

PRESIDENT FOR LIFE



1932



1934



1941

**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1882

January 30, Monday: [Henry Whitney Bellows](#) died in New York City.

[Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was born near Hyde Park.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1884

October 11, Saturday: [Anna Eleanor Roosevelt](#) was born at 56 West 37th Street in New York City, daughter of the “swells” Elliott Roosevelt and Anna Hall Roosevelt.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT





FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1904

January 30, Saturday: On his 22d birthday, [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) graduated from [Harvard College](#). He would enter Columbia Law School.

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT’S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN’S STORIES.
LIFE ISN’T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1905

March 17, Friday: [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and [Anna Eleanor Roosevelt](#) got married in New York City.

Students at the Moscow Conservatory took a vote of solidarity with Moscow musicians and workers.

[Albert Einstein](#) published “On a heuristic viewpoint concerning the production and transformation of light” in *Annalen der Physik* (in this he showed that energy was made up of localized units he termed “quanta”).

Incidental music to Maeterlinck’s play *Pelléas et Mélisande* by Jean Sibelius (translated by Gripenberg) was performed for the initial time, at the Swedish Theater, Helsinki, and was directed by the composer.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT





FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1908

Dr. David Fairchild of the US Department of Agriculture gave cherry saplings to boys from each District of Columbia school to plant in their schoolyard for the observance of Arbor Day. In closing his Arbor Day lecture, Dr. Fairchild for the first time expressed an appeal that the “Speedway” (the present day corridor of Independence Avenue SW, in West Potomac Park) be transformed into a “Field of Cherries.” In attendance was Eliza Scidmore, whom Dr. Fairchild characterized as a great authority on [Japan](#).

The Swiss discovered that only 55% of their men without a regular exercise program were likely to come up to military entrance standards. Japanese military doctors doing research on the island of Okinawa established that the karate students there were physically more fit than Okinawans in general. Because of studies such as these, various governments around the world would begin to sponsor physical training in public schools — but [Japan](#) would not be in the forefront of this effort. Although in England the professional wrestler Sada Kazu Uyenishi was teaching soldiers at Aldershot and Shorncliffe Camp, the Japanese officer caste was not interested in encouraging their enlisted men to become experts at karate, possibly because when struck by an officer (as frequently did happen), such soldiers might be tempted to strike back, and might get the upper hand.

[Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) wrote that he regarded a war between the USA and [Japan](#) as an inevitability. “We have the Philippines and they need the Philippines,” he reasoned plausibly.

Sooner or later, the Japanese will try to bolster up their power by another war. Unfortunately for us, we have what they want most, the Philippines.... When it comes, we will win over Japan, but it will be one of the most disastrous conflicts the world has ever seen.

(Hey, gentle reader, I got a question for 'ya. A guy who believes stuff like the above — exactly how hard is he going to work to preserve the peace? Is struggling to preserve world peace going to be his locofocus? —Or, instead, is said wiseass going to be carefully manipulating and fine-tuning and sharp-penciling the conditions under which this inevitable foreseen war is to begin in order to reassure himself as to the conditions under which said grand-powers world-historical struggle will come to its completion? In particular: is he likely to be caught napping, after a number of decades of such grand scheming, by one or another “sneak attack”? Seriously, now.)

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1910

November 8, Tuesday: [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), who regarded war with Japan as inevitable, was elected to the New York Senate.

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT



[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)**FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT****FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT****1914**

September 7, Monday: It was generally believed that the frigate USS *Constellation* then in existence was the identical one that had been launched in [Baltimore](#) in 1797! The minor detail, that that famous vessel which had defeated



the French frigates *Insurgente* and *Vengeance* had been broken up in 1853 at the Gosport Navy Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia as irreparable, and had then been replaced by an entirely new ship built to an entirely new design, had been erased from people's general accounts of things. Acting Navy Secretary [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) therefore ordered that she be restored so that she would appear "as she appeared in 1814" (four



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

decades before she was built). To minimize costs, the workmen were instructed to “include only such general



details as would be noticed by the layman.” They fabricated some cannon for her at the Boston Navy Yard (presumably these were “Quaker cannon” fabricated out of tree-trunks painted black). They stuffed some old sail coverings they had lying around with straw to make it seem as if they had cotton sails inside of them, and they ripped off an 1880s-era bridge platform, and they ripped off an 1890s deck housing, and so the *Constellation* was all faked up and ready for this publicity tour. Everybody knew the vessel was a fake but nobody understood how **totally** fake this all was. Towed to Baltimore harbor, it would be put on display on the anniversary of its namesake’s launching, September 7, 1797.

WHAT I’M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1919

June 2, Monday: At the chateau St. Germain-en-Laye, Karl Renner's delegation from Austria was handed a draft of the proposed peace treaty.

A bomb blast in Washington damaged the homes of Attorney-General A. Mitchell Palmer and Secretary of the Navy [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). Carlo Valdinoci, an associate of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, presumably an [anarchist](#), destroyed himself in his explosion, which damaged five other homes in the neighborhood. On this same day nine other bombs were exploding across the nation (only one other person, a chance bystander, being killed).

At the newly founded Verein für Theater und Musikkultur in Frankfurt-am-Main, the 1st public concert devoted to the music of Paul Hindemith (works performed include the Piano Quintet op.7, the Violin Sonata op.11/1, the Viola Sonata op.11/4 and the String Quartet op.10; the composer himself performed as violist for the quartet and quintet, and as pianist for the two sonatas).

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1914

July 29, Wednesday: As the [German](#) navy began to mobilize, Chancellor Theobald von Bethman Hollweg made an offer to British Foreign Minister Sir Edward Grey. If Britain were to remain neutral, [Germany](#) would pledge not to annex any of mainland France.

Austro-Hungarian artillery began shelling across the Danube River into Belgrade, the Serbian capital.

Gabriel Fauré wrote to his wife from Ems, [Germany](#) that the political situation was so “very grave” that he had decided to return home.

Russian mobilization was ordered.

A spectacular parade of ships led by the excursion steamer *Rose Standish* set sail in the late morning from [New Bedford](#) harbor for the official opening of the Cape Cod Canal. The *Rose Standish* was followed by the destroyer *McDougall* carrying then assistant secretary of the navy [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), followed in turn by seven magnificent yachts led by project financier Augustus Belmont’s *Scout*. Six more destroyers escorted the flotilla to the approach channel entrance off Wing’s Neck, where two revenue cutters and two submarines were standing by, along with hundreds of smaller craft.

The 1st transcontinental telephone link was established, between New York City and San Francisco.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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1921

July 29, Friday: In [Germany](#), [Adolf Hitler](#) became *Der Führer* of the *Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei* (National Socialist German Workers' Party, or NSDAP), the "Nazi" Party.



WORLD WAR II

During this year, [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was being stricken with polio at Campobello. For the remainder of his life he would be unable to walk unaided.

During this year, [Benito Mussolini](#) was entering the [Italian](#) parliament as a right-winger.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1924

September 26, Friday: [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) resigned as Secretary of the Navy in order to run for governor of the State of New York.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1928

Duce [Benito Mussolini](#)'s life story up to this point was offered to the English-reading public as MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY, in a translation by former US Ambassador to [Italy](#) Richard Washburn Child. In this writing he comes across as a sterling character of impeccable patriotism.

[Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was elected to be Governor of the State of New York.

In California during this decade, William Dudley Pelley, a scriptwriter, son of a Protestant minister of Lynn, Massachusetts, had "experienced death" for seven minutes and made contact with an oracle. His oracle would guide him to become "the Chief" of a secret Silver Shirts Legion in California, the Pacific northwest, and the deep south, fifteen thousand to fifty thousand strong. The gazette version of this American Nazi movement would be termed the Liberation.



JEMIMAH WILKINSON

Führer [Adolf Hitler](#) was hard at work on a 2d-volume sequel to *MEIN KAMPF*.



"It is not by chance that the American union is in the state in which by far the greatest number of bold, sometimes unbelievably so, inventions are currently taking place. The achievements of a thousand racially questionable Europeans cannot equate with the capabilities of a thousand racially first-rate Americans."



— [Adolf Hitler](#), 1928





FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1929

January: [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was inaugurated as Governor of New York State. His wife [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) would serve as eyes and ears, for the inspection of state institutions.

March 12, Tuesday: Life being about more and more and more power, Governor [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) advocated that the state of New York build dams.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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1930

April 30, Wednesday: The New York World's Fair opened in Paumanok Long Island's Flushing Meadows. Governor [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) opened the fair from the Court of Peace by pushing a button that started a reaction utilizing the light from the star Arcturus. 22 foreign countries, not including Germany, exhibited. The event was televised by the studio of C. Francis Jenkins, from a distributing antenna placed atop New York's newly constructed world's tallest building, Shreve, Lamb and Harmon's Empire State Building at 350 Fifth Avenue. (At 1,250 feet, this structure would reign supreme as the world's tallest building until the completion of the World Trade Center towers.)

August 7, Thursday: In Marion, Indiana, two black men, Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith, were suspected of robbing a white couple and raping the woman:



The crowd of white people attending the lynching was estimated at 10,000. Since the incident would not in any serious manner be investigated, we do not know whether there was any [Ku Klux Klan](#) organizational connection with this populist race retribution.

Was the federal Bureau of Investigation in any way concerned about this? –No, of course not, for this was merely a matter of local custom and local law enforcement. The robbery of the white people would be recorded as a robbery, among the robbery crime statistics, and the rape of the white woman would be recorded as a rape, among the rape crime statistics, but there would be no entry in the murder crime statistics and **of course there would be no such thing at all** as race [lynching](#) crime statistics.

FBI

On one framed copy of this photograph, a lock of the curly hair of one of these men has been preserved.



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1931

October 24, Saturday: Governor [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and New Jersey governor Morgan F. Larson dedicated the George Washington Bridge spanning the Hudson River, linking New York City to New Jersey.

October 25, Sunday: Traffic began to move across the George Washington Bridge spanning the Hudson River, linking New York City to New Jersey.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1932

Collier Cobb's [NICHOLAS MARCELLUS HENTZ](#) (Chapel Hill: U of [North Carolina](#)).

[Lynching](#) a man named Rick Read for allegedly raping and murdering an 8-year-old had not helped the good people of Oberlin, Kansas manage their anger issues. They remained so angry that at his burial there was no local man of the cloth willing to deliver a sermon. "But at the last minute a preacher showed up who believed that every man was entitled to a Christian burial," one of these good Kansans would remark in after years. "He preached the most beautiful sermon I ever heard. He said, 'If you had a man in your community as crippled in body as this man was in spirit you would all have so much pity on him you'd take him into your homes and care for him.' Our source for this would go on to describe how "All the women started to weep and I cried myself and some men cried, too, and you could feel all the hatred and violence just dissolve up into the air." Finally the good Christians were able to forgive him for having obliged them to lynch him.

(Please notice that there's an important difference, in these files, for the period of the 1930s and 1940s. The important difference is that, during the lengthy regime of President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), there's absolutely no mention at the national level of the Southern Democrat practice of the [lynching](#) of black Americans. During the FDR regime, these lynchings would be going on entirely uninterrupted, and the federal executive branch would be sponsoring zero zip nada niente anti-lynching legislation. Roosevelt was a Democrat, and it was an uneasy alliance between "liberal" Northern Democrats and "conservative" Southern Democrats that, election after election, was keeping him in power. For him to have supported anti-lynching legislation would have been for him to have split his support base, which was made up in roughly equal parts of white Northerners who did not much care what was happening to black Americans down south, and white Southerners who cared not at all that bad things would occasionally happen to the "uppity" among their black neighbors. —How do we know this? —We know this because FDR himself clearly explained his situation to the NAACP's Walter White: saving the lives of these black men would cost him more, in terms of support, than their lives were worth to him.)

July 1, Friday: The federal-level Bureau of Investigation was renamed the United States Bureau of Investigation (USBI).

FBI

At the Democratic Party's national convention in [Chicago](#), Governor [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was nominated for President of the United States of America.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

November 8, Tuesday: [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was the best we had to offer ourselves, and we elected him to be the President of the United States of America.

WORLD WAR II



1932

Nadezhda Sergeyevich Alliluyeva, the wife of [Stalin](#), died in their Kremlin apartment. The official cause of death was appendicitis. It is not known whether she shot herself, or her husband shot her.

Pastorale from the Six Compositions for Carillon by Gian Carlo Menotti was performed for the initial time, in Richmond, Virginia.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

1933

During this year 42 black Americans would be offed by white [lynch](#) mobs. The federal government, including the [FBI](#), would do absolutely nothing about this because our president, [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), was a Democrat. It was an uneasy alliance between “liberal” Northern Democrats and “conservative” Southern Democrats that, election after election, would be keeping him in power. For him to support anti-lynching legislation would be for him to split his support base, which was made up in roughly equal parts of white Northerners who did not much care what was happening to black Americans down south, and white Southerners who cared not at all that bad things would occasionally happen to the “uppity” among their black neighbors. (How do we know this? –We know this because FDR himself clearly explained his situation to the NAACP’s Walter White: saving the lives of these black men would cost him more, in terms of support, than their lives were worth to him.)

[John R. Kellam](#) attended a long lecture by the new Director of the federal Bureau of Investigation, later to become known as the [FBI](#), named [J. Edgar Hoover](#), and was for the time being suitably impressed:



He was full of what a wonderful organization that was and he was seeing to it that it was increasing in efficiency and effectiveness, catching only the bad guys, only doing that when their evidence was straight and true and sufficient for convictions. If you were innocent, you’d welcome the FBI coming to ask about anything. If you were guilty, you’d better not see



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the FBI.

OURS...to fight for



FREEDOM FROM FEAR

John would have occasion, later in life, to adjust this favorable first impression:

All that good first impression was blown away in January 1945, during my own trial in Toledo federal district court without benefit of in-court counsel and representation, when two of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI operatives would easily resort to entirely unnecessary lies in order to "prove" all but one of my character witnesses wrong about my reasons for claiming to be a conscientious objector.

February 15, Wednesday: Anarchist Joseph Zangara shot from a crowd at United States President-elect [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) in Miami. A woman near the assassin grabbed his arm and the shot wounded [Chicago](#) Mayor Anton J. Cermak. (Cermak would die March 6th. Zangara would be executed March 20th.)

March: Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera arrived in New York, where Rivera had an agreement to paint a mural at the Rockefeller Center.¹ (At the Rockefeller Center? — was this not the artist who had opined that art that's not propaganda isn't art? Is there gonna be trouble downtown or what? :-)

A heated indoor swimming pool was being prepared in the west terrace for President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)'s polio therapy (the pool would be covered in 1974 and the space converted into a room for press briefings).

This would be the month in which the physically crippled President would be urging us to beware of "fear of fear" and in which the morally crippled Chancellor [Adolf Hitler](#) would be urging that [Germans](#) never "play the coward." Full speed ahead, as our leaders were determined to do all the worrying that needed to be done, **on our behalf**:

1. For more about the circumstances of origin of this depiction of Henry Thoreau, refer to Roy Bongartz's "WHO WAS THIS MAN — and why did he paint such terrible things about us?" in [American Heritage](#) 29:1 (December 1977):14-29.



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"Our prayer is: Lord God, let us never hesitate, let us never play the coward, let us never forget the duty which we have taken upon us."

— [Adolf Hitler](#), March 1933



WORLD WAR II
GERMANY

March 4, Saturday morning: [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) replaced Herbert Clark Hoover as president of the United States. Frances Perkins was sworn in as Secretary of Labor (the first female member of a United States cabinet). FDR deployed [Henry Thoreau](#)'s "fear of fear" trope obtained ultimately from THE BOOK OF PROVERBS (Chapter 3, verse 25 

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

in accordance with the manner in which it was conveyed, through [Montaigne](#)'s

The thing I fear most is fear.

as of 1580 and through Sir Francis Bacon's

Nothing is terrible except fear itself.

as of 1623 and on to the [Duke of Wellington](#)'s remark of Thoreau's own generation,²

The only thing I am afraid of is fear.

This is what [Thoreau](#) had had to offer on September 7, 1851:

It is not so much the music as the marching to the music that I feel.... Nothing is so much to be feared as fear. Atheism may comparatively be popular with God himself.

"Fear of Fear" Trope

2. Sir Francis Bacon's 1623 "*De Augmentis Scientiarum*," Book II, "*Fortitudo*" and [Montaigne](#)'s 1580 "*Essais*," Book I, Chapter 17. THE BOOK OF PROVERBS, Chapter 3, verse 25, records this commonplace — which must be indeed ancient. I got Wellesley's wording from the "Notes of Conversations With the Duke of Wellington" that the Earl of Stanhope published in 1888.



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President Roosevelt in delivering his inaugural address may well have supposed that he was merely using a snippet from Thoreau in his address.³ **But not really.**



1932



1934

The problem is that Thoreau had been quoting this famous aphorism merely by mentioning it — as today we would say “oh yeah, let’s let a thousand flowers bloom” and bring everyone’s mind to Mao’s quote-by-mention of this well-known line from a Chinese classic essay.

3. It is merely a hypothesis, that FDR supposed he was using a quote from [Thoreau](#). Also possible is that the throwaway line “We have nothing to fear but fear itself” in his 1st inaugural address derived from nothing more sophisticated than a department store ad he had recently glimpsed in a newspaper, an ad which had also relied upon this very familiar “nothing to fear but fear” trope!

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Having quoted-by-mentioning, Thoreau went directly on to mock the sort of attitude that had produced such a sentiment, and to mock the mind of the Duke of Wellington, by a caustic deduction about atheism.





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But his comment was trivialized by [Waldo Emerson](#) after his death, when he could no longer defend the



sophistication of his irony, and then it was the “quotation” in this trivialized form that was utilized by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his famous first inaugural address on March 4th, 1933, as part of his totally anti-Thoreauvian legitimization of American progress-thinking:

This is pre-eminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly, nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So first of all let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

The gist of [Thoreau](#)’s deduction had been that, were it really true and meaningful that nothing is so much to be feared as fear, then atheism, something other than fear, would be something not so much to be feared as fear, and therefore even for God –who of course knows as well as anyone that atheism is a silly doctrine– would prefer being atheistic over being fearful. And we note that this *reductio ad absurdum* occurs in a context in which Thoreau has been ruminating about his mysterious

It is not so much the music as the marching to the music that I feel.

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which was tied of course to the mysterious “distant drummer” passage at the end of WALDEN.



DIFFERENT
DRUMMER

I will quote the usual account of the development of this extrapolation, from Kenneth C. Davis's DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY BUT NEVER LEARNED:



Most of Roosevelt's campaign speeches had been written for him, but a handwritten first draft of the inaugural address shows this to be Roosevelt's own work. Yet the speech's most famous line was old wine in a new bottle. Similar sentiments about fear had been voiced before. The historian Richard Hofstadter notes that Roosevelt read Thoreau in the days before the Inauguration and was probably inspired by the line "Nothing is so much to be feared as fear."



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This DON'T KNOW MUCH simplification elides the fact that Roosevelt was not reading Thoreau directly, but reading him as filtered through the sensibilities of Emerson. Essentially, it can fairly be said, it was **Emerson** that FDR was reading. And the preacher, sorry to say, couldn't figure out how the trout got in the milk.


OURS...to fight for



FREEDOM FROM FEAR

Emerson's son [Eddie Emerson](#), who became [Dr. Edward Waldo Emerson](#), also had attempted to interpret this passage from Thoreau's JOURNAL. However, Dr. Eddie's cut at this quote was not superior to that of his father. The way the son recorded it, approvingly, on page 72 of his little 1917 book about Thoreau,⁴ was:

Nothing is so much to be feared as fear. The sin that God hates is fear: he thinks Atheism innocent in comparison.

Now it is readily seen, this is nothing like what Thoreau had written. In fact it is more like the Reverend [Moncure Daniel Conway](#)'s famous Unitarian sermon of Sunday, January 27, 1856 in Washington DC, "The One Path, or, The Duties of The North and South" ⁵ The changes in wording which Dr. Emerson originated have created a metaphysic which is utterly wrong and inappropriate for Thoreau. He made Thoreau out to be writing a comment about some sort of daddy-in-the-sky deity of Eddie's own perfervid imagination — and Thoreau's distancing himself from such trivial and cute self-reflexive remarks and Thoreau's total sarcasm about such religious creations were apparently quite as opaque to the Emerson son as they had been to the Emerson father.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT


If you want an apposite remark about fear, you'll have to look to Eleanor Roosevelt rather than to her husband. Here's one:

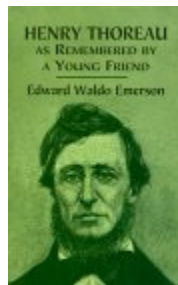
"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.... You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

Or, if you want an apposite remark about fear, you might look to former president George Herbert Walker Bush, who would parody his own ineptitude in 1997 after completing a geriatric parachute jump:

The only fear I felt was fear itself.

Well, anyway, here's what [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had to say to the American people on March 4th, 1933, with the relevant pseudo-Thoreauvian passage in rubric font:

4.  [Dr. Edward Waldo Emerson](#), HENRY THOREAU AS REMEMBERED BY A YOUNG FRIEND, EDWARD WALDO EMERSON. 1917



HENRY DAVID THOREAU AS REMEMBERED BY A YOUNG FRIEND

(Note: When the son [Edward Waldo Emerson](#) here wrote of his father [Waldo Emerson](#) that "when the Thoreau family, after Henry's death, submitted the journals to his friend's consideration, he, coming from his study, day by day, would tell his children his joyful surprise at the merit and the beauty which he found everywhere in those daily chronicles of Nature and of thought," presumably he wasn't exactly making this up out of whole cloth but also he wasn't recounting anything he personally experienced: he had left Concord shortly after [Thoreau](#)'s burial on an overland trip to California, and was nowhere near the Emerson home while his father was doing this telling about the reading of Thoreau's journal.)



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INAUGURAL SPEECH OF FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

GIVEN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 4TH, 1933

PRESIDENT HOOVER, MR. CHIEF JUSTICE, MY FRIENDS:

THIS IS A DAY OF NATIONAL CONSECRATION, AND I AM CERTAIN

THAT MY FELLOW-AMERICANS EXPECT THAT ON MY INDUCTION INTO THE

PRESIDENCY I WILL ADDRESS THEM WITH A CANDOR AND A DECISION WHICH

THE PRESENT SITUATION OF OUR NATION IMPELS.

THIS IS PRE-EMINENTLY THE TIME TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH,

FRANKLY AND BOLDLY. NOR NEED WE SHRINK FROM HONESTLY FACING CONDITIONS

IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY. THIS GREAT NATION WILL ENDURE AS IT HAS ENDURED,

WILL REVIVE AND WILL PROSPER.

SO FIRST OF ALL LET ME ASSERT MY FIRM BELIEF THAT

THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR...IS FEAR ITSELF...

5. The Reverend [Moncure Daniel Conway](#) announced that although he did not agree that the North should leave the Union, he also did not believe that the North should be paying any attention to the South's threats to leave the Union: "Let us, with Montaigne, fear nothing so much as fear."

1580: "The thing I fear most is fear."

The Washington [Evening Star](#) reported that "this city was thrown into a state of unusual excitement." The sermon would be promptly printed in full in [The National Era](#), [The National Anti-Slavery Standard](#), and [The Liberator](#). Horace Greeley would report, in the [Tribune](#), that the Reverend Conway "expects to lose his pastorate on account of it."



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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NAMELESS, UNREASONING, UNJUSTIFIED TERROR WHICH PARALYZES

NEEDED EFFORTS TO CONVERT RETREAT INTO ADVANCE.

IN EVERY DARK HOUR OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE A LEADERSHIP
OF FRANKNESS AND VIGOR HAS MET WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING
AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO VICTORY.
I AM CONVINCED THAT YOU WILL AGAIN GIVE THAT SUPPORT TO LEADERSHIP
IN THESE CRITICAL DAYS.
IN SUCH A SPIRIT ON MY PART AND ON YOURS WE FACE OUR
COMMON DIFFICULTIES. THEY CONCERN, THANK GOD, ONLY MATERIAL THINGS.
VALUES HAVE SHRUNKEN TO FANTASTIC LEVELS: TAXES HAVE RISEN,
OUR ABILITY TO PAY HAS FALLEN, GOVERNMENT OF ALL KINDS IS FACED BY
SERIOUS CURTAILMENT OF INCOME, THE MEANS OF EXCHANGE ARE FROZEN
IN THE CURRENTS OF TRADE, THE WITHERED LEAVES OF INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE
LIE ON EVERY SIDE, FARMERS FIND NO MARKETS FOR THEIR PRODUCE,
THE SAVINGS OF MANY YEARS IN THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES ARE GONE.
MORE IMPORTANT, A HOST OF UNEMPLOYED CITIZENS FACE THE GRIM PROBLEM
OF EXISTENCE, AND AN EQUALLY GREAT NUMBER TOIL WITH LITTLE RETURN.
ONLY A FOOLISH OPTIMIST CAN DENY THE DARK REALITIES OF THE MOMENT.
YET OUR DISTRESS COMES FROM NO FAILURE OF SUBSTANCE.
WE ARE STRICKEN BY NO PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS. COMPARED WITH



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THE PERILS WHICH OUR FOREFATHERS CONQUERED BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED

AND WERE NOT AFRAID, WE HAVE STILL MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

NATURE STILL OFFERS HER BOUNTY AND HUMAN EFFORTS HAVE MULTIPLIED IT.

PLENTY IS AT OUR DOORSTEP, BUT A GENEROUS USE OF IT LANGUISHES

IN THE VERY SIGHT OF THE SUPPLY.

PRIMARILY, THIS IS BECAUSE THE RULERS OF THE EXCHANGE OF MANKIND'S GOODS

HAVE FAILED THROUGH THEIR OWN STUBBORNNESS AND THEIR OWN INCOMPETENCE,

HAVE ADMITTED THEIR FAILURES AND ABDICATED. PRACTICES OF THE

UNSCRUPULOUS MONEY CHANGERS STAND INDICTED IN THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION,

REJECTED BY THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF MEN.

TRUE, THEY HAVE TRIED, BUT THEIR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN CAST

IN THE PATTERN OF AN OUTWORN TRADITION. FACED BY FAILURE

OF CREDIT, THEY HAVE PROPOSED ONLY THE LENDING OF MORE MONEY.

STRIPPED OF THE LURE OF PROFIT BY WHICH TO INDUCE OUR PEOPLE

TO FOLLOW THEIR FALSE LEADERSHIP, THEY HAVE RESORTED TO EXHORTATIONS,

PLEADING TEARFULLY FOR RESTORED CONDITIONS. THEY KNOW ONLY THE RULES

OF A GENERATION OF SELF-SEEKERS.

THEY HAVE NO VISION, AND WHEN THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH.

THE MONEY CHANGERS HAVE FLED THEIR HIGH SEATS IN THE TEMPLE

OF OUR CIVILIZATION. WE MAY NOW RESTORE THAT TEMPLE



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TO THE ANCIENT TRUTHS.

THE MEASURE OF THE RESTORATION LIES IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH
WE APPLY SOCIAL VALUES MORE NOBLE THAN MERE MONETARY PROFIT.

HAPPINESS LIES NOT IN THE MERE POSSESSION OF MONEY, IT LIES
IN THE JOY OF ACHIEVEMENT, IN THE THRILL OF CREATIVE EFFORT.

THE JOY AND MORAL STIMULATION OF WORK NO LONGER
MUST BE FORGOTTEN IN THE MAD CHASE OF EVANESCENT PROFITS.
THESE DARK DAYS WILL BE WORTH ALL THEY COST US IF THEY
TEACH US THAT OUR TRUE DESTINY IS NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO
BUT TO MINISTER TO OURSELVES AND TO OUR FELLOW-MEN.

RECOGNITION OF THE FALSITY OF MATERIAL WEALTH AS THE STANDARD
OF SUCCESS GOES HAND IN HAND WITH THE ABANDONMENT OF THE FALSE
BELIEF THAT PUBLIC OFFICE AND HIGH POLITICAL POSITION ARE TO BE VALUES
ONLY BY THE STANDARDS OF PRIDE OF PLACE AND PERSONAL PROFIT,
AND THERE MUST BE AN END TO A CONDUCT IN BANKING AND IN BUSINESS
WHICH TOO OFTEN HAS GIVEN TO A SACRED TRUST THE LIKENESS
OF CALLOUS AND SELFISH WRONGDOING.

SMALL WONDER THAT CONFIDENCE LANGUISHES, FOR IT THRIVES ONLY ON HONESTY,
ON HONOR, ON THE SACREDNESS OF OBLIGATIONS, ON FAITHFUL PROTECTION,



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ON UNSELFISH PERFORMANCE. WITHOUT THEM IT CANNOT LIVE.

RESTORATION CALLS, HOWEVER, NOT FOR CHANGES IN ETHICS ALONE.

THIS NATION ASKS FOR ACTION, AND ACTION NOW.

OUR GREATEST PRIMARY TASK IS TO PUT PEOPLE TO WORK. THIS IS

NO UNSOLVABLE PROBLEM IF WE FACE IT WISELY AND COURAGEOUSLY.

IT CAN BE ACCOMPANIED IN PART BY DIRECT RECRUITING BY THE

GOVERNMENT ITSELF, TREATING THE TASK AS WE WOULD TREAT THE

EMERGENCY OF A WAR, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THROUGH THIS

EMPLOYMENT, ACCOMPLISHING GREATLY NEEDED PROJECTS TO STIMULATE

AND REORGANIZE THE USE OF OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES.

HAND IN HAND WITH THIS, WE MUST FRANKLY RECOGNIZE THE OVER-BALANCE

OF POPULATION IN OUR INDUSTRIAL CENTERS AND, BY ENGAGING ON A NATIONAL

SCALE IN A REDISTRIBUTION, ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE A BETTER USE OF THE LAND

FOR THOSE BEST FITTED FOR THE LAND.

THE TASK CAN BE HELPED BY DEFINITE EFFORTS TO RAISE THE VALUES

OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND WITH THIS THE POWER TO PURCHASE

THE OUTPUT OF OUR CITIES.

IT CAN BE HELPED BY PREVENTING REALISTICALLY THE TRAGEDY

OF THE GROWING LOSS, THROUGH FORECLOSURE, OF OUR SMALL HOMES

AND OUR FARMS.



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IT CAN BE HELPED BY INSISTENCE THAT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACT FORTHWITH ON THE DEMAND THAT THEIR COST
BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED.

IT CAN BE HELPED BY THE UNIFYING OF RELIEF ACTIVITIES WHICH TODAY
ARE OFTEN SCATTERED, UNECONOMICAL AND UNEQUAL. IT CAN BE HELPED
BY NATIONAL PLANNING FOR AND SUPERVISION OF ALL FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION
AND OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER UTILITIES WHICH HAVE A DEFINITELY
PUBLIC CHARACTER.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS IN WHICH IT CAN BE HELPED, BUT IT CAN NEVER
BE HELPED MERELY BY TALKING ABOUT IT. WE MUST ACT, AND ACT QUICKLY.

FINALLY, IN OUR PROGRESS TOWARD A RESUMPTION OF WORK WE REQUIRE
TWO SAFEGUARDS AGAINST A RETURN OF THE EVILS OF THE OLD ORDER:
THERE MUST BE A STRICT SUPERVISION OF ALL BANKING AND CREDITS AND INVESTMENTS;
THERE MUST BE AN END TO SPECULATION WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY, AND THERE MUST
BE PROVISION FOR AN ADEQUATE BUT SOUND CURRENCY.

THESE ARE THE LINES OF ATTACK. I SHALL PRESENTLY URGE UPON A NEW CONGRESS
IN SPECIAL SESSION DETAILED MEASURES FOR THEIR FULFILLMENT, AND I SHALL SEEK
THE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE OF THE SEVERAL STATES.

THROUGH THIS PROGRAM OF ACTION WE ADDRESS OURSELVES TO PUTTING



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OUR OWN NATIONAL HOUSE IN ORDER AND MAKING INCOME BALANCE OUTGO.

OUR INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS, THOUGH VASTLY IMPORTANT,
ARE, TO POINT IN TIME AND NECESSITY, SECONDARY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A SOUND NATIONAL ECONOMY.

I FAVOR AS A PRACTICAL POLICY THE PUTTING OF FIRST THINGS FIRST.

I SHALL SPARE NO EFFORT TO RESTORE WORLD TRADE BY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
READJUSTMENT, BUT THE EMERGENCY AT HOME CANNOT WAIT ON THAT ACCOMPLISHMENT.

THE BASIC THOUGHT THAT GUIDES THESE SPECIFIC MEANS OF NATIONAL RECOVERY
IS NOT NARROWLY NATIONALISTIC.

IT IS THE INSISTENCE, AS A FIRST CONSIDERATION, UPON THE INTERDEPENDENCE
OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN AND PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES...

A RECOGNITION OF THE OLD AND PERMANENTLY IMPORTANT MANIFESTATION
OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER.

IT IS THE WAY TO RECOVERY. IT IS THE IMMEDIATE WAY. IT IS THE STRONGEST
ASSURANCE THAT THE RECOVERY WILL ENDURE.

IN THE FIELD OF WORLD POLICY I WOULD DEDICATE THIS NATION TO THE POLICY
OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR...THE NEIGHBOR WHO RESOLUTELY RESPECTS HIMSELF AND,
BECAUSE HE DOES SO, RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS...THE NEIGHBOR
WHO RESPECTS HIS OBLIGATIONS AND RESPECTS THE SANCTITY OF HIS AGREEMENTS



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IN AND WITH A WORLD OF NEIGHBORS.

IF I READ THE TEMPER OF OUR PEOPLE CORRECTLY, WE NOW REALIZE,

AS WE HAVE NEVER REALIZED BEFORE, OUR INTERDEPENDENCE ON EACH OTHER:

THAT WE CANNOT MERELY TAKE, BUT WE MUST GIVE AS WELL,

THAT IF WE ARE TO GO FORWARD WE MUST MOVE AS A TRAINED AND LOYAL

ARMY WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR THE GOOD OF A COMMON DISCIPLINE,

BECAUSE, WITHOUT SUCH DISCIPLINE, NO PROGRESS IS MADE,

NO LEADERSHIP BECOMES EFFECTIVE.

WE ARE, I KNOW, READY AND WILLING TO SUBMIT OUR LIVES AND PROPERTY

TO SUCH DISCIPLINE BECAUSE IT MAKES POSSIBLY A LEADERSHIP WHICH AIMS

AT A LARGER GOOD.

THIS I PROPOSE TO OFFER, PLEDGING THAT THE LARGER PURPOSES

WILL HIND UPON US ALL AS A SACRED OBLIGATION WITH A UNITY

OF DUTY HITHERTO EVOKED ONLY IN TIME OF ARMED STRIFE.

WITH THIS PLEDGE TAKEN, I ASSUME UNHESITATINGLY THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS GREAT

ARMY OF OUR PEOPLE, DEDICATED TO A DISCIPLINED ATTACK UPON OUR COMMON PROBLEMS.

ACTION IN THIS IMAGE AND TO THIS END IS FEASIBLE UNDER THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT

WHICH WE HAVE INHERITED FROM OUR ANCESTORS.

OUR CONSTITUTION IS SO SIMPLE AND PRACTICAL THAT IT IS POSSIBLE

ALWAYS TO MEET EXTRAORDINARY NEEDS BY CHANGES IN EMPHASIS



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AND ARRANGEMENT WITHOUT LOSS OF ESSENTIAL FORM.

THAT IS WHY OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM HAS PROVED ITSELF

THE MOST SUPERBLY ENDURING POLITICAL MECHANISM THE MODERN WORLD
HAS PRODUCED. IT HAS MET EVERY STRESS OF VAST EXPANSION OF TERRITORY,
OF FOREIGN WARS, OF BITTER INTERNAL STRIFE, OF WORLD RELATIONS.

IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE NORMAL BALANCE OF EXECUTIVE
AND LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY MAY BE WHOLLY ADEQUATE TO MEET
THE UNPRECEDENTED TASK BEFORE US. BUT IT MAY BE THAT AN
UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND AND NEED FOR UNDELAYED ACTION MAY CALL
FOR TEMPORARY DEPARTURE FROM THAT NORMAL BALANCE OF PUBLIC PROCEDURE.

I AM PREPARED UNDER MY CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO RECOMMEND THE MEASURES
THAT A STRICKEN NATION IN THE MIDST OF A STRICKEN WORLD MAY REQUIRE.

BUT IN THE EVENT THAT THE CONGRESS SHALL FAIL TO TAKE ONE OF THESE COURSES,
AND IN THE EVENT THAT THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY IS STILL CRITICAL,
I SHALL NOT EVADE THE CLEAR COURSE OF DUTY THAT WILL THEN CONFRONT ME.

I SHALL ASK THE CONGRESS FOR THE ONE REMAINING INSTRUMENT
TO MEET THE CRISIS...BROAD EXECUTIVE POWER TO WAGE A WAR
AGAINST THE EMERGENCY AS GREAT AS THE POWER THAT WOULD BE GIVEN
TO ME IF WE WERE IN FACT INVADED BY A FOREIGN FOE.



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FOR THE TRUST REPOSED IN ME I WILL RETURN THE COURAGE
AND THE DEVOTION THAT BEFIT THE TIME. I CAN DO NO LESS.

WE FACE THE ARDUOUS DAYS THAT LIE BEFORE US IN THE WARM
COURAGE OF NATIONAL UNITY, WITH THE CLEAR CONSCIOUSNESS
OF SEEKING OLD AND PRECIOUS MORAL VALUES, WITH THE CLEAN
SATISFACTION THAT COMES FROM THE STERN PERFORMANCE OF DUTY
BY OLD AND YOUNG ALIKE.

WE AIM AT THE ASSURANCE OF A ROUNDED AND PERMANENT NATIONAL LIFE.

WE DO NOT DISTRUST THE FUTURE OF ESSENTIAL DEMOCRACY.

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE NOT FAILED.

IN THEIR NEED THEY HAVE REGISTERED A MANDATE

THAT THEY WANT DIRECT, VIGOROUS ACTION.

THEY HAVE ASKED FOR DISCIPLINE AND DIRECTION UNDER LEADERSHIP.

THEY HAVE MADE ME THE PRESENT INSTRUMENT OF THEIR WISHES.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GIFT I WILL TAKE IT.

IN THIS DEDICATION OF A NATION WE HUMBLY ASK THE BLESSING OF GOD.

MAY HE PROTECT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US! MAY HE GUIDE ME IN THE

DAYS TO COME!



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(In his “First 100 Days,” FDR would initiate New Deal programs to provide immediate relief, create jobs, and foster economic recovery. In next few years, he would lead reform efforts in civil rights, labor relations, banking, and civil service, creating a Social Security Administration in 1935.)



March 5, Sunday: In the [German](#) general elections, the coalition led by the [Nazi](#) Party obtained a slim majority of 43.9% of the vote, more than twice as many votes as the next closest political party, the Social Democrats with merely 18 percent, and achieved, in conjunction with its conservative allies, total control over the *Reichstag* (288 of 647 seats).

A suit from Ernst Krenek’s incidental music *Triumph der Empfindsamkeit* was withdrawn from a program in Mannheim in an apparent attempt to avoid trouble with the new Nazi government.

Two works by Samuel Barber were performed publicly for the first time, in New York: the Cello Sonata op.6, the composer at the piano, and *Dover Beach*, for solo voice and string quartet to words of Arnold.

President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered a nationwide Bank Holiday, closing down the banking system and sending cash-strapped Hollywood studios into panic mode (at a memorable Academy Awards dinner, salary cuts would be announced).



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March 6, Monday: Fritz Busch, perceived as an opponent to the new regime in [Germany](#), was targeted by SA members in Dresden as he began a rehearsal. When he insisted that Rigoletto would be performed on the following evening, the SA [Nazis](#) purchased half the tickets, and the group would shout him down before the music had a chance to begin.

In the United States of America, all banks were closed by order of President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#).

Alexandros Othonaios replaced Eleftherios Kiriakou Venizelos as prime minister of Greece.

Ionisation for 13 percussionists by Edgard Varèse was performed for the initial time, in Carnegie Hall of New York City. Among the performers were Henry Cowell and William Schuman. On the same program was the premiere of Sacco, Vanzetti, a ricercar for voice and piano by Ruth Crawford Seeger to words of Tsiang.

Poland occupied the free city of Danzig (Gdansk).

March 9, Thursday: The federal Congress, called into special session by President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), granted almost dictatorial powers over credit and currency. Beginning of “the hundred days.”

In Germany, a 2-day wave of riots was sponsored by the so-called Storm Troopers of the Nazi Party, together with *Stahlhelm*, a nationalist organization comprised of World War I veterans, against [German](#) Jews.

March 12, Sunday: [Japan](#) completed its occupation of [China](#) north of the Great Wall.

Chinaman, Laundryman, a ricercar by Ruth Crawford Seeger to words of Tsiang, was performed for the first time, at the MacDowell Club, New York.

President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) provided his initial “fireside chat” to the American people from the White House.

The first [Nazi](#) concentration camp opened its doors at Oranienburg outside Berlin, [Germany](#). Come on in, we will not be such cowards as to keep you out.



“Our prayer is: Lord God, let us never hesitate, let us never play the coward, let us never forget the duty which we have taken upon us.”

— [Adolf Hitler](#), March 1933



WORLD WAR II
GERMANY



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March 31, Friday: Acciaio, a film with music by Gian Francesco Malipiero, was released in Italy.

US President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed an act creating the Civilian Conservation Corps. This was to provide training and jobs for thousands of unemployed Americans, and create many public works improvements.

Chancellor [Adolf Hitler](#) used the Enabling Act to exclude [German](#) communists from local government.

NAZISM

April 5, Wednesday: The Court of International Justice ruled in favor of Denmark in their sovereignty dispute with Norway over the east coast of Greenland.

At the Swiss border, conductor Otto Klemperer departed [Germany](#) for good.

US President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered all gold coins and certificates of more than \$100 turned in for other types of currency.

Introduzione, aria e toccata for orchestra by Alfredo Casella was performed for the initial time, in Teatro Augusteo, Rome.

May 18, Thursday: Jaan Tõnisson replaced Konstantin Päts as Head of State of Estonia.

President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed an act creating the Tennessee Valley Authority, to provide for electricity and flood control in a large region of the country. "For the greater good of all, get out there and expropriate a whole bunch of family farms."

The Woodland Stream for unison chorus by Edward Elgar to words of Mackay was performed for the initial time, in Worcester.



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June 16, Friday: The Navy Department ordered the USS *Constellation* to decommissioned status, for preservation as a naval relic. Although numerous surveys were conducted and estimates given for the cost of restoring the vessel as a national historic shrine, no decisions on the ship's fate were taken. The vessel would remain in "Ordinary" at the US Naval Training Center at [Newport, Rhode Island](#) until [World War II](#).

President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the National Recovery Act, providing for the creation of a Public Works Administration and giving him the power to regulate industry to stimulate the economy. He signed the Glass-Steagall Act, providing for reforms in banking to cut down on speculation and creating the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The organizing meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of [Clinical Psychologists](#), forerunner of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association, was held in Harrisburg. The group elected acting president Thaddeus Bolton, of Temple University, and acting secretary Florentine Hackbusch, of the state's Bureau of Mental Hygiene.⁶

Unknown assailants murdered Chaim Arlosoroff, a Labor Zionist leader.

6. Street, W.R. A CHRONOLOGY OF NOTEWORTHY EVENTS IN AMERICAN [PSYCHOLOGY](#). Washington DC: American Psychological Association, 1994



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1934

March 24, Saturday: After a failed attempt at a breakout, 1,200 Bolivian defenders of Cañada Tarija surrendered to the Paraguayans.

Suite for Jazz Orchestra no.1 by Dmitri Shostakovich was performed for the initial time, in Leningrad.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Philippine Independence Act, providing for this archipelago a 10-year period of transition to independence.

April 23, Monday: Amy Beach and Ruth Shaffner appeared in a command performance in the East Room of the White House for [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) and 400 invited guests. In spite of her continual lifelong insistence on voting the Republican ticket, Mrs. Beach would always cherish her memory of this day and of the kindness of Mrs. Roosevelt.

May 18, Friday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed into law several statutes increasing the federal Division of Investigation's jurisdiction.

FBI



Our national birthday, Wednesday the 4th of July: In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, legislators began a meeting by tossing firecrackers at each other's toes.

President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was vacationing in the Bahamas. Within earshot of the President's location, the US cruiser *Houston*, on its way toward Panama, delivered a 21-gun salute to the Commander in Chief.

At Arlington Cemetery, a plaque in memory of some "Unknown Soldier" was added to the permanent collection of memorial trophies.

The first annual historical pageant of Southwestern Virginia took place in Roanoke, Virginia before a crowd of 50,000.

Takoma Park, Maryland presented a pageant depicting the tercentenary of Maryland and its history.

Fireworks caused a fire on the grounds of the [Statue of Liberty](#) in New York harbor.

The [Liberty Bell](#) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was rung by a hammer "guided by an electrical impulse transmitted from Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd's base in Antarctica."

CELEBRATING OUR B-DAY



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August 15, Wednesday: During the period that the US Marine Corps had run Haiti, making a mess of things and training the Haitian army, we had maintained the road system in the countryside by a scheme of forced peasant labor, causing a guerrilla revolt. At this point President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered a Marine withdrawal.



December 29, Saturday: The [Japanese](#) government formally renounced its participation in the Washington Naval Treaty of 1922 and the London Naval Treaty of 1930, which had placed limits on the size of its navy.

George Gershwin performed for President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) at the White House.



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1935

April 8, Monday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act. Among other things, this created the Works Progress Administration, an attempt to create employment during the Great Depression. Among the millions to which it supplied regular paychecks would be many writers and artists.

Works for keyboard instruments were performed for the initial time, at the Schola cantorum, Paris: Choral en fa mineur op.90bis for organ, the second and third of the Trois réalisations op.107/1 for organ by Charles Koechlin, and seven of the twelve movements of L'ancienne maison de campagne op.124 for piano (the organist was Olivier Messiaen).

String Quartet no.5 by Béla Bartók was performed for the initial time, in the Library of Congress at Washington DC.

May 1, Wednesday: The Federal Music Project was organized by the [Roosevelt](#) Administration to provide work for unemployed musicians.

