

# Sea Scholar Log

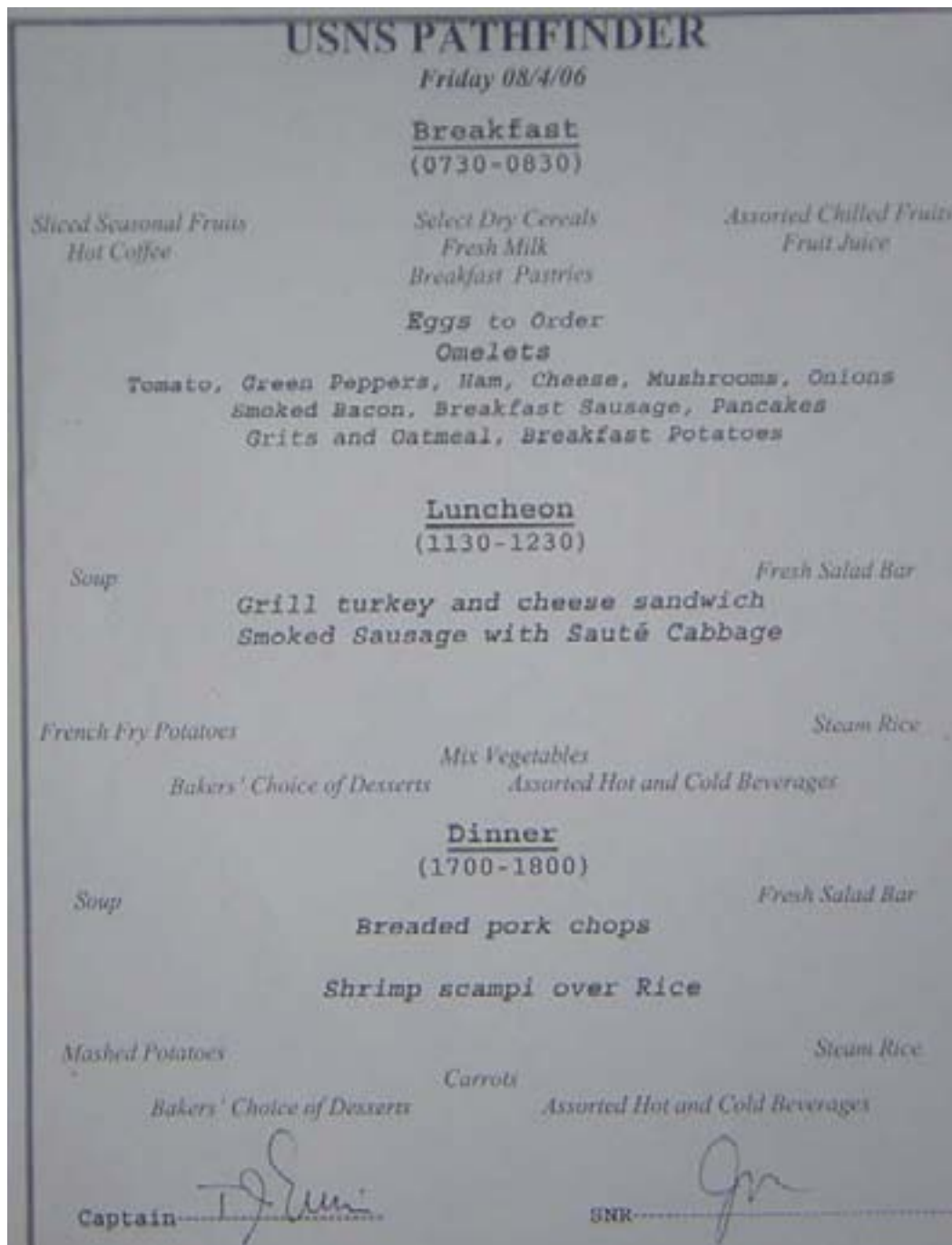
04 August 2006

Aloha  
Good morning from the *USNS Pathfinder*



**Photo 1:** Bird of Paradise is blooming all over Hawaii.

We began our first Sea Scholar day with the breakfast call at 07:30-08:30. I bet you wish that you could cruise with us! Check out our delicious menu for the day (photo 1.)



**Photo 2:** The menu is posted daily in the ship's galley. The food is fabulous and we are greeted each meal by our cheerful chefs and an array of local cuisine.

Today's scheduled activities will include visits to important American and US Naval history memorials. The *USS Arizona* Memorial and the Battleship, *USS Missouri* are ships that symbolize the beginning and end of World War II.



