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Kido Butai was racing full steam at 24 knots toward the launching point, two hundred miles north of Pearl Harbor. The men were at general quarters; the gun crews ready to fire at anything in sight. The pilots and crews had been routed from their bunks at 3:30 A.M., December 7, Hawaiian time. They had already written last letters and left in their lockers fingernail clippings and snips of hair for their families. They put on clean mawashi (loincloths) and "thousand-stitch" belts.* For breakfast they were served an extra treat, red rice and tai, a red snapper eaten at times of celebration.

The ships were rolling so badly that some waves swept onto the decks of the carriers. Because of this, the torpedo pilots were told they could not go in the first attack but must wait for the second, when it would be completely light. To no avail the pilots grumbled that after all their hard training they could take off in the predawn murk, no matter how rough the seas were.

At the first shot of war the carriers of Kido Butai had just slipped across the launching point and were not quite two hundred miles north of Pearl Harbor. The first faint light of day glimmered in the east. Pilots and flight crews strapped themselves into their planes; motors roared. In the sky were patches of clouds. Long heavy swells rolled the ships from 12 to 15 degrees. Maneuvers were usually canceled when swells exceeded 5 degrees, but today there could be no postponement.

On the decks of the six carriers, the planes of the first wave were lined up, with forty-three fighter planes in the van, followed by forty-nine high-level and fifty-one dive bombers, and forty torpedo planes in the rear—at the last moment it was decided to let them risk takeoff in the predawn gloom.

At the head of Kaga's fighters was Lieutenant (s.g.) Yoshio Shiga, the amateur painter. He was champing, hoping to be the first to take off. He beckoned to one of his ground-crew men and told him to yank out the chocks at his own command—not to wait, as usual, for the flagman's signal.



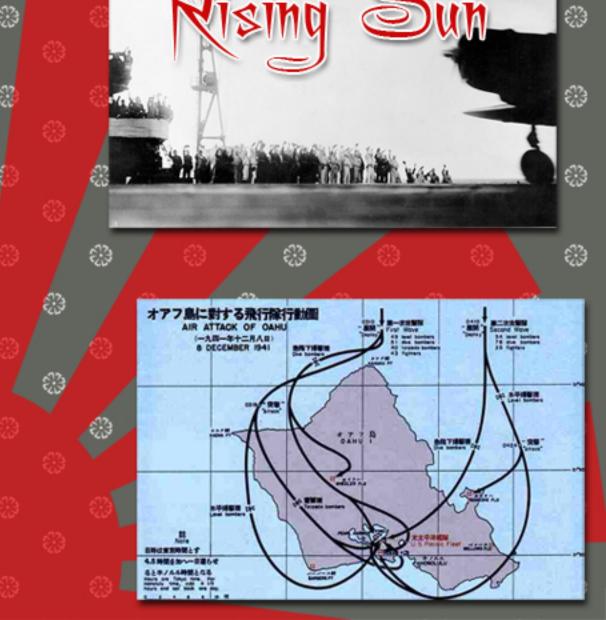
Lieutenant Shiga was not watching his own carrier's flag. He had his eyes glued on Akagi's. It dropped. He shouted, "Remove chocks!" and roared down the runway. Kaga's captain was leaning out a window, expecting to see the usual courtesy salute, but Shiga was too intent on getting into the air before anyone else. His Type Zero* plunged off the deck, dropped precipitously to within 15 feet of the sea. He turned left and climbed, noticing with dismay that the first fighter pilot on Akagi, Lieutenant Commander Shigeru Itaya, had beaten him by a few seconds. He had not waited for his flagman either. Shiga took his time in the turn so that his squadron could catch up, then joined Itaya, who was commanding all the fighters. They streaked south in loose formation like a flock of swallows.

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Behind them the high-level medium bombers were taking off. Squadron leader Heijiro Abe was in the first Mitsubishi to leave Soryu. Contrary to American practice, he was not the pilot but the navigator-bombardier. Concerned about the roll and pitch of the carrier, he looked back anxiously into the dimness as the others followed. To his relief all his planes were soon in a precise V formation behind the fighters. Next the Aichi Type 99 dive bombers got off the runway and joined up.