May 11, Saturday: By executive order, US President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) created the Rural Electrification Administration as an agency within the Department of Agriculture. Its goal was to overcome the failure of capitalism to bring electricity to rural areas.

Karol Szymanowski's ballet-pantomime Harnasie, to a scenario by Iwaszkiewicz and Rytard, was performed for the initial time, in Prague.

On his 40th birthday, William Grant Still founded a music library at the Gray Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles.

July 5, Friday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the National Labor Relations Act, which allegedly guaranteed workers the right to join unions. Allegedly, owners might not interfere with union activities and, allegedly, were obligated to bargain collectively with them.

August 14, Wednesday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Social Security Act into law.



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August 27, Tuesday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) belatedly signed a bill to complete the reimbursement of the victims of the Cloquet-Moose Lake fires of 1918, fires that had been started by the railroad during the government's WWI administration of the railroad system. \$10,800,000 was released from the federal coffers.

[MINNESOTA](#)

[WORLD WAR I](#)



September 12, Thursday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) gave final approval for “Federal One” under the WPA (Works Progress Administration). Directors of the four departments were named, for music, theater, art, and writers. There was to be no such thing as a starving artist, in America.

Duke Ellington and his Orchestra recorded his suite Reminiscing in Tempo in New York.

December 3, Tuesday: The initial public housing project in the United States was opened on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and First Lady [Eleanor Roosevelt](#).



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1936

May 24, Sunday: Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were notified that authority to investigate “foreign” associations inside the United States of America, to discover possible subversiveness, had been granted to [Director J. Edgar Hoover](#)’s [FBI](#) by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) at a breakfast meeting, and then confirmed by Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Gosh, what an excellent license!

November/December: The USS [Indianapolis](#) (CA-35) hosted President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) during a cruise to South America.

WORLD WAR II



1934



1941



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1937

February 5, Friday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) proposed that the Supreme Court be expanded from nine to 15 members (his attempt to pack the court would be defeated).

The initial Charlie Chaplin talkie, “Modern Times,” was released to the theatres.

The Journal of Biological Chemistry received “Further Studies on the Concentration of the Antipellagra Factor” by Conrad Elvehjem and Carl Koehn, wherein a new vitamin (niacin) was identified as the missing factor in pellagra.

May 27, Thursday: President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) pushed a button in Washington ceremonially opening the Golden Gate Bridge to traffic. This was the longest suspension bridge, at 1,965 meters. On this day nobody committed suicide by leaping from the new span.



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1938

June 25, Saturday: Douglas Hyde became President of Eire, replacing a provisional presidential commission.

President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Fair Labor Standards Act. this created the first national minimum wage, required time-and-a-half for overtime (in certain cases), and prohibited “child labor” in situations in which this was oppressive.

July 6, Wednesday: At the suggestion of President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), representatives of 32 countries and 39 refugee aid agencies met in Evian on Lake Geneva to discuss solutions to the problem of increased expulsions of Jews from [Germany](#). Nothing concrete would be done. Only the Dominican Republic would agree to take any Jews.

ANTISEMITISM

American astronomer Seth Barnes Nicholson discovered Lysithea from the Mount Wilson Observatory near Pasadena, California. This was the 10th moon of Jupiter to be identified from Earth.

September 26, Monday: In the Berlin Sportpalast, *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) announced that his Godesberg demands represented a minimum, and that either Czechoslovakia would evacuate the Sudetenland by October 1st or there would be war. President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) appealed for peace directly to *Der Führer* and President Benes.



The little dog, unable to converse in the Germanic languages, went “Woof woof.”

WORLD WAR II
GERMANY



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1939

A Presidential Directive signed by [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) strengthened the [FBI](#)'s authority to investigate to discover possible subversiveness of "foreign" associations inside the United States of America by assigning responsibility for investigating espionage, sabotage, and other subversive activities to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, **and to** the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department, **and to** the Office of Naval Intelligence. All you guys just pile right in there and molest whatever Americans strike your fancy –however you want –whenever you want!

Early in the year: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) asked the US Congress to repeal the Neutrality Act so he could sell arms to the free European forces. The Congress refused.



1934



1941

Terming his scheme the "Arsenal of Democracy," from this year forward the President would be, by dramatically increasing defense spending, converting America to dependence upon a military economy.





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April 9, Sunday: Contralto Marian Anderson gave an open air concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to an audience of 75,000 on Easter Sunday. She was making use of this venue because she had been denied use of the Daughters of the American Republic Constitution Hall, and she had been denied use of that hall because she was of African descent (the incident would necessitate [Eleanor Roosevelt](#)'s resignation from the DAR). The final offering on her program was Florence Price's arrangement of My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord (it being Ms. Price's 52nd birthday).

April 14, Friday: John Steinbeck's THE GRAPES OF WRATH was published by Viking Press.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) communicated to Chancellor [Adolf Hitler](#) and to the [Italian](#) swordsman and Premier [Benito Mussolini](#) a plea for a 10-year guaranty of peace.

WORLD WAR II
GERMANY



Skilled Swordsmen

Saint Ignatius Loyola	President Harry S Truman
Michel Angelo	General George Patton
Sir Walter Raleigh	Heinrich Himmler
René Descartes	Hermann Göring
John Milton	Juan Péron
George Frederick Handel	Francisco Franco
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	Benito Mussolini
Karl Marx	Oswald Mosley
Sir Richard Burton	Reinhard Heydrich
Aleksandr Pushkin	



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April 30, Sunday: The National Broadcasting Company inaugurated regular television broadcasts beginning with coverage of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) at the opening of the New York World's Fair. He was the first sitting president to be seen publicly on television. Also at today's opening, cosmic rays were harnessed for the first time to produce electricity. They were trapped by a Geiger-Mueller counter at the Hayden Planetarium, turned into electric current, and sent to the fairgrounds in Flushing Meadows to operate switches on colored lights at the Lagoon of Nations.

Kurt Weill's historical pageant Railroads on Parade, to words of Hungerford, was performed for the initial time, at the New York World's Fair. Also premiered at the fair was William Grant Still's Song of a City for chorus and orchestra, to words of Stillman.

August 2, Wednesday: On his back porch in Princeton, [New Jersey](#) (112 Mercer Street), Professor [Albert Einstein](#) was prompted by Leo Szilard, Eugene Wigner, and Edward Teller to sign a short, clear letter to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), one suitable for the attention span of a politician, informing him of efforts in [Nazi Germany](#) to purify [Uranium₂₃₈](#) and pointing out that *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#), since he was such an evil man, if he were allowed to continue to have access to this particular ingredient, might be able to use it to fashion [a just hugely huge bomb](#).

Their idea was to persuade the President to take action to keep this material away from Herr Hitler, so that he would be unable to achieve any such wicked objective if that was what was in his mind. The President would be handed this letter, by Alexander Sachs, on October 11, 1939 — what an easy way to command the attention of a great leader of men!

WORLD WAR II



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August 7, Monday: According to TIME Magazine, Old Quaker, “A Friendly Whiskey” that had been being sold for half a century, was marketed by a subsidiary of Schenley Distillers Corporation. “Some members of the Society of Friends object mildly to Quaker Oil, Quaker Oats, the Quaker Line, Quaker Novelty Puffing.

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But they object vigorously to Old Quaker whiskey.”

24,384. WHISKY. CORNING & COMPANY, Peoria, Ill. Filed Feb. 8, 1894



Essential feature.—The words “OLD QUAKER,” the representation of an “old quaker,” two sheaves and a bag, and three barrels, one placed upon the other two. Used since October 1, 1878.



RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quakers, Old Quaker



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Old Quaker, "A Friendly Whiskey," has been made in the U.S. for 50 years. Today it is marketed by a subsidiary of Schenley Distillers Corp. Some members of the Society of Friends object mildly to Quaker Oil, Quaker Oats, the Quaker Line, Quaker Novelty Puffing. But they object vigorously to Old Quaker whiskey. They object to Old Quaker's implicit identification with the "purity and integrity" of the Quaker faith. They resent the implication that Quakers drink; they aren't supposed to. The Society is displeased that the Old Quaker trademark is a picture of William Penn, standard-bearer of Quakerism in America; that some Schenley advertisements have featured a photograph of a whiskey drinker in Quakerish dress. Last week, as mad as members of a mild, tolerant sect can be, some Friends proposed to do something about the whiskey.

Quakers began hectoring Schenley several years ago. Although it had no intention of yielding its 50-year-old name, a valuable property, the firm agreed gradually to reduce the size of the Old Quaker's picture, to kill him off completely at the first opportunity. To Friends, however, the Old Quaker still looks pretty big and bibulous. Friend Malcolm Read Lovell, authorized by a Manhattan Quaker meeting to study the problem, suggested a boycott – by others.

For an effective boycott of a whiskey by teetotaling Quakers was a bit of a problem. Mr. Lovell's solution: to circularize other churches, civic clubs, Rotarians, Kiwanis, Lions, fraternal organizations, sportsmen's clubs, with an explanation of Quaker ideals, urging them to do the Quakers' boycotting for them.

Notice, please, that this boycott was being organized by Friend Malcolm Read Lovell of a monthly meeting in Manhattan. This is Lovell the father, the peace activist, rather than his son Lovell, Jr. He was a real estate developer and had been involved with Friend Rufus Matthew Jones in the production of TWO QUAKER SISTERS: FROM THE ORIGINAL DIARIES OF ELIZABETH BUFFUM CHACE AND LUCY BUFFUM LOVELL, and had written the Introduction for that volume (Liveright Publishing, 1937). We will come across Friend Malcolm again in 1941 when an anti-Nazi German diplomat will attempt to use him just prior to Pearl Harbor as an unofficial conduit for a warning to high levels of the US government that their ally, Japan, was preparing an attack on the United States. This Quaker believer in the Peace Testimony thus would be offered an opportunity to (possibly) intercede to prevent America from joining in the Second World War. (The warning would originate as an informal conversation between Herr Dr. Hans Thomsen, the German chargé d'affaires ad interim to the United States, and Friend Malcolm, early in November 1941, after which it would take Friend Malcolm about a week to convey information as to the nature of this conversation to William J. Donovan, the director of the Office of Strategic Services (the "OSS," precursor to the present Central Intelligence Agency



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or “CIA”). General Donovan would place the information on the desk of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) that same day, in a top-secret memo bearing the date November 13, 1941 that has been discovered in the National Archives in 2007 or 2008 by the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. Here is the exact wording of the top-secret OSS summary of the warning passed via this American Quaker by this German diplomat: “In the last analysis, Japan knows that unless the United States agrees to some reasonable terms in the Far East, Japan must face the threat of strangulation, now or later. Should Japan wait until later to prevent this strangulation by the United States, she will be less able to free herself than now, for Germany is now occupying the major attention of both the British empire and the United States. If Japan waits, it will be comparatively easy for the United States to strangle Japan. Japan is therefore forced to strike now, whether she wishes to or not.”)

August 24, Thursday: Germany and the USSR signed a 10-year non-aggression pact. In response the British Parliament passed the Emergency Powers Act giving the government broad powers to organize defense of the country.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) sent appeals for peace to Chancellor [Adolf Hitler](#), President Moscicki, and King Victor Emmanuel.

WORLD WAR II
GERMANY

September 5, Tuesday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) implements the Neutrality Act of 1937, including an arms embargo on all belligerents in the European war. (The President issued two Neutrality Proclamations; one according to Neutrality Act of 1937 which forbade shipment of arms and munitions to belligerents, the other in accordance with international law. He ordered a Neutrality Patrol by the US Navy to report and track any belligerent air, surface, or underwater naval forces approaching the Atlantic coasts of the United States or the West Indies.)

WORLD WAR II

[German](#) troops crossed the Vistula River in Poland.



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September 8, Friday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) proclaimed a “limited national emergency” and ordered an increase in the enlisted strengths of all the US armed forces (naval enlisted men from 110,813 to 145,000, Marine Corps enlisted strength from 18,325 to 25,000), and authorized the recall to active duty of officers, men, and nurses on retired lists of Navy and Marine Corps. The Allies announced a long-range blockade of [Germany](#).

At Bedzin in Poland, [Germans](#) herded several hundred [Jews](#) into a synagogue and set it afire, burning them to death.



ANTISEMITISM

All Jewish businesses in [German](#)-occupied territories were ordered to from this point forward mark themselves with a star of David.

[German](#) forces captured Aleksandrow.

WORLD WAR II

September 21, Thursday: Prime Minister Armand Calinescu of Romania was murdered by the fascist Iron Guard in Bucharest and replaced by Gheorghe Argesanu. Numerous members of the Iron Guard were arrested or murdered.

Reinhard Heydrich issued the following orders to the commanders of the Einsatzgruppen:

- Country Jews will be concentrated in large cities. The districts of Danzig, West Prussia, Poznan and Upper Silesia will be emptied of Jews.
- Jewish councils are to be established which will have authority over executing all orders.
- All Jewish businesses and property will be confiscated and exploited.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) asked the federal Congress to repeal the arms embargo provisions of the United States Neutrality Act of 1937.

WORLD WAR II



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October: Tyler Gatewood Kent was transferred from the US Embassy in Moscow to the US embassy in London.

He would serve as a code clerk with access to diplomatic dispatches from American missions across Europe to Washington, all of which were being routed through the London embassy's code room. When he began this duty assignment, war had already broken out in Europe but both US law (the Johnson and Neutrality Acts) and overwhelming US public sentiment seemed to be ensuring that the USA could not become entangled in this conflict. However, from this special vantage point, Kent would quickly become aware that [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was working behind the scenes to get his nation embroiled in this war, subverting US law



and deceiving the voters. He decided to “pull an Ellsberg” by making copies or summaries of the diplomatic dispatches demonstrating Roosevelt’s secret agenda in order somehow to bring this to the attention of unsympathetic federal legislators. The most incriminating evidence he accumulated consisted of top secret correspondence between Roosevelt and [Winston Churchill](#), which began with a letter the President had sent behind the back of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on September 11, 1939, while Winston Churchill was still only the 1st Lord of the Admiralty (that is, not a head of state, but merely at the head of the British navy with no official responsibility for national policy). This was enormously problematic as, officially, a head of state such as the US President might communicate only with his counterpart heads of state and, officially, any communications routed through underlings understood to be for the ultimate attention of that counterpart head of state. Churchill was signing his messages to Roosevelt simply “Naval Person,” because his treasonous agenda in dealing directly with the American head of state was to supplant Chamberlain as head of state.

October 11, Wednesday: An American economist, Alexander Sachs, met with [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). He brought a letter from Professor [Albert Einstein](#) telling of the enormous destructive potential of [certain atomic materials](#) and asking the president to prevent [Germany](#) from obtaining access to such materials.



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October 25, Wednesday: [Germany](#) decreed that all Jews in Poland aged 14-60 were required to work on government labor projects.

ANTISEMITISM

The initial performance in the newly built State Theater in Athens was Giacomo Puccini's Madama Butterfly. In attendance on this night were King George and, at the special invitation of the Greek government, the son and daughter-in-law of the composer.

In an attempt to attack [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)'s New Deal, the House of Representatives's [Un-American Activities Committee](#) published a list containing, among other names, 563 names of federal employees.⁷

7. Members of this congressional committee were alleging not only that this list was a membership list of the American League for Peace and Democracy, but also that this group was one of the front organizations of the Communist Party.



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November 4, Saturday: How to win friends and influence people: Congress approved and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Pittman Bill (United States Neutrality Act of 1939) that would allow American businesses to begin to vend weapons of death to any nation that had thirty pieces of silver jingling in its pocket.

President Roosevelt declared the area around the British Isles to be a combat zone.

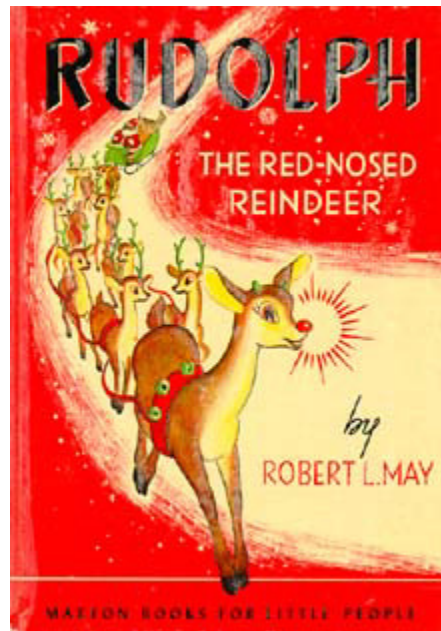




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December 25, Monday: The Montgomery Ward department store introduced a 9th reindeer on Santa's team, out in front guiding all the others, named Rudolph.



[Winston Churchill](#) sent a message (Telegram 2720) to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) that the code clerk in the US Embassy, Kent, was able to intercept, making a complete copy. The 1st Lord of the Admiralty was informing the head of the American state, behind the back of his Prime Minister, that British warships would continue to violate American sovereignty to seize German ships within the US three-mile maritime territorial zone. However, in order to keep these violations secret, Churchill was pledging that all such seizures would be out of view from the American shore. "We cannot refrain from stopping enemy ships outside international three-mile limit when these may well be supply ships for U-boats or surface raiders, but instructions have been given only to arrest or fire upon them out of sight of United States shores."

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1940

Early in the year: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) stacked his cabinet with interventionists such as Henry Stimson and Frank Knox, who took over our Navy and War departments. The Commander-in-Chief named Harry Hopkins, an avid anti-Nazi, as Secretary to the War Cabinet.



Our Perennial Quest to Do Harm So Good Will Come



Extermination of the Pequot Tribe	1634-1637
“King Phillip’s” Race War	1675-1676
The War of 1812	1812-1815
The Revolution of the Texians	1835-1836
War on Mejico	1846-1848
The War for the Union	1862-1865
War to End War	1916-1919
Stopping Hitler	1940-1945
The Korean Police Action	1950-1953
Helping South Vietnam be Free	1959-1975
Cuban Missile Crisis	1962

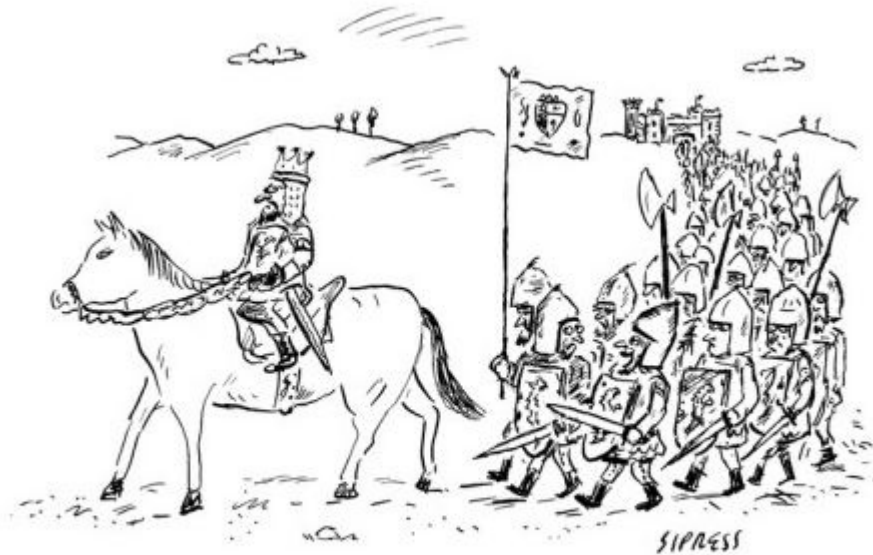
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"I hear it's because we're right and they're wrong."



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February 28, Wednesday: [Winston Churchill](#) sent Telegram #490 to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and Tyler Gatewood Kent was able to intercept it and make a complete copy.



In this telegram the 1st Lord of the British Admiralty was, behind the back of his Prime Minister, informing the head of a foreign state that in violation both of American neutrality and of international law the British government was intending to continue to seize and censor US mail from American and other neutral ships on their way to Europe. “All our experience shows that the examination of mails is essential to efficient control,” Churchill wrote. The two were conspiring to insure that the United States government would secretly tolerate British violations of American territorial sovereignty and restrictions on neutral American shipping, in effect voiding the USA’s status as a neutral nation. Had Kent been able to achieve his objective of bringing such secret correspondence to the attention of America’s congressmen and senators, it is almost a certainty that the president would have faced at least preliminary impeachment proceedings.

WORLD WAR II

The initial basketball game to be televised, the University of Pittsburgh versus Fordham University.

Richard Wright’s NATIVE SON.

April 10, Wednesday: Igor Stravinsky delivered the sixth and last of his Norton Lectures in the New Lecture Hall (Lowell Hall) of Harvard University.

Les musiciens du ciel, a film with music by Arthur Honegger, was shown for the first time, in Paris.

The first song of Canti di Prigione by Luigi Dallapiccola to words of Queen Mary Stuart, for accompanied chorus, was heard for the first time, over the airwaves of Belgian Radio, Brussels.

British and [German](#) naval forces fought an inconclusive battle in Narvik harbor. Three ships were sunk and one run aground. In Bergen harbor, British planes sank the [German](#) cruiser *Königsberg*.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), acting under the Neutrality Act of 1939, extended the maritime danger zone to include the Scandinavian area.

WORLD WAR II



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May 7, Tuesday: Igor Stravinsky and Vera Stravinsky boarded ship at Boston for a honeymoon trip, initially to New York City but eventually to California.

The US Pacific Fleet was ordered by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) to remain indefinitely in Hawaiian waters.



They also serve, who only serve as a sitting target.

The government of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain survived a confidence vote 281-200 but the victory was not large enough for him to claim that the government was representative.

Music for several dances by John Cage was performed for the initial time, at the Cornish School in Seattle: America was Promises for speaker and piano four hands to words of MacLeish, Four Songs of the Moment for piano, Spiritual for piano, and Imaginary Landscape no.2 for variable frequency turntables, string piano and percussion.

May 10, Friday: The British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, resigned.

A British occupation of Iceland was announced in London as troops disembarked there.

[Germany](#) invaded the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered application of Neutrality Act to Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The Netherlands and Belgium declared war on Germany.

May 11, Saturday: With the assistance of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), 1st Lord of the Admiralty [Winston Churchill](#) achieved his agenda of supplanting Neville Chamberlain as the Prime Minister of England.

British and French troops landed on the Dutch islands of Aruba and Curaçao to protect oil installations. A British protectorate was established over Aruba. The Japanese Foreign Minister demanded the maintenance of the political and economic status quo in the Netherlands East Indies.

Belgians in the fortress of Eben-Emael surrendered to the [Germans](#).

Concertino for flute and strings by Norman Dello Joio was performed for the first time, at a student composition concert at the Juilliard School, New York.



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May 16, Thursday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) asked for national defense funds totaling \$1,182,000,000. He asserted that the US Army and Navy should be equipped with 50,000 aircraft a year.

The French High Command ordered the evacuation of Belgium. Two British officers drained 150,000 tons of fuel into the Scheldt River at Antwerp.

Two new works by Carlos Chávez were performed for the first time, at the Museum of Modern Art, New York: Xochipili-Macuilxochitl, for four winds and percussion ensemble, and La Paloma Azul, for chorus and small orchestra.

May 17, Friday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) announced his plan for recommissioning 35 more destroyers.

As [German](#) forces entered Brussels, the Belgian government evacuated to Ostend.

[Germans](#) reached the Oise at Origny.

June 14, Friday: France officially surrendered Paris. [German](#) troops enter the city shortly after dawn, neglecting not to march along the Champs Elysées at 9:45AM and pass beneath the Arc de Triumph.

The Cunard/White Star passenger liner HMT *Lancastria* (16,243 tons), the former *Tyrrhenia*, which had been converted into a troopship, set sail from Liverpool to assist in Operation Aerial, the evacuation of British troops and refugees from France.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed a “11% Naval Expansion Act” increasing the carrier, cruiser, and submarine tonnage of the Navy by 167,000 tons, and auxiliary shipping by 75,000 tons.

The French government quit the Loire for Bordeaux.

French naval forces heavily bombarded Genoa.

Spain occupied the international city of Tangier.

WORLD WAR II



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June 15, Saturday: Senator [Harry S Truman](#) launched his reelection campaign at the courthouse in Sedalia, Missouri.

As the French government assembled in Bordeaux, Admiral Darlan proscribed further naval action against [Italy](#).

[Germany](#) annexed Alsace and Lorraine.

[German](#) troops occupied Verdun.

Soviet forces invaded Lithuania, occupying Kaunas and Vilna. President Smetona fled to East Prussia.

The United States of America declined Finland's appeal for aid.

Claire Chennault organized the [Chinese](#) Air Force American Volunteer Group.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) approved an act to increase US naval aviation to a strength of not more than 10,000 aircraft.

WORLD WAR II

June 27, Thursday: After Romania refused to cede Bessarabia and Bukovina, the USSR invaded

WORLD WAR II

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) declared a "national emergency" and invoked the Espionage Act of 1917 to exercise control over shipping movements in territorial waters and in vicinity of Panama Canal.

Romania yielded to a Russian ultimatum and ceded Bessarabia and northern Bukovina.

June 29, Saturday: The French government moved from Bordeaux to Clermont-Ferrand.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Alien Registration Act, requiring that all aliens be registered and fingerprinted and making it illegal to advocate violent overthrow of the federal government.

Paul Klee died in Muralto, Switzerland at the age of 60.

When mobsters rubbed out a circus highwire team known as the Flying Graysons, their son Dick (to be known as Robin) was orphaned and hence in need of Batman as role model.



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July 2, Tuesday: *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) ordered the [German](#) high command to prepare for an invasion of the British Isles.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

An Export Control Act was passed. According to this act, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) would be able, whenever he considered this “necessary in the interest of national defense,” to prohibit or limit the exportation of military equipment, munitions, tools, materials, etc.

The 15,501-ton *Arandora Star* (Blue Star Line) was one of 4 ships placed at the disposal of the British War Office for the transportation of enemy aliens to Canada. It had sailed from Liverpool without escort toward St. John's, Newfoundland, carrying 473 German civilians who had been interned in England when war had broken out in 1939 and 717 Italian civilians who had been likewise interned after *Duce* [Benito Mussolini](#) had declared war on June 10, 1940. There was a crew of 176 and a military guard of some 200. Also on board were some Italian internees from camps on the Isle of Man, many of whom had been selected for deportation in error. At 7:05AM, off the coast of [Ireland](#), the *Arandora Star* was torpedoed by U-boat U47 (Korvkpt. Günther Prien). An internal explosion, apparently a boiler blowing up, broke the ship in two, and she went under at 7:40AM. At about 2:30PM the Canadian destroyer HMCS *St. Laurent* found lifeboats and started to take survivors on board. They would reach Greenock in Scotland on Wednesday, July 3rd at 8:45AM and the sick and injured would be taken by a fleet of ambulances to Mearns Kirk Hospital. Survivors would later be put on another ship, the *Dunera*, and transported to Australia. A total of 743 were lost: 146 Germans, 453 Italians, and 144 crew and soldiers. (In Bardi, a village in northern Italy, there is now a chapel to commemorate the victims. This disaster would change British internment policy — from this point internees would be interned in British camps only. The last report to be received from U-boat U47 would be transmitted on March 7, 1941.)

[WORLD WAR II](#)



Our national birthday, Thursday the 4th of July: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) officially turned over the library bearing his name to the Federal Government.

[CELEBRATING OUR B-DAY](#)

Italian forces captured Kassala, Sudan.

Pro-[German](#) businessman Ion Gigurtu replaced Gheorghe Tatarescu as prime minister of Romania.

This is Our Time (Secular Cantata no.1) by William Schuman to words of Taggard, was performed for the initial time, in Lewisohn Stadium, New York.

The *Foylebank*, an anti-aircraft vessel of 5,582 tons (in a previous existence, this had been the *Andrew Weir*), was dive-bombed in Portland harbor and there were some real 4th-of-July fireworks. When the flames reached the magazine the ship blew up. 176 died.⁸





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July 5, Friday: As a result of the British attack on French warships at Oran, the French Government of Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain broke off diplomatic relations with Great Britain.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) invoked the Export Control Act forbidding the export of aircraft parts, minerals, or chemicals to [Japan](#) without a license.⁹

8. At a first order of approximation there seems to be a remarkable similarity between fighting at sea and feeding fish.



9. A list of instructions had been carefully prepared for the President, as to how to get the United States of America into World War II “through the back door” by forcing Hitler to declare war on us, an essential item on that list being to force some other member of the Axis tripartite alliance (either Italy or Japan, it didn’t much matter which) to declare war on us. A list of instructions had been carefully prepared for President Roosevelt, as to how to force Japan in particular to declare war on us. A key item on that list was to severely damage Japan’s economy, which was heavily dependent upon the importation of fuel and raw materials. Here we see our Manipulator in Chief hard at work to overcome America’s peacemongers and isolationists and engineer our entry into [World War II](#) — and thus guarantee that he could remain President for Life with the powers and authorities to all intents and purposes of a dictator.



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July 19, Friday: Northwest of the island of Crete, the *Bartolomeo Colleoni*, an Italian light cruiser, was struck repeatedly by shells from British warships and became a blazing wreck and was being abandoned by its crew. When British torpedoes struck the cruiser capsized, taking 125 down with it. British destroyers rescued 525 floaters including its skipper, Captain Umbarto Novaro, who would die of his injuries.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed a Naval Expansion Act containing provisions for a “Two Ocean Navy.” 1,325,000 tons of combatant shipping, 100,000 tons of auxiliary shipping, and 15,000 aircraft will expand the Fleet by 70%.

WORLD WAR II



Great Men

Consider greatness.
A great man must have a following, whether he gain it
Like Roosevelt by grandiose good intentions, cajolery
And public funds, or like Hitler by fanatic
Patriotism, frank lies, genius and terror,
Without great following no greatness; it is ever the greedy
Flame on a wick dipped in the fat of millions;
No man standing alone has ever been great;
Except, most rarely, his will, passion or intellect
Have come to posthumous power, and the naked spirit
Picked up a crown.

ADOLF HITLER

Yes. Alas then, poor ghost,
Nietzsche or Jesus, hermit, martyr, starved prophet,
Were you honest while you lived: You are not now.
You have found your following and it corrupts you; all greatness
Involves betrayal, of the people by a man
Or of a man by the people. Better to have stood
Forever alone. Better been mute as a fish,
Or an old stone on the mountain, where no man comes
But only the wilderness-eyed hawk with her catch
And feeds in peace, delicately, with little beakfuls,
While far down the long slope gleams the pale sea.

— [Robinson Jeffers](#)

July 26, Friday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) invoked the Export Control Act, and prohibited exportation, without license, of aviation gasoline and certain classes of iron and steel scrap. This effectively halted the flow of such materials to [Japan](#), and would be considered by the Japanese to be economically damaging and an act of hostility.¹⁰

WORLD WAR II



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

August 17, Saturday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) met with Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King at Ogdensburg to discuss the defense of North America.

Führer [Adolf Hitler](#) declared a blockade of the British Isles. However, the [German](#) air force needed to reduce the extent of its daily attacks on Britain.

WORLD WAR II

Part I of Ancient Desert Drone for orchestra by Henry Cowell was performed for the first time, in Saugerties, New York.



"But there is something else I believe, and that is that there is a God ... and this God again has blessed our efforts during the past 13 years."

— [Adolf Hitler](#), February 24, 1940



WORLD WAR II

GERMANY

August 18, Sunday: At Ogdensburg, New York, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King signed an Agreement creating a Permanent Joint Board for the Defense of the United States and Canada.


WORLD WAR II

August 27, Tuesday: The government in Vichy repealed French laws against race hatred.

Serenata from Serestas, a cycle for voice and piano by Heitor Villa-Lobos, was performed for the first time.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed a joint resolution authorizing him to call Army Reserve components and National Guard into Federal service for 1 year.

WORLD WAR II

10. Note carefully the before-and-after timing here. The President took this hostile action against Japan **before** being advised by Commander Arthur McCollum that the tripartite pact of mutual defense between Germany, Italy, and Japan might provide him an opportunity to get past our popular isolationist sentiment and drag us into a shooting war with Germany, by way of a declaration of war upon us by Japan that would force Germany, in honor of its mutual-defense pact, to also declare war upon us. It would not be until October 7, 1940,  fully nine weeks into the future, that Commander McCollum would lay out, in a memo, the eight successive steps that our Commander-in-Chief might follow, that our Commander-in-Chief would in fact follow, which would in fact produce the desired declaration of war by Japan against us — which would in fact produce the desired declaration of war by Germany against us.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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August 31, Saturday: [German](#) air forces attacked British airfields, destroying 80 planes on the ground.

Seán Lester of [Ireland](#) replaced Joseph Louis Anne Avenol of France as Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) called 60,000 National Guardsmen into Federal service.

WORLD WAR II

The [FBI](#) created a Disaster Squad, to assist civilian authorities in identifying persons who died in a Virginia plane crash.

September 2, Monday: [German](#) planes attacked the southern airfields of Britain by day, and London by night.

In violation of specific American laws and as a departure from the requirements of neutrality, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) exchanged 50 United States destroyers for leases on British bases in the Caribbean and in Newfoundland.

WORLD WAR II



September 3, Tuesday: *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) planned Operation Sealion (the invasion of Britain).

Pieter Sjoerd Gerbrandy replaced Dirk Jan de Geer as Prime Minister of the Netherlands government-in-exile, in London.

[German](#) planes attacked the southern British airfields.

A law was passed by the Slovak Parliament empowering the government to expropriate the rights, wealth, and property of Jews.

The Four Temperaments, a ballet by Paul Hindemith, was performed for the first time in a concert setting, in Boston.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) announced his “Destroyers for Bases” executive agreement with Great Britain: the United States was to give Great Britain 50 destroyers in return for 99-year leases on bases in the Bahamas, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana.

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September 16, Monday: The [Daniel Chester French](#) postage stamp was issued.



The United States military conscription bill, the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, was signed by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), creating this country's initial peacetime draft and formally establishing a Selective Service System as an independent Federal agency.¹¹

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11. Don't you feel so much safer? What if they gave a war and nobody came?

Please notice that there's an important difference, in these files, for the period of the 1930s and 1940s. The important difference is that, during the lengthy regime of President FDR, there's absolutely no mention at the national level of the Southern Democrat practice of the [lynching](#) of black Americans. During the FDR regime, these lynchings would be going on entirely uninterrupted, and the federal executive branch would be sponsoring zero zip nada niente anti-lynching legislation. Roosevelt was a Democrat, and it was an uneasy alliance between "liberal" Northern Democrats and "conservative" Southern Democrats that, election after election, was keeping him in power. For him to have supported anti-lynching legislation would have been for him to have split his support base, which was made up in roughly equal parts of white Northerners who did not much care what was happening to black Americans down south, and white Southerners who cared not at all that bad things would occasionally happen to the "uppity" among their black neighbors. (How do we know this? –We know this because FDR himself clearly explained his situation to the NAACP's Walter White: saving the lives of these black men would cost him more, in terms of support, than their lives were worth to him.)



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All males 21-36 were required to register for the draft. The [FBI](#) became responsible for locating draft evaders and deserters. Conscientious objectors were allegedly to be exempted on the basis of training and belief.



For the first time they would be required to serve their country doing “work of national importance under civilian direction.” This was to be the case regardless of whether the person in question was a citizen of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and as such protected from all such conscription ever since the 17th Century by [Rhode Island](#)’s charter of religious liberty of conscience, a charter that had never before

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been gainsaid.



MILITARY CONSCRIPTION



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September 18, Wednesday: [Senator Harry S Truman](#)'s Wheeler-Truman Transportation Act of 1940 was signed by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#).



The Italian advance in [Egypt](#) was halted.

The [Luftwaffe](#) bombed London by day, losing 31 planes.

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Fall: The [Japanese](#) were dropping paper bags filled with plague-infested fleas over the cities of Ningbo and Quzhou in the Zhejiang province of [China](#). Other attacks would involve the contaminating of wells and the distribution of poisoned foods.

GERM WARFARE



During this year [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had ordered the US Pacific Fleet from the West Coast to Hawaii and then, overriding complaints by its commander, Admiral Richardson, that our naval exercises had indicated that there was inherently inadequate protection at the Pearl Harbor base on Oahu against air attack by carrier-based enemy attack aircraft, and no protection whatever against torpedo attack from submarines, ordered our Pacific fleet to remain stationed there. After twice evading these strange and dangerous orders, which made it seem as if someone in our nation's puzzle palace were determined to place the American vessels in harm's way, during this fall Richardson raised the issue personally with the President.



Soon afterward, he would get his ass replaced. (His successor, Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, would also bring up this issue of unnecessarily placing our capital ships in harm's way, with the Commander-in-Chief in June



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1941, and he also would get exactly nowhere with Roosevelt.)

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Just Do As You Are Told
Says The President
Of The United States





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October 30, Wednesday: On the day that [compulsory conscription](#) began, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was campaigning in Boston. He declared: “I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.”



Those who were up front and observing this event very carefully were able to detect that FDR’s lips were moving. Few, however, as yet understood what that meant.

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He didn’t assert that what he was saying to us was what we thought we were hearing. He simply asserted that what he was saying to us, he was going to say to us again and again and again: “Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.” What we thought we were hearing was that our boys were not going to be sent overseas to fight a war. But that wasn’t what he was saying. What he was saying was that he was indeed going to send our boys overseas to fight a war overseas, but that this war was going to be a war in which the United States of America was fighting — that sort of war, although it might be fought on foreign soil, was by his definition simply not a “foreign” war. It was, instead, by his definition, a US war. He wasn’t misleading us, we were misleading us. Too bad for us.

Or maybe, by “boys” he meant males of perhaps the age of 11 or 12 or 13 — understanding that once a red-blooded American lad has reached the age of consent and become overeager to go overseas and have adventures and kill somebody he’s never even met, he doesn’t much like being referred to as a “boy” anymore?

As a paralyzed man, the president had few pleasures. The thingie that was left to him, that he exulted in more than anything else in the world —more even than his bridge games— was manipulating people to do something that they should not want to do because it was not in their interest. This was the big thrill he still had in his quiver. (And you suppose that [Bill “Big Dog” Clinton](#), with his nooners and his “It depends on what the meaning of ‘is’ is,” was a sharpie!)



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November 1, Friday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was campaigning in Brooklyn when he declared: “I am fighting to keep our people out of foreign wars. And I will keep on fighting.”¹²

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What a lying sack of shit he was. (What stupid sacks of shit we were, to ever allow anyone to get away with saying to us that they are fighting not to fight — as if there actually were something like killing not to kill, lying not to lie, fucking not to fuck, stealing not to steal, etc.)

The US's Atlantic Squadron was renamed Patrol Force, United States Fleet.

Naval Air Station, Alameda, California was established.

November 2, Saturday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was campaigning in Rochester, New York when he declared: “Your national government ... is equally a government of peace — a government that intends to retain peace for the American people.”



What a lying sack of shit he was. (Onward to peace, through war! He conned us, stupid shits that we are.)

On this day he moved on to Buffalo, New York and assured the voters there as follows: “Your President says this country is not going to war.”

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12. This statement was a dead giveaway as any fool could tell you, for whenever one takes it upon oneself to “fight not to fight” — one's obviously already in the mood for a fight, and precisely a fight is what one precisely is bound to get oneself into! One can no more fight not to fight than one can rape not to rape, or murder not to murder, or eat one's way out of a diet. Duh. So, the people who say Roosevelt lied to us are being rather simpleminded, are they not? There's no reason why we ever should have been deceived! And, it seems to me, a person who conveniently buys into a lie told by another shares equivalent culpability with the liar — yes we do have a moral obligation to be gentle as doves, but we also have a moral obligation to be cunning as serpents.



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November 3, Sunday: This was the first night since September 7th that no [German](#) bombs fell on Great Britain.

Incidental music to Anouilh's play Leocadia by Francis Poulenc was performed for the first time, in Théâtre Michodière, Paris.

Béla Bartók and his wife Ditta Pásztory gave their first recital since arriving in the United States, in Town Hall, New York.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was campaigning in Cleveland, Ohio and again his lips moved: "The first purpose of our foreign policy is to keep our country out of war."

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(Our history books deal kindly with this man. They treat him as if he had been a man of honor, and worthy of respect. The curious thing is, they do this even though their scholarly authors now have available a vast collection of historical detail, demonstrating very clearly on the basis of things he himself was saying in private at the same time, that he was a stone-cold liar and that his true objective was to take us into the world war by any device that might conceivably be expedient.)



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November 5, Tuesday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was re-elected as US president.



[Senator Harry S Truman](#) won reelection to the Senate, with 930,773 votes (Manvel Davis received 886,376).

Originally built to carry emigrants to Australia, the *Jervis Bay*, an Aberdeen and Commonwealth 14,164-ton liner, had been taken over by the British Admiralty in 1939 and converted into an armed merchant cruiser having a crew of 254. This HMS *Jervis Bay* was the sole escort assigned to convoy HX-84 from Halifax to Britain, consisting of 37 freighters. When the convoy was engaged by the German battleship *Admiral Scheer*, to enable the convoy to escape the *Jervis Bay* had to take on the much larger and more powerful *Scheer*. It took only 22 minutes of shelling, for Captain Fogarty Fegan and most of his officers to go under in their blazing ship. Since the *Scheer* then sank 6 freighters of the convoy, a total of 438 died on that day in that place.¹³

13. At a first order of approximation there seems to be a remarkable similarity between fighting at sea and feeding fish.



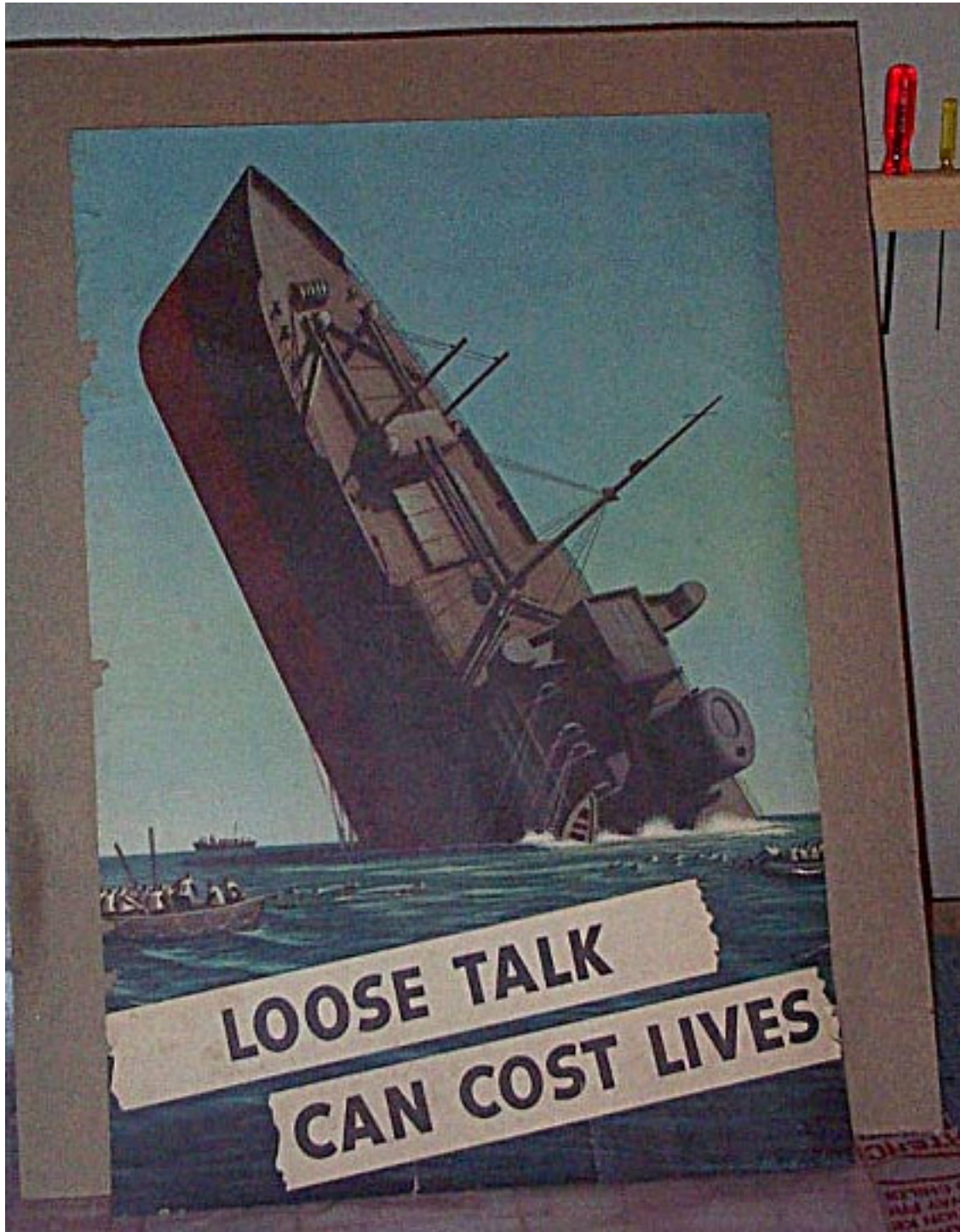
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56 floaters were rescued by Captain Sven Olander's Swedish freighter *Stureholm* but 3 of these would die of



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their wounds before getting back to Halifax. (Captain Fegan would posthumously receive a Victoria Cross. On December 11, 1940, U96 would sink the *Stureholm* and its crew would die. On April 9, 1945, while anchored in Kiel, U96 would be sunk by the Royal Air Force.



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December: In one of his “fireside chats” on national radio, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) condemned Axis aggression, insisting that its objective was no less than world domination. They were very different from us



good folks who had never lusted after world domination. He asked for military aid for Britain, which had

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likewise never lusted after world domination and was rapidly running out of money to buy ammo.



This was a man of principle, or, rather, this was a man of two principles. His first principle was utter ruthlessness in getting his own way. His second principle was that a sufficiently grand end, such as for instance winning, was sufficient to justify any means, such as endless slaughter. Behind the scenes, the President was moving even closer to war. He secretly sent Harry Hopkins to London to plan an Anglo-American war against [Germany](#).

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December 29, Sunday: [Germans](#) dropped incendiary bombs on London on a scale not before seen, creating a fire in an area of London larger than the Great Fire of 1666. Several historic buildings were destroyed but, through the heroic efforts of firefighters, St. Paul's Cathedral was saved.

