

1942 Chronology

December 1941

- 12/41 **LBJ (Lyndon Johnson)** spends Christmas in Austin and visits at least Corpus Christi before leaving for the West Coast.
- 12/29/41 LBJ leaves San Antonio via Southern Pacific Railroad en route to Los Angeles.
- 12/30/41 LBJ arrives in Los Angeles.
- CTJ (Lady Bird Johnson)** notes that she went to the West Coast with LBJ, trying to be his secretary. LBJ was working on James Forrestal's program, inspecting Navy yards and training programs.

January

- 1/3 LBJ visits Lockheed Aircraft plant.
- 1/4 LBJ travels to Burbank and back to Los Angeles.
- 1/5 LBJ travels to Wilmington, California and back to Los Angeles.
- 1/6 LBJ travels to San Diego and back to Los Angeles.
- 1/7 LBJ flies to San Francisco.
- CTJ visits Huntington Library in San Marino, California; Gainesborough's "Blue Boy" has been moved because of the war scare.
- 1/9 LBJ travels to Richmond, Mare Island Base, Alameda Air Station.
- 1/10 LBJ travels to Bethlehem ship yards.
- 1/11 LBJ takes train to Seattle via Southern Pacific
- 1/12 LBJ arrives Bremerton Navy Yard.
- 1/13 LBJ travels from Seattle to Chicago via Pacific Railroad.
- 1/16 LBJ arrives Great Lakes Training Station.
- 1/18 LBJ leaves Chicago for Washington via Pennsylvania Railroad.
- 1/19 LBJ arrives Washington.

- 1/22 News report: LBJ notifies House officials that he will not be accepting any of his congressional salary while on duty with the Navy; CTJ is working in LBJ's congressional office.
- 1/23 LBJ meets with FDR.
- Late January
John Connally leaves Washington to assume active Navy duty.
- LBJ's trip to the West Coast:
- 1/29 LBJ leaves Washington en route to Houston; remains in Texas for 10 days or so.
- 1/31 LBJ meets with George and Herman Brown, and Jesse Kellam in Houston at Brown Shipbuilding re NYA pre-employment training.
- February**
- 2/2 LBJ meets in Houston with J. J. Pickle, Kenneth Caskey, and M.E. Decherd, South Houston Center, re training program.
- 2/3 LBJ meets in Houston with George and Herman Brown, John Manning, Kenneth Caskey and Willard Deason re: NYA training program for Brown Shipbuilding.
- 2/4 LBJ investigates labor supply in Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange area; meets with Commander Perry
- 2/6 LBJ discusses labor supply and training program for A and R shop at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station.
- 2/7 LBJ, Jesse Kellam, Jim Bond and James R.D. Eddy discuss employment training program.
- 2/10 LBJ leaves San Antonio for San Diego.
- 2/12 LBJ has meeting re operation of NYA training program re Naval establishments in San Diego; Navy and NYA worked successfully but disapproving letter from Washington caused the Navy to give up.
- 2/13 LBJ meets with Tom Clark, Dept, of Justice, Dillard Lasseter, deputy NYA administrator, re: establishment of war work centers in Washington and California.

- 2/16 LBJ meeting with Lockheed personnel in Burbank, re: establishment of war work centers to cooperate with training program of Lockheed. General feeling of futility.
- 2/17 LBJ meets with Lockheed personnel and Tom Clark and Robert Burns.
- 2/19 LBJ holds discussion in San Francisco re: work centers.
- 2/20 LBJ contacts Victor Jaeggli re: prefabricated housing for trainees in San Francisco.
- 2/23 LBJ meets with personnel at Todd-California shipyards, Richmond, re: training program.
- 2/24 LBJ meets with William Frischnecht in San Francisco.
- 2/25 LBJ meets with Consolidated Aircraft personnel in San Diego.
- 2/26 LBJ meets with James Wolfer, NYA director for San Diego, and Jesse Kellam.

Late February

John Connally and Jesse Kellam were in California with LBJ.

- 2/27 LBJ meets with Tom Clark and personnel at Richmond yards re: labor supply and alien control problem.

