made available in the National Archives Catalog in the future.

This resource is also made possible by the nearly 7,200 citizen-archivists who submitted a combined quarter-million transcriptions and annotations in a little over two years. Learn more at: <https://americansoldierww2.org>

Start your research on History Hub



Have a question? [Find your answer on History Hub!](#)

History Hub's [Military Records community](#) has fielded [dozens of questions related to the Attack on Pearl Harbor](#), including:



Where can I find the transcripts and exhibits from the Pearl Harbor Hearings?



I'm looking for the deck log of the submarine USS Pompano during the Pearl Harbor attack.



Where can I find Private Joseph McDonald's testimony to the Pearl Harbor Board?



How do I find and download photographs from the Attack on Pearl Harbor?



I am searching for a list of Army personnel at Hickam Field on December 7, 1941.



How can I find the technical specifications of the USS Oklahoma (BB-37)?

See our recent newsletter for more details, information, and instructions about [using History Hub for your research](#).

[Citizen Archivists, there's a group just for you!](#) You can share tips and strategies, find new challenges, and get support for your work. Get started with our poll: [What kinds of records do you like to transcribe?](#)

Make [History Hub](#) your first stop! You can ask—or answer—questions on History Hub, or see if your question has already been answered.



COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit <https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus>

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.



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