

1 Season One: *Forbidden Diary*  
2 Episode Two: *The Second Pearl Harbor*

3  
4 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

5  
6 Natalie Crouter Sevil Delin  
7 Jerry Crouter Mark Oliver  
8 Betty Lander Julie Dean  
9 Nida Jeannie Anne Sioson  
10 Smythe Jesse Fister  
11 Narrator (For Epilogue) Chris Robinson

12  
13  
14 [Cold Open]

15  
16 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

17  
18 [SOUND BITES FROM EPISODE ONE]

19  
20 Announcer And now, Episode Two.<sup>1</sup>

21  
22 [SOUNDS OF BOOK OPENING AND WRITING]

23  
24  
25 [DIARY READING ONE]

26  
27 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

28  
29 Natalie December 8, 1941, Baguio, the Philippines We heard about the  
30 attack on Pearl Harbor this morning after the children left for  
31 school. Jerry and I were sitting down to breakfast in the dining  
32 room and....<sup>2</sup>

33  
34  

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<sup>1</sup> *Episode 2: The Second Pearl Harbor*, is based on Natalie's [December 8, 1941](#) diary entry.

<sup>2</sup> Natalie wrote that the kids had gone to school and Jerry turned on the radio at about 8:15. Ismael was their cook and Nida the babysitter, but due to the radio format I'm streamlining and making Nida the cook. I don't think that the Crouters would be in the kitchen with Nida, so I put them out in the dining room.

35 [SCENE ONE]

36

37

[SOUND OF JERRY WALKING INTO THE DINING ROOM]

38

39 Jerry Coffee smells good.

40

41 Natalie [NATALIE'S GOT HER NOSE IN THE MORNING PAPER] Help yourself.

42

43 Jerry Did the kids get to school?

44

45 Natalie Just barely.

46

47 Jerry What time is it?

48

49 Natalie Ah, a little after eight. Nida left some eggs in the chafing dish on  
50 the buffet. I think they're still warm.

51

52 [SOUND OF JERRY SERVING HIMSELF]

53

54 Jerry Mind if I switch on the radio?

55

56 Natalie No.

57

58 [CLICK AND BACKGROUND SOUND OF 1940s MUSIC AND JERRY PULLING UP A CHAIR]

59

60 Jerry Where's rest of the paper?

61

62 Natalie On the chair next to you.

63

64 [THEN "WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM..."]

65

66 Natalie Jerry, turn it up!

67

68 [JERRY TURNS UP THE VOLUME, AND WE HEAR THE FULL PEARL HARBOR ANNOUNCEMENT]<sup>3</sup>

69

70 Natalie Oh my God, Jerry!

---

<sup>3</sup> Edited public domain from [https://archive.org/details/WWII\\_News\\_1941/1941-12-07\\_1428\\_NBCR\\_First\\_Bulletin\\_On\\_Pearl\\_Harbor\\_Attack.mp3](https://archive.org/details/WWII_News_1941/1941-12-07_1428_NBCR_First_Bulletin_On_Pearl_Harbor_Attack.mp3).

71 Jerry Hawaii's the last place I'd think the Japanese would attack...<sup>4</sup>

72

73 [FADE OUT]

74

75

76 [DIARY READING TWO]

77

78 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

79

80 Natalie Just after the announcement we heard planes up in the sky. Living  
81 near an American air base like Camp Hay, it's not unusual to hear  
82 aircraft overhead. And it's our habit to watch them fly by, so we  
83 went outside to take a look.

84

85

86 [SCENE TWO]

87

88 [FROM IN THE HOUSE, SOUNDS OF BOMBERS FLYING OVERHEAD]

89

90 Natalie Boy, those planes are loud.

91

92 Jerry Sounds like they're coming from the north.<sup>5</sup>

93

94 Natalie Want to head out to the porch?

95

96 Jerry Sure.

97

98 [SOUNDS OF CROUTERS GETTING OUT OF CHAIRS

99 AND THEIR FOOTSTEPS AS THEY WALK TO THE DOOR AND TALK]

100

101 Natalie Do you think they might be on a mission because of Pearl Harbor?

102

103 Jerry Maybe. Sounds like B-18s.

104

105 Natalie How do you know this stuff?

---

<sup>4</sup> The attack on Hawaii was a surprise to everyone, especially MacArthur. Listen to the MacArthur Memorial's podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur's Pearl Harbor](#) (9:10)

<sup>5</sup> [Story of Camp John Hay](#), Camp Hay Newsletter, 12/1981.