March

- 3/2 LBJ meets with Todd-California shipyard officials.
- 3/3 LBJ meets with Aubrey Williams and others in San Francisco re: training program at the Bethlehem yard; they discuss the advisability of abandoning every project in order to throw all machines and men into the "vital" training centers.
- 3/4 LBJ meets with Bill Wilson of NYA and Admiral Greenslade in San Francisco.
- 3/5 LBJ meets with Charles Day, tours shipyards.
- 3/7 LBJ travels to Los Angeles.
- 3/9 LBJ meets with Lockheed personnel in Los Angeles re: war work center.
- 3/10 LBJ meets with Ed Weisl, Paramount Pictures, Ben Piazza and George Schaeffer, RKO Pictures, re: movie industry's participation in morale building of workers in yards and plants.
- 3/11 LBJ meets with Weisl.

News report: O.P. Lockhart, state life insurance commissioner, O'Daniel supporter, calls for LBJ's return to Washington.

3/12 News report: Everett Looney and Senator Wirtz defend LBJ's service overseas, accuse Lockhart of being part of O'Daniel's scheme to defeat Roosevelt supporters within the Texas delegation.

3/12 LBJ meets with William H. Clarke, Jr., W.B. McCarter, and Louis B. Mayer.

LBJ takes train to Seattle.

April

4/8 LBJ meets with Aubrey Williams and NYA and Richmond shipbuilding personnel.

4/9 LBJ meets with Richmond shipbuilding personnel. LBJ takes train from San Francisco to Washington via Portland, Oregon.

4/11 LBJ surveys labor supply in Portland shipbuilding industry.

4/13 LBJ meets with NYA personnel re: war work centers, leaves Portland via Union Pacific.

4/15 LBJ arrives in Denver, Colorado, meets with Orren Lull, Colorado NYA director, and Sam Houston Johnson.

4/16 LBJ arrives in Chicago by train, meets with Navy officials, re: training program at the Pier. LBJ leaves Chicago for Washington by rail.

4/17 LBJ arrives in Washington.

Alternative War Activity for LBJ:

Late February

Senator Wirtz writes LBJ that he had a long visit with Rayburn and that Rayburn is thinking of suggesting to FDR that he issue a general order discharging from active service all members of Congress in both the Army and Navy. Wirtz doesn't think this should be done until after the primaries in the summer and perhaps not until the general election.

2/23 Wirtz indicated he tried to see FDR about government position for LBJ, possibly something for Navy comparable to Knudson for the Army.

LBJ seems to want job of handling Democratic Congressional campaigns, fears Demos will lose House in 1942.

LBJ says he's asked for duty at Pearl Harbor, third such request.

Late February – Early March

Bill Douglas, Tom C. [Clark?], and Grace Tully have plan for LBJ to get back to work; LBJ may be attached to Lowell Mellett's outfit. LBJ asked Aubrey Williams to see Harry Hopkins to try to get him some work with authority and responsibility.

Possibility of LBJ working with Undersecretary of Navy Forrestal in Washington or with Dr. Barker in Manpower training.

LBJ's Overseas Service

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| 4/20? | LBJ ordered to report to Vice Admiral Ghormley with four other officers to establish first base in South Pacific. |
| 4/26 | LBJ has meeting with FDR. |
| 4/29? | Indication that LBJ received his orders. |
| 5/1 | Washington: LBJ writes handwritten will leaving all to CTJ, witnessed by Mary Rather and O. J. Weber. That evening LBJ flew from Washington to New Orleans, then Houston. |
| 5/2 | LBJ drives to Austin. |
| 5/3 | LBJ flies to Dallas, L.A., Portland, then San Francisco. |
| 5/4 | LBJ arrives in San Francisco. |
| 5/7 | LBJ flies from San Francisco to Hawaii. |
| 5/13 | LBJ flies from Honolulu to Palmyria. |
| 5/14 | LBJ flies from Palmyria to Canton. |
| 5/15 | LBJ flies from Canton to Suva. |
| 5/18 | LBJ flies from Suva to Noumea. |
| 5/21 | LBJ flies from Noumea to Auckland. |