The takeoff of the Nakajima Type 97 torpedo bombers was the most hazardous, and putting them in the initial wave while it was still partially dark was a gamble. The first off Hiryu was squadron leader Hirata Matsumura. When he plunged from the deck it was like being sucked into a dark pit. He fought his way up to 500 feet and was immediately engulfed in dense clouds. He broke through into the open, then veered left. Once his men had collected, he met the Soryu torpedo planes, and together they tagged after the Akagi and Kaga planes at 13,000 feet. The entire launching had taken no more than fifteen minutes—a record—and a single aircraft, a Zero fighter, had crashed.

Up ahead, Shiga looked back upon a great straggling formation. Never before had he seen so many planes. Half an hour after the takeoff a huge, brilliant sun rose to the left. It was the first time Juzo Mori, a young torpedo pilot—son of a farmer—had ever seen a sunrise from the air. The planes ahead were etched in black silhouette against the red, and it was such a romantic, incongruous sight that he could not believe he was heading for Japan's most important battle. To Lieutenant Matsumura, the sunrise was a sacred sight; it marked the dawn of a new century.





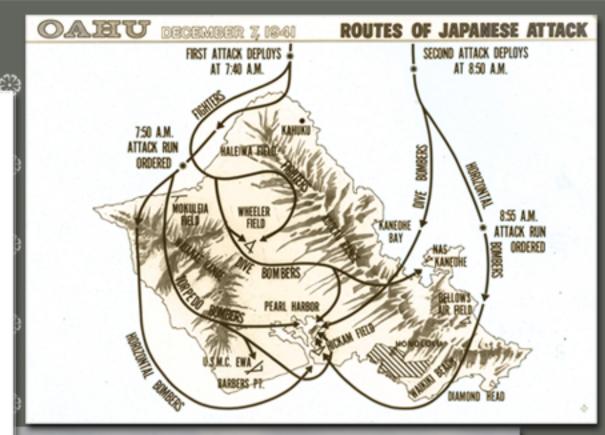
PART THREE



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The first Zeros approached the northern tip of Oahu, Kahuku Point, at 7:48 A.M. Through clouds below him Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga, leader of the Kaga fighters, could barely make out a jut of land and a rim of white surf. A moment later he saw Fuchida's high-level command bomber and awaited a blue flare, the attack signal for the fighter planes, which were without radios. Those in the bombers were tuned in to a local Honolulu station. They heard the haunting strains of a Japanese song.

Banks of cumulus clouds clung to the peaks of the mountain ranges east and west of Pearl Harbor, but over the great naval base, lying in a valley between, the clouds were scattered. The sun shone brightly, its slanting rays giving the cane fields a deep-green hue. The waters of Pearl Harbor—originally named Wai Momi, "water of pearl"—glimmered a brilliant blue. Several civilian planes were lazily circling over the area, but of all the Oahu-based Army planes, not one was airborne. They were tightly bunched together, wing to wing, for security against saboteurs at Hickam, Bellows and Wheeler fields. So were the Marine planes at Ewa Field. The only American military planes in the air were seven Navy PBY's on patrol many miles to the southwest.





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Upon reaching Kahuku Point, Fuchida's plane—he was the observer—began circling around the west coast of Oahu to approach Pearl Harbor. At exactly 7:49 a.m. Fuchida radioed back to Kido Butai in Morse code: To . . . To . . . This represented the first syllable of Totsugeki! (Charge!) and meant: "First wave attacking."



At 7:53 a.m. he radioed to Nagumo Tora, Tora, Tora! The repeated code word, meaning "tiger," stood for "We have succeeded in surprise attack." He set off one blue flare to signal that surprise had been achieved. The nearest fighter squadron leader failed to waggle his wings in acknowledgment and Fuchida fired a second flare. Shiga, who was some distance to the rear, thought this was the two-flare signal indicating that surprise had not been achieved and that he was to head directly for Hickam Field to clear the skies there of enemy interceptors. He shot through Kola Kola Pass, signaling the others with his right hand to get into attack formation. The leader of the fifty-one dive bombers, Lieutenant Commander Kakuichi Takahashi, also misinterpreted the second flare and veered off to knock out the AA guns protecting Pearl Harbor.

But the torpedo bombers were heading straight for their targets. Lieutenant Commander Shigeharu Murata, had not been confused by the second flare, and radioed his forty bombers to proceed as planned. By the time he saw the mix-up, so many torpedo planes were in attack formation that he decided to go ahead with the strike on Battleship Row.

