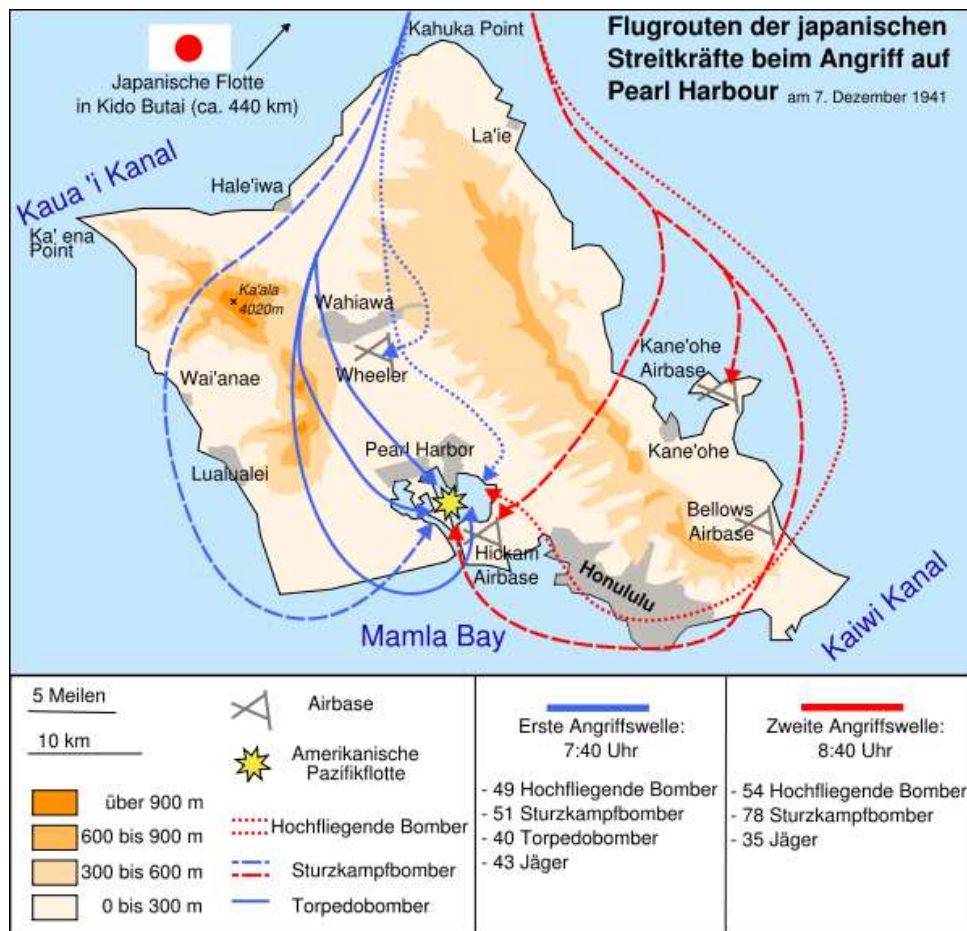


Pearl Harbor

Definition:

Pearl Harbor is a harbor and the base of the US Marine and the US Airforce on the Island O'ahu, Hawaii, USA.

It is noted for the attack of the Japanese armed forces at the US- Pacific-Armada during the Second World War.



Historical Background:

On December 7th 1942 the base of the US-Marine was attacked by the Japanese. This attack on Pearl Harbor was a part of a strategy for the conquest of the West -pacific.

The aim was the stoppage of the American Pacific-Armada that America could not block these invasion plans.

The Attack

On December 7th 1942 Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese armed forces. By this attack 8 American battleships and 10 American seagoing –vessels were sunken. Furthermore 200 American planes were destroyed. Overall 3000 US-soldiers died. By reason of this attack almost the whole pacific-fleet was deleted.

The reaction of the USA

On December 8th 1942 the USA declared war on Japan. After that voluntary US-soldiers bombed the production- towns Tokio, Yokohoma and Nagoya. In order to finish the war the US-president commanded to drop the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima on August 6th 1945. 3 days after America dropped another atomic bomb over Nagasaki. Because of this Japan capitulated.

Pearl Harbor-The movie

In the American movie “Pearl Harbor” the friends Danny (Josh Hartnett) and Rafe (Ben Affleck), who have known each other since their childhood, and the nurse Evelyn (Kate Beckinsale) give the viewers an understanding of the events of 1942. The story line includes the Japanese attack on the American base in the pacific, Pearl Harbor, as well as America`s counterattack

on Japan. The movie shows how America and Japan arrange and effect the several attacks. Furthermore, the story line is interspersed with a dramatic love story between the three protagonists. In general, the movie “Pearl Harbor” demonstrates America’s entry into the war and therefore the beginning of the Second World War.

Animadversion on the movie

The movie “Pearl Harbor” ,which is one of the most expensive movies ever, describes the incidents of the attack out of the American perception. Thereby, the reaction on the attack are overdone and irreproducible demonstrated. The viewers get the impression that the Americans have everything under control in spite of the surprise attack. So everybody knows, what he has to do, he has never been in such a state of emergency. An example therefor is the ideal behaviour of the nurse Evelyn who keeps cool when she sees all the seriously injured people in stead of burst into panic.

In addition, the viewers get the impression that America just reacts heroically while the Japanese are illustrated as an underhanded nation.

The importance of Pearl Harbor today

You can certainly say that Pearl Harbor constituted a decisive turning-point in the history of the Second World War because the Americans found themselves forced to go to war.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1942 was not only very important for the further course of the war, but also a shocking incident for the American people. They reacted with consternation and despair.

In conclusion, you can say that nothing has shocked the Americans in that way till the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in September 2001.