In a fireside chat, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) declared that the United States of America needed to support those fighting dictatorship and make itself “the great arsenal of democracy.”

Piano Sonata by Ulysses Kay was performed for the first time, in Cleveland.

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1941

[Elbert Russell](#) retired as dean of the Duke School of Religion in [Durham, North Carolina](#) (he would continue to offer classes until 1945). The Divinity School Alumni Association established the Elbert Russell Scholarship in his honor.¹⁴

[Dr. David Tillerson Smith](#)'s DISEASES DUE TO FUNGI. He would serve as consultant to the Secretary of War (until 1945). [Susan Gower Smith](#), David Tillerson Smith, and Jasper Lamar Callaway's DYSFUNCTION OF THE SEBACEOUS GLANDS ASSOCIATED WITH PELLAGRA.

When, in the wake of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, [Friend Bayard Rustin](#)'s co-workers in the Young Communist League did an abrupt about-face on the issue of segregation in the American military, the young black man became aware that their antiracism was merely a ploy, that what mattered to them was their theology, and he broke ranks with them. Soon he would become involved with A. Philip Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and would head up the youth wing of a projected march on Washington that Randolph was envisioning. When Randolph cancelled that demonstration because [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had issued Executive Order #8802 forbidding racial discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries, Rustin transferred his organizing efforts to the peace movement, at first as Race Relations Secretary with the Fellowship of Reconciliation and later as the first field secretary of CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality, with the [American Friends Service Committee](#), with the Socialist Party, and with the [War Resisters League](#).



The 18th Anniversary dinner of the [War Resisters League](#).

After release with a felony record from the federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut, [George Mills Houser](#) found himself unwelcome back at the Union Theological Seminary (administrators at that Christian institution considered that he had by his principled stand against war and against draft registration brought discredit upon them). To complete ministerial training, this student would need to transfer to the Theological Seminary in Chicago.

14. At this point he was editing a diary written by his aunt Rebecca Russell, who had been a schoolteacher in their home neighborhood of West Newton south of Indianapolis, Indiana.



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January 6, Sunday: Allied troops took El Adam airfield south of Tobruk (Tubruq).

New York License Commissioner Paul Moss, who had attended the premiere performance of Marc Blitzstein's opera "No For An Answer," proscribed further performances by asserting that the Mecca Temple structure was in violation of municipal codes (Mayor LaGuardia would bow to public pressure and prevail upon Moss to issue a temporary permit). In [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)'s message to the United States Congress of this day, we find some words relevant to the issue:

We look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression — everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way — everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want ... everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear ... anywhere in the world.



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Norman Rockwell would illustrate these “four freedoms” in a 1943 series of war posters:

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January 16, Thursday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) asked the federal Congress for an immediate appropriation of \$350,000,000, for 200 new merchant ships.

[German](#) planes launched their initial attack on Malta, killing 50 people, destroying 200 buildings and damaging the port of Valetta.

A passenger liner of 14,118 tons built in 1920 at the Cammel Laird shipyard at Birkenhead for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, the SS *Oropesa* (Captain H. Croft), had in 1921 been chartered to the Royal Mail for the Hamburg-Southampton-New York service. In 1931 this vessel had carried the Prince of Wales and Prince George to South America. During September 1939 it was converted into a troopship and on this day, off the coast of [Ireland](#), while enroute from Mombasa in East Africa to the UK, it was sunk by three torpedoes from Kapitän-Leutnant Heinrich Lehmann-Willenbrock's submarine U-96 (this U-boat would be sunk by American bombers on March 30, 1945 at Wilhelmshaven). Of the 249 crew and passengers on board, 113 perished. Meanwhile another submarine, U-106, was sinking the cargo-liner *Zealandic* (10,578 tons) of the Shaw Savill & Albion Company, with the loss of all 73 passengers and crewmembers (this U-boat would be sunk by depth-charges dropped from a Sunderland aircraft on August 2, 1943, killing 22 crewmen.)

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February 11, Tuesday: [German](#) Social Democrat Rudolf Hiferding, who twice served as finance minister for the Weimar Republic, died in prison from injuries inflicted by the Gestapo.

Jews battled [Germans](#) and Dutch fascists in Waterloo Square, Amsterdam.

ANTISEMITISM

The Old Maid and the Thief, an opera by Gian-Carlo Menotti to his own words, was staged for the initial time, in Philadelphia.

According to page 424 of Charles Beard's PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND THE COMING OF WAR, 1941, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) proposed that in order to bring the USA into the world war, we might be willing to sacrifice the 6 cruisers and 2 carriers in Manila harbor. Navy Chief Stark objected: "I have previously opposed this and you have concurred as to its unwisdom. Particularly do I recall your remark in a previous conference when Mr. Hull suggested [more forces to Manila] and the question arose as to getting them out and your 100% reply, from my standpoint, was that you might not mind losing one or two cruisers, but that you did not want to take a chance on losing 5 or 6."



British forces advanced into Italian Somaliland in East Africa.

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March: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) persuaded Congress to pass the Lend-Lease Act. The act allowed the US to lend the Allies war materials in return for repayment after the war. The President, understanding Britain's desperation, began Atlantic transshipment of materials days before signing the bill. Using all of his political ingenuity, he struggled against the constraints of neutrality.

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The [Hamburger Fremdenblatt](#) reported the first mass auctions of possessions of detained or executed German Jews. Hamburg, [Germany](#) would become the wartime clearing house for such goods, and it appears that at least 100,000 German citizens purchased goods at such auctions.

ANTISEMITISM



"But there is something else I believe, and that is that there is a God ... and this God again has blessed our efforts during the past 13 years."

— [Adolf Hitler](#), February 24, 1940



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GERMANY

March 11, Tuesday: The "cash and carry" provisions of the Neutrality Act of 1939 were amended to permit transfer of munitions to the Allies.

The Cambodian provinces of Siem Reap and Battambang were annexed by Thailand under a peace treaty between Thailand and France mediated by [Japan](#).

Six people were killed when bombs planted in the luggage of George Rendel, British ambassador to Bulgaria, exploded in the lobby of an Istanbul hotel (Mr. Rendel was not present at the time).

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Lend-Lease Act, Public Law 11 of the 77th Congress. Five minutes later he approved a list of materials to be sent to Great Britain and Greece.

WORLD WAR II

March 12, Wednesday: Thai/USSR exchange of notes establishing diplomatic relations.
Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, [Texas](#) was established.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) asked Congress for \$7,000,000,000 in lend-lease aid.

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March 17, Monday: British and South African forces captured Jijiga, Ethiopia, 450 kilometers east of Addis Ababa.

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The National Gallery of Art was dedicated in Washington by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). The building and the paintings were a gift of Andrew W. Mellon.

Hanya Holm Music, dance music by Henry Cowell to a scenario by Holm, was performed for the initial time, in New York.

Sonata for cello and piano by Norman Dello Joio was performed for the initial time, at the MacDowell Club, New York, the composer himself at the keyboard.

March 27, Thursday: After two weeks of battle, the Italian defenders of Keren, Ethiopia surrender to British and Indian troops.

Yugoslav Air Force General Dusan Simovic, backed by elements of the Yugoslav armed forces, effected a bloodless Anti-Axis *coup d'état* in the name of King Petar II and denounced the Tripartite Pact with the Axis powers. Simovic replaced Dragisa Cvetkovic as prime minister.

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United States/British staff discussions in Washington ended with the establishment of an “ABC-1 Staff Agreement” which embodied basic strategic direction of the war — in the event of United States entry.

The [Germans](#) begin deporting Jews from Paris. 1,012 departed on this day toward Auschwitz.

ANTISEMITISM

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed a bill authorizing \$7,000,000,000 in lend-lease aid.

Béla Bartók began transcribing the recordings of Serbo-Croatian folk music held in the Milman Parry Collection of Harvard University. He was doing his work in New York at Columbia University.

Symphony no.3 by Alfredo Casella was performed for the initial time, in Chicago.



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April: Inauguration of naval patrols in the Atlantic Ocean to detect German submarines and report their locations to British warships. [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) gave the US Navy permission to attack German submarines west of 25 degrees longitude.



American workers were dispatched to Northern [Ireland](#) to construct a naval base.

WORLD WAR II

April 10, Thursday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) proclaimed that the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden were no longer combat areas and thus were open to United States shipping.



A [German](#) attack on the Allied army (Greece-Britain-New Zealand-Australia-Poland) in northern Greece began.

Axis troops cut off and besiege the Australians and British in Tobruk (Tubruq).

Croat nationalist Ante Pavelic declared the independence of Croatia, in alliance with [Germany](#).

The Italian government announced that gasoline rations for civilians would be cut in half beginning tomorrow.

The [German](#) Army took Zagreb.

The destroyer *Niblack* (DD-424) while rescuing survivors of a torpedoed Netherlands freighter, dropped depth charges on a [German](#) submarine off Iceland (this is believed to be the first encounter of the war between United States and German vessels of war).

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April 20, Sunday: The Greek armies in Albania surrendered to Axis forces.

In reprisal for the killing of a [German](#) soldier in Paris, 22 French civilians were executed.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and Canadian prime minister Mackenzie King signed the Hyde Park Agreement, to cooperate in the purchase and production of equipment for the defense of the hemisphere and for assistance to the Allies.

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Two dances to scenarios by Hawkins were performed for the initial time, in New York: Trickster by Henry Cowell, and Pilgrim's Progress by Wallingford Riegger.

April 28, Monday: Prime Minister Rashid Ali of Iraq sealed off the British airbase at Habbaniyah.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) froze all Greek assets in the United States, estimated at around \$50,000,000. This was the last night of evacuation of Allied forces from Greece (more than 50,000 had been evacuated).

US coal mine operators and unions agreed to a formula proposed by the President which ended the walkout of 400,000 miners that had been ongoing since April 1st. Miners would begin to receive \$6.60 per day.

The [German](#) army took Solum.

During [World War II](#), because of protection by Nazi Germany, the Croats, who were [Roman Catholics](#), were able to perpetrate a genocide upon the Serbs, who were [Orthodox Catholics](#). Since the Roman Catholic Croatian Ustashi Army (a militia created by Ante Pavelic, Prime Minister of Croatia) were merely doing with enthusiasm what the *Gestapo* and SD units had gone into the region to accomplish, the [German](#) occupation forces were turning a blind eye to this genocide. This day marked the worst of it as units of the Croatian Ustashi Army surrounded the villages of Gudovac and Brezovica in Croatia to execute the 234 there who were of Serbian nationality. They were advised they must choose: either go back to Serbia or convert to the national religion, Roman Catholicism, and they were advised that refusal would mean death. In addition, at the village of Blagaj, 520 men, women, and children were being taken care of very inexpensively by being struck on the head. In the Koprivnica Forest near Livno around 300 were being brutalized before their execution, with hands and feet cut off and eyes gouged out. The heads of small children were being thrown into the laps of their mothers. Inventively, women's breasts were being amputated and then the hands of their children were being pulled through under the skin of their chests and tied together. (Can you imagine what **irreligious** people might have done under those circumstances?) In the Livno area alone, the Roman Catholics killed 1,243 Orthodox Catholics inclusive of 370 who were children. In the Risova Greda Forest the bodies of more than 800 Orthodox Catholics were shoved over the edge into ravines. The Roman Catholic General Dragutin Rumler,



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in command of the Croatian Ustashi Army, reported that in round numbers to the point of his report, about 10,000 Orthodox Catholics, Jews, and Gypsies had been taken care of. In the Mount Kozara region, Serb children were taken from their parents to be isolated in special concentration camps. In the filthy camp at Sisak, out of 6,693 children, 1,600 would soon be dead. In the camp at Jastrebaroko there were an additional 3,336 helpless children, and shortly after their arrival the local cemetery records reveal that the caretaker buried 768. In Plot 142 in the Mirogoj Cemetery in Zagreb lie the remains of 862 who actually were rescued by the Red Cross but in such sad condition that they soon died. Now that we have had a chance to research the extant records and tabulate the numbers, we know that this [Roman Catholic](#) genocide took the lives of 11,194 [Orthodox Catholic](#) children. We even know that of these, 6,302 were boys and 4,874 girls — and that their modal age had been six and one half years.



"A victory described in detail is indistinguishable from a defeat."

— Jean-Paul Sartre



May 20, Tuesday: [German](#) airborne troops invaded Crete. Morning air raids were followed by Maleme and Canea followed by afternoon landings at Retimo and Heraklion. After initial setbacks, they took Maleme airfield.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) established the Office of Civilian Defense by executive order. New York City mayor Fiorello LaGuardia was named to be its director.

WORLD WAR II

May 27, Tuesday: Australians and New Zealanders drove [Germans](#) back at Pirgos, Crete.

[German](#) forces captured Halfaya, [Egypt](#).

Free French defenders of Bir Hakeim drove off an Italian attack.

Admiral Darlan signed the Protocols of Paris on behalf of the Vichy government. They agreed to allow [Germany](#) to use French military facilities in Syria, Tunisia and West Africa.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) declared an unlimited national emergency throughout the United States, and announced that the Atlantic Neutrality Patrol has been extended and that Pacific Fleet units had been transferred to the Atlantic. He pledged that Nazi domination would not spread to the western hemisphere and that the US would provide all assistance necessary to Britain and all who opposed *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#).

The *Bismarck*, the [German](#) Third Reich's greatest battleship, when fully loaded displaced 50,153 tons of salt water. After being damaged in an encounter with HMS *Hood* she had headed for St. Nazaire, the only port on the coast of France with a large enough dry-dock. An order was given by [Winston Churchill](#) — guess what, it was "Get the Bismarck." The hunt for the battleship dominated the world's press, the chase lasting 4 days and covering 1,750 sea miles. Once she was spotted by a Coastal Command Catalina flying boat, the ships of the Royal Navy homed in on it. This day was the last one of that ship's 277 days of war service. A lucky hit of its rudder system by an aerial torpedo brought it to a standstill so it could be shelled by salvos from the battleships



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HMS *King George V* and HMS *Rodney*, and receive torpedoes from the cruiser HMS *Dorsetshire*, so that finally its crew decided that it would have to be scuttled. Only 115 floaters were picked up by the *Dorsetshire* and the destroyer *Maori* before these ships sailed away out of fear of being attacked by U-boats, abandoning the remaining 2,097 floaters including Admiral Lutjens and Captain Lindemann to drown. (In 1989 the hull would be found, intact, three miles down about 602 miles off the coast of Brittany. After the ship had hit bottom it had gone on something of a rollercoaster ride down the slope of an underwater mountain. A lack of holing of the inner hull below the waterline indicates that this ship went under because it was scuttled by its crew to prevent it from being boarded and captured –as its survivors had asserted– rather than because of the hostile fire.)

The President declared a state of unlimited national emergency, announcing that the Atlantic Neutrality Patrol was being extended and that units of the Pacific Fleet had been transferred to the Atlantic Ocean. “The war is approaching the brink of the western hemisphere itself. It is coming very close to home.”

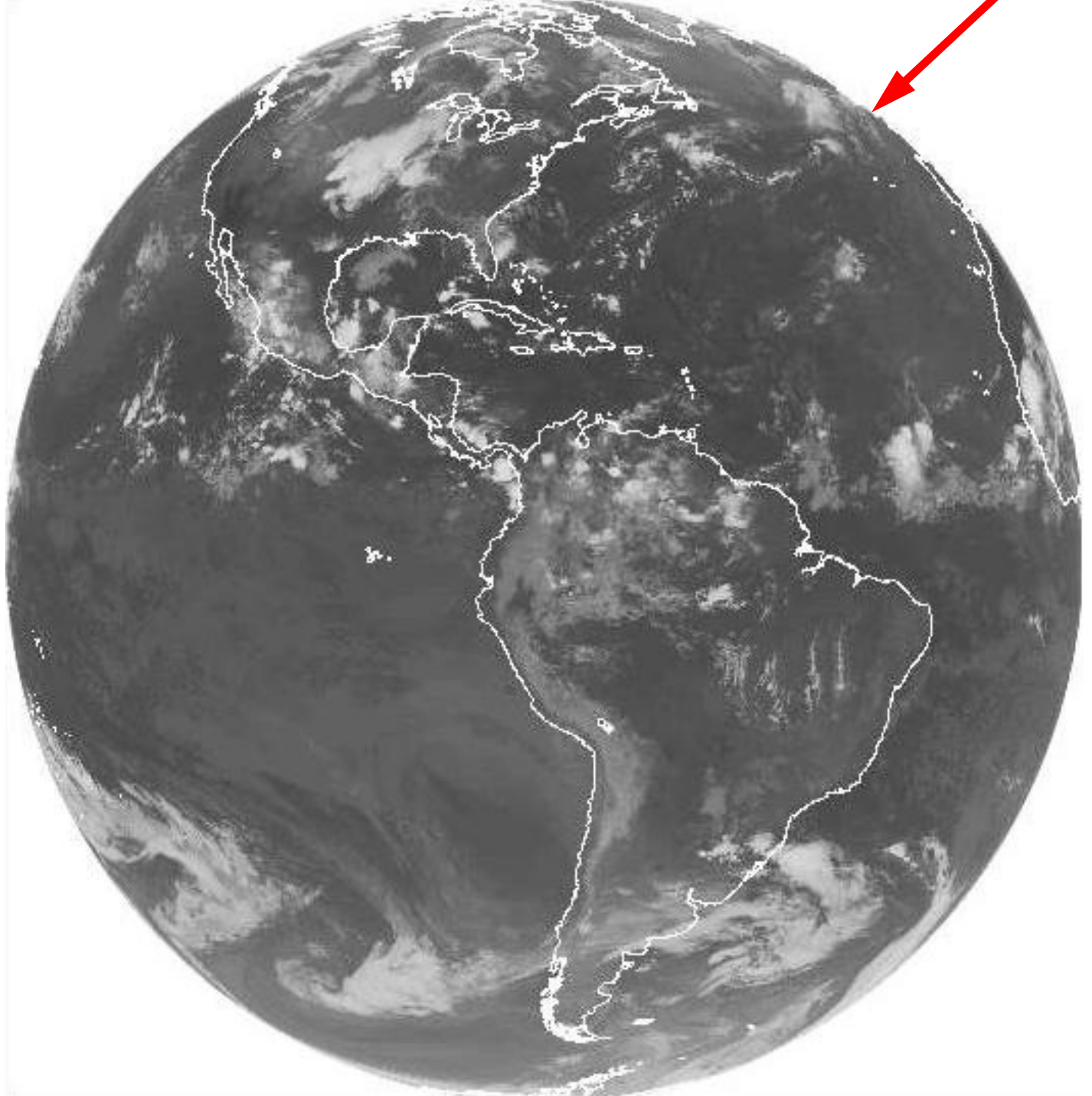




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"The war is approaching the brink of the western hemisphere itself. It is coming very close to home."





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Two Czechs, Jan Kubis and Joseph Gabeik, serving with the Polish forces in Britain, had volunteered to be dropped by parachute near Prague. The mission was the assassination of SS Gruppenfuher Reinhard Heydrich, the Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia. Their ambush took place on this day as Heydrich was being driven to his office. Severely wounded, he would be rushed to Bulovka Hospital where eight days later he would succumb. The SS would begin a reprisal. In the concentration camps, thousands of Czech political prisoners would be executed. In a few days 3,188 Czech citizens would be arrested, of whom 657 would die under interrogation. Then 1,357 would be executed. However, this would not be merely a matter of the SS making reprisals, as the local people would also be capable of molesting the local people. On June 9th a 30-man unit of the Prague police force, acting enthusiastically under German orders, would go out to a village near the town, a village named Lidice.

WORLD WAR II



June: The [Reverend George Mills Houser](#) helped the Reverend [A.J. Muste](#) and A. Philip Randolph organize their March on Washington against racial discrimination in the armed forces (the demonstration would be called off when [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) issued Executive Order 8802 on June 25th, using the Fair Employment Act to bar discrimination in defense industries and federal bureaus.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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June: *Untersturmführer* [Dr. Josef Mengele](#) was sent to the Ukraine as part of the *Waffen SS*; there he would receive the Iron Cross, Second Class.



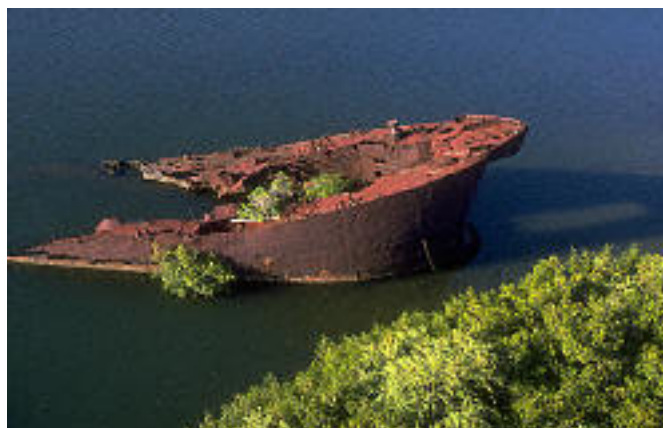
The Nazi SS *Einsatzgruppen* began mass murder.



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Admiral Husband E. Kimmel brought up, with [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), the sore topic of our having unnecessarily placed our troops in harm's way by stationing the US Pacific Fleet at unprotectable Pearl Harbor.






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Of course he got nowhere with this argument, since for political motivations, which overrode merely military considerations, the Commander-in-Chief needed our fleet and our men out there as a tempting sitting-duck target.



(Eventually, of course, Admiral Kimmel would be made the whipping boy and demoted and deprived of his command, and it would be more than half a century before the Act of Congress of October 30, 2000  would exonerate him on the grounds that crucial military intelligence, information that he needed in order to do his job and save our boys, had been deliberately withheld from him by his Commander-in-Chief.)

WORLD WAR II

June 4, Wednesday: Former Kaiser Wilhelm II died in exile in Doorn, Netherlands.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt transferred the ocean-going portion of the Coast Guard to the command of the Secretary of the Navy.

A new, pro-British government took office in Iraq.

WORLD WAR II

June 16, Monday: Vichy troops retook El Quneitra (Al Qunaytirah).

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ordered all 24 German consulates in the United States closed, claiming that they had engaged in “subversive activities.”

WORLD WAR II

The National Broadcasting Company in the United States petitioned the Federal Communications Commission for permission to create commercial television stations in New York, Washington, and Philadelphia.

Blithe Spirit by Noël Coward was performed for the initial time, in Manchester.



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June 20, Friday: Finland mobilized all reservists under age 45.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) called [Germany](#) an “international outlaw” for the sinking of the Robin Moor. He demanded full reparations.

WORLD WAR II

The United States federal government required [Italy](#) to close its 47 consulates and 7 agencies in this country.

June 23, Monday: [German](#) troops entered Lithuania and Latvia.

Dmitri Shostakovich volunteered for active service in the Red Army, but was refused because of his poor eyesight.

Hungary and Slovakia declared war on the USSR.

Presidential Advisor Harold Ickes sent a memo to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#): “There might develop from the embargoing of oil to [Japan](#) such a situation as would make it not only possible but easy to get into this war in an effective way. And if we should thus indirectly be brought in, we would avoid the criticism that we had gone in as an ally of communistic Russia.”

WORLD WAR II





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June 25, Wednesday: [Japan](#) announced a protectorate over Indochina.

WORLD WAR II

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed Executive Order 8802, using the Fair Employment Act to bar racial and religious discrimination in defense industries and federal bureaus.

The President refused to invoke the Neutrality Act regarding the USSR. This allowed American ships to carry war materials to the Soviet Union.

Finland decided to declare war on Russia.

This night, Lithuanian partisans in Kovno (Kaunas), without any urging from the [Germans](#), killed 1,500 Jews, burned several synagogues plus 60 houses in the Jewish quarter. Over the next few nights, 2,300 Jews would be killed.

ANTISEMITISM

Irving Fine got married with Verna Rudnick, from a wealthy family and a recent graduate of Wellesley College, at the Kenmore Hotel in Boston.

June 29, Sunday: 212,000 children from Leningrad were evacuated, mostly to Yaroslavl.

A Greek government in exile was set up in London under Prime Minister Emmanuel Tsouderos.

After a week of heavy fighting, Australian troops drive the Vichy French from Marjayoun (Marj 'Uyun), Syria.

WORLD WAR II

As the [Germans](#) approach Lvov, the NKVD put 3,000 Ukrainian political prisoners to death. After the evacuation of Soviet forces, Ukrainian nationalists begin killing Jews in the streets. By night, the [Germans](#) entered the city.

“Black Sunday” — in the courtyard of the Iasi police headquarters, several thousand Jews were shot.

ANTISEMITISM

Ignacy Jan Paderewski died in New York at the age of 80. [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) offered Arlington National Cemetery as a temporary resting place for his remains “until Poland was free.”



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June 30, Monday: In a heroic action in the Borisov region, Soviet troops halted the [German](#) advance for two days.

[German](#) forces establish a bridgehead across the Berezina at Bobruysk.

300 Jews were shot in Lutsk.

300 Dutch Jews were rounded up and sent to the stone quarries at Mauthausen. None would survive.

[ANTISEMITISM](#)

Vichy France severed diplomatic relations with the USSR.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) established his Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park.

Naval vessels on hand (all types) — 1,899.

Personnel:

Navy....284,427

Marine Corps...54,359

Coast Guard...19,235

Total personnel...358,021

July 7, Monday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) announced to Congress that an executive agreement has been made with Iceland for United States troops to occupy that country, and ordered the Navy to take all steps to maintain communications between the United States and Iceland. A naval task force under Rear Admiral D.M. LeBreton landed the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade under Brigadier General J. Marston at Reykjavik, Iceland.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was formed at Quantico, Virginia.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

Iceland, which fell within a United States defense zone, received American troops, replacing British forces previously guarding the island.

1,150 Jews were shot in Dvinsk (Daugavpils).

[ANTISEMITISM](#)

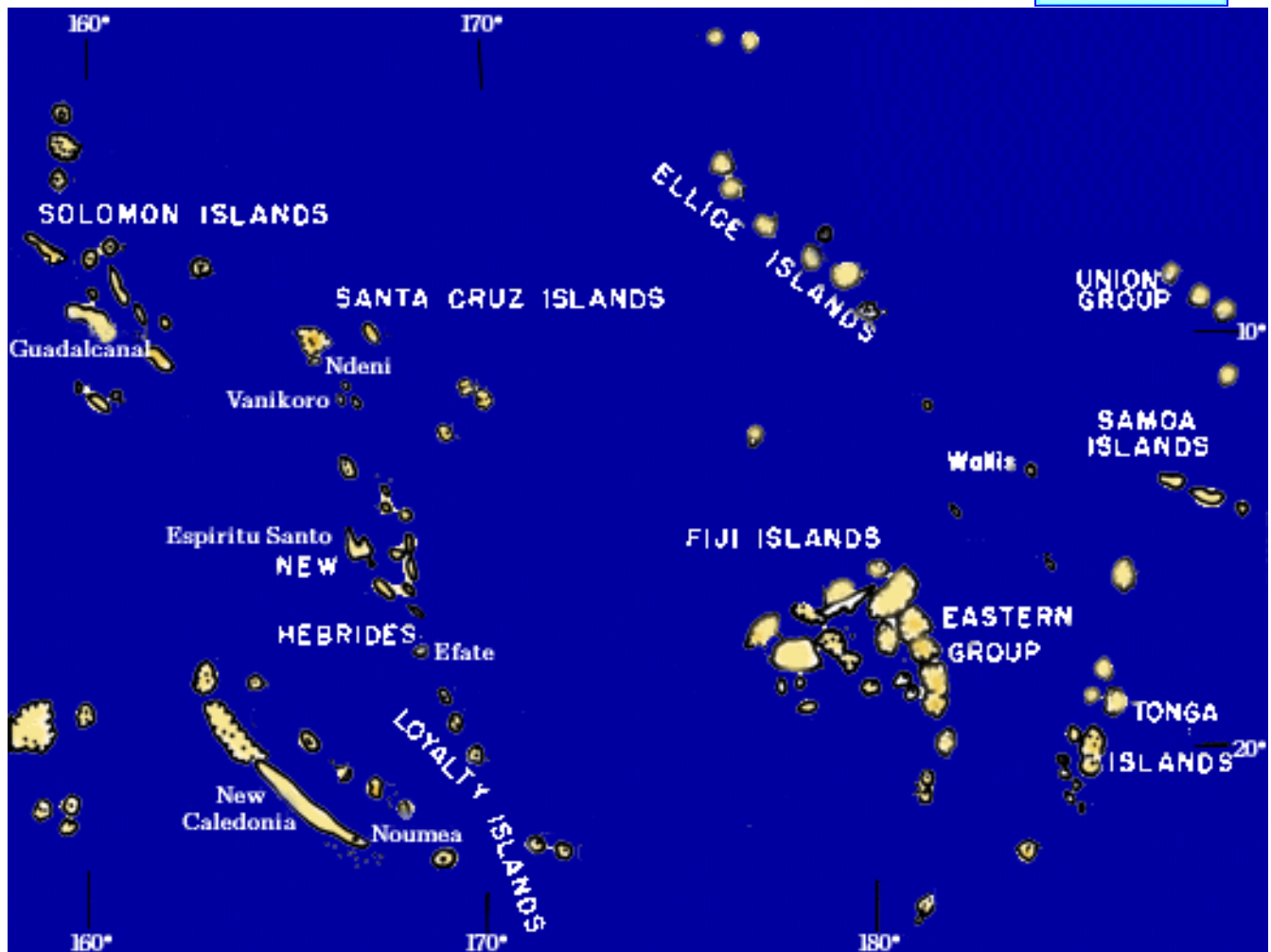
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July 22, Tuesday: [Japan](#) and Vichy France agreed to a mutual defense pact.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) read a report from Admiral Richmond Turner: "It is generally believed that shutting off the American supply of petroleum [to [Japan](#)] will lead promptly to the invasion of Netherland East Indies [by Japan] ... it seems certain [that such a [Japanese](#) attack] would also include military action against the Philippine Islands, which would immediately involve us in a Pacific war."

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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July 24, Thursday: The Holy Ghost's Ark for mezzo-soprano, oboe, clarinet, viola and cello by Ernst Krenek to words of Donne, was performed for the initial time, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) told the Volunteer Participation Committee that "If we had cut off the oil off, [the [Japanese](#)] probably would have gone down to the Dutch East Indies a year ago, and you would have had war." 125,000 [Japanese](#) troops moved into French Indochina.

WORLD WAR II



The Kishinev ghetto was established.

ANTISEMITISM

July 25, Friday: [German](#) forces entered Talinn, Estonia.

Responding to the opportunity offered by the [Japanese](#) seizure of Indochina, and in addition, we know now, following a grand agenda of his own, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), by issuing a Presidential Order freezing all [Japanese](#) assets in the USA, effectively cut them off from their main supply of oil by preventing them from paying for it. Followed by similar action on the part of Great Britain and the Netherlands East Indies, this action amounted to a commercial blockade of [Japan](#). US relations with Japan were suspended. There was a run on Japanese banks.

WORLD WAR II





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July 26, Saturday: Great Britain imposed economic sanctions on [Japan](#) and froze all [Japanese](#) assets in areas under their control.

Japanese and Chinese assets in United States were frozen. British notice of denunciation of commercial agreements with [Japan](#).

Army Forces, Far East ([Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur](#)) was organized.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered the 150,000 men of the Philippine military into the United States Army for the duration of the current national emergency.

Ukrainians in Lvov began three days of looting and killing of Jews, unencumbered by occupying [Germans](#).

ANTISEMITISM

Romanian troops completed the occupation of Bessarabia and Bukovina, which had been taken from them by the USSR in 1940.

Ecuador and Peru agreed to another truce in their border dispute.

WORLD WAR II

August 8, Friday: Sergei Prokofiev and his mistress Mira Mendelson boarded a special train along with other “artistic laborers,” to be evacuated from Moscow to Nalchik in the Caucasus. They would remain there for three months.

The [Japanese](#) Ambassador to the United States of America suggested a conference between [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and the Japanese Prime Minister (this was the previous Prime Minister, not yet General [Tojo Hideki](#), right?).

WORLD WAR II

August 9: [Germans](#) killed 534 Jews in Kovno (Kaunas).

ANTISEMITISM

Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) met aboard the USS Augusta in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland.

WORLD WAR II



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August 9-12: At the Atlantic Conference at Placentia Bay, Argentina, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) considered the presentation of an ultimatum to [Japan](#) and the occupation of the Cape Verde Islands (Portuguese) by US forces.

READ THE FULL TEXT

Roosevelt insisted that “Everything was to be done to force an ‘incident’ to justify hostilities.”

WORLD WAR II



August 12, Tuesday: Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) agreed to the Atlantic Charter in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland.

The [German](#) Army advanced on Leningrad.

The English and the USSR entered into a declaration that they would come to the aid of Turkey if that nation were attacked by a European power.

WORLD WAR II



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August 14, Thursday: The Polish and Soviet governments formed an eastern Polish army.

Joint public declaration by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) of the just-signed “Atlantic Charter,” setting forth mutually held principles such as self-government, economic cooperation, peace, and the end of Nazism.

READ THE FULL TEXT

Noting the “astonishing depth of Roosevelt’s intense desire for war.” Churchill cabled his cabinet that Franklin Delano Roosevelt “obviously was very determined that they should come in.”



The charter called for aggressor nations to be disarmed. The President had his fingers crossed that this would provoke [Germany](#) to declare war on the USA (Hitler would, however, prove to be not nearly that stupid).



The Selective Service Act, which allowed a peacetime draft, passed Congress by a single vote.¹⁵

WORLD WAR II





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August 17, Sunday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and his Secretary of State conferred with the [Japanese](#) Ambassador and stated their prerequisites for resuming conversations, or arranging a Pacific conference.

The US-owned merchant ship Sessa was torpedoed and sunk in the north Atlantic by a [German](#) submarine. Only three members of the 27-man crew survived.

WORLD WAR II

August 18, Monday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) announced that the United States was ferrying combat aircraft to British in Near East via Brazil and Africa.

534 Jewish intellectuals in Kovno (Kaunas) were taken outside the city and shot. They were part of 1,811 Jews killed on this day in Kovno. The Kovno ghetto was sealed off.

ANTISEMITISM

In a letter to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Representative John Dingell of Michigan suggested that incarcerating 10,000 Hawaiian [Japanese](#) Americans as hostages would ensure “good behavior” on the part of Japan.

WORLD WAR II

August 26, Tuesday: Allied troops took control of the Abadan area. Soviet troops entered Tabriz and bombed Teheran.

[German](#) forces captured Dnepropetrovsk.

Unaware that *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) has ended the policy of euthanasia, Pastor Bernard Lichtenburg, Provost of St. Hedwig’s Roman Catholic Church in Berlin, wrote to the Reich’s chief medical officer protesting the euthanasia program. He would be arrested and would die at Dachau.

The Ship Warrants Act was invoked by Executive Order. This act empowered [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) to direct Maritime Commission to establish cargo handling, ship repair, and maintenance priorities for merchant ships.



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September 4, Thursday: There was a naval incident involving the USS *Greer* (DD-145), one of our destroyers, while it was tracking a [German](#) U-boat 175 miles southwest of Iceland. (My general disdain for the lack of truthfulness of our authorities being what it is, I'm not clear what this incident amounted to. The official story is that as our ship spotted this sub and called in a British plane to bomb it, the sub and our destroyer exchanged cannon fire of little consequence.)

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) warned of grave consequences to [German](#) and [Italian](#) ships if they attacked US ships.

[German](#) forces began an artillery bombardment of Leningrad.

The initial shipment of American fuel for the Soviet Union arrives in Vladivostok.

Old California for orchestra by William Grant Still was performed for the initial time, over the airwaves of the Mutual Broadcasting System. The work was commissioned for the 160th anniversary of the founding of Los Angeles.

September 7, Sunday: The United States merchant ship *Steel Seafarer* was sunk by a German air attack in the Gulf of Suez.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)'s mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, died at Springwood, Hyde Park, at the age of 86.

"X" day for a Pearl Harbor attack was set by the [Japanese](#) Staff Officers as November 16th, 1941.

WORLD WAR II





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September 11, Thursday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered the US Navy to destroy any [German](#) or [Italian](#) war vessel in the self-proclaimed defense zone threatening either United States shipping or any ships under US escort.



It was formally announced to the general public that following the USS *Greer* incident of September 4th, America's warships had been placed under standing orders to fire upon any German submarines they might be able to detect.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

In England a cryptological official suggested that, since it was already “sufficiently well appreciated” that the Germans as they invaded the USSR were “killing all Jews that fall into their hands” — it would not be worth their while for intelligence personnel to collect further information on such activities.

In a radio broadcast from an “America First” rally in Des Moines, “Who Are the War Agitators?,” Charles Lindbergh described American Jews as alien warmongers indifferent to America's interests, selfishly pushing us real Americans toward a pointless war against their enemy the Nazis:

...the three most important groups which have been pressing this country towards war were the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt Administration.

No person of honesty and vision can look on [the Jews'] pro-war policy here today without seeing the dangers involved in such a policy both for us and for them.... A few farsighted Jewish people realize this and stand opposed to intervention. But the majority still do not.... We cannot blame them for looking out for what they believe to be their own interests, but we must also look out for ours. We cannot allow the natural passions and prejudices of other peoples to lead our country to destruction. (Refer to the 27-page factual appendix to Philip Roth's

[ANTISEMITISM](#)

historical novel THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA.)



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October 9, Thursday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) sends a message to Congress supporting the repeal of Section Six of the Neutrality Act of 1939 and the immediate arming of US merchant ships.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

Two days after President Arnulfo Arias left the country, the Panamanian cabinet elects Ricardo Adolfo de la Guardia to replace him. The new president pledges close cooperation with the United States “in the defense of the continent.”

October 16, Thursday: [German](#) and Romanian troops captured Odessa after a two-month siege.

At Harbin, the [Manchukuo](#)/Outer Mongolia border talks came to a successful conclusion.

The initial deportations of Jews from Greater [Germany](#) to Poland took place. Between this day and November 4th, 19,827 Jews would be sent to Lodz.

[ANTISEMITISM](#)

When five US destroyers from Iceland came to the aid of a convoy, a [German](#) submarine put a torpedo into the USS Kearney, killing eleven sailors.

The USSR moved its government apparatus to Kuibyshev.

John Cage relocated from Oakland, California to Chicago.

It has been alleged that [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) on this day grossly humiliated the [Japanese](#) Ambassador, and refused to meet with Premier Konoye — and that his offensiveness was deliberate, and was intended for the nefarious purpose of helping the war party led by General [Tojo Hideki](#) to achieve control.



(If this account were true it would of course problematize the received attitude, that the USA entered [World War II](#) only because an aggressor nation made a outrageous and treacherous sneak attack upon our sacred soil.)



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October 30, Thursday: Benjamin Britten was awarded the Coolidge Medal by the Library of Congress, Washington.

The German army reached Sevastopol.

The oiler *Salinas* (AO-19) was torpedoed about 700 miles east of Newfoundland, but the ship was able to get to port and there were no casualties among its crew.

Charles Lindbergh spoke before a crowd of 20,000 at an America First rally at the Madison Square Garden of New York City. He asserted that [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was using “dictatorship and subterfuge” to draw the nation into war.

WORLD WAR II

Late October 1941: Kilsoo Haan, an agent for the Sino-Korean People’s League, convinced US Senator Guy Gillette that the [Japanese](#) were planning to attack the US fleet in December or January.



**Koreans knew.
Eric Severeid of CBS knew.
Senator Guy Gillette knew.**

Senator Gillette personally alerted the State Department, Army and Navy Intelligence, and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#).

WORLD WAR II





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November: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) authorized the arming of merchant ships and the sending of these ships into war zones.



In Berlin, [Adolf Hitler](#) met with the grand mufti of the great temple of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini. What to do about the fact that Palestine had half a million Jews? Was there any way in which they might be able to make common cause, and kill them all? We don't know what definite plans were made during this meeting of the *Führer* with the Moslem religious leader, but we do know that by July 1942, a SS killing squad (*Einsatzgruppe*) would be in the Middle East, under Walter Rauff, and it would be complete with a mobile gas van. (Meanwhile, in Europe, in Duenaburg on November 9, 1941, 11,034 Jews were executed, and at Libau two weeks later, another 2,350 were executed — in Lithuania under the Nazis, a total of 136,421 Jews would be executed in numerous single actions by enthusiastic Lithuanians having the assistance of German police squads, and in the White Russian Settlement Area, around 41,000 executions would take place, and in Vilna, around 32,000 Jews would be executed within the first six months of German occupation.)

ANTISEMITISM

A Gallup poll indicated that there was 17% support in the USA for a war on [Germany](#).

WORLD WAR II

November 2, Sunday: Acceleration for orchestra by Roy Harris was performed for the initial time, in Washington.

String Quartet no.2 by Ross Lee Finney was performed for the initial time, in Cleveland.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) transferred the entire Coast Guard to the command of the Secretary of the Navy.

WORLD WAR II



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November 7, Friday: Symphony no.2 “Kormtchaya” by Arthur Vincent Lourié was performed for the initial time, in Boston.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) extended the Lend-Lease Act to include the USSR.

The New York Herald Tribune reported that the naval commander on Guam had ordered the evacuation of dependents of naval personnel.

On or slightly before this date, filling out a Selective Service form, Francis Albert “Frank” Sinatra responded to the question “Do you have any physical defects or diseases?” with the answer “No.” (When it would come time for him to be serve his country in 1943, Old Blue Eyes would get himself classified “4F” on the basis of the fact that, at birth, he had been found to have the left eardrum perforated, and on the basis of a fear of crowds)

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and elevators.)

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November 13, Thursday: Between Malta and Gibraltar, the British aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* was badly damaged by a [German](#) U-boat. It would make an attempt to limp to safe harbor at Gibraltar.

Several selections from the series for piano Guia prática by Heitor Villa-Lobos were performed for the initial time, in Rio de Janeiro: Album 1 (no.4), Album 5 (nos.1,2), Album 7 (nos. 1,3), Album 9 (nos.2,5), Album 10 (nos.2,6).

The [German](#) Ambassador to the USA, [Herr Dr. Hans Thomsen \(1891-1968\)](#), Charge d'Affaires ad interim, an anti-[Nazi](#), had earlier this month informed [Friend](#) Malcolm Read Lovell of a Quaker monthly meeting in Manhattan that the [Japanese](#) were preparing to attack US forces in the Pacific. On this day this allegation about Japan by Germany was passed to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) by OSS chief William J. Donovan.



This top-secret memo would be discovered in the National Archives in 2007 or 2008 by the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. We are therefore now able to present you here with the exact wording of the warning that was being passed via this [American Quaker](#) by this [German diplomat](#) some three weeks prior to the “sneak attack” of the Japanese upon US naval facilities at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands:

In the last analysis, Japan knows that unless the United States agrees to some reasonable terms in the Far East, Japan must face the threat of strangulation, now or later. Should Japan wait until later to prevent this strangulation by the United States, she will be less able to free herself than now, for Germany is now occupying the major attention of both the British empire and the United States. If Japan waits, it will be comparatively easy



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for the United States to strangle Japan. Japan is therefore forced to strike now, whether she wishes to or not.

(One can imagine the crippled mentation of the President as he received in the Oval Office this critical intelligence from his buddy [Wild Bill Donovan \(1883-1959\)](#): “Heh heh heh, they are putty in my hands.” The only response ever made by the US intelligence community to this critical intelligence was to offer Herr Thomsen a personal bribe of \$1,000,000 if he would issue a public statement distancing himself from the regime in Berlin. Thomsen would decline this kind American offer of personal financial security –we may speculate that he had family members back in Germany whom he needed to protect– and elect to sit out [World War II](#) as part of the [German](#) delegation in Stockholm, afterward making himself head of the Hamburg chapter of the International Red Cross.)

Due to heavy [German](#) censorship, the National Broadcasting Company and the Mutual Broadcasting System, based in the United States, would be unable to continue broadcasts from their correspondents in Berlin.

The United States House of Representatives voted to amend the Neutrality Act to allow arming of merchant ships and their passage into war zones.

November 14, Friday: Concerto grosso for chamber orchestra by Bohuslav Martinu was performed for the initial time, in Boston (a scheduled 1938 premiere in Vienna had needed to be cancelled due to the [German](#) *Anschluss*; one scheduled in Prague had needed to be cancelled due to the [German](#) invasion of Czechoslovakia; and, a premiere scheduled in Paris during May 1940 had needed to be cancelled due to the [German](#) invasion of Belgium).

New laws in Hungary prohibited marriages between Jews and Gentiles, prohibited Jews in the army, and expropriated Jewish lands.

ANTISEMITISM

[Germany](#) banned correspondents of the three major American radio networks: NBC, CBS, and the Mutual Broadcasting Network.

The British aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal*, that had been badly damaged by a [German](#) U-boat, slipped beneath the waves while still some 40 kilometers out from making a safe dock at Gibraltar.

The USA intercepted and decoded a communication from the [Japanese](#) Navy alerting the Japanese Merchant Marine that wartime recognition signals would be in effect as of December 1st.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) announced that the 970 US Marines currently in the cities of [Shanghai](#), [Beijing](#), and [Tientsin](#) in [China](#) were to be withdrawn.

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November 17, Monday: Special [Japanese](#) envoy Saburo Kurusu arrived in Washington DC and conferred with the US Secretary of State.

Serenade for orchestra by Ross Lee Finney was performed for the initial time, at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Symphony no.2 by Virgil Thomson was performed for the initial time, in the Music Hall, Seattle.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed a joint resolution of the US houses of Congress to repeal sections 2, 3, and 6 of the Neutrality Act of 1939, passed by the federal Congress on November 13th — from this point, US merchant ships could be armed and could enter war zones.

WORLD WAR II

November 25, Tuesday: Renewal for five years of the Anti-Comintern Pact of November 25, 1936 at Berlin, by [Germany](#), [Japan](#), [Italy](#), Hungary, Spain, Manchukuo, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Rumania, Slovakia, and the Nanking regime in [China](#).

[Germans](#) crossed the Moscow-Volga Canal at Yakhroma and Dimitrov, 65 kilometers north of Moscow.

The *Association des Juifs en Belgique* (Association of Jews in Belgium) was established.

2,900 Jews were shot near Kovno (Kaunas).

