

# JAPAN COMMEMORATES PEARL HARBOR

This single frame exhibit presents a study of Japan's wartime commemoration of their December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, which brought the United States into direct participation in World War II. The emphasis is on the Pearl Harbor first anniversary commemorative stamp (semi-postal, issued December 8, 1942\*) and related material (cacheted FDCs/maxi-cards, presentation booklet, postal history, full pane, source photo) but also includes interesting, relevant collateral material (war bond, post cards, magazine).

## Exhibit Plan

Page 1: Title Page

Page 2-3: Photo upon which the stamp is based

Page 4: Stamp pane, postmark description

Page 5: Postal Use

Page 6: Photo maximum card FDCs

Page 7: Addressed FDCs

Page 8: Addressed FDC, war bond

Page 9-10: First Day Covers

Page 11: Post card FDC, FDC, post card

Page 12: Presentation booklet

Page 13: Manchukuo FDC, magazine

Page 14: Pearl Harbor post cards

Page 15: Second Anniversary

Page 16: Epilog



**Only wartime material is shown, with the exception of the Epilog.** The Epilog shows a maximum card and an FDC from Japan's 2000 issue 1940-1945 souvenir sheet which included a Pearl Harbor stamp. This was part of Japan's recognition of significant 20th Century events.

Anniversary postmarks from 11 different cities are shown.

A Manchukuo first anniversary overprinted stamps FDC with cachet showing planes attacking Hawaii is shown. A first anniversary occupied Philippines overprinted stamp and Manchukuo second anniversary stamp are not shown. These recognized the start of the war, not specifically Pearl Harbor, and didn't illustrate anything related to Pearl Harbor so they are not relevant to this exhibit.

The first anniversary issue was a set of two which also included a stamp showing a tank battle on Bataan in the Philippines. This stamp is not specifically studied in this exhibit but many of the items shown include both stamps.



Material is generally shown in chronological order.

Translations are shown in *italic, san serif* text.

\*Date note: Because the International Date Line runs between Hawaii and Japan, the date of the attack in Japan is December 8, as reflected on this material.

The Pearl Harbor stamp vignette is from a photograph taken early in the attack by a Japanese pilot.

Attack started at 7:55AM; photo taken between 8:05-8:10AM;  
 photo made public on 13 January 1942.



Photograph Details

**A** -- Torpedo splashes from torpedo bombers.

**B** -- Some historians believe the periscope of a Japanese midget submarine is visible, with a torpedo wake heading towards the Oklahoma; the occupants of the nearby launch did not report a periscope sighting. The three rooster tail splashes may be from fishtailing of the submarine due to buoyancy imbalance after firing their torpedo.

**C** -- Torpedo wakes (from A splashes) heading towards the West Virginia; torpedo explosion is visible between her masts.

Oil spills are visible outboard of the West Virginia, Oklahoma, and California. Also note expanding circular waves from torpedo explosions on the battleships.

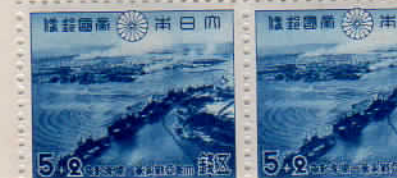
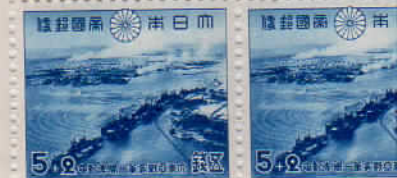
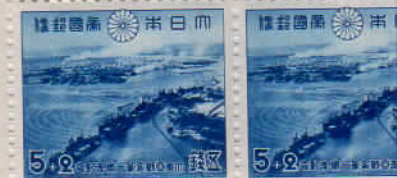
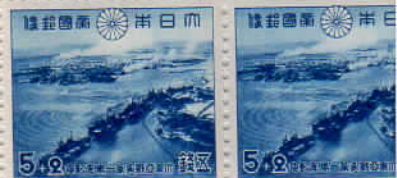
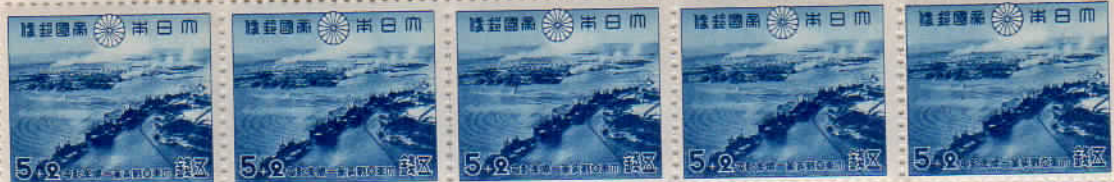
Smoke in background is from burning planes and hangers at Hickam Field.



Original wartime Japanese photograph. Battleship Row in foreground.