- 5/23 LBJ flies from Auckland to Sydney.
- 5/24 LBJ flies from Sydney to Melbourne.
- 5/24-29 LBJ arrives at MacArthur's headquarters and confers with MacArthur.
- 6/3 LBJ flies to Sydney, sees Botany Bay, meets with Navy personnel.
- 6/4 LBJ flies to Brisbane, meets with commanding officer.
- 6/5 LBJ meets with Admiral Rockwall.
- 6/6 LBJ flies to Rockhampton and Townsville.
- 6/7 At Torrence Creek LBJ writes in diary, "Think I will go to Moresby," arrives Chartertown, "saw plane land on belly."
- 6/8 LBJ meets with Lt. Commander Mumma.
- 6/9 LBJ and Anderson, Stevens, Generals Marquat and Royce fly to Moresby. LBJ wrote that he almost froze. In route to attack Lae Greer's generator fails. For thirty minutes plane flies on one generator. Devine lands another B-26 on belly. Colonel Stevens killed when his plane is shot down.
- 6/10 LBJ leaves Moresby for Bachelor and Darwin.
- 6/11 LBJ flies from Darwin to Charleyville, navigator gets lost, Kurtz lands plane in field in outback. LBJ rides to Winton and stays night.
- 6/12 LBJ flies to Longreach, later to Melbourne. Arrives Melbourne 4 p.m.
- 6/13 LBJ enjoys restful day in Melbourne, attends Tassels party, goes to Mrs. McNeill's. Sleeps late next day.
- 6/15 LBJ has lunch with General Brett.
- 6/17 LBJ attends dinner for Joe, Tisse Reichstein, Elaine Clark, Perren and Bob Sherrod. Has supper with Marquat, Van North, Kurtz and Vance.

Directive issued to House and Senate members serving on military duty through Naval Chief of Operations and Army Chief of Staff, "All members of the House and Senate who are now serving in an active status will be placed on inactive duty as of 7/1/42."

- 6/18 LBJ meets with MacArthur at 11:42 a.m. MacArthur said it was “a mistake of the head to go on combat mission but it did justice to your heart. It was just what I would have done.” Says he is giving LBJ Silver Star.
- 6/19 LBJ in Sydney with the flu.
- 6/20 LBJ in bed with the flu.
- 6/21 LBJ en route to Noumea, New Caledonia, has dinner with Admiral McCain.
- 6/22 LBJ flies to Suva with high fever, goes to New Zealand hospital, gets insulted, goes to Navy doctor, then hotel. Then he’s brought back to New Zealand hospital that night in ambulance with 103.6.
- 6/23-24 LBJ in bed in hospital.
- 6/24 LBJ discharged from hospital, had lunch at McDonald Hotel with Major Doctor Harris of Birmingham. Saw Commander Holmes at supper with Pickering.
- 6/25 LBJ left hotel, flew to Palmyria.
- 6/26 LBJ flies to Pearl Harbor and has further treatment in hospital.
- July**
- 7/3 FDR called congressmen back; LBJ returned to U.S. and went on inactive duty.
- 7/9 News Report: News story discloses that on 6/1 FDR issued directive declaring all members of Congress now on active duty will be placed on inactive duty as of 7/1.
- 7/15 LBJ meets with FDR. LBJ declines Silver Star awarded to him by MacArthur.

CTJ in the Congressional Office:

Initially Charles Henderson was in charge of office staff. CTJ worked part-time and also attended business school. She thinks Bill Deason had the idea originally (Deason letter 5/9). But LBJ complained of delays in answering mail when Henderson was there. He left and went to work for Maury Maverick. CTJ “graduated herself” from school and went to work full time.

What previous experience had she had? What did the experience do for her? Did that responsibility and activity give her an interest in a job of her own, i.e. KTBC? When did Henderson leave? What about the delays?

List of Staff: O. J. Weber, Mary Rather, Gayle Wilhitt, Ed ?, Nellie Connally, Malcolm Bardwell (w/Senator Connally) was very helpful to office.

Routine Office Activities:

Attends Congressional hearings? Meets with constituents. Meets with agency and administration officials. Meets with Rayburn and other congressional leaders. Signs mail, returning late after working hours to sign mail. Sends names and addresses to LBJ for him to send post cards from the West Coast (See Deason letter 5/9/42)

Other activities:

House hunting. Gym workouts, usually between 4-6 p.m. Rooming with Nellie Connally, Mary Rather, Aunt Effie. Social events. Red Cross classes, three weeks, one day a week. Night school classes.

War-time Washington:

Blackouts, emergency procedures, rationing.

LBJ's Election Plans:

Early February

News report: Rumors that James Allred will run for Senate if LBJ decides not to run.

