# The War in the Pacific

### Pearl Harbour

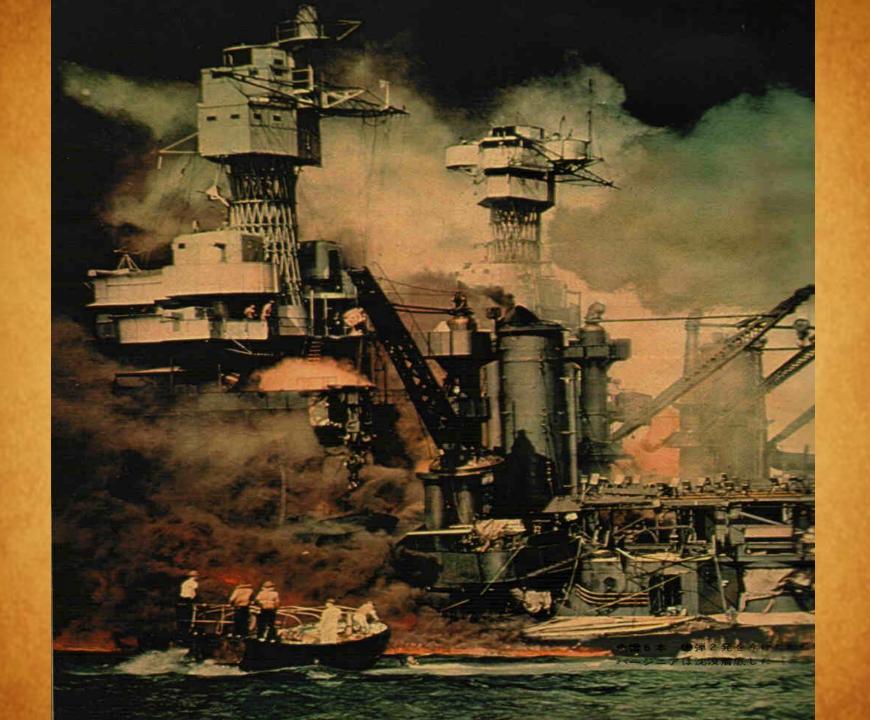
- Through the beginning stages of the war, USA remained neutral
  - Insisted on isolationism despite Roosevelt's belief that they would need to contribute
- Japan was hungry for more territory and resource control and wanted all lands in the western Pacific
  - USA remained an obstacle of this happening
- Japanese military leaders felt destroying the US Navy would cripple the defence of other regions
- December 7, 1941 Japan launched an air bombing campaign targeting the US Naval headquarters at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii

#### Pearl Harbour continued...

- US Navy was crippled temporarily & many planes destroyed while sitting idle on the airfields
  - Fortunately for the US, three aircraft carriers were at sea and became essential for the counter attack against Japan
  - Shocked the Americans out of isolationism
- December 8, 1941 USA declared war on Japan Canada declares on same day
  - Three days later, as part of the Axis agreement with the Nazi's, Germany & Italy declared war on the US

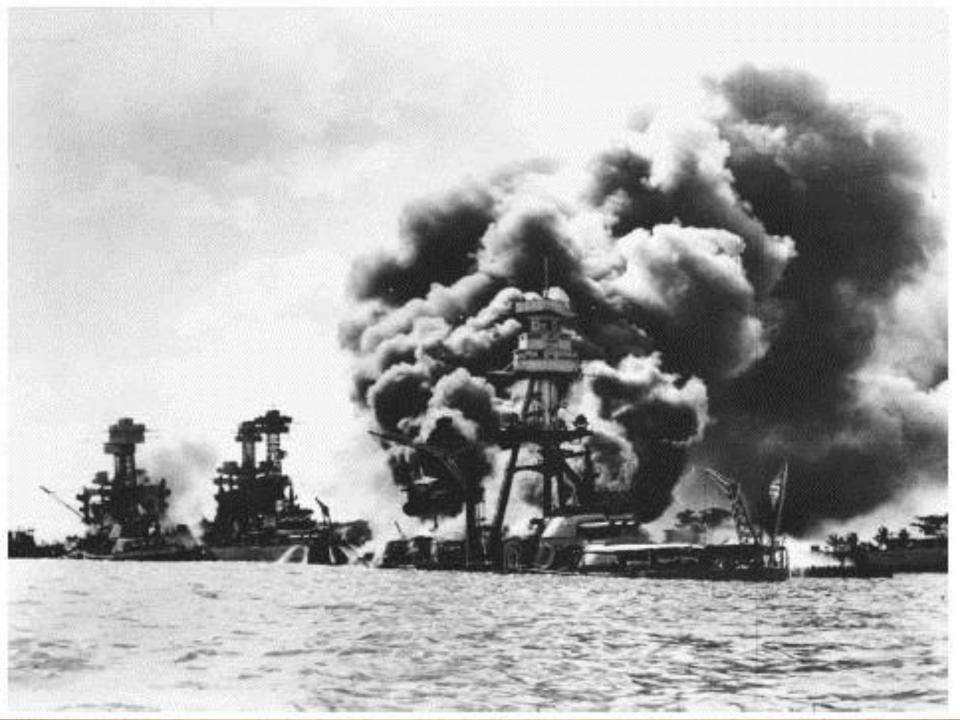
Photo # 80-G-40056 Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack, 7 Dec. 1941