Ships (l to r): Nevada      Vestal      West Virginia      Oklahoma      Neosho      California  
                                  Arizona      Tennessee      Maryland

Caption: War Dept. License #783



First Anniversary Issue  
**FDC POSTMARK; FULL PANE**

Stamp inscriptions:

(top): *Imperial Japanese Post*

(bottom): *Commemorative for First Anniversary of the Greater East Asia War*



*Commemorating the First Anniversary of the Greater East Asia War*

*Showa 17 December 8*

Showa 17 is the 17th year of Hirohito's reign as Emperor, i.e., 1942.

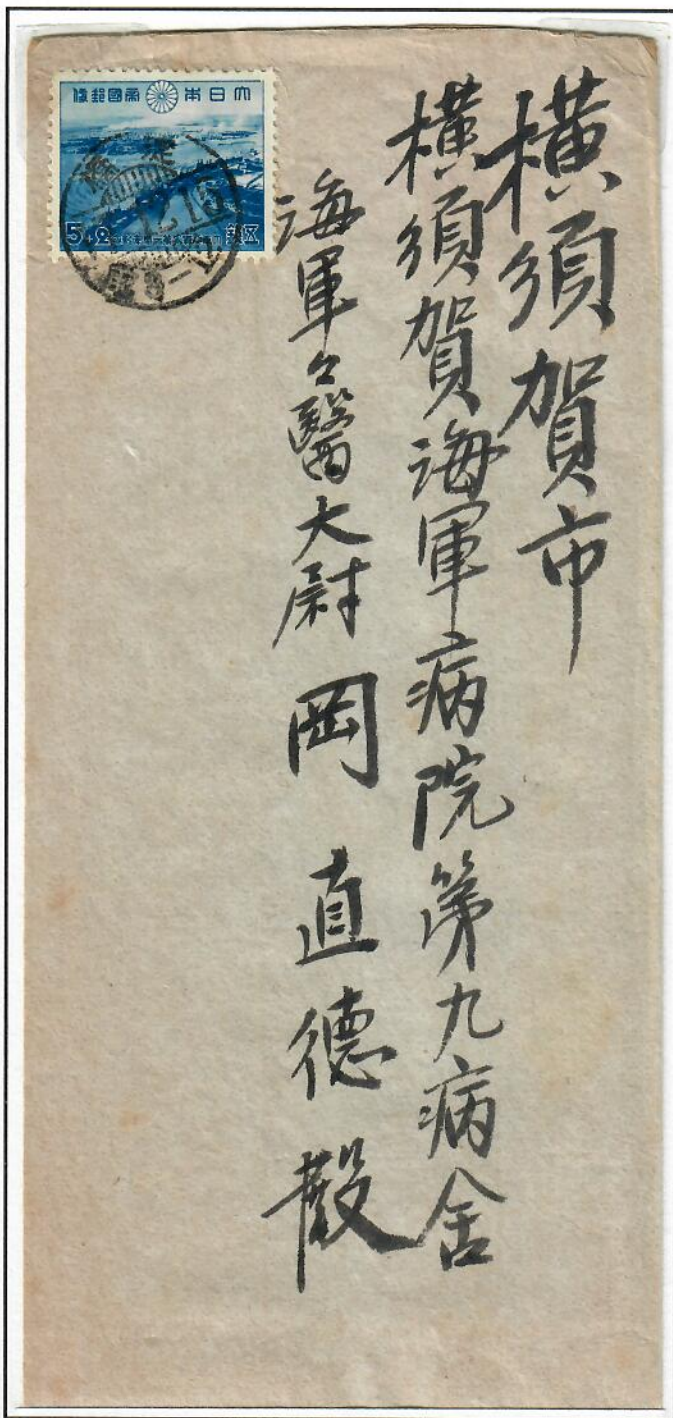
All anniversary postmarks bear this title.



