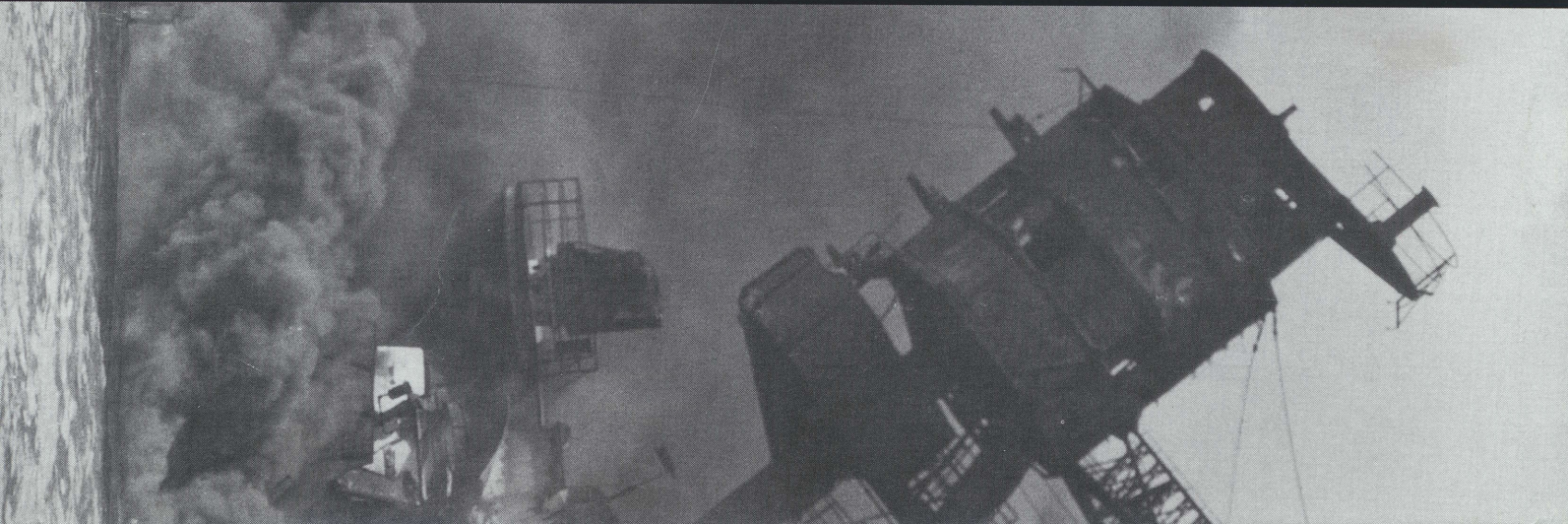


USS *Arizona* Memorial

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawaii



TO HONOR OUR DEAD

Shattered by a direct hit, the USS *Arizona* burns and sinks to the bottom of the harbor.

The USS *Arizona* is the final resting place for many of the ship's 1,177 crewmen who lost their lives on December 7, 1941. The 184-foot-long (56-m) Memorial structure spanning the mid-portion of the sunken battleship consists of three main sections: the entry and assembly rooms; a central area designed for ceremonies and general observation; and the shrine room, where the names of those killed on the *Arizona* are engraved on the marble wall.

The USS *Arizona* Memorial grew out of a wartime desire to establish some sort of memorial at Pearl Harbor to honor those who died in the attack. Suggestions for such a memorial began in 1943, but it wasn't until the Pacific War Memorial Commission was established in 1949 that the first real steps were taken to bring it about.

Initial recognition came in 1950 when Adm. Arthur Radford, Commander in Chief, Pacific (CINCPAC), ordered that a flagpole be erected over the sunken battleship. On the ninth anniversary of the attack, a commemorative plaque was placed at the base of the flagpole.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who helped achieve Allied victory in Europe during World War II, approved the creation of the Memorial in 1958. Its construction was completed in 1961 with public funds appropriated by Congress and private donations. The Memorial was dedicated in 1962.

According to its architect, Alfred Preis, the design of the Memorial, "wherein the structure sags in the center but stands strong and vigorous at the ends, expresses initial defeat and ultimate victory. . . . The overall effect is one of serenity. Overtones of sadness have been omitted to permit the individual

December 7, 1941, losses*

	United States	Japan
Personnel Killed		
Navy	1,999	64
Marine Corps	109	
Army	233	
Civilian	49	
Personnel Wounded		
Navy	710	unknown
Marine Corps	69	
Army	364	
Civilian	35	
Ships		
Sunk or beached **	12	5
Damaged**	9	
Aircraft		
Destroyed	164	29
Damaged	159	74

* Figures are subject to further review.

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

to contemplate his own personal responses . . . his innermost feelings."

