USS ARIZONA



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This image is a still shot from footage captured on board the USS *Solace* (AH-5) on the morning of December 7, 1941. According to Naval History & Heritage Command, it shows the "USS *Arizona* (BB-39) ablaze, immediately following the explosion of her forward magazines." An official image, of the U.S. Navy, it is Photo 80-G-K-13512.

As Petty Officer Noboru Kanai, one of Japan's best bombardiers, took aim at the *Arizona*, most of her crew was on board. Kanai's bomb penetrated *Arizona's* main deck, forward of the bridge. It ignited fires in her forward compartments.

At about 8:10 a.m., seconds after the attack, nearly 2 million pounds of powder and high explosives <u>detonated</u> into a <u>monstrous fireball</u>. More than 900 of *Arizona*'s crew were killed at that moment.

One sailor said the ship "seemed to jump at least 15-20 feet upwards in the water and then sort of break in two."

Everything was <u>on fire</u>. The ship. The water. The men. From the *Vestal*, alongside *Arizona*, Lt. Commander Harley Smart <u>witnessed what happened</u>:

I could see the men on Arizona walking on deck and burning alive. They had their helmets on. Their clothes were all seared off. They were a ghostly crew as they walked out of those flames. And then they just dropped dead.

Within minutes after *Arizona* exploded, she was totally obscured by smoke. As <u>she sank</u>, she set a record not broken to this day. Never in the history of the United States Navy had a ship <u>taken</u> so many <u>men</u> down <u>with her</u>.

Before the attack on Pearl Harbor, most Americans did not want to join World War II. The country was <u>divided</u>. People remembered the horrors of the First World War. They didn't want to lose more family members to someone else's fight.

After Pearl Harbor, however, things changed. The disastrous situation aboard the *Arizona*, in particular, changed <u>American attitudes</u> overnight. Galvanized, the country was united in its desire to <u>avenge</u> the <u>unprovoked attack</u>.

Countless stories of amazing courage and patriotism made the country proud. Proud of its heroes. Heroes like Dorie Miller.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/USS-ARIZONA-Pearl-Harbor

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/USS-ARIZONA-Pearl-Harbor

Media Stream



<u>Arizona - Explosion of Her Forward Magazines</u> Official U.S. Navy Photograph, National Archives Collection. PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Arizona-Explosion-of-Her-Forward-Magazines



Arizona - On Fire, 7 December 1941

Official U.S. Navy Photograph, National Archives Collection.

PD

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Arizona-On-Fire-7-December-1941



<u> Arizona - Explosive Fireball</u>

Official U.S. Navy Photograph, National Archives Collection.

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Arizona - Sinking after Explosion

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. ARC Identifier 195617.

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<u> Arizona - Wreckage Entombed Sailors</u>

Official U.S. Navy Photograph, National Archives Collection.

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Remember Pearl Harbor -" I Want My Daddy Back"

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USS Arizona - Sunken Battleship

Image online, courtesy Naval History & Heritage Command.

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USS Arizona - Wall of Remembrance

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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