ANTISEMITISM



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[Providence, Rhode Island](#) banned George Cukor's and Greta Garbo's final film, "Two-Faced Woman."

In this comedy the problem with the Legion of Decency seems not to have been that she allowed herself to be photographed in the most skimpy of all possible swimsuits. It seems to have been in regard to the storyline: there is off-screen premarital sex with her bridegroom, that happens while he might, or might not, be persuaded that she is "the worldly-wise twin sister" of his intended innocent bride. Yeah, hotcha mental stuff!



I vant to be torpedoed.

In the Mediterranean, the HMS *Barham*, a 31,100-ton British battleship, was hit on the port side by three torpedoes from the U-boat U331 commanded by Kapitän-Leutnant von Tiesenhausen. About 4 minutes later the *Barham*'s 15-inch magazine exploded, completely disintegrating the vessel and releasing an enormous quantity of black smoke. 862 died including its skipper, Captain G.C. Cooke. 395 would be rescued from the water by HMS *Hotspur* and HMAS *Nizam*. (U331 would be sunk on November 17, 1942 by torpedo-carrying Swordfish from the carrier HMS *Formidable*, with 32 deaths. Kapitän-Leutnant Hans-Diedrich Tiesenhausen would be among the 15 rescued and would survive [World War II](#) to die on August 17, 2000, in Vancouver, Canada at the age of 85.)



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Secretary of War Stimson noted in his diary “[Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) stated that we were likely to be attacked perhaps as soon as next Monday.”



The British decrypted the [Japanese](#) Navy message of November 19th (the US would decode this message on November 28th) and found that it had indicated that there was going to be an attack, and that the signal for this was to be issued over Radio Tokyo in the form of a fake weather report — in this broadcast a mention of rain would indicate a state of war and a mention of the east (Higashi) would indicate that the attack was upon the United States of America.

[Japanese](#) troop transports, en route to Malaya, were sighted off Taiwan.

The Navy Department ordered all US trans-Pacific shipping to take a southern route. Admiral Turner has testified that “We sent the traffic down to the Torres Straight, so that the track of the [Japanese](#) task force would be clear of any traffic.”

Fleet Admiral (Grand Admiral of the Fleet) Isoroku Yamamoto radioed an order to sail which was decrypted by the British on this same day and would be decrypted by the Dutch on November 27th. Although precisely when this order was decrypted by US Naval Intelligence is a national secret, indications are that we must have decrypted it on or before November 26th:

(a) The task force, keeping its movements strictly secret and maintaining close guard against submarines and aircraft, shall advance into Hawaiian waters and upon the very opening of hostilities, shall attack the main force of the United States Fleet in Hawaii and deal it a mortal blow. The raid is planned for dawn on X-day – exact date to be given by later order.

(b) Should the negotiations with the US prove successful, the task force shall hold itself in readiness forthwith to return and reassemble.

(c) The task force will move out of Hitokappu Wan on the morning of 26 November and advance to the standing-by position on the afternoon of 4 December and speedily complete refueling.¹⁶

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November 26, Wednesday: The Republic of Lebanon, carved from the predominantly Christian districts of Syria, was declared independent, although French and British troops remain in the country.

Contact was made between the Tobruk (Tubruq) garrison and relieving Allied forces.

At 3AM, Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) sent an urgent message to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), presumably alerting him to Fleet Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's order to sail that the British had decoded on the previous day [\(the content of this message from Churchill to Roosevelt are still unreleased on the grounds that divulging it would harm our national security\)](#). Admiral Stark has testified that "On November 26 there was received specific evidence of the [Japanese](#) intention to wage offensive war against Great Britain and the United States." CIA Director William Casey, who was in the OSS in 1941, on page 7 of his book THE SECRET WAR AGAINST HITLER, would write that "The British had sent word that a Japanese fleet was steaming east toward Hawaii." In a message sent on this day from Washington DC, both US aircraft carriers, the *Enterprise* and the *Lexington*, were ordered to exit the anchorage at Pearl Harbor "as soon as possible."¹⁷

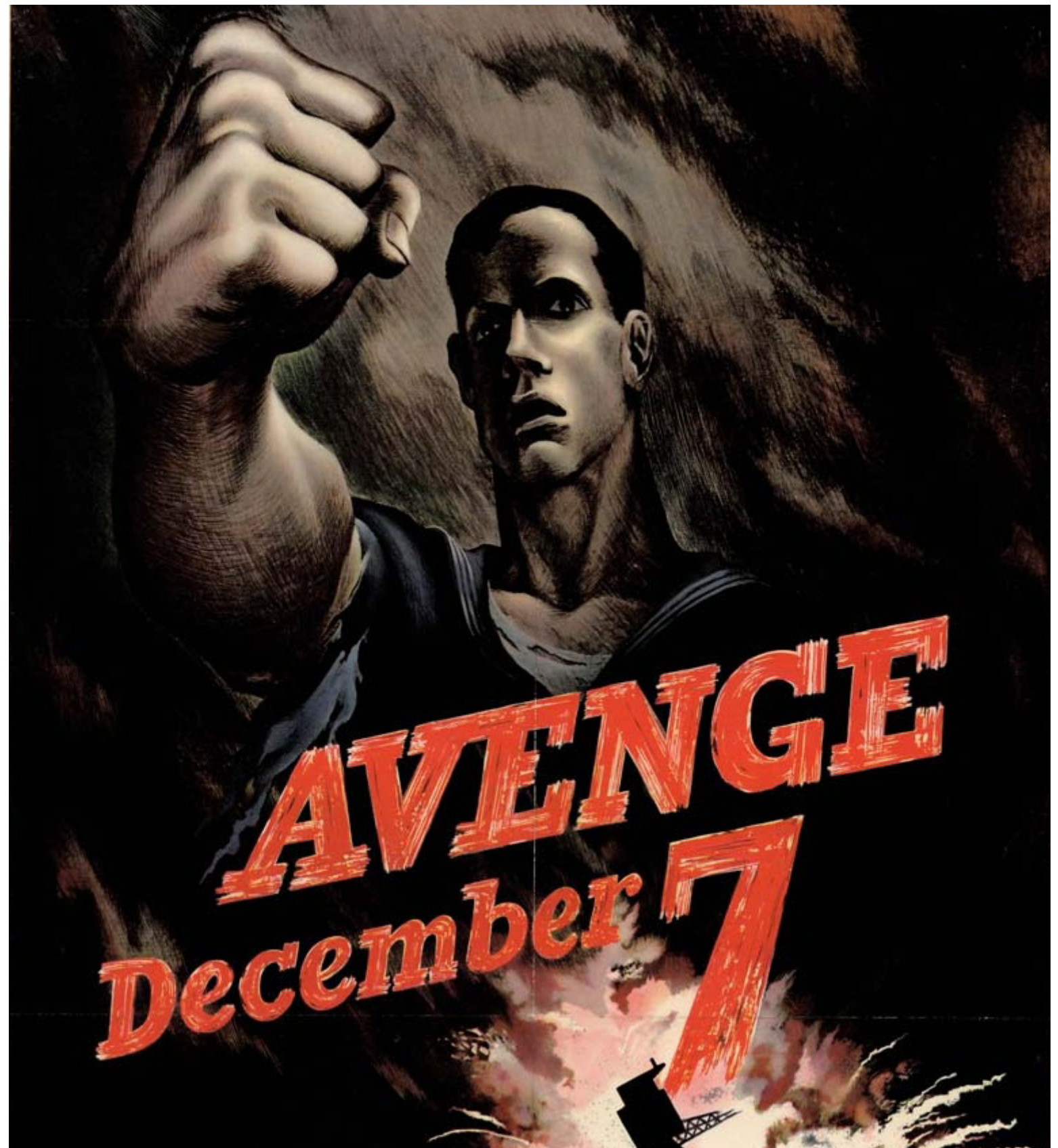
The [Japanese](#) Naval Carrier Task Force under Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo departed from the Kuril Islands en route to US Naval Station – Pearl Harbor.

17. One impact of this move was to deprive the air defense forces of the Pearl Harbor naval base of 50 fighter aircraft, amounting to 40% of its admittedly insufficient fighter cover.



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On this day the US Secretary of State, Hull, delivered an ultimatum to the Japanese government that [Japan](#) must unconditionally withdraw from Indochina and all [China](#). They were to engage in “no support of any government in China other than the National government” of Chiang Kai-shek —or else. Roosevelt’s Ambassador to Japan has referred to this as “The document that touched the button that started the war.” The negative Japanese response to this ultimatum would be delivered in conjunction with its attack on the US naval facility at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii.¹⁸

[General Douglas MacArthur](#)’s command advised Hawaii that the [Japanese](#) attack fleet was in the South China Sea, which is to say, that it was nowhere near Hawaii and was not a threat. This message was sent out by Duane Whitlock, who remembers it.

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18. Chamberlain, William Henry. “How Franklin Roosevelt Lied America Into War.” The Journal for Historical Review (November/December 1994, Volume 14 number 6), as excerpted from the anthology PERPETUAL WAR FOR PERPETUAL PEACE, pages 485-491



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December 1, Monday: The British colonial administration in Malaya declared a state of emergency after reports of [Japanese](#) preparations for attack. The Netherlands East Indies Army Air Force was mobilized.

Patrol Wing 9 was commissioned at Quonset Point, just south of [Providence, Rhode Island](#).

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The tanker *Shiriyu*, which we knew from a message that we had intercepted on November 14th had been added to the [Japanese](#) Striking Force, radioed that it was “proceeding to a position 30.00 N, 154.20 E. Expect to arrive at that point on 3 December” (this is a position near the Hawaiian Islands).¹⁹

Foreign Minister Togo Shigenori cabled Ambassador Nomura Kichisaburō in Washington DC to continue negotiations “to prevent the U.S. from becoming unduly suspicious.”

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) cut short his scheduled 10-day vacation after one day, in order to meet with Hull and Stark. The impact of this meeting would be reported on December 2nd by the Washington [Post](#): “President Roosevelt yesterday assumed direct command of diplomatic and military moves relating to [Japan](#).”



The US intercepted and decoded a message giving detailed instructions for the method of internment of American and British nationals in Asia “on the outbreak of war with England and the United States.”

Our ONI, the Office of Naval Intelligence, Twelfth Naval District, San Francisco, located the missing [Japanese](#) fleet by correlating reports from the four wireless news services and several shipping companies, that they had been getting strange signals to the west of Hawaii. The Soviet Union must also have known the exact location of the Japanese fleet on this day, because it seems they asked the Japanese in advance to let one of their ships pass.

Elemental mercury had been used for many years in various manufacturing processes. In 1865, for instance, Lewis Carroll’s tale of Alice included a character known as the “Mad Hatter,” because during the 19th Century hatters had frequently been driven to strange behavior due to their inhaling of the fumes when crude felt was being treated in hot mercurial baths. The symptoms of their madness included tremors known as the “hatter’s shakes.” On this day, the US government halted the use of mercurial compounds in the American hat industry. Why did this happen? Did this happen because the US government needed to protect the health of workers in the hat industry, or did this happen because in 1863 Alfred Nobel had invented a mercury percussion detonator the manufacture of which was going to be vital to our WWII war effort? (How cynical are you?)

At St. Florentine, Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain and Marshal Göring reaffirmed Franco/[German](#)
19. If message serial numbers mean anything, they indicate that between November 16th and December 7th the [Japanese](#) Striking Force transmitted at least 663 radio messages, or about a message per hour. Indeed, in their general orders—which are still in existence (Order 820)—there had been no requirement placed upon them to maintain radio silence.



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collaboration.

The [Germans](#) attempted to break through the Soviet defenses at Moscow but failed.

The [Germans](#) finally forced New Zealanders out of Sidi Rezegh.

Martial law was lifted in Bohemia and Moravia.

At some point during this month, the Lwow ghetto was being established.

ANTISEMITISM

December 1, 3:30PM: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) read Foreign Minister Togo Shigenori's message to his ambassador to [Germany](#): "Say very secretly to them that there is extreme danger between [Japan](#) & Anglo-Saxon nations through some clash of arms, add that the time of this war may come quicker than anyone dreams." Roosevelt retained a personal copy of this message but the 2d of its three parts is still a national secret.

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December 2, Tuesday: A [German](#) reconnaissance unit came within ten kilometers of the Kremlin in a blinding snowstorm, but was driven away.

Many [German](#) soldiers refused to continue the attack at Moscow, due to extreme cold and Soviet tenacity.

For a 3d time, [General Douglas MacArthur](#)'s command advised Hawaii that the [Japanese](#) attack fleet was in the South China Sea, which is to say, that it was nowhere near Hawaii and was not a threat. Like the messages sent on November 26th and 29th, this one was sent out by Duane Whitlock, who remembers it.



Why did they call him “Dugout Doug”?

The Washington [Post](#) reported that on the previous day [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had “assumed direct command of diplomatic and military moves relating to [Japan](#).”



[Tokyo](#) sent a ships-in-harbor report, Striking Force telegram No. 994, to its attack fleet at sea, indicating not only the naval assets present in Pearl Harbor but also the names of these vessels:

Two battleships (Oklahoma, Nevada), 1 aircraft carrier



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(Enterprise) 2 heavy cruisers, 12 destroyers sailed. The force that sailed on 22 November returned to port. Ships at anchor Pearl Harbor p.m. 28 November were 6 battleships (2 Maryland class, 2 California class, 2 Pennsylvania class), 1 aircraft carrier (Lexington), 9 heavy cruisers (5 San Francisco class, 3 Chicago class, 1 Salt Lake class), 5 light cruisers (4 Honolulu class, 1 Omaha class)

Under the new regulations repealing Sections 2, 3, and 6 of the Neutrality Act of 1939 in order to authorize the arming of our merchant ships and the sending of these ships into war zones, the United States merchant ship *Dunboyne* received the first Naval Armed Guard crew.

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General Hein Ter Poorten, commander of the Netherlands East Indies Army, provided the [Japanese](#) “East Winds, Rain” message, their message to their ships at sea indicating destruction of sensitive documents in preparation for a war with the United States of America, to the US War Department.

Commander of the Combined Imperial Fleet Yamamoto radioed the attack fleet in plain (uncoded) [Japanese](#):

Climb Niitakayama 1208

[HDT](#)[WHAT?](#)[INDEX](#)

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What might such a message mean? Since Mount Niitaka, at 13,113 feet, is known by all to be the highest mountain in the [Japanese](#) Empire, it is clear that the commander's message means that on December 8th Japanese time (which would be Sunday, December 7th on our side of the International Dateline), his attack fleet was commanded to "climb the highest mountain of all."





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December 4, early Thursday: Ralph Briggs, at the US Navy's East Coast Intercept station, intercepted the "East Winds, Rain" message from [Japan](#) indicating destruction of sensitive documents in preparation for a war with the United States of America and immediately put it on the TWX circuit and notified his commanding officer. This message, their Dispatch # 7001, has since been deleted. In response, the Office of US Naval Intelligence instructed all Far Eastern stations, including our embassy in [Tokyo](#), to destroy their codes and classified documents. The forces responsible for the defense of Hawaii were, however, not informed of the reason for this destruction of codes and classified documents.²⁰

With the Japanese crossing the prearranged line of 100 East and 10 North, the Dutch invoked the "ADB" joint defense agreement. What this means is that, three days before Japan declared war on us, as of December 4th, the United States of America already in accordance with its existing treaties was formally in a condition of war against Japan. General Ter Poorten sent all the details of the Japanese "East Winds, Rain" communication to Colonel Weijerman, the Dutch military attaché in Washington DC, who personally handed this to General Marshall, the Chief of Staff of our War Department.²¹

US General Thorpe, on the island of Java, sent out four messages on this day, warning of an imminent attack upon Pearl Harbor.

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**Gen. Thorpe warns:
"It is coming soon."**

20. Washington DC informed the Hawaiian defense forces only that diplomatic codes were being burned world-wide — in order that, when they noticed that the local consulate was burning its codes, they would not put themselves on military alert.

21. British intelligence passed this message to Lieutenant General Walter C. Short.



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In Washington DC, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox was telling a group of visiting businessmen that within a few days the US would be at war with [Japan](#) — but not to worry, such a war would be over within six months. The Jap equipment was shoddy, and the Japs themselves, obedient little yellow guys, were inferior human beings who could excel only in banzai charges and suicide.²² They could only defeat us if we failed to pay adequate attention to our Protestant Work Ethic:



At this point in time, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) decided to use the information he had, about an impending attack by [Japan](#) upon the United States of America, to resolve one of his primary problems, which was, how to get the US into a war not with Japan but with Germany — with the US Congress refusing to declare war, and with *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) studiously avoiding any confrontation. Thomas Fleming, in his 2001 historical study *THE NEW DEALERS' WAR: F.D.R. AND THE WAR WITHIN WORLD WAR II* (NY: Basic Books, page 26), has reasoned that at this point the Commander-in-Chief, “pondering this awesome problem,” in full

22. [General Douglas MacArthur](#), when he studied the damage done by the Japanese Zeros over Pearl Harbor, would immediately hypothesize that the little yellow Emperor-worshippers must have gotten some German pilots to come over and fly their planes for them.



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awareness that this would be likely to provoke Hitler into an immediate declaration of war against us, intentionally and deliberately directed that US war plan “Rainbow Five,” a plan which revealed that we were simply unprepared for any major action against Germany prior to July 1943, be leaked to the American press so that the Germans would find out about our weakness. The handoff seems to have been from the Commander in Chief, to General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, to General Henry H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Force, by way of an anonymous Army Air Force captain acting as a courier, to Senator Burton K. Wheeler, to the Washington DC correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, Chesly Manly. Six months after the event, the President would brag to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau about his personal trickiness: “You know I am a juggler, and I never let my right hand know what my left hand does ... and furthermore I am perfectly willing to mislead and tell untruths if it will help win the war.”²³



23. The [FBI](#) investigation of this, done by Louis B. Nichols, revealed within ten days that the person who had sent the Army Air Force captain as a courier was “a general of high renown and invaluable importance to the war,” and that he was at that time well aware that his leaking this plan would reveal to the potential enemy the US’s “deficiencies in regard to air power.” Nichols has reported about the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s inquiry that “When we got to Arnold, we quit.” Clearly, since no action was taken against General Henry H. Arnold, he must have had the prior approval at least of General George C. Marshall, and it is hard to imagine how General Marshall might have done such a thing without direction from the Commander-in-Chief. According to General Albert C. Wedemeyer, “I can’t conceive of anyone else [anyone other than President Roosevelt], including General Arnold, having the nerve to release that document.” Admiral Erich Raeder of the German High Command immediately noticed the key fact in the leaked “Rainbow Five” document: The US could not launch any sustained military offensive against the Reich prior to July 1943 at the earliest, and so he advised [Adolf Hitler](#) to escalate his attacks and be sure to knock out Great Britain and the Soviet Union prior to that date.



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December 5, Friday: After a night of -35° temperatures on the Russian Front panzers would not start and [German](#) guns would not fire. None of the Wehrmacht was equipped for winter fighting. The [German](#) advance towards Moscow was stalled.

Leonard Bernstein sent out cards announcing “the opening of his studio for the teaching of Piano and Musical Analysis” in his newly acquired apartment on Huntington Avenue in Boston. This would attract one student.

In the morning, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) dictated a letter to Wendell Wilkie to hand to the Australian Prime Minister, saying “There is always the [Japanese](#) to consider. The situation is definitely serious and there might be an armed clash at any moment.... Perhaps the next four or five days will decide the matters.”



According to John Tolland’s INFAMY (1982, chapter 14, section 5), Secretary of the Navy Knox commented at a Cabinet meeting, “Well, you know Mr. President, we know where the Japanese fleet is?” “Yes, I know” said Roosevelt. “I think we ought to tell everybody just how ticklish the situation is. We have information as Knox just mentioned.... Well, you tell them what it is, Frank.” Knox became very excited and said, “Well, we have very secret information that the Japanese fleet is out at sea. Our information is...” and then the Commander in Chief cut him off with a scowl.

Messages sent by the [Japanese](#) Striking Force were being picked up by Station Cast in the Philippine Islands. [Japan](#) assures the United States that her troop movements in French Indochina were only precautionary.

On the basis of traffic analysis, Hawaii reported that the carrier force was at sea and was to the North. It was noted that all [Japanese](#) international shipping had returned to home port.

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All the existing bones of [Beijing](#) Man were taken aboard a train by a detail of nine US Marines who were struggling to get the bones safely smuggled out of [China](#) before the arrival of the 1st [Japanese](#) troops (after the attack at Pearl Harbor these fossil bones would be lost in the confusion and to everyone's regret only plaster casts and sketches now remain; however, fortunately, additional skeletal remains of Beijing Man have since been discovered).



December 6, Saturday: At 3AM the Red Army launched a major counter-offensive against the [Germans](#) encircling Moscow. The counterattack was along an 800-kilometer front from Kalinin to Yelets west of Moscow. The Soviets crossed the Volga River near Kalinin and drove the [Germans](#) from Yakhroma, thus reconnecting the rail link from Moscow to the north.

Since Finland, Hungary, and Rumania had ignored the ultimatum to withdraw from the USSR, the United Kingdom declared war. Hungary reciprocated by declaring war on the United Kingdom.

A secret new government committee met in Washington to determine whether an [atomic bomb](#) might be produced in the United States, and if so, at what cost.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) sent off a message to the [Japanese](#) Emperor, on the Pacific conversations.

All our long-range PBY-plane patrols from the Aleutians were ordered stopped, apparently to prevent any premature discovery of the [Japanese](#) attack fleet.

At 9:30PM President Roosevelt read the first 13 parts of the decoded [Japanese](#) diplomatic declaration of war



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and commented “This means war.”



When he returned to his 34 dinner guests he informed them, “The war starts tomorrow.”



Marshall would perjure himself, by testifying later that he had never received these first 13 parts of the decoded [Japanese](#) diplomatic declaration of war, because we know that he had already read those first parts by 10PM on this night.

According to John Tolland’s INFAMY (Chapter 16, Section 2), the war cabinet made up of Commander-in-Chief Roosevelt, top advisor Hopkins, Stimson, Marshall, Secretary of the Navy Knox, and aides John McCrea and Frank Beatty “sat through the night of 6 December 1941 waiting for the [Japs](#) to strike.”

A [Japanese](#) message intercepted on December 2nd was decrypted by the US Army. In the message, [Tokyo](#) was prompting Hawaii for information about the absence of barrage balloons, anti-torpedo nets and air reconnaissance.

A [Japanese](#) message intercepted on November 18th was decrypted by the US Army, but would not be passed on to Hawaii:

1. The warships at anchor in the Harbor on the 15th were as I told you in my No.219 on that day.
Area A – A battleship of the Oklahoma class entered and one tanker left port.
Area C – 3 warships of the heavy cruiser class were at anchor.
2. On the 17th the Saratoga was not in harbor. The carrier Enterprise, or some other vessel was in Area C. Two heavy cruisers of the Chicago class, one of the Pensacola class were tied up at docks “KS”. 4 merchant vessels were at anchor in area



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D.

3. At 10:00 A.M. on the morning of the 17th, 8 destroyers were observed entering the Harbor....

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December 7, Sunday afternoon, 1941: At the home of Helen May Clarke Grimes, in Spragueville near [Smithfield](#) northwest of [Providence, Rhode Island](#), the radio was switched on. As they listened, news flashes began to come in about a [Japanese](#) attack that had begun at dawn, which had been about 1:20PM Eastern Standard Time.



Helen May Clarke Grimes of Rhode Island had no warning.

Helen had been keeping a diary since she was ten years of age,²⁴ and made notes which indicate the fragmentary nature of the information available to the American people, who were given no real grasp that the toll of this “day that will live in infamy” actually was a dozen ships sunk or beached (three of them, the *Arizona*, the *Utah*, and the *Oklahoma*, damaged beyond repair), 164 aircraft destroyed and 159 damaged, and 3,566 American casualties, including 2,388 killed. Listeners like Helen were told only that the U.S.S. *Arizona* was sunk and the *Oklahoma* capsized, and casualty reports were never within an order of magnitude of being adequate:

Dec. 7 — This is a sleepy Sunday afternoon at home. We are in the little upstairs sitting room, Mother sewing, I writing, and Dorrance [her husband] listening to the portable radio. I haven't anything to write about, really, and the Philharmonic is fast putting me to sleep although the broadcast is interrupted now and then with news bulletins on the tense “Far Eastern Situation.” After all we have been more or less tense for months.

.....

Later — I guess this is it! Japanese dive bombers have attacked Honolulu!

.....

4:30 — News bulletin. Taken down as given. Parachute troupes [sic] sighted — Pearl Harbor attacked by dive bombers — Manila bombed — smoke of anti-aircraft guns over Pearl Harbor — from 50 to 100 planes from Japanese aircraft carrier — attachés of

24. Mystic River Historical Society: AN ACCOUNT OF MY LIFE 1915-1926: THE CHILDHOOD JOURNALS OF HELEN MAY CLARKE OF MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT.



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Japanese government at Washington burning secret papers. We are shocked silent. Dorrance who is coming down with a cold is too carried away by the intermittent bulletins to realize how rotten he feels.

The Albert Spalding program, Victor Herbert selections, Carmichael's Stardust, Kostelanetz orchestra.

.....

5 P.M. – At last more news – fragmentary, probably inaccurate. Washington: President Roosevelt is dictating message to Congress. Probably declaration of war tomorrow.²⁵ Heavy damage and loss of life in Hawaii. It was a dawn attack. All aerial observation posts in Los Angeles ordered manned. Naval engagement reported. Pearl Harbor under bombardment. Well, here it is: we're at war.

We hang close to the radio listening to program after program afraid we may miss a news bulletin no matter how vague or unconfirmed the reports may be. The Prudential (Insurance) Hour with Deems Taylor and Gladys Swarthout singing Paradise in Waltz Time from the motion picture Champagne Waltz.

At last, another bulletin. Japan announces she has entered a state of war with Britain and the United States from dawn to-day Dec. 7th, 1941. Government order just issued comes over WPRO: The Secretary of War orders that all plants working on defense orders institute a guard against sabotage.

Jimmie Cat jumps in my lap. The news has come to an end, the program returns to Gladys Swarthout.

5:45 – William L. Shirer, news commentator. Speaks of "flagrant aggression ... a war after 23 years and one month of uneasy peace" ... the battleship Oklahoma set on fire by Japanese bombs.

I should be reacting to this in some way, but I remain incredulous and interested, nothing more as yet.

An attempt has been made to contact overseas – no result. Honolulu – CBS calling Honolulu – no answer. Calling Manila – CBS calling Manila, go ahead Manila – no answer.

We take time out for supper, our ears on the radio.

6:30 – All marines notified to return to their stations ... order from Quonset.

Guam has been attacked by a squadron of planes ... Elmer Davis, commentator. He must have seen this happening months ago. Senator Wheeler, isolationist, says sensibly enough that "there is nothing to do now but lick the hell out of them."²⁶ The Japanese have struck at Singapore, sinking two British ships.

We now hear Albert Warner, Washington news commentator – and next, Maj. Elliot who says the Japanese plan plainly underway for two weeks during treacherous negotiations at Washington. I have a conviction we have been sold down the river again. A year

25. The sole dissenter would be Representative Jeanette Rankin, who had also voted against declaring war in 1817.

26. Burton K. Wheeler (1882-1975), senator from Montana (1923-1947), progressive Democrat, had helped create the isolationist "America First" committee of Charles A. Lindbergh and Norman Thomas. The committee would be dissolved four days after Pearl Harbor.



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ago Oliver said every navy man on Jamestown said we'd be at war with Japan shortly. I suppose Major Elliot didn't know, or our beloved [sarcasm, as the author of this was decidedly not a supporter] President! Well, this is no time to think of that. We are at war.

Notice: all recruiting offices open to-morrow.

7:00 - Censorship on all out going cablegrams and radio messages. The Jack Benny Program ... Don Wilson, the announcer ... "J-E-L-L-O with that locked in flavor." An interruption; news from the office of the Providence Journal - Providence police are requested to round up all enlisted men. War Extra editions are on the streets.

I am surprised at Mother. I expected her to be shocked, horrified, but she seems excited, stepped up, her asthma forgotten.

The program continues ... a Dennis Day song. How are the performers reacting? - they must be getting this awful news.

More bulletins; Shanghai: the Japanese have taken over the American Light Company.

7:30 - Providence Cake commercial ... the Fitch [Shampoo] Band Wagon program with - Oh, another news bulletin, from the Prov. Journal: Gov. McGrath has called a meeting ... Newport takes immediate precautions ... six Japanese planes said to have been shot down. Unconfirmed report that Wake Island is occupied by Japanese. A black-out of Panama Canal ordered for to-night.

Back to the scheduled program again: Horace Heidt and the "Shepherd's Serenade," with Frankie Carle at the piano ... "I'll Never Forget," this weeks Band Wagons top tune.

Just happened to remember that Elizabeth Colby and her husband are stationed at Honolulu.

News bulletin: 104 dead and 300 wounded, not including civilian population as a result of Japanese raid on Hawaii.

8:00 - A Pinkerton Fur commercial ... the Chase and Sanborn Coffee Hour with Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd on Edgar Bergen's knee. Just ordinary Sunday night listening mixed in with a world shaking event.

Ray Noble's Orchestra ... Abbot and Costello ... Judy Garland, the guest star.

News: The Governor of the Dutch East Indies has declared war on Japan ... likewise Costa Rica. Well, that will be a help!

In Shanghai bombs fall on the International Settlement ... and Judy Garland sings. Zing Went the Strings of My Heart.

Commercial: Shop at Newberry's first. News flash: All women and children in Manila ordered evacuated. Mayor La Guardia has issued an order that all Japanese nationals remain in their homes until their status is settled.

Back to the regular programs - this one Carter's Little Liver Pills and it is terrible. A long wait this time lasting through an Inner Sanctum mystery story and into the Ford Musical Hour which comes on at 9 o'clock. Jimmie Cat is in my lap again, mother is embroidering a bureau scarf for Constance. Somehow



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small things seem important – things I can understand like the radiator clanking as the steam comes up, or the small spot of nail varnish flaking from my thumb nail.

9:30 – At last more news. Washington officially announces 100 dead and 300 wounded. Wake Island is said to have surrendered to a superior Japanese force. There has been one – perhaps two – ship casualties. Japanese of San Francisco under careful watch.

Back to the Ford Hour, the second half of the program taking place at the U.S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Illinois. There is a band, and a commanding officer, Rear Admiral John Downes thanks Edsel Ford for the new auditorium and recreational building presented by him to the Naval Training Station. We listen to the Training Station Chorus, the Training Station Band, and a Lieut. Edward Peabody who plays a medley of Southern airs on his banjo.

10:00 – Commercial: This Christmas shoppers are using Gerber's lay away plan. News Flash: Canada has declared war upon Japan. Grand Central Station is jammed with men in uniform rounded up by Shore Patrol and Military Police from theaters, restaurants and bars. All officers on leave called back to their posts. State of emergency declared in San Francisco. Mother says thank God constance isn't there.

At last they have established direct radio contact with the Philippines. The commentator tells of one news reporter who broadcast over wrong channel in his haste.

The Telephone Company makes an announcement. Long distance is so over taxed it is asked that no calls be made unless strictly necessary.

Clare Booth and Vincent Shean speak. Shean describes Wake Island and the base made there, and the 1100 American soldiers now probably the prisoners of the Japanese.

The Army and Navy Departments are flooded with pleas from families for knowledge of men in Hawaii and the Philippines.

10:30 – Following a Nylon hosiery commercial²⁷ comes a CBS special broadcast. There is an unconfirmed report of a big naval engagement at sea. Eric Severied reports from Washington: the city is swarming with reporters, the portico is lighted; there are lines of shiny cars and a mass of faces standing in the cold waiting news.

There has been heavy destruction at Hawaii. Unconfirmed reports state that we have lost two capital ships and the airfield has been leveled. President Roosevelt will address joint session of Congress at 12:30 to-morrow.

It is 4:30 in London. Parliament meets today to declare war on Japan directly after America.

A Columbia broadcast: Guam is in trouble ... Shanghai bombed. I have smoked until my mouth is dry: I am too tired to write more. It is now eleven o'clock, we have been glued to the radio for hours.²⁸

27. Nylons had been on the market since May 15, 1940.



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Remember, at an early point in the autumn, Kilsoo Haan, an agent for the Sino-Korean People's League, had indicated to Eric Severeid of CBS that the Korean underground in [Korea](#) and [Japan](#) had obtained proof not only that the Japanese military was planning an attack on the US naval facilities at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, but also that this attack was scheduled to take place before [Christmas](#). Eric Severeid had been informed that one Korean had sighted the actual plans. What would Eric Severeid have been thinking on this day as he listened to these radio reports? –Has anyone ever dared ask him?

WORLD WAR II

Remember, late in October, US Senator Guy Gillette had been informed by Kilsoo Haan that the [Japanese](#) were planning to attack the US fleet in December or January, whereupon Senator Gillette had personally alerted the State Department, Army and Navy Intelligence, and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). What would Senator Gillette have been thinking on this day as he listened to these radio reports? –Did anyone ever dare ask him?



The people in the US federal government who had been briefed by Eric Severeid of CBS or by US Senator Guy Gillette as to what this Korean agent was passing along to us — what might they have been thinking on this day as they listened to these radio reports? Will we ever know?



**Koreans knew.
Eric Severeid of CBS knew.
Senator Guy Gillette knew.
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt knew.**



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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December 8, Monday: Croatia declared war on the United States and the United Kingdom. Soviet forces retook Tikhvin, 180 kilometers southeast of Leningrad. *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) announced the suspension of military operations against the Soviet Union due to severe weather conditions.

A [German](#) policy of killing Jews by gas was put into effect. 700 Jews from Kulmhof (Chelmo), 60 kilometers northeast of Lodz, were taken by van (with the exhaust system hooked into the van) to a nearby wood. By the time they arrived, they were dead. From this day on, Jews from the surrounding district were daily transported to Kulmhof for the same purpose. This was the first death camp to begin operations. The region would be emptied of its 360,000 Jews.

ANTISEMITISM

This was the day on which the US Pacific fleet had been ordered to steam out of Pearl Harbor to seek battle engagement with the Japanese fleet, but the hulls of many capital vessels of this US fleet were resting on a bed of mud in the warm shallow waters of Pearl Harbor, awaiting recovery and salvage efforts, and oil slicks were glistening upon the surfaces of these waters.

After [Japanese](#) soldiers made a quick lunch of the defenses of the British crown colony of [Hong Kong](#), Governor Mark Young was restricted to his quarters in the Peninsula Hotel. British civilians were rounded up and some 20,000 Chinese per month would be deported to the mainland.

US Marines and other Allied nationals were interned at [Shanghai](#), Beijing, and Tientsin.

Striking Force, Asiatic Fleet (Rear Admiral W.A. Glassford) departed Iloilo, Philippine Islands for Makassar Strait, Netherlands East Indies.

The river gunboat *Wake* (PR-3) was surrendered to [Japanese](#) at [Shanghai](#) after an attempt to scuttle it failed (The *Wake* would be the sole United States ship to surrender during this war).

The Potomac River Naval Command, with its headquarters at Washington DC, and the Severn River Naval Command, with its headquarters at Annapolis, Maryland, were established.

The SS *President Harrison*, en route to evacuate Marines from Chingwangtao, China, ran aground at Sha Wai Shan, China, and was captured by the [Japanese](#).

[Japanese](#) aircraft bombed Guam, Wake, [Hong Kong](#), Singapore, and the Philippine Islands. Extensive damage was inflicted on United States Army aircraft at Clark Field, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

[Japan](#) interned United States Marines and nationals at [Shanghai](#) and Tientsin, [China](#).

A United States naval vessel was sunk by a horizontal bomber: the minesweeper *Penguin* (AM-33), near Guam in the Marianas Islands.



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[Japan](#) invaded Thailand, which capitulated.

[Japanese](#) troops landed unopposed at Victoria Point, the southern tip of Burma.

[Japanese](#) landed on Bataan Island north of Luzon, Philippine Islands, and on the east coast of the Malay Peninsula. (At some point during their occupation of the Philippines, on Luzon, 14 Filipino resistance fighters would be forced to surrender because they ran out of ammunition. Other POWs were required to dig 14 foxholes for them and were then executed. These resistance fighters were forced into the foxholes and earth shovelled around them and stamped down, until only their heads and necks were above ground, so that the Japanese officer could use them for his sword practice. Some of the soldiers having defecated onto banana leaves, shit was stuffed into their mouths with considerable hilarity before the officer drew his sword.

HEADCHOPPING

The Chelmno death camp near Lodz, Poland opened for business.

In a conversation with Rosenman, one of his speechwriters, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) spoke of *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) as his first target, and “feared that a great many Americans would insist that we make the war in the Pacific at least equally important with the war against Hitler.” He was, however, saying nothing of the sort to the American people.



Instead we were receiving, on this day that will live in infamy, a lie that would send more than 16 million US citizens to war:

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 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 Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a form reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes



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it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government had 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. 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 Midway Island. Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending through out the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday 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.

Always will we 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 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 very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. 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 unbounded 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 seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

DECLARATION OF WAR

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The British declared war upon [Japan](#). Declarations of war upon [Japan](#) were issued by Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, the Free French, and Panama. [Mexico](#), Colombia, Belgium, and [Egypt](#) did not declare war, but did sever diplomatic relations with [Japan](#). (The USSR would neither declare war upon Japan nor sever diplomatic relations, until that nation lay prostrate and devastated in the very last moments of the hostilities.)

WORLD WAR II

Pearl Harbor

I

Here are the fireworks. The men who conspired and labored
To embroil this republic in the wreck of Europe have got their bargain, —
And a bushel more. As for me, what can I do but fly the national flag from the top of the tower, —
America has neither race nor religion nor its own language: nation or nothing.

Stare, little tower,
Confidently across the Pacific, the flag on your head. I built you at the other war's end,
And the sick peace; I based you on living rock, granite on granite; I said,
“Look, you gray stones:
Civilization is sick: stand awhile and be quiet and drink the sea-wind, you
will survive
Civilization.”

But now I am old, and O stones be modest. Look, little tower:
This dust blowing is only the British Empire; these torn leaves flying
Are only Europe; the wind is the plane-propellers; the smoke is Tokyo.
The child with the butchered throat
Was too young to be named. Look no farther ahead.

II

The war that we have carefully for years provoked
Catches us unprepared, amazed and indignant. Our warships are shot
Like sitting ducks and our planes like nest-birds, both our coasts ridiculously panicked,
And our leaders make orations. This is the people
That hopes to impose on the whole planetary world
An American peace.

(Oh, we'll not lose our war: my money on amazed Gulliver
And his horse-pistols.)

Meanwhile our prudent officers
Have cleared the coast-long ocean of ships and fishing-craft, the sky of
planes, the windows of light: these clearings
Make a great beauty. Watch the wide sea; there is nothing human; its gulls
have it. Watch the wide sky
All day clean of machines; only at dawn and dusk one military hawk passes
High on patrol. Walk at night in the black-out,
The firefly lights that used to line the long shore
Are all struck dumb; shut are the shops, mouse-dark the houses. Here the
prehuman dignity of night
Stands, as it was before and will be again. Oh beautiful
Darkness and silence, the two eyes that see God; great staring eyes.



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— [Robinson Jeffers](#)

At the home of Helen Clarke Grimes, in Spragueville near [Smithfield](#) northwest of [Providence, Rhode Island](#), as in many homes in America, the radio was being kept constantly on, not for the soap operas that filled the daytime airwaves, but for the sporadic news flashes about the war situation. Helen made notes for her diary:

Dec. 8 – This Monday morning we face a turquoise and coral sunrise with the sick realization that we are at war, and that the radio bulletins are not something by Orson Welles. We had turned the radio off at eleven o'clock last night, worn dull by hours of incessant listening, and were about to go to bed when Charlie and Harriett who had spent the day at his mother's, came home with two copies of the War Extra. We talked until twelve, soberly with no fine frenzy to fire us. Constance and Oliver phoned, but there was nothing to say. It is 8AM and the news is pouring in over the radio. Hongkong has been bombed, and there is a report of 200 casualties suffered at Singapore. Ford Wilkins in Manila says there has been no violence in that city as yet. He tells of Japanese landing on some parts of the Phillipines, of the round-up and internment of Japanese in Manila; of the evacuation of Manila, and of a naval battle reported in the Pacific. A Washington commentator says our losses are far more serious (in Hawaii) than given out. Hangers have been flattened, planes destroyed, there has been torpedo damage – altogether a heavy naval defeat. At night the lights burned in embassy windows along Massachusetts Avenue [in Washington DC]. In Providence, the State Guard has been mobilized, and roving guards placed at industrial plants, at the airport, and along the waterfront. On the West Coast few went to bed last night, excitement running high the thoroughfares crowded. Charles Collingwood in a report from London, speaks of grey parliament buildings, and of Churchill in his black Homburg hat. Arthur Crock, in writing of the American reaction in the "N.Y. Times," says one can almost hear national unity clicking into place. This is a grim day. Here, in one of the smallest communities in the smallest state in the union, the stark branches of the apple trees are bleak and cold against a lowering sky. Mother is having an asthma attack.

Twelve o'clock noon – The sun is out, the sky a thin wash of blue.

Japanese planes are only forty miles from Manila.

12:30 – President Roosevelt spoke to the joint session of House and Senate, a short address of five hundred words, at the end of which he asked "that Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday Dec. 7th, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

The "President Pierce" reported to have been torpedoed, was the



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first dollar liner on which Oliver sailed to the Orient.
A news flash breaks into a concert of chamber music to tell of an air raid now in progress over Manila.

2:30 – The Phillipines direct. At 1:30 a terrific air attack had begun over Manila. It is thought that twenty-five American bombers have been destroyed. As the announcer broadcasts there is the sound of Japanese planes overhead.

An N.B.C. announcer on the roof of an eight story building reports a great fire which is destroying the gasoline supply dump on Nichols Field, a base airfield in the heart of Manila. He is panting from his run up eight flights of stairs, the elevator boy having deserted his post.

The stars were shining over the city and a bright moon rides directly over head. Galvanized iron rooftops stand out like mirrors, the black-out rendered futile by the moon.

3:30 PM – Prime Minister Churchill has delivered a solemn speech in a tired, husky voice.

4:30 PM – The tires of the news boy's bicycle grit on the gravel as he wheels up to the door. There is a thud as the "Providence Bulletin" hits the door. Its headlines have no power to shock those already benumbed by the radio.

9:35 PM – There is a report from the "San Francisco News Chronicle" that fifty unidentified planes have been sighted flying from the south west toward San Francisco. The city is blacked-out to a depth of ten miles.

10:00 PM – An air raid siren is blowing in San Francisco. All radio stations but one are off the air. Planes are said to have been seen off the Golden Gate. The man in the street is wondering if this is an air raid test of the real thing.

A copy of the November "Atlantic Monthly" lies on the table, the back page given over to a vacation ad: "Hawaii. Standing two thousand miles out in the gentle latitudes of the South Pacific ..."

San Francisco motorists are driving without headlights.

The all-clear signal has been given. False alarm or practice work-out?

11:00 PM – A summary of to-day's events – and so ends the first day of this war. We go to bed wondering why, when for months there has been a strong possibility of war with Japan, our forces were caught napping.

Will close this with two lines from Shakespeare. King John, I think.

"For when you should be told they do prepare
The tidings come that they are all arrived."

It goes on: "O where hath our intelligence been drunk? Where hath it slept?" Oh, where indeed!



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December 9, Tuesday: Declarations of war upon [Japan](#) were announced by Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand; also upon [Japan](#), [Germany](#), and [Italy](#) by [China](#). Costa Rica declared war upon [Japan](#).

The [Japanese](#) occupied Tarawa Island and Makin Island in the Gilbert Islands.

The [Japanese](#) occupied Bangkok in Thailand.

Soviet forces captured Yelets, 330 kilometers south of Moscow.

Mazurka elegiaca op.23/2 for two pianos by Benjamin Britten was performed for the initial time, in Town Hall, New York.

The United States froze all assets of Thailand that it could get its hands on.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) accused *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#) of having encouraged [Japan](#) to attack the US (Standard Ploy #11: Accuse someone else of what you're guilty of.), and stated falsely that "Germany and Italy consider themselves at war with the United States without even bothering about a formal declaration." He called Hitler a gangster. Thomas Fleming, in his 2001 historical study *THE NEW DEALERS' WAR: F.D.R. AND THE WAR WITHIN WORLD WAR II* (NY: Basic Books, page 35) points out that "There was very little truth in any of this rhetoric," it amounting to mere provocation.



The *Sebastiano Venier*, an Italian motorship of 6,310 tons, built in Amsterdam in 1939 under the name *Jason* or *Jantzen* and requisitioned by the Italian Navy and renamed, had left Benghazi harbor with around 2,000 British POWs including black South African troops, New Zealanders, and Australians, who had surrendered to the Germans in North Africa. Five miles south of Navarino on the Greek Peloponnese, the ship was attacked by the British submarine HMS *Porpoise*. She was not flying a POW flag. Hit by a torpedo between the No.1 and No.2 hold on the starboard side, the force of the explosion hurled the heavy hatchway covers to mast height, the falling timbers killing dozens of men trying to escape from the hold. From the flooded No.1 hold only five men survived. Most of the panic stricken crew abandoned the ship taking all the lifeboats. The Italian hospital ship *Arno* appeared on the scene but ploughed its way through the men struggling in the water and



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kept on sailing, its priority being the rescue of the crew of a German ship sunk nearby. A total of 320 lives were lost among them 309 British POWs, including 45 New Zealanders. 11 Italian soldiers also died. The ship did not sink but managed to reach the shore at Point Methoni near Pilos where it was beached. All prisoners who managed to reach the shore were confronted by hundreds of Italian occupation troops and were taken to a makeshift camp where during the next few months many would die from frostbite and disease. In May 1942, the prisoners would be transferred to Campo 85 at Tuteurano in Italy.

At the home of Helen Clarke Grimes, in Spragueville near [Smithfield](#) northwest of [Providence, Rhode Island](#), as in many homes in America, the radio was being kept constantly on, not for the soap operas that filled the daytime airwaves, but for the sporadic news flashes about the war situation. Helen made notes for her diary:

Dec. 9, Tuesday – Overslept this morning, but managed to get Dorrance off with his usual substantial breakfast comfortably warming his stomach.

Mother seems a little better – I have just taken her breakfast tray.