Contrary to popular belief, the USS *Arizona* is no longer in commission. As a special tribute to the ship and its lost crew, the United States flag flies from the flagpole, which is attached to the severed mainmast of the sunken battleship. The USS *Arizona* Memorial commemorates all of those whose lives were lost on O'ahu, December 7, 1941.

VISITOR CENTER

The visitor center and the USS *Arizona* Memorial are located on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. In 1979 an agreement was established between the U.S. Navy and the Department of the Interior for the National Park Service to assume control of the Memorial. The visitor center is the central orientation point for the tour of the Memorial. It is located on the eastern shoreline of Pearl Harbor just off State Highway 99 (Kamehameha Highway) about a 45-minute drive west of Waikiki. The visitor center complex was completed in 1980, using a combination of government funds and private contributions raised by the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 46. Parking for more than 260 visitor vehicles is provided.

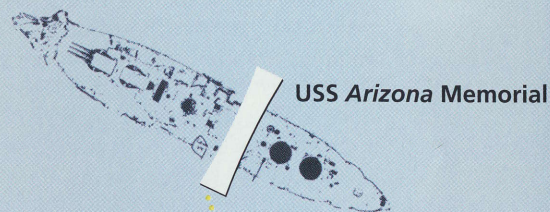
The interpretive program, for which visitors are given free tickets at the visitor center, consists of a brief talk by a National Park Service ranger, followed by a 23-minute documentary film on the Pearl Harbor attack. Immediately after the film, visitors board a Navy shuttle boat to the Memorial. All visitors disembark on the Memorial and return with their shuttle boat.

Visitors are free to explore the museum and browse through the bookstore operated by the *Arizona* Memorial Museum Association. Other facilities in the center include a small snack area, central courtyard, restrooms, and administrative areas. The 16-foot by 50-foot (4.9-m by 15.2-m) oil mural of the USS *Arizona* in the visitor center lobby is by John Charles Roach. The lawn behind the visitor center provides an excellent view of Ford Island and Battleship Row.

TRANSPORTATION TO THE MEMORIAL

For those without cars, several alternatives by bus are available: Honolulu public transit buses stop regularly near the visitor center and can be boarded in Waikiki. The #20 and #42 buses are the most direct lines. A commercial transportation company in Waikiki runs round-trip bus trips to the visitor center, and various commercial tour bus operators include the USS *Arizona* Memorial on their sightseeing itineraries.

FORD ISLAND



USS Arizona Memorial

GENERAL INFORMATION

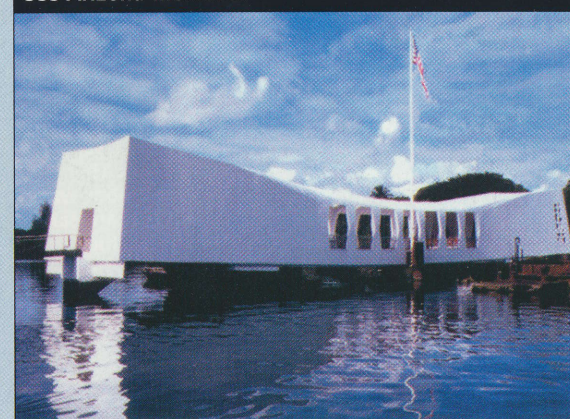
- The visitor center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The last program begins at 3 p.m. The visitor center and Memorial are closed Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1.
- No reservations are taken; all tours are free of charge and on a "first-come, first-served" basis.
- Smoking, eating, and drinking are not permitted in the visitor center's twin theaters, on the boat, or on the Memorial structure.
- Due to increased security measures, bags or articles that offer concealment are prohibited in the visitor center and at the Memorial. A storage facility is available to visitors for a nominal fee.
- For further, recorded information, please call 808-422-0561 or 808-422-2771, or contact USS *Arizona* Memorial, 1 *Arizona* Memorial Place, Honolulu, HI 96818-3145; www.nps.gov/usar

Visitor Center



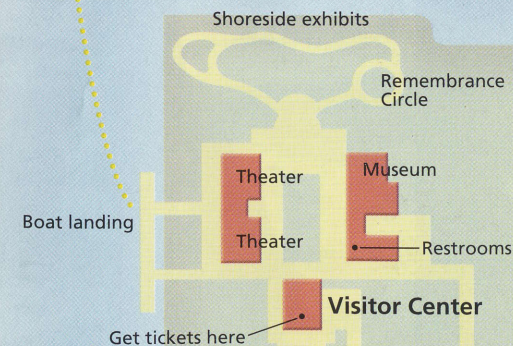
USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

