



# Sabretache

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## USS Arizona

75 years ago,  
December 7th, 1941  
the world changed.

This Dec. 7, 2008 photo shows retired Navy Lt. Commander Joseph Langdell standing in the Shrine Room of the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Langdell, the oldest living crew member of the battleship USS Arizona to have survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, has died on Feb. 4, 2015, in Northern California at the age of 100.

### CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS  
meeting will be  
held on

**Tuesday,  
December  
20th,  
2016**

**7:00 pm**

At the  
Petty Officers'  
Mess  
HCMS Tecumseh

When Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Langdell died at a nursing home in Yuba City, a tally maintained by the USS Arizona Reunion Association, for which Langdell had served as president, identified him as not only the oldest Arizona survivor, but the last surviving officer from the naval ship that lost 1,177 men — nearly four-fifths of its crew — when it was bombed on Dec. 7, 1941.

Langdell was an ensign on an assignment that had him sleeping on a military base adjacent to the ship in Honolulu on the morning Pearl Harbor was attacked. He spent the following hours and days trying to rescue shipmates from the burning water, preparing for another possible air assault and leading the survivors tasked with removing the remains of the dead from the partially sunken ship.

"I felt absolutely helpless as I watched the attack," Langdell told The Associated Press on the 56th anniversary of the attack that drew the United States into World War II. "If I had been aboard, I would have been killed in that No. 2 (gun) turret. That was the one that blew up. It was my luck to be assigned off the ship that day."

As per his wishes, Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Langdell's ashes will be put aboard the USS Arizona. Since 1982, the U.S. Navy has allowed survivors of USS Arizona to be interred in the ship's wreckage upon their deaths. Following a full military funeral at the Arizona memorial, the cremated remains are placed in an urn and then deposited by divers beneath one of the Arizona's gun turrets. To date, more than 30 Arizona crewmen who survived Pearl Harbor have chosen the ship as their final resting place. Crewmembers who served on the ship prior to the attack may have their ashes scattered above the wreck site, and those who served on other vessels stationed at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, may have their ashes scattered above their former ships.

CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
is a non-profit registered society  
which fosters the study of the  
military and the police, and the heritage of  
Canada, the British Empire, and the world  
as well as the preservation of military  
artifacts and records.

The CMHS meets once every calendar month  
at: Petty Officers' Mess  
HMCS Tecumseh  
1820 - 24th Street SW  
Calgary AB T2T 0G6

## Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on  
**Tuesday, December 20, 2016,**  
**19:00 (7:00 pm)**

At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.

Members are reminded that an offering of foodstuffs for the Legion Food Bank is considered your unofficial entrance fee to our regular scheduled meetings.

The unofficial agenda of this meeting will be:

Introduction of guests, Minutes of last meeting Correspondence, Membership report Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell  
The President, **Alan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.



## The Memorial.

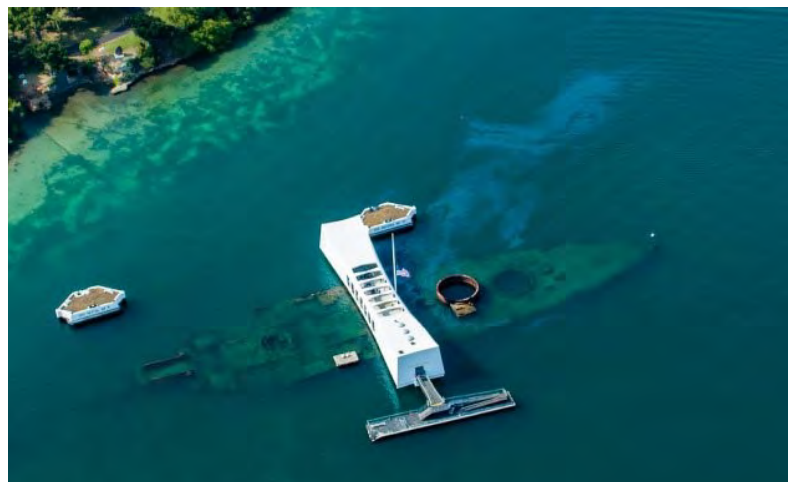
After the USS Arizona sank, its superstructure and main armament were salvaged and reused to support the war effort, leaving its hull, two gun turrets and the remains of more than 1,000 crewmen submerged in less than 40 feet of water. In 1949 the Pacific War Memorial Commission was established to create a permanent tribute to those who had lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor, but it wasn't until 1958 that **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** signed legislation to create a national memorial. The funds to build it came from both the public sector and private donors, including one unlikely source.

