



U.S. COAST GUARD



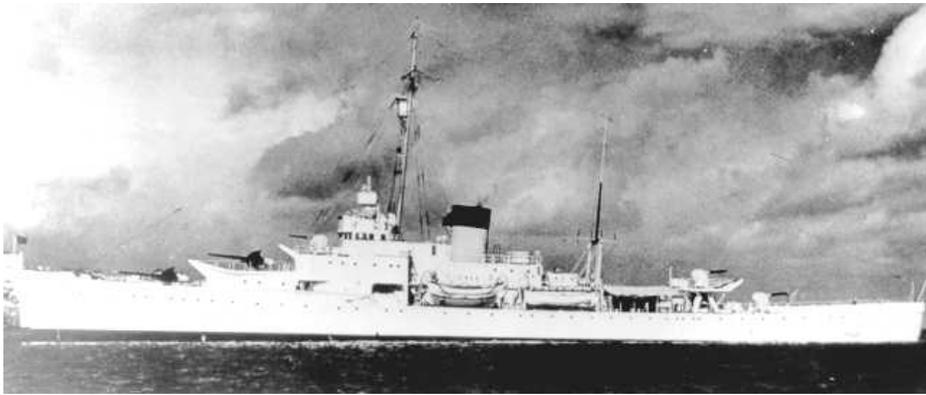
Homeland
Security

U.S. COAST GUARD UNITS IN HAWAII

December 7, 1941

Afloat Units:

Coast Guard vessels in service in Hawaii were the 327-foot cutter *Taney*, the 190-foot buoy tender *Kukui*, two 125-foot patrol craft: *Reliance* and *Tiger*, two 78-foot patrol boats, one 62-foot patrol boat, one 60-foot harbor boat, one 38-foot buoy boat, the 38-foot former Lighthouse Service launch *Lehua*, and one small speed boat. At the time of the attack, *Taney* was tied up at Pier 6 in Honolulu Harbor, *Reliance* and the unarmed *Kukui* both lay at Pier 4 and *Tiger* was on patrol along the western shore of Oahu. All were performing the normal duties for a peacetime Sunday.



USCGC *Taney* (WPG-37); Commanding Officer: Commander G.B. Gelly, USCG. The *Taney* was homeported in Honolulu; 327-foot Secretary Class cutter; Commissioned in 1936; Armament: two 5-inch/51; four 3-inch/ 50s and .50 caliber machine guns.

The 327-foot cutter *Taney* began working out of Honolulu in as soon as she was commissioned. On the morning of 7 December 1941, she was tied up at Pier 6 in Honolulu Harbor six miles away from the naval anchorage. After the first Japanese craft appeared over the island, *Taney*'s crew went to general quarters and made preparations to get underway. While observing the attack over Pearl Harbor, *Taney* received no orders to move and did not participate in the initial attack by the Japanese. Just after 09:00, when the second wave of planes began their attack on the naval anchorage, *Taney* fired on high altitude enemy aircraft with her 3-inch guns and .50 caliber machine guns. The extreme range of the planes limited the effect of the fire and the guns were secured after twenty minutes.

USCGC *Kukui* (WAGL-225): unarmed. Commanding Officer (as of July, 1941): CWO (Boatswain) Wm. J. H. Siekemeyer.

Kukui transported an U.S. Army squad to the island of Ni'ihau after reports were received that a Japanese pilot had crash-landed on the island and taken control. By the time *Kukui* arrived on 14 December though locals had overpowered and killed the pilot.

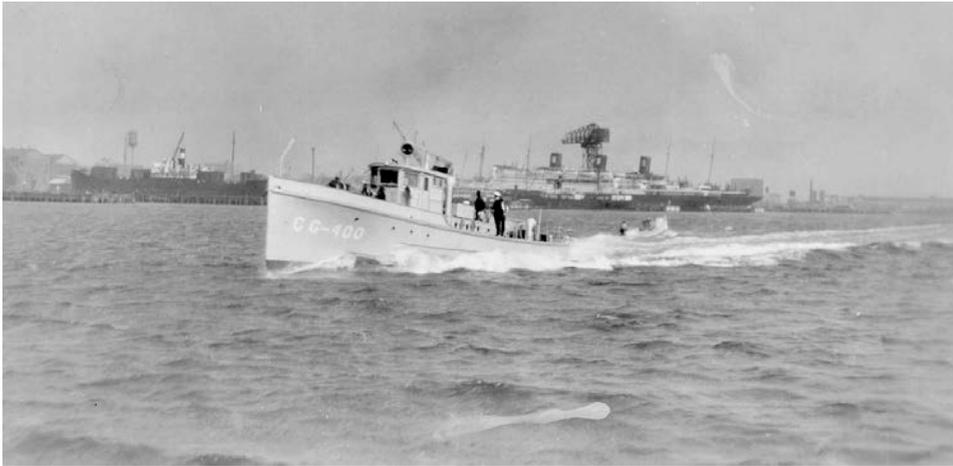
USCGC *Reliance* (WSC-150); Commanding Officer (as of July, 1941) LTJG (R) Fred P. Stone; 125-foot cutter (nicknamed the "Buck and a Quarter Class"); Armament: one 3-inch/23 gun, a few machine guns, and two depth charge racks.

