

PEARL HARBOR

December 7, 1941



Why did Japan Attack?

- Japan had invaded both China and Indochina
- The U.S. demanded that Japan withdraw from China and Indochina
- September 1940. The U.S. placed an embargo on Japan by prohibiting exports of oil, steel, scrap iron, and aviation fuel to Japan
- Japan thought that attacking the U.S. would provide them an easy win, and a territory with lots of land and resources to rule once they were victorious.
- **The U.S. embargo against Japan was hurting Japan's economy, and their ability to make war!**



Major Combatants

- Japan

- Fleet of 6 Aircraft Carriers with 423 Aircraft

- United States

- Pearl Harbor Naval/Army Base with:

- 8 battleships, 8 cruisers, 29 destroyers, 9 submarines, 50 other ships and 390 aircraft.*
 - 108 Fighter Planes (59 not available for flight)
 - 35 Army Bombers (27 not available for flight)
 - 993 Army/Navy Antiaircraft Guns

USA not ready for this attack!

Military Leaders



Admiral Kimmel
Commander in Chief
of the Pacific Fleet
(CINCPAC)



Lt. General Short



Admiral Yamamoto
Commander of the
Japanese Fleet.



Vice Admiral Nagumo,
Commander, Pearl
Harbor Strike Force



The moment at which the Hawaiian surprise attack force is about to take off from the carrier... Japanese attack planes prepare for take off. Japanese crew cheer for pilots as they enter their planes.



Attack Sequence

- FIVE PHASE ATTACK BY JAPANESE
 - PHASE 1: Combined torpedo plane and dive bomber attacks lasting from 7:55 a.m. to 8:25 a.m.
 - PHASE 2: Lull in attacks lasting from 8:25 - 8:40 a.m.
 - PHASE 3: Horizontal bomber attacks from 8:40 – 9:15 a.m.
 - PHASE 4: Dive bomber attacks between 9:15-9:45 a.m.
 - PHASE 5: Warning of attacks and completion of raid after 9:45 a.m.



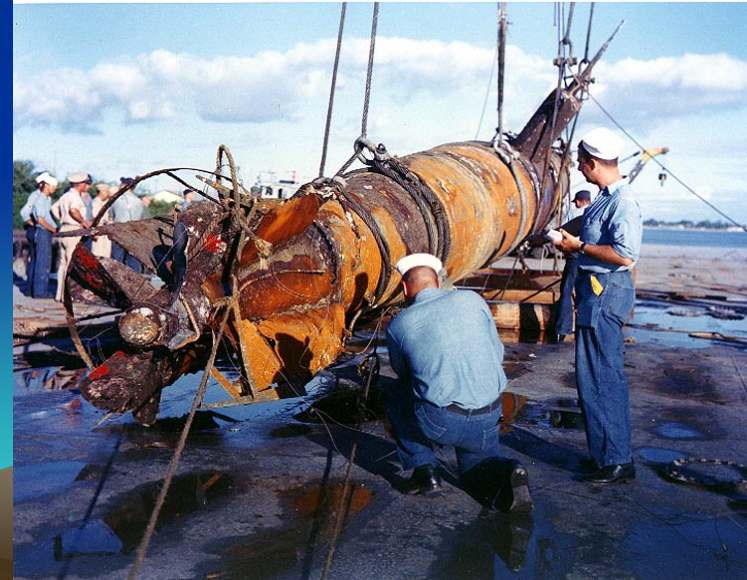
The Japanese Attack Force

Photo # 80-G-71198 Japanese planes prepare to take off to attack Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec. 1941



- 81 Fighter Planes
- 135 Dive Bombers
- 104 Horizontal Bombers
- 40 Torpedo Planes
- 5 Midget Submarines

Photo #: KN-2589 Japanese midget submarine recovered from Pearl Harbor area, ca. 1961



Oops...USA misses warnings.

- USA breaks Japan's codes and learns of the attack.
 - Word is sent to Oahu, 2 hours too late.
- USA is using radar for the first time!
 - Radar picks up lots of planes
 - Military officers dismiss the radar reports as a flight of B-17 bombers coming from San Francisco. Oops...