USS Arizona Memorial

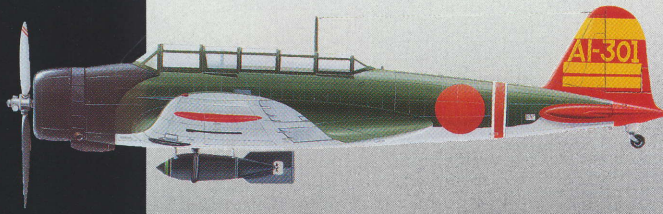


USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

Pearl Harbor



7 DECEMBER 1941



Airmen from Ford Island Naval Air Station stare in disbelief to where the USS *Shaw* has just blown up. *Inset above:* This Nakajima B5N2 horizontal bomber was the command aircraft of the Pearl Harbor attack leader, Cmdr. Mitsuo Fuchida.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BAYCHELOR
COURTESY ARIZONA MEMORIAL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The attack on Pearl Harbor was the culmination of a decade of deteriorating relations between Japan and the United States over the status of China and the security of Southeast Asia. The breakdown began in 1931 when Japanese army extremists, in defiance of government policy, invaded and overran the northern-most Chinese province of Manchuria. Japan ignored American protests, and in the summer of 1937 launched a full-scale attack on the rest of China. Although alarmed by this action, neither the United States nor any other nation with interests in the Far East was willing to use military force to halt Japanese expansion.

Day of Infamy



Over the next three years, war broke out in Europe, and Japan joined Nazi Germany in the Axis Alliance. The United States applied both diplomatic and economic pressures to try to resolve the Sino-Japanese conflict. The Japanese government viewed these measures, especially an embargo on oil, as threats to their nation's security. By the summer of 1941, both countries had taken positions from which they could not retreat without a serious loss of national prestige. Although both governments continued to negotiate their differences, Japan had already decided on war.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was an integral part of the Japanese grand strategy of southern expansion. The objective was to immobilize the Pacific Fleet so that the United States could not interfere with the vast invasion of Asia and the western Pacific. The principal architect of the attack was Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet. Though personally opposed to war with America, Yamamoto knew 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 its favor during a prolonged conflict.

On November 26, the Japanese attack fleet of 33 warships and auxiliary craft, including six aircraft carriers, sailed from northern Japan for the Hawaiian Islands. It followed a route that took it far to the north of the normal shipping lanes. By early morning, December 7, 1941, the ships had reached their launch position, 230 nautical miles (425 km) north of O'ahu. At 6 a.m., some 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) outside the entrance to Pearl Harbor, five midget submarines carrying two crewmen and two torpedoes each were launched from larger "mother" subs. Their mission: enter Pearl Harbor before the air strike, remain submerged until the attack got underway, then cause as much damage as possible.

Meanwhile at Pearl Harbor, the 185 vessels of the U.S. Pacific Fleet lay calm and serene. Seven of the fleet's eight battleships were

tied up along "Battle-ship Row" on the southeast shore of Ford Island. Naval aircraft were lined up at Ford Island and Kāne'ohe naval air stations, and at 'Ewa Marine Corps Air Station. Aircraft belonging to the U.S. Army Air Corps were parked in groups as defense against possible saboteurs at Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows airfields.

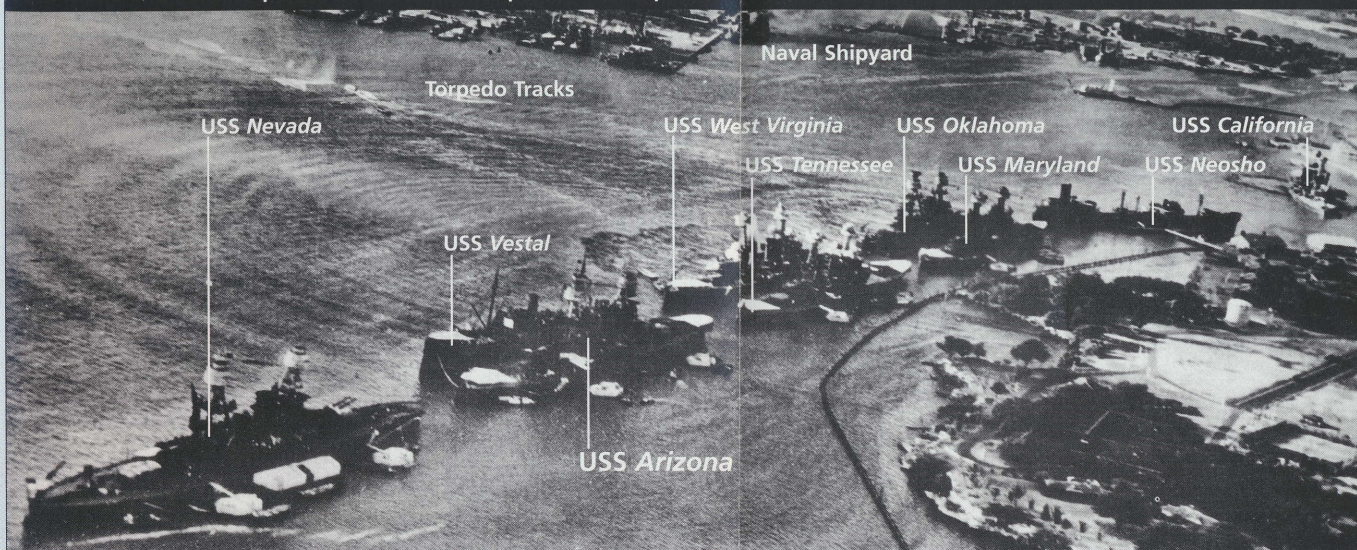
At 6:40 a.m., the crew of the destroyer USS *Ward* spotted the conning tower of one of the midget subs headed for the entrance to Pearl Harbor. The *Ward* sank the sub with depth charges and gunfire, then radioed the information to headquarters. Before 7 a.m., the 'Ōpana Mobile Radar Station near Kahuku Point picked up a signal indicating a large flight of planes approaching from the north. These were thought to be either 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. Their leader, Cmdr. Mitsuo Fuchida, sent the coded messages "To, To, To" and "Tora, Tora, Tora," telling the fleet that the attack had begun and that complete surprise had been achieved.