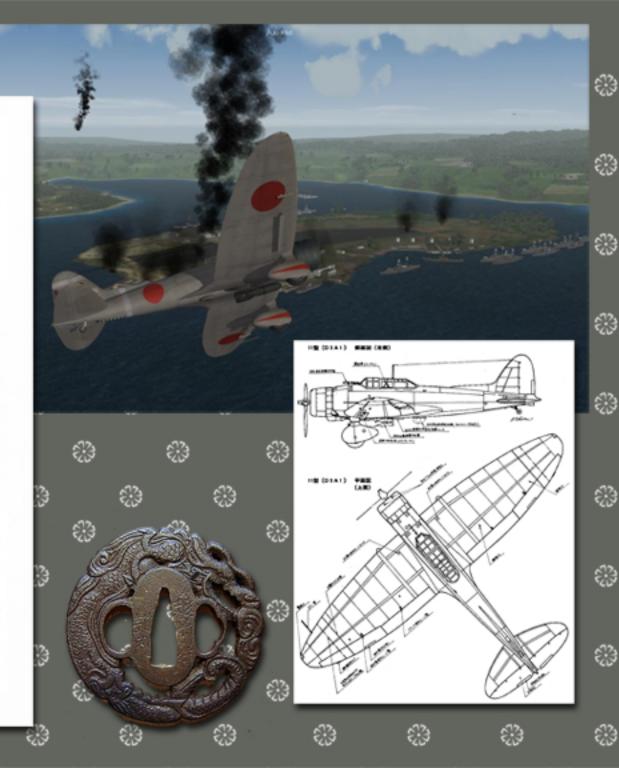


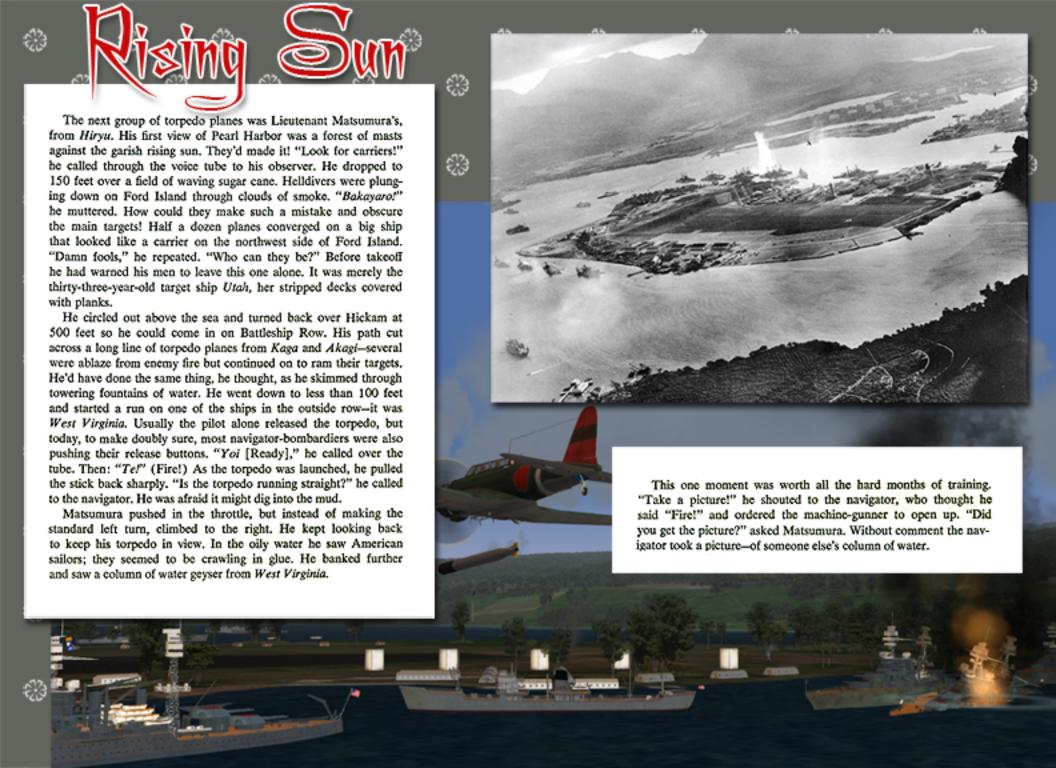
The torpedo planes from Soryu were cutting directly across the and through Kola Kola Pass behind Shiga's fighters, and Lieu-

The torpedo planes from Soryu were cutting directly across the island through Kola Kola Pass behind Shiga's fighters, and Lieutenant Mori could make out slit trenches in the mountain slopes. They're ready for us! he thought with a start. As he emerged from the pass he swooped down at 130 knots, just clearing the barracks and hangars of Wheeler Field. Scanning the runway, he guessed there were two hundred fighters packed in neat rows. He was stunned. He hastily calculated that with at least five airfields on Oahu, there would be a thousand enemy fighters.* His machine-gunner began strafing the parked planes—probably the first shots fired that morning—and then Mori made for Pearl Harbor.

