

Portraits of America  
DEMOCRACY ON FILM

**Critical Thinking and Viewing:  
The Propaganda Newsreel, 1942**



# Avenge Pearl Harbor



# Memo for Fox Movietone News

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

MEMORANDUM for Fox Movietone News:

The enclosed two reels of original negative were made by Al Brick at Pearl Harbor from December 17th to 20th, 1941. The original dope sheets are also enclosed, with the explanatory story.

NO RELEASE MAY BE MADE BEFORE THE NATIONAL RELEASE DATE, SET FOR SUNDAY MORNING PAPERS DATED DECEMBER SIXTH. THIS WILL PERMIT RELEASE AT APPROXIMATELY NINE O'CLOCK ~~LOCAL TIME~~ SATURDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER FIFTH. FOREIGN EXPORT NOT PERMITTED.

EASTERN WARTIME

The explanatory story must also be kept to themselves by the newsreel editors, in order to avoid leaks and conflict with the agreed release date.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Will you please be sure to furnish the Navy with a lavender of this material to this office for Navy use only?

Thank you,

*Alan Brown*

Alan Brown  
Lieutenant, USNR  
Office of Public Relations

## Screening “Now It Can Be Shown!”

1. The newsreel begins with a title card explaining why the footage can be seen “now,” which is one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Why do you think the Department of the Navy finally released the footage?
2. Make a list of specific words used in the narration to create a negative impression of the enemy, identified in the title card as “the Japs.”
3. In contrast, what words and phrases, as well as images, create a positive representation of the American military forces at Pearl Harbor?
4. Describe the music on the soundtrack during the attack and scenes of destruction. Compare that to the music used once the repair work begins. How does the soundtrack contribute to the emotional content of the newsreel?



# Casualties at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941

the enemy's coming back, the Secretary of the Navy announced that the ARIZONA, SHAW, CASSIN, DOWNES, UTAH and OGLALA had been lost, that the OKLAHOMA had capsized and that other vessels had been damaged. Fortunately, the salvage and repair accomplishments at Pearl Harbor have exceeded the most hopeful expectations.

*402 - 80 = 322*  
97  
177

Eighty Naval aircraft of all types were destroyed by the enemy. In addition, the Army lost 97 planes on Hickam and Wheeler Fields. Of these 25 were bombers, 66 were fighters, and 8 were other types.

The most serious American losses were in personnel. As result of the raid on December 7, 1941, 2117 officers and enlisted men of the Navy and Marine Corps were killed, 960 are still reported as missing and 876 were wounded but survived. The Army casualties were as follows: 226 officers and enlisted men were killed or later died of wounds; 396 were wounded, most of whom have now recovered and have returned to duty.

At 7:55 a.m. on December 7, 1941, Japanese dive bombers swarmed over the Army Air Base, Hickam Field, and the Naval Air Station on Ford Island. A few minutes earlier the Japanese had struck the Naval Air Station at Kaneohe Bay. Bare seconds later,

Source: Department of the Navy Communication about  
Fox Movietone Newsreel, December 6, 1942