

Rising Sun!

The Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor



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Admiralty Trilogy Seminar

TOWN File and Sun Louis

Outline

- Target: Pearl Harbor
- Japanese naval strike force
- Japanese carrier aircraft
- Japanese air-delivered weapons
- Japanese strike organization

- Strike wave routes
- Attack results
- Alternative scenario
- Scenario assumptions

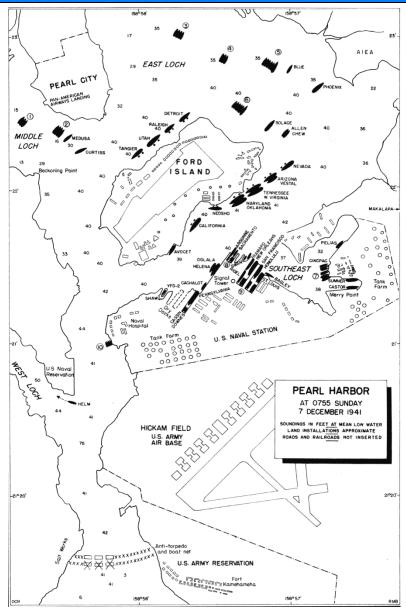


Navy Type 97 Carrier Attack Bomber, B5N2 KATE



Target: Pearl Harbor

- Became a major naval base in the early summer of 1940
- Diplomatic decision to move the fleet
 - Hoped the move would be a restraining influence on Japanese aggression
- Militarily it was a poor choice
 - Restricted access to sea: single channel
 - At the end of a long supply chain
 - Transportation from West Coast inadequate
 - Inadequate housing and facilities
 - Defense were almost non-existent
- Home for Commander in Chief, US Pacific
 Fleet
 - Task Force I, II, III
 - 9 x BBs, 3 x CVs, 12 x CAs, 5 x CLs, 45 x DDs
 - About half the fleet was in port on 7 December
 - No CVs, but eight battleships





Japanese Naval Strike Force

- Pearl Harbor Strike Force
 - Air Attack Force
 - Carrier Division 1
 - Akagi, Kaga
 - Carrier Division 2
 - Hiryu, Soryu
 - Carrier Division 5
 - Shokaku, Zuikaku
 - Support Force
 - Battleship Division 3
 - Hiei, Kirishima
 - Cruiser Division 8
 - Tone, Chikuma
 - Screen Force
 - Destroyer Squadron 1
 - Nine destroyers
 - Logistics Force
 - Eight tankers
 - Advanced Expeditionary Force
 - 27 submarines
 - 5 midget submarines

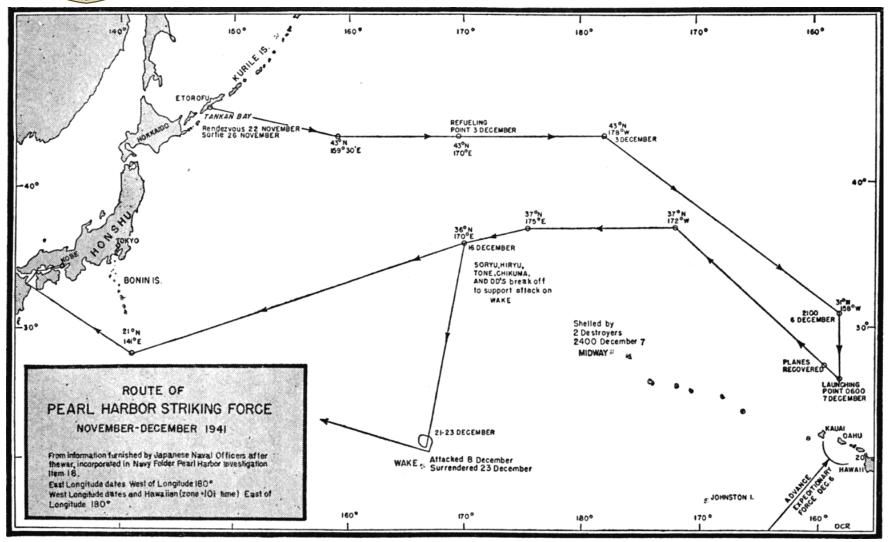
- Air Assets
 - 423 carrier-based aircraft
 - 360 assigned to Pearl Harbor attack
 - 81 Type Zero [ZEKE] fighters
 - 144 Type 97 [KATE] torpedo bombers
 - 135 Type 99 [VAL] dive-bombers
 - 54 Type Zero [ZEKE] fighters on CAP
 - 13 recon float planes on BBs and CAs



Japanese B5N2 KATEs preparing to takeoff.

