

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Tai Sing Loo

How Happen I Were at Pearl Harbor, on the Morning of Sunday 7 December 1941

[No place - Pearl Harbor?]: Tai Sing Loo [circa 1941]

\$1250

Murray
HOW HAPPEN I WERE AT PEARL HARBOR, ON THE MORNING OF SUNDAY
7 December 1941

On the 6th of December, Saturday afternoon, I had made arrangements with Tech Sargeant Christen to have all his Guard be at the main gate between 8:30 to 9:30 o'clock Sunday morning to have a group of pictures taken in front of the new concrete entrance as a setting with the "Pearl Harbor" for Christmas card to send home to their family.

Sunday morning I left home for Pearl Harbor after 7:00 o'clock. I was waiting for my bus at corner Wilder Avenue and Metcalf Street. Saw sky full of anti-air-craft gun firing up in the air, I call my friend to look up in sky, explain then how the Navy used their Anti-Air-Craft gun firing in practising, at that time I didn't realize that we were in actual war. Our bus stop at Bishop and King Streets. We heard the alarm ringing from the third story building of the Leuer's & Cooke, Ltd. Saw the window shattered. I walk up to Young Hotel corner and cross the street. Stop for a cup of coffee at Slinky & Franky. Suddenly all excitement arouse the Honolulu Fire Engine rush down Bishop Street and all directions. Taxi full load of sailor and marine dashing toward Pearl Harbor. I'm very much surprise what's all this excitement. I wave the taxi to stop and got on it to go back to Pearl Harbor. When I approach to Pearl Harbor surprise with great shock. Thought one of oil tanks caught in fire, showing black volium of thick smoke in the air. I got off at the Main Gate of Pearl Harbor, met all the guards with arms and Machine Gun in placed. I was great shock with surprise the war was on. Watching many Japanese war planes attacked Pearl Harbor, dropping bombs right and left on dry docks and Ford Island. Suddenly terrific explosion. Fire broke out. I was very calm and waiting for the opportunity to get a ride to the Studio to get my camera. I was at the Main Gate standby with Marines. Guards at the Main Gates were bravery and cool headed to keep the by standing away for safety and clear traffic. There were the young fighting Marines. We were under fire. The Japanese painted in aluminum, Red Ball under each wing, flew around very low toward the Main Gates.

I wish my Graflex with me. I would had a wonderful close up shot of the Japanese. Again the Japanese flew around the Navy Housing Area and turn back, head direct to Hickam Field, very low to drop a bomb on to the Hangers, with terrific explosion, set fire the buildings. More planes flew direct the dry dock. Suddenly, I saw one plane had a hit. It flew direct toward West Locke stream of smoke screen. Now this my opportunity to get in the Yard, Gen Leadingman of Machine Shop drove in his automobile. I hop in, he take me to the Studio and pick up my graflex Camera to take some pictures second though I charge my mini, reason is because first place I didnt had no order second place I didnt had my Favon Trade Mark helmet on. I had a new English Helmet from Sigapore, given by Admirl Murfin a year ago, So I'm afraid some one will make a mistake me as a Jap and shot me down.

I went up the Administration Building everythings O.K. I met Mr. William McIlhenmy and Mr. W. C. Bohlay at the stairway. We talk and both went toward the dry dock. I went to the Supply Dept. and saw many boy had Steel Helmet on, so I went to see Lt. Comdr Supply Officer for permission to had one, the size are too large and heavy for me so I select one smaller size, painted green and white stripe. I went direct to dry dock to help put out the fire on U.S.S. CASSIN had the depth charges on her stern, the U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA, bow between CASSIN AND DOWNES. I knew it was very dangerous it may exploded damage the dry docks and the U. S.S. PENNSYLVANIA. We put our hoses directed the dept. charges keeping wet. An officer came near by said keep up the good work we had our hose right at it all the time, and I turn around and saw Lt. Spear, order all men stand back, something may happen, so I obey his order and ran back toward U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA, suddenly really happen the terrific explosion came from the Destroyer few people were hurt and some fell down. I notice some large pieces of Steel Plates blew over the dry dock when I turn around and look, afterward I notice two extra hoses without nozzles, so I went to the Fire Station and brought back 2 volunteers pointed direct, the depth charges, I call for more volunteers to help me clear and straighten up the hose around the First Street to cleared for traffic at the same time purpose to gave the fire fighter a chance to extended the hose across over the bow of U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA to fight the fire at the DOWNES on Starboard side. Here come another Fire Engine from Submarine Base, I direct them to place their engine and connect this Hydrant #151 and direct them to the depth charges so everythings are well done and successful accomplishment their service. A few words of my appreciation and thanks and successful credit to Lieut. Spear, in charge with his gallant spirit to keep his staff and volunteers calms right at the job to see the depth charges were wet and kept away the fire. The Marines of the fire Dept. of the Navy Yard, are the Heros of the Day of Dec. 7, 1941 and that I saw the crew threw out empty 5" shell on the dock I xx gather up in piles with some, so I met Chief A. LeTendre, to help me to order some hose from supply Dept. to place in this Hydrant No. 151, corner Avenue D and First Street. I also request Lt. Foster to order me more hose, with in half and hour the Chief brought back six more hoses, with and other lode from Lt. Foster and other chief which I have about 12 lengths of hose to stand by. Why I order this hose for? The answer -- for emergency something may happen I will be there with readiness, reason why, the

Two mimeographed folio leaves stapled in upper corner. Owner's name "Murray" in ink in upper corner, tiny old folds, tears and nicks, else near fine. Two page account by a Chinese-American man who was an official Navy photographer from 1919 until 1947. Loo had arranged an early morning photo shoot with some of the enlisted men in order to provide them with photographs for Christmas cards, but before he could arrive the attack had begun. He got a taxi full of sailors and Marines and joined them to the main gate of the base. He recounts strafing and bombing, anti-aircraft fire, and his trip to his studio to get his Graflex camera. He mentions his fear that he will be mistaken for Japanese: "...so I'm afraid some one will make a mistake me as a Jap and shot me down." He attempts to help put out the fires on *U.S.S. Cassin* afraid at any minute that the ship will blow up and destroy the adjoining *U.S.S. Pennsylvania*. He gives an excellent and thorough account of arranging for volunteers to fight the fires on the ships that day, and then takes it upon himself to arrange to have the road repaired and guide traffic to the Naval Hospital. He then retrieves his motor scooter and is impressed by Marine into collecting food for the volunteers, which he does. Finally he hitches a ride back to his home in the University area where he is greeted by his wife and four children. A very immediate and visceral account, clearly produced at a time very contemporary to the attack. Loo's English was very imperfect. Parts of this account have been anthologized by the United States Naval Institute online, but in that case it has been substantially altered to enhance the readability. In 1984 the United States Naval Institute published a calander: *The U.S. Navy in Hawaii: One Man's Perspective: A Pictorial Calendar for 1984* featuring Loo's photographs. This is almost certainly the earliest and most complete account with all locutions and with Loo's signature in facsimile, written by him directly on the stencil. OCLC locates no copies. [BTC#394192]