Royal Vitousek, a Honolulu lawyer, and his seventeen-year-old son Martin were circling the island in the family Aeronca when they saw two Japanese fighter planes—undoubtedly Shiga's—approaching. Vitousek dived under the raiders and headed for his home field to make a report. He prayed the Japanese would ignore his little plane. Shiga kept zigzagging toward Pearl Harbor. It reminded him of a Japanese box garden. The American ships looked bluish white, unlike the gloomy gray of Japanese warships. How beautiful, he thought, like peace itself. In seconds he was past Pearl Harbor and over his target, Hickam Field. There wasn't a single enemy fighter in the air or taking off. The attack was a surprise! He looked around. Where were the torpedo bombers? Now was the time to strike.

Just then a dive bomber roared down on Ford Island, loosed a bomb and zoomed up. A cloud of heavy black smoke billowed out of a hangar. It would obscure nearby Battleship Row by the time the torpedo bombers got there, and Shiga thought angrily. What is that crazy helldiver doing?** To the west he saw a lazy line of torpedo planes. Why were they coming in so slowly? Like children trotting to school. They approached the big battleships moored along the southeast side of Ford Island. This was Battleship Row, seven warships anchored together in two rows—five on the inside, two on the outside. The line of planes dumped their torpedoes like "dragonflies dropping their eggs" and arced away. There was a pause. Then a jarring explosion. The battleship Oklahoma shuddered. In seconds two more torpedoes tore into her side and she took a list of about 30 degrees.

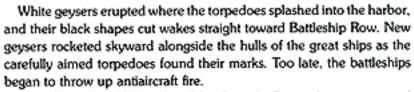




Rising Sun

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Lieutenant Mori, who had swept directly across Oahu, was still looking for a target. He hedgehopped over Ford Island, but finding only a cruiser on the other side, made a semicircle and came back just above the waves toward California at the southern end of Battleship Row. At the last moment a breakwater loomed between him and the target. He climbed, circling over Utah, which looked as if it had been twisted in two, again went down to 15 feet and came at California from a different angle. His radiomangunner took a picture of the torpedo explosion as Mori prepared to make his left circle to the assembly point. But his path was barred by a heavy pillar of smoke at the end of Ford Island and he was forced to bank right directly into the oncoming torpedo planes from Akagi and Kaga; he narrowly missed collision and his plane rocked from the turbulence. Bullets ripped through Mori's plane "like hornets." One set the navigator's cushion on fire, another grazed the hand of the machine-gunner, but none hit the fuel tanks.



Chief Flight Petty Officer Juzo Mori from the Soryu chose not to send his torpedo at the cruiser in front of him on his first pass. "If I were going to die," he remembered thinking as he brought his torpedo bomber around for a second try, "I wanted to know that I had torpedoed at least an American battleship." Swinging into position, he braved the storm of fire to go in low against his new target. "By this time I was hardly conscious of what I was doing," he said. "I was reacting from habit instilled by long training, moving like an automaton. Suddenly the battleship appeared to have leaped forward directly in front of my speeding plane; it towered ahead like a great mountain peak."

As Mori released his torpedo, the plane lurched and faltered as antiaircraft fire struck the wings and fuselage. "My head snapped back," he wrote later, "and I felt as though a heavy beam had struck against my head. But I've got it! A perfect release! And the plane is still flying!" Mori flew directly over the battleship and turned south in order to deceive the Americans into believing the Japanese carriers lay in that direction.





and yelled, "The Japs are bombing Pearl Harbor!" His shipmates looked at him as if he were joking as usual, and when he said, "No fooling," someone gave a Bronx cheer. "No crap. Get your asses up on deck!" Yeoman C. O. Lines clambered topside to the fantail just in time to hear a dull explosion and see a plane dive toward California, the first of the seven big vessels in Battleship Row.

