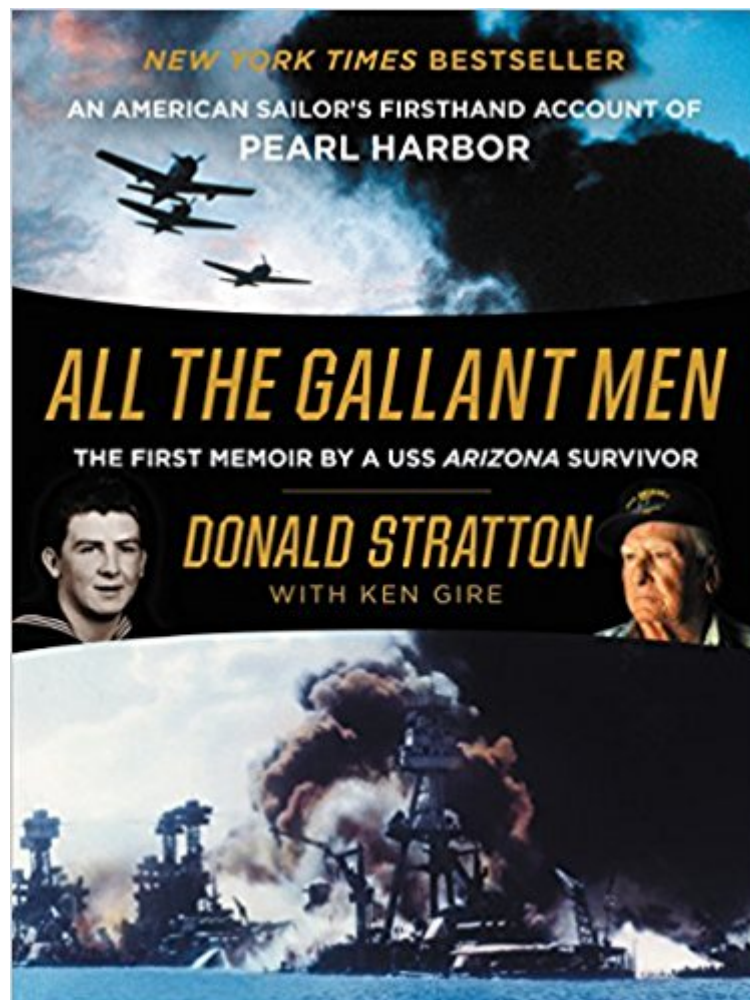




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# All The Gallant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account Of Pearl Harbor



## Synopsis

THE FIRST MEMOIR BY A USS ARIZONA SURVIVOR: "A Donald Stratton, one of the battleship's five living heroes, delivers an "epic," "powerful," and "intimate" eyewitness account of Pearl Harbor and his unforgettable return to the fight. A TOP-TEN NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! At 8:06 a.m. on December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton was consumed by an inferno. A million pounds of explosives had detonated beneath his battle station aboard the USS Arizona, barely fifteen minutes into Japan's surprise attack on American forces at Pearl Harbor. Near death and burned across two thirds of his body, Don, a nineteen-year-old Nebraskan who had been steeled by the Great Depression and Dust Bowl, summoned the will to haul himself hand over hand across a rope tethered to a neighboring vessel. Forty-five feet below, the harbor's flaming, oil-slick water boiled with enemy bullets; all around him the world tore itself apart. In this extraordinary never-before-told eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack—the only memoir ever written by a survivor of the USS Arizona—ninety-four-year-old veteran Donald Stratton finally shares his unforgettable personal tale of bravery and survival on December 7, 1941, his harrowing recovery, and his inspiring determination to return to the fight. Don and four other sailors made it safely across the same line that morning, a small miracle on a day that claimed the lives of 1,177 of their Arizona shipmates—approximately half the American fatalities at Pearl Harbor. Sent to military hospitals for a year, Don refused doctors' advice to amputate his limbs and battled to relearn how to walk. The U.S. Navy gave him a medical discharge, believing he would never again be fit for service, but Don had unfinished business. In June 1944, he sailed back into the teeth of the Pacific War on a destroyer, destined for combat in the crucial battles of Leyte Gulf, Luzon, and Okinawa, thus earning the distinction of having been present for the opening shots and the final major battle of America's Second World War. As the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack approaches, Don, a great-grandfather of five and one of five living survivors of the Arizona, offers an unprecedentedly intimate reflection on the tragedy that drew America into the greatest armed conflict in history. All the Gallant Men is a book for the ages, one of the most remarkable and remarkably inspiring memoirs of any kind to appear in recent years. \*New York Post\* \*Library Journal