In March 1961, entertainer **Elvis Presley**, who had recently finished a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, performed a benefit concert at Pearl Harbor's Block Arena that raised over \$50,000—more than 10 percent of the

USS Arizona Memorial's final cost. The monument was officially dedicated on May 30, 1962,

75 years after its demise, the Arizona continues to spill up to 9 quarts of oil into the harbor each day. In the mid-1990s, environmental concerns led the National Park Service to commission a series of site studies to determine the long-term effects of the oil leakage. On December 6, 1941, Arizona took on a full load of fuel—nearly 1.5 million gallons—in preparation for its scheduled trip to the mainland later that month. The next day, much of it fed the explosion and subsequent fires that destroyed the ship following its attack by Japanese bombers. However, despite the raging fire and ravages of time, some 500,000 gallons are still slowly seeping out of the ship's submerged wreckage.

Some scientists have warned of a possible "catastrophic" eruption of oil from the wreckage, which they believe would cause extensive damage to the Hawaiian shoreline and disrupt U.S. naval functions in the area. Governmental agencies continue to monitor the deterioration of the wreck site but are reluctant to perform extensive repairs or modifications due to the Arizona's role as a "war grave." In fact, the oil that often coats the surface of the water surrounding the ship has added an emotional gravity for many who visit the memorial and is sometimes referred to as the "tears of the Arizona," or "black tears."



Oil sheen floats away from the Arizona Memorial



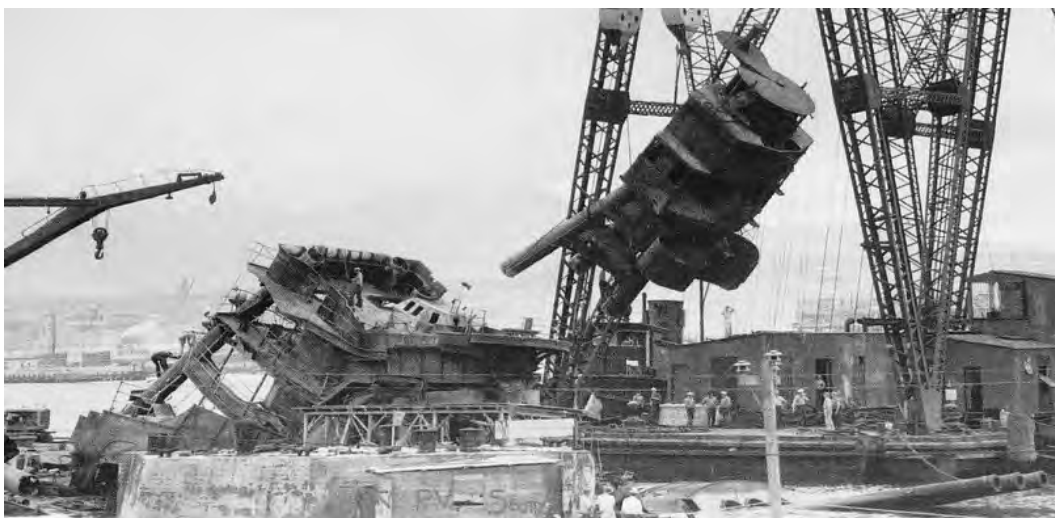
## Minutes of the last meeting

### Minutes of the meeting of the **Calgary Military Historical Society** Meeting held on November 15th, 2016 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

1. **Meeting called to order** by Past President Kevin R. at 7:12 PM. 20 members in attendance.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Discussed and moved to be approved.
3. **Newsletter.** No revisions.
4. **Treasures Report.**  
Report by Floyd S. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Treasurer Floyd S. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Mike C. Approved by vote of hands
5. **Membership Report.**  
Report by Floyd S. At last count, Total 33 members (2 Life, 1 Hon., 30 regular). Member ship Secretary Floyd S. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Member Mike C. Approved.
6. **Correspondence:** Member David G reports on the several email requests that have been sent to us. Three regarding the Boer War and request for information sent to our Historical Director Member Dave L.
7. **Old Business.** Past Pres. Kevin discusses upcoming show at Hillhurst Sunnyside. No new information yet.
8. **New Business:** Questions and discussion of January 20th Christmas gathering at the Horton Road Legion.
9. **Auction** -Ticketmaster Dave sells tickets and distributes books to many happy members
10. **Break**
11. **Show and Tell:**  
David G.—Yukon Regiment badges and shoulder flash in small frame.  
Barry E.—1949 military hat. Discussion as to who wore it.  
Bob McP. —Dutch Mounted Medals, 1909 Munro Indian Peace Medal with beads. Canadian Native Indian Medal.  
Mike C.—Original tin of Boer War emergency rations. Discusses replicas of same. Research on Boer War Soldier and discussion of book “The Great Karoo”, Boer War medals of J Davis a Native Canadian soldier. Story of Jefferson Davis and Canadian Mounted Rifles.  
Darrel K.—Civil defence helmet, Airborne chin strap, shovel handle that will accommodate a bayonet.  
Gary M.—Medal Year Book for 2017 has arrived and he discusses. Discussion of War of 1812 research he is doing. Discusses Hatt Family that was involved and a graveyard that he visited that was to be preserved.  
James B.—found a old NORAD 78 Record of songs put out by the US. military
12. **Adjournment:**  
Past-President Kevin R. calls for motion to adjourn. Member Bob Mcp. moves for adjournment. Seconded by Barry E. Motion Approved.  
Meeting Adjourned. 21:00