106 [SOUNDS OF DOOR OPENING.  
107 AFTER DOOR CLOSES THE PLANES GET LOUDER BECAUSE CROUTERS ARE NOW OUTSIDE.]  
108  
109 Jerry Easy. B-18s are twin engine.<sup>6</sup>  
110  
111 Natalie So?  
112  
113 Jerry Well...single-, twin-, and multi-engine planes sound a lot different.  
114 See. Those are twin-engines planes up there.<sup>7</sup>  
115  
116 Natalie That's a big V-formation.  
117  
118 Jerry Looks like... 17 of them.  
119  
120 Natalie Well, we probably won't be standing here looking up at planes  
121 like this for much longer. Will we?  
122  
123 Jerry Probably not.  
124  
125 Natalie Oh look. They're turning back.<sup>8</sup>  
126  
127 [SOUNDS OF PLANES GETTING LOUDER AND BOMBS HITTING TARGETS.]  
128  
129  
130 [DIARY READING THREE]  
131  
132 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]  
133  
134 Natalie As the bombers passed almost opposite the house, we heard a  
135 long ripping sound like the tearing of a giant sheet and saw an  
136 enormous burst of smoke and earth near the officers' quarters at  
137 Camp Hay—the first bombing of the Philippines before our eyes!!  
138  
139 Huge billows of smoke and dust covered the camp as we looked.

---

<sup>6</sup> Morton, Lewis, [The Fall of the Philippines](#), pp. 88. The Americans had P-40s (single engine) and B-17s (4 engines) and a few of the older B-18s (dual engines) in the Philippines.

<sup>7</sup> In 1941, Japanese bombers were all twin engine. Staff writers, [WW2 Japanese Bomber Aircraft](#), militarycraft.com.

<sup>8</sup> Natalie didn't write that the planes circled back, but an historian from Camp Hay recalled that they did. See. [Story of Camp John Hay](#), Camp Hay Newsletter, 12/1981.

140 Smoke rolled up and the smell of powder reached us. We could  
141 hear screaming and men yelling orders. Neither of us said a word.  
142 We turned to each other, speechless, as the planes passed over  
143 the mountain ridge and out of sight. Jerry got his voice back  
144 before I could.

145

146

147

**[SCENE THREE]**

148

149 [SOUNDS OF PLANES FLYING AWAY AND MEN SHOUTING IN THE BACKGROUND]

150

151 Jerry My...God. Those were Japanese planes.

152

153 Natalie We'd better get in the house.

154

155 [SOUND OF CROUTERS DOING A WALK-RUN INSIDE THE HOUSE; DOOR OPEN/CLOSE]

156

157 Natalie I'm calling the kids' school!<sup>9</sup>

158

159 [ROTARY PHONE DIALING; PAUSE; SOMEONE ANSWERS]

160

161 Natalie Hello, this is Mrs. Crouter. Are the children okay?

162

163 [MUFFLED RESPONSE ON PHONE, "THEY'RE FINE."]

164

165 Natalie We'd like to pick up Frederick and June.

166

167 [MUFFLED RESPONSE ON PHONE, "WHY DO YOU WANT TO PICK THEM UP?"]

168

169 Natalie Well...didn't you hear the bombings?

170

171 [MUFFLED RESPONSE ON PHONE: PERSON DON'T BELIEVE HER.]

172

173 Natalie We saw it from our back yard. It was the Japanese.

174

175 [MUFFLED RESPONSE ON PHONE, "THE JAPANESE!"]

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<sup>9</sup> Cogan, Frances, B., [Captured, pp. 16](#). Baguio had phones before WWII. Natalie's [December 16, 1941](#) entry mentions the Crouters having a phone.

176 Natalie Yes. The Japanese!<sup>10</sup>  
177  
178 [AS NATALIE TALKS WE CAN HEAR NIDA’S FOOTSTEPS AS SHE ENTERS THE ROOM]  
179  
180 Nida Mrs. Crouter, Mr. Jerry,<sup>11</sup> are you okay?<sup>12</sup>  
181  
182 Natalie [FINISHING UP THE PHONE CALL] Yes. Yes. I will. Thank you.  
183 Goodbye. [HANGS UP PHONE] They want the children to stay for  
184 now.<sup>13</sup> Nida, did you see the planes?  
185  
186 Nida No. I didn’t.  
187  
188 Jerry Did Ismael see the them?  
189  
190 Nida Yes. He says they were Japanese.  
191  
192 Jerry I’m afraid he’s right Nida.  
193  
194 Natalie You and Ismael are alright then?  
195  
196 Nida We are okay.  
197  
198 Natalie What about your kids?  
199  
200 Nida They’re still in school.  
201  
202 Jerry I’m going to call over to Camp Hay.<sup>14</sup>  
203  
204 [SOUND OF DIALING AND BUSY SIGNAL]

---

<sup>10</sup> This is where the timeline in the diary gets a little murky and the writing a bit terse. Before she mentioned going to the kids’ school, Natalie wrote about driving into town with Jerry. It’s my assumption that the kids were the first thing on the Crouters’ minds.

<sup>11</sup> The [December 25, 1941](#) entry mentions Nida calling Natalie, “Mrs. Crouter,” but the diary doesn’t mention how she addressed Jerry. My sense is that Nida would have been less formal with Jerry who seemed easy going.

<sup>12</sup> It’s my assumption that Nida would have been around and checked in on the Courters.

<sup>13</sup> I’m assuming that the school didn’t close right away. In a 2/9/2020 email to Chris Robinson, Fred Crouter wrote about participating in an air raid drill, so that must have happened when the first siren went off about an hour after the bombings occurred.

<sup>14</sup> Natalie writes about Jerry calling Camp Hay and telling Nida to seek shelter at the ditch; the rest is what I imaged would have been said.

