

TOTRUE TALES

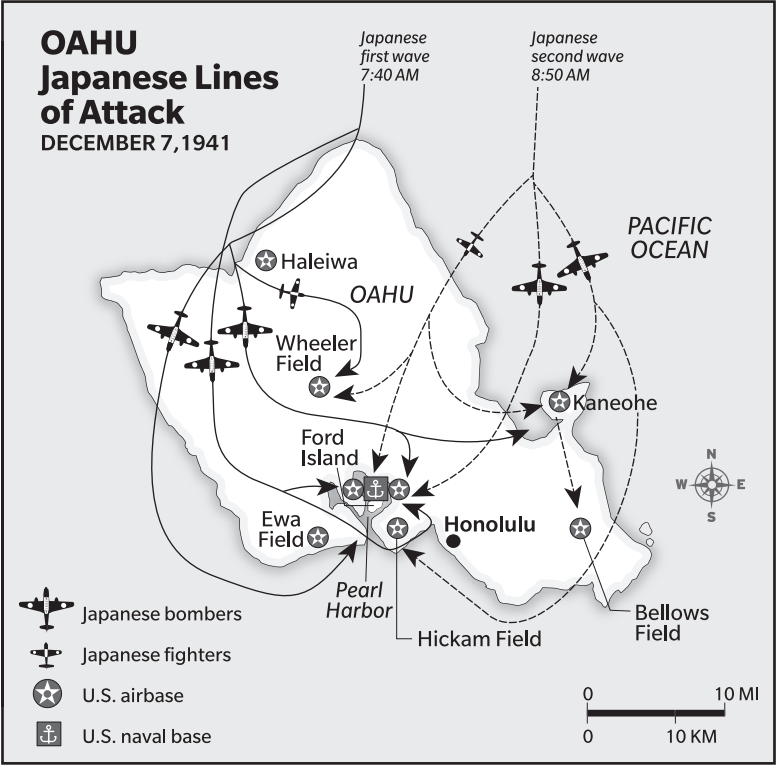
**HEROES OF
PEARL HARBOR**

Allan Zullo

SCHOLASTIC INC.

OAHU Japanese Lines of Attack

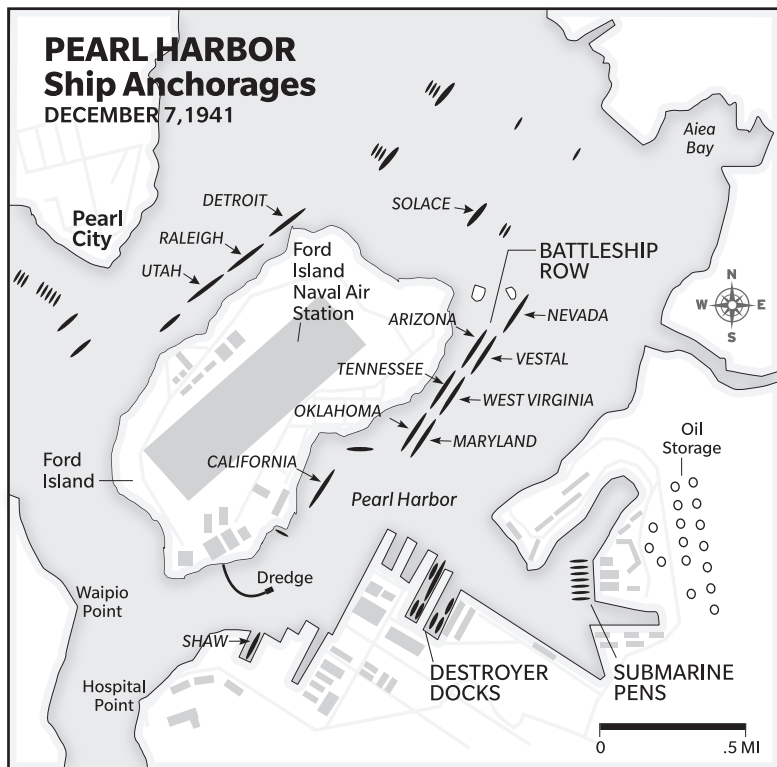
DECEMBER 7, 1941



- Japanese bombers
- Japanese fighters
- U.S. airbase
- U.S. naval base

0 10 MI
0 10 KM

PEARL HARBOR Ship Anchorages DECEMBER 7, 1941



To Lucio and Teresita Gorospe and Trent and Mary Lou Manausa,
whose devotion to family knows no limits
—A.Z.

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ISBN 978-0-545-87276-8

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Printed in the U.S.A.
First printing 2016

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Book design by Cheung Tai

AUTHOR'S NOTE



You are about to read ten stories of incredible acts of heroism that took place on water, on land, and in the air at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the day the Empire of Japan launched a surprise air attack against America.

As tragic as it was—2,403 Americans lost their lives—the raid brought out the best in the thousands of sailors, Marines, soldiers, and aviators who fought back under an overwhelming barrage of heavy bombs, torpedoes, and machine gun fire.

I can't write about the amazing exploits of every brave person at Pearl Harbor. However, I've singled out, as a representative sample of what happened on that infamous day, several dozen servicemen whose courageous actions are truly remarkable. They did what had to be done—no matter the risk, no matter the cost.

Each of the ten stories in this book features multiple heroes. Many of them earned the Medal of Honor—our country's highest award for valor in combat. Most of the other heroes were presented with the Navy Cross, the second-highest combat award.

These true accounts are based on memoirs, oral histories, battle reports, newspaper stories, history books, and military records and citations. Using real names and places, the stories are written as factual versions of the heroics, although some dialogue has been re-created.

For realism, the dialogue contains a word referring to the Japanese that by today's standards is considered offensive but was commonly used back then. Also, there's some mildly bad language because, well, that's the way servicemen talked in combat. You'll notice, too, that this book refers to a ship as *she* or *her*. It's an old maritime tradition that goes back centuries. Using the feminine form for a ship is still a common practice in the navy. Because there are so many naval terms used in these stories, there is a glossary in the back of the book.

So why did I write about Pearl Harbor heroes? If you've read any of the other books in my 10 True Tales series, then you know of my fondness and respect for heroes—*Heroes of Hurricane Katrina*, *Young Civil Rights Heroes*, *Vietnam War Heroes*, *World War I Heroes*, *World War II Heroes*, *FBI Heroes*, and *Heroes of 9/11* to name a few. Some of the most heroic moments in military history unfolded during the Pearl Harbor attack, and they are worthy of your attention if only because they make for great reading.

These heroes were everyday guys, from baby-faced “swab-bies” to graying “old salts,” who suddenly found themselves caught in the bull's-eye of a horrific attack. They didn't cower. They didn't hide. While bombs exploded around them,

torpedoes ripped open hulls, and planes strafed them, these brave souls sprang into action. They gave their all and then some—including, in several cases, their very lives—to save their ships, to rescue their shipmates, to strike back against a merciless enemy.

They are the heroes of Pearl Harbor.

A.Z.