

# PEARL HARBOR!

by  
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As each December rolls around, it's become tradition to at least mention Pearl Harbor in the media, and rightly so, but with each passing year it becomes even more important to remember the events of December 7, 1941. It's imperative that not only the memory but the facts be kept alive, especially in this period of revisionism and political correctness wherein the truth is constantly being watered down. Moreover, it's been 57 years since that quiet Sunday morning was forever shattered, and with each passing year the number of



*The U.S.S. Arizona lies stricken*

participants significantly dwindles. Last year, each *month* averaged 50 deaths of Pearl Harbor veterans. The average age of today's Pearl Harbor survivors is 78. There are less than 10,000 left now. All too soon, only the records will remain.

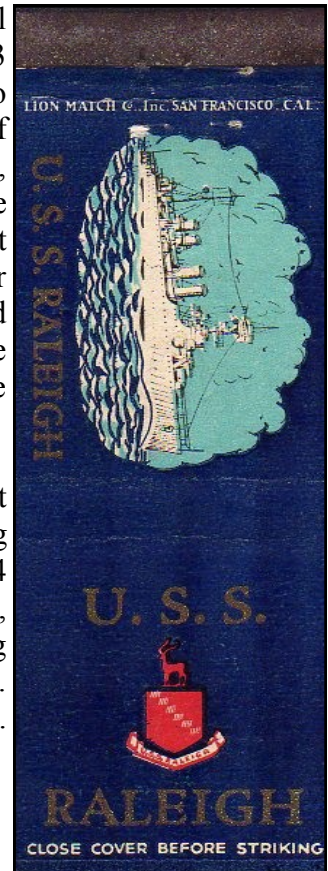
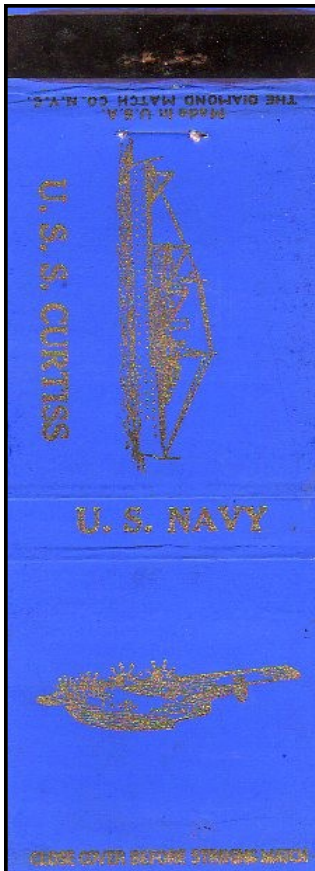
It was early morning, December 7, 1941. As the sun was just beginning to rise in Oahu, Hawaii, the first Japanese attack fleet of 183 planes were taking off from aircraft carriers 230 miles north of Oahu. At 7:02 AM, two Army radar operators on Oahu picked up the approaching fighters. They contacted a junior officer who disregarded the sighting, thinking that it was B-17 bombers coming in from the west coast of the United States.

The surprise attack had been conceived by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. The total strike force of some 353 Japanese aircraft was led by Commander Mitsuo Fuchida. At 7:55 A.M., with no formal declaration of war, the first bomb was dropped on Wheeler Field, eight miles from Pearl Harbor, which was the headquarters for the U.S. Pacific fleet. The crews at Pearl Harbor were on the decks of their ships for morning colors and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. Even though the band was interrupted by the gunfire of Japanese planes, the crews did not move until the last note was sung.

Of the 96 U.S. Naval ships present in the harbor that day, 18 were sunk or seriously damaged, including eight battleships, four of which were sunk. Of 394 aircraft at Hickam, Wheeler, and Bellows airfields, 188 were destroyed and 159 were damaged. Among those killed were 2,335 servicemen and 68 civilians. An additional 1,178 people were wounded. Fortunately, the attacker's prime targets, the aircraft

*U.S.S. Curtiss on fire at Pearl Harbor*

*Heavily damaged U.S.S. Raleigh supported by tugs*



carriers, were out at sea at the time.

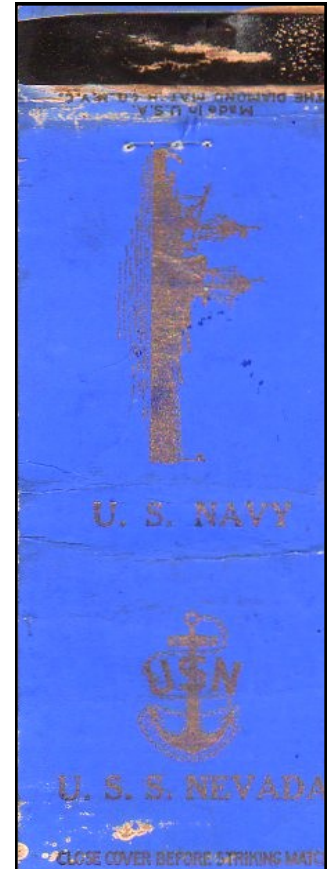
## U.S. SHIP DAMAGE AT PEARL HARBOR

(\* = COMBINE Pre-War listings)

Arizona (BB-39)	-Sunk; *8 covers
California (BB-44)	-Sunk; *10 covers
Maryland (BB-46)	-Damaged; *11 covers
Nevada (BB-36)	-Heavily damaged; *4 covers
Oklahoma (BB-37)	-Capsized; *2 covers
Tennessee (BB-43)	-Damaged; *12 covers
W. Virginia (BB-48)	-Sunk; *9 covers
Pennsylvania (BB-38)	-Slightly damaged; *9 covers
New Orleans (CA-32)	-Damaged; *9 covers
San Francisco (CA-38)	-Damaged; *12 covers
Detroit (CL-8)	-Damaged; *7 covers
Helena (CL-50)	-Heavily damaged; *4 covers
Honolulu (CL-48)	-Damaged; *6 covers
Raleigh (CL-7)	-Heavily damaged; *5 covers
Cassin (DD-372)	-Heavily damaged; *2 covers
Downes (DD-375)	-Heavily damaged; *4 covers
Helm (DD-388)	-Damaged; *2 covers
Shaw (DD-373)	-Heavily damaged; *1 cover
Curtiss (AV-4)	-Damaged; *1 cover
Sotoyomo (YT-9)	-Sunk; *none(this was a tug)
Utah (AG-16)	-Capsized; *2 covers
Vestal (AR-4)	-Heavily damaged; *5 covers
YFD-2	-Sunk; *none
Oglala (CM-4)	-Sunk



*U.S.S. Utah listing just before it capsized*



*U.S.S. Nevada burns uncontrollably*

