

# When War Came to the United States

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

IT WAS on a Sunday morning three years ago that war came again to the United States.

The story of that "day of infamy," when Japan made her sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, is too fresh in the minds of all Americans to need retelling here. But how many of us know of those other tragic days when were made the fateful decisions which meant that more American lives were to be sacrificed on the altar of Mars?

This article is a page from the past which tells how war came to America in other years before 1941.

The first war which we, as a nation, waged was an "undeclared war," that is to say, there was never any formal declaration of war. As a matter of fact, we weren't even a nation when it started.

The American Revolution began as a rebellion—the revolt of the English colonies in America against their mother country, England. It continued as a rebellion and as a civil war—Patriots against the Loyalists and the regularly constituted authorities—for nearly a year before we became a nation. For the United States of America did not come into existence until July 4, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In the meantime there had been fighting and bloodshed—at Lexington on April 19, 1775; at Concord, where was "fired the shot heard 'round the world,'" on the same day; at Bunker Hill on June 17 and at Quebec in December. For six years this "undeclared war" dragged on until, at last, the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, meant that the independence, declared five years earlier, was an accomplished fact.

However, this didn't mean the end of the war, which was destined to last for nearly two years more. It wasn't until November 30, 1782, that the preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and the United States were signed in Paris; two more months were to elapse before articles proclaiming the cessation of hostilities between the two nations were signed on January 20, 1783; and it wasn't until September 3, 1783, that the definitive treaty of peace was signed in Paris. Thus this "undeclared war" had lasted for eight years, four months and fifteen days, making it the longest in our history.

During the next 20 years we were involved in two more "undeclared wars," both of which brought fighting and bloodshed. The first was with our former ally, France, and was the result of the humiliation and insults which our envoys in Paris had suffered at the hands of the Directory and the attempt of Talleyrand to blackmail us into buying France's friendship. Although there was no formal declaration of war, Pres. John Adams ordered commerce with France stopped in 1798 and our treaties with her abrogated. Then our infant navy put to sea to prey upon French shipping and for the next 18 months there was considerable naval warfare, marked by the victories of the frigate "Constitution" over French men-of-war. When Napoleon Bonaparte came to power, he immediately took steps to stop the conflict and in September, 1800, a convention was signed in Paris which ended this "war."

Meanwhile American shipping, like that of other nations, had been suffering from the raids of the Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean and, despite tribute paid to the bey of Algiers, the pasha of Tripoli and the bey of Tunis, American vessels were being seized and American seamen held prisoners until ransomed. When Thomas Jefferson became president in 1801 he resolved to put an end to this early-day racket.

The first two naval expeditions against the pirates failed but in 1803 when Commodore Edward Preble sailed against the corsairs it was a different story. His expedition against Tangiers, the daring attack of Lieut. Stephen Decatur on Tripoli the next year and the combined naval and military expedition—the latter led by Gen. William Eaton—which captured Derna in 1805 broke the power of the Barbary states and resulted in treaties which guaranteed the future safety of American shipping in the Mediterranean.

The remainder of Jefferson's administration was peaceful but by the time James Madison entered the White House, the second war with England was brewing. For the first time in our history there was a formal declaration of war—on June 18, 1812. For the first time, too, our

Seventy-seventh Congress of the United States of America,  
At the First Session  
Began and held at the City of Washington on Friday, the third day of January, one thousand nine hundred and forty-one

**JOINT RESOLUTION**  
Declaring that a state of war exists between the Imperial Government of Japan and the Government and the people of the United States and making provisions to prosecute the same.

Whereas the Imperial Government of Japan has committed unprovoked acts of war against the Government and the people of the United States of America; Therefore be it  
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the state of war between the United States and the Imperial Government of Japan which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and the President is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Imperial Government of Japan; and, to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States.

*Charles McNary*  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

*H. Wallace*  
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate

*Apr 5 - 1941 4.10 p.m. E.S.T.*

shores were invaded by a hostile force and on August 24, 1814, Americans suffered the humiliation of seeing the capital of their nation in the hands of the enemy and the home of their president in flames.

Despite this disaster which came as the climax of other defeats on land—offset, however, by many a brilliant victory at sea—America continued the struggle which ended on December 24 of that year when the treaty of peace was signed in Ghent, Belgium, by representatives of the two belligerents. This war had lasted two years, six months and six days.

The next war with a foreign power was even shorter than the War of 1812. When the United States annexed Texas in 1845, Mexico (from whom Texas had won her independence nine years earlier) regarded this as a hostile act. There was a series of "incidents" down on the Rio Grande and Pres. James K.



