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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 detonated into a monstrous fireball. 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 on fire. The ship. The water. The men. From the *Vestal*, alongside *Arizona*, Lt. Commander Harley Smart witnessed what happened:

*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 she sank, she set a record not broken to this day. Never in the history of the United States Navy had a ship taken so many men down with her.

Before the attack on Pearl Harbor, most Americans did not want to join World War II. The country was divided. 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 American attitudes overnight. Galvanized, the country was united in its desire to avenge the unprovoked attack.

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

Photo # K-13513 USS Arizona's forward magazines explode, 7 December 1941



### Arizona - Explosion of Her Forward Magazines

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>

Photo # 80-G-1942 USS Arizona burning at Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941



### Arizona - On Fire, 7 December 1941

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

PD

View this asset at:

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

Photo # K-13512 USS Arizona ablaze after her forward magazines exploded, 7 December 1941



### Arizona - Explosive Fireball

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

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Arizona-Explosive-Fireball>



### Arizona - Sinking after Explosion

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

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Arizona-Sinking-after-Explosion>

Photo # USN 1021538 Burned-out wreck of USS Arizona, at Pearl Harbor, December 1941



### Arizona - Wreckage Entombed Sailors

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

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### Remember Pearl Harbor - Buy War Bonds

Office of Government Reports. United States Information Service. Division of Public Inquiry. Bureau of Special Services, OWI.

Office of Government Reports. United States Information Service. Division of Public Inquiry. Bureau of Special Services, OWI.

Control Number NWDNS-44-PA-1627

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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### Remember Pearl Harbor - "I Want My Daddy Back"

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Control Number NWDNS-44-PA-1040

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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### USS Arizona - Sunken Battleship

Image online, courtesy Naval History & Heritage Command.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Arizona-Sunken-Battleship>



### USS Arizona - Wall of Remembrance

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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