

# JAPS ATTACK HAWAII TWICE BY AIR, SEA; DECLARE WAR ON U. S., BRITISH EMPIRE

## Sudden Attack Electrifies, Unites America

### SECRET DEFENSIVE PLANS PUT IN USE

Extraordinary Cabinet Session Held; Congressional Leaders Will Meet Later With FDR

**BULLETIN:**  
 WASHINGTON, Dec. 7. (AP) — Senator Connally (R-Tex.), announced from the White House today tonight that President Roosevelt would address a joint session of congress at 12:30 p. m. tomorrow.

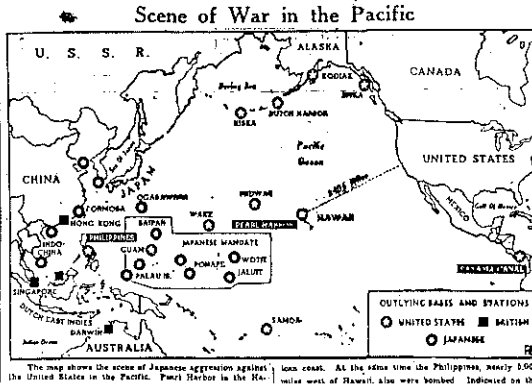
Emerging from the front door of the White House as a meeting of the President's cabinet ended, the chairman of the senate foreign relations committee said:

"The President will address a joint session of congress at 12:30 p. m. tomorrow. That is all I can say."

**By RICHARD L. TURNER**  
 (Associated Press Writer)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7. (AP) — President Roosevelt was expected to announce tonight that he had ordered the mobilization of the United States' strategic reserves of war materials, including the production of war materials, to be increased to a level of 100 percent of the normal production level.

### Americans Accept Grim



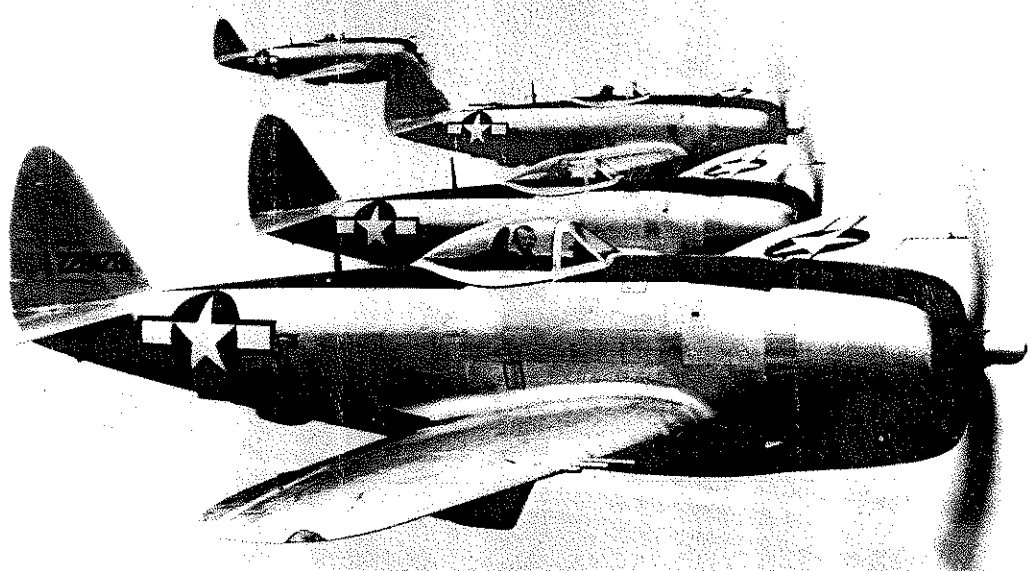
## THIRD EXTRA!!

### BLAST GUAM; HEAVY DAMAGE CAUSED AT HONOLULU OUTPOSTS

USS Oklahoma Afire at Pearl Harbor; 350 Men Killed; Foes Occupy Wake Island; Dutch Declare War

By The Associated Press  
 War between the United States and Japan exploded violently in the Pacific today as scores of Japanese bombers twice attacked Honolulu, inflicted

Courier Extra Headline announcing the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor at the beginning of World War II. Willard Library



Evansville-built P-47 Thunderbolts flying in formation during World War II. Willard Library

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### Evansville Goes to War

The United States recovered from the great depression. Trouble was brewing again in Europe and Asia. Germany's leader was Adolph Hitler. He was taking over other countries. First it was Austria, and then Czechoslovakia. Italy had its eye on Ethiopia, a small country in North Africa. The Empire of Japan had taken Korea and was attacking China.

World War II began in Europe on September 1, 1939. The United States wanted to keep out of war. England and France were our longtime friends. We sent planes and guns to our friends. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, a U. S. Naval base in Hawaii. Suddenly we were at war!

Almost overnight, the government put "freeze" orders on **non-essential** products. Orders were given to plants to stop making luxuries. The government **rationed** goods and regulated prices. Prices were "frozen" at pre-war levels. Automobiles, refrigerators, and many other items could not be bought. They were **essential** for the war effort. Only war plants, hospitals, and the armed forces could buy these items.

The government printed ration books. Rationing allowed each person to buy only limited amounts of certain items. Some of the products that were rationed were **butter, meat, canned goods, coffee, sugar, and fats.** Fuel oil, gasoline, tires, and shoes were also included in the rationed goods.

Many items that were not scarce became rationed. Some of these items were **candy bars, chewing gum, cigarettes, and soft drinks.** Nylon hose, clothing, radios, and phonograph records were also hard to find. Some rationed items were hard to find even if a person had the ration coupons.

New bicycles were almost out of the question. **Metals of all kinds were needed for the war.** Aluminum drives were held. Boys and girls

brought old aluminum to a scrap rally. Most scrap aluminum came from pots and pans because there were no aluminum cans then. Students marched in parades through the downtown area. They carried old aluminum pots, pans, or coffee pots to the courthouse and took turns throwing them at a sign. The sign showed the faces of Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo, our enemies' leaders..

Other metals beside aluminum were needed. Copper, lead, tin, and zinc were in short supply. During the war pennies were made of steel to conserve copper. Old rubber products were recycled. Reclaimed rubber was always black and smelled bad. Shoes made from reclaimed rubber made black marks on the floor. Used fat was saved and turned in at the butcher shop where it was collected to be used to make explosives.

Ladies could not buy nylon hose. Instead they used makeup on their legs. They drew black lines down the backs of their legs. This made them look like the seams in nylon hose.

Many children and adults planted Victory Gardens. They grew vegetables for the table. Since food was needed by the armed forces, food grown at home could be used instead of produce or canned food from the grocery.

Evansville plants began making many things to help the country win the war. The government quickly hired Evansville companies to make war goods. Chrysler and Sunbeam were given contracts to make bullets for rifles and machine guns instead of cars and refrigerators. These two plants were supervised by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Together, these factories were called the Evansville Ordnance Plant. By the end of the war they were the largest producer of small arms ammunition in the United States.

Chrysler also received a contract to recondition nearly 1700 Sherman tanks and 4000 Army trucks. Faultless Caster made fuses for bombs. Bootz Manufacturing Company made mess kits and army field kitchens. The National Furniture Company made beds and cots. International Steel made bridge sections small enough to fit on trucks. They could be bolted together quickly to cross rivers.

Bucyrus-Erie produced earth-moving equipment for the army. Shane Uniform made clothing for the armed forces. Hoosier Cardinal made gun racks and turrets for bombers. Mead Johnson and Igleheart Brothers continued making vitamins and flour. Many of their products were used by the armed forces. There was a shortage of these products for civilians.

The Army and the Navy honored many companies around the nation for doing a good job. The usual honor was the Army-Navy "E" for excellence. The award was shown by a flag. The company flew it just under the United States flag. Each year another flag could be awarded. In Evansville, eleven companies were given this award. A total of thirty Army-Navy "E" flags were given during the war. Some companies earned five of them.

