

U.S.S. Arizona



**TABLE OF LOSSES:
DECEMBER 7, 1941**

	UNITED STATES	JAPAN
Casualties		
Killed (Total)	2,403	164
Navy	2,008	164
Marine Corps	109	—
Army	218	—
Civilian	68	—
Wounded (Total)	1,178	unknown
Navy	710	
Marine Corps	69	
Army	364	
Civilian	35	
Ships		
Sunk or Beached*	8	6
(5 BB, 1 target ship, 1 repair ship, 1 minelayer)		(5 midget subs, 1 I-Class sub)
Damaged	10	
Aircraft		
Destroyed	188	29
Damaged	159	74

*All U.S. ships, with the exception of *Arizona*, *Utah*, and *Oklahoma* were salvaged and later saw action.

Before the attack on Pearl Harbor

December 7, 1941. By late 1940, Japanese/American relations had reached a low ebb. Japan was controlled by militarist factions who sought to solve the nation's economic problems through conquest in China and were prepared to challenge European/American interests in Southeast Asia. The United States applied diplomatic and economic pressure on Japan in order to force her to cease her aggression in China, steps that only strengthened Japan's mistrust. Although Japan continued to negotiate with the U.S., by December, 1940, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Chief of Japanese Combined Fleet, had completed plans for an attack on the United States Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor. Yamamoto, who was personally opposed to war with America, recognized that Japan's only hope of success in such a war was to achieve quick and decisive victory. America's superior economic and industrial might would tip the scales in her favor during a prolonged conflict.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was to be coordinated with attacks on other Allied posts in the Philippines, Malaya, Hong Kong, and the Dutch East Indies, which were to be occupied by Japanese forces. There were no plans, however, to occupy the Hawaiian Islands.

On October 17, 1941, the Japanese Navy General Staff gave final approval for the attack on Pearl Harbor, and on November 26, a task force of 33 warships and auxiliaries, including six aircraft carriers, sailed from Northern Japan for the Hawaiian Islands. The fleet commander was Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, aboard the carrier *Akagi*. Admiral Yamamoto remained in Japanese waters aboard the battleship *Nagato*.

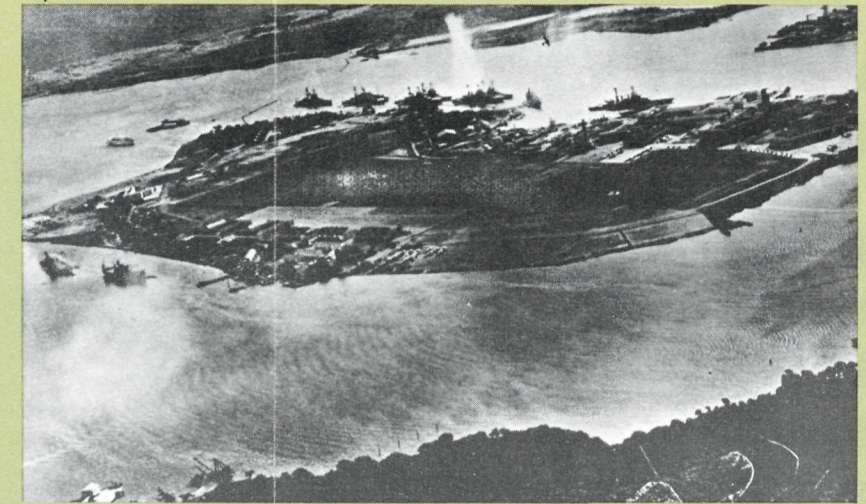
The fleet followed a route that took it far to the north. During virtually the entire voyage, the Japanese ships were hidden by storms and foggy conditions. By early morning, December 7, 1941, the fleet reached its launch position, 240 miles north of Oahu. At 6:00 a.m., the first wave of fighters, bombers, and torpedo planes were launched. Earlier, five midget submarines were launched from their larger submarine "mother" ships. They were to enter Pearl Harbor and cause as much damage as possible.

