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*How Students Like  
YOU Experienced*  
**THE DAY OF INFAMY**

*A 75th Anniversary Electronic Field Trip*

# PEARL HARBOR ORAL HISTORIES

The National WWII Museum has collected a number of recordings of the personal stories of veterans of World War II. These oral histories contain vivid retellings and synthesis of the experience of the war through first-hand accounts and memories of those who were there. Below is a small selection of oral histories that describe the attack on Pearl Harbor.

**DIRECTIONS:** Briefly introduce the interviewee, play the selected excerpt, then allow students to record their observations and analysis from each clip.

## Oral History Interview with Don Stratton

Don Stratton joined the US Navy shortly after graduating from high school and served aboard the USS *Arizona* on the morning of December 7, 1941. He survived the massive explosion from a Japanese bomb that struck the *Arizona*'s forward magazine, killing 1,177 of Stratton's fellow crewmembers. Stratton is one of the last survivors of the USS *Arizona* still alive today.

**Excerpt:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANbWaKLYw1Y>



## Oral History Interview with Daniel Inouye

In 1941, Daniel Inouye (1924—2012) was a 17-year-old high school student in Honolulu. He became interested in medicine after having surgery for a wrestling injury, and he began volunteering at a Red Cross Aid Station while still in high school. Inouye witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor, and would serve in the US Army during World War II. He would later become a US senator, serving from 1963 until his death in 2012.

**Excerpt:** <http://www.ww2online.org/view/daniel-inouye/segment-1>  
(Listen to the excerpt from 2:40 – 3:58.)



## Oral History Interview with Zenji Abe

Zenji Abe, who died in 2007 at age 90, was a Val dive bomber pilot in the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN). On December 7, 1941, he took part in the attack on Pearl Harbor, taking off from the aircraft carrier *Akagi*. Abe describes his experiences that day through a translator.

**Excerpt:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cefkmcXWahk>