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A story of awe-inspiring courage and steely determination. ... Stratton’s book should be in every school library.” (The Missourian) “If you really want to know what happened at Pearl Harbor, you’ll want to read [Donald Stratton’s] book.” (BILL O’REILLY, The O’Reilly Factor (“Tip of the Day”)) “Stratton tells his epic story in the memoir *All the Gallant Men*. ... Stratton would have been among the 1,177 USS Arizona shipmates out of 1,511 aboard who perished if not for a nail-biting escape.” (New York Post) “An intimate account. ... A powerful voice.” (Library Journal) “[An] epic tale.” (Daily Mail (UK)) “Ninety-four-year-old veteran Donald Stratton delivers an extraordinary firsthand account in *All the Gallant Men*.” (Bookreporter.com) “An amazing story, and we’re lucky that Don Stratton decided to share it. (Military.com) “Add[s] to the historical knowledge of Pearl Harbor. ... Deeply personal. ... Stratton’s book reminds us of a better America, an America that was strong in character, not just military power. ... As Stratton reminds us, true greatness comes from within.” (Cal Thomas, nationally syndicated columnist)

THE MOST GRIPPING, INTIMATE, AND INSPIRING ACCOUNT OF PEARL HARBOR. THE FIRST MEMOIR EVER PUBLISHED BY A USS ARIZONA SURVIVOR. At 8:06 a.m. on December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton was consumed by an inferno. A million pounds of explosives had detonated beneath his battle station aboard the USS Arizona, barely fifteen minutes into Japan’s surprise attack on American forces at Pearl Harbor. Near death and burned across two thirds of his body, Don, a nineteen-year-old Nebraskan who had been steeled by the Great Depression and Dust Bowl, summoned the will to haul himself hand over hand across a rope

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As an Honorably-Discharged-Viet-Nam-Era-Veteran I am not only proud of my service but of all my fellow Veterans before and after. So when I tell you that after reading literally thousands of books in my life and later in my life writing reviews of over six hundred books recently that the opening chapter grabbed me by my heart my soul and my very spine more quickly and emotionally than any book I can remember. Of all my fellow Veterans the ones that I have been envious of (if you can be envious of anyone serving during war time) are our World War II veterans. The reason that is because I almost can't even imagine except in a daydream what it must have been like being admired \*AND\* supported by your entire country while wearing your uniform and serving. When I was eight-years-old my family had nothing my Dad had no job and we had no place to live but my parents' lives taught me what a "DEPRESSION-ERA-MENTALITY" truly was and I still wear that like it's my only suit of clothes till this day.