9 o'clock – The round-up of Italian, German and Japanese aliens in Providence has started.

Congress figures on a war of at least six years duration, and at least a billion lives. God!

No matter how long one has expected it, war, like Death is always a surprise.

9:05 – A persistent rumor that American planes have bombed Formosa and Tokyo has no confirmation. I should think it extremely unlikely.

The Navy announces the minesweeper, Penguin has been sunk.

Outside, a chick-a-dee, light as a thistle, is hanging upside down from a twig, and the sun gives false warmth to the dry, brown oak leaves.

The first word we have of any air-craft in action over the Phillipines has just come in; a Japanese attack over Manila is reported to have been repulsed by American planes.

12:30 – There has been a report that Japanese planes have been spotted approaching Long Island. Sirens have sounded at Mitchell Field and planes have gone into the air. All airfields in the vicinity are alerted.

1 PM – The War Office declares there is no foundation for the report of planes over New England.

A U.P. bulletin says a well qualified military source claims that a strange plane, thought to be a scouting plane has been seen off the New England coast. While the War Department insists there is no truth in the report, radio warnings are being broadcast to New York that if there is a necessity for an alarm, fire and police sirens will sound for full five minutes.

AP bulletin: hostile planes again reported.

1:30 PM – Special bulletin. Two hundred and eighty planes have taken off; fire fighting trucks and ambulances are in position. An air raid warning is expected at any moment. All public schools have been evacuated. An order has just come from Commissioner Valentine that New York residents remain indoors. All navy



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airfields and stations have been placed on the alert: all air raid wardens ordered to their respective stations. Boston motorists have been asked to get their cars off the streets.

In Providence, Quonset has had an air alarm.

The scheduled radio programs are riddled with news bulletins.

1:55 – New York has had its first alarm, and the all clear has sounded.

Went to the store. Edgar and the Bond Bread delivery man were talking excitedly.

2:30 – Came back to the radio and the news of a second air raid alarm in New York. Commentator speaking from the top of a building over-looking Times Square, says crowds remain in the street oblivious to warnings.

2:40 – The all clear has sounded.

A later bulletin: it has developed that the second alert was given because of a small fire on Mitchell Field, and was probably the result of confusion.

Washington still insists that it has no evidence of enemy planes off the East Coast. The commentator sounds exhausted.

3:20 – Public safety officials now announce that the air-raid warnings in New England and New York were simply a part of the precautionary measures and that there were no enemy planes.

Still another bulletin says the air-raid warnings were the result of a "phony tip." Does anyone anywhere know anything?

9:30 PM – Listening-in to Fibber McGee and Molly, a little comedy for a change.

10 PM – Have listened to President Roosevelt and believe very little of what he says.

WORLD WAR II

December 10, Wednesday: Cuba declared war upon [Japan](#).

WORLD WAR II

The Japanese landed on Camiguin Island and at Gonzaga and Aparri on the island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands. They captured the British-controlled islands of Abemama, Makin (Butaritari) and Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati). The US Marine garrison on Guam surrendered to a [Japanese](#) landing force.

Führer [Adolf Hitler](#) commented that [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)'s words on the previous day had amounted to a de facto declaration of war.

[German](#) and [Italian](#) forces began a full retreat to the west from Tobruk (Tubruq).

S.S. Commander Heinrich Himmler ordered that the ill, mentally ill and those otherwise unfit for work be removed from concentration camp populations and gassed to death.



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Brazil froze all the [German](#), [Italian](#), and [Japanese](#) assets it could get its hands on. Argentina froze all [Japanese](#) assets.

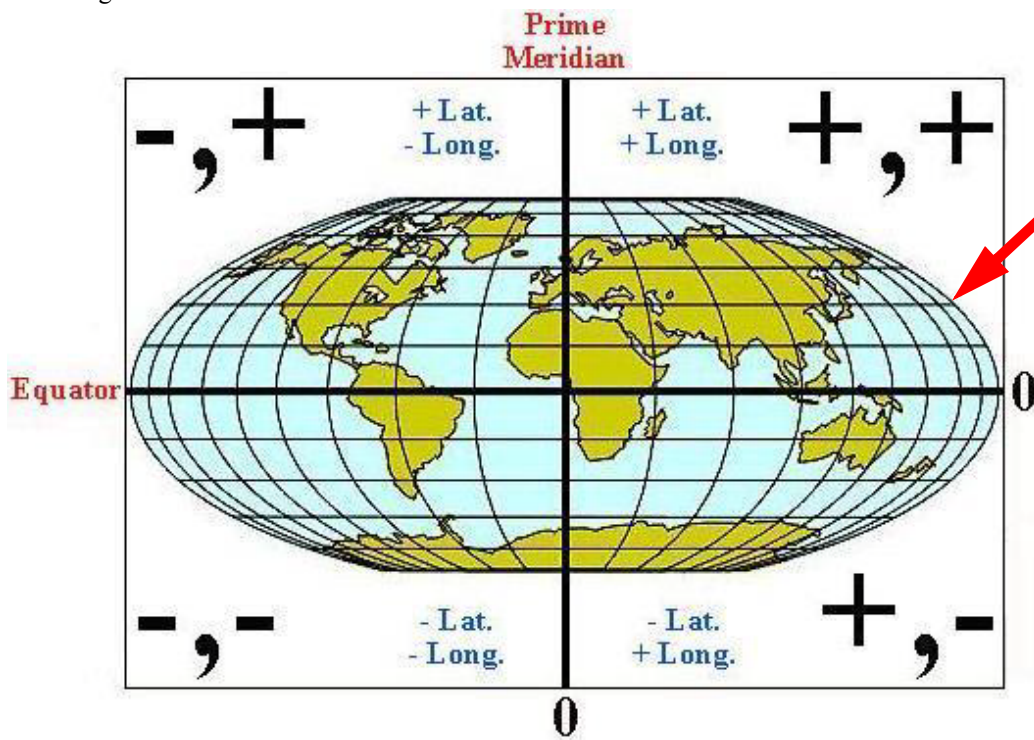
The British warships HMS *Repulse* and HMS *Prince of Wales* were sunk off Kuantan, Malaya. The ships had been spotted by submarine I-58 just before dawn and a flight of nine “Betty” torpedo-carrying planes of the Japanese 22nd Naval Air Flotilla led by Lieutenant Haruki Iki had scrambled from the Japanese base at [Saigon](#). The battleship *Prince of Wales* was hit by 4 torpedoes and sank at 12:33PM. 327 died. The cruiser *Repulse* was hit by 14 torpedoes and sank at 1:20PM. 513 died. The Far Eastern Fleet commander, Admiral Sir Tom Phillips, went down with his ship. The Japanese lost 4 planes. A total of 2,081 would be plucked from the water by escort destroyers HMS *Electra*, *Vampire*, and *Express* and would be dropped off at Singapore.

Cavite Navy Yard, Philippine Islands was heavily damaged by enemy air attack. United States naval vessels damaged at Cavite, Philippine Islands:

- Destroyer *Peary* (DD-226), by horizontal bomber
- Submarine *Seadragon* (SS-194), by horizontal bomber
- Submarine *Sealion* (SS-195), by horizontal bomber
- Minesweeper *Bittern* (AM-36), by horizontal bomber

Japanese naval vessels sunk:

- Submarine I-170, by carrier-based aircraft, Hawaiian Islands area, 23 degrees 45 minutes North, 155 degrees 35 minutes West



- Minesweeper No. 10, by Army aircraft, Philippine Islands area, 17 degrees 32 minutes North, 120 degrees 22 minutes East

HDT

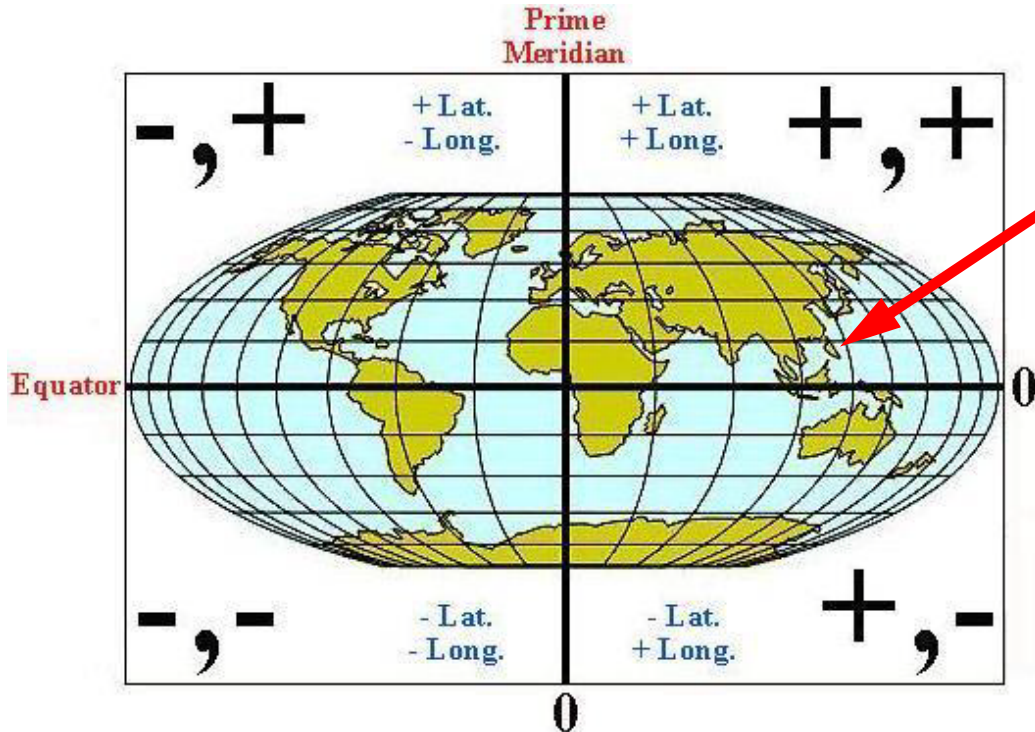
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- Minesweeper No. 19, damaged by Army aircraft and grounded by own forces (total loss), Philippine Islands area, 18 degrees 22 degrees North, 121 degrees 38 minutes East At the home of



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Dec. 10 - From London comes news that the ill-fated and short-lived Prince of Wales has been sunk by Japanese aircraft. In the year of its service it saw action with the Bismark from which it emerged badly crippled, and later served as the meeting place of Churchill and Roosevelt in the mid-Atlantic.

The Repulse has been lost, too.

Keeping the radio tuned-in all day means listening to an endless series of "soap operas," the daytime serials for moronic women. The sensible thing is to listen to regular news broadcasts at stated intervals, but I find myself compelled to listen almost continuously for every stray bulletin, which is downright idiotic of me.

There is a report that American bombers have sunk one Japanese transport and hit five others, three by direct hits.

Noon 12:00 - The Japanese attempt to land troops on Luzon has been beaten back by our forces.

The British report a heavy battle going on in Hong Kong.

No news from Germany.

the last of the trans-Atlantic steamship service has been discontinued. Only planes now link us to Europe.



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Some idiot in Washington has chopped down four of the Japanese cherry trees along the Potomac, and pinned messages to the hacked trunks.

December 11, Thursday: Canti di prigionia for chorus, two pianos, two harps and percussion by Luigi Dallapiccola, to words of Mary, Queen of Scots, Boethius and Savonarola, was performed completely for the initial time, in the Teatro delle Arti of Rome.

Lieutenant Haruki Iki flew over the area of ocean in which his flight of torpedo bombers had struck two ships on the previous day, killing 840, to drop a bouquet of flowers.²⁹

In Washington DC, four of the cherry trees were found to have been chopped down in what must have been a retaliation for the [Japanese](#) bombing of Pearl Harbor (because messages had been pinned to the stumps). In hope to prevent future vandalism, for the duration of the war the government would be referring to these trees as “Oriental” flowering cherries.



Soviet forces captured Istra, 50 kilometers west of Moscow. As [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had hoped and expected, [Germany](#) and [Italy](#) declared a state of war with the United States.

GERMAN WAR DECLARATION

29. Maybe he should have been a florist. ([Albert Einstein](#) would suspect that maybe he should have been a plumber.)



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[Adolf Hitler](#) addressed the *Reichstag* in regard to these “circumstances brought about by President Roosevelt,” saying that he had been given information of “a plan prepared by President Roosevelt ... according to which his intention was to attack Germany in 1942 with all the resources of the United States. Thus our patience has come to a breaking point.”

The United States immediately declared by joint resolutions of the Congress a state of war with Germany and Italy. Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic declared war against Germany and Italy. Poland declared a state of war with Japan. [Mexico](#) severed diplomatic relations with Germany and Italy.



Wake Island's Marine defenders repulsed a [Japanese](#) landing attempt and sank two of its destroyers:

- Destroyer *Hayate*, by Marine shore batteries.
- Destroyer *Kisaragi*, by Marine aircraft.

The [Japanese](#) effected landings at Legaspi, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

WORLD WAR II

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Dec. 11 – Now that President Roosevelt has all the power he has demanded in his insatiable desire to rule absolute, it remains to be seen if he is capable of applying it wisely – or if he will continue his Grand Court of Lagado.

It is no time for national disunity, the people must stand or fall with the man thrice acclaimed by the majority.

An early report gives news of a Japanese battleship sunk by American bombers off the Philippines.

This morning, Hitler in one of his high flown speeches declared Germany at war with the United States. Italy obediently tailed



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along.

By 10 o'clock we had received word that the United States had declared war against Germany.

A late bulletin reveals that there were four attacks on our fleet in Pearl Harbor: three on Sunday and a fourth on Monday, which may have been the basis of a preposterous rumor emanating from Washington itself the early part of this week that ninety percent of the fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor had been destroyed.

December 22, Monday: A [Japanese](#) invasion force offloaded in the Lingayen Gulf of the island of Luzon in the Philippine Islands.

WORLD WAR II

American troops (Brigadier General J. F. Barnes) arrived at Brisbane, Australia.

The Netherlands government-in-exile declared war on [Italy](#).

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) opened discussions in Washington DC leading to establishment of the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

[Japanese](#) naval vessels destroyed:

- Patrol boats Nos. 32 and 33 (old destroyers) deliberately run ashore, destroyed by Marine gunfire, Wake Island

December 23, Tuesday: The US Marine garrison on Wake Island surrendered to the [Japanese](#) while the United States Relief Expedition was still 425 miles from Wake, and so the relief expedition was recalled.

Three waves of [Japanese](#) bombers attacked Rangoon and its airport, starting fires and killing nearly 2,000 people. Ten bombers were lost.

WORLD WAR II

The United States-British War Council composed of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), British Prime Minister, and naval, military, and civilian advisers met for the first time.

[Mexico](#) severed diplomatic relations with Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Palmyra Island was shelled by a [Japanese](#) submarine.

The [Japanese](#) came ashore at Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo.

The following headline appeared in [The Los Angeles Times](#):

**JAPAN PICTURED AS A NATION OF SPIES.
Veteran Far Eastern Correspondent Tells**



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FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

About Mentality of Our Enemies in Orient.

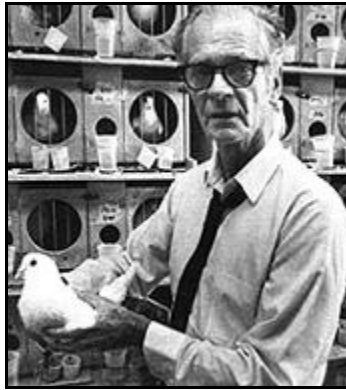


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1942

Professor [Burrhus Frederic Skinner](#) was awarded the Warren Medal by the Society of Experimental Psychologists. (Although we are seldom told this, during [World War II](#) this researcher was a member of U.S. Army Intelligence, and later he schemed to weaponize the pigeon species by training selected suicide pigeons for command and control inside the nosecones of smart bombs. Are we having problems with overscrupulous human pilots? Well, every pigeon ought to pay the price to live in this country, and that means helping to defend it. –Besides, pigeons just want to peck and be fed.)³⁰



Because of [WWII](#), all previous College Board admissions tests were abolished in favor of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), which became the one standard test for each and every American applicant (human subjects only; heterosexual white male pigeons need not apply).

During the years of World War II, [Conscientious Objectors](#) assigned as attendants in US psychiatric hospitals under the Civilian Public Service would become aware of the systemic patient abuse permeating our psychiatric care apparatus of institutions. These reformers were especially active at the Philadelphia State Hospital, where four Quakers initiated a magazine [The Attendant](#) to promote reform (this would become [The Psychiatric Aide](#), a professional journal for mental health workers). On May 6, 1946 [LIFE](#) magazine would print Albert Q. Maisel's exposé of the psychiatric system based on the reports made by these Conscientious Objectors. Another effort of the Civilian Public Service, its Mental Hygiene Project, would eventuate in the National Mental Health Foundation. Impressed by the changes introduced by Conscientious Objectors in the mental health system, Eleanor Roosevelt would sponsor the National Mental Health Foundation and cause the involvement of other prominent citizens such as Owen J. Roberts, Pearl Buck, and Harry Emerson Fosdick.

PSYCHOLOGY



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30. [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) would also find funding for an incendiary-bat program, that was favored by the professor who had devised napalm. Each of these bats, according to that napalm-inventing Harvard professor, was to carry a tiny napalm bomb with a delay timer, and its mission would be to fly to some roost beneath the wooden eaves of a Japanese civilian home and be there incinerated. The wicked objective of this batty bat-bomb project was the initiation of an all-consuming Dresden-style firestorm (when the stay-at-home warriors working on this one-ounce device would hear through their grapevine that the Roosevelt administration was also spending vast amounts of money on an even tinier project —[one that sought to detonate atoms](#)— they would become indignant).





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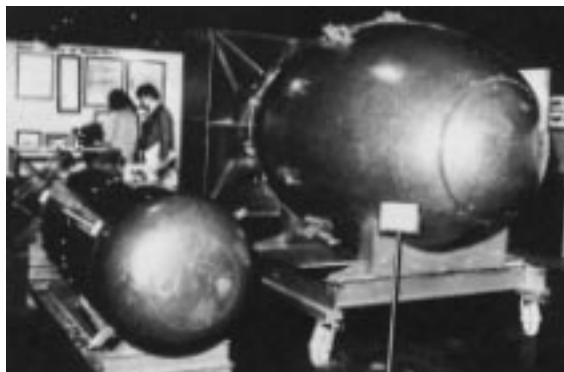
The [Chicago](#) Cubs became the first team in baseball to install an organ to help motivate and entertain fans.



Beneath a sports stadium in [Chicago](#), Enrico Fermi started an uranium/graphite reactor.

ATOM BOMB

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) allowed the British to participate in our Manhattan project (so called because most of the work was going on in great secrecy at a number of sites-with-cover-stories on Manhattan Island in New York City) to build the ultimate weapon — conditional of course upon their acceptance of his Operation Overlord invasion from England onto the mainland of Europe.³¹



WORLD WAR II

31. Joseph E. Persico's ROOSEVELT'S SECRET WAR (Random House, 2001).



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January 15, Thursday: [Senator Harry S Truman](#)'s Truman Committee presented its 1st Annual Report to the Senate. This would help induce [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) to replace his Office of Production Management with a new, more powerful War Production Board.

American-British-Dutch-Australian Supreme Command was established. Field Marshall Sir Archibald Wavell, British Army assumed supreme command of all forces in area, while Admiral T.C. Hart, United States Navy had command of the naval forces under Field Marshall Wavell.

[Japanese](#) forces attacked a new Allied (Britain-[India](#)-Australia) defense line along the River Muar, Malaya, eventually forcing further retreat.

Jawaharlal Nehru succeeded [Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi](#) as head of the All-[India](#) Congress Party.

The initial batch of United States servicemen arrived in Britain ("overfed, oversexed and over here").

Singapore surrendered to the [Japanese](#). The 130,000 British and [Indian](#) prisoners of war would be sent to labor on the Burma-Siam railway.

Singapore's Princess Alexandra Hospital was being guarded by a detachment of Gurkha troops. When commanded by a Japanese officer to lay down their arms, their NCO replied that this was a civilian hospital, not a military target. The Japanese gave an order and his men killed 24 of the Gurkhas. They then entered the hospital and began to slaughter its patients, which included a number of survivors from the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse*. The doctors and medical orderlies were killed, and the nurses were raped and then killed.

The Japanese made a determined effort to exterminate the entire Chinese population of Singapore, and managed to kill 9,000-12,000. After interrogation by the Kempetai the ethnic Chinese were obliged to hand over all their personal possessions, rings, watches, jewelry, money, etc., before being forced onto captured British lorries and driven to the Tanjong Pagar Wharf and beheaded.



HEADCHOPPING

This went on for 12 days while boats from Singapore Harbour brought more and more Chinese civilians to that execution site. In the Geylang district, 3,600 Chinese were herded into the grounds of the Teluk Kurau English

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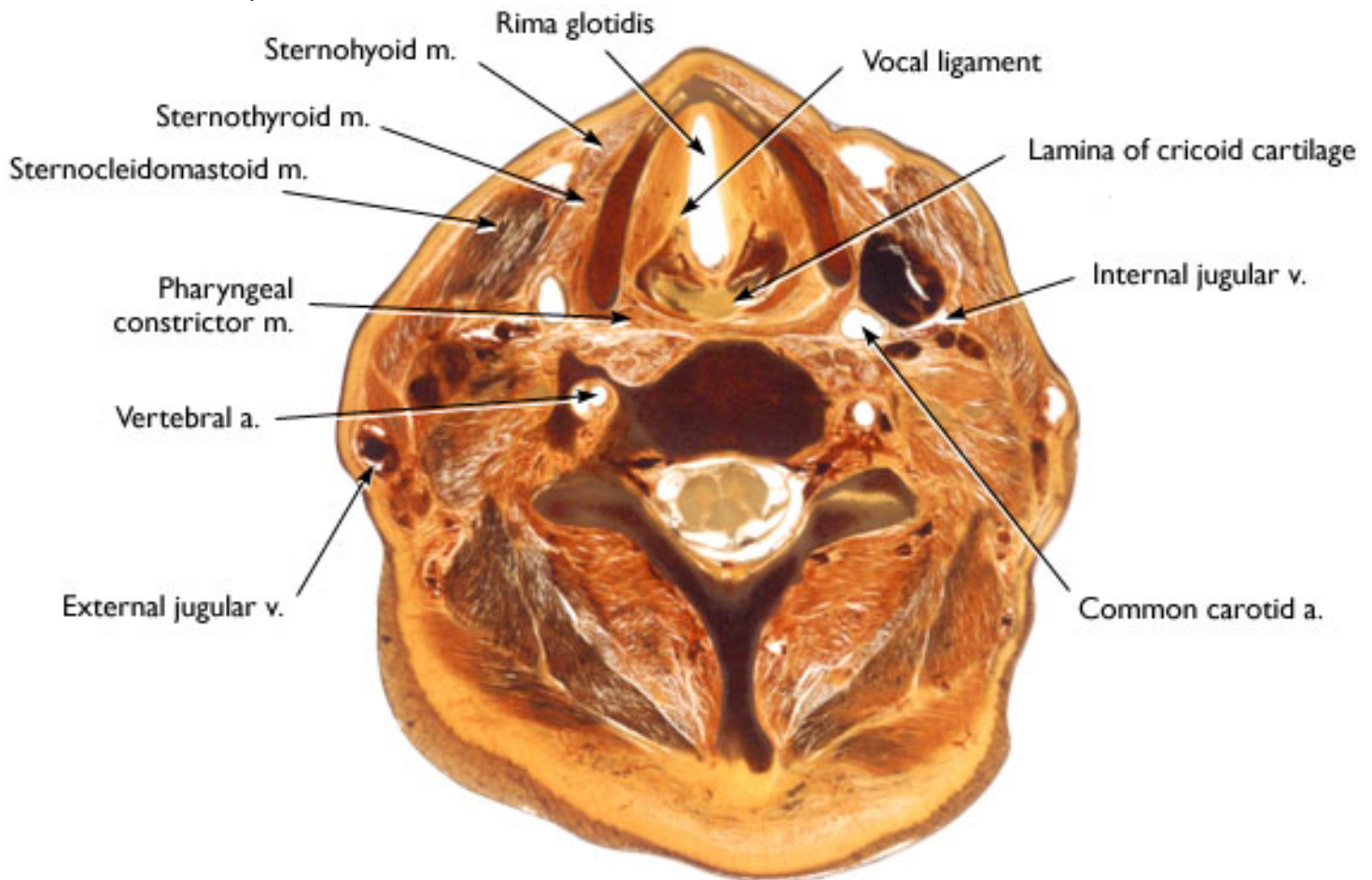
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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School and interrogated by the Kempetai. At the completion of interrogation, in groups of 200, they were taken by truck to the crest of a hill off Siglap Road and shot, beheaded, or bayoneted. One person present within the Teluk Kurau English School grounds that day would survive to tell the tale. In another such action, 700 Chinese were taken to an area just east of Changi where mass graves had already been dug, and the heads of these victims were piled up in a waiting lorry and during that night would be installed on bamboo stakes around and about Singapore. (A British military court would sentence Lieutenant-General Takuma Nishimura, commander of the Japanese troops in Singapore, to life imprisonment, but an Australian Military Court would then try him for other crimes and he would be hanged on June 11, 1951.)

[WORLD WAR II](#)

In case you wondered, this is what the cross-section of the human neck, revealed by this interesting practice, actually looks like:





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March 12, Thursday: The Defense of Corinth, for speaker, male chorus and piano-four hands by Elliott Carter to words of Rabelais, was performed for the initial time, in the Sanders Theater of Harvard University.

After the sinking of four Brazilian merchant ships by [German](#) submarines, mobs rioted in Rio de Janeiro, especially targeting [German](#), [Italian](#), and [Japanese](#) establishments. To recover the cost of these four lost ships, President Getulio Vargas would confiscate 30% of the [German](#) assets in Brazil.

United States forces arrived in New Caledonia to establish a base at Noumea.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), by executive order, combined the duties of the Commander in Chief United States Fleet with the duties of the Chief of Naval Operations.

April 21, Tuesday: Clarinet Sonata by Leonard Bernstein was performed for the initial time, in the Institute of Modern Art, Boston, with the composer himself at the piano.

[German](#) troops who had been surrounded at Demyansk were relieved after 2 1/2 months.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered the seizure of all enemy-controlled patents, some 25,000 in number.

News Headline: “**‘Manzanar Nice Place - It Better Than Hollywood,’ by United Press**”

News Headline: “**City to Clear Japantown Slums**”

News Headline: “**‘Food for Victory’ from Seized [Japanese](#) Farms**”



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General Joseph Stilwell set up his Headquarters at Lashio, Burma and issued Battle Order 0001 to the [Chinese](#) Expeditionary Force in Burma.

The Kenedy Alien Detention Camp received, as its initial consignment of internees, 156 [Japanese](#), 456 [Germans](#), and 14 [Italians](#). The [Japanese](#) had been brought mainly from [Mexico](#) but the [Germans](#) and [Italians](#) had been brought largely from Central and South America.



(However, the sad fact is that 80% of the prisoners in the three [Texas](#) camps would come from Peru and about 70% of these would be [Japanese](#) who had been deported arbitrarily not because they provided any sort of security problem but as a result of race prejudice and because they had been strong competition economically for “native” Peruvians.)

[WORLD WAR II](#)



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June: Mass murder of [Jews](#) by [Germans](#) by gassing began at the Auschwitz death camp.



A [German](#) was picked up in the vicinity of the US-Canada border near Rouses Point. He was wearing a Royal Canadian Air Force uniform.

Jazz trumpeter and vocalist Rowland Bernart “Bunny” Berigan died from the effects of a severe hemorrhage at the age of 33, in New York City.

Rochester, New York newspaperman Lloyd Klos received his draft registration notice.

[Japanese](#) construction parties began an airfield at Lunga Point on Guadalcanal. Australian coastwatchers would keep Allied commanders apprised of Japanese progress. The preliminary planning for “Operation Watchtower” began.

Adirondacks towns futilely petitioned [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) for a relaxation of gas rationing during the summer tourist season. The season would turn out to be a disaster. Three area state campgrounds would need to remain closed due to a lack of visitors.



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The American Friends Service Committee began Civilian Public Service Camp No. 41 as a mental hospital unit at Eastern State Mental Hospital in Williamsburg, Virginia,³² with [Calhoun D. Geiger](#) and Gordon Foster serving as directors, and 33 other [Conscientious Objectors](#) as attendants in the wards (only a minority of these objectors were affiliated with the Friends).³³ Asa Watkins, who would perform his alternative service there, would comment “It is sort of like a perpetual bad dream. The smells, the sounds of the insane voices, the bad equipment.



The long, dark corridors ... it is all very much like a medieval fairyland of the nether regions.” The objectors would attempt to improve conditions for the patients and the asylum directors would attempt to have them removed from the grounds “in the interest of greater harmony.”

WORLD WAR II

32. Dating to 1773, this had been the initial public asylum in America — with the single exception of the basement of the Philadelphia Hospital, a Quaker institution.

33. The work week for such an attendant was 79 hours.



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June 25, Thursday: [German](#) forces begin an attack towards Rostov-on-Don.

[Germans](#) begin arresting 22,000 Jews in the Paris area, for deportation.

ANTISEMITISM

1,000 Royal Air Force bombers attacked Bremen, and unloaded their bomb bays even though the cloud cover made it impossible to have any idea what was on the ground beneath them.

The US Army established a European Theater of Operations under Major General Dwight David Eisenhower, who arrived on this day in London.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) concluded their conference in Washington; a decision had been reached for combined United States-British research and development of an [atomic bomb](#).

[Japanese](#) Destroyer *Yamakaze* was sunk by US Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) off Honshu.

WORLD WAR II

Real and Half Real

It was a time to find a new world: who was sent forth? Columbus, that is the dove, Noah's dove
Over wide waters. It was time (men having so long so vainly envied the birds) it was time to realize
That ancient dream: and who were appointed? Two brothers, surnamed Wright, (that's maker, artificer)
Launch their contrivance — where? — on the field of the hawk, Kittyhawk, the mewing hawk.

These are the two great turnings
In a thousand years: you notice how the names mark them: do you see myth
Leaning tall from her darkness over the shoulders of history, guiding
The hand that writes? A dove discovers new lands; a legendary artificer, doubled to symbolize
Importance, invents the plane.

Or again: consider the dates of the earlier world-war.

It became world-war
The day America entered it: what was that day? A most appropriate day,
a so-called Good Friday,
The day of the death of Christ. And then it ended, not quite too late, and its armistice
Is dated the eleventh hour, underscored by eleventh
Day and month: a grim bit of humor, trivial but ominous.
— And now we return to complete the twelfth —
The man who is chosen to crack the iron shell of Europe:
what is his name? — Iron-hewer.

There seems to be something
Intentional in these coincidences. Perhaps they are token
That what makes history is not the actors; men's minds and clashing causes are not the cause.
The play —
As Hardy, Tolstoy, Sophocles knew — is authored
Outside the scene. Invisible wires are pulled, the passionate puppets gesticulate, Napoleon, Oedipus
And Hitler perform their pre-formed agonies.

But now consider
Something not human: — here the coast hills at Soberanes Creek sea-mouth,
steep wedges and cones of granite
Thin-skinned with grass; their feet are deep in the flood-tide ocean, dark, heavy and still,



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calm in this trough
Between two storms; their heads are against the dark heavy sky.
No life is visible but the bright grass,
And a gang of wild pigs, huddled and flank-to-flank, flowing up a swale
On the far slope; and that one eagle, wheeling and rocking, high and alone
Against the cloud-lid.

Here are no trivial artist-signatures, no puppet-play,
no pretence of free will;
This is first-class reality. The human affair is half real, part myth, part art-work:
this is in earnest.

I conclude
That men should play the parts assigned them and do it bravely, emulating
The nobility of nature, but well in mind
That their play is a play; it is serious but not important; what's done in earnest
is done outside it.

— [Robinson Jeffers](#)

Summer: It was probably at this point (he's still certain of the season, but not exactly of the year) that [John R. Kellam](#) visited his older brother, in training at Carlyle Barracks in Pennsylvania, and learned a thing or two about the ethos of warfare:

I noticed that on one of the buildings was mounted, in large metal letters, the motto of the medical corps, the army medical corps: To Preserve Fighting Strength. Not to save lives, not to prevent the injured GIs from dying, but to patch them up so they could go out and do some more killing. I suppose for some younger COs who hadn't done as much thinking as I'd been through, it was possible for them to let themselves be drawn into the Army Corps on the promises that they wouldn't be asked to do the killing directly. But there it was, in bold relief! The only and official reason for having an army medical corps is to prevent the loss of fighting strength where possible.

At this point, six months after the Japanese and the German declarations of war upon the United States of America, declarations which had been eagerly sought by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) by every means under his control, the Commander in Chief bragged to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau about his personal trickiness: "You know I am a juggler, and I never let my right hand know what my left hand does ... and furthermore I am perfectly willing to mislead and tell untruths if it will help win the war."³⁴



As Friend [John R. Kellam](#) now insists upon reminding people lest they forget and again let down their guard,



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The first casualty of war is the truth.



July 20, Monday: Music for Corwin's play Appointment by Benjamin Britten was performed for the initial time, over the airwaves of the BBC.

On the cover of the issue of TIME Magazine dated today appears a portrait of Dmitri Shostakovich in fireman's helmet. Within the issue we find the following: "U.S. Quakers had good reason to 'dwell deep' last week, and seek for a leading 'in the silence of the creature.' Pacifism, one of the principles about which Friends are most touchy, had been challenged by Brand Blanshard, head of the Philosophy and Religion Department of Quaker Swarthmore College."

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

The Naval Operating Base and the Naval Air Facility, Dutch Harbor, Alaska, were established. Admiral W.D. Leahy would report as Chief of Staff, directly to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#).

700 Jews in Kletsk (Belarus), about to be murdered, set their ghetto on fire and made a run for it. Most were killed but some escaped.

At Nieswicz (Nesvizh, Belarus), a Jewish uprising.

WORLD WAR II

34. I can well imagine that any number of people are going to be outraged at the manner in which this Kouroo Contexture categorizes Franklin Delano Roosevelt as having been a moral cripple. How can I be allowed to describe an American war president in such terms? I conceive, however, that in the interest of an honest historical analysis, no other course is possible — the man proudly, repeatedly condemned himself out of his own mouth. As a point in comparison, in Ken Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" the point-of-view character (ably portrayed in the movie by Jack Nicholson) was a self-admitted child molester who remained amused by his own behavior, and our sympathy with his lobotomization is distanced by the realization that he was an extremely dangerous person who under no circumstances could be allowed access to children. In analyzing the record of this US president it is similarly necessary for us, Republican or Democrat, to distance ourselves, and bear in mind historically that it had been an extremely tragic error that we had ever allowed a man of this low character to assume a position of higher responsibility than, say, some town's dogcatcher or accountant.



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July 21, Tuesday: The [Japanese](#) landed and occupied Buna, New Guinea.

Jews in nearby Nieswicz (Nesvizh, Belarus) followed the example of their Kletsk comrades and set their ghetto on fire, with similar results.

ANTISEMITISM

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) stated in a letter that “the American people not only sympathize with all victims of Nazi crimes but would hold the perpetrators of these crimes to strict accountability in a day of reckoning which would surely come.”

In a federal court in Hartford, Connecticut, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, leader of the [German](#)-American Bund, pled guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit espionage.

WORLD WAR II



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October 2, Friday: The federal congress granted to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) the authority to control wages, salaries, and agricultural prices, effective November 1st.

The HMS *Curacoa*, a British light cruiser of 4,290 tons, engaged mainly in convoy escort duties during [World War II](#). It was while escorting the *Queen Mary* off the coast of Donegal, [Ireland](#) that disaster struck.



That immense Cunard White Star liner was carrying 15,000 American troops to England when the *Curacoa*'s lookout reported what he supposed was a submarine on the port bow. The *Queen Mary* turned sharply to starboard and the *Curacoa*, in pursuit of this phantom, crossed its bows with insufficient clearance. Proceeding on a zig-zag course at a speed of 28 1/2 knots, the *Queen Mary* went through that escort cruiser like a hot knife through butter, the halves of the ship being pushed about a hundred yards apart. There were 26 floaters, which means that 338 of those aboard the *Curacoa* had died. The liner had of course been badly damaged — its bow plates had been folded back at least 40 feet into the ship. Still fearful that there were U-boats in the area and conscious of his primary responsibility for the lives of his many passengers, the captain would not slow his ship until it entered the more secure waters of the Firth of Clyde.

LOST AT SEA



WALDEN: If we read of one man robbed, or murdered, or killed by accident, or one house burned, or one vessel wrecked, or one steamboat blown up, or one cow run over on the Western Railroad, or one mad dog killed, or one lot of grasshoppers in the winter, -we never need read of another. One is enough.

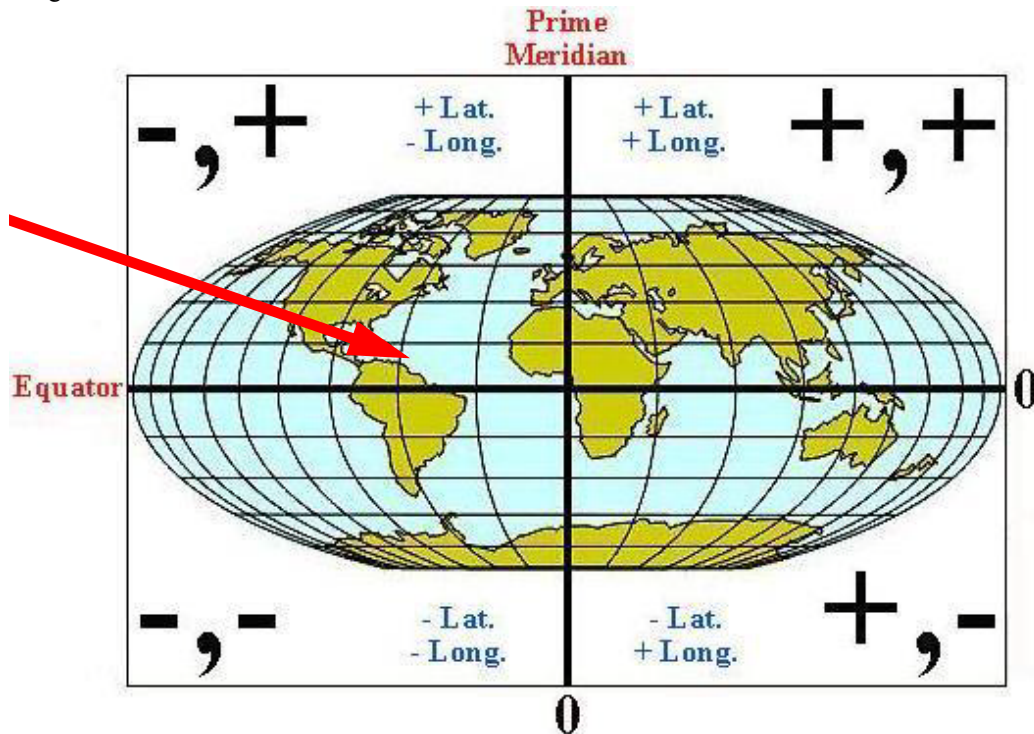


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US Marines occupied Funafuti in the Ellice Islands.

German submarine U-512 was sunk by US Army aircraft off French Guiana, 6 degrees 50 minutes North, 52 degrees 25 minutes West



WORLD WAR II

November 12, Thursday: Fearful that Governor-elect Earl Warren would keep his campaign promise to deny parole to sex offenders, Henry Cowell applies to California Governor Culbert Olson for a pardon.

United States Naval Operating Base, Casablanca, Morocco was established.

The naval battle of Guadalcanal began as [Japanese](#) aircraft attacked US troop transport ships unloading troops in Lunga Roads, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, under the protection of air and surface forces (Rear Admiral R.K. Turner).

While escorting troop transports and supply ships to the island's Lunga Point, the USS *Monssen* was fired on near Savo Island by Japanese warships. In this engagement the destroyer USS *Barton* sank and the *Monssen* inadvertently ran through the field of floaters, killing many. Suddenly the *Monssen* was illuminated by starshells and a devastating hail of high-explosive missiles crashed into the ship demolishing the bridge and engine room. The ship lay dead in the water and the survivors among its crew abandoned ship. Minutes later, hearing cries for help, 3 of them paddled their raft back and retrieved 8 wounded men who had been below decks. Rescue boats from Guadalcanal picked up these survivors just before the *Monssen*'s magazine exploded and sent the hulk down. 150 had died.

During the night actions of the naval battle of Guadalcanal the American anti-aircraft cruiser USS *Juneau* was



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hit by a torpedo that Japanese submarine I-26 had sent off toward the cruiser *San Francisco*. Badly damaged, the ship tried to escape from the battle zone but then was hit again. This time, apparently, the ship's powder magazine had been reached, as the vessel went up in a great ball of fire taking the lives of her Captain and 687 crew members. 10 would survive. On board the *Juneau* had been the five Sullivans, George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert, who had enlisted together and had sought service in the same unit. ([President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) would issue instructions that if any American family lost more than two sons, the surviving sons were to be taken out of combat. A new ship would be named *The Sullivans* and christened by the boys' mother in April 1943. *The Sullivans* would be decommissioned in 1965, and is moored at the Naval and Servicemen's Park in Buffalo NY.)

United States naval vessels sunk:

- Transports *Tasker H. Bliss* (AP-42), *Hugh L. Scott* (AP-43), and *Edward Rutledge* (AP-52), by submarine torpedoes, off Morocco, North Africa
- Gunboat *Erie* (PG-50), by submarine torpedo, Caribbean area, 12 degrees 3 minutes North, 68 degrees 58 minutes West

United States naval vessels damaged, Naval Battle of Guadalcanal:

- Heavy cruiser *San Francisco* (CA-38), by [Japanese](#) aircraft
- Destroyer *Buchanan* (DD-484), accidentally by United States naval gunfire

[Japanese](#) submarine sunk:

- Submarine I-22, by PT-122, southwest of New Guinea, 8 degrees 32 minutes South, 148 degrees 17 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

December 4, Friday: In Warsaw, Zofia Kossak and Wanda Filipowicz led a group of Christian Poles in setting up a Council for the Assistance of the Jews.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) received a petition from 244 Congressmen supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

The President ordered the end of the Works Projects Administration by February 1st (this being no longer necessary due to increased employment in armament production).

WORLD WAR II



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1943

January 14, Thursday: Soviet troops captured Pitomnik Airfield, leaving the [Germans](#) only one airfield in Stalingrad.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) conferred at Casablanca, Morocco in a meeting which would last until January 25th (this journey made FDR the initial US president to step aboard an aircraft while in office).

The US submarine *Gudgeon* (SS-211) landed personnel and equipment near Catmon Point, Negros, Philippine Islands.

WORLD WAR II

January 14-24: In Casablanca, a conference between heads of state [Winston Churchill](#) and [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). During the conference Roosevelt would announce that the war could end only with an unconditional [German](#) surrender.

WORLD WAR II





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January 22, Friday: The tenth of 18 patriotic fanfares for brass and percussion commissioned by Eugene Goossens and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, A Fanfare for Freedom by Morton Gould, was performed for the initial time, in Cincinnati.

Australian and American troops overran [Japanese](#) resistance west and south of Sanananda, New Guinea. 10,000 people were killed in the nine-day battle. Almost no [Japanese](#) were taken prisoner.

Soviet forces captured Salsk, 150 kilometers north of Stavropol.

30 Jewish orphans were taken from an orphanage in Marseilles and, with their guardian, transported to their deaths in Sobibor.

ANTISEMITISM

General de Gaulle arrived in Casablanca to take part in a conference with [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#).

WORLD WAR II



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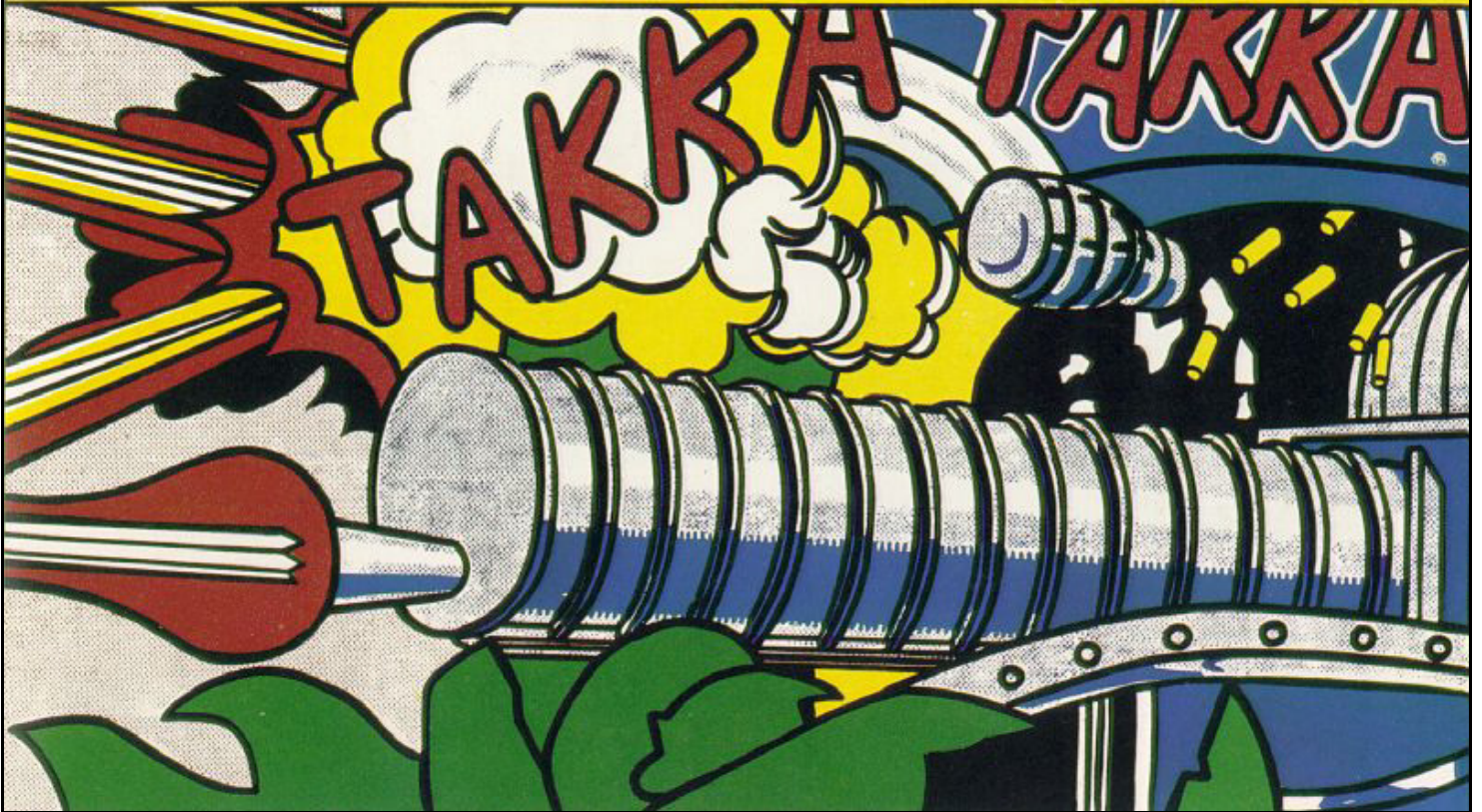
January 23, Saturday: The author and critic Alexander Woollcott was appearing on the radio program “The People’s Forum” in New York City when he suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 56.