*Numazu*  
Postmark city

Background: Full pane of 50

Bottom inscription: *Printed by Ministry Printing Bureau*

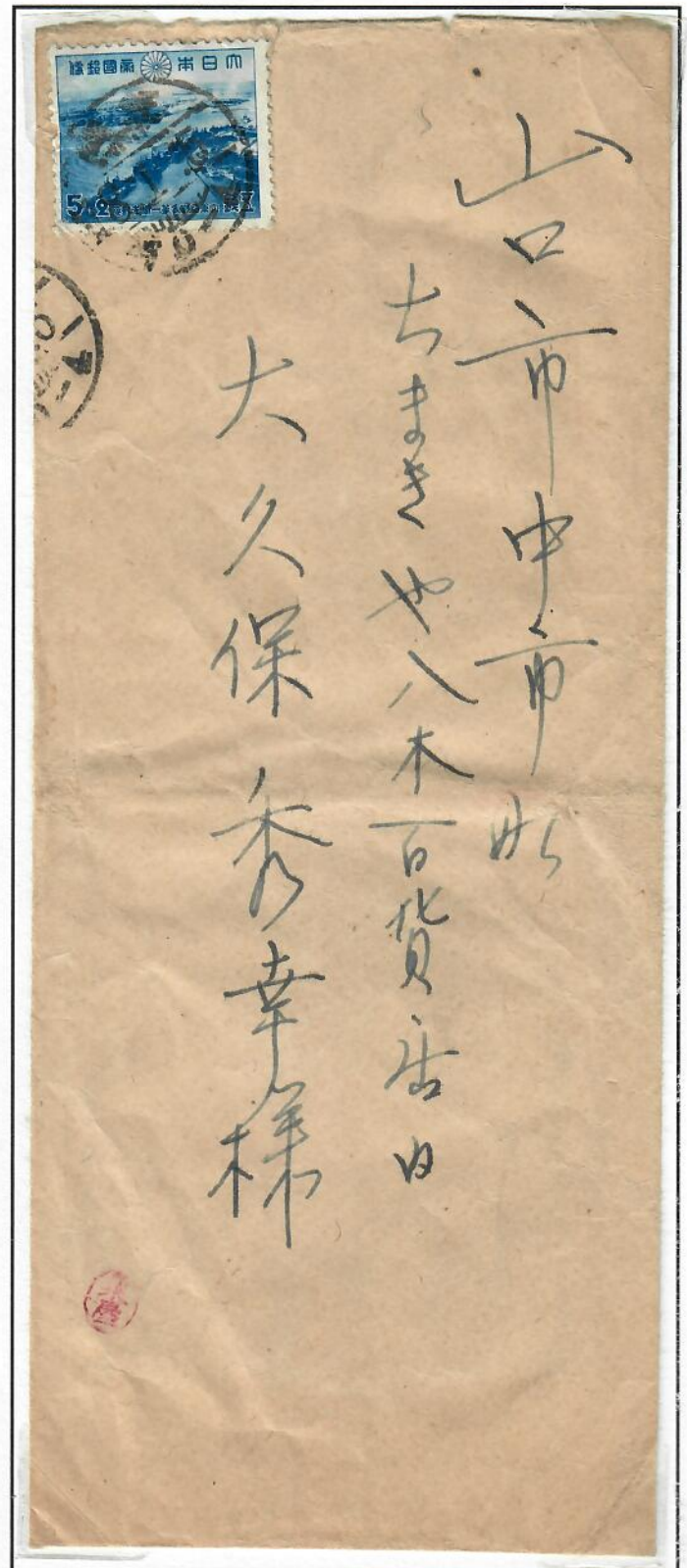


Addressed to: Yokosuka City  
 Yokosuka Navy Hospital  
 Building No. 9  
 Navy Military Surgeon Captain OKA

Postmarked Yodobashi  
 Showa 17.12.15  
 (15 December 1942)

Sent by (on reverse):  
 OKA Harumichi  
 Tokyo-Yodobashi  
 Hyakunin-chon 3-315  
 13 December 1942

Proper domestic letter rate: 5 sen (rate effective April 1, 1942 to March 31, 1944)