Two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, plans were announced that a shipyard would be built in Evansville. It would build Landing Ships for Tanks, called LSTs. LSTs were built on the riverfront near Mead Johnson and Company. International Steel, George L. Mesker Steel, and Hoosier Cardinal built steel sections for the LSTs. They rolled them through Evansville streets to the shipyard. On October 31, 1942, only eight months after the shipyard was started, the first LST was launched.

In March, 1942, the government decided to build an aircraft plant on U.S. 41 near Evansville's airport. Republic Aviation operated this plant. They built P-47 Thunderbolt fighter planes. Republic Aviation's other plant was located on Long Island, New York. Because it was too close to the ocean, there was a chance it could have been bombed by enemy submarines.

The Republic Aviation building was started on April 27, 1942, and completed by August. The first P-47 rolled down the runway and took to the air on September 20, 1942. Soon twenty-five P-47s were coming off the assembly line every day.

Parts for fighter planes were manufactured at other plants in the city. Serval made wings for the P-47s. They also made shell casings and other war materials. Briggs Corporation made wings for the

Navy's Corsair fighter. At the peak of war production, Evansville's 1940 job level of 21,000 had risen to over 64,000. Women began working in the war plants and people came from all over the Tri-State to work here.

### Just a Place to Lay My Head

Evansville was a city with room for 21,000 workers. Where were 64,000 going to sleep? The government built thousands of temporary houses in several projects. They were given names like Dixie Manor, Parkholm, Diamond Villa, Fulton Square, and Gatewood Gardens. Even with this extra space, there was not room for all of the people.

Some of Evansville's big, old homes were turned into apartments. Some apartments only had one room. Garages and attics were finished and rented. Some workers wanted to live at home. Many had homes in Kentucky and Illinois. Some lived in Indiana cities to the north. They drove to work daily in **car pools**. Some families rented spare bedrooms to workers. Many single workers stayed in boarding houses. Hotel rooms were hard to find. There was a lot of traffic in and out of Evansville.

The U. S. Army opened Camp Breckinridge near Morganfield, Kentucky, in 1942. Many of its 20,000 men came to Evansville on weekend passes. Fort Campbell, near Hopkinsville, Kentucky, held 25,000 men. Many of them also came to Evansville on weekends. This caused additional housing problems.

The **USO** (United Service Organization) was started. It helped entertain and care for the servicemen coming into the city. The USO used the old C&EI railroad station at Eighth and Main Streets. It was turned into a **canteen** and recreational spot. Cots were provided for servicemen on the upper floors. The Red Cross, Salvation Army, and YMCA all provided food and lodging for visiting servicemen.

Evansville was busy taking care of the servicemen who visited our town. Many young men and women from Evansville went to service during the war. Most of them went into the Army. Some of them

were in the Army Air Corps. Others went into the Navy, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard.

Evansville servicemen served in Europe, Africa, and on the islands of the Pacific. In the Navy, Evansville sailors sailed on ships on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Evansville natives served in many other ports around the world. Flyers in the Army Air Corps flew bombing raids on Germany. They flew from bases in England and other friendly nations.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945. The whole country was shocked. Vice-President Harry S. Truman became President. Three weeks later, the enemy in Europe surrendered. The war with Japan was not over. In August, 1945, atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Shortly after this, Japan surrendered.

World War II had started on September 1, 1939. That was the day Hitler's German army and air force attacked Poland. It ended on September 2, 1945. The Japanese signed the surrender papers on the Battleship Missouri on that day. The war lasted a total of six years and one day. The United States was at war a little less than four years of that time. There were about 6000 men and women from Evansville in the various services during World War II, of those, 298 died.

### **When the Lights Come On Again**

As soon as the Japanese surrendered and the war ended, war production stopped. Thousands of workers were out of jobs again. Our servicemen were coming home from the war. They were looking for jobs, too. For about four years there had been no luxury goods made. The people of the United States wanted new cars, refrigerators, washers, dryers, and furniture. The war brought a shortage of clothing items. They also wanted new clothes. Soon factories were busier than ever. They were trying to catch up for four years of war.