205 Natalie Anything?  
206  
207 Jerry No. Nothing. [PHONE RECEIVER SET DOWN] Listen to me Nida, if  
208 any more planes come, take your family to the drainage ditch  
209 behind the house and lie flat.  
210  
211 Natalie We'll meet you there.  
212  
213 Nida I'll bring blankets.  
214  
215 Natalie We will too. Jerry, the principal said that they're not going to let  
216 the kids out. What should we do?  
217  
218 Jerry They're probably safer staying where they are for right now.  
219  
220 Natalie I want them home.  
221  
222 Jerry Okay. I have to go to the office and get my files.<sup>15</sup>  
223  
224 Natalie Is that really necessary?  
225  
226 Jerry Look, if we lose the client's records, we lose the business.  
227  
228 Natalie I suppose so.  
229  
230 Jerry I'll swing by school afterward.  
231  
232 Natalie If you're going do that, I'm coming with you. Nida, do you want us  
233 to pick up your kids as well?<sup>16</sup>  
234  
235 Nida No. Ismael went to get them before I came over.<sup>17</sup>  
236  
237 Jerry We'd better go Natalie.  
238

---

<sup>15</sup> Natalie wrote that she and Jerry went to the office, but wasn't clear as to why. I'm making a best guess here.

<sup>16</sup> I'm adding Nida to this scene to set up the co-dependent dynamics needed for survival between her and the Crouters. I've kept her husband, Ismael, to a minimum. Too many characters in an audio format can be confusing to listeners.

<sup>17</sup> Natalie wrote about the "Filipino children streaming from the public school," which may have included Nida's kids.

239 Natalie Wait! We have to get dressed first!

240

241 Jerry Just grab a coat, and let's go.

242

243

244 **[DIARY READING FOUR]**

245

246 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

247

248 Natalie As we drove to town, we could see that *no one* knew what had  
249 happened. On the main drag, along Session Street, everyone was  
250 strolling casually, looking into windows, going in and out of stores.  
251 Japanese storekeepers stood unconcerned in doorways.

252

253

254 **[SCENE FOUR]**

255

256 [CROUTERS ARE IN THE CAR, SO SOUND OF THEIR CAR IN THE BACKGROUND]

257

258 Jerry Will you look at this?

259

260 Natalie Doesn't anyone know what happened?

261

262 Jerry Evidently not.

263

264 Natalie Look! There's Betty Lander! Oh no. She shouldn't be pushing her  
265 grandbaby in a stroller.<sup>18</sup> She's right next to your office. Pull over  
266 Jerry.

267

268 [SOUND OF CAR STOPPING; CAR DOORS OPENING AND SLAMING SHUT]

269

270 Natalie Betty. Betty!

271

272 Betty Are you two all right?

273

274 Natalie Didn't you hear the bombings?

---

<sup>18</sup> Natalie wrote about Betty Lander "pushing her son" in a stroller, but the voice actor sounded too old to be a young mother, so I made her a grandmother.



275 Betty You don't need to tell me; I heard about Pearl Harbor.  
276  
277 Natalie No. No. Not Pearl Harbor. Didn't you see the planes or hear the  
278 bombs?  
279  
280 Betty Planes? What bombs?  
281  
282 Natalie The Japanese bombed Camp Hay.  
283  
284 Betty Oh my Lord!  
285  
286 Natalie We saw it from our back yard a little while ago. Didn't you hear it?  
287  
288 Betty No! Nothing at all. What are you two doing downtown?  
289  
290 Natalie We're making a quick stop at Jerry's office.  
291  
292 Jerry We'd better hustle, Natalie.  
293  
294 Natalie We'd better go Betty.  
295  
296 Betty I should head out as well.  
297  
298 Natalie I'll call you.<sup>19</sup>  
299  
300 [SHORT PAUSE, THEN SOUND OF KEYS OPENING THE OFFICE DOOR]  
301  
302 Jerry There's some cardboard boxes in the back. I'm gonna try Camp  
303 Hay again.<sup>20</sup>  
304  
305 [SOUND OF DIALING, BUSY SIGNAL, AND RECEIVER BEING SLAMMED DOWN]  
306  
307 Jerry Damn!  
308  
309 Natalie Did you mean these boxes?

---

<sup>19</sup> I had Natalie say "I'll call you" to show that she's still acting as if her old life hasn't disappeared.

<sup>20</sup> Natalie writes that they did go to Jerry's office, but most of office scene is imagined, except Natalie's comment about not mentioning the bombing and Jerry's reaction.