Above her, in tandem formation, were Maryland and Oklahoma. A torpedo couldn't hit Maryland because she was berthed inboard, next to Ford Island. But the outboard ship, Oklahoma, was hit by four torpedoes within a minute. As she listed to port, Commander Jesse Kenworthy, senior officer aboard, ordered the ship abandoned over the starboard side. Inexorably the ship settled, its starboard propeller out of the water. Below, more than four hundred officers and men were trapped alive in the rapidly filling compartments. Next in Battleship Row came Tennessee and West Virginia. Like Maryland, Tennessee was inboard and protected from torpedo attack. On West Virginia's battle conning tower, Captain Mervyn Bennion doubled up. A fragment, probably from an armor-piercing bomb that had just hit the nearby Tennessee, had torn into his stomach. Lieutenant Commander T. T. Beattie, the ship's navigator, loosened the skipper's collar and sent for a pharmacist's mate. Bennion knew he was dying, but his concern was how the ship was being fought. Fires swept toward the bridge.

Next in line came Arizona and the repair ship Vestal. The torpedo planes had missed Arizona, but a few minutes later high-level bombers found her with five bombs. One of these plunged through the forecastle into the fuel-storage areas, starting a fire. About sixteen hundred pounds of black powder, the most dangerous of all explosives, were stored here, against regulations. Suddenly the volatile stuff exploded, igniting hundreds of tons of smokeless powder in the forward magazines.

Arizona erupted like a volcano. Those on nearby ships saw her leap halfway out of the water and break in two. Within nine minutes the two fragments of the great 32,600-ton ship settled in the mud as sheets of flame and clouds of black smoke boiled above her wreckage. It didn't seem possible that a single one of the more than fifteen hundred men aboard could have survived. Ahead was the last ship in Battleship Row, Nevada. She was down several feet by the head from a torpedo in her port bow and a bomb in the quarterdeck.



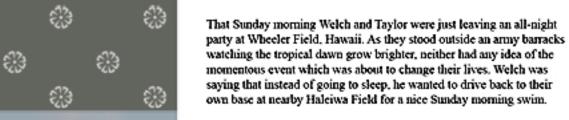




In the first few minutes the Navy bases at Kancohe and Ford Island, and the Army bases at Wheeler, Bellows and Hickam, as well as the lone Marine base, Ewa, were crippled. Not a single Navy fighter and only some thirty Army Air Corps fighters managed to get into the air.

"We've got to get down to the line and tag some of those bastards," Lieutenant Harry Brown shouted. But the closely grouped planes on the ramp were already on fire. "Let's go to Haleiwa," he said. This was an auxiliary sod field on the north coast, where a few P-40's and P-36's were kept. Brown and several other fighter pilots piled into his new Ford convertible and careened off. Lieutenants George Welch and Kenneth Taylor were right behind in another car.

The Army fighter pilots had some success; they shot down eleve... Japanese. The two lieutenants from Wheeler-Kenneth Taylor and George Welch-accounted for seven of these.



Suddenly the Japanese swooped down on Wheeler Field, which was a center for fighter operations in Hawaii. Dive bombers seemed to appear out of nowhere. Violent explosions upended the parked planes, and buildings began to burn. Welch ran for a telephone and called Haleiwa as bullets sprayed around him.

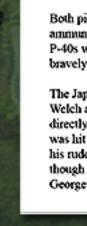
"Get two P-40s ready!" he yelled. "It's not a gag--the Japs are here."

The drive up to Haleiwa was a wild one. Japanese Zeros strafed Welch and Taylor three times. When the two fliers careened onto their field nine minutes later, their fighter planes were already armed and the propellers were turning over. Without waiting for orders they took off.

As they climbed for altitude they ran into twelve Japanese Val dive bombers over the Marine air base at Ewa. Welch and Taylor began their attack immediately, on their first pass, machine guns blazing, each shot down a bomber. As Taylor zoomed up and over in his Tomahawk, he saw an enemy bomber heading out to sea. He gave his P-40 full throttle and roared after it. Again his aim was good and the Val broke up before his eyes. In the meantime Welch's plane had been hit and he dived into a protective cloud bank. The damage didn't seem too serious so he flew out again—only to find himself on the tail of another Val. With only one gun now working he nevertheless managed to send the bomber flaming into the sea.