APRIL 2, 1917 — Pres. Woodrow Wilson reads his war message to Congress.

Polk asked Congress for a declaration of war. It came on May 13, 1846, and 10 days later Mexico declared war on the United States. Hostilities began soon afterwards, our armies under General Taylor and General Scott invaded Mexico and within a little more than a year (September 14, 1847) they had captured the Mexican capital. The war ended with the signing of a treaty of peace on February 2, 1848—one year, eight months and twenty days after it began.

The next war in which we engaged was another "undeclared war" for, like its predecessor, it was a "rebellion" and a "civil" war. Just when the War Between the States began is a matter of definition.

The usual view is that it was April 12, 1861, when Confederate batteries in Charleston, S. C., fired on Fort Sumter and the Union troops in that fortification fired back. At any rate, it was this act which prompted President Lincoln three days later to call for volunteers to "suppress the insurrection" and which resulted in four years of the hardest and bloodiest fighting the world had ever known up to that time. Just as this war had no "official" beginning, so it had no "official" ending. But the surrender of Lee on April 9, 1865, sounded the death knell of the Confederacy and organized resistance by the men in gray ended. From Sumter to Appomattox it was four years—minus three days.

Shortest of all our wars with a foreign power was the "100-Days War" with Spain in 1898. It had its

origin in American sympathy for the Cuban patriots who for several years had been trying to throw off Spanish rule but it is doubtful if there would have been a war had it not been for the event which took place in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. That event was the explosion and sinking of the U. S. S. Maine. The excitement over this resulted in diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States being broken on April 21 and the declaration of a blockade of Cuba the next day. Her "national honor" thus assailed, Spain declared war on April 24 and our declaration followed the next day.

The overwhelming victories won by our navy—at Manila and at Santiago—and by our army—in the land fighting in Cuba—soon demonstrated what the inevitable outcome of the war would be. So on August 12 a peace protocol was signed and hostilities ceased after 100 days of fighting. The war, however, did not end officially until December 10 when the peace treaty was signed in Paris.

Although the period of actual combat by our fighting men was relatively short (one year and 15 days), World War I was our second longest war with a foreign power. Here is the sequence of events to validate that statement:

On February 1, 1917, Germany began unrestricted submarine warfare and as a result we broke diplomatic relations with her two days later. On April 6 Congress declared war on Germany and on June 26 the first American troops landed in France. However, it was not until October 27, 1917, that American soldiers fired their first shots at the enemy. Hostilities ended on November 11, 1918—one year and fifteen days after they had begun on October 27 of the previous year.

The cessation of hostilities on Armistice Day did not mean the official end of the war. The treaty at Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, but when it came up for ratification by the senate on November 19 it was rejected. That meant that, officially, we were still at war with Germany. It was not until July 2, 1921, that President Harding signed a joint resolution of Congress (passed by the house on June 30 and by the senate on July 1) declaring peace with Germany. On August 25 a peace treaty was signed in Berlin by representatives of the United States and Germany. This was ratified by the German national council on September 17 and by the United States senate on October 18. Then, and not until then, was the war between these two countries officially ended—four years, six months and twelve days after the American declaration of war back in 1917.

As for World War II, it began officially for the United States on December 7, 1941, when Japan declared war against the United States and Great Britain and before the declaration reached Washington by air or cable, made an attack on Hawaii, the Philippines and other American possessions in the Pacific. Our declaration of war followed the next day. Four days later Germany and Italy declared war on the United States and on the same day Congress, in joint session, issued our declaration of war against those two nations.

On that fateful spring morning, when the advance guard of British soldiers, sent by General Gage to destroy the stores which the Americans had collected at Concord, reached Lexington, they found nearly 200 armed provincials drawn up in battle array on the village green. "Disperse, ye rebels!" cried Major Pitcairn, but the embattled Minute Men stood fast. Then a shot was fired—whether by British soldier or Minute Man is still undecided—and the fight which opened the Revolution began.



THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON, APRIL 19, 1775 After an engraving by two Continental militiamen who were in the battle.

## Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

AGNES MOOREHEAD doesn't hold with those ancients who believe that genius thrives on misery and an empty stomach.

Everyone—actors, musicians, painters, even plumbers and ditch diggers—do their best work when they have a full belly and are free of worry, maintains Aggie.

"It stands to reason," says she, "that a person can't put forth his best effort if he's unhappy or if in the back of his mind there is gnawing worry about the butcher, baker, or reaction of his associates."