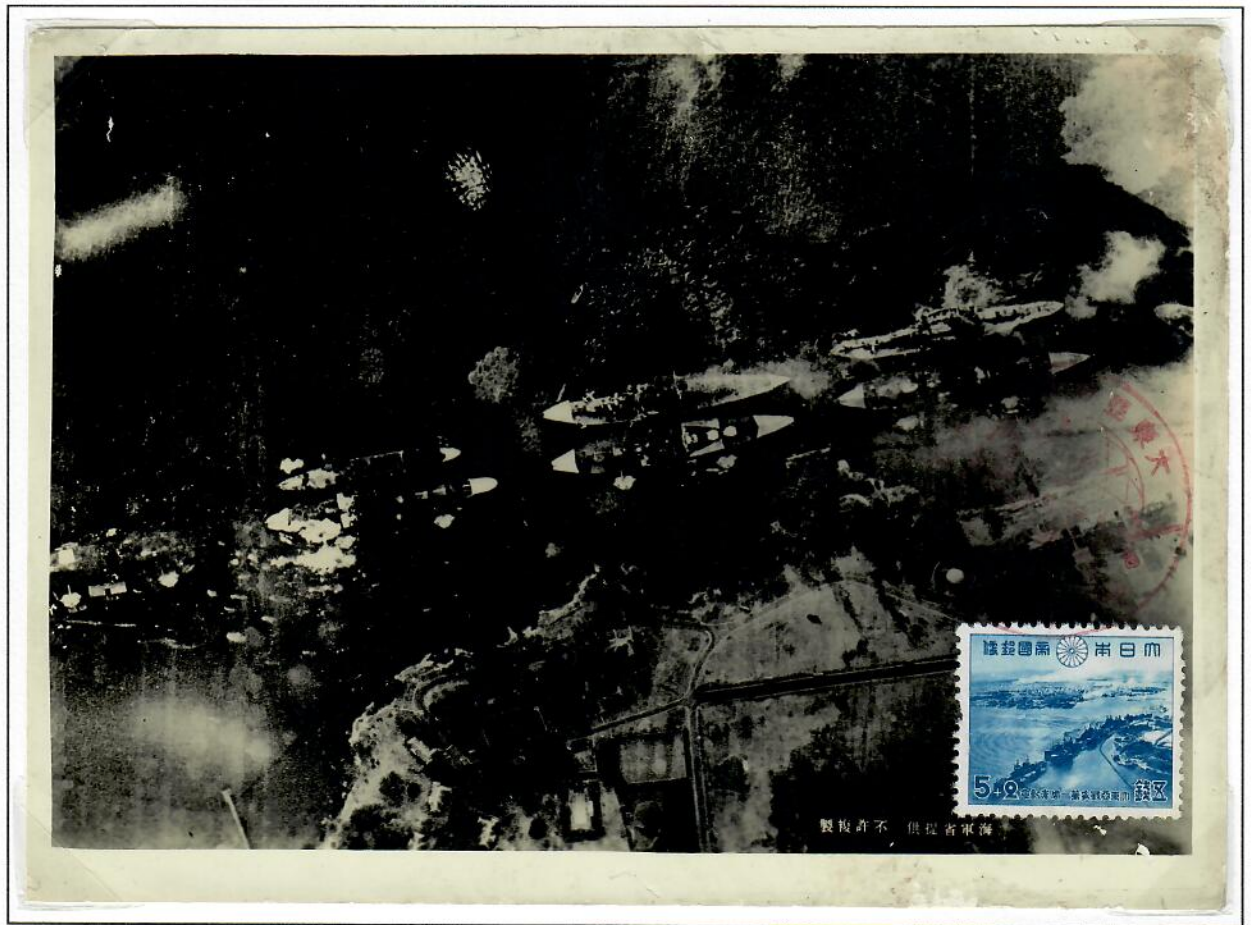
Addressed to:  
 A man named Okubo in  
 Yamaguchi City

Postmark illegible  
 (Probably from Sueyama in Okayama Prefecture,  
 2 January 1943;  
 from sender information on reverse)

Official Imperial  
Japanese Navy  
aerial photos taken  
during the attack.

Battleship Row:  
Note bomb blasts  
around ships.

Provided by the  
Ministry of Navy,  
Replication Pro-  
hibited.  
(bottom right)



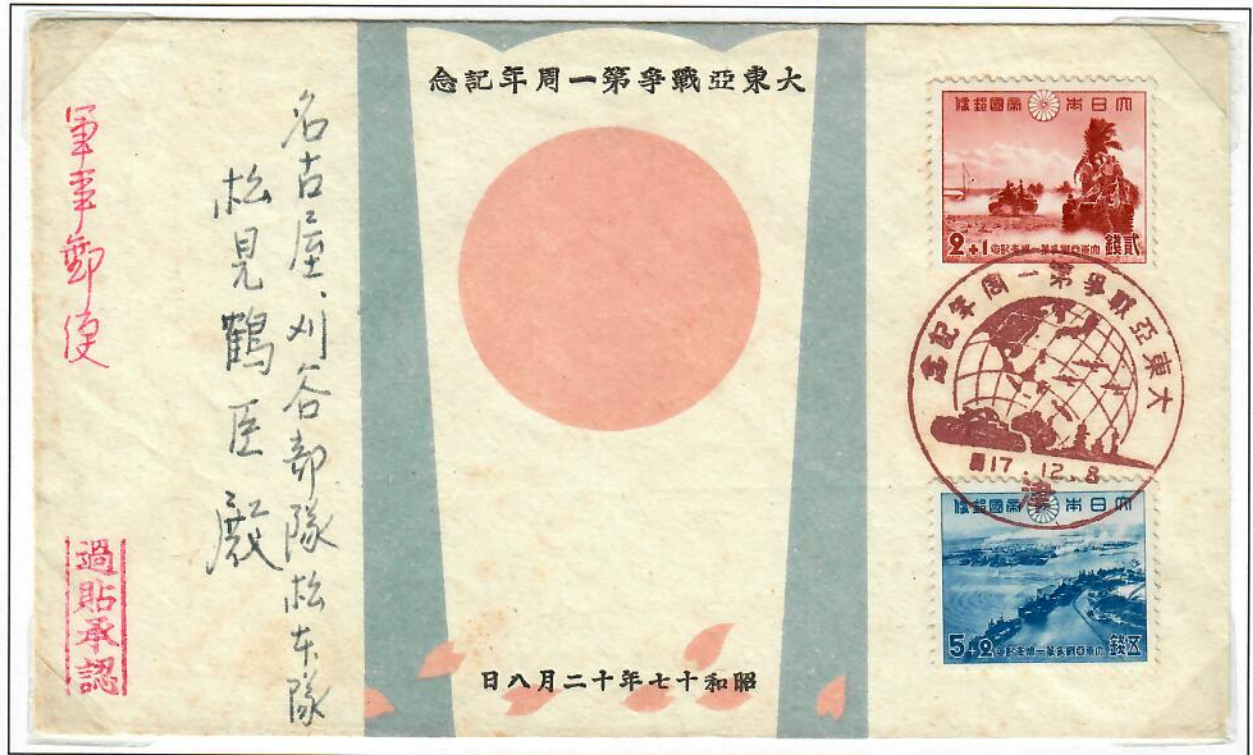
Both  
Postmarked  
Kobe.

