



Today is December 7th, the 68th Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. This day carries a significant historical importance for all Americans, especially those who were there.

At 7:55 a.m. Hawaii time, a cloud of 360 Japanese warplanes began their attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. It was a ferocious and crippling attack, and drew the United States into the Second World War against Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany.

5 of 8 battleships, 3 destroyers, and 7 other U.S. ships were either sunk or heavily damaged. A few days prior, Admiral William 'Bull' Halsey took the American carrier fleet on a 'training' mission that delivered a squadron of fighters to the defenders of Wake Island, who in the event of war would undoubtedly be in the path of the Japanese advancing war machine.

At Pearl Harbor, 2,400 Americans were killed, and 1,200 wounded. On December 8, 1941 President Roosevelt appeared for Congress and delivered his famous speech stating: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941--a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." But all was not lost for the U.S. Navy...6 months later, the Navy, with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz as its new commanding officer in the Pacific, would render a decisive and stunning blow to the Japanese fleet sinking the aircraft carriers *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Soryu*, and *Hiryu*; all who were present at the Pearl Harbor attack.

Photo # U.S. Army C-5904 Rescuing survivor near USS West Virginia, during Pearl Harbor raid