At a glittering charity event for Russian war relief at Carnegie Hall which was attended by Eleanor Roosevelt and Leopold Stokowski, Black, Brown and Beige by Duke Ellington was performed for the initial time. The composer termed this “a tone parallel to the history of the American Negro.” The audience was disappointed, and critics savaged the work. This was the initial appearance of Duke Ellington and his Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.

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The XIV Corps' westward advance captured Kokumbona on the coast of Guadalcanal from the [Japanese](#).

THE EXHAUSTED SOLDIERS, SLEEP-
LESS FOR FIVE AND SIX DAYS AT A
TIME, ALWAYS HUNGRY FOR DECENT
CHOW, SUFFERING FROM THE TROPICAL
FUNGUS INFECTIONS, KEPT FIGHTING!



A US/Australian counteroffensive secured the Buna-Sanananda area of New Guinea.

Montgomery's British 8th Army (Britain-New Zealand) besieged Tripoli (Tarabulus), Libya.

When [Germans](#) attempted to round up Jews in [Italian](#)-occupied France, [Italian](#) authorities refused to cooperate.

[ANTISEMITISM](#)



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

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The Casablanca Conference, which had been in session since 14 January, ended. [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), the British Prime Minister, and the Combined Chiefs of Staff reached agreement on an invasion of Sicily and a cross-channel amphibious assault on Western Europe.

READ THE FULL TEXT

[Japanese](#) Destroyer *Hakaze* was sunk by submarine *Guardfish* (SS-217) near New Ireland, at 2 degrees 47 minutes South, 156 degrees 38 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II

January 25, Monday: At Stalingrad, the [German](#) remnants were split into a northern and a southern pocket.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) ended the Casablanca Conference by announcing that they would demand the unconditional surrender of [Germany](#) and [Italy](#).

WORLD WAR II

April 1, Thursday: On the home front, meats, fats, and cheese were rationed. Attempting to stem inflation, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) froze wages, salaries, and prices.



United States Naval Operating Facility, Grondal, Greenland, was established.

Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland was established.

April 8, Thursday: The Morning Cometh for chorus by Henry Cowell to words of Furness was performed for the initial time, at St. Peter, Minnesota.

Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya was convicted of involvement with the Mau Mau.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) attempted to check inflation by freezing wages and prices, and prohibited workers from changing jobs for the duration (unless “the war effort would be aided thereby”).

Belgian collaborating journalist Paul Colin was gunned down by 19-year old Arnaud Fraiteur, a member of the Belgian resistance (Fraiteur would be executed by the [Germans](#)).

WORLD WAR II



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April 13, Tuesday: On the 200th anniversary of the birth of [Thomas Jefferson](#), before an assembly of some 5,000 mostly white citizens, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) dedicated a monumental white “Jefferson Memorial” erection in Washington DC in honor of the supposed founding father of the Democratic Party, to match the already-extant Lincoln Memorial honoring the supposed founding father of the Republican Party. The brochure distributed on that day indicated that the inscriptions placed upon the walls of this memorial had been selected by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Committee “from a wide variety” of Jefferson’s “writings on freedom, slavery, education and government.” Actually this had been perpetrated by no “committee,” but by Saul Padover, assistant to FDR’s Secretary of the Interior. It was he who had selected and edited those quotes,



in 1942 in his adulatory biography of Jefferson, that would be used on the walls of the new commemorative edifice. He had done this in order to mimic the writing-on-the-walls style found in the already-extant Lincoln Memorial that was honoring the GOP. But while the Lincoln thing had set out the Gettysburg Address and the 2nd Inaugural in their entirety, this Jefferson thing was merely to juxtapose sentence fragments from widely scattered writings, to distort his mentation and obfuscate his politics. One of the panels misquoted from the preamble and conclusion of the [Declaration of Independence](#) by omitting five words. The architect requested the omissions so the text would fit better! Surely this memorable text should not be altered for so petty a reason. We know Jefferson would not have approved, for whenever he sent to his correspondents a copy of the



Declaration, which was early and often, he had taken pains to show what the Continental Congress had added



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to “his” draft and what it had cut from “his” draft. The altered text³⁵ says:

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT: THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS, AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, THAT TO SECURE THESE RIGHTS GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN. WE ... SOLEMNLY PUBLISH AND DECLARE, THAT THESE COLONIES ARE AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES... AND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS DECLARATION, WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES, AND OUR SACRED HONOUR.

- In the above “that” has been eliminated from before “among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” without ellipsis, unnecessarily making Jefferson seem an awkward writer unable to construct a proper parallelism.
- In the above, the simple omission of a whole word (elision), of “United” from before “Colonies,” seems to insinuate that it had been 13 separate states that had declared independence, rather than a collective body for mutual governance, and that after the formation of a formal federal union these 13 states were to remain separate. In other words, the elision without ellipsis is such as to beg the states’-rights question.
- In the above, the omission without ellipsis of “to each other” from “We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour” removes a redundancy the force of which had been to emphasize that the 56 signers of the document were aware that, were they somehow to fail to hang together, were some of them to break faith in an effort to cut a separate deal with the forces

Another of the panels, on religious freedom, strung together three quotes from the “Act for Religious Freedom” enacted in Virginia in 1779 by its Assembly, and tacked on a sentence from Jefferson’s private correspondence in the following decade with James Madison, “I know but one code of morality for men whether acting singly or collectively,” ripping that final sentence out of its context. He and Madison had been corresponding about whether institutions determine our behavior, and if so, how then to shape those institutions. In this monumental context of religious freedom, subjected to mentions of “Almighty God” and “the Holy Author of our freedom,” the snippet is inserted in order falsely to suggest that Jefferson had held to some sort of morality of obedience to divine dictate — when actually he had been a believer in the efficacy of human reason in matters moral rather than any heeder of divine authority. In other words, this was a sop to the Bible-thumpers.

Another of the panels offered a single extended quotation from a letter Jefferson had written in 1816, on the need to change institutions “to keep pace with the times.” It is innocuous, it is merely trite.

Another of the panels, which the National Park Service brochure describes as “devoted to his ideas on freedom of the body and to his beliefs in the necessity of educating the masses of the people,” amounts to a hodge-podge of quotes from diverse Jefferson materials prepared during widely different epochs of his life. The materials are strung together in such manner as to create the false impression that their author had been very nearly an

35. I have here set these wall quotes in a computer font called “Comic,” because I don’t have a font called “Tragic.”



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abolitionist:

GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE GAVE US LIBERTY. CAN THE LIBERTIES OF A NATION BE SECURE WHEN WE HAVE REMOVED A CONVICTION THAT THESE LIBERTIES ARE THE GIFT OF GOD? INDEED I TREMBLE FOR MY COUNTRY WHEN I REFLECT THAT GOD IS JUST, THAT HIS JUSTICE CANNOT SLEEP FOREVER. COMMERCE BETWEEN MASTER AND SLAVE IS DESPOTISM. NOTHING IS MORE CERTAINLY WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF FATE THAN THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE TO BE FREE. ESTABLISH THE LAW FOR EDUCATING THE COMMON PEOPLE. THIS IT IS THE BUSINESS OF THE STATE TO EFFECT AND ON A GENERAL PLAN.



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When the snippets are returned to their contexts, they reveal something quite different:



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- The first sentence fragment, “[THE] GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE GAVE US LIBERTY [AT THE SAME TIME],” is something that Saul Padover extracted from the conclusion of A SUMMARY VIEW OF THE RIGHTS OF BRITISH AMERICA, a pamphlet Jefferson had written in 1774, but in this originaive context it followed a sentence objecting to taxes imposed on the colonies by the mother country. By grafting this fragment about tax matters into a new context of remarks about slavemasters and their human property, the monument suggests that Jefferson had been writing about the rights of his [slaves](#), where such an imputation is entirely false.
- The question “CAN THE LIBERTIES OF A NATION BE SECURE WHEN WE HAVE REMOVED A CONVICTION THAT THESE LIBERTIES ARE THE GIFT OF GOD?” and the following two sentences, Padover extracted from a long paragraph headed “Manners” in Jefferson’s 1782 NOTES ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. This paragraph had indeed treated of human enslavement — but for the wall of the monument the phrases were being tendentiously rearranged to have a very different impact on the viewer. In context Jefferson has been lamenting the harm that the institution of human enslavement was having, not on [slaves](#), but on their masters. Poor white men, their servants were such a burden upon them! The necessity for service carried with it the risk of transforming these decent, caring recipients of service, in their starched shirts, “into despots.” The impact on the owned hands, by way of radical contrast, was seen as merely that of transforming them “into enemies,” rendering them hostile to the master class and a threat to the safety of the master class. Jefferson had gone on to finish one of these sentences with a direct reference to servile insurrection: “that considering numbers, nature and natural means only, a revolution of the wheel of fortune, an exchange of situation, is among possible events.” Jefferson’s question above had allowing the slavemasters to continue to presume that liberty was theirs to either bestow or remove, while referring to the problem in terms of the white man’s burden.
- In its original context, the remark “COMMERCE BETWEEN MASTER AND SLAVE IS DESPOTISM” had packed a punch that could not be read off the walls of a public edifice of our national capital:

THERE MUST DOUBTLESS BE AN UNHAPPY INFLUENCE ON THE MANNERS OF OUR PEOPLE PRODUCED BY THE EXISTENCE OF SLAVERY AMONG US. THE WHOLE COMMERCE BETWEEN MASTER AND SLAVE IS A PERPETUAL EXERCISE OF THE MOST BOISTEROUS PASSIONS, THE MOST UNREMITTING DESPOTISM ON THE ONE PART, AND DEGRADING SUBMISSIONS ON THE OTHER. OUR CHILDREN SEE THIS, AND LEARN TO IMITATE IT ... AND THUS NURSED, EDUCATED AND DAILY EXERCISED IN TYRANNY, CANNOT BUT BE STAMPED BY IT WITH ODIOS PECULIARITIES. THE MAN MUST BE A PRODIGY WHO CAN RETAIN HIS MANNERS AND MORALS UNDEPRAVED BY SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES.

Especially now that we know that Jefferson himself had been unable to keep his pecker in his pants while he was around his pretty young house [slaves](#), it is fortunate that such musings had in 1943 been elided or repurposed.

- The final “NOTHING IS MORE CERTAINLY WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF FATE THAN THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE TO BE FREE” is from Jefferson’s AUTOBIOGRAPHY of 1821. The difficulty is not so much that two different writings from two different periods have been juxtaposed without a ligature, but that in the original context Jefferson is saying something which this Committee would not have been able to scrawl on a public restroom wall, let alone on this wall of white stone. Let us allow Jefferson to complete his thought:

NOTHING IS MORE CERTAINLY WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF FATE THAN THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE TO BE FREE. NOR IS IT LESS CERTAIN THAT THE TWO RACES, EQUALLY FREE, CANNOT LIVE IN THE SAME GOVERNMENT. NATURE, HABIT, OPINION HAS DRAWN INDELIBLE LINES OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN THEM.

In other words, apartheid.



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Conor Cruise O'Brien's present analysis is:

In short, these people are to be free, and then deported. Jefferson's teaching on that matter is quite clear and often repeated. Those who edited that inscription on behalf of the memorial commission must have known what they were doing when they wrenched that resounding sentence from the AUTOBIOGRAPHY out of the context that so drastically qualifies its meaning. The distortion by suppression has to be deliberate. In that inscription on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC, the liberal-Jeffersonian lie about Jefferson's position on liberty and slavery assumes literally monumental proportions.

The final two sentences of the writing on the white walls, sentences which occurred in 1786 letters to Jefferson's mentor George Wythe and to George Washington, now make it appear to Washington's tourist throngs as if Jefferson had been willing to include blacks among "the common people" of America, a people to be educated out of their sloth and ignorance and dangerousness. However, Jefferson never offered education to any of his [slaves](#), even those who were his own children. When Thaddeus Kosciuszko had left a will making Jefferson the executor of his American estate, that document required Jefferson to use government securities worth approximately \$17,000 to purchase, manumit, and provide a head-start education for a number of young black American slaves.

MANUMISSION

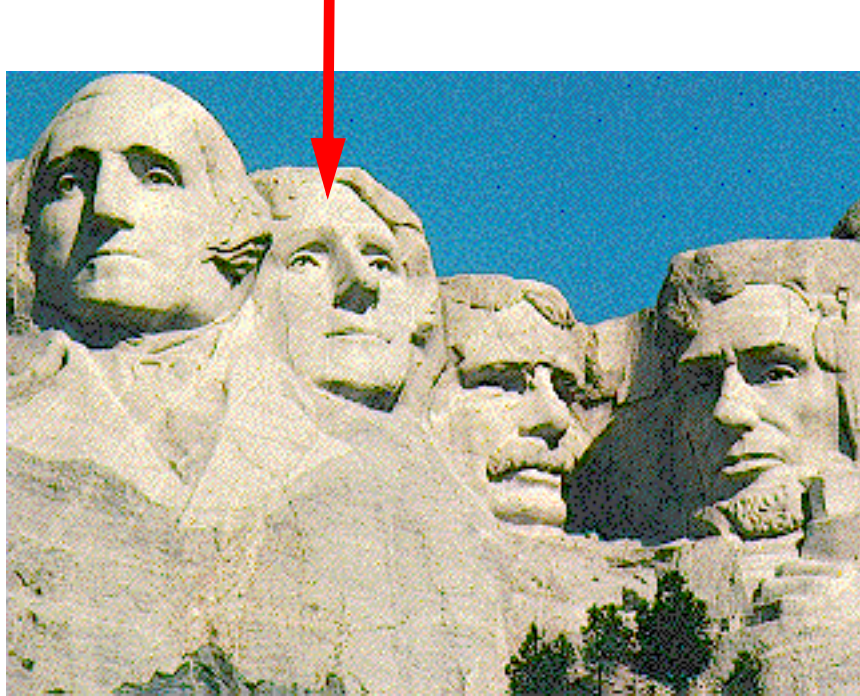
This Jefferson simply had refused to contemplate, and so finally the proceeds from the sale of the securities would need to be used for other benevolent purposes. A Park Service brochure for the Jefferson Memorial now asserts the pious lie that "Although his efforts to abolish slavery were not successful, he was one of the first Americans to argue forcefully the inconsistency of slavery in a democratic state." This pamphlet badly needs to be rewritten to demonstrate the manner in which selective and tendentious misquotation by historians has



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created the grand words the tourists are reading from the walls.



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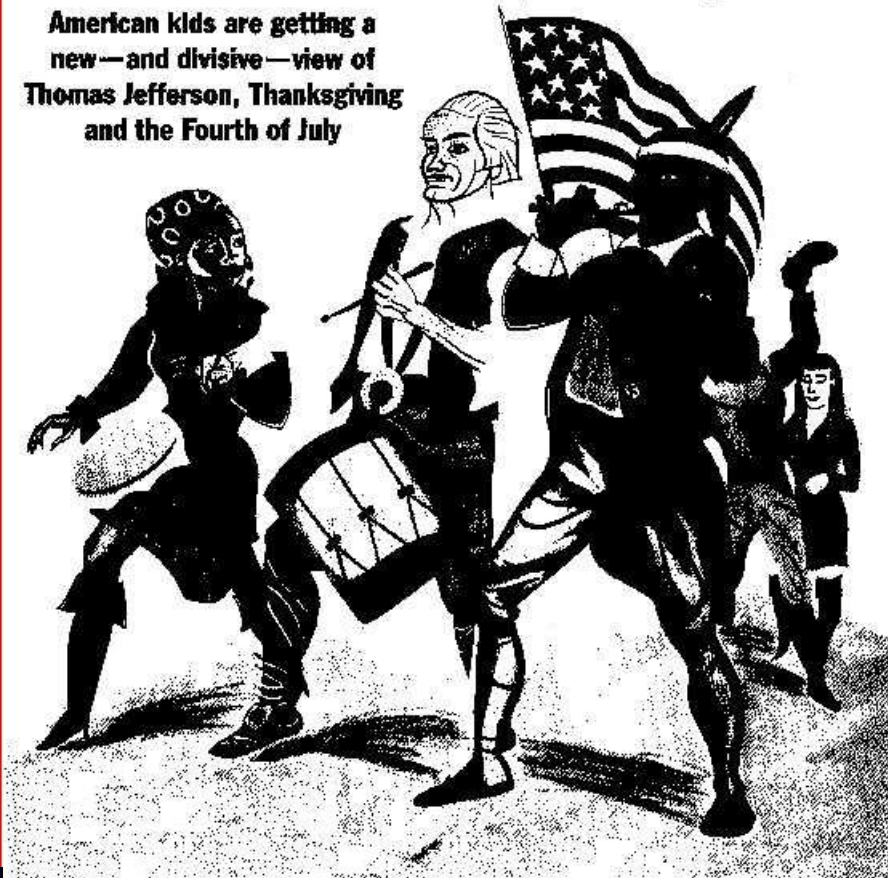
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(Even TIME magazine has acknowledged, on its cover, that the new view our children have been getting of founding daddy Thomas Jefferson is “divisive.” Here he is marching along with his [slave](#) mistress and one of his dusky son slaves:-)

TIME

Who Are We?

American kids are getting a new—and divisive—view of Thomas Jefferson, Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July



“The United States of America had human slavery for almost one hundred years before that custom was recognized as a social disease and people began to fight

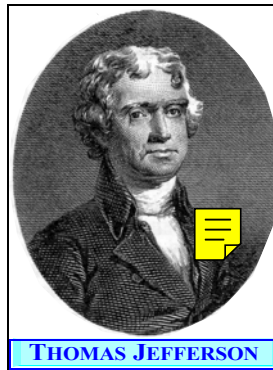


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it. Imagine that. Wasn't that a match for Auschwitz? What a beacon of liberty we were to the rest of the world when it was perfectly acceptable here to own other human beings and treat them as we treated cattle. Who told you we were a beacon of liberty from the very beginning? Why would they lie like that? Thomas Jefferson owned slaves, and not many people found that odd. It was as though he had an infected growth on the end of his nose the size of a walnut, and everybody thought that was perfectly OK."

- Kurt Vonnegut, FATES WORSE THAN DEATH, page 84





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May 1, Saturday: Variations on a Theme of Rossini for cello and piano by Bohuslav Martinu was performed for the initial time, in New York.

[Anne Frank](#) to her diary: "If I just think of how we live here, I usually come to the conclusion that it is a paradise compared with how other Jews who are not in hiding must be living."



Facing a strike by about 530,000 miners, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered a government takeover of all coal mines. Do you suppose you are going to mess around with an American war president?

On May Day a massive anti-[German](#) rally took place in Sofia. In response 700 people were arrested. Don't think you are going to mess around with the Nazis!

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The British [India](#) SN Company troop transport SS *Erinpura* (Captain P.V. Cotter), in convoy with 23 merchantmen and escorted by 11 destroyers, was bound for Malta when, some 30 miles north of Benghazi, the convoy was intercepted by [German](#) bombers and torpedo aircraft.



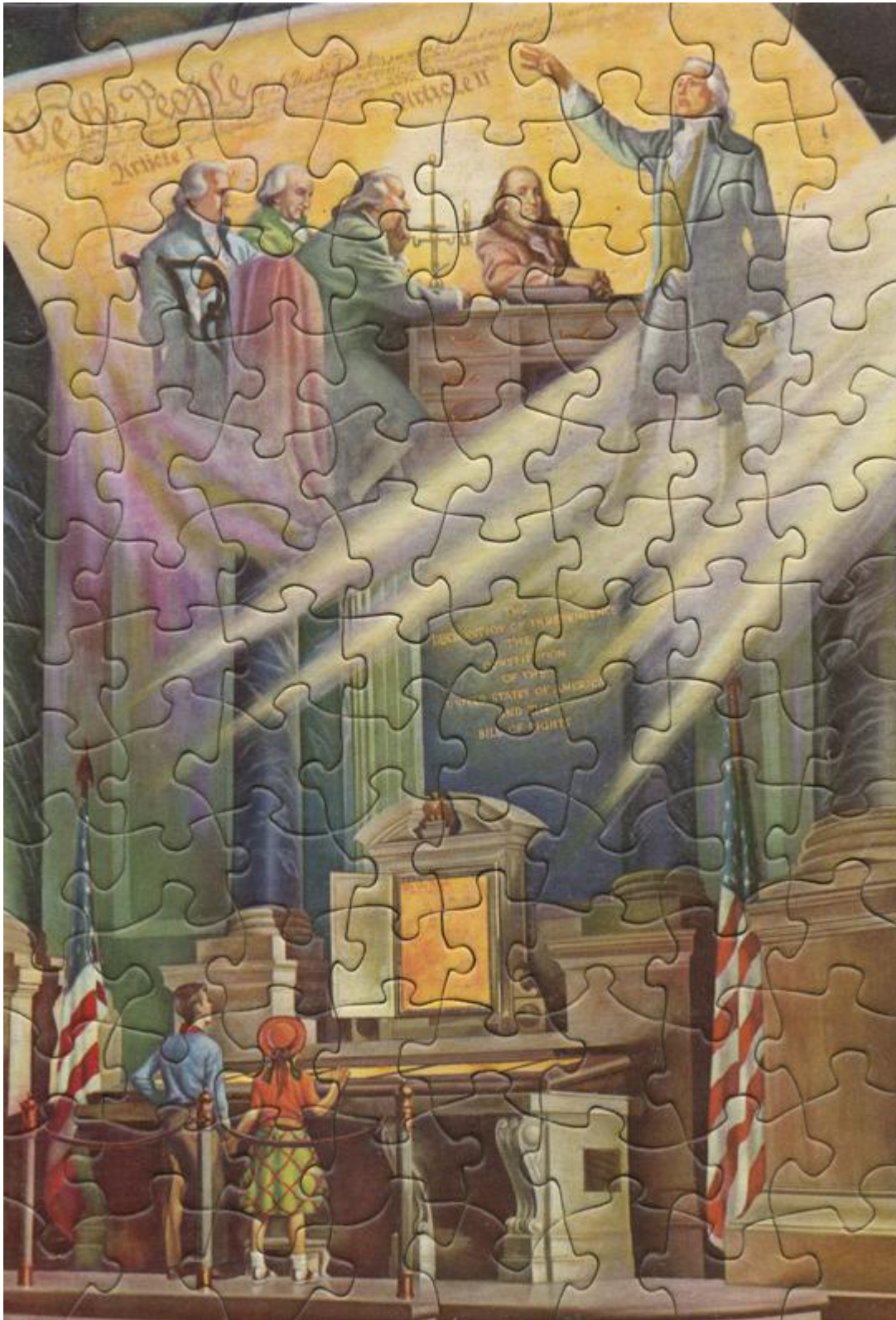
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On board the *Erinpura* were 1,025 soldiers. A large bomb exploded in the hold and the ship sank in a matter of minutes. 44 crewmembers, 3 gunners, and an unspecified number of soldiers died. On the same day near the Tunisian coast, another troopship (name unknown) was also torpedoed and sunk. On board this other vessel had been a number of soldiers from Basutoland serving with the British Eighth Army. 618 Basutos died.³⁶

May 12, Wednesday: A suite from Alberto Ginastera's unperformed ballet *Estancia* was performed for the initial time, in Buenos Aires.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#), and the Combined Chiefs of Staff began a lengthy meeting in Washington DC.

United States Advanced Amphibious Training Base, Bizerte, Tunisia, was established.

British planes added 1,000 tons of high explosives to Bochum and presumably that made a difference (in war so many things are done on faith).

On this day and the following one, the 250,000 [German](#) and Italian troops remaining alive in North Africa would be surrendering to the Allied armies.

US Submarine *Steelhead* (SS-280) laid mines off Erimo Saki, [Japan](#). US Submarine *Pickrel* (SS-177) was presumed to have been sunk somewhere in the Pacific Ocean.

WORLD WAR II

36. At a first order of approximation there seems to be a remarkable similarity between fighting at sea and feeding fish.





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June 3, Thursday: 150 Jews were found hiding in a bunker under the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto. The bunker was destroyed.

Two Polish farmers, Stefan Kaczmariski and Stanislaw Stojka were shot by the [Germans](#) for hiding three Jews.

ANTISEMITISM

A French Committee of National Liberation was formed in Algiers to administer Free French affairs.

The Resistance destroyed more than 300 tons of tires at the Michelin factory in Clement-Ferrand.

Beginning on this day and continuing through June 7th, servicemen and civilians race-rioted through the streets of Los Angeles, randomly attacking Hispanics and black Americans.

WORLD WAR II

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered striking coal miners in 18 states to return to work by June 7th.

July 19, Monday: For the 1st time the Allies dropped bombs on [Rome](#). They did try to be careful.

Pius XII would protest this to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) but of course it would be beneath the dignity of the American president to make any response to the Pope.

[German](#) Submarine U-513 was sunk by naval land-based aircraft (VP-74) off Brazil, at 27 degrees 17 minutes South, 47 degrees 32 minutes West.

WORLD WAR II

August 19, Thursday: Luftwaffe Chief of Staff General Hans Jeschonnek killed himself after being criticized about the raids on Peenemünde and Schweinfurt.

Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) met at Québec.

[Japanese](#) Submarine I-17 was sunk by naval land-based aircraft (VS-57), and by a New Zealand naval vessel, off eastern Australia, at 23 degrees 26 minutes South, 166 degrees 50 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II



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August 24, Tuesday: [Simone Weil](#) died of TB and starvation. Her body would be buried in Ashford, Kent.

Raymond Deiss, the Paris music publisher who used his establishment to publish the first Resistance newspaper, *Pantagruel*, was executed by the [Germans](#) in Cologne.

Leonard Bernstein's cycle for voice and piano *I Hate Music* to his own words, was performed for the initial time, at Lenox, Massachusetts, one day before the composer's 25th birthday.

In [Germany](#), Heinrich Himmler replaced Wilhelm Frick as Reichminister of the Interior. Otto Frisch was appointed Protector of Bohemia and Moravia.

7 B-24s and 6 B-25s, escorted by 22 P-40s and P-38s, bombed airfields at Hankow and Wuchang in [China](#); 4 B-24s were lost but, allegedly, 24 enemy interceptors were shot down.

The campaign for New Georgia in the Solomon Islands ended as Army troops occupied Bairoko Harbor.

The conference in Québec attended by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and representatives of Britain and China, in session since August 17th, ended.

READ THE FULL TEXT

[German](#) submarines sunk:

- U-84, by aircraft (VC-13) from escort carrier *Core* (CVE-13), mid-Atlantic area, 27 degrees 9 minutes North, 37 degrees 3 minutes West
- U-185, by aircraft (VC-13) from escort carrier *Core* (CVE-13), mid-Atlantic area, 27 degrees 0 minutes North, 37 degrees 6 minutes West

WORLD WAR II

November 22, Monday: Violin Concerto by Arnold Bax was performed for the initial time, over the airwaves of the BBC Home Service.

Lebanon became independent of France.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#), and President Chiang Kai-shek of [China](#) conferred at Cairo, in a meeting that would continue until November 26th.

American troops completed their conquest of Makin Island in the Gilbert Islands (Butaritari, Kiribati).

764 British bombers attacked Berlin, hitting many government buildings and killing 1,864 additional Berliners.

United States naval vessel damaged:

- Destroyer *Frazier* (DD-607), by intentional ramming of [Japanese](#) submarine, Gilbert Islands area, 1 degree 25 minutes North, 174 degrees 40 minutes East

The submarine that had been sunk by this ramming:



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- Submarine I-35, by destroyers *Meade* (DD-602), and *Frazier* (DD-607), Gilbert Islands area, 1 degree 22 minutes North, 172 degrees 47 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

November 26, Friday: United States Naval Air Facilities were established at Amapa, Aratu, and Belem, Brazil; United States Naval Air Facilities (Lighter than Air) were established at Fernando Noronha, Fortaleza, and Ipitanga, Brazil.

American forces completed their conquest of Abemama in the Gilbert Islands (Kiribati).

Soviet forces captured Gomel (Belarus).

British planes bombed Berlin killing 666 more.

An earthquake in Turkey killed about 4,000 people.

The 1st Cairo Conference of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#), and President Chiang Kai-shek of [China](#), which had been in session since November 22d, was brought to an end.

READ THE FULL TEXT

The HMT *Rohna*, a 8,602-ton British liner/troopship crewed by [Indian](#) seamen under British officers and captained by an Australian, owned by the British India Steam Navigation Company, was carrying 2,193 passengers including 1,988 US soldiers, 7 Red Cross people, and a crew of 198 from Oran, Algeria



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toward Bombay, [India](#) via the Suez Canal, as part of convoy KMF 26 of 24 ships. Between Algiers and Philloppville the *Rohna* was struck by a [German](#) HS 293 “glider bomb” that had been sent out from a Heinkel 177 bomber of 11/KG-40 (this “glider bomb” amounted to the world’s 1st guided missile: every year we think up a new way to kill you).

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The *Rohona* sank in less than half an hour and 1,047 US troops and 102 crewmen died. Between 10:30PM and



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midnight, rescue ships, including the minesweeper SS *Pioneer*, the Red Cross ship *Clan Campbell*, and the *Rohna*'s sister ship HMT *Rajula*, reported themselves as "sailing through a sea of floating bodies." (Survivors would be put ashore at Phillopville and taken care of there by a British army unit. For some reason the details of this engagement would for many years be held as a state secret.)³⁷

Eight out of this flight of Heinkel 177s had been shot down.

WORLD WAR II

November 28, Sunday: [Germans](#) surrounded a Soviet force at Korosten, northwest of Kiev, inflicting heavy losses.

Allied troops attacked in force across the Sangro River, [Italy](#).

Heads of state [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#), and General Secretary Iosef Vissarionovich Dzugashvili ("[Stalin](#)"), had a VIP meet in Teheran, Iran. (They'd be birds of a feather plotting together, divvying up the spoils of war, until December 1st.)

WORLD WAR II

37. At a first order of approximation there seems to be a remarkable similarity between fighting at sea and feeding fish.





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November 30, Tuesday: String Quartet no.6 “Il quarteto brasileiro” by Heitor Villa-Lobos was performed for the initial time, in Rio de Janeiro.

[German](#) troops drove the Soviets out of Korosten, northwest of Kiev.

WORLD WAR II

Fascist [Italy](#) ordered the deportation of all Jews and the complete expropriation of their property.

ANTISEMITISM

Prime Minister Badoglio of Free [Italy](#) announced in Naples that King Victor Emmanuel III was stripped of the titles “King of Albania” and “Emperor of Ethiopia.”

Destroyers bombarded [Japanese](#) positions on Empress Augusta Bay of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) reminisced with Iosef Vissarionovich Dzugashvili (“[Stalin](#)”) at Teheran that “if the [Japanese](#) had not attacked the US he doubted very much if it would have been possible to send any American forces to Europe.”



He made it sound almost as if he had been glad it had happened. –But he couldn’t have been glad for this loss of life, could he?

THE TEHERAN CONFERENCE

Teheran

The persons wane and fade, they fade out of meaning. Personal greatness
Was never more than a trick of the light, a halo of illusion: — but who are
these little smiling attendants
On a world’s agony, meeting in Teheran to plot against whom what future?
The future is clear enough,
In the firelight of burning cities and pain-light of that long battle-line,



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That monstrous ulcer reaching from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea,
slowly rodent westward: There will be Russia
And America; two powers alone in the world; two bulls in one pasture. And
what is unlucky Germany
Between these foreheads?

Observe also
How rapidly civilization coarsens and decays; its better qualities, foresight,
humaneness, disinterested
Respect for truth, die first; its worst will be last. — Oh well: The future!
When man stinks, turn to God.

— Robinson Jeffers

December 1, Wednesday: Piano Sonata no.3 by Ernst Krenek was performed for the initial time, in Bridgman Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota, by the composer.

The US Naval Air Ferry Command was established.

The United States, Great Britain, and [China](#) issued a joint statement as a result of the Cairo Conference which had ended on November 26th. They had decided that they were going to strip [Japan](#) of any and all territories it had added to itself, since 1895.

The Tehran Conference attended by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and General Secretary Iosef Vissarionovich Dzugashvili ("Stalin") ended (they had been meeting since November 28th).

December 2, Thursday: The harbor of [Bari](#) on [Italy's](#) Adriatic coast had gotten just jam-packed with Allied merchant ships as convoy after convoy had brought in supplies for the British, American, and Canadian armies that were advancing up the Italian peninsula. Captain Knowles's Liberty ship, the USS *John Harvey*, was offloading its cargo at Berth 29 when more than a hundred [German](#) JU-88 bombers flew over. Rrrrrrrrrrrrrr. Part of Captain Knowles's cargo, unfortunately, was a hundred tons of mustard bombs, being brought in just in case the Germans resorted again to gas warfare. A unit of the 701st Chemical Maintenance Company of course had this dangerous and tempting shipment under close guard. The blast wave created by the *John Harvey* demolished or sank 17 other vessels in the harbor as well, destroying some 38,000 tons of war supplies, and more than 1,000 army and navy men, civilian workers, and townspeople were injured or died or just went up with the rising smoke. Hundreds were struggling in the oil-covered water as ship after ship was exploding or catching fire. Then, in the jammed Allied hospitals, the medicos were at a loss to understand what it had been that had created such unusually magnificent skin effects. Over and above the usual war hospital odor of mingled ether, shit, burning chicken feathers, rotting meat, and gunsmoke, there was this funny odor like someone had just



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eaten a ham sandwich, a ham sandwich with lots and lots of mustard. Of the only 617 to make it to the hospitals, 83 wouldn't make it to the New Year. If the medicos had known at the time it was an accidental detonation of the Allied stockpile of 2,000 M47A1 sulfur mustard (H) [poison gas bombs](#), it is possible that they could have come up with the proper treatment and saved some more lives. –But, of course, there weren't any members of the 701st Chemical Maintenance Company still around to tell them. (The first casualty of war being, as the saying goes, the truth, Winston Churchill immediately imposed a total secrecy order, and it would not be until about 5 years later that we would begin to hear of this.)

TIMELINE OF ACCIDENTS

An official account:

One United States naval vessel that was damaged on this day was more promptly acknowledged:

- Gasoline tanker *Aroostook* (AOG-14), by horizontal bomber, Italian area, 41 degrees 6 minutes North, 16 degrees 52 minutes East

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) met in Cairo with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek of [China](#). Lord Mountbatten proposed the recapture of Burma.

British troops captured Lanciano, on the Adriatic Sea 160 kilometers east of Rome.

The British government announced that it planned to conscript 30,000 men to work in coal mines.

British bombers struck at Berlin, killing 378 Berliners.

The submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167), landed ammunition and stores at, and then evacuated certain personnel from, Mindanao in the Philippine Islands.

WORLD WAR II

December 17, Friday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the repeal of the [Chinese](#) Exclusion Acts of 1882, which had set limits on yellow-peril [Chinese](#) immigration.

United States naval vessel sunk:

- Coastal transport APC-21, by [Japanese](#) dive bomber, off New Britain, 6 degrees 15 minutes South, 149 degrees 1 minute East

United States naval vessel damaged:

- Motor minesweeper YMS-50, by [Japanese](#) horizontal bomber, off New Britain, 6 degrees 12 minutes South, 149 degrees 3 minutes East

WORLD WAR II



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December 27, Monday: An orchestral suite from the music to Sergei Prokofiev's opera Semyon Kotko op.81a was performed for the initial time, in Moscow.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) ordered seizure of the nation's railroads due to the threat of strikes. No, we're not gonna go there!

Two cruisers and four destroyers (Rear Admiral W.L. Ainsworth) bombarded the Kieta area of Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

United States Coastal Transport APC-15 was damaged by a [Japanese](#) dive bomber off New Britain, at 6 degrees 12 minutes South, 149 degrees 3 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II



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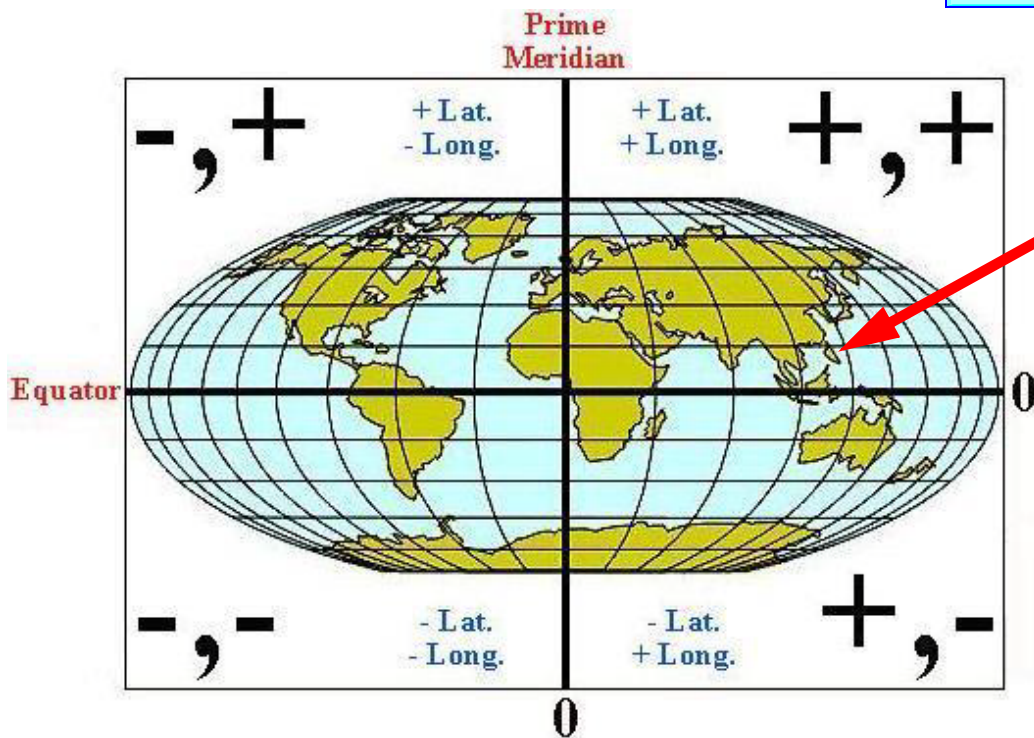
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1944

March 3, Friday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) announced that the war vessels of the Italian Fleet were to be distributed among the United States, Great Britain, and Russia.

[Japanese](#) River Boat *Karatsu* was sunk by US Submarine *Narwhal* (SS-167) in the vicinity of the Philippine Islands area, at 8 degrees 52 minutes North, 123 degrees 23 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II



April 3, Monday: [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) sent Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek a strongly worded letter related to getting the [Chinese](#) "Y" Force into immediate military action.

WORLD WAR II



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May 19, Friday: The US Communist Party, meeting in New York City for two days, endorsed [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)'s candidacy for President.

James Forrestal of New York, Under Secretary of the Navy since 1940, became Secretary of the Navy.

Aircraft from carrier task group (Rear Admiral A.E. Montgomery) bombed Marcus Island (the attack would continue on May 20th).

[Japanese](#) Submarine I-16 was sunk by Destroyer Escort *England* (DE-635) in the vicinity of the Solomon Islands, at 5 degrees 10 minutes South, 158 degrees 10 minutes East.

[German](#) Submarine U-960 was sunk by Destroyers *Niblack* (DD-424), *Ludlow* (SS-438), and British aircraft in the western Mediterranean, at 37 degrees 20 minutes North, 1 degree 35 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II

June 22, Thursday: Allied (Great Britain/[India](#)) forces effected the relief of Imphal, ending [Japanese](#) expectations of advance into [India](#).

1, 700,000 Soviet soldiers began a general offensive against [German](#) forces on a 320-kilometer front from Vitebsk to Gomel, Byelorussia (Belarus).

1,000 tons of bombs rained onto Cherbourg.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, known colloquially as "the G.I. Bill." By providing money by which veterans might attend college, this would transform the face of higher education in the United States.

Operation Bagration, the Soviet summer offensive, began.

United States naval vessels damaged:

- Battleship *Maryland* (BB-46), by aircraft torpedo, Marianas Islands area, 15 degrees 13 minutes North, 145 degrees 39 minutes East.
- LST119, by coastal defense gun, Marianas Islands area, 15 degrees 10 minutes North, 145 degrees 58 minutes East

[Japanese](#) submarine sunk:

- Submarine I-185, by destroyer *Newcomb* (DD-586) and high-speed minesweeper *Chandler* (DMS-9), Marianas Islands area, 15 degrees 50 minutes North, 145 degrees 8 minutes East

WORLD WAR II



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June 30, Friday: A general strike began in Copenhagen against curfew and other occupation restrictions. [Germany](#) cut off all water, gas and electricity to the city.

The last season at the Vienna Opera House ended, appropriately enough, with a performance of Richard Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*.

The United States broke diplomatic relations with Finland.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed a bill providing independence for the Philippines (just as soon as the [Japanese](#) could be cleared away).

Naval vessels on hand (all types) — 46,032.

Personnel:

Navy — 2,981,365

Marine Corps — 472,582

Coast Guard — 169,258

Total personnel — 3,623,205

August 18, Friday: [Senator Harry S Truman](#) had his initial meeting with [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), as his running mate. You're from, I hear, Missouri? And that middle initial, "S," actually doesn't stand for anything?

United States Amphibious Force Flagship *Catoctin* (AGC-5) was damaged by a horizontal bomber in waters off Southern France, at 43 degrees 17 minutes North, 6 degrees 38 minutes East.

[Japanese](#) naval vessels sunk:

- Escort Carrier *Oraka*, by US Submarine *Rasher* (SS-269), off northwestern Luzon, Philippine Islands 18 degrees 16 minutes North, 120 degrees 20 minutes East
- Light Cruiser *Natori*, by US Submarine *Hardhead* (SS-365), east of Samar, Philippine Islands 12 degrees 29 minutes North, 128 degrees 49 minutes East

WORLD WAR II



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August 26, Saturday: On a bombing mission over [Germany](#) a US 8th Air Force B24 was hit by flak and crash-landed some 90 miles south of Hanover. The American crew was captured and one of them was taken to the hospital because he had broken his ankle. The other 8 new prisoners of war were put on a train to a POW camp. On the way the train stopped at Russelheim, and the German guards paraded the American crew through the town for townspeople to pelt them with stones and bricks — and shovels. Two of the airmen ran for their lives and would escape, but the other six, battered so badly that they had become unconscious, were shot by the local Nazi leader. (The corpses went into a common grave. After the war a number of the perps would be identified and 5 would hang. Two would receive prison sentences of 30 years, one of 25 years, and two of 15 years.

Niels Bohr presented his memorandum on intentional control of [nuclear weapons](#) to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). Was this man going to allow somebody else have a say over something important that he himself might be able to control? –Stay tuned.

A [Japanese](#) naval vessel was sunk off Palau Islands, Caroline Islands by our submarine *Batfish* (SS-310), the destroyer *Samidare*.

WORLD WAR II

September 11, Monday: Communist leader Boleslaw Bierut assumed the presidency of a new provisional government of Poland.

Bulgaria began releasing Allied prisoners of war.

South African troops took Pistoia, northwest of Florence.

Allied forces from the south reached Dijon. As French resistance fighters liberated the city, forces from the Normandy and Riviera invasions met at Sombernon.

British troops entered the Netherlands near Bourg Leopold.

American bombers struck Chemnitz.

British bombers struck Darmstadt. 12,300 people die in the firestorm.

Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) met in Québec.

Allied troops set foot on the soil of Nazi [Germany](#).

[Japanese](#) Submarine Chaser #165 was sunk by US Submarine *Albacore* (SS-218) off Kyushu, Japan, at 32 degrees 20 minutes North, 131 degrees 50 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II



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September 16, Saturday: Second Quebec Conference attended by [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) and British Prime Minister [Winston Churchill](#) ended (it has been in session since September 11th).

Marine Air Wings, Pacific was redesignated Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (Major General F.P. Mulcahy) with headquarters at Ewa, Oahu.

United States naval vessel damaged:

- Destroyer *Wadleigh* (DD-689), by mine, Palau Islands area, Caroline Islands, 7 degrees 51 minutes North, 134 degrees 39 minutes East

[Japanese](#) naval vessel sunk:

- Escort carrier *Unyo*, by submarine *Barb* (SS-220), South China Sea, 19 degrees 18 minutes North, 116 degrees 26 minutes East

WORLD WAR II



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October 8, Sunday: Land-based aircraft from the Marianas Islands increased the tempo of air strikes on [Japanese](#)-held Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands.

WORLD WAR II

Finnish forces took Kemi at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia, the last Finnish port still held by the [Germans](#).

British troops took Corinth and Samos.

A meeting of representatives from [Egypt](#), Syria, Transjordan, Iraq and Lebanon ends in [Cairo](#). They sign a protocol calling for the creation of an Arab League.

Capricorn Concerto for flute, oboe, trumpet and strings by Samuel Barber was performed for the initial time, in New York. The work was named after the composer's house in Mount Kisco, New York.

[First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt](#) wrote, in The New York Times Magazine, that "December 7 was ... far from the

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shock it proved to the country in general. We had expected something of the sort for a long time.”





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October 15, Sunday: [Japanese](#) air forces launched strikes against American naval forces off Taiwan, damaging one cruiser at the cost of many planes downed.