Navy Censor B  
No. 17/102 Permit;  
Provided by Navy  
Ministry — Repro-  
duction Prohibited  
(bottom right)

Military  
Mail

MATSUMI  
Tsuruomi  
Matsuto Corp,  
Kariya Unit,  
Nagoya  
(address, black)

Excess (Postage)  
Affixed  
Acknowledged



Postmarked Tsu

Mie Stamp Company  
Tianjin Post Office Box 44  
(on reverse, above)

1st Anniversary of the Greater East Asia War (top center)  
Showa 17 December 8 (bottom center)



Postmarked  
Keijo-chuo  
(Seoul, occupied  
Korea)

Hyogo-ken  
Nishinomiya-shi  
Kotobuki-cho  
#13  
(Mr.) Ikeda  
Minouru

(ken = prefecture,  
she = city)  
(address, right)

1st Anniversary  
Greater East  
Asia War  
(left)

Postmarked Nagoya

Okawa Yoshimizu  
 Nagoya  
 (addressee, right)



Greater East Asia War  
 (top center)

First Anniversary Com-  
 memorative  
 (left)

Senda Yoshimichi  
 (bottom center: the cover producer,  
 his name and address appear on the  
 reverse return address)

Press release of the Imperial  
 Japanese Army and Navy  
 engaged in battle in the West  
 Pacific against the forces  
 from the United States and  
 United Kingdom...  
 (diagonal text across the left,  
 summarized)

Pearl Harbor First  
 Anniversary War Bond

Sold for ¥10;  
 Non-interest bearing

Known as the "battle flags"  
 design; note flags in left  
 and right margins



→ 此ノ票切リタルハキハキニ依ル金増割ノ支拂ヲ爲ス →



戦報6

First Anniversary Issue  
**FIRST DAY COVER**  
**FIRST DAY CARD**



Postmarked Nagoya

First Anniversary of the  
 Great East Asian War  
 (heading)

Published by Josui Kai  
 (left)

Postmarked Tokyo

Published by National  
 Philatelic Museum

First Anniversary of The Great East Asian War  
 (heading)

1 year Anniversary Great  
 (top right)

East Asia War  
 (top left)

As the first anniversary of the Great East Asia War, two commemorative postage stamps with donation to national defense were issued. At the same time commemorative cancellations are also available in major post offices nationwide.

Description shown to the left: 2 sen postage stamp (Donation 1 sen Selling price 3 sen) Tank of our loyal army, Ushijima Shigeru Troop in Bataan 5 sen postage stamp (Donation 2 sen Selling price 7 sen) Start of naval battle in Hawaii

Commemorative stamp showing southern area with our tanks, battleships and air planes

These postage stamps and cancellations are our memorial for our glorious one year anniversary of the Great East Asian Wa. Recalling impressive compliments from our Emperor given on December 8 last year, Recollecting numerous great consequences in the past year, to let each of us have strong loyalty to the emperor and inspiration to complete this war with perfect victory and to expand your patriotism. Donations on each stamp are such a small amount, however, every time when all of us use these stamps, your enthusiastic assistance is truly believed to be a big part of contribution on our reinforcement, therefore, kindly cooperate on this donation.

Ministry of Post Museum (bottom)



大東亞戰爭第一周年紀念

完送

大東亞戰爭

大東亞戰爭第一周年記念として國防献金附記念郵便切手即ち所謂「報國切手」二種が發行され、同時に記念スタンプも全國の主要郵便局で使用されることになりました。その意匠は左の通りです。

二銭切手（献金一銭 賣價三銭）  
 バタン半島進軍中の皇軍戦車の圖を描く  
 五銭切手（献金二銭 賣價七銭）  
 ハワイ海戦の圖を描く  
 記念スタンプ

南方地圖を描き戦車、軍艦及び飛行機を配すこの報國切手や記念スタンプは、輝かしい大東亞戰爭一周年記念日を迎へて、昨年十二月八日の大詔澳渡常初の感激を新たにし、過去一年間の赫々たる大戦争を回想すると共に、各々脚下を顧みて大東亞戰爭完遂への國民の奮起を促し、愛國心を振起させる爲發行されたもので、切手一枚の献金額は極く僅少であるが、國民擧つて之を利用するときその赤誠の結晶は必ずや國防並に戦力擴充に貢献する大なるものありと信ずるのであります。願くばこの献金に協力されむことを。