USCGC *Tiger* (WSC-152); Commanding Officer: CWO William J. Mazzone, USCG; 125-foot cutter (nicknamed the "Buck and a Quarter Class"); Armament: one 3-inch/23 gun, a few machine guns, and two depth charge racks.

Tiger was commissioned in 1927 during the height of Prohibition. *Tiger* was designed to interdict smugglers in small boats who attempted to unload booze from what were known as "Mother Ships" that sailed just outside of U.S. waters. Her commanding officer at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1942 was CWO (Boatswain) William J. Mazzone. Her armament consisted of one 3-inch/23 gun, a few machine guns, and two depth charge racks.

At 06:45 am while on regular patrol, *Tiger*, intercepted a dispatch from the US Navy destroyer *Ward* that claimed the destruction of an enemy submarine. Thirty-five minutes later, *Tiger* detected an underwater object on its rudimentary sonar apparatus near Barber's Point. Believing that this might also be a submarine, *Tiger* maneuvered to get a better position and stopped both engines to reduce sonar interference. *Tiger*, however, lost the object and resumed her patrol.

Tiger continued her patrol eastward toward the Pearl Harbor entrance. At around 0800, to the surprise of the men on board the "buck and a quarter," they came under fire. The fire came from an undetermined source and fell within 100 yards. CWO Mazzone called the crew to general quarters and observed Japanese planes heading southwest away from Pearl Harbor. Manning the anti-aircraft guns, he ordered no return fire because of the extreme range of the aircraft. *Tiger* immediately headed for her designated wartime station off the entrance to Honolulu Harbor. For the remainder of the morning the patrol vessel lay at the entrance and observed the air attack, being out of range to help defend against either of the attacks. *Tiger* maintained a patrol off the harbor entrance during the night. In the darkness overly anxious Army units along the shore fired on the cutter.



CG-400 (78-foot patrol boat)



CG-403 (78-foot patrol boat)

CG-27 (harbor class 60-foot craft)

CG-8 (former 62-foot rum-runner *Mizpah* seized during Prohibition); Officer in Charge: BM1 Boyd C. Maddox.
Armament: one machine gun.

CG-8 lay moored to Pier 4 in Honolulu Harbor when the Japanese attacked. The crew of six went to general quarters and prepared to get the vessel underway. At approximately 9:00, CG-8 moved to Sand Island to pick up the depot keeper while bombs exploded nearby. CG-8 proceeded back across the channel to Kewalo Basin and was strafed by Japanese aircraft while en route. At the basin CG-8 prohibited the small private vessels and sampans from leaving until Naval Intelligence could clear the owners. After the two waves of Japanese planes withdrew, the Coast Guard secured the port areas, blacked out all navigational aids and stationed guards along the waterfront.

CG-4818 (misc. class).

CG-517: 38-foot buoy boat.

Lehua: 38-foot former Lighthouse Service launch.



USCGC *Walnut* (WAGL 252): 175-foot tender; commissioned 1939.

This buoy tender unexpectedly became involved in one of the far actions of the Japanese attack. The Japanese sent a force of destroyers to Midway Island to neutralize American naval forces there. That night, about 1,000 miles northwest of Hawaii, Japanese destroyers shelled Midway Island. At 09:30 pm the unarmed buoy tender *Walnut* observed gun flashes from the northwest. Shells began landing within 100 feet of the ship, but *Walnut* remained anchored during the 30-minute attack. Unharmed, the tender later steamed to Hawaii and received guns and depth charges. She performed ATON (aids to navigation) duty during the war.



LT Frank A. Erickson, USCG

LT Erickson was just finishing his watch as the naval air station duty officer on Ford Island when the Japanese attack began. Erickson was assigned to the *Taney* as the aviation officer and after the Navy absorbed the Coast Guard in November, 1941, he transferred to Ford Island as an assistant operations officer. He flew reconnaissance patrols for 10 days following the attack.

Shore Stations

District Headquarters:

Prior to 1939 the Honolulu office of the Honolulu District was located on the 7th floor of the Aloha Towers, Pier 9 at Honolulu Harbor. At some point in 1941 the office moved to the Federal Building, where the Lighthouse Service office was located.

Coast Guard Radio Station (NMO), Light Keeper's cottage, Diamond Head Lighthouse, Honolulu.

Coast Guard [former-U.S. Lighthouse Service 19th District] Depot, Pier 4, Honolulu.

An operating Coast Guard "base" did not come into existence until after the start of hostilities in December, 1941. Prior to that time, the only shore field activity in the Honolulu area was the former Lighthouse Service Buoy Depot that consisted of a small wharf, warehouse, keeper's cottage, marine ways and a buoy scaling slab on Sand Island, plus a warehouse, office, machine and carpenter's shop at Pier 4 in Honolulu.

Light Stations (Manned)



Barbers Point Light Station:

The lighthouse keeper assigned to the Barbers Point Light Station, Keeper John L. Sweeney, also witnessed the attack and filed an after-action report.

Kauhola Point

Cape Kumukahi

Kalae

Pauwela Point

Molokai

Makapuu Point

Kilauea Point

Nawiliwili Harbor

Midway Islands