Why I am sharing this with you is because the subject and co-author of this book is a ninety-four-year-old Pearl Harbor USS Arizona survivor Donald Stratton is not only obviously a World War II Veteran but he openly states that coming from the great depression helped prepare our fighters for the bloodiest war in American history. Stratton says: "THERE WAS A STRENGTH YOU COULDN'T SEE ON THE SURFACE. BECAUSE OF IT, WE WERE SOMEHOW ABLE TO BEAR THE WEIGHT THAT A WORLD AT WAR PLACED ON OUR SHOULDERS." Obviously the writing re-creation of Donald's historical never before told tale has been done by Ken Gire and he should be roundly applauded for the unique capability of portraying the combination of naiveté patriotism and true reflection of the state of affairs in the United States and around the world through the eyes of a nineteen+-year-old man-child as the very world we live in was crashing down. I found that I couldn't let go of this book from start to finish and whether it was during Stratton's pre-war war possible death and amputation and being surrounded by the cauldron of burning hell even when he fought to live and recover the author never lets the reader loose of the grip of the very young man who is living the hell you're reading about. This December 7th will be \*THE-SEVENTY-FIFTH-ANNIVERSARY-OF-THE-ATTACK-ON-PEARL-HARBOR\* every American should say a prayer whether silent or out loud not only for what happened that day but what a united United States of America can do.. even in the midst of the worst adversity that started with a cowardly sneak attack by a country that was pretending to negotiate and work things out with us. And what a great answer to many untold prayers that Donald Stratton will be with us on this sacred day and not just in our memories. G-d Bless America!

This book should be required reading in every school in America. I've read lots of books about the Arizona but this by far the very best. God bless you Don, I Will see you in the. Better land. Vern Haney

I just finished reading All The Gallant Men on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and I must say that Don Stratton has shared a story for the ages as well as all generations past, present, and future. This story of survival is one of healing that will help bridge Mr. Stratton into the next lifetime. Kudos to Ken Gire for answering the call to create this masterpiece that needed to be told as part of redemption and lessons learned. Don- On this sacred day I want to let you know that you are both a spiritual warrior and hero to me and I wish there was some way I could speak to you by phone to personally convey my sentiments. Thank you for giving us such a wonderful gift for posterity. Tim

I met Mr Stratton several years ago while visiting Hawaii in December. He was there for one of the anniversaries of that fateful day. It may have been the 70th. He recounted a few memories and I thanked him so much for his services and the sacrifices he made for our country. To now read the full story of his experiences and the fully extended of his dedication make me value that encounter with him so much more. I've read many books about war and many books about Pearl Harbor, but to read Mr Stratton's words and feelings and emotions gave me chills and solidified how blessed we are all to have the freedom we so easily take for granted. You are a blessing to us all, Mr Stratton. I once again thank you not only for your service but for having the strength to share your story with us so we can always remember how lucky we are and remember those who gave their lives for us.

Well written. Lessons learned are valid today. Should be mandatory read for all students middle school and above. An enemy of this country will not give us any warning if and when they decide to attack.

Having read a dozen books on Pearl Harbor, I had never read one from inside the 'Arizona'. Don Stratton was a 19 yr-old on that ship, and the details he gives are riveting. For instance, AZ was to have been in Bremerton WA for a refit that December, until an unlucky collision with 'Oklahoma' kept her at Pearl. When the magazine blew the ship and the best in the Pacific fleet was vaporized, as was the admiral, whose class ring and buttons were all that were found. Stratton, at his post when AZ blew up was saved by a bosun's mate on the 'Vestal' who was disobeying orders to save them. I've talked to enough WW II vets in my life to understand Stratton's editorializing in much of the book, though younger readers may not find it interesting. However, I truly hope he made it to Pearl last Wednesday for the 75th. I wish I could have been there to shake his hand.

This is an amazing book. It is filled with the actual history of Pearl Harbor and illuminates the true

stories of these heroic men. I particularly LOVED it as I am the daughter of Joe George who rescued Don Stratton and the other five heroic men off of the USS Arizona. I wept at reading what they went through as my father did not talk about Pearl Harbor with my mom, sister & I so we had to discover his GREAT HEROISM from others like Don Stratton's son Randy and from other sources of history. This is an amazing man as is his family. I loved reading every word in this wonderfully written book. Thank you Ken Gire for your amazing & wonderful story telling of this historic event. Joe Ann George Taylor Daughter of Joe George - Survivor & Rescuer of Don Stratton

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