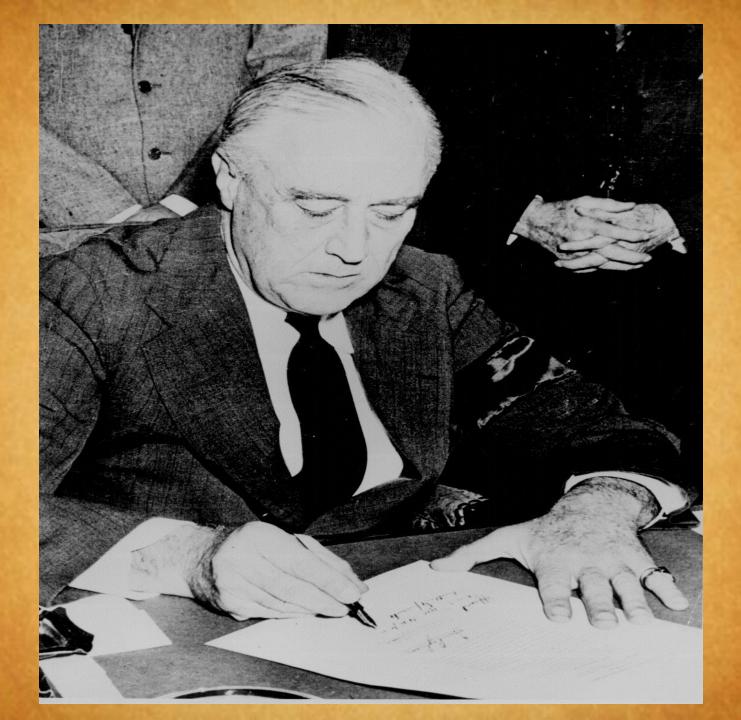












## 🦊 Japan attacks Hong Kong 🆊

- The day after Pearl Harbour, Japan attacked the British colony of Hong Kong
  - 2000 Canadian troops were stationed there to defend the colony, if needed
- The battle lasted 17 days and troops were fighting hand-to-hand with bayonets
  - 300 Canadians were killed; 493 wounded
- Hong Kong surrendered on December 26, 1941 Canada's courage demonstrated once again
- Later we learned the reality of being a POW under Japanese control, 257 would die in the brutal prison (POW) camps as a result of starvation, torture or outright murder





Japanese Internment

- Following Pearl Harbour, Japanese Canadians were considered greatest security risk of WWII
- Japanese fishing fleets were immediately seized by the gov't.
- Forced to move at least 100 miles from the BC coast & made to live in internment camps
  - 22,000 sent to camps; 14,000 of these were born in Canada
  - <u>Custodian of Aliens Act</u> All Japanese possessions confiscated and sold to supposedly pay for the camps
- 1988, PM Mulroney signed a compensation package giving \$21,000
  for each internee survivor. Total of \$12 million was paid out



# NOTICE TO ALL JAPANESE PERSONS AND PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

TAKE NOTICE that under Orders Nos. 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the British Columbia Security Commission, the following areas were made prohibited areas to all persons of the Japanese race:---

LULU ISLAND (including Steveston) SEA ISLAND EBURNE MARPOLE DISTRICT OF QUEENSBOROUGH CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER SAPPERTON BURQUITLAM PORT MOODY IOCO PORT COQUITLAM MAILLARDVILLE FRASER MILLS

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that any person of the Japanese race found within any of the said prohibited areas without a written permit from the British Columbia Security Commission or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall be liable to the penalties provided under Order in Council P.C. 1665.

> AUSTIN C. TAYLOR, Chairman, British Columbia Security Commission





