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Mr. John B. Vaessen, Pearl Harbor Survivor**

Argonne, USS (AG-31)

Repair ship that was hit by U.S. gunfire at Pearl Harbor on the night of 7 December 1941, 83-84

Awards, Naval

In April 1942 Admiral Chester Nimitz presented the Navy Cross to Vaessen, 94-96

Barngrover, Chief Electrician's Mate John W., USN

Served in 1941 on board the target ship *Utah* (AG-16), 41-42

Bombs/Bombing

The target ship *Utah* (AG-16) was used for bombing practice in 1941, 45-47, 61

Boston, USS

Nineteen century protected cruiser that served as a receiving ship at Yerba Buena Island in the early 1940s, 19-20

California, USS (BB-44)

Battleship launched at the Mare Island Navy Yard in 1919, 17-18

Fulton, USS (AS-11)

Submarine tender built at the Mare Island Navy Yard in the early 1940s, 17-19

Hill, Chief Petty Officer William D., USN

While serving on board the light cruiser *Raleigh* (CL-7) at Pearl Harbor in 1941, aided in the rescue of Fireman Second Class John Vaessen from the target ship *Utah* (AG-16), 73-80

Isquith, Lieutenant Commander Solomon S., USN (USNA, 1920)

In 1941 served as chief engineer in the target ship *Utah* (AG-16), 74, 85, 94-95, 98-101

Leave and Liberty

In Southern California in 1941, 30-31

In Hawaii in 1941, 51-60, 63-65

In San Francisco in 1942, 101-102

Little, Lieutenant (junior grade) John G. III, USN (USNA, 1935)

Killed on board the target ship *Utah* (AG-16) at Pearl Harbor in 1941, 50-51

Los Angeles, California

Site of a large Naval Reserve training center in 1941, 23-27

Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, California

Activities in the yard around 1940-41 included new construction and refurbishing old ships, 14-19

McCandless, Captain Byron, USN (Ret.) (USNA, 1905)

Commanded the destroyer base at San Diego, 1937-45, 28-33

Naval Reserve, U.S.

Casual status for reservists in Northern California in the late 1930s-early 1940s, 12-13, 20-23

Large reserve center at Chavez Ravine in Los Angeles in 1941, 23-27

Reservists were not completely welcome when they reported in 1941 to the target ship *Utah* (AG-16), 41-42

Nimitz, Admiral Chester W., USN (USNA, 1905)

In April 1942, as Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet, presented the Navy Cross to Vaessen, 94-96

***Oglala*, USS (CM-4)**

Minelayer that capsized in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, 97-98

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Naval Base

Served as a homeport for the target ship *Utah* (AG-16) in late 1941, 48-70

The target ship *Utah* (AG-16) capsized on 7 December 1941 as a result of being attacked by the Japanese, 50, 66-90

Peters, Chief Electrician John L., USN

Served in 1941 as E Division officer on board the target ship *Utah* (AG-16), 41-43, 49-50, 71

***Raleigh*, USS (CL-7)**

After being attacked at Pearl Harbor in December 1941, ship's personnel aided in the rescue of Fireman John Vaessen from the capsized target ship *Utah* (AG-16), 73-80

Salvage

Work on U.S. warships damaged during the Japanese air raid of December 1941, 87-92

San Diego, California

Make-work for sailors at the San Diego destroyer base in 1941, 27-34

Liberty for sailors in 1941, 30-32

San Francisco, California

Yerba Buena Island was the site of a naval receiving station in the early 1940s, 19-23

Liberty and shore patrol in San Francisco in 1942, 101-102

Shore Patrol

In San Francisco in 1942, 101-102

***Starling*, USS AM-64)**

Minesweeper built at Alameda, California, and commissioned in December 1942, 21-22, 103-106

Steele, Commander James M., USN (USNA, 1916)

Served as commanding officer of the target ship *Utah* (AG-16) in 1941, 62-63

***Utah*, USS (AG-16)**

Famous criminal John Dillinger served in the crew in 1923, 38

Steps toward Vaessen's service in the crew in 1941, 34-36

Operations off the West Coast and in the Hawaii area in 1941, 36-40, 44-45

Division messing and berthing arrangements on board ship in 1941, 39-40, 52

Work of the electrical division in 1941, 41-50, 67-68, 71-72

As a target for bombing practice in 1941, 45-47, 61

In port at Pearl Harbor in 1941, 51-70

Capsized on 7 December 1941 as a result of being torpedoed by the Japanese, 66-80

Vaessen was rescued through the bottom of the hull on 7 December, 73-80

Two *Utah* survivors were killed by U.S. gunfire at Pearl Harbor the night of 7 December, 83-84

Work of salvage divers on the ship in the aftermath of the attack, 87-90

Vaessen, John B.

Youth and early employment in California in the 1920s and 1930s, 1-14

Served briefly in the Naval Reserve, circa 1938-41, 12-14, 20-30

Worked at the Mare Island Navy Yard, 1940-41, as an electrician's helper, 14-19

Stationed at the San Diego Destroyer Base in 1941, 27-34

Service on board the target ship *Utah* (AG-16) in 1941, 35-80

Rescued through the bottom of the hull of the *Utah* on 7 December, 73-80

Activities at Pearl Harbor in the months after the Japanese attack, 80-99

In April 1942 Admiral Chester Nimitz presented the Navy Cross to Vaessen, 94-96

In 1942 did shore patrol duty in San Francisco, 101-102

In late 1942 was in the commissioning crew of the minesweeper *Starling* (AM-64), 21-22, 103-106

Warris, Commander John F., USN

Former enlisted man who served as executive officer of the target ship *Utah* (AG-16) in 1941, 61-62, 84-85, 88-90

Yerba Buena Island, San Francisco

Site of a naval receiving station in the early 1940s, 19-23