Meanwhile at Pearl Harbor, the day appeared to be turning into a normal Sunday. The Pacific Fleet's battleships were tied up along "Battleship Row" at Ford Island. Navy aircraft were lined up at Ford Island's field, but the Pacific Fleet's carriers were not in port. U.S. Army Air Corps planes were parked in bunches as defense against possible saboteurs at Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows fields. The destroyer *Ward* was carrying out a routine patrol near the entrance to the harbor. A newly-installed radar system was manned.

At 6:40, the crew of the *Ward* spotted a small conning tower headed for the entrance to Pearl Harbor. The *Ward* immediately engaged the midget sub with depth charges and gunfire. The sub was hit and seen to sink, and the *Ward* radioed the information to Pearl Harbor. At 7:02, the radar station at Opana Point picked up a signal indicating a large flight of planes approaching from the north. Their report was thought only to be aircraft flying in from the carrier *Enterprise* or an anticipated flight of B-17s from the mainland, so no action was taken.

The first wave of Japanese aircraft arrived over their target areas shortly before 7:55 a.m. Commander Mitsuo Fuchida, the leader, sent the coded message, "Tora, Tora, Tora," to inform the fleet that surprise had been achieved. At that point, the high level and dive bombers began their attacks on Pearl Harbor. The fighter aircraft, having met virtually no opposition in the air, strafed planes parked on runways and in hangars. At approximately 8:10, the *Arizona* exploded, sending a column of flame and smoke high into the air. She had been hit by a 1,760-pound

Japanese air view of attack



armor-piercing bomb. In less than nine minutes she had sunk with over 1,100 of her crew, a total loss. The *Oklahoma*, hit by several torpedoes, rolled completely over, trapping many men inside. The *California* and *West Virginia* sank at their moorings, while the *Utah*, converted to a training ship, capsized with more than fifty of her crew. The *Maryland*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Tennessee* all suffered significant damage. The *Nevada* was the only battleship to get underway, and attempted to run out to sea. When the attacking planes focused on the fleeing battleship, she took several hits and had to be beached to avoid sinking and blocking the harbor entrance. Aside from the battleships, ten other Navy ships suffered serious damage or were sunk during the attack.

After some 15 minutes, American anti-aircraft fire began to register hits, although many of the shells fell on Honolulu, where they were assumed to be exploding bombs. Army Air Corps pilots managed to take off in a few fighters and knocked down some twelve attacking planes.

While the attack on Pearl Harbor intensified, other military installations on Oahu were hit as well. Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows air fields, Ewa Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Naval Air Station, and Schofield Barracks suffered varying degrees of damage, with hundreds of planes destroyed on the ground and hundreds of men wounded or killed.

After a lull at about 8:30, the second wave of attacking planes hit Pearl Harbor. This wave concentrated on the same targets, thus causing little new damage. By 10:00, the second wave withdrew to the north, and the attack was over. The Japanese lost a total of 29 planes, five midget submarines (one was captured when it ran aground at Bellows Field), and one I-class submarine sunk off the coast.