At approximately 8:06 a.m., the USS *Arizona* exploded, having been hit by a 1,760-pound (800 kg) armor-piercing bomb that slammed through its deck and ignited its forward ammunition magazine. In less than nine minutes, it sank with 1,177 of its crew, a total loss. The USS *Oklahoma*, hit by several torpedoes, rolled completely over, trapping more than 400 men inside. The *California* and *West Virginia* sank



Ford Island and Battleship Row as seen from a Japanese attack plane.



USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL

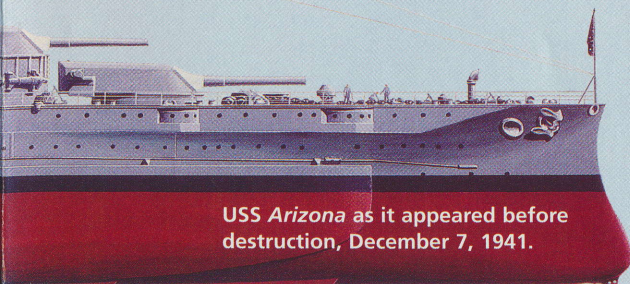
at their moorings, while the *Utah*, converted to a training ship, capsized with more than 50 of its crew. The *Maryland*, *Pennsylvania*, and *Tennessee*, all suffered significant damage. The *Nevada* attempted to run out to sea but took several hits and had to be beached to avoid sinking and blocking the harbor entrance.

While the attack on Pearl Harbor intensified, other military installations on O'ahu were hit. Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows airfields, Ewa Marine Corps Air Station, Kāne'ohe Naval Air Station, and Schofield Barracks suffered varying degrees of damage, with hundreds of planes destroyed on the ground and hundreds of men killed or wounded.

After about five minutes, American anti-aircraft fire began to register hits, although many of the shells that had been improperly fused fell on Honolulu, where resi-

dents assumed them to be Japanese bombs. After a lull at about 8:40 a.m., the second wave of attacking planes focused on continuing the destruction inside the harbor, destroying the *Shaw*, *Sotoyomo*, the floating dry-dock YFD-2, and heavily damaging the *Nevada*. The Japanese continued air attacks on Hickam, Wheeler, Ewa, and Kāne'ohe airfields, causing heavy losses of aircraft and reducing American ability to retaliate. Some Army pilots, however, managed to get up in the air and may have shot down 12 enemy planes. Shortly before 10 a.m. the second wave attack withdrew to their carriers approximately 200 nautical miles (370.4 km) to the north. The attack was over. World War II had come to America.

The U.S. Navy had suffered its greatest defeat in its history. Twenty-one vessels were sunk or damaged. American airpower on the island of O'ahu was smashed. American dead totaled 2,390, with hundreds wounded. Japanese losses were 29 planes, 55 airmen, five midget submarines, and nine crewmen. In the wake of such a disaster, Americans rallied. A once-divided nation was now committed to avenge Pearl Harbor. The battle cry "Remember Pearl Harbor!" carried the nation forward for the next three and a half years. In 1945 America and its allies achieved victory over Japan, Nazi Germany, and Fascist Italy. Today, former enemies meet here at this Memorial in peace, to remember a time of war. The legacy of Pearl Harbor still haunts us.



USS Arizona as it appeared before destruction, December 7, 1941.

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL/ALAN CHESLEY