310 Jerry Yea. Start with this cabinet.  
311  
312 [SOUNDS OF FILE DRAWERS OPEN/CLOSE AND PAPER SHUFFLING]  
313  
314 Natalie We may as well keep the files in alphabetical order.  
315  
316 Jerry Here's another box.  
317  
318 Natalie Thanks.  
319  
320 [MORE SOUNDS OF PAPER SHUFFLING]  
321  
322 Natalie Jerry...you don't think we were mistaken, do you?  
323  
324 Jerry About what?  
325  
326 Natalie The bombing. Maybe we *shouldn't* have told Betty. Suppose we're  
327 wrong.  
328  
329 Jerry You're serious? You're serious. What in the bald-headed hell  
330 Natalie!<sup>21</sup> I know a bombing when I see it!  
331  
332 Natalie But everything was so... peaceful in town. I just thought that  
333 maybe we'd better not to say anything until we know for sure.  
334  
335 Jerry For cryin' in 16 buckets! The Japanese weren't exactly droppin'  
336 hints!  
337  
338 [SOUND OF FILE CABINET CLOSING]  
339  
340 Jerry Do we have everything?  
341  
342 Natalie I think so. What about the strong box?  
343

---

<sup>21</sup> Natalie wrote about Jerry's forceful reaction. "Bald headed hell" is an expression appropriate for the time: I got it from a National Archives exhibit of letters written home from soldiers. A WWII soldier wrote his sister asking, "What in the bald-headed hell do you think we're doing over here?" I can imagine that the question was on the level of Natalie's.

344 Jerry Good thinking. I'll get it from the safe, and then let's get out of  
345 here.  
346  
347 [SOUNDS OF DOOR BEING CLOSED AND LOCKED, THEN STREET NOISES]  
348  
349 Jerry Okay. The kid's school next?  
350  
351 Natalie Yes.  
352  
353 Jerry Wait, there's the radioman from the Post. What's he doing here?  
354  
355 Natalie His eyes look like they're popping out of his head!  
356  
357 Jerry Smythe!<sup>22</sup> Are you all right?  
358  
359 Smythe The Japs<sup>23</sup> bombed Camp Hay, Mr. Crouter!  
360  
361 Jerry We saw it. What are you doing here?  
362  
363 Smythe Scrounging for radio parts sir.<sup>24</sup>  
364  
365 Jerry What'd they hit?  
366  
367 Smythe The main gate first. Then the artillery, the PX ... I dunno...planes  
368 sitting on the ground....<sup>25</sup>  
369  
370 Jerry Oh jeez. Any casualties?  
371  
372 Smythe A bunch soldiers were killed.  
373

---

<sup>22</sup> Natalie does write of seeing a radioman, but I gave him a name and more of a role to use him as a MacGuffin to bring up historic issues at the end of the episode.

<sup>23</sup> I'm going to be parsimonious with the use of "Jap," but it was a commonly used at the time, especially by those who were bombed by them.

<sup>24</sup> Natalie just wrote that they saw the radioman in town but not why he was there. It seemed strange that a soldier would be off post. The Japanese targeted communications buildings (Clayton, James D., [The Years of MacArthur 1941-1945](#), pp. 9), so it might be likely that "Smythe" had to go to town for parts or an alternate radio source.

<sup>25</sup> The [Camp Hay Newsletter](#) reported the main gate being hit, and I remember reading about the artillery and PX but can't find the references. In any case, these are Army base buildings, so I added them. Any planes on the ground would have been targeted.

374 Natalie Oh no!  
375  
376 Jerry How many?  
377  
378 Smythe I...I don't know. At least ten.<sup>26</sup> They were gunned down by the  
379 strafing. There was blood everywhere and guys ripped apart....<sup>27</sup>  
380  
381 Jerry What are you looking for specifically?  
382  
383 Smythe Radio parts, tubes mostly.  
384  
385 Jerry Was communications hit?  
386  
387 Smythe No, but a lot of the tubes blew.  
388  
389 Jerry Must have been from the concussion from the bombs.  
390  
391 Natalie Jerry, we should get the kids.  
392  
393 Jerry Okay. Honey. Just...just a sec. Smythe. Smythe, look at me. Go to  
394 hardware store.  
395  
396 Smythe I already went there, sir.  
397  
398 Jerry Go back and ask for the owner. His name is Drake. Got that?  
399  
400 Smythe Yea. Drake.  
401  
402 Jerry Tell Drake I sent you. He's got a big ham radio set up. If he can't  
403 find the tubes you need, he'll know someone who can.  
404  
405 Smythe I will. Thanks Mr. Crouter.  
406  
407 Jerry You gonna be okay?  
408

---

<sup>26</sup> Halsema, James J., *Recollection of the Day after Pearl Harbor in Baguio*. Referenced at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Hay\\_Air\\_Station](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hay_Air_Station).

<sup>27</sup> Natalie wrote that the radioman, breathless and with eyes "fairly stuck from his head," told the Crouters some "dreadful details" she didn't go into, so I filled in.

409 Smythe Yes sir. I think so.  
410  
411 Jerry Good man. Alright. If Drake can't help you, call me. Your CO's got  
412 my phone number.  
413  
414 Natalie Jerry....  
415  
416 Jerry I know. Okay hon. Keep me posted Smythe.  
417  
418 Smyth Will do, sir. Thanks.  
419  
420 [SOUNDS OF COUTERS GETTING INTO CAR, DRIVING OFF,  
421 AND TALKING WHILE INSIDE THE MOVING CAR]  
422  
423 Natalie There's the public school.  
424  
425 Jerry Looks like the Filipino kids have been dismissed.  
426  
427 Natalie They're probably doing the same at June and Bedie's. Hurry Jerry.  
428 Please.  
429  
430 Jerry We're almost there.  
431  
432 [SOUND OF AN AIR-RAID SIREN]  
433  
434 Jerry Geez, it only took 'em, what... an hour to get the air-raid siren to  
435 work.  
436  
437 Natalie I don't think it's for the last bombing. Look out to the left. See it  
438 up in the distance?  
439  
440 Jerry Yea.  
441  
442 Natalie That one plane.  
443  
444 Jerry Behind Camp Hay.  
445  
446 Natalie Isn't that a residential area?