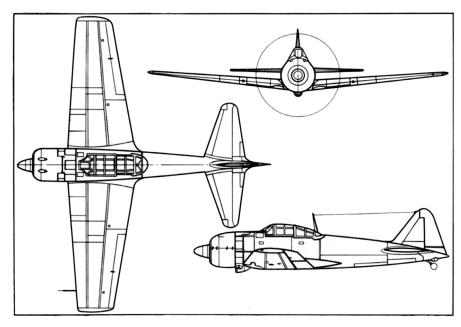


Japanese Naval Strike Force Track





Japanese Carrier Aircraft





Type Zero fighter

- Mitsubishi A6M2 Model 21
- Maximum Speed: 288 knots
- Combat Range: 1,010 NM
- Weapons:
 - 2 x Type 97 7.7 mm MG
 - 2 x Type 99 20 mm cannon
 - 2 x 30 kg or 60 kg bombs

Disposition on December 7th

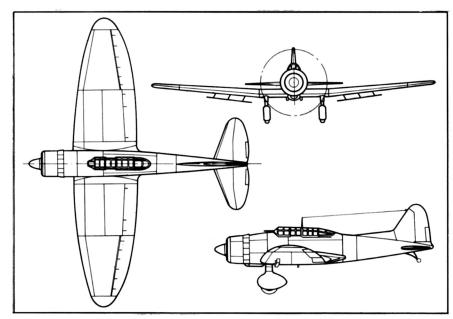
First attack wave: 45

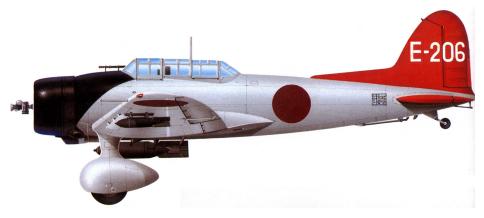
Second attack wave: 36

Combat air patrol: 54



Japanese Carrier Aircraft

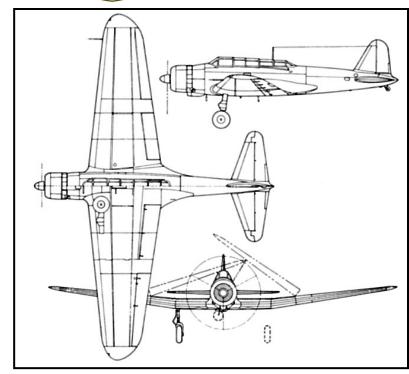




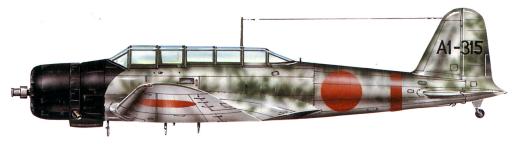
- → Type 99 Model 11 dive bomber
 - Aichi D3A1
 - Maximum Speed: 244 knots
 - Combat Range: 795 NM
 - Weapons:
 - 2 x Type 97 7.7 mm MG
 - 1 x Type 92 7.7 mm flex MG
 - 1 x 250 kg and 2 x 30 kg bombs
- Disposition on December 7th
 - First attack wave: 54
 - Second attack wave: 81



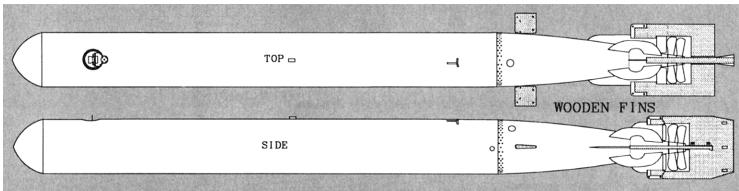
Japanese Carrier Aircraft



- → Type 97 Model 2 torpedo bomber
 - Nakajima B5N2
 - Maximum Speed: 204 knots
 - Combat Range: 590 NM
 - Weapons:
 - 2 x Type 97 7.7 mm MG
 - 1 x Type 92 7.7 mm flex MG
 - 1 x Type 91 torpedo
 - 1 x 800 kg AP bomb
 - 1 x 250 kg and 6 x 60 kg bombs
- Disposition on December 7th
 - First attack wave: 90
 - Second attack wave: 54







→ Type 91 Mod 2 aerial torpedo

- Weight: 935 kg

Warhead: 205 kg HE

CaS Damage Points: 51

Speed: 42 knots

Range: 2,200 yards

- Specially modified for use in the very shallow waters of Pearl Harbor. Breakaway wooden fins added to help prevent the torpedo from diving too deep upon release.
- Strict release criteria: 20 meter altitude, 160 knots air speed
- Carried by 40 B5N2 KATEs in the first wave.