Eyewitness Account

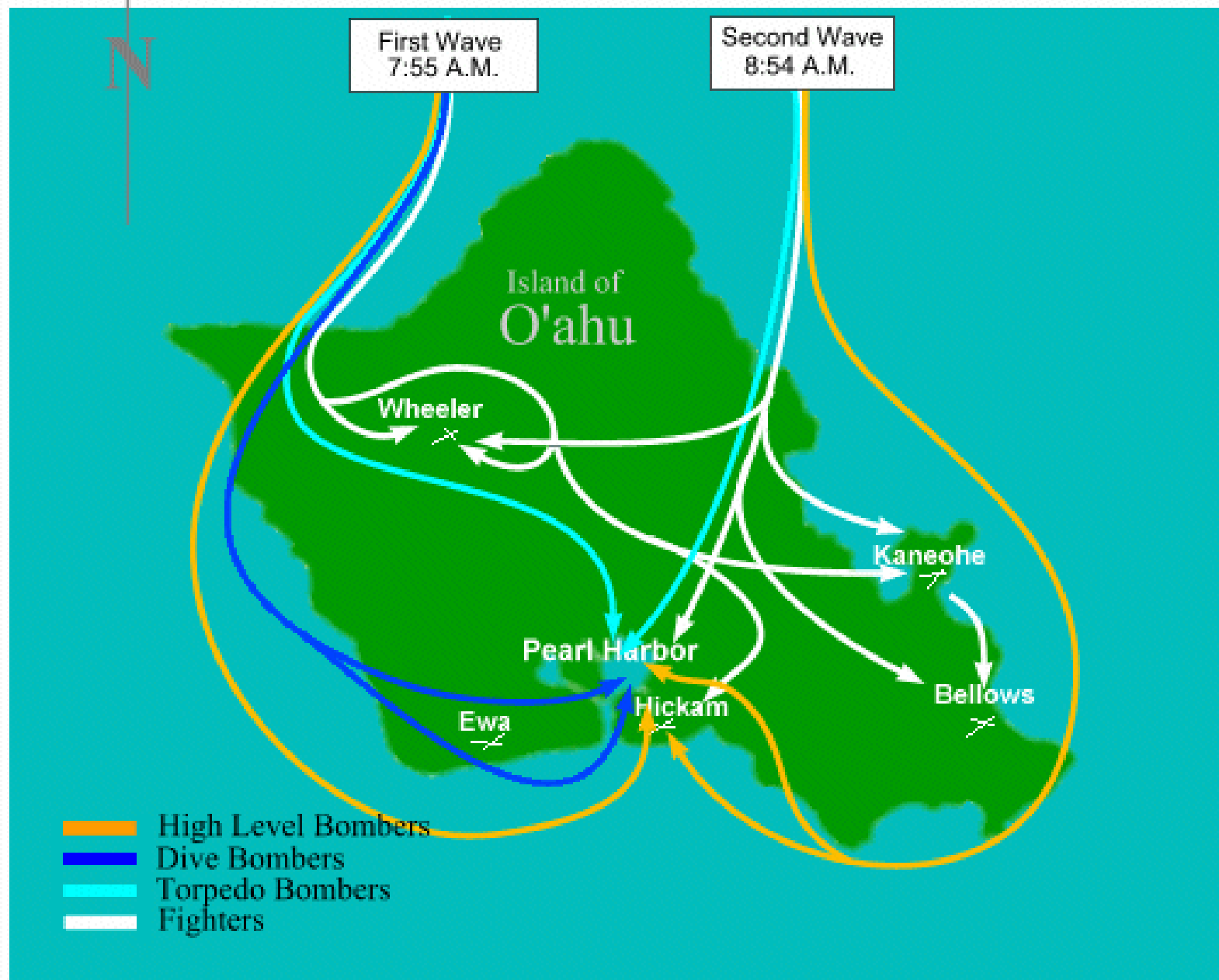
- Commander Mitsuo Fuchida

“Veering right toward the west coast of the island, we could see that the sky over Pearl Harbor was clear.”

Presently the harbor itself became visible across the central Oahu plain, a film of morning mist hovering over it. I peered intently through my binoculars at the ships riding peacefully at anchor.

One by one I counted them. Yes, the battleships were there all right, eight of them! But our last lingering hope of finding any air craft carriers present was now gone. Not one was to be seen.”





USS Arizona



- Hit within 10 minutes after attack began.
- Bomb crashed through the 2 armored deck, igniting its magazine.
- Went down with 1,100+ lives.

USS Arizona Burning



- 1,177 servicemen died on the ship

What was the attack like?



Casualties

- Japan
 - Less than 100 men
 - 29 planes
 - 5 midget submarines
- United States
 - 2,335 servicemen killed, 68 civilians killed, 1,178 wounded
 - 188 planes
 - 18 ships (8 battleships, 3 light cruisers, 3 destroyers, 4 other vessels)



Ship Causalities

Sunk:

- USS California
- USS West Virginia
- Oglala (mine ship)

*All later raised and rebuilt.

Destroyed:

- USS Arizona
- USS Utah
- USS Oklahoma



USA Response

- President Roosevelt's Address to the nation
December 8, 1941
FDR's speech
- Asks Congress to declare war on Japan



Effects/Outcome

- Japan dealt a seemingly crippling blow to the U.S. Pacific fleet (Except that the U.S. Pacific Fleet aircraft carriers: Lexington, Enterprise, & Saratoga were not harmed)
- Japan began their quest for a Pacific empire
- The U.S. finally was forced to join World War II (“The Sleeping Giant was awakened”)
- The U.S. & Great Britain declare war on Japan (Dec. 8, 1941)
- Germany & Italy declare war on the U.S. (Dec. 11, 1941)

