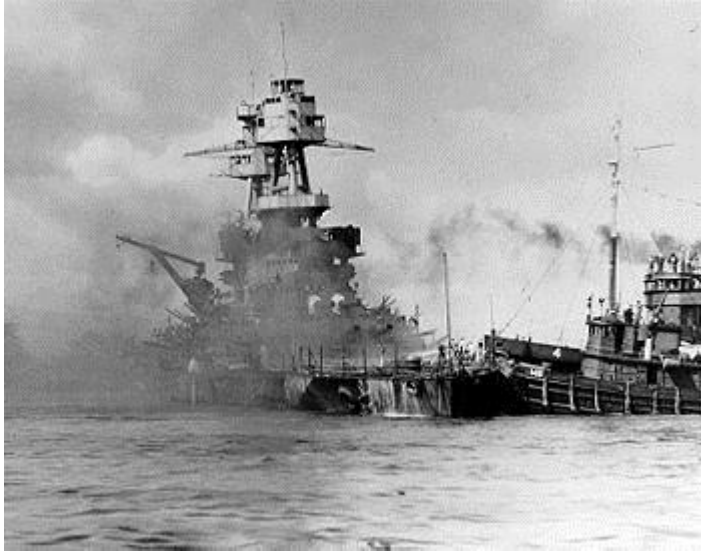


At Pearl Harbor

Hoga was moored with other yard service craft near the drydocks at 1010 Dock when Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japanese forces on the morning of 7 December 1941. Ten of *Hoga's* eleven-man crew were aboard; the cook was ashore. As the planes swooped in over the harbor, Assistant Tugmaster Robert Brown, sleeping in the pilothouse, was awakened by the dropping bombs. "I raised up and looked out and all hell was breaking loose. I saw planes all over the place. Japanese planes and several ships on fire." Joseph B. McManus, the Tugmaster, was shaving in his cabin. "I heard the noise and I looked out the porthole...and the first sight I saw was the *Oklahoma* which had quite a list. She had been hit ... The Chief Engineer was standing on the dock and I heard him say, 'My God! This is war!' *Hoga* was underway within ten minutes of the first strike; "The only orders we got during the whole raid was to get underway and assist wherever we could...." Steaming out into the harbor, she picked up two men in the water, landed them on the deck, and proceeded to the burning ships along Battleship Row. At the end, lay the shattered hulk of USS *Arizona* (BB-39). Moored to *Arizona* was the badly damaged repair ship USS *Vestal* (AR-4). Throwing lines to the stricken repair ship, *Hoga* helped pull *Vestal* away from *Arizona* at 8:30. Pulling in the tow lines that had been chopped free by *Vestal's* panicked crew, *Hoga* ran to the assistance of the minelayer USS *Oglala* (CM-4), flagship of Rear Admiral William Rea Furlong, commanding Minecraft, Battle Force. As she reached *Oglala* at 8:50, *Hoga* was passed by the battleship USS *Nevada* (BB-36), then making a run for the open sea.

As the first wave of planes struck at 7:50, *Nevada*, moored near *Arizona*, had partial steam up. At 8:03, the ship took a torpedo hit near frame 40 and began to list. Counterflooding kept *Nevada* from capsizing as her anti-aircraft batteries opened up on the attacking planes. The commanding officer, Captain F. W. Scanland, was not aboard; the senior officer was Lieutenant Commander J.F. Thomas, USNR. Thomas, aided by another junior officer, conned the ship away as burning oil from the destroyed *Arizona* began to threaten *Nevada*. Just as the second wave of planes struck, the damaged *Nevada* got underway at 8:45, her officers hoping to escape the trap and run for the open sea through the narrow harbor entrance. The Japanese "recognized a golden double opportunity to sink a battleship and at the same time bottle up Pearl Harbor." The planes concentrated their attack on *Nevada*, which continued running, bombs crashing around her and on her forward deck and superstructure. At 9:07, a second "hail of bombs" rained on the ship, one striking the forecastle. By 9:10, *Nevada* was sinking, and she was grounded on Hospital Point to avoid going down in the channel.

Meanwhile *Hoga*, with another vessel, was assisting *Oglala*. Damaged by the detonation of a torpedo against the cruiser USS *Helena* (CL-50), moored next to *Oglala*, the listing minesweeper required towing to clear the field of fire for *Helena*. As the sinking *Oglala* was moved aft of *Helena* by *Hoga*, "Admiral Furlong saw the *Nevada* 'give quite a heave,' and reflected to himself 'Well...there she is in the channel and there is going to be trouble if that ship sinks in the channel.' So he sent the two tugs that had been assisting *Oglala* to help nose the *Nevada* over toward Hospital Point."



Hoga pushes the sinking USS *Nevada* to safety in soft sand

Hoga then worked with the other tug, YT-130, to pull the battleship free and move her to the western side of the harbor entrance, where by 10:45 she settled as *Hoga* poured water onto the burning deck and into the virtually destroyed forward section. Tied to the port bow, *Hoga* worked on a raging forecastle fire with the pilothouse monitor and four hose lines for over an hour before retiring.

From *Nevada*, *Hoga* returned to Battleship Row, fighting fires on USS *Maryland* (BB-46), USS *Tennessee* (BB-43), and finally *Arizona*. *Hoga* worked the *Arizona* fire from 16:00 hours on Sunday until 13:00 hours on Tuesday, December 9. "We didn't recover any bodies", said Assistant Tugmaster Brown, "We were not in a position to do that. We had more important work to do.... There were dead bodies on there. We could see [them] up on the mainmast. Following 72 continuous hours of firefighting, *Hoga* remained on active duty through the rest of the week, patrolling the harbor, assisting in body removal, and searching for Japanese submarines believed to be hiding in the harbor. The actions of the tug's skipper and crew did not go unrecognized. On February 1942, Chester Nimitz, CINCPAC, commended McManus, his men, and their tug for a job well done: