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National Geographic Online Feature Stories

**Remembering Pearl Harbor**

* At the time the U.S. minesweeper *Condor* was on patrol near Pearl Harbor
* In total, the Japanese has 183 fighters, bombers, ands torpedo planes
* The Japanese used Honolulu’s radio station music to navigate
* The U.S. destroyer *Ward* set out to find the midget submarine—upon finding it, Lieutenant William W. Outerbridge orders the men to fire after only leading for 2 days
* Opana Radar Station – One of 6 radio stations; opened less than a month ago
* An army lieutenant in training is at the radio-network operations center and he receives the news about the planes—he then shrugs it off, assuming they’ve instead picked up on a flight of U.S. B-17 Flying Fortress bombers that were from California and heading to Hawaii
* FDR and General George Marshall both learn through a decoded Japanese message that Japanese negotiators were instructed to break off ties. As a result, Marshall sent a warning to General Walter Short, aka the commander of the US army in Hawaii at the time🡪the message isn’t received in time—communication difficulties
* 49 high-altitude bombers, 51 dive-bombers, 40 torpedo planes, and 43 fighters were present when the Japanese reached Oahu
* Air-attack commander Mitsuo Fuchida didn’t spot any aircraft carriers, which the Japanese hoped to destroy
* Commander Logar C. Ramsey spotted a low flying plane and made in out to be a reckless U.S. pilot. Soon he realizes the black object falling out of the plane is a bomb—he then proceeds to order the telegraph operators to send a message
* The U.S. battleship *Oklahoma* was struck by at least 5 torpedoes and sunk
* U.S. battleship *Utah* was mistaken for a carrier and attacked by 2 torpedoes—sinking and killing ~54 men who were stuck
* Most U.S. planes and destroyed since they are lined
* U.S. B-17s stop first at Oahu—unaware if the attack, they have no weapons and are only able to dodge attacks
* The forward deck of the U.S.S. Arizona is punctured and as a result more than a million pounds of gun powder is set off, killing 1,177 men.
* U.S.S. Helm, a destroyer ship, spotted a Japanese submarine stuck on a reef and fires—the surviving crew member is washed ashore and becomes the U.S.’s first prisoner of war
* Second attack wave by Japanese: 25 fighters, 78 dive-bombers, and 54 high-altitude bombers hit the battleship *Pennsylvania*; another bomb lands between destroyers *Cassin* and *Downes*
* Every ship damaged or sunk on December 7th sails again (excluding the *Arizona*, *Utah*, and *Oklahoma*
* U.S. carrier locations were still unknown—superiors ruled against a third attack as the missions has already been completed
* Death toll: 2,390
* U.S. forces struck down every Japanese aircraft, carrier, battleship, and cruiser during the 44 months of war that followed