館物博信逓



First Anniversary  
FIRST DAY  
COVERS

1st Anniversary  
of the Greater  
East Asia War  
(top)

Japan  
Postage Stamp  
(left)



Note differences  
between black  
Tokyo postmarks:

Western text and  
date format  
(right)

Japanese text and  
date format  
(below)



All  
Postmarked  
Tokyo

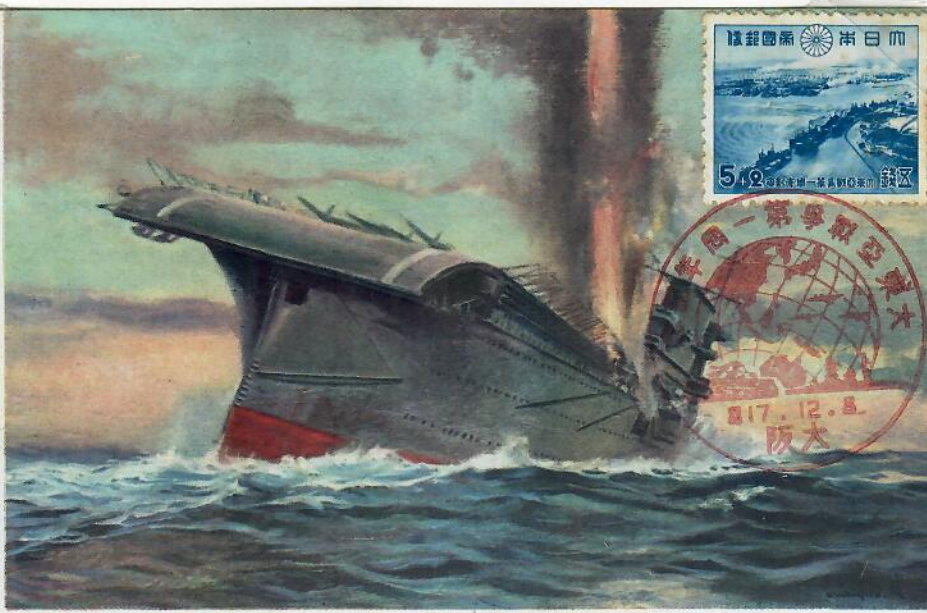
1st Anniversary  
of the Greater  
East Asian War  
(top)

Japan Philately  
Club  
(bottom)



米航空母艦レキシントン型撃沈さるる

海軍省許可済第一八〇六



(日二十月一年七十和昭)果戦の艦水潜我るけ於に上洋方西イワハ

First Anniversary  
FIRST DAY CARD/COVER  
PHOTO POST CARD

Postmarked Osaka

Sinking of U.S. aircraft carrier  
Lexington Navy Dept. permit  
no. 2806

(left)

Battle success by our  
submarines at sea west of  
Hawaii. 1942 January 12

(bottom)

Date is incorrect: Lexington was sunk  
during Battle of Coral Sea, May 8,

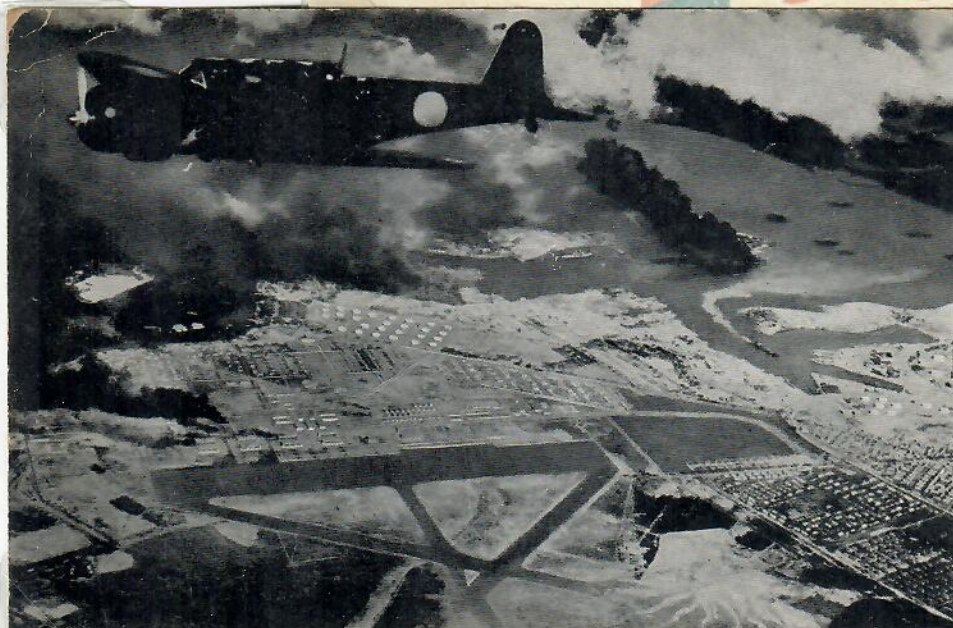
Postmarked  
Yokkaichi

1st Anniversary  
of the Greater  
East Asia War  
(top)

Showa 17  
December 8  
(bottom)



AFRAN STAMP COMPANY  
P. O. BOX 1101  
MANILA, P. I.



