

★ **MILITARY VEHICLES** ★

AIRCRAFT CARRIERS



MARTY GITLIN

Mitchell Lane

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BATTLING BACK

The date was December 7, 1941. The U.S. aircraft carrier *Enterprise* was headed to Pearl Harbor. That was a Navy base in Hawaii. The country was about to enter World War II.



Rescuers work to find survivors from the *USS Virginia*.

A horrible sight awaited the crew. They saw American ships destroyed. More than 2,000 people were dead. They had been killed in an **attack** by Japanese planes.

Those on the *Enterprise* knew two things. They too might have been dead had they been there that morning. And they had to help America win the war.

The crew went to work. Four U.S. carriers were sunk by Japanese planes and **submarines**. But not the *Enterprise*. It sank a Japanese sub a day after Pearl Harbor. It carried planes into battle. Its **bombers** wiped out enemy ships.

The carrier helped win one battle after another. It remains one of the greatest war ships ever. The *Enterprise* earned twenty battle

stars. That is more than any U.S. ship during the war.



A U.S. Navy Torpedo Squadron prepares to launch from the *USS Enterprise* in June 1942.



A scene from the *Star Trek* episode "Spock's Brain" that aired September 20, 1968.

FAST FACT

THE 'OTHER' *ENTERPRISE*

The *Enterprise* is a famous spaceship. But this one was not real. It was manned by the crew in the classic 1960s TV show *Star Trek*. Some believe it was named after the aircraft carrier *Enterprise*. But that has never been proven.

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