

Interesting facts about the USS Arizona and the attack on Pearl Harbor

The day before the attack, the USS Arizona took on a full load of fuel, some 15 million gallons. Much of that fuel helped ignite the explosion and subsequent fires that destroyed the ship. Amazingly, about 9 quarts of oil still leaks from the ship each day. The National Park Service studies the leak and its effect on the environment.

There were 37 pairs or trios of brothers assigned to the USS Arizona on December 7, 1941. Of these 77 men, 62 were killed, which is 23 sets of brothers. Kenneth and Russel Warriner were the only set of brothers that survived. There was only one father and son pair aboard the ship that day, Thomas and William Free. Both men were killed during the action.

A crewman aboard the USS Utah was storing the urn of his baby girls' ashes, who died at birth, in his locker, planning on scattering them at sea. The attack on the morning of December 7th prevented this from happening. She still rests along with many of the 64 men that died aboard the USS Utah that day. In 2003 a funeral was held for the baby girl at the USS Utah Memorial. The USS Utah is the only other ship still lying in Pearl Harbor today.

More than 20 ships, including all 8 battleships, stationed at Pearl Harbor were sunk or destroyed. All but the Arizona and the Utah were salvaged. The USS Oklahoma was raised but sank at sea while being towed back to the US mainland.

