

Pearl Harbor - December 7th 1941

This presentation is made possible from an e-mail recently received attaching recently unknown photographs of the Pearl Harbor attack. I want to thank the Honickman and Biderman families for including me as a recipient of the e-mail.

The story is that an unknown person took the attached photographs on that Sunday morning with his “brownie” camera just like the one below, but the film remained undeveloped until recently. Please enjoy these remarkable photographs. The sailor who apparently took these photographs was stationed on the *USS QUAPAW ATF-110*



This PowerPoint presentation was created by Mr. Gordon Hurst

The Attack

At 7:53 a.m. on Sunday, December 7th 1941, the first wave of the Japanese attack began. The targets were the airfields and battleships. The second wave attacked other ships and the shipyard facilities. The raid was over at 9.45 a.m.

Eight battleships were damaged, with five sunk. Three light carriers, three destroyers and three smaller vessels were also lost. 188 aircraft of which the majority never became airborne, were destroyed .

Over a thousand crewmen aboard the *USS Arizona* were killed after a 1,760 pound bomb was dropped down into the forward magazine creating a huge explosion. In all, 2,335 service men and 68 civilians were killed and 1,178 people were wounded.

The prime targets, the aircraft carriers *Lexington*, *Enterprise* and *Saratoga* were not in port that day so they escaped damage.

What makes the following pictures unique is that they were taken both during and after the attack

I have attempted to sort them by time-of-event order and by the locations within the harbor. It is also apparent that the sailor moved around the port after the attack. This is indicated by the pictures taken at the airbase and from a vessel in the water

It is difficult to make out the exact make of airplane above the submarine but it does appear to be a Japanese Zero



By the same quayside, probably his own ship



A direct hit along battleship row!



A closer view of the previous shot a few minutes later



This must have been taken early during the raid based on the explosion and location. The 7-35 in the left corner is not applicable to the time as the raid began at 7.53 a.m.



This appears to be the first picture taken after the second raid was over. The watch in the bottom right hand corner reads 12:20. The smoke has begun to clear in the foreground but the fires in the rear rage on.



At some point after the attack, our sailor went aboard a boat and was taken across the harbor. Note the fire-fighting boat in the middle-left of the picture.



Looking across the harbor at battleship-row



This photograph is amazing as the vessel in the center is in the process of sinking. It is positioned up in the air and in the process of going underwater



Here he is alongside battleship row moving towards the harbor entrance



This is a rear view of the airbase.
The damage by the water are of various airplanes



This must have been after the second-wave struck as some of the airplanes are still exploding



The men are attempting to pull the
spotter plane away to safety



This view of one of the docking slips must have been taken in the late afternoon, perhaps from the top of a crane



This merchant ship is sunk and still on fire several hours after the attack.



This is taken from the same location only looking out across to the rear of the harbor



Listen to the entire speech

<http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/fdr-infamy.htm>

“Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 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..... As Commander-In-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense, that always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.... I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt – December 8, 1941