**Photo 3:** Ticket for group #7 entrance into National Park and Pearl Harbor documentary.

08:00 Sea Scholar participants take US Navy Vans to the *USS Arizona* Memorial, arriving at 08:30. We were met by our visitor center escorts followed by a personal briefing from a National Park Service Ranger. The ranger spoke about the history and events of what President Franklin D. Roosevelt called “A day that will live in infamy,” December 7, 1941.



**Photo 4:** The Sea Scholars receive a briefing by Park Service Ranger.

Sea Scholars joined other visitors to view a 23-minute documentary film of the actual Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Following the emotionally powerful documentary film, we quietly boarded the US Navy shuttle boat for a nine minute ride from the Visitor’s Center across the calm blue waters of Pearl Harbor to the sunken 184 foot battleship and sparkling white



Arizona Memorial structure.



**Photo 5:** US Navy Shuttle to *USS Arizona* Memorial

As we approached the Memorial, our thoughts were with the men and the families of the 1,777 crewmen who lost their lives on the day that changed our nation's history. The *USS Arizona* is one of this country's National Cemeteries and is regarded as a hallowed, sacred area.



**Photo 6:** Entering the Memorial at *USS Arizona*.



**Photo 7:** Visitors to the *USS Arizona* Memorial

When the Japanese attacked Battleship row, the ship received a direct hit by a 1,760 pound armor-piercing bomb that slammed through the deck and ignited the forward ammunition magazine. It took only nine minutes for this magnificent ship to sink... nine minutes... the same amount of time it took us to ride across the Harbor to the Memorial.



**Photo 8:** Marker for *USS Arizona* with a view of Ford Island in the background.



**Photo 9:** The number 3 gun turret of the *USS Arizona* extends beyond the water surface at the memorial.

Visiting the Memorial and seeing the names of all 1,177 men inscribed on the Memorial wall is a powerful experience.



**Photo 10:** The Memorial Wall with the names of the *USS Arizona* crewmen who perished on December 7, 1941.



Seeing the oil slicks, known as “Black tears”, that continue to seep from the hull and seeing the remains of the ships below the water, left us silently reflecting about the beginning of World War II, the impact on our country and the men and women who Tom Brokaw has named “The Greatest Generation”.



**Photo 11:** “Black Tears” from the weeping hull of the *USS Arizona*.

Following our visit to the *USS Arizona* Memorial, we returned to our ship, the *USNS Pathfinder* for lunch and to prepare for our afternoon tour of the *USS Missouri*.

13:30 Our US Navy Vans drove us through Ford Island to board *USS Missouri*. We were met by the Education Officer and led through the huge ship. The *USS Missouri*, known as President Truman’s ship, was the site of the signing of the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay. Nicknamed “The Mighty Mo” the ship measures 887.3 foot in length, 209’8" high. She is an Iowa Class battleship that weighs 58,000 tons fully loaded, and 45,000 tons unloaded. Considered a fast battleship, the *USS Missouri* could move in excess of 32 knots.



**Photo 12:** A view of the *USS Missouri* from the USS Arizona Memorial

In WWII, the ship had a main gun battery with nine 16"/50 caliber guns, with a range of 23 miles, and second gun battery with twelve 5"/38 caliber guns with a range of nine miles. That's a lot of firepower. To stand on the deck and look up into the gun batteries is awesome!



**Photo 13:** The main gun battery of the *USS Missouri*, the biggest guns afloat at the time of WWII. Today, modern weapons have been added and "The Mighty Mo" carries four Vulcan Phalanx



weapons systems, and 32 Tomahawk Anti-Surface Missiles/Land attack missiles and 16 Harpoon Anti-Surface Missiles. The *USS Missouri* was deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1991, was decommissioned in 1992 and reached her “Hawaiian home” in Pearl Harbor in 1998.



**Photo 14:** *USS Missouri* with her WWII and modern weapon systems as she looks today.

We visited the crew’s quarters, explored rooms filled with electronic equipment, saw how they planned launches of modern weapons, and went to the very spot on the beautiful teak deck where the Allies and Japanese signed Japan’s Formal Instrument of Surrender, thus ending the world’s bloodiest war.



**Photo 15:** *USS Missouri*’s crews sleeping quarters.



**Photo 16:** Modern weapon control room played an important part in 1991 Persian Gulf War.



**Photo 17:** The Memorial Plaque on the Surrender Deck of the *USS Missouri* marks the spot of the actual surrender ceremony.

Tune in tomorrow for the news of Day TWO..... Good night and ALOHA from Tami Wells and

Saralee Lamb.