

From: Albert Sisson

Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2024 12:04 AM

Subject: Pearl Harbor Day

Eighty-three years ago today, the Japanese Imperial forces sneak attacked the US Fleet in Pearl Harbor, killing about 3500 people, mostly sailors and marines. At the time, the US had an isolationist mentality. The thinking was if we closed our eyes, it all would go away. December 7th was a huge wake up call. We immediately declared war on Japan. Hitler Germany had a pact with Japan, which he honored unlike other cases, so Germany declared war on the US.

In those years, the US had a shell of a military especially the Army, but we had a mighty industrial complex. We had a Navy, but it was set up to fight wars of long ago, heavy with battleships. We had to build an Army, repair and modernize the Navy, and build an air wing in the Army.

The top industrial leaders met with the US federal leaders and mapped out a strategy to convert our industrial might to making war material. Ford made airplanes, Chrysler made tanks, GM made trucks, and even companies like typewriter companies made gun parts. Up until then airplanes were made essentially in giant job shops, one at a time totally unlike modern production lines. Ford started making airplanes like they made cars. By the end of 1944 the Ford Willow Run plant was producing 650 B-24 bombers per month. They built a plane every one hour and six minutes around the clock.

Henry Kaiser figured out how to make 1490 ships during the war. In fact, the strategy in the north Atlantic early in the war was to build ships faster than the Germans could sink them. One of his yards built a ship in five days just to show it could be done.

Hitler and the Japanese under estimated the ability of the American people to switch from isolationist ideas to a war footing and they under estimated or didn't understand the industrial might of the US at that time. The result was the total destruction of Japan and Europe. In fact, many Europeans would have starved to death in the winter of 1945-1946 if it hadn't been for the Marshall Plan.

As many as one million Japanese starved to death between 1941 and 1945. We occupied Japan after the war, helped them set up a democratic government, and we fed the people.

I doubt that they teach much about Pear Harbor in schools today and that is a tragedy. We ought never to forget. It's a great lesson. Those of us who grew up in the 1940s and 1950s remember.

Stuck in the middle,
Crazy Albert



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** or **Pearl Harbor Day**, is observed annually in the [United States](#) on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 Americans who were killed in the Japanese surprise [attack on Pearl Harbor](#) in Hawaii on December 7, 1941, which led to the [United States declaring war on Japan](#) the next day and thus entering [World War II](#).