

**George
Elliott Jr., 85**
ARMY RADAR
OPERATOR

About 10 minutes later, the first bombs were falling on battleship row.

PORT CHARLOTTE — George E. Elliott Jr., whose unheeded warning about aircraft approaching Pearl Harbor was depicted in history books and movies like “Tora, Tora, Tora,” died Saturday of complications from a stroke, his family said. He was 85.

The former Army radar operator detected the incoming Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941; he issued a warning, which was brushed aside. Nearly an hour later, the enemy planes reached the Navy fleet in the harbor.

A 50-year anniversary story by The Associated Press told how Elliott and another private, Joseph L. Lockard, had been on duty since 4 a.m. at Kahuku Point on the northern tip of Oahu, Hawaii, familiarizing themselves with a new marvel that could “see” 130 miles to sea — radar.

Just after 7 a.m., Elliott saw “something completely out of the ordinary” on the screen, a huge blip, due north, 137 miles out. The information was called in to headquarters, and the operators were told it was a flight of B-17 Flying Fortresses due in from California.

They kept tracking for practice, and the blip grew so large that Lockard figured the set was broken. They turned it off at 7:45, after the blip disappeared behind Oahu’s mountains.