447 Jerry Looks like it's gonna lay a couple of eggs.  
448  
449 Natalie Oh my lord! They're bombing people's houses! Hurry Jerry!  
450  
451 [SOUNDS OF BOMBS IN THE DISTANCE AND JERRY GUNNING IT DOWN THE ROAD. FADE OUT.]  
452

453  
454 **[DIARY READING FIVE]**  
455

456 [SOUNDS OF WRITING, AND FADE OUT]  
457

458 Natalie It turned out that the bombs landed next to a house. They blew  
459 out windows and shingles, and killed a man and young Filipino  
460 girl.  
461

462 After we picked up the kids, we went home and are *staying here*.  
463 We heard that the Igorot women and children have gone up the  
464 Mountain Trail to stay with friends and family. Those of us  
465 remaining in Baguio are planning to build bomb shelters.  
466

467 The sirens are finally working but mostly after we hear the planes  
468 approaching. So whenever the throb of an engine sounds  
469 overhead, we all run out to the backyard ditch, knowing that it  
470 could very well be a Japanese bomber.  
471

472 In between the air-raids we kept busy packing up the house. Nida  
473 worked every minute but was very grim. Filipinos are loyal to  
474 Americans,<sup>28</sup> but we couldn't blame Nida if she had to side with  
475 the Japanese. Jerry broached the subject with her as we packed  
476 dishes.<sup>29</sup> Her silence was eloquent.  
477

478  
479  
480  
481

---

<sup>28</sup> Common knowledge that Filipinos fought heroically with Americans against the Japanese.

<sup>29</sup> Natalie wrote about packing valuables and Jerry mentioning Japanese propaganda leaflets to Nida. I put them together and dramatized it the next vignette.

**[SCENE FIVE]**

482  
483  
484 Natalie Let's get the pictures off the walls and stow them in the hall  
485 closet.  
486  
487 Nida What about your celadon plates, Mrs. Crouter?  
488  
489 Natalie Those are Sung dynasty, so we'd better wrap them up carefully.  
490 What do you think Nida?  
491  
492 Nida We could use the pillows in the guest room.  
493  
494 Natalie And the throw pillows on the couch?  
495  
496 Nida I think that would be enough.  
497  
498 Natalie Jerry, are there any boxes left?  
499  
500 Jerry There's a wooden crate up the attic.  
501  
502 Natalie It's the last one, isn't it?  
503  
504 Jerry Yep. Do you want me to bury these dishes with the ivory and  
505 silver?<sup>30</sup>  
506  
507 Natalie No. They're so delicate; I'd rather keep them in the closet, at least  
508 for now.  
509  
510 Nida Ismael can help with the digging.  
511  
512 Jerry Yea, we'd better do that together. You two need to know where  
513 everything is. Ah...you know, Nida... I heard that the Japanese  
514 have been dropping leaflets along the Llocos Coast. They say that  
515 Japan will bring Filipinos independence from America.  
516  
517 Nida Yes, Mr. Jerry. I have heard that.

---

<sup>30</sup> This is my set-up for later episodes. Nida and her family lived in the Crouter's house after they were imprisoned and bought food and supplies for the Crouters by selling their valuables.

518 Natalie Nida. If it comes down to it, you and Ismael have to do whatever's  
519 right for your family. We want you to know that ....<sup>31</sup>

520

521 [SOUND OF PLANES FLYING OVERHEAD FROM INSIDE A HOUSE]

522

523 Jerry Here we go again.

524

525 Natalie June! Bedie!

526

527 Nida I'd better get my kids.

528

529 Natalie We'll meet you at the ditch.

530

531 [SOUNDS OF PEOPLE RUNNING OUT THE DOOR AS A SIREN BLASTS AND FADE OUT]

532

533

534 [DIARY READING SIX]

535

536 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

537

538 Natalie Baguio has been in blackout since sunset, so I'm writing in the  
539 dark holding a flashlight in one hand. All's quiet, at least for the  
540 moment, and I am so glad that we prepared with four months of  
541 food.<sup>32</sup> The kids were exhausted after dinner and are sleeping in  
542 our bedroom tonight.<sup>33</sup>

543

544 Dear Jerry was all over the place today. He helped me and found  
545 two miners who will dig a tunnel into a bank behind our garage to  
546 serve as an air-raid shelter. Oh God, what would I ever do without  
547 him? He's always thinking two steps ahead with friends ready to  
548 help. It's a mystery to me how he finds them all.<sup>34</sup> Thanks to Jerry

---

<sup>31</sup> Although she doesn't mention it, it's possible that Natalie might have made a similar comment to address Nida's "eloquent silence."

