

Attack on Pearl Harbor

Eighty years ago, on December 7, 1941, Japan's surprise attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet moored in Hawaii caused profound shock in the U.S. and precipitated America's entry into World War II

KEY EVENTS LEADING TO ATTACK

■ **1937:** Japan invades China. Ultra-nationalist military leaders justify occupation of China, Manchuria and Korea as part of Japan's "divine right" to unify East Asia under rule of **Emperor Hirohito** ▶



■ **Jan 1941:** Admiral **Isoroku Yamamoto**, Commander-in-Chief of Combined Fleet, tasked with planning surprise attack to destroy U.S. naval capability in Pacific, enabling Japan to complete territorial conquests



■ **Jul:** Throughout summer months, pilots train in shallow waters of Kagoshima Bay, which closely resembles Pearl Harbor

■ **Nov 3:** Chief of Japanese Naval General Staff approves draft plan

■ **Nov 17:** Yamamoto reveals attack plan to naval leadership

■ **Nov 26:** Strike Force, comprising six aircraft carriers, sets sail from Hitokappu Bay in Kuril Islands, under command of Vice Admiral **Chuichi Nagumo** ▶

■ **Dec 6:** Fleet reaches rendezvous point, beginning high speed approach to Pearl Harbor as 30 submarines surround Hawaii



■ **Jun 1940:** President **Franklin D. Roosevelt** moves U.S. Pacific Fleet from San Diego to Pearl Harbor and imposes embargo on vital raw materials to curb Japan's advance into French Indo-China



■ **Feb:** Commander **Minoru Genda** expands plan, which calls for fighters, dive bombers and torpedo bombers deployed from aircraft carriers to target ships, airfields, aircraft and dry docks

TIMELINE OF ATTACK (Hawaiian time, GMT -10 hours)

Dec 7, 03:42 Minesweeper **USS Condor** spots periscope of midget submarine 3km off entrance to Pearl Harbor – alerts destroyer **USS Ward**

06:00 First attack wave of 183 Japanese planes takes off from carriers located 370km north of Oahu. Pilots tune in to Honolulu radio station to guide approach

06:37 **USS Ward** sinks submarine in first American shots fired in World War II

07:02 Opana radar station detects large flight of planes approaching from north. Initially thought to be B17 Flying Fortresses, en route from California

07:15 Second attack wave of 167 planes takes off

Rear Admiral **Husband Kimmel**, commanding officer of U.S. Pacific Fleet, opts to wait for verification of report on submarine contact because of numerous recent "false reports of submarines"



07:33 Washington cracks coded diplomatic message ordering Japanese negotiators to break off talks. Delays in army communications means warning does not reach Lt. Gen. **Walter Short**, commander of U.S. Army forces in Hawaii, until after attack ends



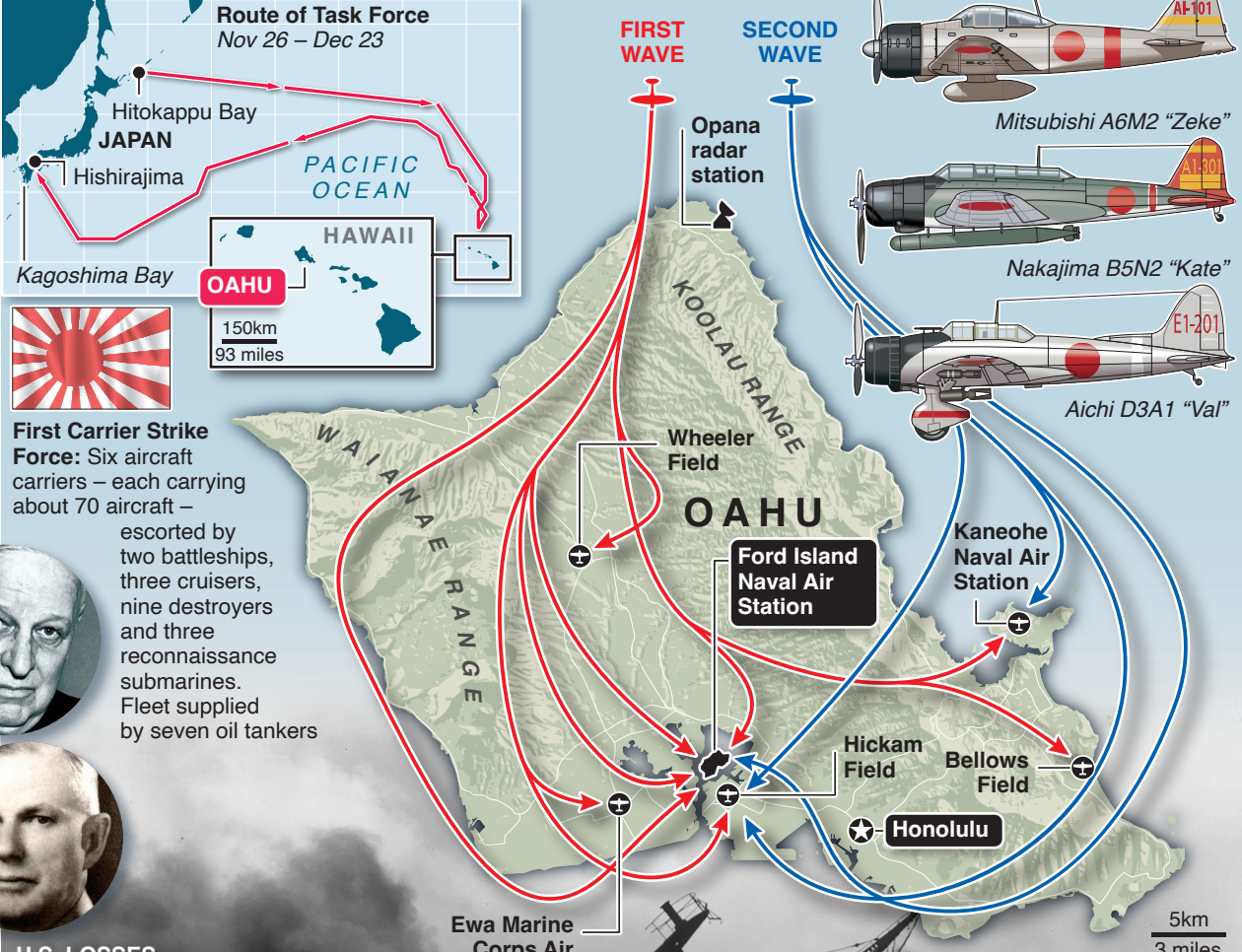
07:55 Coordinated attack begins. Command centre on Ford Island transmits news of attack: **"Air Raid on Pearl Harbor. This is No Drill"**

08:10 Armour-piercing bomb hits forward magazine of battleship **USS Arizona**, causing cataclysmic explosion that kills 1,177 crew

08:50 Second wave of aircraft joins attack

10.00 Attack ends

Dec 8 U.S. declares war on Japan. President Roosevelt calls December 7, 1941 **"a date which will live in infamy"**



U.S. LOSSES

Ships: Eight battleships, three cruisers, three destroyers and four other vessels sunk or damaged – all but three return to service

Aircraft
188 destroyed,
159 damaged

Military personnel
2,402 killed
1,282 wounded

JAPANESE LOSSES

29 aircraft and five midget submarines lost.
65 killed or wounded