→ Type 99 No. 80 Mk 5

Ordnance Type: Armor-piercing bomb

Weight: 797 kg

Warhead: 30 kg HE

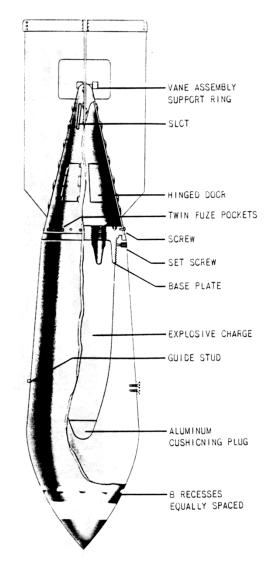
CaS Damage Points: 10

Armor Penetration DB: 8/10

- Armor Penetration LB: 8/15/17

 Modified 16 inch armor-piercing shell. Very low explosive loading.

Carried by 50 B5N2 KATEs in the first wave



Type 99 No. 80 Mk 5 Bomb.



No. 25 Land Bomb

Ordnance Type: General purpose bomb

Weight: 250 kg

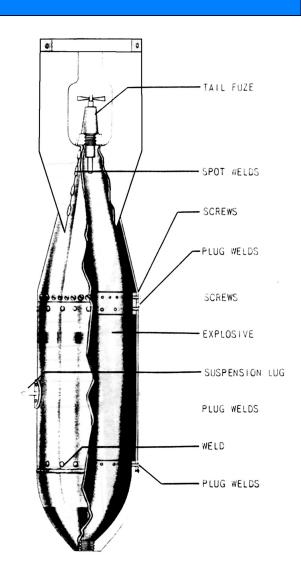
Warhead: 150 kg HE

CaS Damage Points: 30

Armor Penetration DB: NA

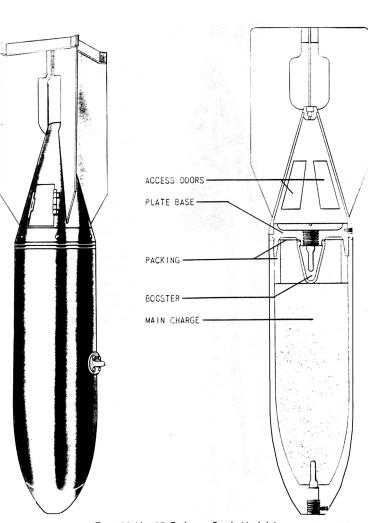
Armor Penetration LB: 3/3/3

- Probably carried by 54 D3A1 VALs in the first wave.
- Probably carried by 54 B5N2 KATEs in the second wave.
- Less likely option is the Type 98 No. 25.





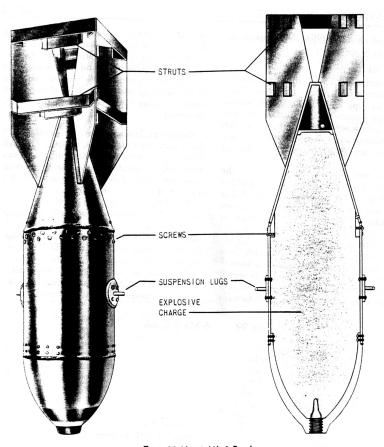
- → Type 99 No. 25 Model 1 Ordinary Bomb
 - Ordnance Type: Semi-armor piercing bomb
 - Weight: 250 kg
 - Warhead: 60 kg HE
 - CaS Damage Points: 20
 - Armor Penetration DB: 6/7
 - Armor Penetration LB: 6/9/9
 - Probably carried by 81 D3A1 VALs in the second wave.
 - Less likely option is the No. 25 Ordinary Bomb Model 2.



Type 99 No. 25 Ordinary Bomb Model 1.



- → Type 99 No. 6 Mk 2 Ordinary Bomb
 - Ordnance Type: Anti-ship bomb
 - Weight: 69 kg
 - Warhead: 39 kg HE
 - CaS Damage Points: 7
 - Armor Penetration DB: NA
 - Armor Penetration LB: 2/2/2
 - Possibly carried by 54 B5N2 KATEs in the second wave.
 - Other option is the No. 6 Ordinary Bomb Model 2.



