

Memorandum for the President, December 7, 1941. At 3:40 p.m., Roosevelt received this grim update on the situation in Hawaii.

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War History

Dec 7 1941

3:50 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

The Japs attacked Honolulu time about eight o'clock this morning. The first warning was from a submarine that was outside the harbor which was attacked by a destroyer with depth bombs. Result unknown. Another submarine was sunk by aircraft. They attacked with aircraft, with bombs and torpedoes. At least two aircraft were known to have a swastika sign on them. The attacks were in two divisions; first on the air fields and then on the navy yard. Severe damage. The Oklahoma has capsized in Pearl Harbor. The Tennessee is on fire with a bad list., and the Navy Yard is attempting to drydock her.

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General

No. 1 drydock was hit by bombs. The Pennsylvania was in dock and apparently undamaged. There were two destroyers hit in drydock, one of them blew up. There was one destroyer in a floating drydock which is on fire and the deck is being flooded. Two torpedoes hit the sea wall between the Helena, which is 10,000 tons - 6 in. cruiser, and the Oglala. The Oglala is heavily listed and can probably not be saved. She is on fire and is an old mine layer. The power house at Pearl Harbor was hit but is still operating. The Honolulu power house was presumably hit because there is no power on it. The air fields at Ford Island, ~~Hickam~~ Hickam, Wheeler and Kaneohe were attacked.

Hangars on fire and Hickam field fire is burning badly. The
PBX's outside of hangars are burning. Probably heavy personnel
personnel casualties but no figures. So far as Block knows
Honolulu was not hit. He does not know how many aircraft
were brought down but he knows personally of two. They have
both been so busy he has not contacted Kimmel. There are
two task forces at sea, each one of them with a carrier.
He knows nothing further on that except that they are at sea.
This came over the telephone and we are getting nothing out
here whatever. Mr. Vincent called but I have given out
nothing, pending further word from you. The Japanese have
no details of the damage which they have wrought.