<sup>32</sup> [December 12, 1941](#) diary entry.

<sup>33</sup> This paragraph and the next are bits and pieces from the diary and me filling in the blanks. Although Natalie does not mention the sleeping arrangements, I'm betting that the kids wanted to be with their parents and they couldn't say no.

<sup>34</sup> I'm a big Jerry Couter fan. From the diary he seemed to be well liked and good with people. Having lived since WWI in the Philippines, served the Army, and run two local businesses, Jerry probably had a lot of connections in Baguio and knew what was going on.



549 our new shelter will be well timbered and safe for our family and  
550 Nida's.

551

552 Speaking of Jerry's friends, after the kids went to sleep, Jerry told  
553 me that he saw the radioman again. I still can't believe what he  
554 told Jerry.<sup>35</sup>

555

556

557 **[SCENE SIX]**

558

559 [SOUND OF JERRY TIPTOEING INTO THE BEDROOM

560 WITH A BOTTLE OF BOURBON AND TWO SHOT GLASSES]

561

562 Natalie What have you got there?

563

564 Jerry Kentucky bourbon. I've been saving it for Christmas, but I figure  
565 that we could both use a stiff one.<sup>36</sup>

566

567 Natalie What a splendid idea! Looks like June's conked and Bedie's down  
568 for the count.

569

570 Jerry How long are they going to be camped in our bedroom?

571

572 Natalie For as long as it makes them feel safe.

573

574 [SOUND OF JERRY POURING NATALIE A GLASS]

575

576 Jerry Say when.

577

578 Natalie That's good.

579

580 [SOUND OF JERRY POURING HIS GLASS; SOUNDS OF A SIP AND A RELIEVED EXHALE. SLIGHT  
581 PAUSE AS JERRY UNWINDS AND LETS THE BOURBON TAKE OFF THE EDGE.]

582

583 Jerry You're not going to believe what Smythe told me.

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<sup>35</sup> The closing vignette is imagined to wrap up the episode and transition to the Epilogue.

<sup>36</sup> Drinking was pretty main stream at the time (look at the movies of the period), so it wouldn't be a stretch to imagine the Crouters having a nightcap to sooth the nerves. Who could fault them?

584 Natalie Smythe?  
585  
586 Jerry The radioman that we saw in town. His CO's is a buddy of mine.  
587  
588 Natalie First of all Jerry, you know I can't keep track of all of your friends,  
589 and second I have no clue what a CO is.  
590  
591 Jerry A CO is a commanding officer.  
592  
593 Natalie When did you ever get around to talking to *Smythe* again?  
594  
595 Jerry After I tracked down the miners for the air-raid shelter.  
596  
597 Natalie I hope that he was in better shape. Poor kid. What did he have to  
598 say?  
599  
600 Jerry They bombed Clark Field.  
601  
602 Natalie No!  
603  
604 Jerry Yep, about four hours after we were bombed. But get this:  
605 Smythe said that warnings were sent to Clark Field, but they  
606 didn't get the message: they were at lunch.<sup>37</sup>  
607  
608 Natalie Oh, surely someone....  
609  
610 Jerry Nope. They were sitting ducks. The planes were on the ground  
611 refueling when the Japs hit.<sup>38</sup>  
612  
613 Natalie What?!?! Your friend shouldn't be talking about things like that.<sup>39</sup>  
614  
615 Jerry No. He shouldn't.<sup>40</sup> But if it is true, someone's ass is in bigger  
616 sling<sup>41</sup> than Smythe's should be.  
617

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<sup>37</sup> The MacArthur Memorial's podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur's Pearl Harbor](#) (13:00-13:23).

<sup>38</sup> [Cogan, Frances B., \*Captured\*, pp. 43.](#)

<sup>39</sup> I'm doing a riff off of Natalie's earlier concerns about talking about the Camp Hay bombing.

<sup>40</sup> The military would not want personnel talking about such events.

<sup>41</sup> [The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms](#)

618 Natalie Jerry!  
619  
620 Jerry Believe me honey, that's putting it mildly.  
621  
622 Natalie I still can't believe that could have happened.  
623  
624 Jerry You haven't been in the military.<sup>42</sup>  
625  
626 Natalie Well if it *is* true, how come the US has never lost a war?  
627  
628 Jerry Because our enemies were stupider than we were.<sup>43</sup>  
629  
630 Natalie They sure weren't today. Were they?  
631  
632 Jerry We'll come out ahead in the end.<sup>44</sup>  
633  
634 Natalie Maybe I will have a little more whiskey before finishing my diary.  
635  
636 [SOUNDS OF POURING AND GLASS NOISES]  
637  
638 Jerry Well, get everything down so we can tell our grandkids.  
639  
640 Natalie Oh I have. We lived through history today, didn't we, Jerry?  
641  
642 Jerry That we have. [YAWN] God knows what's going to happen  
643 tomorrow. [RUMPLING OF COVERS] Night darlin'  
644  
645 Natalie Good night Jerry.  
646  
647  
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<sup>42</sup> My husband is a retired Army Colonel, and the screw-up stories I've heard through the years would curl your hair. I don't know anyone in the military or a veteran from any branch of the service who doesn't consider SNAFUs standard military issue. It's highly likely that Jerry Crouter who served in WWI shared this opinion.