Type 99 No. 6 Mk 2 Bomb.



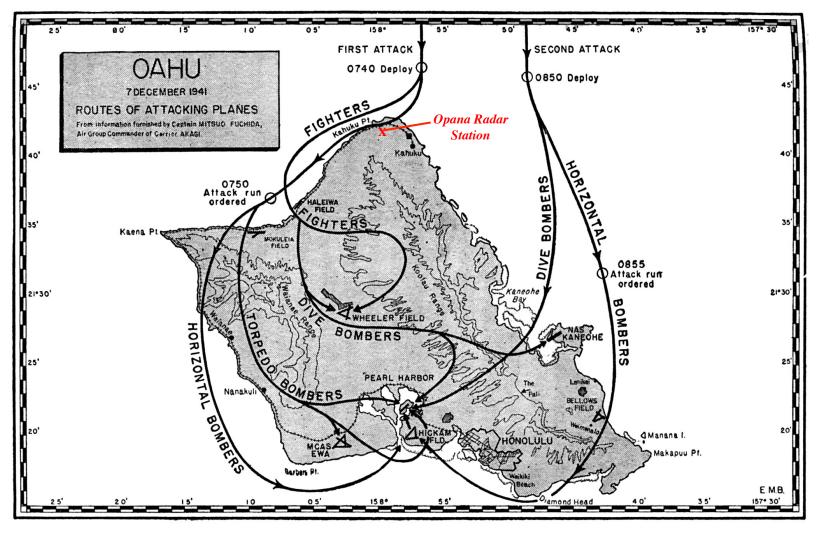
Japanese Strike Organization

AIRCRAFT ATTACK ORGANIZATION

UNIT				COMMANDER		TYPE OF AIRPLANE	NUMBER OF AIRPLANES				TYPE OF ATTACK	ARMAMENT EACH AIRPLANE	TARGET
FIRST ATTACK UNIT	GROUP SHUDAN)	I ATTACK UNIT	COMDR. FU- CHIDA		MDR. FUCHIDA	TYPE 97 CARRIER ATTACK PLANE (Correction from original table.)	15 10 10				HORIZONTAL BOMBING ATTACK	ONE 800-KG. ARMOR PIERCING BOMB	BATTLESHIPS
		2 ATTACK UNIT			LT. COMDR. HASHI GUCHI			50					
		3 ATTACK UNIT			LT. ABE								
		4 ATTACK UNIT			LT. COMDR. Kusumi								
		I SPECIAL ATTACK UNIT			LT. COMDR. MURATA		12				TORPEDO	ONE 800-KG. AERIAL TORPEDO	BATTLESHIPS AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
		2 SPECIAL ATTACK UNIT			LT. KITAJIMA		12	40					
		3 SPECIAL ATTACK UNIT			LT. NAGAI								
		4 SPECIAL ATTACK UNIT			LT. MATSUMURA		8		189				
	2 GROUP	15 ATTACK UNIT			COMDR. TAKAHASHI	TYPE 99 CARRIER BOMBER	27 27	54	1	360	DIVE BOMBING ATTACK	250-KG LAND BOMB	AIR BASES FORD ISLAND WHEELER
		16 ATTACK UNIT			LT. SAKAMOTO			34					
	3 GROUP	I FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT		LT.	COMDR. ITAYA	TYPE ZERO Carrier Fighter	9				AIR CONTROL AND STRAFING ATTACK	TWO 20-MM MGS. TWO 7.7-MM. MGS.	I. AIRBORNE AIRPLANES 2. STRAFING OF GROUNDED PLANES. FORD ISLAND HICKHAM WHEELER EWA KANEOHE
		2 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT. SHIGA		9						
		3 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT. SUGANAMI		9	١.,					
		4 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT. OKAJIMA		6	45					
		6 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT. KANEKO		6						
		5 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT. SATO		6						
SECOND ATTACK UNIT	I GROUP	6 ATTACK UNIT	LT. COMDR. SHIMA- ZAKI	LT.	COMDR. SHIMAZAKI	TYPE 97 CARRIER ATTACK PLANE	27	54	Γ		HORIZONTAL BOMBING	ONE 250-KG LAND BOMB. SIX 60-KG ORDINARY BOMBS ONE 250-KG. ORDINARY BOMB	AIR BASES HICKHAM KANEHOE FORD ISLAND EWA AIRCRAFT CARRIERS CRUISERS
		5 ATTACK UNIT			LT. ICHIHARA		27	L			AT TACK		
	2 GROUP	13 ATTACK UNIT		LT.	COMDR. EGUSA	TYPE 99 CARRIER BOMBER	18				DIVE BOMBING ATTACK		
		14 ATTACK UNIT			LT. KOBAYASHI		18	81					
		II ATTACK UNIT			LT. CHIHAYA		18 27	ľ	171				
		12 ATTACK UNIT			LT MAKINO								
	3 GROUP	I FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT		LT	SHINDO	TYPE ZERO Carrier Fighter	9				AIR CONTROL AND STRAFING ATTACK	TWO 20-MM MGS. TWO 7.7-MM MGS.	I.AIRBORNE AIRPLANES 2.STRAFING OF GROUNDED AIRPLANES
		2 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT. NIKAIDŌ		9	36					
		3 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT. IIDA		9	٦	1				
		4 FIGHTER STRIKING UNIT			LT NONO		9						FORD ISLAND WHEELER
								L	\perp				KANEOHE



