



75 years ago on December 7th, 1941 Roy Carter was on the USS OKLAHOMA when the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbor at 7:53 am. With 2,403 dead,



Roy survived the attack. He returned to Pearl Harbor and was honored last December.



Roy joined the Navy at age 18 right out of High School in 1938. On that fateful Sunday morning Roy was below decks on the battleship Oklahoma stowing his cloths in his locker. The Oklahoma was tied outboard of the battleship Maryland when his ship was hit by 9 torpedoes.

The Oklahoma rolled over on its side and he had to crawl on his hands and knees to get topside and almost immediately was in the water and pulled under by the suction of the ship going down. When he came to the surface he was completely covered with oil from head to foot. He rolled over on his back to see what was going on and could see high altitude bombers overhead and watched 5 bombs being dropped and thought they would hit him.

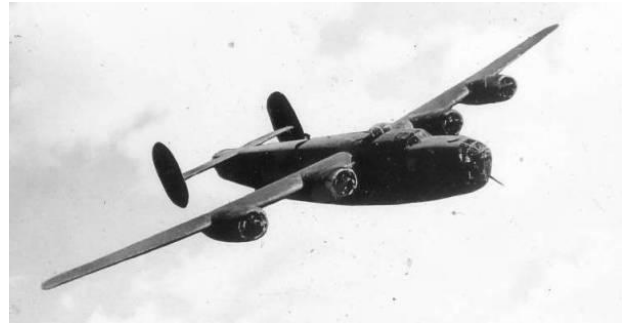


He was pulled from the water and taken to the submarine base where he was cleaned up. From the subbase he could see the battleship still burning after 4 days.

Later Roy would be sent to flight school training in the Yellow Stearman and the Vultee trainer.



Roy was sent to England to fly B24 bombers hunting German submarines. He made 39 flights often lasting 12 hours. Roy said it was difficult spotting the submarines.



Roy entered the Navy as an enlisted man and served on the Oklahoma as a Carpenters Mate 2nd Class Petty Officer. He then went to flight school and received his commission. He retired from the Navy as a Lt. Commander. In December 2016 Roy returned to Pearl Harbor, the 75th anniversary of that date of Infamy. He was the only returning survivor of the USS Oklahoma.



Roy Carter turned 97 years old in January 2017.