1932 Photograph of the USS Arizona underway with President Hoover on board.



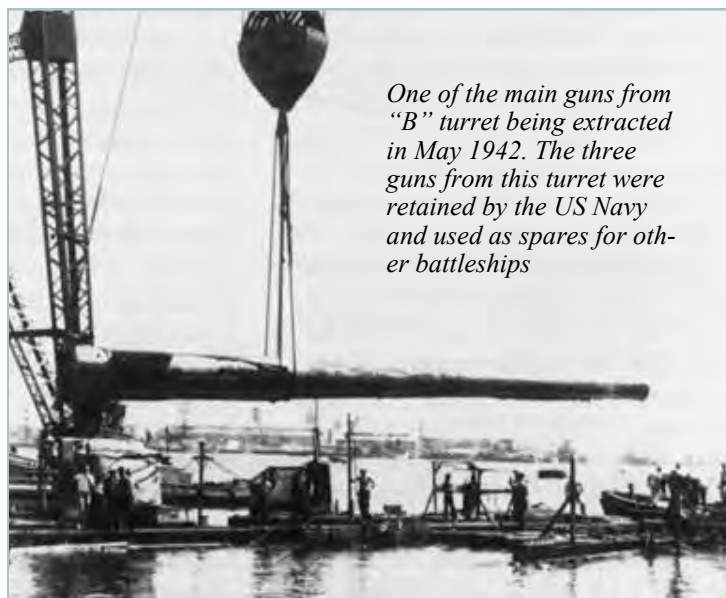


## The Salvage

In late January 1942, salvage work began. In early February, a floating derrick came alongside and work commenced on removing the aft mast structure. After this was accomplished, work started on the challenging removal of the foremast. Because it had toppled forward, it was more dangerous to remove as it would slide down as it was separated from the collapsed superstructure. The burned-out top of the foremast was removed in early May 1942. As the country was now at war, any usable weaponry was needed and a main objective

of the *USS Arizona* salvage was to recover the battleship's guns. Of the main armament, the six Mk12 14" guns in the two aft turrets were recovered, as were the three in the "B" turret. It was judged impossible to recover the three in the "A" turret and they remain on the wreck today. After the guns in the aft turrets were removed, the entire turrets were lifted off the wreck to recover the armor plating. In the "B" turret, the remains of the turret itself were left in place. In 1943 custody of six Mk12 guns was transferred to the US

Army, which intended to use salvaged weapons of sunken Pearl Harbor battleships in a series of coastal defense positions on Oahu. These were to be named after battleships damaged in the attack (but the actual guns need not come from the ship the battery was named for). *USS Arizona*'s guns were assigned to Battery Pennsylvania and Battery Arizona, both to be manned by the 16th Coastal Artillery Regiment.



*One of the main guns from "B" turret being extracted in May 1942. The three guns from this turret were retained by the US Navy and used as spares for other battleships*



US Army "Battery Pennsylvania" on eastern Oahu, adjacent to the Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base

**Other Interesting Facts;** The ensign *USS Arizona* flew during the attack was recovered in early December 1941 and presented to the state of Arizona, where it is now displayed in the state capitol building. During the 1942-1943 salvage, the wardroom silver service was also recovered, and likewise given to the state of Arizona.

A misconception is that *USS Arizona* is "forever in commission". This is untrue, after the attack *USS Arizona* was placed "in ordinary" (an archaic naval term meaning neither active nor in reserve, but still on the Navy rolls). On 1 December 1942, the US Navy quietly struck the ship's name off the rolls.

There has not been a *USS Arizona* since 1941. There is a widely-circulated belief in the USA that no ship can ever again be named *USS Arizona*; this is untrue, there is no such restriction. A variation is that no ship can receive the name until the last of the survivors passes on; this is also untrue but is so widely believed in the US Navy that it has somewhat acquired the status of fact. As of late 2015 only eight survivors are still alive, and it is rumored that an upcoming nuclear submarine might be named *USS Arizona*.

US Navy warships passing the monument (completed in 1962) are required to render it a salute. Foreign warships visiting Pearl Harbor are not required to do so, but many do.



Chilean Submarine Crew salutes the USS Arizona