

THE FLASH!™

12/7/2021

Pearl Harbor theme, inspired by

December 7, 1941



# AMBUCS™

## Inspiring Mobility & Independence

### Calendar

Dec 8-Bball at Schlotzsky's

Dec 16-Club Meeting at Saltgrass to talk tournament

Dec 22-Bball at Schlotzsky's

Dec 25-Christmas!

Dec 29-31-Biggest Tournament Ever!

Jan 6-Bball wrap up club meeting

Notes from last week's weeks meeting... members enjoyed much discussions about an upcoming basketball tournament. Many problems were addressed and resolved.

### Attacks before Pearl Harbor

The first American hostile action against Axis forces was on April 10, 1941, when the destroyer USS Niblack attacked a German U-boat: the U-52, which had just sunk the Dutch freighter Saleier near Iceland. Niblack was picking up survivors of the freighter when it detected U-52 preparing to attack. The Niblack attacked with depth charges and drove off the U-boat. There were no casualties on board Niblack or the U-boat. By coincidence, USS Niblack was later in the same convoy as, and picked up survivors from, the USS Reuben James when that ship was sunk

**"Yesterday, December 7, 1941— a date which will live in infamy— the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."**

### Attacks before Pearl Harbor

USS Greer (DD-145) was a Wickes-class destroyer in the United States Navy, the first ship named for Rear Admiral James A. Greer (1833-1904). On September 4 1941, on what became known as the "Greer incident," she became the first US Navy ship to be fired upon by a German U-boat and then returned fire via depth charges. The incident led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to issue what became known as his "shoot-on-sight" order. Roosevelt publicly confirmed the "shoot on sight" order on 11 September 1941, effectively declaring naval war against Germany and Italy in the Battle of the Atlantic.

### Attacks before Pearl Harbor

On Oct. 31, 1941, the Navy destroyer Reuben James was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat while on convoy duty off Iceland, with the loss of 100 crew members, including all officers. Although not the first American Naval ship torpedoed before the United States had officially joined World War II, the Reuben James was the first one lost.

### Attacks before Pearl Harbor

Built as a patrol gunboat for duty on the Yangtze Patrol, USS Panay was reclassified as a river gunboat. During her patrol duties, she protected American lives and property menaced by bandits and soldier outlaws of various nations. When the Japanese moved through South China, as a result of the Second Sino-Japanese War, American gunboats evacuated most of the Embassy staff from Nanking during November 1937. The ship was anchored 20 miles upstream from Nanking and was attacked on a Sunday afternoon. On December 12, Japanese aircraft attacked without warning, killing three men and wounding 43 sailors and five civilians. Commander Tex Anders took control after the captain was incapacitated. Anders was also wounded in the throat and wrote his initial orders in his own blood (Ander's son, who was in China at the time, grew up to be on Apollo 8). An evacuated newsreel photographer recorded the attack and the American public was able to see images of the attack. The Japanese claimed the attack was unintentional. After a formal protest, a large indemnity was paid early the next year, and the incident was officially settled.