After Admiral Horthy proclaimed an end to fighting and called for action against [German](#) occupation troops, [German](#) soldiers stormed the royal palace in Budapest, kidnapped Horthy's son and forced him to appoint Ferenc Szálasi as prime minister.

Soviet troops occupied Petsamo (Pechenga) on the Arctic Ocean and took Kolozsvár, Hungary (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) after a four-day siege.

Polish troops took Gambettola, south of Ravenna.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) proclaimed his government's support for the "establishment of Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth."

Duo concertante for cello and piano by Norman Dello Joio was performed for the initial time.

Aircraft from carrier task group (Rear Admiral R.E. Davison) bombed targets in the Manila area, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Coast Guard Cutter *Eastwind* (AG-279) captured the [German](#) trawler *Externsteine* off the northeast coast of Greenland.

Command designated Minecraft, Pacific Fleet (Rear Admiral A. Sharp), was established.

United States naval vessel damaged:

- Carrier *Franklin* (CV-13), by [Japanese](#) horizontal bomber, Philippine Islands area, 16 degrees 29 minutes North, 123 degrees 57 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

November 7, Tuesday: Americans took Bloody Ridge west of Dagami, Leyte after fierce fighting.

The Greek government ordered the dissolution of the two largest resistance groups.

Voting in the United States ensured the re-election of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) to an unprecedented 4th term as president (the parties remained virtually unchanged in the Senate, but Roosevelt's Democrats made strong gains in the House of Representatives). [Senator Harry S Truman](#) was elected as vice-president.

Adam Clayton Powell of New York was elected as the initial African-American Congressman (subsequent to the Reconstruction Era).

United States Patrol Torpedo Boat PT-301 was damaged by accidental explosion in the vicinity of western New Guinea, at 1 degree 15 minutes South, 136 degrees 23 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II

TIMELINE OF ACCIDENTS



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December 27, Wednesday: British troops captured Celles, east of Dinant.

[President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) seized the properties of Montgomery Ward because the company was refusing to comply with a labor agreement. He needed to avoid a strike in a business essential to the war effort.

Soviet troops besieged Budapest.

Cruiser and destroyer task group (Rear Admiral A.E. Smith) bombarded enemy installations on Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands.

[Japanese](#) aircraft bombed shore positions and auxiliary shipping at Mindoro in the Philippine Islands (these attacks would be repeated on the 28th, 29th, and 31st of December).

[Japanese](#) naval vessels sunk:

- Transports #7 and #132, by naval gunfire, Iwo Jima 24 degrees 47 minutes North, 141 degrees 20 minutes East

WORLD WAR II



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1945

February 4-11: The Yalta Conference of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), [Prime Minister Winston Churchill](#), and General Secretary Iosef Vissarionovich Dzugashvili ("[Stalin](#)") at Potsdam would between the 4th and the 11th settle the postwar fate of Eastern Europe.

READ THE FULL TEXT



The racial legislation of Fascist [Italy](#) and Nazi [Germany](#) was annulled (two down, one to go).
Nazi concentration camps were inspected and the extent of holocaust became known to the general public.

The refugee situation in Europe was of course entirely chaotic.

The United Nations was founded. At an early point, there was some speculation that it might be appropriate to situate this organization in Concord, Massachusetts (whether this consideration was ever fantasized by anyone outside Concord, or was entirely contained within that local group of citizens, is unknown).

Ho Chi Minh used our Declaration of Independence as a model for his speech in which he declared [Vietnam](#) to be free of French colonial rule. Refer to HO CHI MINH: A LIFE by William J. Duiker (NY: Hyperion, 2000).

Symphony in G by Lukas Foss was performed for the initial time, in Pittsburgh, the composer himself conducting.

Friend [Agnes Carol Zens Kellam](#) wrote from Washington DC to her husband, Friend [John R. Kellam](#), who was being held in a federal penitentiary for having refused to participate in the killing:

February 6, 1945

Hi Dearest:

... I'm writing this at work (my second day) as it's early (8:10) and I have no work to do as yet. I was sort of tired yesterday when 5 p.m. came (quitting time) although the work is very easy. I'm doing stenographic work with the Bureau of National Affairs, a publishing company headed by David Lawrence and affiliated with the United States News....

Oh, I work from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week – no Saturday



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work. Lunch is from 11:45 to 12:30 and I eat with Nelda [a close friend] and some other girls at a canteen in a church nearby – where whites and Negroes eat together!! I believe the denomination is Southern Presbyterian – it's called Church of the Pilgrims....

My girl friend, Ree, is going to have a baby in September – we think our baby will come earlier, however. She asked me how I felt and I told her fine except once in a while. She said she felt fine once in a while.... I haven't been to a doctor yet. I'll write first to the University of Chicago to see if they can recommend a doctor here who believes in the principles of natural childbirth....

One of the girls in the office here just now showed me a picture of a boy friend of hers who is a conscientious objector working in a mental hospital in Marion, Virginia. She says he is a swell fellow, and she sticks up for him through the criticism she has received for going out with him. People here have all been very nice – no raised eyebrows. And I can work as long as I want to....

I am wearing thy watch and think about thee every time I look at it. I hope thee can find work to do there, cause thee'll be happier, but that's up to thee and the authorities.

All my love, Thy Cary

[Dresden](#), [Tokyo](#), [Hiroshima](#), and [Nagasaki](#) were destroyed in allied bomb raids using conventional and unconventional technologies.³⁸

WORLD WAR II

The Blood-Guilt³⁹

So long having foreseen these convulsions, forecast the hemorrhagic
Fevers of civilization past prime striving to die, and having through verse, image and fable
For more than twenty years tried to condition the mind to this bloody climate:

— do you like it,
Justified prophet?

I would rather have died twenty years ago.

You said, “no escape; you have to inflict and endure ... and the world is like a flight of swans.”

I said, “No escape.”

You knew also that your own country,
though ocean-guarded, nothing to gain, by its destined fools
Would be lugged in.

I said, “No escape.”

hopelessly fatalist,

If you had not been beaten beforehand,

38. The firestorming of Tokyo would produce 83,793 deaths. That's considerably more civilians than would perish at [Nagasaki](#) under the atomic weapon — General Curtis LeMay would later aver that the citizens of Tokyo had been “scorched and boiled and baked to death,” and speculate that if the USA had lost the war, he and Robert Strange McNamara would have been put on trial as war criminals on account of the fire-bombing of Tokyo.)

39. This poem was entirely suppressed by the publisher, Random House, even after the war was over.

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You might have spoken louder and perhaps been heard, and prevented something.

*I? Have you never heard
That who'd lead must not see?*

You saw it, you despaired of preventing it,
you share the blood-guilt.

Yes.

— [Robinson Jeffers](#)

(During this year this poet, who was considered by his publisher Random House to be writing poems not considered fit for publication, was being inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Letters. :-)



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THE FINAL SOLUTION OF WWII

I recently received an email which asserted:

- > The Japanese would have surrendered anyway but maybe not totally unconditionally.
- > Secret talks between the OSS and Japanese were ongoing in Switzerland.
- > If the Emperor's safety had been guaranteed, a surrender was only a few months away.

I responded to this email by asserting that if we in the United States of America had not had the atomic bomb available to us, for whatever reason, in the manner in which we did, to employ as the final solution to World War II in the Pacific Theater, then we would most definitely have dropped germ bombs onto the Japanese home islands. There is a straightforward reason why this was so. We had at the time a realpolitic need to establish that it was the USA rather than the USSR which had defeated Japan. This was a realpolitic objective which we needed to accomplish, of course, before Japan seized an opportunity to surrender unconditionally. We did have quantities of such anthrax devices available, we now know, for we had been planning to drop them on Germany before it managed to surrender unconditionally. We had failed in our plan to drop these devices upon a select group of target cities in Germany, with our intent being to make large blotches of the German landscape entirely unavailable for human habitation for the next 50 to 100 years. We had failed for two reasons, reasons having nothing to do with human decency and having to do only with issues of timing: 1st, the Overlord invasion of Europe had gone unexpectedly quickly, and, 2d, there had been extensive production delays in our anthrax manufacturing facility in Vigo — due to what I will generously characterize as the general incompetence of that facility's Indiana [Ku Klux Klan](#) management.

The above calls for some background explanation. These germ bombs were being manufactured near Terre Haute. Some of my relatives —relatives on the pure white side of my family, I might point out by way of emphasis— actually worked in this rural war plant. The manufacturing facility was being run by the Indiana Klan on defense contract with the US government. The idea of doing this had been suggested by an early advocate of germ warfare named Winston Churchill. The whole affair has, for your amusement, been adequately explored in back issues of [The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#) (q.v.).

Over and above that, there is no reason why the effective use of nuclear materials has required that they be explodable in an atomic reaction. Due to their intense radioactivity, such materials can be rendered quite adequately deadly in an exceedingly low-tech manner, that is, they can simply be pulverized and distributed by means of some sort of conventional fire or explosion. Thus, even if our tower test of an atomic device at Los Alamos had proved it to be a dud —even if our calculations had been entirely inaccurate and nuclear chain-reaction practically an impossibility— we would **still** have gotten ourselves a new weapon of mass death, available for use on the Japanese home islands, arising merely out of our mining and concentration of such poisonously radioactive materials.

It is said, it may be in humor, that in every war they kill you a new way. Why did we chose to scorch and blow apart Japanese noncombatants, civilian women and children, with this high-tech chancy new atomic device,

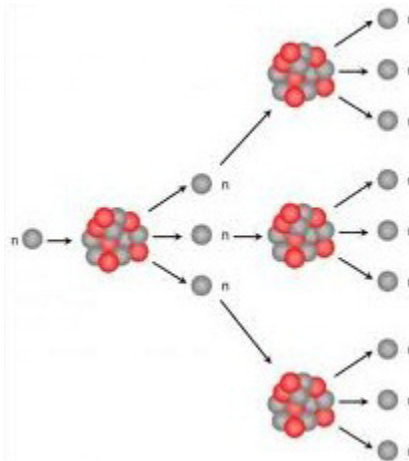


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rather than exterminate them low-tech with these available radioactive poisons? The answer is, we had **precedent** for scorching them and blowing them apart, as that was a mere magnification of the action of the smaller-scale conventional incendiary and explosive devices we had already been dropping. An **A-bomb** could be construed as amounting simply to an **intensification** of our existing, conventional techniques for doing harm by means of the blast effect. Blast is conventional. By way of contrast, to have exterminated these same noncombatants, civilian women and children, through the small-blast release of dirty radioactive aerosol poisons, would have needed to be construed as an excursion into a new and unprecedented territory of death, and might therefore have been more constructible by world opinion as a indefensibly novel new aggression. In sum, we're such nice people that we took pity on these Japanese civilians and killed them merely in what could be made to seem to be the more conventional manner!

February 11, Sunday: There was an unexpected **criticality** nuclear reaction at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. The material went beyond criticality into **prompt-criticality**, which is the next stage after criticality in the generation of a bomb-like nuclear detonation. This was the 1st time in the history of the US's nuclear program, that such a supremely dangerous Chernobyl-like event had occurred in the laboratory.



(To date there have been a couple of dozen such incidents. Not to worry, we are told — a full A-bomb nuclear weapon-like blast is a real engineering success story and very difficult to create, and therefore it is really really unlikely that any such prompt-criticality incident can produce a full A-bomb nuclear weapon-like blast without our really having intended for that to happen. Just about the worst thing that might happen in a prompt-criticality situation is that the nuclear material in question goes off like a **dirty** bomb — except that at the Fukushima Daiichi site there are some 2,000 **tons** of nuclear material in the six reactor cores and seven cooling pools, within a few thousands of yards of one another.)

British and Canadian forces captured Prüm, 80 kilometers west of Koblenz.



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Missa brevis for chorus and organ by Zoltán Kodály was performed for the initial time, in Budapest.

Achille van Acker replaced Hubert Pierlot as prime minister of Belgium at the head of a broad unity government.

[Stalin](#), [Prime Minister Winston Churchill](#) and [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) signed a joint declaration after their meeting in Potsdam. It put forth guidelines for the end of the war and the maintenance of peace thereafter: An Agreement Relating to Prisoners of War and Civilians Liberated by Forces Operating Under Soviet Command and Forces Operating Under United States of America Command.

READ THE FULL TEXT

United States naval vessel sunk:

- LST577, damaged by submarine torpedo, east of Philippine Islands, 8 degrees 1 minute North, 130 degrees 37 minutes East, sunk by United States forces

United States naval vessel damaged:

- Ocean tug *Takelma* (ATF-113), by collision, Philippine Islands area, 10 degrees 50 minutes North, 125 degrees 25 minutes East

[Japanese](#) submarine sunk:

- RO-112, by submarine *Batfish* (SS-310), Philippine Islands area, 18 degrees 53 minutes North, 121 degrees 50 minutes East

WORLD WAR II



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March 10/11: American [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had declared that the bombing of civilians was “inhuman barbarism.” Just after midnight (it was March 9/10 west of the International Date Line), a firestorming of Tokyo by wave after wave of American B20 Superfortress bombers, 334 bombers in all, dropping conventional weapons, that is, dropping napalm⁴⁰ incendiary devices, destroyed sixteen square miles of homes, the homes of a million and a half people, and produced 83,793 deaths.⁴¹ It should be taken into account, by opponents of new technology such as the [atomic bomb](#), that as has been pointed out in David Irving’s THE DESTRUCTION OF DRESDEN, the 135,000 people who had died in Dresden on February 13, 1944, had died as the result of such an attack with conventional weapons.⁴²

WORLD WAR II



Amid rumors of a possible American invasion, the [Japanese](#) ousted the French colonial government which had been operating independently, and seized control of [Vietnam](#), installing Bao Dai as their puppet.

Over the following months, the American Superfortresses with their napalm incendiary devices would be similarly attempting to create similar firestorms in more than sixty other densely populated areas in Japan, such as Kobe and [Yokohama](#).

40. Napalm had been invented at Harvard in 1943, a fuel made into a gel by co-precipitated aluminum salts of naphthenic acid and palmitic acid (“napalm” stands for NAPthenic/PALMitic). Such thickening helps the material work better in flamethrowers, plus, gobs of it stick to the target while they burn. It had already been dropped in bomb form during the invasion of Normandy. It is a rather humane weapon since the vast majority of the people it kills die not in the agony of the primary scorching that occurs when contact is made with the body, but, untouched by this flame, instead by very peacefully drifting off by smothering in the 20% atmosphere of carbon monoxide that is left behind by the flames — this atmosphere induces merely a sleeplike trance leading to asphyxiation, as the red blood cells quickly all become no longer capable of transporting any oxygen from the lungs to the brain. (And, I’ll bet, you never expected to hear death by napalm described as benign!)

41. That’s considerably more civilians than would perish at [Nagasaki](#) under the atomic weapon — General Curtis LeMay would later aver that the citizens of Tokyo had been “scorched and boiled and baked to death,” and speculate that if the USA had lost the war, he and Robert Strange McNamara would have been put on trial as war criminals on account of the fire-bombing of Tokyo.)

42. By way of contrast, the high-tech explosion at [Hiroshima](#) at 8:16AM on August 6th would produce only 71,379 deaths. —So much for our Luddite obsession with bringing an end to the horror of war by outlawing the use of special weaponry.



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April 12, Thursday: On the island of Okinawa, [Japanese](#) defenders began a ground counterattack that would fail. Meanwhile, however 185 Kamikazes (Zero fighters with a bomb in the nose, without landing gear) and eight Okas (rocket-powered bombs steered by humans) attacked American ships in the vicinity, sinking two vessels and damaging twelve.

[Indian](#) troops took Kyaukpadaung in Burma, 455 kilometers north of Rangoon.

The US President succumbed to a massive cerebral hemorrhage at Warm Springs, Georgia. His bodily failure had undoubtedly been hastened by smoking and drinking.



The Vice President, [Harry S Truman](#), was of course sworn in as the 33d president of the United States of



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America immediately upon the demise of [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#).⁴³ In the White House, President Truman's bathtub would have a hidden message carved in glass on the backside which would read: "In this tub bathes the man whose heart is always clean and serves his people truthfully" (the originator of this sentiment, a glass carver, had been commissioned to design the glass panels of five such tubs).

H.L. Mencken would comment, about the fallen leader, that FDR had possessed every quality that morons esteem in their heroes.

Helen Clarke Grimes the relentless diarist of Spragueville near [Smithfield](#) northwest of [Providence, Rhode Island](#) made a final note about our [World War II](#) leadership, for her diary:

I never admired the President when he was alive and will not mourn him at his passing. Frankly, the eulogies make me sick. However, it would have been well if he had lasted out this term for which he strove so hard, as I have no faith in Vice Pres. Truman.

[German](#) and Croatian defenses collapsed along the River Sava.

American forces crossed the River Elbe near Magdeburg, 100 kilometers west of Berlin. They occupied Braunschweig, Essen, and Erfurt.

French troops took Baden-Baden.

At his home in Garmisch, Richard Strauss completed the score to his "Metamorphosen."

The Allies liberated the concentration camps at Buchenwald and Belsen.

Wilson in Hell (written in 1942)⁴⁴

Roosevelt died and met Wilson; who said, "I blundered into it
Through honest error, and conscience cut me so deep that I died
In the vain effort to prevent future wars. But you

43. For the previous presidential election, Franklin Delano Roosevelt versus Thomas Dewey, the Democrats had accepted their winner Roosevelt for an unprecedented 4th nomination, but had refused Henry Wallace of Iowa as a repeat running mate on account of views that they considered "ultra" liberal. The compromise choice for Veep had settled on a machine politician from a center of corruption in America, Kansas City, Missouri, who had made quite a name for himself by investigating war profiteers. Who could have imagined that a month after this inauguration, Roosevelt would be in the ground and it would be this supremely simpleminded machine politician who would be pushing all the buttons as the President of the United States of America?



44. This poem was entirely suppressed by the publisher, Random House, even after the war was over.

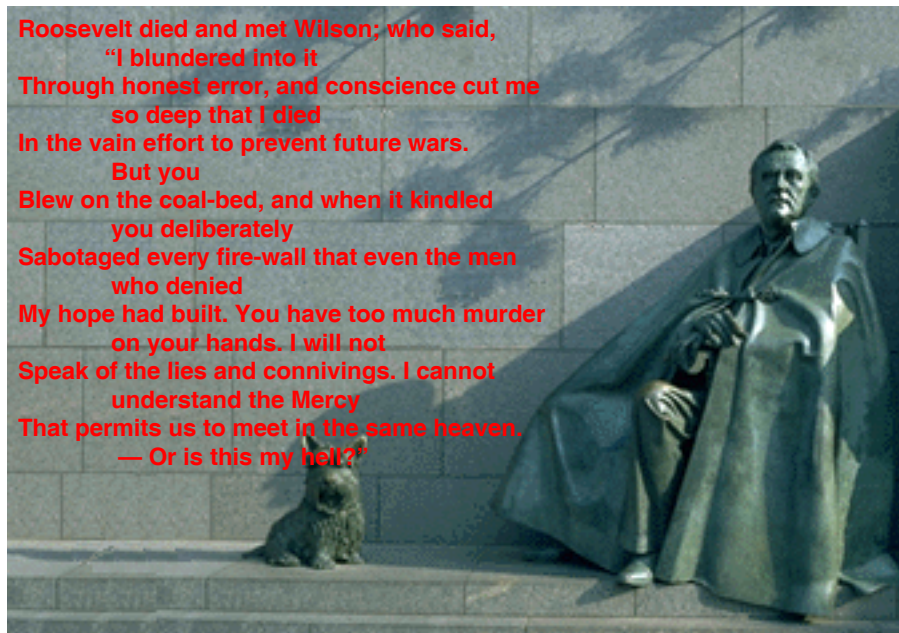


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Blew on the coal-bed, and when it kindled you deliberately
Sabotaged every fire-wall that even the men who denied
My hope had built. You have too much murder on your hands. I will not
Speak of the lies and connivings. I cannot understand the Mercy
That permits us to meet in the same heaven. — Or is this my hell?”

— [Robinson Jeffers](#)



Roosevelt died and met Wilson; who said,
“I blundered into it
Through honest error, and conscience cut me
so deep that I died
In the vain effort to prevent future wars.
But you
Blew on the coal-bed, and when it kindled
you deliberately
Sabotaged every fire-wall that even the men
who denied
My hope had built. You have too much murder
on your hands. I will not
Speak of the lies and connivings. I cannot
understand the Mercy
That permits us to meet in the same heaven.
— Or is this my hell?”

United States naval vessels sunk:

- Destroyer *Mannert L. Abele* (DD-733), by piloted bomb, Okinawa area, 27 degrees 25 minutes North, 126 degrees 59 minutes East
- LST493, by grounding, off Plymouth, England, 50 degrees 20 minutes North, 4 degrees 9 minutes West

United States naval vessels damaged in operations against [Japanese](#) forces in the Okinawa area:

- Battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40), accidentally by United States naval gunfire, 26 degrees 31 minutes North, 127 degrees 37 minutes East
- Battleship *Idaho* (BB-42), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 26 minutes North, 127 degrees 32 minutes East
- Battleship *Tennessee* (BB-43), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 0 minutes North, 128 degrees 0 minute East
- Destroyer *Stanly* (DD-478), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze piloted bomb, 27 degrees 12 minutes North, 128 degrees 17 minutes East
- Destroyer *Purdy* (DD-734), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 27 degrees 16 minutes North, 127 degrees 50 minutes East
- Destroyer *Zellars* (DD-777), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 0 minutes North, 128 degrees 0 minute East



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- Destroyer *Cassin Young* (DD-793), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 27 degrees 17 minutes North, 127 degrees 50 minutes East
- Destroyer escort *Riddle* (DE-185), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 0 minutes North, 128 degrees 0 minute East
- Destroyer escort *Rall* (DE-304), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 36 minutes North, 127 degrees 39 minutes East
- Destroyer escort *Walter G. Wann* (DE-412), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 17 minutes North, 127 degrees 20 minutes East
- Destroyer escort *Whitehurst* (DE-634), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze 26 degrees 4 minutes North, 127 degrees 12 minutes East
- Light minelayer *Lindsey* (DM-32), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 28 minutes North, 127 degrees 15 minutes East
- High-speed minesweeper *Jeffers* (DMS-27), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze plane and piloted bomb, 26 degrees 50 North, 126 degrees 35 minutes East
- Minesweeper *Gladiator* (AM-319), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 5 minutes North, 127 degrees 35 minutes East
- Gasoline tanker *Wabash* (AOG-4), by collision, 26 degrees 0 minutes North, 128 degrees 0 minutes East
- Attack cargo ship *Wyandot* (AKA-92), by collision, 26 degrees 21 minutes North, 127 degrees 44 minutes East
- LST555, by grounding, 26 degrees 20 minutes North, 127 degrees 45 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

April 13, Friday: Without the awareness of the [Japanese](#) people, Prime Minister Suzuki broadcast condolences to the United States of America in regard to the unexpected demise of their President. Secretary of War Henry Stimson informed new US President [Harry S Truman](#) (who had been kept entirely in the dark in regard to a great many things during the hegemony of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), presumably because this aristocrat thought very little of such a person when he thought of him at all) of the existence of the Manhattan Project to develop an [atomic bomb](#).

In a large grain-storage barn in a field on the Isenschnibbe estate near the town of Gardelegen, 30 kilometers north of Magdeburg in Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany, a radical simplification of the human population was underway. Earlier in the day a trainload of slaves being evacuated from camps in the Mittelbau-Dora complex around the town of Nordhausen had arrived at Letzingen railway station some 12 kilometers from Gardelegen. The slaves had marched from there to the military barracks of the Remonte-Schule, a training establishment for cavalry horses on Bismarker Strasse, Gardelegen. Meanwhile a 2nd train had arrived at the small station in nearby Mieste with 1,400 slaves from the "Mittelbau" camps of Rottelberode and Stempeda. As they were being offloaded from the train hundreds were collapsing from hunger and thirst and being shot. (American soldiers would dig up 86 such corpses in the station vicinity.) At the airfield near the town there was a Luftwaffe Paratroop unit, which took control. In a small wood behind the station the [Germans](#) executed 104 into three large pits. In the afternoon a group of around 1,050 were marched a couple of kilometers to a brick-walled barn standing in a field. When the prisoners were inside the doors were closed and the SS guards and the Kapos poured gasoline. Hand grenades were thrown in and the barn set on fire. Those who attempted to rush the doors were shot. There are some interesting photos of guys who managed to claw out little holes between the stones of the foundation in order to get a last breath of fresh air while they were burning. When this area would be liberated on the next day by the US 102nd Infantry Division, [German](#) men in business suits would be required by the Americans to carry the corpses with their bare hands, with the use of gloves not



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permitted. Today, at the Gardelegen Memorial Site, there is a brick wall containing the doorway through which the laborers had entered the barn. A memorial plaque commemorates 1,016. Above each grave is a white cross marked “Unbekannt” (Unknown).

American forces on Okinawa reached Hedo Point.

In Manila Bay, American troops landed at Fort Drum, poured 5,000 gallons of fuel into the fortifications, and set them alight — torching the entire [Japanese](#) garrison.

After five days of fighting, Soviet forces completed their capture of Vienna.

American troops took Jena and Bamberg.

Grand Duchess Charlotte returned to Luxembourg almost five years after her departure.

United States naval vessel damaged:

- Destroyer escort *Connolly* (DE-306), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, Okinawa area, 26 degrees 55 minutes North, 126 degrees 46 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

April 15, Sunday: Allies captured Arnhem.

British troops liberated the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Aircraft of fast carrier task force (Vice Admiral M.A. Mitscher) attacked airfields and aircraft on the ground in southern Kyushu, [Japan](#); strike would be repeated on the following day.

After a cruiser and destroyer bombardment and air attack, the US Army landed troops on Carabao Island at the entrance to Manila Bay, Luzon, Philippine Islands.

Submarine *CHARR* (SS-328) lays mines off the Malay Peninsula.

The body of [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) was interred at the family home in Hyde Park.

United States naval vessels damaged, Okinawa area:

- Destroyer *Wilson* (DD-408), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 3 minutes North, 127 degrees 20 minutes East
- Destroyer *Laffey* (DD-724), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 27 degrees 16 minutes North, 127 degrees 50 minutes East
- Oiler *Taluga* (AO-61), by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze, 26 degrees 3 minutes North, 127 degrees 26 minutes East



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- Motor minesweeper YMS-331, by [Japanese](#) Kamikaze boat, 26 degrees 15 minutes North, 127 degrees 36 minutes East



[Japanese](#) naval vessels sunk:

- Submarine RO-64, by mine, [Japanese](#) waters, 34 degrees 14 minutes North, 132 degrees 16 minutes East
- Submarine RO-67, by mine, [Japanese](#) waters, 34 degrees 0 minutes North, 133 degrees 0 minute East
- Frigate *Mokuto*, by mine, [Japanese](#) waters, 33 degrees 53 minutes North, 131 degrees 3 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

May 11, Friday: [President Harry S Truman](#) was visited at the White House by his mother Martha Ellen and his sister Mary Jane.

A communication intercept was accomplished on this day that would be studied carefully inside the US government, because it supported the attitude of Deputy Director for the Far East George Edward Taylor of the Office of War Information and others that the Japanese military were ripe for surrender: "Report of peace sentiment in Japanese armed forces: On 5 May the German Naval Attaché in Tokyo dispatched the following message to Admiral Doenitz: 'An influential member of the Admiralty Staff has given me to understand that, since the situation is clearly recognized to be hopeless, large sections of the Japanese armed forces would not regard with disfavor an American request for capitulation even if the terms were hard, provided they were halfway honorable.'" To this communication intercept, someone in US military intelligence would append the following: "Previously noted diplomatic reports have commented on signs of war weariness in official Japanese Navy circles, but have not mentioned such an attitude in Army quarters." (Neither [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) nor [Truman](#) would prove willing to credit such reports, as both were determined that they were going to indulge themselves in a spasm of civilian-killing with their new [A-bomb toy](#).)



[Japanese](#) aircraft made a heavy attack on US shipping in Okinawa area, Ryukyu Islands. United States naval vessels damaged:

- Aircraft carrier *Bunker Hill* (CV-17), by Kamikaze suicide plane, 25 degrees 44 minutes North, 129 degrees 28 minutes East



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- Destroyer *Evans* (DD-551), by Kamikaze suicide plane, 26 degrees 58 minutes North, 127 degrees 32 minutes East
- Destroyer *Hugh W. Hadley* (DD-774), by piloted bomb, 26 degrees 59 minutes North, 127 degrees 32 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

July 18, Wednesday: Australian troops took the Samboja oil fields, which were ablaze.

The Belgian Senate agreed to the action taken on the previous day in the Chamber of Deputies.

The Brazilian Expeditionary Force returned to Rio de Janeiro and was awarded a tumultuous welcome.

US President [Harry S Truman](#) made an entry in his handwritten diary, referring to a “telegram from Jap emperor asking for peace.”

WORLD WAR II



Tricky Japs — it was all over but the shouting. From this point forward, every American soldier who would have to die in combat, would have to die for US political reasons rather than for any military exigency (just as, at Pearl Harbor and in the Philippines at the beginning of the conflict, they had had to die because first they had been deliberately positioned for entirely political reasons in harm's way, as bait, and then they could not be alerted to the fact that they were about to be attacked in these exposed positions, because their Commander-in-Chief considered it to be a political imperative that the [Japanese](#) be forced by him to remove his ability to make any prompt response in the Pacific theatre of war — and thus allow him the good excuse that he needed before the court of American public opinion, to focus first as he desired upon the European theatre of operations).

Aircraft from the fast carrier task forces of the Third Fleet (Admiral W.F. Halsey) strike Yokosuka Naval Base and airfields in the [Tokyo](#) area.

Cruisers and destroyers (Rear Admiral C.F. Holden) bombarded shore installations at Cape Nojima, Honshu, [Japan](#).

Carrier-based aircraft bombed Wake Island.

United States naval vessel damaged:



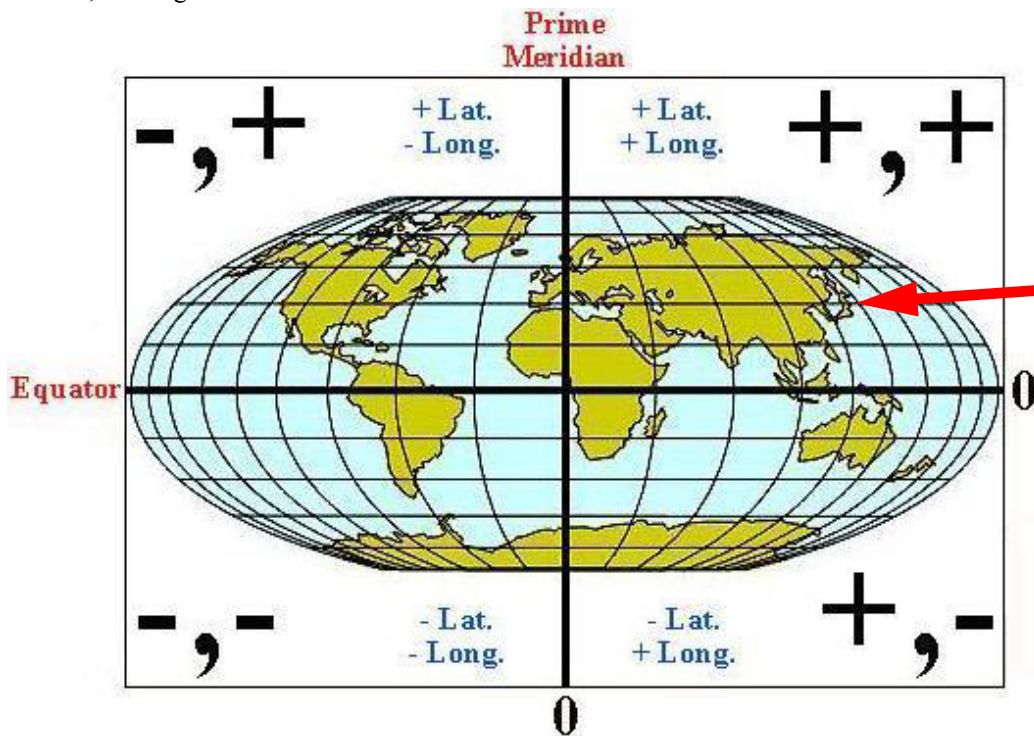
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- Transport *George F. Elliott* (AP-105), by unknown cause, Okinawa area, 26 degrees 14 minutes North, 127 degrees 50 minutes East

[Japanese](#) naval vessel sunk:

- Coast defense vessel #112, by submarine *Barb* (SS-220), off Karafuto, [Japan](#), 46 degrees 3 minutes North, 142 degrees 16 minutes East





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July 20, Friday: A communication intercept accomplished on this day would be carefully studied within the US government, as it revealed that Ambassador Sato was advocating surrender providing only that the United States assure the [Japanese](#) that their “Imperial House” would remain in existence. (This of course supported the attitude of Deputy Director for the Far East George Edward Taylor of the Office of War Information and others that the military were ripe for surrender. However, neither [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) nor Harry S Truman would prove willing to credit such reports, as both were determined that they were going to indulge themselves in a spasm of civilian-killing with their new [A-bomb](#) toy.)



[Japanese](#) Minesweeper #39 was sunk by submarine *Threadfin* (SS-410) in the Yellow Sea at 35 degrees 1 minute North, 125 degrees 42 minutes East

WORLD WAR II



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August 19, Sunday: A [Japanese](#) delegation in Manila was informed of the terms of their surrender as dictated by [General Douglas MacArthur](#).

Near Hankow in northeast [China](#), a civilian group of Chinese managed to capture 26 [Japanese](#) soldiers. They beheaded the initial 4, then tied 4 to posts and shot them in the back of the head, then broke and crudely amputated the arms and legs of the next 4, and cut off the hands and feet of 4 and stuffed their genitals into their mouths.



Then with the remaining 10, they gouged their eyes and used them for bayonet practice. (Were these dudes trying to prove that Chinese can be as inventive as Japanese?)

HEADCHOPPING



1932

1934

1941

The war being over, the American newspapers revealed that there had been in January 1945, while [John R. Kellam](#) was in the Toledo jail awaiting his big day in court, a possibility that Japan might surrender before the [A-bomb](#), a possibility upon which then-President [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had simply refused to follow up. The following appeared in the Chicago [Tribune](#) and the Washington DC [Times Herald](#), on page 1:

WORLD WAR II

BARE PEACE BID
U.S. REBUFFED
7 MONTHS AGO

BY WALTER TROHAN

Chicago Tribune Press Service

Washington, D.C. Aug. 19 - [1945]

Release of censorship restrictions in the United States makes it possible to announce that Japan's first peace bid was relayed to the White House seven months ago.

Two days before the late President Roosevelt left for the Yalta conference with Prime Minister Churchill and Dictator Stalin, he received a Japanese offer identical with the terms subsequently concluded by his successor, President Truman.



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The Jap offer, based on five separate peace overtures was relayed to the White House by Gen. MacArthur in a 40-page communication. The American commander, who had just returned triumphantly to Bataan, urged negotiations on the basis of the Jap overtures.

All Acting for the Emperor

Two of the five Jap overtures were made thru American channels and three thru British channels. All came from responsible Japanese, acting for Emperor Hirohito.

President Roosevelt dismissed the general's communication, which was studded with solemn references to Deity, after a casual reading with the remark, "MacArthur is our greatest general and our poorest politician."

The MacArthur report was not taken to Yalta. It was preserved in the files of the high command, however, and subsequently became the basis of the Truman-Attlee Potsdam declaration calling for surrender of Japan.

News Kept Secret

This Jap peace bid was known to THE TRIBUNE soon after the MacArthur communication reached here. It was not published, however, because of THE TRIBUNE'S established policy of complete cooperation with the voluntary censorship code.

Now that peace has been concluded on the basis of the terms MacArthur reported, high administration officials prepared to meet expected congressional demands for explanation of the delay. It was considered certain that charges would be hurled from various quarters of congress that the delay cost thousands of American lives and casualties, particularly in such costly offensives as Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

It was explained in high official circles that the bid relayed by MacArthur did not constitute an official offer in the same sense as the final offer, which was presented thru Japanese diplomatic channels in Bern and Stockholm for relay to the four major allied powers.

War Lords Feared

No negotiations were begun on the basis of this bid, it was said, because it was feared that if any were undertaken the Jap war lords, who were presumed to be ignorant of the feelers, would visit swift punishment on those making the offer.

It was held possible that the war lords might assassinate the emperor. Officials said Mr. Roosevelt felt that the Japs were not ripe for peace, except for a small group, who were powerless to cope with the war lords, and that peace could not come until the Japs had suffered more.

The offer, as relayed by MacArthur, contemplated surrender of everything but the person of the emperor. Japanese quarters making the offer suggested that the emperor become a puppet in



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the hands of American forces.

Full Surrender Offered

Jap proposals in the MacArthur communication contemplated:

1. Full surrender of Jap forces on sea, in the air, at home, on island possessions, and in occupied countries.
2. Surrender of all arms and munitions.
3. Occupation of the Jap homeland and island possessions by allied troops under American direction.
4. Jap relinquishment of [Manchuria](#), [Korea](#) and [Formosa](#), as well as all territory seized during the war.
5. Regulation of Jap industry to halt present and future production of implements of war.
6. Turning over of [Japanese](#) the United States might designate war criminals.
7. Release of all prisoners of war and internees in Japan proper and in areas under Japanese control.

In fact the idea that the [Japanese](#) would never surrender had been little more than an American wartime myth, and rather than being a piece of useful realism had constituted the primary obstacle to negotiation toward a Japanese surrender. How do we know this? Well, we can trust the attitude of the Sinologist George Edward Taylor of the University of Washington on this one, because he was a cold warrior on the inside and anything but a bleeding-heart liberal — he would become a Nixonian reactionary and support the Vietnam War on the campus of the University of Washington. Questioning the wisdom of using atomic weapons against Japanese civilians to end the war in the Pacific, it appears, had not been a position reserved for the softhearted: before the dropping of the atom bombs there had been embedded conservative members of the military-intelligence community, international men of intrigue, hawks, who had viewed this as an unnecessary atrocity. During WWII Taylor worked with Rand Corporation, with the Department of State, and with other articulations of the revolving door of American intelligence institutions private and public. As the Deputy Director for the Far East of the Office of War Information, he supervised a small army of anthropologists who were, basically, weaponizing anthropology against the Japanese. It was Taylor's team that crafted the leaflets dropped from airplanes on Japanese soldiers and civilians. His team of government anthropologists had access to 5,000 diaries seized from captured and killed Japanese soldiers and studied such documents carefully for clues as to Japanese behavior tendencies. At the beginning of the war Taylor had viewed his psychological warfare programs as a means of ending the war by helping the Japanese overcome all the cultural obstacles preventing their surrender, but as the war progressed and it became abundantly clear that the American side would triumph he began to see his job as being one that needed to be done at home: he needed to convince US civilian and military leaders that they did not in order to end the war need to engage in any acts of genocidal annihilation. He came to perceive the War Department and the White House as in the grip of racist stereotypes of maniacal Japanese soldiers and citizens fighting to the death, and he and his staff began to struggle against this domestic attitude as a prime obstacle to peace. In the typescript of a speech that he probably delivered in 1944, we find him arguing that "If we accept, as we must, the view that Japanese soldiers, in spite of their indoctrination, are as human as other troops, we shall be the less surprised at the mounting evidence of their very human reactions to defeat. We are taking more and more prisoners. Two years ago it would have been very unusual for 60 men to allow themselves to be picked up out of the water when their transport had been sunk. In New Guinea and Burma stragglers are coming in out of the jungles to surrender without a struggle. We have known for a long time that many Japanese officers have been evacuated from indefensible positions and that their reaction on places such as Attu, where escape was impossible, was not to fight to the last man." Such thinking would be



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ignored by the War Department and White House. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt insisted on including the demise of the Japanese Emperor as part of America's demand for unconditional surrender, and it was not until after this man had collapsed and died that the government was able to communicate a more relaxed position on this point to the Japanese. A May 11, 1945 communication intercept being studied inside the US government had supported the attitude of Taylor and others at the Office of War Information that the Japanese military were ripe for surrender: "Report of peace sentiment in Japanese armed forces: On 5 May the German Naval Attaché in Tokyo dispatched the following message to Admiral Doenitz: 'An influential member of the Admiralty Staff has given me to understand that, since the situation is clearly recognized to be hopeless, large sections of the Japanese armed forces would not regard with disfavor an American request for capitulation even if the terms were hard, provided they were halfway honorable.'" To this communication intercept, someone in US military intelligence had appended the following: "Previously noted diplomatic reports have commented on signs of war weariness in official Japanese Navy circles, but have not mentioned such an attitude in Army quarters." A July 20, 1945 communication intercept had revealed that Japanese Ambassador Sato was advocating a Japanese surrender providing that the United States would assure the Japanese that the "Imperial House" would remain in existence. Like many others, regardless of how hawkish they were, Taylor would come to consider that what President [Harry S Truman](#)'s decision to use of nuclear weapons probably had to do with was "scaring the hell out of the Soviet Union," and that the idea of saving American lives during an invasion of the [Japanese](#) homeland islands was a mere cover story that of course the American public would readily buy into in order to avoid the thought that we had committed a war atrocity.



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1946

January 28, Monday: Harry L. Hopkins, 55, aide to [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), died in a New York City hospital.

Spring: The [Conscientious Objectors](#) serving as orderlies at various mental hospitals created a National Mental Health Foundation. [Eleanor Roosevelt](#), a sponsor, would be active in inspiring many prominent citizens to join her in advancing this new organization's objectives. The American Friends Service Committee withdrew from the Civilian Public Service program.



CPS Camp No. 41, a mental hospital unit of [Conscientious Objectors](#) at Eastern State Mental Hospital in Williamsburg, Virginia, would be operated instead by the Selective Service System until it would close during July.

WORLD WAR II



Dangerous war prisoner [John R. Kellam](#), on account of his [Quaker conscientious objection](#) to all warfare, was transferred from the Milan, Michigan minimum-security prison to the maximum-security Lewisburg Penitentiary in Pennsylvania, at which the warden was Mr. William H. Hiatt. What an unsettling, unpatriotic belief to hold during wartime, when other people are dying for their country! A deep thinker who also was present at that time was Robert M. Lindner, the prison psychologist, author of the 1944 book *REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE* which would be made into a film in 1955, scripted first for pouty Marlon Brando but finally recast for pouty James Dean. This coffee-table pseudopsychology book of Dr. Lindner's purported to be his objective scientific account of how he had successfully "regressed" a "criminal psychopath" to the age of six months, and gotten the man to "remember" that he had been traumatized by witnessing his parents in an act of sexual congress.⁴⁵

I was in the back seat of a car with leg irons on, from Milan,

45. Nowadays, of course, any mental health professional having any pretense to respectability would distance himself or herself from such claims made on behalf of their profession. While in the prison, Friend John would have opportunity to observe the loose manner in which Dr. Lindner conducted his profession, and considered it to be particularly revealing when the psychologist took an opportunity to characterize the historical Jesus as having been a epileptic "simpering pseudo-mystic."



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Michigan to half-way across Pennsylvania – it was almost five hundred miles, whatever it is, and it took all of a long day. There were no freeways then so we slogged through the middle of every city and town. They only took one break and that was for lunch. And they asked me if I'd like to go in and have a good lunch with them. They were allowed to treat me at government expense for a lunch that I'd be otherwise missing. I said, "Well I'll be willing to consider it, maybe."



They said, "We'd have to have your assurance that without any leg or hand restraints you would not try to escape. We don't want to chase you or shoot you or have an escape attempt on our hands. But we know what you're in for. We know that whatever the prison authorities have had by way of inconvenience, it hasn't been by any means, a bad or perfidious action on your part. So if you give us your word, we'll take you in. You are not wearing prison garb so you will not stand out in a crowd. As far as they're aware, we're just three guys coming in to have some lunch. We'll get back in the car and resume our trip afterward. We'd be able and we are authorized to trust you that far. Would you agree?"

"Well," I said, "I don't think that I belong under your authority as your captive. I have never acknowledged the validity of the system that has kidnapped me and is still holding me. I don't think that I should give you any such word, because if I did, I'd have to live up to it. But if I saw an opportunity to run



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back to my family, I would feel morally free to take it."



"Well," they said, "All right, we're going to have to leave you in the car with the leg irons on and we'll have to handcuff you too. We'll have to lock the car in a way that you could not get out of even with hobbling. One of us is going to have to go in to lunch and bring a lunch out to the other because you're far more likely to escape from one of us than from two. But we don't particularly like it that we can't go in to enjoy a lunch together, the two of us, if not the three."

"Well, I'm sorry about that but that's the way I feel."

Eventually we got to Lewisburg and I was processed in without cooperating in that process either. Ha-ha!



The place where I got put in Lewisburg first was a segregation section where I met [Bayard Rustin](#) and other notable war resisters and other types of COs. From there I was transferred



to what they called the Blue Room, the Psychiatric Ward. There



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was quite a motley bunch of prisoners in there and some orderlies. One poor guy of maybe eighteen or twenty who was in pretty bad condition, didn't have normal responses to anybody else. The man in charge of that part of Lewisburg was Robert M. Lindner, Ph.D. Do you remember the book, *REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE*? He was the author, a psychologist, not a psychiatrist. But he was running a ward that was supposed to be the nearest thing to a psychiatric ward that the hospital had. But you'd wonder why a psychologist would be in charge of it. He didn't have enough credentials for that. It's like saying that an optometrist is able to do the delicate eye surgery for cataracts! Well, anyway, one day I heard outside of the room I had, the door was ajar, and out in the center space around which were a lot of little rooms, instead of having the beds all in the center space, I heard the noisiest shouting. I thought that young fellow was going berserk, except that his voice was not that low. So I wandered out through the door and looked out and there in the doorway of this poor guy's room was Robert M. Lindner. His shoulders were hunched down and his jaw was jutting out. He was bawling this young guy out and it looked as though Robert M. Lindner was feeling personally insulted.

