

SURVIVORS WERE NOT MENTIONED

From Pearl Harbor on, USS *Jarvis* (DD-393) fought a hard war against a relentless and greatly superior enemy. It was only after the surrender of Japan that the fate of the ship and her crew would be discovered

BY CHARLES D. MCKEE

The USS *Jarvis* (DD-393) and her stablemate USS *Patterson* (DD-392) were single-stack destroyers of the *Bagley*-class laid down in 1935. *Jarvis* was launched on 6 May 1937 and was sponsored by Mrs. Thomas T. Craven, wife of V/Adm. Craven. She was commissioned on 27 October of that year at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Washington, with L/Comdr. R.R. Ferguson in command. *Jarvis* displaced 1500 tons (light), 2325 tons (full), with a draft of 10 feet 4 inches (light) and 12 feet 10 inches (full). She was 35 feet 6 inches wide

and mounted four 5-inch/38-caliber guns fore and aft, along with four .50-caliber machine guns. However, the formidable weapons of this class of ship were her 16 21-foot torpedo tubes — the largest number of torpedo tubes on any US destroyer. She had a design speed of 36.8 knots courtesy of her four Babcock & Wilcox boilers and two geared steam turbines that produced 47,191-shp. *Jarvis* cleared Puget Sound on 4 January 1938 and sailed the California coast and the Caribbean Sea until 1 April 1940.

She had been ordered to San Diego and on that date she departed for exercises off the Hawaiian Islands. Arriving at Pearl Harbor on 26 April, the destroyer cruised the Pacific to Midway and Johnston Islands before steaming to San Francisco where she arrived at Mare Island on 8 February 1941 for overhaul and upgrading. On 17 April, with work rapidly completed because of the worsening world situation, *Jarvis* was back at Pearl as part of Destroyer

Division Eight (DesDiv 8) of Destroyer Squadron Four. Following exercises off Maui, *Jarvis* returned to Pearl on 4 December.

On Sunday morning, 7 December 1941, *Jarvis* was receiving minor repairs and was moored next to running mate USS *Mugford* (DD-389), and the USS *Sacramento* (PG-19) at Berth Six, Pearl Harbor. *Jarvis*' quiet Sunday morning was jarred to life when Ens. Joseph Chiles called Lt. Joel Ford and yelled, "Someone is bombing us!" Ford, who had slept late that Sunday morning, scrambled and headed into his uniform and headed to the bridge. Lieutenant normally boarded *Selfridge* (DD-357), also sleeping late but quickly got as the ship became alive. Ensign W.F.

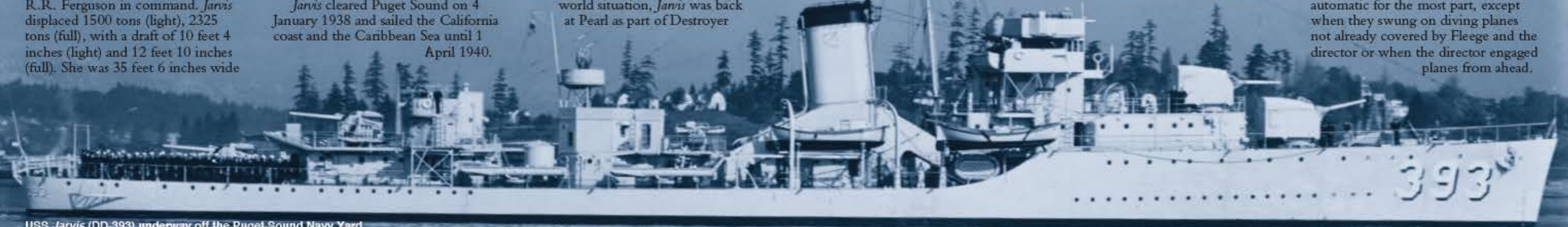
Green, who was serving as officer-of-the-deck had made his rounds when, at 0758, he all but simultaneously heard a dull explosion and five boat-gongs, which summoned him to the quarterdeck. As Greene ran aft, he saw low-flying aircraft releasing bombs. He yelled to the watchstanders to sound General Quarters. SM1c Louis Simonin, who had only joined the ship in late November, sounded the alarm the crew rushed to Battle Stations. Later, Greene entered the following in *Jarvis*' Deck Log: "0758, Hostilities with Japan commenced with air raid on Pearl Harbor. Went to General Quarters."

Greene directed men around the quarterdeck and then entered the bridge and asked senior officer Lt. Ford for orders and the latter sent him aft to get the after battery firing. Chiles organized the forward battery on his initiative and Ens. Ralph Fleege manned the director and Ford ordered Fleege to open fire on any enemy planes within range and to

do it as soon as possible. He relayed that order to the destroyer's guns and machine guns, put the forward five-inch battery in automatic with director control, and the after battery in local control. *Jarvis*' No. 1, 4, and 2 machine guns in rapid succession opened fire at a Nakajima Kate torpedo-bomber and a few seconds later some of the gunners shifted fire to more Kates carrying torpedoes as the enemy attack planes flew their approaches from eastward over Merry Point at an altitude that Greene estimated at barely 50 feet.

On the bridge, Johansen and other officers watched as several Kates passed astern of *Jarvis*, "flying low and slow" as they dropped torpedoes at the battleships moored along Battleship Row and saw in horror as "plumes of water" rose alongside *Oklahoma* (BB-37) as torpedoes ripped into the huge ship.

About a minute later, *Jarvis*' five-inch gun mount began shooting. The gunners operated their weapons in automatic for the most part, except when they swung on diving planes not already covered by Fleege and the director or when the director engaged planes from ahead.



USS *Jarvis* (DD-393) underway off the Puget Sound Navy Yard on 2 May 1938. Note that the ship's main gun director has been removed from its normal position atop the pilothouse.



USS *Patterson* (DD-392) and *Jarvis* under construction during 1937 as America began to rearm due to the deteriorating world situation.



The dual launching ceremony for the two destroyers was well-attended and these are some of the dignitaries that attended on 6 May 1937.