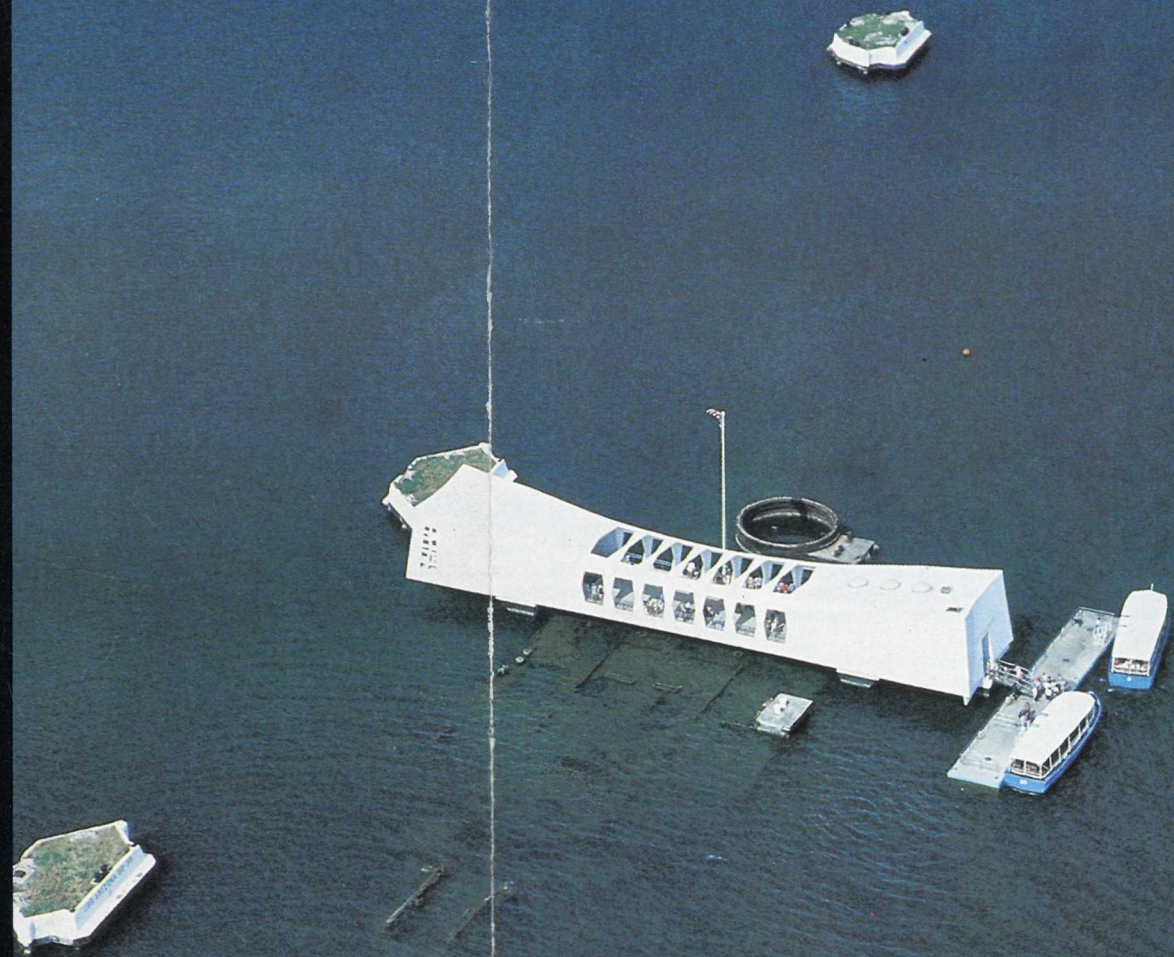
The attack was a great, but not total, success. Although the U.S. Pacific Fleet was shattered, its carriers were still afloat and Pearl Harbor was surprisingly intact. The shipyards, fuel storage areas, and submarine base suffered no more than slight damage. More importantly, the American people, previously divided over the issue of U.S. involvement in World War II, rallied together with a total commitment to victory over Japan and her Axis partners. Japan had, in the words of Admiral Yamamoto, "awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve."



USS Arizona in all her glory, 1935

Small rescue boats

U.S.S. Arizona



USS Arizona Memorial and National Park Service Visitor Center

The USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is operated by the National Park Service in conjunction with the United States Navy. Composed of the Arizona Memorial structure spanning the sunken battleship *U.S.S. Arizona* and a new visitor center on the nearby shore, the USS Arizona Memorial complex is wholly located within the boundaries of the Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

Headquarters for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor is situated on the island of Oahu in the suburbs of Honolulu, a short distance west of the Honolulu International Airport.

Visitor Center. The USS Arizona Memorial visitor center is directly off State Highway 99 (Kamehameha Highway), and is easily reached by car or bus. The visitor center is on the shoreline overlooking Pearl Harbor, within view of the Arizona Memorial itself, and is the required first stop for visitors intending to tour the Memorial. Free parking for about 150 cars is provided.