吾方銀翼下ニ摺伏セル  
眞珠軍港ノ惨憺タル光景

Photo Post Card

Desolate view of defeated Pearl  
Harbor under our silver wings.  
(right)

Navy Censor B No. 17/103  
January 13, 1942 (Showa Year  
17)

Approved  
(Reproduction Prohibited)  
(bottom)

See Epilog for stamp issued based on  
this photo

(製複許不) 済可許日三十月一年七十和昭

三〇一ノ號七十第乙檢海

Presentation  
Booklet  
(exploded)

Also includes card with de-  
scriptive text (not shown)



First Year Commemorative Stamps for the Greater East Asia War

Showa 17 12 8  
(December 8, 1942)





Note planes attacking outline of Hawaiian Islands.

Manchukuo First Anniversary FDC

Postmarked Hsinking Central

Overprint on 1936-37 issues:  
*Asiatic Prosperity Began This Day*  
*December 8, 1941*

The first '8' in '8.12.8' overprint represents the 8th year (i.e., 1941) of the reign of Emperor Pu Yi (Kangde Era). The '9' in the postmark is 1942, the 9th year of his reign.

*Asia Prosperity Day* (top)

*First Anniversary of the Greater East Asia War* (bottom)

*Manchu Stamp Club* (reverse)



ハワイ海戦 = 於ケル我ガ海鷲ノ大戦果

Photo from in-house publication of Tokyo Aviation Instrument Company, Ltd.  
 Kawasaki, Tokyo

*The great results of our Umiwashi\* in the Battle of Hawaii*  
 \*Umiwashi = Sea Eagles

The magazine's 14 pages contain a wide variety of company photos: their products, their employees working and in recreational activities, employee military training, and company facilities.

Attack on Pearl Harbor by  
Special Attack Forces  
by  
Matsusoe Takemori



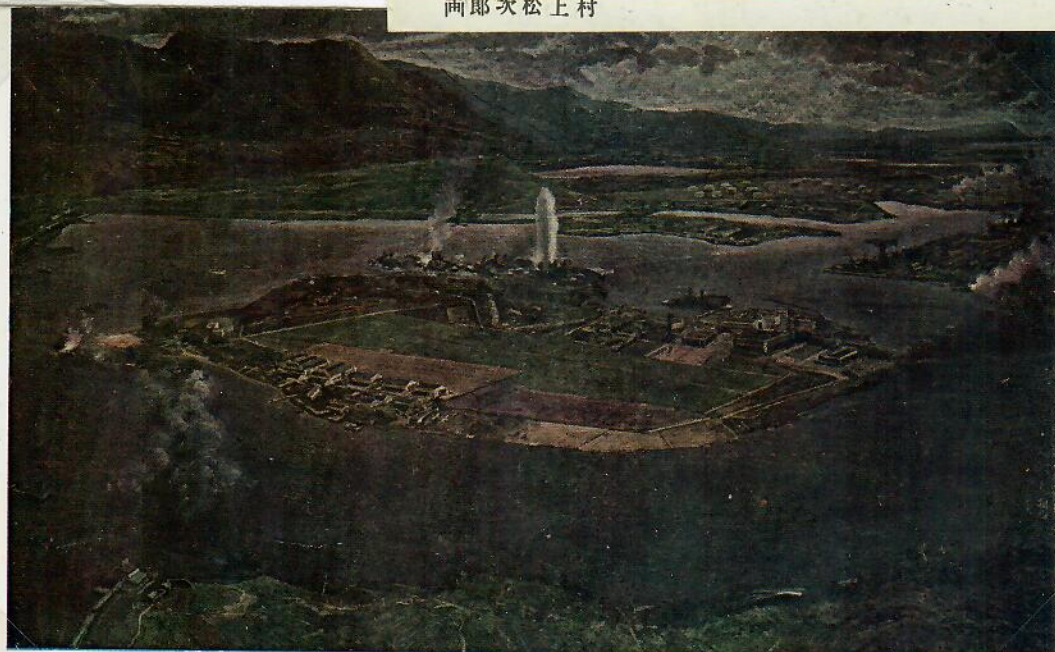
忠烈千古に薫る特別攻撃隊真珠湾攻撃  
松添 健謹画

Hawaii Naval Battle,  
by  
Murakami Matsujoro



村上松次郎画

ハワアイ海戦



December 8 Pearl Harbor  
by  
Foujita Tsuguharu

On loan from the Ministry  
of the Navy -- Greater  
East Asia War Art Exhibit  
sponsored by the Asahi  
News Agency

Painting shows Ford Island  
with Battleship Row on the far  
side. Note burning ships and  
plume of water from torpedo  
explosion.



