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June 2009 crh



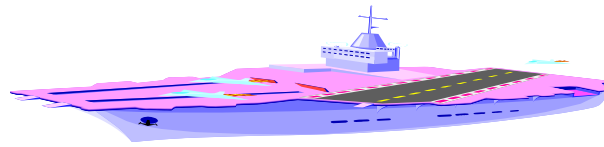
## PEARL HARBOR DAY, DECEMBER 7



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## ▶ Remember Pearl Harbor



sighting was passed off as an approaching group of American planes due to arrive that morning.

The Japanese aircrews achieved complete surprise when they hit American ships and military installations on Oahu shortly before 8:00 a.m. They attacked military airfields at the same time they hit the fleet anchored in Pearl Harbor. The Navy air bases at Ford Island and Kaneohe Bay, the Marine airfield at Ewa and the Army Air Corps fields at Bellows. Wheeler and Hickam were all bombed and strafed as other elements of the attacking force began their assaults on the ships moored in Pearl Harbor. The purpose of the simultaneous attacks was to destroy the American planes before they could rise to intercept the Japanese.

Of the more than 90 ships at anchor in Pearl Harbor, the primary targets



were the eight battleships anchored there. Seven were moored on Battleship Row along the southeast shore of Ford Island while the USS *Pennsylvania* (BB-38) lay in drydock across the channel. Within the first minutes of the attack all the battleships adjacent to Ford Island had taken bombs and/or torpedo hits.

When the attack ended shortly before 10:00 a.m., less than two hours after it began, the American forces had paid a fearful price.

Japanese losses were comparatively light. Twenty-nine planes, less than 10 percent of the attacking force failed to return to their carriers.

The shock and anger caused the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor united a divided nation and was translated into a wholehearted commitment to victory in World War II.

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq66-1.htm>

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