Both pilots now vectored toward burning Wheeler Field for more ammunition and gas. Unfortunately the extra cartridge belts for the P-40s were in a hangar which was on fire. Two mechanics ran bravely into the dangerous inferno and returned with the ammunition.

The Japanese were just beginning a second strafing of the field as Welch and Taylor hauled their P-40s into the air again. They headed directly into the enemy planes, all guns firing. This time Ken Taylor was hit in the arm, and then a Val closed in behind him. Welch kicked his rudder and the Tomahawk whipped around and blasted the Val, though his own plane had been hit once more. Taylor had to land, but George Welch shot down still another bomber near Ewa before he returned.









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Most of the planes were destroyed, but Lt. Rasmussen found an unscathed P-36 Hawk and taxied it to a revenment where he had it loaded with ammunition. During a hill in the bombing, he took off with three other pilots. They received orders by radio to fly to Kaneohe Bay on the north-east side of the island.

The American pilots subsequently engaged 11 Japanese aircraft. Despite having a jammed .30 caliber gun and only limited capability with his .50 caliber gun, Lt. Rasmussen managed to shoot down a Mitsubishi A6M Zero. Several other Japanese pilots attacked, including one who apparently tried to ram him. (The Japanese pilot, Iyozo Fujita, returned to the aircraft carrier, Soryu, and survived the war.)

Rasmussen's plane was badly damaged, so he dove into a cloud to escape

—a dangerous maneuver considering the mountainous terrain. He returned
to Wheeler Field, where he landed with no brakes, rudder, or tailwheel. Oral
accounts of the number of bullet holes in the plane vary, but most give a
figure of about 500.

Fujita fled north with Iida's two wingmen, PO1c Takeshi Atsumi and PO2c Saburo Ishii. His aircraft damaged by Sanders' bullets, Fujita could not follow them as they swung west toward the rendezvous northwest of Kaena Point. He watched helplessly as the two Soryu Zeros were attacked by more P-36s along the north shore.

Second Lt. Harry W. Brown, 47th PS from Haleiwa Field, and 2nd Lt. Malcohn "Mike" Moore, 46th PS from Wheeler, were flying the aircraft that attacked these Soryu Zeros. Moore attacked Ishii but was chased by Atsumi. Brown hit Atsumi and, years later, both Fujita and Brown wrote that they saw Atsumi's plane with a "big fire." Brown last saw it headed west of Kaena Point. Mike Moore only considered Ishii a "probable," yet Ishii never returned to the Soryu. Both Zeros were recently found where they crashed, in the channel between Kauai and Niihau islands

The first planes found their way back to the carriers at 10 A.M.

The weather worsened and a number of planes crashed on the pitching decks. As Matsumura's tail hook caught the landing wire on *Hiryu* he felt a surge of joy. He'd never expected to come back and there he was, alive!

Fuchida returned about an hour later and was greeted by an exultant Genda; then he went to the bridge and reported to Nagumo and Kusaka that at least two battleships had been sunk and four seriously damaged. He begged the admirals to launch another attack at once and this time concentrate on the oil tanks. American air power had been smashed, he assured them, and the second attack would just have antiaircraft fire to contend with.

Kusaka considered Fuchida's suggestion. His volatile friend Admiral Yamaguchi had already signaled that Soryu and Hiryu were prepared to launch another attack, and Kaga's captain, at the urging of Commander Sata, also recommended a strike against installations and fuel tanks. The oil was an alluring target, but Kusaka believed a commander should not be obsessed by such temptations. The second attack would surely be no surprise; and no matter what Fuchida thought, the bulk of their planes would probably be shot down by AA fire. More important, the task force itself would be placed in jeopardy. Kido Butai was the heart of the Japanese Navy and should not be risked. From the beginning he had wanted to deliver a swift thrust and return like the wind.

"We should retire as planned," Kusaka advised Nagumo, who needed.