<sup>43</sup> Natalie and Jerry didn't have this Q&A, but my husband and I did. It's also an early lead-in to the ending.

<sup>44</sup> Americans were very confident of their country's military strength. As late as the December 27, 1941, bombing of Baguio, MacArthur was still issuing optimistic public communiqués that "every possible defense measure is being taken" and that his message was of "serenity and confidence." [Captured, pp. 30](#). See also Whitman, John W., *Batan: Our Last Ditch*, pp. 30.

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[DIARY READING SEVEN]

[SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

Natalie

After the Camp Hay bombing this morning Jerry and I kept staring at each other, knees shaking, wondering if we could believe what our eyes had seen. I think that we must have been in shock because we grabbed our coats and dashed out the door in our *pajamas!*

What a sight we must have been standing in the principal’s office waiting to pick up June and Bedie! When the kids appeared Jerry just said, “Get in the car.”<sup>45</sup>

Yet, despite everything, the kids have remained calm. Bedie told me that when the first air-raid siren went off, the students were told to go outside and stretch out on the grass, like they do for an earthquake drill.<sup>46</sup> I keep seeing those children lined up like the airplanes at Camp Hay. What were those teachers thinking?<sup>47</sup> Well, for now, we’re just glad to be safe at home—sleeping in our clothes so we can dash out into the night.

[COLD CLOSE WITH EPILOGUE]

[EPILOGUE]

Chris Robinson

Episode Two epilogue. Hello. I’m Chris Robinson, writer, director, and producer of *Forbidden Diary*. The fact that Pearl Harbor overshadowed the attack on the Philippines does not diminish its significance. MacArthur often called the Philippines “the key to the door that unlocks the Pacific.”<sup>48</sup> On December 8th, America handed the key to Japan.

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<sup>45</sup> The wearing of nightclothes and the kids’ being picked up at the principal’s office are Fred Crouter’s recollections via an email sent to Chris Robinson on 2/9/2020. Survival tool 4: humor.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Good bet that Natalie might be thinking this; I sure would be.

<sup>48</sup> The MacArthur Memorial’s podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur’s Pearl Harbor](#) (4:00).

683 To describe what happened, historians use a timeline<sup>49</sup> that reads  
684 like a suspense thriller—one where you want to scream at the  
685 characters (in this case, from the comfort of 80 years later) for  
686 being so clueless. The three main players in that timeline are:

- 687
- 688 o General Douglas MacArthur;
- 689
- 690 o MacArthur’s chief of staff, Brigadier General Richard
- 691 Sutherland;
- 692
- 693 o and Maj. Gen. Lewis Brereton, commander of the Far East
- 694 Air Force headquarters, who reports to Sutherland.

695

696 During the nine hours between Pearl Harbor and the bombing of  
697 Clark Field, MacArthur appears to be disconnected as Sutherland  
698 and Brereton fixate on an offense strategy that no longer applies.  
699 With each delay and hour that passes, opportunities to defend  
700 the Philippines diminish.

701

702 The drama starts on December 7, 1941 at 7:55 AM, Hawaiian  
703 time, when Pearl Harbor is attacked. The Philippines is 18 hours  
704 ahead of Hawaii, so as the first bombs drop, it’s December 8, 1:55  
705 AM (the next day, in the wee hours of the morning).<sup>50</sup>

706

707 At about 2:30 AM in the Philippines, the Asiatic Fleet  
708 Headquarters in Manila learns about Pearl Harbor but doesn’t tell  
709 MacArthur.<sup>51</sup>

710

711 Around 3:30 AM Sutherland hears about Pearl Harbor from  
712 commercial broadcasts and sends a private wire to MacArthur’s  
713 penthouse apartment in the Manila Hotel.<sup>52</sup> As MacArthur  
714 dresses, he gets a call from Washington confirming the attack. He

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<sup>49</sup> The timeline is based on these sources: 1) Clayton, James D., [The Years of MacArthur 1941-1945](#); 2) Morton, Lewis, [The Fall of the Philippines](#); 3) Edmunds, Walter D., [They Fought With What They Had: The Story of the Army Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific](#), and the MacArthur Memorial’s podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur’s Pearl Harbor](#). Note that events and exact times varied between these sources.

<sup>50</sup> See <https://24timezones.com/difference/us-hi/philippines>.

<sup>51</sup> Clayton, James, D., [The Years of MacArthur](#), pp. 7.

<sup>52</sup> Morton, Lewis, [The Fall of the Philippines](#), pp. 79.

