

U.S.S. West Virginia Life Preserver A&M 4640

USS West Virginia Life Preserver

1941 December 7



Title Statement

U.S.S. West Virginia Life Preserver A&M 4640

Author: Staff of the West Virginia & Regional History Center

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Descriptive Summary

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A&M 4640

Unit ID

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Unit ID

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Unit Date

1941 December 7

Language

English .

source

Kendrick, Earl G. (Ken)

Extent

0.5 Linear Feet 6 in. (1 plexiglass-enclosed item)

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Gift from Earl G. "Ken" Kendrick, 2023.

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Biographical / Historical

This original World War II ring life preserver, from Colorado-class battleship the U.S.S. West Virginia, was retrieved from the water by sixteen-year-old Charles House Morgan Jr., son of Charles House Morgan Sr., the U.S. Commander of Harbor Defence at Pearl Harbor. Morgan Jr. was walking to headquarters at Diamond Head on December, 7 1941, when he saw the Japanese planes attack just 200 feet away.

Scope and Contents

This life preserver, constructed of treated canvas over foam, was salvaged from the wreckage of the U.S.S. West Virginia (BB-48) after the surprise December 7, 1941 Japanese air attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The life preserver measures 25 inches in diameter and includes the phrase, "U.S.S. W. Va. 1st Fire and Rescue Div" painted in red.

Keywords

World War, 1939-1945

Pearl Harbor (Hawaii), Attack on, 1941

United States Navy - USS WEST VIRGINIA.

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West Virginia (Ship)