A staff officer suggested that they try to locate and sink the American carriers. Opinion on the bridge was divided. "There will be no more attacks of any kind," said Kusaka. "We will withdraw."*

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Unit=Kaga

StartTime=07:48

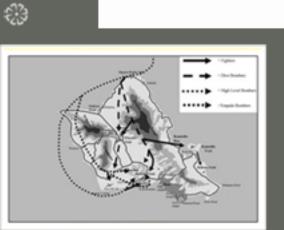
Weather=SCATTERED 4000 m

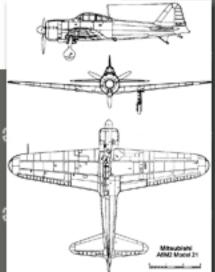
Lead flight of 6 Zeroes to Pearl Harbor following Akagi Zeroes. Proceed to Hickam. If Akagi Zeroes are strafing, proceed to Ewa and strafe aircraft.

Return to Kaga to trap. When nearing the fleet, cycle through aircraft to find RECOVERY. That is the Kaga. You can lock your view onto it during approach and landing.

All pilot canopies controlled by flaps.

Wing fold CTRL-2





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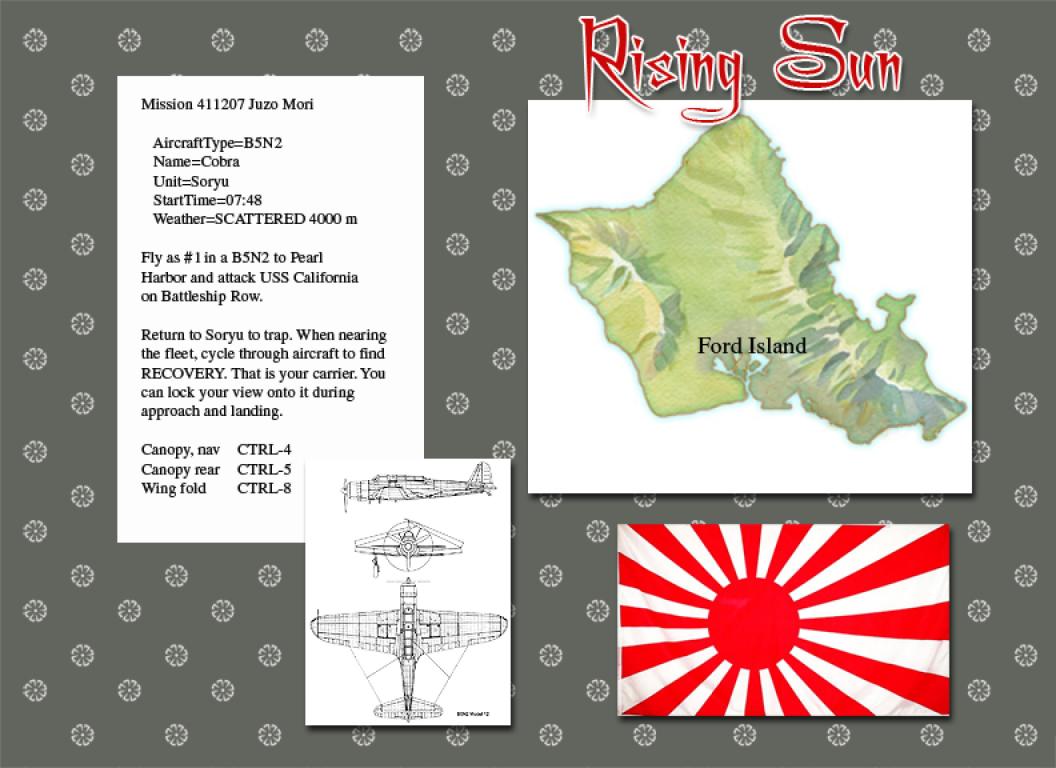
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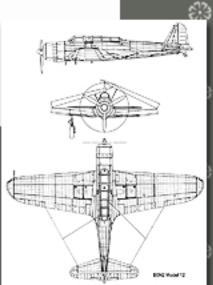
AircraftType=B5N2 Name=Mamba Unit=Soryu StartTime=08:38 Weather=SCATTERED 4000 m

Lead flight of B5N2's from Soryu to Pearl Harbor. Bomb battleships closest to Ford Island. Your target is the USS Arizona.

Return to Soryu to trap. When nearing the fleet, cycle through aircraft to find RECOVERY. That is your carrier. You can lock your view onto it during approach and landing.