- 3/7 LBJ writes FDR about his hope that James Allred's running for the Senate will not be displeasing to FDR.
- 3/10 Burnet County supporters begin circulation of petitions calling for LBJ's re-election, expected to be district-wide movement.
- 4/4 Charles Marsh writes to Grace Tully, urging LBJ to run for the Senate.

Voters signing petitions.
- 5/8 News Report: Dan Moody and James Allred announce for Senate seat.
- 5/14 Wirtz writes hoping that CTJ approves of his filing LBJ's petition for re-election to Congress instead of the Senate.
- 5/22 Tom Miller upset with Wirtz's filing of LBJ's consent to run for Congress.
- 5/27 Charles Marsh writes to Grace Tully urging that LBJ run for the Senate, says John Connally has two signed consent petitions--one for the House seat; one for the Senate Race, and he and Wirtz are planning to enter LBJ in House election.

- 7/20 Wirtz writes LBJ, expressing concern over poor handling of Jimmie Allred campaign.
- 7/23 News Report: LBJ reports on his service in Australia in “Texas Forum of the Air.” Questioned by Rayburn and Patman, LBJ praised American fighting men but decried quality of planes they had; warns of superiority of Japanese zeros; also criticizes incompetence among high military officials.
- 7/27 News Report: *Time* reports LBJ had 4-hour breakfast meeting with FDR on experiences in the South Pacific.
- 7/27-28 LBJ flies to Texas. Rumored that he is returning to aid Allred campaign. Tours district.
- August**
- 8/3 Johnsons hold family reunion in Johnson City.
- Early August CTJ goes to Santa Fe for vacation.
- 8/6 LBJ flies to Seattle on undisclosed mission. Warren Magnuson, in his oral history interview, remembers accompanying LBJ to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, to settle Army-Navy feud. Picture taken at Dutch Harbor, Aleutians with Magnuson, Admiral Theobald and Artemas Gates and Leslie E. Gehres.
- 8/13 News Report: During LBJ’s absence, CTJ opens his Austin congressional office.
- 8/19 LBJ just returned from Alaska.
- News Report: LBJ makes major speech at commencement in San Marcos commemorating Dr. Evans’ retirement, broadcast over the state.
- 8/20? LBJ speaks to American Legion in Fort Worth, denounces red tape, calls for strong war effort.
- 8/23 O’Daniel defeats Allred for Senate nomination.
- 8/24 LBJ takes part in ceremonies renaming Marshall Ford Dam as Mansfield Dam, Walter Jenkins is present.
- 8/27 LBJ spent all week at Lake Buchanan seeing friends, planning to go to Fort Worth on 8/28.

Late August

LBJ in Texas until first week in September, working on establishing uniform wage scale for state; interested in having John Connally sent to London as member of Admiral Stark's office.

8/27 LBJ states, "Films were terrible disappointment."

September

LBJ in district.

9/4 LBJ speech at rally in Granger.

October

10/4 FDR is naming Jimmy Byrnes to be economic czar. LBJ thinks Allred should replace Byrnes on Court and is going to suggest him.

10/13 After bitter sectional fight House passes bill outlawing poll tax in eight southern states, including Texas.

10/14 News Report: *Washington Daily News* column reports rumors that LBJ will be appointed Secretary of the Navy.

(Mid?) October

Wirtz misses important meeting in Washington because of San Antonio public utility work.

10/23 News Report: Rumors that LBJ will be sent on secret mission to London; conferring daily with War and Navy Departments and the White House.

10/31 News Report: LBJ appears on "Texas Forum of the Air" with Rayburn, Patman, Ewing Thomason, defending Congress' record; Rayburn urges listeners to go to the polls.

Late October – Early November

Johnsons buy 4921 Thirtieth Place.

11/4 CTJ goes to Alabama with John Connally and Aunt Effie.

11/7 LBJ makes radio broadcast to Australia, saying that U.S. help is on the way.

11/20 LBJ to O. J. Weber: refers to London assignment; may be called any day.

November – December

Johnsons negotiating to buy KTBC.

December

12/2 LBJ meets with FDR.

12/7 News Report: LBJ speaks at ceremonies in Portland, Oregon--scrapping of Battleship *Oregon*. LBJ recommends scrapping of incompetent officials in government as well.