Postmarked Kamakura

The 2 sen postal stationery indicium is Kusunoki Masashige (aka Dai-Nankō, 1294-1336), a samurai of the Kamakura period.



The 2 sen postal indicium is a *haniwa*, a clay funerary figure from 3rd-6th century tombs.

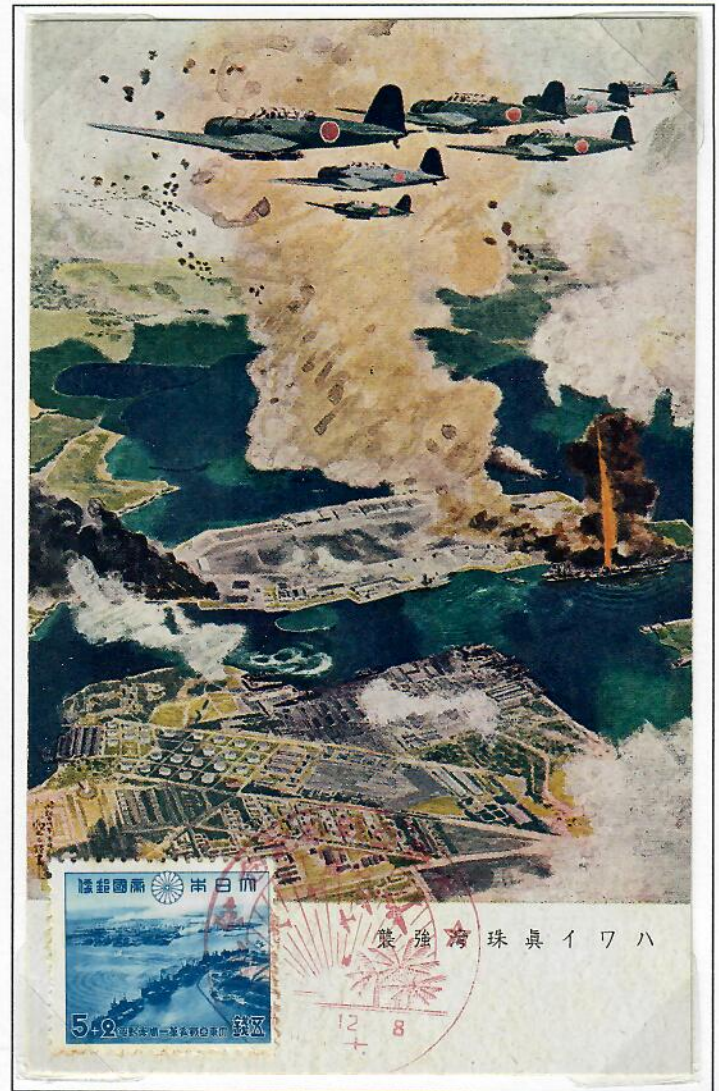
Postmarked Osaka

Pearl Harbor card (right) from a set of three illustrated second anniversary postal cards.

The other cards: capture of an antiaircraft battery in Hong Kong and the British surrender in Singapore.

The set sold for 30 sen: 6 sen total postage, 10 sen surtax, plus 14 sen printing cost.

Note change from Showa 17 (1942) to Showa 18 (1943) in these second anniversary postmarks.



Hawaii Pearl Harbor Attack by Kenji Yoshioka



Manila,  
 Philippines

December 8,  
 1943

Handstamp  
 (purple, faint):  
 Philippines  
 Military Police  
 censor handstamp

ITDLMSA:  
*Ikalawang taon  
 ng digmaan ng  
 lalong malaking  
 silangang asia =  
 Second year of  
 the Greater East  
 Asia War*

As many countries did at the end of the 20th Century, Japan issued a series of souvenir sheets depicting significant events from the century.

The souvenir sheet for the years 1940-1945, issued in 2000 (9th in the series), included a stamp recognizing the Pearl Harbor attack.

Maximum card left

First day cover below

*Attack on Pearl Harbor — Breakout of the Pacific War*

(top of stamp;  
bottom left of maximum card;  
middle row on cachet)

*Issued April 21, 2000 (Heisei Year 12)*

(bottom right of maximum card)

The FDC cachet is based on a well known U.S. photo

*Illustration: Hosokawa Takeshi*  
*Data Provided by: Uniphoto Press*

(inscription on reverse of FDC)



第9集：真珠湾攻撃・太平洋戦争勃発

平成12年4月21日発行

20th Century  
Series No. 9  
(cachet top row)

Issued April  
21, 2000  
(cachet bottom  
row)

20th Century  
Design Stamp

No.9  
April 21, 2000  
(Heisei Year  
12)

Hiroshima  
Central  
(postmark)



20世紀シリーズ 第9集  
“真珠湾攻撃・太平洋戦争勃発”  
2000年4月21日発行