Canopy, nav CTRL-4 Canopy rear CTRL-5 Wing fold CTRL-8





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(}) Mission 411207 Takehiko Chihaya €B AircraftType=D3A1 **સ્કુ** Name=Trout Unit=Akagi StartTime=08:38 Weather=SCATTERED 4000 m £33 Lead flight of 6 D3A1's to Pearl **₹**} Harbor and strike the Nevada and Pennsylvania. Direct wingmen also. **(%)** Return to Akagi to trap. When nearing

Return to Akagi to trap. When nearing the fleet, cycle through aircraft to find RECOVERY. That is your carrier. You can lock your view onto it during approach and landing.

Canopy, gun CTRL-4 Wing fold CTRL-6

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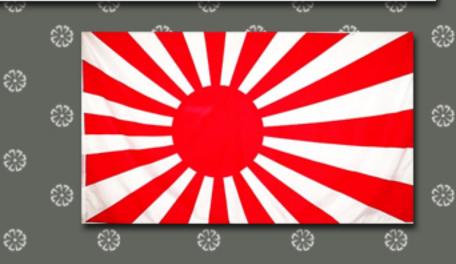
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Mission 411207 Tadayushi Kawada

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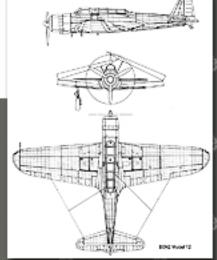
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AircraftType=B5N2 Name=Viper Unit=Zuikaky StartTime=08:3 Weather=SCATTERED 4000 m

Lead flight of B5N2's from Zuikaku to Hickam Air Field. Bomb Hickam Barracks. Direct wingmen to bomb also.

Return to Zuikaku to trap. When nearing the fleet, cycle through aircraft to find RECOVERY. That is your carrier. You can lock your view onto it during approach and landing.

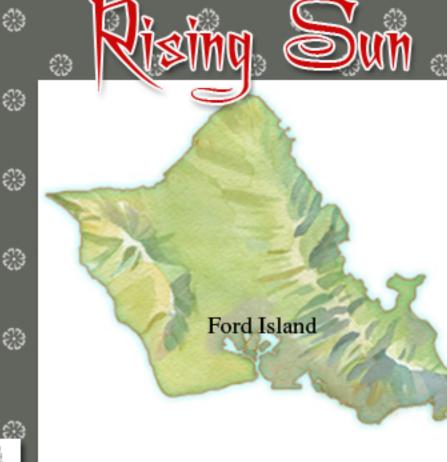
Canopy, nav CTRL-4 Canopy rear CTRL-5 Wing fold CTRL-8



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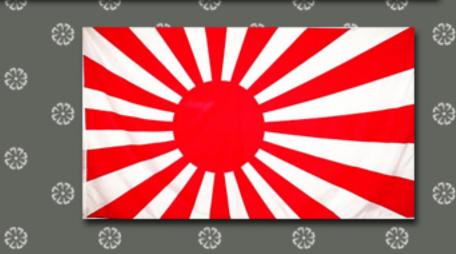


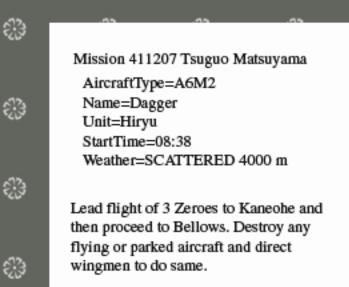
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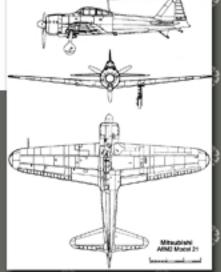
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Return to Hiryu to trap. When nearing the fleet, cycle through aircraft to find RECOVERY. That is your carrier. You can lock your view onto it during approach and landing.

Wing fold CTRL-2





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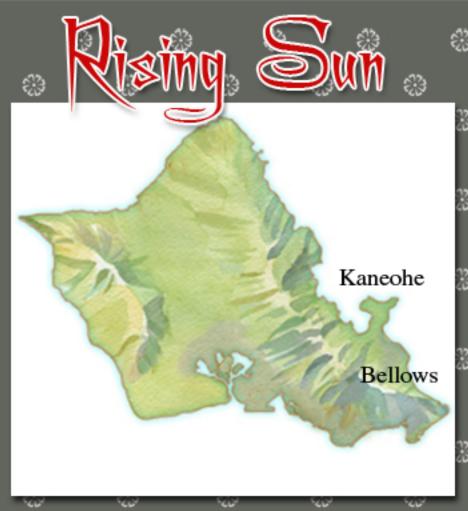
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