Marking 70 years since Pearl Harbor On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet moored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The attack caused profound shock in the United States and precipitated America's entry into World War II in both the Pacific and European theatres **KEY EVENTS LEADING TO ATTACK**

1937: Japan invades China. Ultra-nationalist military leaders justify occupation of China, Manchuria and Korea as part of Japan's "divine right" to unify East Asia under rule



Jan 1941: Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. Commander-in-Chief of Combined Fleet, tasked with planning surprise attack to destroy U.S. naval capability in Pacific. enabling Japan to complete territorial conquests



Jul: Throughout summer months, pilots train in shallow waters of Kagoshima Bay, which closely resembles Pearl Harbor

Nov 3: Chief of Japanese Naval General Staff approves draft plan

Nov 17: Yamamoto reveals attack plan to naval leadership

Nov 26: Strike Force, comprising six aircraft carriers, sets sail from Hitokappu Bay in Kuril Islands, under command of Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo



Dec 6: Fleet reaches rendezvous point, beginning high speed approach to Pearl Harbor as 30 submarines surround Hawaii



D. Roosevelt moves U.S. Pacific Fleet from embargo on vital raw Japan's advance into



■ Feb: Commander expands plan, which calls for fighters and bombers deployed from aircraft carriers



Honolulu Ewa Marine Corps Air Station **AFTERMATH**

Wheeler

Field

U.S. losses: Eight battleships, three cruisers, three destroyers and four other vessels sunk or damaged - all but three return to service. 188 aircraft destroyed, 159 damaged 2,402 killed, 1,282 wounded Japanese losses: 29 aircraft

Ford Island

Hickam

Field

Naval Air

Station

Second

Mitsubishi A6M2 "Zeke"

Nakajima B5N2 "Kate"

Aichi D3A1 "Val

Kaneohe

Naval Air

Bellows

Station

5km

3 miles

Opana

radar

station

HU

Route of

Task Force

Nov 26 - Dec 23

Hitokappu

PACIFIC

OCEAN

Hishirajima

First Carrier

Strike Force:

carriers - each

Six aircraft

Kagoshima Bay

Hawaii

and five midget submarines lost. 65 killed or wounded



■ Dec 7. 03:42 : Minesweeper *USS Condor* spots periscope of midget submarine 3km off entrance to Pearl Harbor - alerts destroyer USS Ward

06:00: First attack wave of 183 Japanese planes takes off from carriers located 370km north of Oahu. Pilots tune in to Honolulu radio station to guide approach

■ 06:37: USS Ward sinks submarine in first American shots fired in World War II

07:02: Opana radar station detects large flight of planes approaching from north. Planes thought to be B17 Flying Fortresses, en route from California

07:15: Second attack wave of 167 planes takes off



■ 07:15: Admiral Husband Kimmel, commanding officer of U.S. Pacific Fleet, opts to wait for verification of report on submarine contact because of numerous recent "false reports of submarines"

07:33: Washington cracks coded diplomatic message ordering Japanese negotiators to break off talks. Delays in army communications means warning does not reach Gen. Walter Short, commander of U.S. Army forces in Hawaii, until after attack ends

■ 07:55: Coordinated attack begins. Command centre on Ford Island transmits news of attack: "Air raid, Pearl Harbor. This is not drill"

■ 08:10: Armour-piercing bomb hits forward magazine of battleship USS Arizona, causing cataclysmic explosion that kills 1,177 crew

1 08.50: Second wave of aircraft joins attack

10.00am: Attack ends

Dec 8: U.S. declares war on Japan. **President Roosevelt calls December 7** "a date which will live in infamy"

Sources: Imperial War Museum, War Against Japan by Sidney C. Moody Jr. and Associated Press

Pictures: Associated Press, Getty Images

04:00

05:00

06:00

07:00

08:00

09:00

10:00