

## PRESS RELEASE

### Pen & Sword Books Ltd

Olivia Camozzi-Jones, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS  
Tel: +44 Website: [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)  
Email: [marketingps@pen-and-sword.co.uk](mailto:marketingps@pen-and-sword.co.uk)

## Pearl Harbor's Revenge

How the Devastated U.S. Battleships Returned to War

Author: Rod Macdonald

### Highlights

- Explores the events of 7 December 1941, and how the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor affected the eight US Navy's battleships present
- Details the incredible salvage operation undertaken following the Japanese attack
- Six of the eight US Navy battleships damaged or sunk, would be raised or repaired. The Arizona would be left where she had sunk, whilst although the Oklahoma was raised, she was found to be too badly damaged for repair. Those six battleships would be rebuilt, fitted with the latest anti-aircraft systems and returned to service.
- The repaired battleships would go on to fight the Japanese in the great Pacific battles such as at Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa whilst Nevada would bombard Utah beach on D-Day Normandy.
- Repaired after Pearl Harbor, the USS *West Virginia* battled through the war to be present at the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay in 1945

Early on Sunday, 7 December 1941, Japanese carrier-borne aircraft launched a surprise attack against the US Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor. It was a date that President Roosevelt declared "will live in infamy".

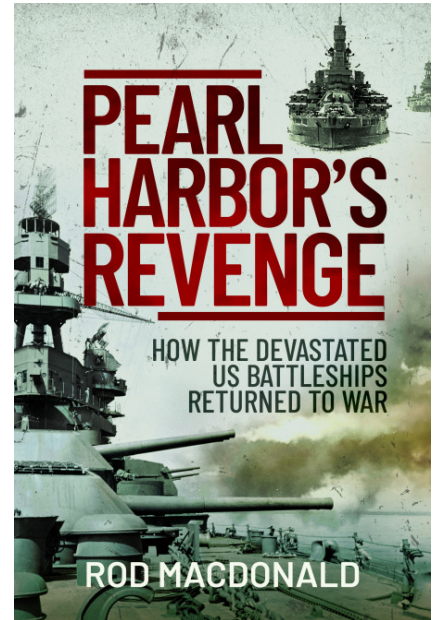
During the strike, Japanese planes attacked the seven US battleships lined up in Battleship Row – and the flag battleship USS *Pennsylvania*, in drydock for overhaul. The battleship USS *Arizona* exploded from a bomb hit at the forward magazine killing 1,177 officers and men. On USS *Oklahoma*, 429 men were killed – many trapped inside as the great battleship capsized after aerial torpedo strikes. USS *West Virginia*, meanwhile, was hit by at least seven torpedoes and several bombs, and engulfed in flames; she settled onto the bottom on an even keel. USS *California* was hit by a pair of torpedoes and a bomb, flooding slowly, she too settled on the bottom. The other battleships present were more lightly damaged, with the crippled *Nevada*, the only battleship to get underway during the attack, being successfully beached.

By the time the assault was over, eight battleships, three light cruisers, three destroyers, a training ship and other smaller vessels had been sunk or damaged. Hundreds of US aircraft had been damaged or destroyed, whilst 2,403 Americans had been killed.

Within a week of the Japanese attack, a great salvage organisation had been formed. Very quickly the lightly damaged battleships *Pennsylvania*, *Maryland* and *Tennessee* had been repaired in naval yards and put back into service to protect the west coast of the USA.

Of the eight battleships attacked, all but *Arizona* were raised, temporarily patched-up and sent back to naval yards on the west coast of America for final repair and modernisation. Main battery guns and ordnance were recovered from the wrecked *Arizona*, which would then be left to rest on the bottom of the harbour for eternity – as a memorial to the events of that fateful December day. USS *Nevada* was lifted off the bottom in February 1942, *California* in March 1942 and *West Virginia* in June 1942. The capsized *Oklahoma*, whilst eventually parbuckled and raised, was found to be too badly damaged to be fully rebuilt.

Six of the eight battleships would thus return to service, with improved protection against bombs and torpedoes and being fitted with the latest anti-aircraft and gunnery systems. They would re-enter to the war to wreak a terrible revenge – making their presence felt during the reconquest of the Aleutian Islands and the Philippines, and the great battles of



### NEW BOOK RELEASE

RRP: £25

ISBN: 9781399013291

352 PAGES · HARDBACK

PUBLISHED: MARCH 2023

FRONTLINE BOOKS



Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. *Nevada* would go on Atlantic convoy duty before bombarding German positions off Utah beach as the D-Day Normandy landings began. This is the story of those six.

## About the Author

ROD MACDONALD is an internationally renowned shipwreck explorer, undersea adventurer and best-selling diving author with twelve books about shipwrecks, the culmination of a lifetime of diving. His beautifully illustrated books are the internationally accepted definitive guides to many world-famous dive locations such as Scapa Flow and Truk Lagoon. Rod is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen School of Law. He is a Fellow of the Explorers Club of New York and a Patron of the GB & Ireland Chapter of the Explorers Club. When not writing or exploring shipwrecks he is a big boat yachtsman, former volunteer lifeboatman, a RYA Advanced Powerboat Instructor and a Search and Rescue (SAR) instructor. He lives in Stonehaven, a small fishing town on the north east coast of Scotland with his wife, his two children having flown the coup.