715 asks his wife Jean for a bible to read.<sup>53</sup>  
716  
717 Around 4:00 AM Brereton's headquarters are notified of the Pearl  
718 Harbor attack.<sup>54</sup>  
719  
720 Around 5:00 AM Brereton requests permission to launch a  
721 daylight attack on the Japanese in Formosa (now called Taiwan).  
722 Sutherland tells Brereton that MacArthur too busy to talk with  
723 him but to prepare for a photoreconnaissance mission and wait  
724 for orders.<sup>55</sup>  
725  
726 Around 5:30 AM MacArthur receives an official message from the  
727 War Department confirming that the US is at war with Japan.<sup>56</sup>  
728  
729 Around 6:15 AM MacArthur's staff receives notification that  
730 Davao Field on Mindanao has been attacked.<sup>57</sup>  
731  
732 Around 7:15 AM Sutherland again refuses to let Brereton speak  
733 with MacArthur and tells him to wait for orders.<sup>58</sup>  
734  
735 Around 8:00 AM Brereton receives a call from Washington telling  
736 him to keep his planes from being sabotaged on the ground as  
737 happened in Pearl Harbor.<sup>59</sup> Soon thereafter orders are sent to  
738 Clark Field for all serviceable B-17 bombers take to the air to avoid  
739 being caught on the ground.<sup>60</sup>  
740  
741 At 8:19 AM Jerry and Natalie Crouter watch Japanese bombs hit  
742 Camp John Hay.<sup>61</sup>  
743  
744 At 9:25 AM reports of attacks on Tuguegarao Field (about 200

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<sup>53</sup> The MacArthur Memorial's podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur's Pearl Harbor](#) (8:50-9:30).

<sup>54</sup> [The Years of MacArthur, pp. 7.](#)

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Bartsch, William H., *Doomed at the Start: American Pursuit Pilots in the Philippines, 1941–1942*, pp. 56, 57 & 427. See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack\\_on\\_Clark\\_Field#Events\\_of\\_8\\_December\\_1941](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Clark_Field#Events_of_8_December_1941).

<sup>58</sup> [The Fall of the Philippines, pp. 81](#)

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Edmunds, Walter D., *They Fought With What They Had: The Story of the Army Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific*, pp. 76.

<sup>61</sup> [Baguio Internment Camp, Luzon – Philippine Internment](#) and [December 8, 1941 diary entry](#).

745 miles<sup>62</sup> north of Clark Field) reach Brereton, who then goes to  
746 Sutherland for a third time and is again refused.<sup>63</sup>  
747  
748 Around 9:40 AM Brereton gets the go-ahead for a  
749 photoreconnaissance mission to Formosa.<sup>64</sup>  
750  
751 Some time between 10:15 and 11:00 AM MacArthur calls  
752 Brereton and him gives permission to attack Formosa.<sup>65</sup> Around  
753 seven hours have passed since MacArthur first heard about Pearl  
754 Harbor.  
755  
756 Around 11:30 AM, as P-40s and B-17s land at Clark Field to refuel  
757 and load bombs and camera equipment,<sup>66</sup> 108 Japanese bombers  
758 and 84 fighters have Yed off and are bearing down on Manila and  
759 Clark Field.<sup>67</sup>  
760  
761 At 12:00 noon warnings are sent to Clark Field of an approaching  
762 air strike, but the pilots and support personnel are at lunch and  
763 the message is missed. Later, the Clark Field commander will deny  
764 having received such a message.<sup>68</sup> The chief of the Air Warning  
765 Service will say that he left a message with an “unknown junior  
766 officer.”<sup>69</sup>  
767  
768 Between 12:10 and 12:30 PM Clark Field is attacked.<sup>70</sup>  
769  
770 By 1:37 PM Clark Field and nearly all of its planes are destroyed.<sup>71</sup>  
771 Fifty-five men are dead; over 100 are wounded.<sup>72</sup>  
772  
773 By the end of December 8, 80 are dead and 150 are wounded. The

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<sup>62</sup> <https://www.airmilescalculator.com/distance/tug-to-crk/>.

<sup>63</sup> [The Years of MacArthur 1941-1945, pp. 7 & 8.](#)

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 8

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid* and [The Fall of the Philippines, pp. 82.](#)

<sup>67</sup> [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur’s Pearl Harbor](#) (13:00). See also the map at [The Years of MacArthur 1941-1945, pp. 17.](#)

<sup>68</sup> The MacArthur Memorial’s podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur’s Pearl Harbor](#) (13:00-13:28).

<sup>69</sup> [The Years of MacArthur 1941-1945, pp. 9](#) and [The Fall of the Philippines, pp. 85.](#)

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 10 and *Ibid.*, respectively.

<sup>71</sup> The MacArthur Memorial’s podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur’s Pearl Harbor](#) (14:20)

<sup>72</sup> [The Fall of the Philippines, pp. 87.](#)

774 Far East Air Force is decimated. Half of their planes are gone.<sup>73</sup>  
775 Out of the 107 B-17 bombers and P-40 fighters only 34 survive.<sup>74</sup>  
776 The Japanese, who expected much greater American resistance,  
777 lost seven fighters,<sup>75</sup> making an invasion of the Philippines  
778 possible and changing the Crouter's lives forever.

779

780

[COLD CLOSE]

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<sup>73</sup> Ibid., pp. 88.

<sup>74</sup> The MacArthur Memorial's podcast [Episode Six: Nine Hours to Disaster – MacArthur's Pearl Harbor](#) (15:25)

<sup>75</sup> [The Fall of the Philippines, pp. 88.](#)