The U.S. Navy completed the visitor center in 1980, using a combination of appropriated funds and private contributions raised by Branch 46 of the Fleet Reserve Association. On September 9, 1980, the Navy transferred operation of the Memorial complex to the National Park Service. The Navy continues to operate the shuttle boat fleet that serves the Memorial.

Within the visitor center is the main reception area with an information desk staffed by National Park Service personnel. Directly behind the desk is a 50 by 15 foot oil painting of the *U.S.S. Arizona* by artist John Charles Roach.

The Information desk is the first stop for visitors entering the center. There visitors receive information on the Memorial and obtain tickets for the interpretive program. Visitors go through the program in groups, which are identified by a number on the tickets they receive. When each ticket number is announced, all holders of that ticket proceed to the theater entrance. Ticket availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. The interpretive program consists of a 21-minute documentary film on the Pearl Harbor attack, followed by a brief talk by a National Park Service Ranger. Immediately after the talk, the Ranger conducts the visitors to the boat landing, where they board a Navy shuttle boat to the Memorial. All visitors disembark on the Memorial, where they can stay as long as desired. Return to the Visitor Center is by the next available shuttle boat. National Park Rangers are stationed aboard the Memorial to provide information and lend assistance.

While waiting for their programs to begin, visitors are free to visit the Visitor Center museum, or browse through the museum shop operated on a non-profit basis by the Arizona Memorial Museum Association. The landscaped area behind the Visitor Center provides an excellent view of Ford Island, the focal point of the 1941 attack. Other facilities in the Center include a small snack area, central courtyard, restrooms, and administrative areas.

THE ARIZONA MEMORIAL

The Arizona Memorial is the final resting place for about 1000 Navy men and Marines who lost their lives defending the *U.S.S. ARIZONA* on December 7, 1941. The Memorial spans the sunken battleship *ARIZONA* and consists of a gleaming white, 184-foot long concrete structure with several main areas: a large entryway, an expansive, airy, light-filled, semi-open central assembly space for ceremonies and general observation, and a shrine chamber where the names of 1,177 sailors and marines killed aboard the battleship on December 7, 1941 are engraved into a white marble wall.

U.S.S. Arizona Memorial
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
No. 1 Arizona Memorial Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818



President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved the construction of the Memorial during his second term as president in 1958. In 1961 President John F. Kennedy signed a bill appropriating \$150,000 for the construction by the 87th Congress. The Pacific War Memorial Commission spearheaded a fundraising drive for the completion of the Memorial, and in 1962 the monument was dedicated.

Contrary to popular belief, the *U.S.S. ARIZONA* is no longer in commission. The Navy Department, as a special tribute to the ship and her lost crew, permits the United States flag to fly daily from the flagpole, which is attached to the severed mainmast of the sunken battleship.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE ARIZONA MEMORIAL. The Visitor Center is located off Kamehameha Highway at Pearl Harbor naval station, about a 20-minute drive west of central Honolulu. Although Pearl Harbor is a military facility, no passes or special documents are required for entering the Visitor Center or parking there.

For those who don't have cars, several alternatives by bus are available: Honolulu transit busses stop regularly at the Visitor Center and can be boarded in Waikiki. The #20 bus is the most direct line. A commercial transportation company in Waikiki runs round-trip bus junkets to the Visitor Center, and various commercial tour bus operators include the Arizona Memorial on their sightseeing itineraries.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE. The Arizona Memorial and Visitor Center are open Tuesday through Sunday, closed on Monday. Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children must be six years of age or older to ride the Navy boat and board the Arizona Memorial.

No reservations are taken; all tours are "first-come, first-served."

Smoking, eating, and drinking are not permitted in the Visitor Center's twin theatres, on the Navy launch, or on the Memorial structure.

Valuables, such as cameras and handbags, should be closely guarded or safely secured.

For further information, please call 422-2771.