Strike Wave Routes



Attack Results

- Japanese strike had complete surprise
- Little resistance from US forces
- US Losses
 - 4 x BBs sunk
 - 3 x BBs heavily damaged
 - 1 x BB damaged
 - 3 x CLs damaged
 - 3 x DDs sunk
 - 155 aircraft
 - 2,403 killed
 - 1,178 wounded
- Japanese Losses
 - 29 aircraft
 - 1 I-Type submarine
 - 5 midget submarines



USS West Virginia and USS Tennessee burning after the attack



Alternative Scenario

- The attack on Pearl Harbor allows for a number of "what if" scenarios
 - What if the US forces were ready for the Japanese attack
 - Numerous indications and warning of an impending attack
 - Better defenses vs almost none
 - US ships at General Quarters with 100% AA guns manned and Condition Z set, preparations to get underway
 - US Army AA batteries deployed and manned
 - Land-based fighter opposition



SCR-270-B radar antenna



Alternative Scenario Assumptions

Pearl Harbor Timeline:

- 0600 Japanese striking force begins launching the first wave (230 nm north of Oahu).
- 0620 1st wave starts on its way to Oahu.
- 0626 Civil Twilight
- 0633 A PATWING TWO PBY-5 detects a midget submarine trailing *USS Antares*, drops smoke markers.
- 0637 USS Ward spots midget submarine.
- 0645 USS Ward engages midget submarine.
- 0654 USS Ward notifies Commander, 14th Naval District.
- 0656 Sunrise
- 0702 Army SCR-270 radar at Opana Station, Kahuku Point detects a large echo bearing approximately north at a range of 118 nm.
- 0712 *Ward* report reaches Commander, 14th Naval District Duty Officer. Requests confirmation.
- 0715 Japanese striking force begins launching the second wave.
- 0730 Japanese striking force arrives at its holding area 200 nm North of Oahu.
- 0732 PATWING TWO confirms the sighting of a midget submarine.
- 0740 1st wave sights coast of Oahu and begins deploying the attack groups.

 Opana radar station looses 1st wave due to ground clutter interference.
- 0750 1st wave begin attack runs.
- 0755 1st wave begins attack on Ford Island. (Phase I)
- 0756 1st wave torpedo bombers begin runs on battleship row.
- 0758 First alert message sent from Pearl Harbor "Air Raid, Pearl Harbor This is no drill."
- 0825 Phase I ends (torpedo attacks and attacks against airfields).
- 0825 0840 Phase II: Lull in the action.
- 0840 Phase III attacks begin (high-level bombing attacks on Pearl Harbor)
- 0850 $2^{\rm nd}$ wave sights coast of Oahu and begins deploying the attack groups.
- 0855 2nd wave begin attack runs.
- 0915 Phase III ends and Phase IV begins (high-level and dive bombing attacks on Pearl Harbor.
- 0945 Phase IV attacks end.

- Stark issues another warning on 6 Dec, instead of vacillating
- Kimmel and Short keep their staffs alert, rather than growing complacent with the numerous alerts and warnings
- The PATWING TWO PBY-5 reports the presence of a submarine expeditiously
- USS Ward reports sighting its submarine expeditiously
- 14th Naval District Staff is more competent in turning the reports around into warning orders
- The Opana radar station report is believed and acted on