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Mystery Still After 20 Yrs.
The Enigma of Pearl Harbor

By GEORGE ROBOZ

December 7, 1941

Who can ever forget that Day of Infamy? Even today, 20 years later, when a war-long fought and won separates us from Pearl Harbor Day and a new war begins, people can tell you where they were, who told them the news, what they did. Like a nightmare, indelibly branded on our minds it won't be forgotten.

The writer of this article on that tragic Sunday was in office on the sixth floor of the Miramar building, staring at the Pacific.

Recent reports had been good. For weeks, war diplomats in Washington and Tokyo had been saying that an open break between the U.S. and Japan was no longer in the cards. Trade and economic boosting under a trade and economic embargo imposed by President Roosevelt.

Japanese transports and warships had been observed moving through the South China Sea. Were they headed toward the Dutch East Indies, where the Japanese warlords had found the oil and stringing them by the U.S.? Were they headed toward British Malaya, with its vast mineral wealth, and Singapore, only two days before, on Dec. 6, Roosevelt had sent a personal message to Emperor Hirohito, begging him for the sake of humanity and the Pacific warlords.

Japanese officials had weighed the odds of a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor and concluded that it was feasible. But they lacked the carriers and the Japanese were too far from the U.S. with their base in the Pacific at Midway, where they had just suffered a major loss, and Hoboken, which tipped the balance in the Far East and the oil of the East Indies.

So the writer of this piece, during the warning period, urged the public to prepare. He took part in massive air raids on Pearl Harbor and was one of the first to leave the city. When the attack began, he was in the air, flying over the city, trying to save the lives of his colleagues. He recalled the sight of the city burning, the planes taking off, and the sound of the guns blaring.

Flash, ... White House Says Japs' Attack Pearl Harbor.

Dec. 7, 1941

The writer was on the air at 7:07 a.m. The news was not in yet. We can't say for sure who said it, but the story was: "Japs' Attack Pearl Harbor!"

Millions of Americans learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor while listening to the broadcast of the Dodgers-Giants football game at the Polo Grounds. Ward Cass had just kicked a Brooklyn field goal to his..."