Agnes is convinced that those great musicians and artists of the past whose talents flourished 'midst poverty had some sort of compensating happiness; either they were in love or they had wonderful friends.

The actress, who in 1943 won the New York critics' award for her performance in "The Magnificent Ambersons," thinks a "relaxed and happy atmosphere" stimulates an actress or actor to far better performances than tension and reprimands ever do.

She liked the company and part she played in "Mrs. Parkington"—and why not? Agnes was the rival of Greer Garson for Walter Pidgeon's affections.

**One Big, Happy Family**  
"We were such a happy company," said she. "Everyone was relaxed and understanding. That attitude was reflected in our efforts."

Agnes, a New York stage and radio actress before Orson Welles drafted her to play the mother of "Citizen Kane," maintains our picture industry is more considerate of actors than the stage.

"On the stage you have to elbow your way through your career. Here it doesn't matter whether you're a star or a bit player. There's always someone near-by ready and willing to give you encouragement. At least," she added, "that's been my experience."

It wasn't until after "The Magnificent Ambersons" that she decided to remain here. Before signing a contract with M-G-M she always free-lanced, figuring to obtain a greater variety of roles in that way.

But her roles have been pretty varied; though, with the exception of a brief appearance in "Big Street," each has been a "nasty character." Her nastiest, Agnes thinks, is in "Dragon Seed," with Katie Hepburn. She played the part of a Chinese Quisling. But she was hateful, too, in "Since You Went Away."

"I play the kind of character you all know exists but, thank heaven, rarely encounter." That's what she said, but we've all met that kind of woman—let's face it.

**Blissful Ignorance**  
Agnes admits she knows nothing about "camera angles" and has no intention of learning. She's far more concerned that her part be interesting rather than that it be too long.

"It's my hope to make each portrayal different," Agnes said. "I'd hate to get into a rut."  
Well, there's very little chance of that happening. Aggie, like the late great Alice Brady, is an actress who loves her job, will play anything or everything if she thinks it's got merit or is different from the ordinary run of parts. I remember years ago sitting in a vaudeville theater with Alice when there was a monkey act on. Alice sat on the edge of her chair. I asked why. She replied: "Who knows? I may have to play one of those critters some day."

The public, of course, will decide how well Aggie manages different roles, and they've been pretty pleased up to date.

Agnes uses a French accent in "Mrs. Parkington," and does it so convincingly a visitor on the set asked Director Tay Garnett:

"Where did you get that French dame?"

"I only got the role by the skin of my teeth," Agnes declares. "After all, Aspasia isn't one of those bitter, nasty, frustrated women I usually play. She's warm, charming, chic. Also she's been loved by one of the most fascinating men of the century. A big order!"

### He Got Last Laugh

William Perberg, "Diamond Horse-shoe" producer, got Billy Haines to redecorate his house, then turned over his household stuff to be sold at auction. The auctioneer made a big to-do about having his furniture, which has resulted in many embarrassing happenings for Perberg. When folks saw his stuff on the auction block, they thought he was broke. "At least," said he, "I know who my friends are. In the last few days a half dozen offered to lend me money to tide me over."

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### Household Hints

To prevent the gloss from coming off white paint, wash with milk and very little soap.

Prevent picture marks on the walls by placing thumb tacks in each of the lower corners of the frame. Let tacks extend partly, keeping frame from wall.

Never leave pieces of cut-up chicken in water. Some of the good juices and excellent flavor leaches out and is lost.

Boil the wick of a kerosene lamp in vinegar before using to keep it from smoking.

When turning the mattress, also turn it around, that is, place the end that was at the head of the bed at the foot.

If you have had trouble in making your whitewash stick to trees, fences or basement walls try using sour milk or buttermilk instead of water to mix the lime. The casein in the milk acts as a glue with the lime.

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by Sally Cole  
Director of Fleischmann's Testing Kitchen

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### QUICK ROLLS

1/2 cup milk 2 tablespoons sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cake Fleischmann's Yeast  
1/2 cup lukewarm water  
3 cups sifted flour  
3 tablespoons melted shortening

Scald milk, add sugar and salt; cool to lukewarm. Dissolve yeast in lukewarm water and add to lukewarm milk. Add 1/2 cups flour and beat until smooth. Add melted shortening and remaining flour, or enough for easily handled dough. Knead well. Shape into rolls, place in well-greased pan, cover and let rise in warm place, free from draught, until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour. Bake in moderate oven (400° F.) about 20 minutes. Makes 1 dozen.

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