In the next few days I learned from a prison inmate psychiatrist, a Jewish German refugee who was really qualified but who was in for income tax evasion (ha-ha-ha!), and he was in a white coat, and he had a little rubber triangle inside a stainless steel rod hooked around his neck so he looked like a doctor equipped to examine reflexes. From him I learned that Lindner had taken offense at this kid who had been grossly mistreated sexually as a child by his mother. He was psychologically, thoroughly, all messed up. Well, Lindner had caught him masturbating. But why Lindner had to take offense at that, you wouldn't expect a professional to have it grate on his nerves at all. He should have seen everything. I had watched Lindner after he halfway calmed down and went out. As he went through the outer door of the "Blue Room" into the hospital general hallway, I could hear Lindner muttering some awfully angry things under his breath. So he was really personally disturbed by this young kid. So I wondered, how does he get off writing such a book that was supposed to be so authentic? And the public sees it as a best seller.

He came in one time and tried to convince me that Jesus was a simpering pseudo-mystic, an epileptic, and he gave a number of quick diagnostic terms that were supposed to mean that Jesus was not the kind of a person you'd trust with any veracity at all, that he was a completely addled person of no consequence.

I asked him from what source came his knowledge of the historic Jesus. I said, "Did you get it through your own religious affiliations, if you have any?" And he said, "I'm Jewish, but that's not a part of Judaism."

"Well," I said, "any real knowledge of Jesus should have a lot of Judaism in it because Jesus was a Jew. He came to help all Jews be better Jews."



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Lindner decided he didn't want to go on with that conversation. About a month or two after I was transferred to Lewisburg, I was out of the private room and out of the "Blue Room" of the regular hospital and in the ward, in one of the rows of beds, I became aware that one of the inmates in a private room was middle-aged, or perhaps even elderly, a black man who had a very heavy torso and very spindly legs, showing atrophy from disuse. The only way he ever moved out of that room was by wheelchair. It became his turn for me to visit him, as I did, occasionally, visit everybody in sight. I learned what he was willing to volunteer to me. Among those things was the fact that he had been injured at some point in his criminal activities in a way that had almost destroyed the nerves passing through one shoulder. Those nerves were held in place, he said, by metal clips because otherwise they were vulnerable to more injury. He had to be careful how he slept at night and he had to warn people how to move him and how not to move him because he would get terrible spasms as those nerves might be affected by certain motions. While I was getting somewhat acquainted with him, I noticed that his bare arms and lower legs were very scaly with whitish grey scales that seemed to be very loose so I asked him if that was part of the condition.

"Oh," he said, "no, that's because they haven't felt as though they dared to give me a bath. For a long time - I haven't had a bath in months! I'm filthy."

Well we talked about other matters and later on we returned to that.

I said, "Well, it's not healthy for you. You've got to bathe occasionally, but maybe you don't need it as often as the rest of us because you're not as active, but you shouldn't have a lot of dead skin simply floating on the surface of your body and you need to be really clean once in a while!"

He said, "Oh, don't I know it!"

So maybe the second or third time I visited him was when we gravitated to that again. Not only did he appear that way, but he was quite odorous, as you might expect!

I said, "Do you suppose, since nobody else is available, it might be possible for us together to be careful enough so that you could get in and out of the shower. If you have enough strength in your legs to keep standing in there without collapsing, why don't we try it and see if you really can get yourself clean, with or without any help from me."

So that did get attempted and we were successful. The only part he needed me to reach was the middle of his back. He could take care of everything else. We got him very carefully back into his wheelchair and back into his room. We did it again after two or three weeks and that time I had enough presence of mind to get his wheelchair cleaned up so that he wouldn't be sitting in his own dead skin particles! He was very appreciative that he had found somebody who was willing to take that much helpful interest in him, by doing something that even the doctor didn't ask any of the inmate orderlies to help with. He was moved out



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of the hospital after a while and I don't know whether he was transferred elsewhere and went into the general population, but as an invalid in a wheelchair, I don't see where else they could have put him at Lewisburg. What happened to him is only a matter of speculation because the grapevine wasn't forthcoming.

There was one occasion when I was told that a certain inmate wanted to meet me and had something to talk to me about. I found out which room he was in and it was one of the private rooms in that wing of the hospital. When I went in there, it turned out that he was a tall, wiry black man of maybe thirty-five or forty who had had a pretty rough life outside pursuing whatever crimes he was in and he had noticed me as a young man of somewhere around thirty and it had occurred to him what fun it would be to have sex with me.

"Well," I said, "I don't think that's going to happen!"

He said, "What would you do if I decided to insist on it?"

I said, "Well, I think this meeting is just about over, but I can tell you that I have no idea what I would do or what would happen but I have half an idea that whatever happens is probably not going to be very pleasant for either of us."

I just waited to see what next he would say and he didn't seem to get his thoughts together about that so I said, "O.K, so long. I might see you sometime and maybe not."

I didn't feel I owed anything to the administration of the prison any more than on any other occasion, so I never mentioned that to anybody. Apparently he appreciated my not ratting on him right away. I didn't get him into any trouble. He got whatever he was there for attended to and then went back out into the general population and I never saw him again or heard from him again. So that was that.

I just thought of a very interesting fellow I met in the "Blue Room." He had been a naval petty officer and his work was shoreside. He had been on vessels before but he had a desk job in the Navy Department. One day after I had played chess with him quite a few times – he was very grateful to find someone who would play the game with him – although I had rarely played it and didn't really know much about it except that the knights go two up and one over and the bishop goes on his own color diagonally across the board as far as he wants to or as far as he can and the king and queen have their small motions and that was about as much as I knew about it. But anyway, it seemed to help him that someone even of my meager ability could move pieces because that let him think about the game. That day he said he needed to think about something as interesting as chess because otherwise he was going crazy thinking about the way he got in there. Another navy officer who was a good close friend of his had come to his desk and he said, "I've got a problem at home. My son is not willing to think of a military career. I'm not too happy about that and I would be happy if he would come into the navy but he says he's opposed to war and he's going to register as a conscientious objector. I've tried to talk him out of it but I don't want to be too heavy on him and I'm wondering how



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he could do what he feels he has to do with the least amount of damage to his future life."

So this navy officer with whom I'd gotten acquainted, hearing that, told his friend, well maybe his son had better get himself copies of all the Selective Service regulations and see what might be in the minds of the Selective Service people he meets. It might tell him what their responsibilities are and he knows what he feels his responsibilities are and maybe he could soften whatever blow is going to come to him because of his attitudes. He said, "Everybody is entitled to this. We don't have to agree with him, in fact I don't, but he had better look things up and make himself as aware as possible."

So his friend got the boy to go over to the government printing office and get himself copies of those regulations. The boy went to his draft board and they found out that he was extremely knowledgeable about their business. He was a bright guy – a quick study! So they asked him, "Who told you this was the way it was supposed to be done?"

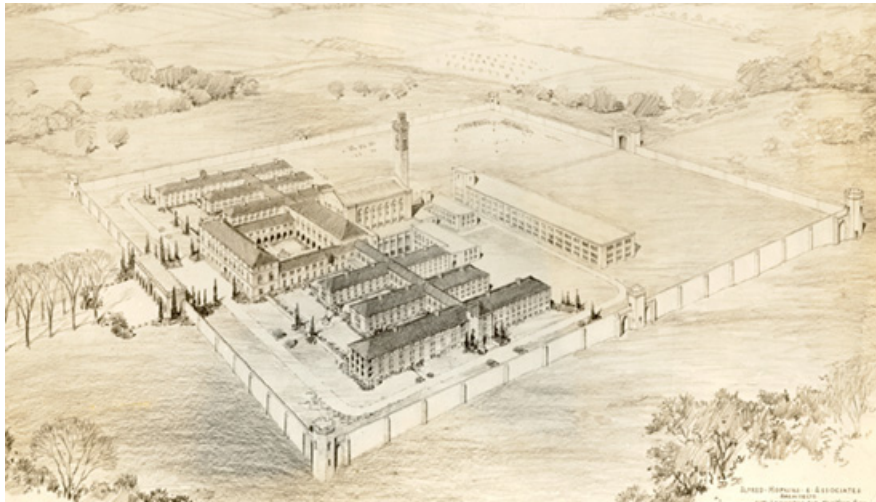
And they got him to blurt out that he'd read it in Book 4 of the regulations, which is correct. Some of them knew enough of their own regulations to verify it. Ha-ha! So they said, "Where'd you get those?"

He said, "Over at the printing office."

"Who told you that they'd be there?"

"My father learned about it from another fellow at the navy department."

Well they looked that all up and they got those two officers and they trumped up charges about their doing illegal kinds of draft counseling. The FBI decided to claim that there was a ring of draft dodger counselors working and these two were the ring leaders. They concocted this big cock and bull story about it and they got these two officers fired by the navy, discredited, their pensions rescinded and cancelled. They were middle aged men, well on their way towards a pension. Besides they charged them in federal court and he was imprisoned in Lewisburg.





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There was maximum publicity about it so their families felt ruined. And here this guy was. His friend had gone somewhere else. They were far separated and he was left wondering how in the world he'd gone so far astray as to disgrace himself so utterly. He really didn't understand. So in between chess games when we were talking I said, "The war makes victims out of everybody on this side and on the opposite sides. Everybody is forced to do things they wouldn't have chosen. We are pressured by propaganda into professing kinds of patriotism whether we feel them or not and once in a while they need a big scapegoat. By your friend innocently coming to you, that set the cards up so that the FBI could use you as a handy scapegoat. For the sake of the war, you have been imprisoned, in order to inhibit other people from exercising the freedoms they're used to. The army guys get traumatized by everything they have to go through even when they are not injured. The families of killed veterans are told that their boys were very glorious for what they "gave." Even the Gold Star Mothers are propagandized into accepting their loss with pride. Can you think of any way in which people are not victimized by war? It's just the roll of the dice. If it hadn't been you this guy had gone to, it would have been somebody else. Or it might have been someone else's son who discovered that he was a conscientious objector. I look around at the Bureau of Prisons. They are having to cope with all kinds of COs of every sort. There seems to be no common denominator among us. They can't count on what we can do and what we can't do. We are all different just as people on the outside are different. So you caught a particularly fast foul ball that was batted into your corner, it was just a matter of chance and you just weren't as lucky as everybody else around. It could have hit anybody."

Explaining it that way as just a way that war operates, to hit everybody in various ways, he seemed to understand that kind of an explanation and he calmed down a good deal.



Well, when I finally got out, a year and a half later, Carol said that she had had a letter from a woman somewhere who said that her husband had met me at Lewisburg. We had had some talks



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that settled him into having enough strength to last the war out and seemed to clear him of all the mystery of how he got in there. And he says that he probably would have killed himself. She credited me with having helped him to cope with his fear. That was amazing. I told Carol I remembered the fellow's personality. I even have a mental picture of his face, but I can't remember his name. I guess I thought I'd never see him again. Now, why isn't it that way with Dr. Lindner or Warden Hiatt or the guard named Steininger? And a lot of others!

My file that has Carol's name on upstairs would still have that letter that she got from that man's wife. There was a lot of time spent in my observing his state of extreme consternation and unjustified guilt – he felt that he had betrayed his whole family by being idiotic in some way. He couldn't quite figure out why it happened. But I think that the military people thought they needed some kind of a *cause célèbre*, somebody who could plausibly have been hung with guilt even though in normal times what he did would be considered perfectly reasonable and not at all disloyal. After all, the Congress had set up the system so that it could be regulated in a way that would work.

That draft board offered me release from prison if I would go into the Civilian Public Service, the CPS. But I explained why I declined to the person who came to me about it, after they had decided to make this offer. I think it was the assistant warden who came to talk to me about it. He was one of the three on the draft board, along with the warden and some senior officer.

I said that I had been a visitor to quite a few Civilian Public Service camps. I saw some of the young men who were satisfied to sit out the war doing whatever they were asked to do. I saw a number of others who were very dissatisfied because the fact that they were there made it possible for those agencies of government, the weather service and other agencies, to discharge some of their regular employees so that the army could draft them. And if those COs weren't there to take their place, those boys might well have stayed in their useful government service but not in war duty. So it was a source of extreme dismay to those COs to feel that they had made it possible for somebody else to be sent out to join the killing. Quite a few of them left the CPS camps and they went to the camps that were run directly by the military, government camps, without the peace churches being in charge. Some of the COs in the other camps run by Quaker, or Brethren, or Mennonite service committees were feeling very bitterly critical of the churches for doing the government's bidding by having charge of concentration camps for slave labor by COs. They didn't even get the tiny army wages because the attitude of the country wouldn't have stood for it. So, it was even worse than military slavery because churches were in between as the delegated slave masters. Boys from the peace churches were conscripted. I used to see Mennonites come through Silver Spring on a bus and they were on the way to draft board offices to get processed and some of them were simply put in spurious classifications and sent home to wait it out. In



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terms of warfare, the Mennonites were sometimes considered to be more of a lost cause to the Army than young Quakers. The military attitude about the Quakers was that because some of them were willing to go into war, then the rest of them ought to be also willing.

I was approached and asked if I would be interested in applying for parole. I had looked up the practice of paroling prisoners and essentially it seemed like a system where you take the inmate's word as binding that he's going to be a good person and keep out of trouble and you take a chance on him and let him out and see if he can fly right and not do any more crimes but, I thought that certainly didn't fit this present situation. I said, "I got into trouble trying to be a good man, trying not to destroy people or property. And that's why I'm here. It seems ridiculous for me to promise to be a good boy now! We might have another war! It's not up to me! I'll keep on trying to be a good person, regardless! But, as to applying for the privilege of freedom by giving you my word to be good, being good is what got me in here."

All this I was telling the Warden of Lewisburg Penitentiary.

"So, I figure that whenever the political situation is such that the people over you have no more reason to keep me here, they might decide to let me go."

I thought, I haven't heard that we have turned into bad Germans and are destroying useless people, like maybe me, and unless the government does that kind of thing, I'll be free sometime.

One day at Lewisburg, the Catholic Chaplain came into the hospital ward. There were about twenty-two beds, eleven on each side, a large open space in the middle, and he looked around and he asked something of somebody and then he looked at me and he came straight over to me. He introduced himself as the Catholic Chaplain at Lewisburg and revealed his simplified understanding of my status in that place. Then he said that before he was at Lewisburg, he was a chaplain in the army. I felt my interest rising a bit at that. So we talked, generally, and there were some other fellows who sauntered over nearby and stood around. This wasn't a private setting so they were welcome to listen and they didn't seem to make much comment but they listened very carefully to what this priest and I were talking about. And then this priest began to become a little pointed. By degrees he got to his point:

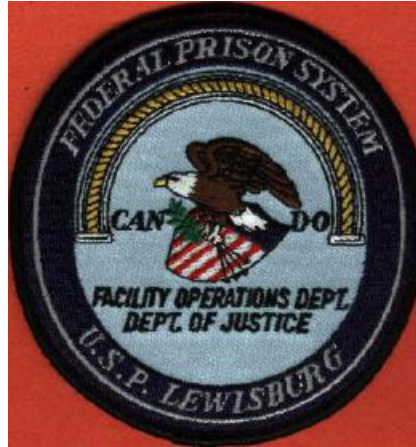
"I understand you're here for refusing military service. You must be missing the importance of putting down those Godless



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dictators who are threatening the whole Christian world."



I replied to the effect that, "They are succeeding, perhaps, in making most Christians abandon the whole message of Jesus about how to deal with our enemies. We are returning all kinds of evil for evil, as war causes everyone on both sides to resemble each other closely. What do you think Jesus would be telling us, and them, just now?"

So then I asked him, "What is there in Christian ethics that would possibly justify a bunch of priests telling a larger bunch of very young men not to be morally concerned about killing each other wholesale? What was there in Jesus' teachings that would justify that? Don't you suppose that Jesus Christ would be opposed to our doing that to each other?"

We had just a little more give and take before he suddenly decided that his watch told him that he was late, or almost late, to his next appointment, so he got out of there pretty fast. As soon as he was out of hearing, some of these men, convicts all, standing around, were beginning to laugh and oh, they thought that was a great show! They congratulated me for having given this so and so a good argument because he deserves it. I asked, "What's the matter with him? Why were you so glad that maybe he was embarrassed over what we talked about?"

And they told me, "What a devil he is in priest's robes!"

They said that there wasn't an inmate in this whole place that hasn't been warned against confessing anything to him because he'll trot up to the warden and tell him about it. He will violate his own priestly duties doing that. Oh, they called him all kinds of dirty names and they were so pleased that I had apparently sort of put him down, but gently. Ha-ha! I'd asked him questions that he didn't try to answer!

There was one old man who'd been in the Lewisburg prison hospital occasionally for some minor illnesses. He was up in years. He must have been somewhere around sixty or sixty-five and he came in seeming more depressed than I'd seen him before. Each time he came in he seemed more depressed so I asked the former Merchant Marine sea captain, Laurent Brackx, who brought me the



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books from the library, "What's the matter with this tall, thin fellow? He seems to be down in the dumps more than ever. Every he comes in here he looks worse."

"Oh, he's getting short. His sentence is almost up."

So he would be going out pretty soon. Well, the day came when he went out. We saw him from the hospital windows going out from the front door of the building, the gatehouse in the thirty-foot wall. The way he was trudging looked as if he was on his way to his execution instead of on his way to freedom. But he had spent so much of his life in prisons and jails of all kinds and he'd gotten so old that he didn't know how he was going to cope with the outside world. It scared him and depressed him to think that he was going to be on his own responsibility and he didn't have a sense of responsibility or how to take care of himself on the outside. So out he went and about ten days later in he came! Some marshal was conducting him to the building's front door again and we soon found out, because everybody saw him come in and everyone in the whole place knew through the grapevine that he was back. Well, they all expected him to be a lot happier than he was. He seemed to have a big burden lifted off his back.

What had happened was that as soon as he was out, he had a ticket to somewhere, he got off at a city that had a sister city on the other side of a river, in another state, like Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas, across the state line, and as soon as he got there he left the bus station and looked at every car and as soon as he found a car with the keys in the ignition, he got in it. He could remember just enough about driving that he got it to the bridge and went over the river into the other state and if he happened to know where the police station was, he parked that car in front of the police station and sat in it. Pretty soon the theft of that car went out on the wire services and some policeman going out on his beat happened to see the license plate, took out his police sheet and saw that the plates fit. So he went over to the guy and said, "Is this your car?"

He said, "No, I stole it!"

"Where'd you steal it from?"

"The other side of the bridge."

He mentioned the name of the state over there. The policeman asked, "Well, why'd you steal it and what's it here for?"

Well, he didn't profess to know why and just let the officer do what he wanted to do and he took him into the station. So some other policeman took the car back. It wasn't damaged, but they charged him with stealing an automobile and taking it across a state line. And that was a federal offense, so they had him up in federal court and he was sentenced. He didn't object and he didn't try to defend himself at all. They looked up his record and learned that he'd just come out of Lewisburg. They considered his age and they said, "Looks like you're going back to Lewisburg."

"O.K."

Well they said that maybe they ought to send him to some other place, and he didn't look as pleased about that! Lewisburg was



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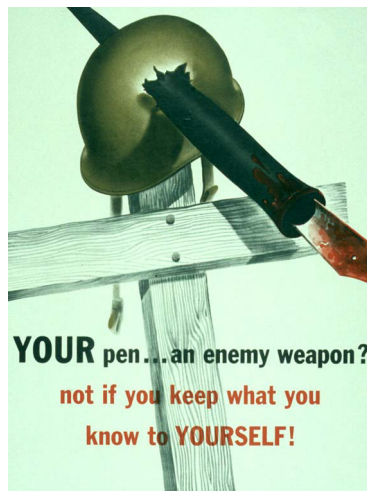
his home and he didn't like to be put out, so they accommodated him again. Poor guy! He just couldn't make it on the outside. There was another prisoner named Gene McCann. He had been called The Boy Wonder of Wall Street in his day. He was some kind of a broker for stocks. He was also some kind of a manipulator and he made an awful lot of money using other people's money without their consent. So, he made quite a pile in a hurry. Back in the thirties it wasn't as easy, maybe, and he got caught for securities and exchange violations. He got put in Lewisburg. He felt that he was only trying to do what the country had permitted all the robber barons to do. To get rich quick was the epitome of American success so why were they bothering him? He felt put upon. It got to be pretty strong paranoia. He began to wonder if all the people in the beds and all the orderlies who came in and the people with the food carts that came in three times a day were really looking for ways of getting him. So he took to the underside of his bed and on the floor he'd keep on writing writs to Judge Learned Hand of the Supreme Court of New York. But he didn't have good handwriting, so before he had retreated into his hole under his bed he'd been socializing some with us, and he'd seen that I had been re-establishing my handwriting. College had been pretty hard on it, taking notes! Ha-ha! So, I had relearned the alphabet and I was writing very neatly. Well, he got the idea that maybe I could go about practicing while copying his scrawls to make his writs legible. At one time some of his writs had been in Judge Learned Hand's court and the Judge said that he wasn't going to wear out his eyes trying to read this awful scrawl. Unless he could learn how to write, or get his manuscripts made legible, he wasn't going to read another thing from him. So I wrote maybe half a dozen in three or four months and they all got into Judge Learned Hand's possession and he denied almost all of them, but he gave partial relief in one or two. So, it felt as if I was getting to be a jailhouse lawyer! Ha-ha! But all I was doing was a copying job, just as if I'd had a typewriter, making things legible. So I didn't know whether Gene McCann had anything really convincing to offer the Judge, but if he had the right to get the Judge to read something, then I shouldn't refuse to help him exercise that right. Carol and I corresponded quite frequently until it was shut off by censorship, when they didn't like what I said about the President. The President's war was still going on and I was sounding to them almost treasonous. Some of the guards, when they didn't have other things to do, would set up a table in a hallway and one of those tables was often in front of our cages. They would go through inmate letters to make sure there wasn't something in them about other inmates or about the prison system, criticizing it, and some of the guards even took offense at political ideas that were contrary to their own. They would report through channels to the warden that so-and-so's correspondence has these things in it. There were five letters that got returned to me at one time and those were letters going on three or four weeks. They were all addressed to my wife and



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I was writing them as freely as if there was no censorship. I didn't recognize their right to censor what she wrote or what I wrote. I felt that I had been kidnapped from home and family and friends for reasons which were connected with a war which was as rotten as any other war in its effect on people. I didn't want to recognize the validity of my incarceration. Carol and I had talked about the idea that maybe our correspondence might not be agreeable to some people in the official hierarchy in the prison.



I remember seeing one man at Lewisburg. He'd brought in his pocket three or four strawberries. When he got inside, and I guess they trusted him enough not to search him, he distributed these strawberries, one to each of a few other inmate friends in the prison. They were ripe, luscious looking strawberries. They must have tasted wonderfully. But for that, either some guard saw or heard, or some snitch went to a guard and the guy was thrown in the hole. It was a bare cell, sometimes with padding around the walls, a concrete floor with a little hole in the middle of it and not even a toilet in there. The hole would be used for that. There was no light coming through the door at all. That was "the hole," so he spent a while in solitary, supposedly thinking how wrong he'd been to do whatever the officials took offense at. For dealing out a few strawberries to friends, and he was a farmworker on the outside of the walls, but anything he brought in that wasn't officially sanctioned was, by definition, contraband. He was being punished as though he'd brought in a bag full of heroin. Ha-ha-ha-ha! There was one sweet little guy, a virgin and looking very innocent. He was a Jehovah's Witness, I guess upper teens, and he'd gotten into prison somehow. I think he wasn't a CO but I'm not sure. Well, anyway, he'd gotten gang raped by a bunch of old, hardened convicts one day and really injured. He was in the hospital for awhile getting treated for the roughness of that. And then he had the duty to testify against those guys in court. They were still in the population in the prison. So he was really



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beset with fears. He didn't know who these guys had as confederates in other departments or in the hospital or wherever, so he was extremely vulnerable. It was so worrisome that he became ill from it. I think eventually he was released because he was simply going to pieces in there. If he hadn't really done anything wrong except to claim what his religious leadership said he was, they were punishing the innocent, by any common sense way of looking at it. But he was one of these "pretty boys." These old guys I guess must have pretended that he was female. George Bernard Shaw said that in schools no child was protected from the others as he would have been in prison. But prison protection wasn't always effective either.

There was a band leader named Bratcher⁴⁶ who had the next bed to mine for a while. I don't remember his first name, but he had the nickname of Washie because his band played late at night to entertain people who came to hear his band at the Washington Hotel, just across the street from the Treasury Department.

Well, he was the leader of a little band he had organized. They were entertaining people in the hotel, evenings. These were very late—they went on from nine or ten o'clock to one or two o'clock in the morning—so he slept all the rest of the morning. They would work on their music during the afternoon and get to the hotel in the middle of the evening and start entertaining folks. A lot of government officials would go there, sometimes with their wives and families and it was a kind of a nightclub. He used patriotic themes of one kind or another, but he didn't bore people too much with that. He thought they were doing pretty good music but he had a hard time staying awake sometimes in order to perform adequately in leading his band. So, he took some Benadryl tablets sometimes, under doctor's prescription, and I don't know whether it was always with legitimate access, but there was enough officialdom participating in this entertainment, the audience crowd, so that it was considered to be helping the morale of the government. So, he was given some deferments because they felt that this was an essential occupation.

Anyway, on somebody's representation he came under suspicion. Somebody who knew that he was using "bennies" to keep awake with said that he was taking it in order to show certain symptoms that might make him unacceptable for military duty. So the suspicion was that he was a draft dodger. If you wanted to get a drug addict, anybody had to say that he was doing drugs in order to escape from the draft. He would immediately be under suspicion and anything could happen to him. So, he was brought up on charges and he tried to defend himself. He had a pretty good income so he had a good lawyer, but the lawyer didn't prevail, so he found himself in the federal penitentiary. And he was mad! He was terribly provoked. He had a good thing going and it was earning him a lot of money and now they took it all away. It cost him a lot for legal fees besides. He was extremely angry about that. He came into that hospital with some real

46. Everett Malcolm Bratcher, as later research revealed.



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ailments. I don't know whether he had some withdrawal symptoms or what, but he was almost eating himself up with his own anger. All the other inmates quickly realized that he had this terrible chip on his shoulder and unless they really enjoyed tangling with somebody like that they had best let him alone. He and I tangled only once, but he was tangling repeatedly with some of the others. Others kept out of his way completely. He would get a sudden impulse that he was uncomfortable in some way.

One cold night he got up and flipped around his desk into the little aisle about this wide between the heads of our beds and the little side tables we had between each bed and the next and the window wall. And he went to the window right behind his bed and he threw it up, all the way to the half sash. Well, in streamed the bitter winter weather. This was just about a year before I was released and the weather was already cold at the beginning of that winter. The room cooled down in a hurry. He wasn't saying anything or doing anything in his bed so about fifteen or twenty minutes later people were starting to grouse around the room. I slipped out of bed and went around and put the window halfway down, quietly, thinking that if I slammed it all the way down, Washie might go into a tizzy. I didn't know why he wasn't freezing to death in his own bed! He was that close to the same window. I hadn't even reached my bed again, having gone around the other end of the row, when he bounded out of bed, yelled at me and punched me in the stomach and I went down. All of a sudden two guys came up from the other side of the room and started banging him around, slammed him in his bed and told him to stay there or he'd be beaten up a lot worse. Then they came over to me and got me up and checked me out to see if I was hurt any worse than being out of breath. He was threatened with a whole lot more if he ever did anything like that again. I could see that he was not prison wise at all and he'd better wise up or he might get himself killed in there.

[O]ne night, a couple of weeks later, after things had simmered down and he seemed to get a little more reasonable, I suddenly lost my vision from the center line to the left, both eyes at once. Everything was clear from the center to the right but everything was a blue-grey haze from the center to the left. It was the same in both eyes. I realized that I had had that once before, about two hours before I had a migraine headache. It was bothering me during the evening and when the doctor made his last rounds he came past my bed. Somebody else had told him he'd better see me and mentioned this peculiar vision problem. So he came over and said, "Is something ailing you?"

I said, "I had this loss of vision on the left side of each eye about a half hour or so ago and now I've got this very strong headache and I think it's migraine and if it is I'm going to have a tough time trying to sleep tonight. It's pretty strong and I've had it before."

"Well," he said, "What have you been taking for it?"

I said, "I had some Cafegot."

They were tablets containing caffeine and ergotamine, a tartrate



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combination in a tablet. "They don't have any of that here, he said, but I know one thing that will let you sleep and by the morning you'll be all over it because migraines are that short. I'll give you one."

The prison doctor substituted [codeine](#) most effectively. It was in a tiny pill, very small, and I said that I didn't know if I should take that. "Isn't that addictive?"

"Oh," he said, "one won't do it. You won't have another migraine for a long time probably. It's only occasional with most people."

It was so with me. I don't think I've had it more than four or five times in my life.

So he gave me this one little tablet and I downed it with some water, being assured by the doctor that it's the repeated taking of this that gets people hooked. He said that I wouldn't have any tendency for that. So I took it and I didn't remember much more before I was out and waking up in the morning. As I woke up I realized that Washie Bratcher was staring at me from his bed and as soon as he saw that I was definitely awake he swung his legs over and he leaned over and he said,

"John, were you pretending to be asleep last night?"

"No!" I said, "I really had a good night's sleep!"

He said, "No, I don't mean that. Right after you had that pill, two minutes later I called your name to see if you were pretending to be asleep and you didn't respond at all! I can't believe it works that fast!"

Well, the result was so swift that Washie was intrigued to the point of exasperation, poor guy! I thought, he must know something about these addictive drugs if he knows that it takes a lot more than that to put you out. I'd never had it before so it would probably hit me a whole lot faster and harder than it would hit him. I think he may have abused himself with illicit drugs to the point that gave him a high tolerance, so he couldn't believe that a tiny narcotic tablet could give anyone such quick relief, into sound sleep, from a fully developed migraine headache. He must have been experimenting with a whole lot more than these bennies. Ha-ha-ha! There was something of a drug culture even that long ago. Ha-ha!

Well, after I left Lewisburg and he had meanwhile gone somewhere else, I'd lost sight of him, somehow he found out where I was. I was in Washington for a while after my release. I lived in a house that our Friends' Meeting owned on Kalorama Road, not far from Florida Avenue. I got some kind of a card from him that had some handwriting on it that was normal but there was just one sentence that sounded like a bit of his old bitterness. He had been trying to get re-established somehow in life and something had bothered him intensely. So I wrote to him and I said, "I've been thinking about you from time to time ever since we were adjacent to each other at Lewisburg some time back. If you sometimes are in the same frame of mind as you seemed to be very strongly while you were there, it might be a very nice idea if you would find somebody you can really trust who has some



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technical knowledge of these things to help you with whatever is bothering you. If it's circumstances around here that seem to go bad and you react very strongly more than most people would, well that's one thing. Or if you're taking anything that ought to be under prescription you might get some really good help but make sure that it isn't somebody who will rat on you to the authorities. Some people might be able to tell you the name of somebody who is really good along this line. Then once you're sure of who it is and a person of really fine reputation, you might really need to trust that person thoroughly and let him help you to a better life."

I got one letter from him acknowledging mine and saying that it sounded like very wise advice, and he was going to take it. But I never had any other feedback from him later. He was a handy scapegoat but not without possibly some real guilt on his part for being a "druggie."

I met a beekeeper, or a student of beekeeping I should say, at Lewisburg, by the name of Bernard Royals. He had taken advantage of his access through the administration at Lewisburg to a correspondence school. Many prisoners are students through the International Correspondence Schools, ICS. He was in there, having been implicated in a murder. There were two or three other companions. He was from one of the Carolinas, I believe. As he put it to me, he shouldn't have been with these fellows and he had had warnings about their being bad fellows, but he was somewhat younger than they were and he thought they were pretty jolly and adventuresome but he had no idea that they would be stupid enough to commit a murder. Just for the sake of robbing a few things out of a convenience store somewhere on the roadside. Well, they were challenged by the owner and one of them pulled out a gun that nobody else knew he had and shot the owner, who was also a sheriff, and killed him. All four were sent up for murder because they were all involved in this death of the storekeeper. Royals was only the driver of the car. Another one was also horror-struck at what his friend had done. Anyway, he had been studying beekeeping. He was going to be a farmer after he got out. He was going to find some out of the way place that was big enough so that he could have a number of hives and be harvesting honey and selling it. He thought maybe he could make a living doing that if he had enough hives. What he knew about beekeeping, he was glad to have a listener like me to tell his new understandings to, about how they behave, how you use smoke to keep them gentle and do things that you have to do with a hive, even while it's occupied.

There was one fellow who was small and wiry but looked like he had been greatly weakened and I got acquainted with him at the hospital in Lewisburg. He had been broken up in a motorcycle accident. He had flown over the handlebars in a very awkward way and he had lost an eye, had skull concussions, fractures, had broken some of his limbs and had a large damage in his crotch area. So he had had some expert surgery to put various delicate things back together again. Telling me about it, he even offered



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to let me see the surgeon's handiwork. I told him that I didn't need that and I'd just as well not remember seeing it. I didn't have strong enough clinical interest to be any less than horrified at what I'd probably be seeing! He was having difficulty having the right shape of glass eye put in that side. He was quite a fellow, an interesting fellow of very low intellect and very low education, but struggling along, trying to live as well as he could in spite of being very missing in some departments of his thinking.... He had been put back together in so many different ways all over his frame, but he still had a certain amount of old spunk left in him. He was very grateful really that, in spite of his criminal behavior, the prison system was still handling his medical difficulties in a way that was more fortunate for him than he felt he had ever deserved.

One of the fellows came into the prison hospital having a peculiar kind of alcohol poisoning. There was no alcohol available to inmates and the whole prison system didn't have any alcohol inside it, not even in the warden's own house. So how did this fellow get so drunk? It turned out that while he was in the hospital, the investigation showed that he had been doing some painting work and some surfaces needed to be shellacked. So he had gone into a closet and had been breathing in the fumes from his shellac, which has alcohol as a thinner. He was painting various surfaces in that closet and keeping the door closed because he was really an alcoholic craving that smell. They shouldn't have had him painting with shellac at all! He had passed out before they found him. So he was needing hospital service for a while!

There was one great big fellow, an orderly in the prison hospital. All the inmates called him "Tiny." They had to make his clothes specially for him out of large pieces of cloth. I don't think I ever saw a fellow with that big and long a belt. If he leaned over, his shirt tail would come completely out. I didn't learn until later just how much he weighed when he came into that hospital, but he came in in order to go under medical control for losing weight. He wanted to get down to some reasonable level. So he was there for most of a year. He was on a regimen with controlled diet. His doctor's goal was one pound per day, which is pretty rapid. Finally he came to the point where he was boasting and so was his doctor of his having lost two hundred pounds in exactly two hundred days. He was a tall, big framed fellow and he still weighed about two hundred forty. That meant he was almost too big to walk when he first came in. He had to watch his mental attitude and his emotional instabilities because it was costing him something to lose that. He had a feeling of anxiety all the time. The doctor had warned him about that. So he kept himself right side up and he made it. Another inmate, who grew up in Iceland, impressed me most favorably. His name, Austvaldur Bragi Brynjolffson, was Danish, I would guess. In his late twenties, probably, he was imprisoned as an army combat veteran who got into trouble as a suspected



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murderer in a Paris hotel after he had been in continuous daily combat for between 45 and 50 days across northern France from the landing onto the Normandy coast almost to Belgium. So exhausted that he was given R&R (rest and recreation) in Paris, he could remember quite a wild time until he got awakened with a terrible hangover by a French gendarme who demanded to know why a dead woman had been found in the adjoining hotel room. He could remember nothing at all about the previous day or two; so he was turned over to army officers for summary court-martial and convicted by circumstantial evidence. He hoped he wasn't guilty, but feared the gendarmes' guesses might be correct. After some time in a very cruel British P.O.W. camp he was transferred into the US to get medical treatment and to do some years in prison at Lewisburg. In our adjoining hospital ward beds, we soon got acquainted. Openly friendly he was, although deeply preoccupied with the possibility that he may have disgraced himself as the only Icelandic who ever committed a murder, in their thousand-year history since the island was first settled or its parliament (the "Althing") was formed in 930 AD.⁴⁷

Austvaldur requested a visit by another Icelandic who was a religious minister of a church in Cleveland; and that man came to offer counsel and emotional support for him in such desperate circumstances, and perhaps later to help facilitate the young man's eventual repatriation and rehabilitation after the war. I hope his brief visit and friendship with me may have been helpful, and I have often thought of him and wondered whether he ever recovered enough to have a good life again, back home. I have long been interested in Iceland for other reasons, so perhaps opportunity might open to learn what may have become of him.

47. It is a fact that into the 1940s murder was quite rare in Iceland. Only two cases of homicide were registered on the island between 1920 and 1940. Unfortunately, there has been an increase and while Iceland is still considerably behind most Western societies, in the 1990s the murder rate reached 6-7 (one or two such cases per year for the entire island).



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1948

August 3, Tuesday: String Quartet no.2 by Peter Sculthorpe was performed for the initial time, in Melbourne.

William Remington testified before the Senate committee that he had provided information to Elizabeth Terrill Bentley, but insisted that none of what he had provided had been classified. He denied ever being himself a Communist.

Communist Árpád Székessy replaced Zoltán Tildy as president of Hungary.

Appearing before the House of Representatives's [Un-American Activities Committee](#), former Communist Whittaker Chambers accused 8 members of the [Roosevelt](#) administration of being Communists. These included former State Department official Alger Hiss.

August 4, Wednesday: Exactly two months after they sailed for Europe, Duke Ellington, Kay Davis, and Ray Nance arrived back in New York.

Nathan Silvermaster testified before the House of Representatives's [Un-American Activities Committee](#), denying the accusations of espionage brought by Elizabeth Terrill Bentley and adding that the lady was "a neurotic liar." He refused to answer any questions about his personal associations, on the explanation that he was still under grand jury investigation.

August 5, Thursday: Israel proposed direct negotiations between itself and the Arab countries presently invading the Holy Land.

US Representative [Richard Milhous Nixon](#) summoned [Roosevelt](#) administration State Department official Alger Hiss to the witness stand as an accused spy for our nation's Communist enemies. Hiss denied before the House of Representatives's Un-American Activities Committee that he was ever a Communist or had ever (to the best of his knowledge) so much as met Whittaker Chambers.

[President Harry S Truman](#) told newsmen that he believed the investigations of the [Un-American Activities Committee](#) of the House of Representatives "serve no useful purpose... They were slandering a lot of people who don't deserve it." He asserted that they had turned up no information not already known to the FBI and termed them a "red herring," intended only to divert attention from a "do-nothing" Republican Congress.



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September 25, Saturday: From Jewish Folk Poetry, a cycle for three solo voices and piano by Dmitri Shostakovich was performed for the initial time, privately, at a party celebrating his 42nd birthday. A public performance was unlikely in the current official mood of anti-Semitism.

ANTISEMITISM

Just weeks before the US national elections, the House of Representatives's Un-American Activities Committee promised that its final report would show that Soviet agents were able to gain atomic secrets, and that Democratic Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S Truman, and Attorney General Tom Clark, had known of this — and done nothing about it.

September 27, Monday: The House of Representatives's Un-American Activities Committee released its 18,000-word report. This named Soviet agents and their US contacts and accused Democratic Presidents Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S Truman of doing nothing (everyone named in the report denied all the accusations).

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1950

February 17: Admiral William H. Standley complained that “freedom from want” was a “Russian communistic slogan” and “freedom from fear” merely a “political slogan.” The city council of San Diego, California therefore voted to delete these two of [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#)’s Four Freedoms from a plaque on the Veterans Memorial Building.



We aren't commies, we are red-blooded Americans. We do not desire to be free from want and fear, the way those commies do. We understand that, in order to get the fire going in our boilers, to hot up our water and turn it into steam, to turn the wheels of our industry, to be productive and self-sustaining, we need to be chock full and charged up with energizing want and energizing fear (this is why our national Republican Party, as of the Year of Our Lord 2011, is still struggling to destroy the Social Security and Medicare evils that had been



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imposed on our nation by that bleeding-heart millionaire Democrat panderer, traitor to his own class, FDR).



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1955

April 12, Tuesday: On the 10th anniversary of the death of [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#), at a press conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dr. Thomas Francis announced that the year-long field trial of the Salk polio vaccine had been successful.

President Dwight David Eisenhower approved an agreement to share [A-bomb](#) military information, but not the weapons themselves, with the NATO allies.

The Gadfly, a film with music by Dmitri Shostakovich, was shown for the initial time.

The Saint of Bleeker Street by Gian Carlo Menotti won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award as Best Musical of the year.



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1962

November 7, Wednesday: [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) succumbed to MDR-TB (strains of [tuberculosis](#) resistant to the “PIERS” cocktail-mix of drugs [Pyrazinamide](#), [Isoniazid](#), [Ethambutol](#), [Rifampicin](#), and [Streptomycin](#)) in New York City at the age of 78.

Indian troops repulsed [Chinese](#) attacks, just as they had on the previous day, in the area of Walong in the far northeast of India.

The former secretary general of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, was sentenced to five years in prison, three years for inciting a strike and two years for leaving the country without a passport. (At this point the federal government of the United States of America was classifying Mandela as just another terrorist.)



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1991

Clarence Thomas's competence to sit as part of a court of last resort, and help decide cases involving sexual discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace, was investigated by the U.S. Senate prior to his appointment as a newly minted Supreme Court Justice. In the course of the hearings, we learned about a poster on the wall of Anita Hill's office that bears some relation to the famous quote that FDR famously allegedly lifted via Emerson out of the writings of Thoreau, the famous Thoreau quote about "fear of fear." It turns out that Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in addition to her husband, had had something to say on the subject of fear. Here's the quote, from the poster that was hanging on the wall of Professor Anita Hill's office (and you'll notice that Eleanor, unlike Franklin, did not need to think that she was quoting anyone:



Anita Hill

***"You gain strength,
courage and confidence
by every experience in
which you really stop to
look fear in the face....
You must do the thing
you think you cannot
do."***



Eleanor Roosevelt



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In addition, in the course of this controversial Senate hearings, TIME Magazine chose to deploy a reference to the famous Thoreau phrase about fear (inaccurately, as always to be expected), and chose to attach this phrase to a photo of the white man with his arm around his black man (sorry, I've lost that image).



"Fear of Fear" Trope



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1992

June 29, Monday: At Keraterm in Prijedor, northwest of Sarajevo, a Serb concentration camp, prisoners were forced to dispose of the bodies of those Muslims who had been machinegunned during the night (some still breathing). They would estimate that, unknown to the rest of the world for months, 150 had been thus buried.

Serb forces handed over Sarajevo airport to the United Nations. Within hours, planes with food and medicine began arriving. The UN Security Council voted to send 1,000 more troops to the city.

The remains of Ignacy Jan Paderewski arrived in Poland from the United States. The pianist left Poland in 1919 never to return alive. He was later a member of the Polish government in exile during [World War II](#). When Paderewski had died on June 19, 1941, [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) had ordered that the body be placed in the crypt of the Battleship Maine in Arlington National Cemetery until, after the war, it could be returned to Poland. The communist government refused to accept the return of the body.

President Mohammed Boudiaf of Algeria was shot and killed by Islamic militants while giving a speech in Annaba. 40 people were wounded in the ensuing gun battle.



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2004

January 4, Sunday: John Willard Toland died. The New York Times obituary, written by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, would include one paragraph remarking upon his salient discovery:

He entered a long-running historical debate about the Roosevelt administration's culpability at the start of the Pacific war with INFAMY: PEARL HARBOR AND ITS AFTERMATH (Doubleday, 1982). In a shift from his conclusions in THE RISING SUN, Mr. Toland said he had turned up evidence to conclude that Roosevelt had known in advance of Japan's impending attack but failed to inform the naval command in the Pacific in the hope of rousing America from its isolationism. This view put him at odds with a series of official federal investigations and historians who said Roosevelt may have made errors in judgment but neither knew about nor encouraged the attack.

WORLD WAR II

I would have preferred this mention to have been a bit expanded. For instance Lehmann-Haupt might have indicated also that no one among these official federal investigators and historians has, since 1982, been able to produce evidence that Toland's information had been false or poorly chosen, or his inference unwarranted.



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"They fight and fight and fight; they are fighting now, they fought before, and they'll fight in the future.... So you see, you can say anything about world history.... Except one thing, that is. It cannot be said that world history is reasonable."

— [Fyodor Mikhaylovich Dostoevski](#)
NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND



What goes around comes around. In the United States Constitution, the authority to declare war upon another nation was vested by us in our elected representatives of the Congress rather than in the Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces, the President. This has created a recurring problem: how to get this nation into its next necessary war. That problem was faced by a President of the United States while Henry Thoreau was a youth, and he gamed the system by sending US Army soldiers out to get themselves killed on what was well understood at the time to be Mexican soil — whereupon he declared to the US Congress that we had been attacked, and thus obtained from the congress a declaration of war. Which is to say, in Thoreau's era a President of the United States of America made himself into a murderer and a traitor. Despite the passage of time, despite the fact that it has become the common knowledge of our history textbooks that this President had gamed the system in order to create the War on Mexico of the 1840s, this President is not now known to us either as a murderer or as a traitor.

Likewise in regard to [World War II](#): what had gone around before came around again. Our President wanted to fight [Germany](#), but couldn't get the Congress to declare war on that nation and couldn't get [Adolf Hitler](#) to declare war on us. Knowing that [Japan](#) was an ally of Germany and knowing that an attack by an ally of Germany would enable us to declare war on all the Axis powers, the President gamed the system. [President Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#) knew in advance of Japan's impending attack but, in order to rouse America from its isolationism, sacrificed our soldiers and sailors of the naval base at Pearl Harbor. Which is to say, in our



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own era a President of the United States of America made himself into a murderer, and a traitor. Now, despite the passage of time, despite the fact that this historian John Toland during his lifetime made it commonly known that this President had gamed the system in order to create the world war of the 1940s, this President is not now known to us either as a murderer or as a traitor. In his obituary, the writer for the newspaper merely commented mildly that his view of what had happened to put us into WWII put Toland at odds with a series of official federal investigations and historians who said Roosevelt may have made errors in judgment but neither knew about nor encouraged the attack. Lehmann-Haupt might have indicated also that no one among these official federal investigators and historians has, since 1982, been able to produce evidence that Toland's information had been false or poorly chosen or his inference unwarranted — but he has elected not to so indicate.

“MAGISTERIAL HISTORY” IS FANTASIZING, HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: July 7, 2014



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ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.