

## Surprise Explosion

By Shreya N.

My name is Jake Hunter. I am 24 years old with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I was born in Hawaii and joined the military in 1938. I was about 17 yrs old when I first joined the military.

I was so nervous and excited that I could not sleep the night before. Of course, that was a very bad thing to do. My first day on the naval base felt like a dream. I had always dreamed of joining the Navy at Pearl Harbor. I remember following my dad's coupe red ford through my bedroom window until it was out of my sight. I always thought of my dad as a hero. A military superhero. He was one of the junior officers in naval bases. That was the day I realized that I wanted to be just like my dad.

When I turned 17 I was so excited to finally be able to pursue my dreams of being in the navy. It was like reliving my first day of school. Nervous but excited, not knowing what to expect, yeah the usual. But this time it was not the usual. I wasn't just going to school, I WAS GOING TO THE MILITARY!

OK. Let's fast forward to 1941. December 6th, 1941. It was just a usual Saturday night. The crickets chirping, the pitch black sky twinkling with proud beaming stars, and you are staring up at your ceiling. Everything was perfect. I was following your dream and nothing was gonna change that. But little did you know that your entire life was going to change the next morning at 7:55 am.

The next morning I woke up to my entire room being crushed. I was under a grave of DUST. Let me tell you, it did not taste good. Aside from that, I finally realized that this WAS NOT NORMAL. I start panicking and somewhat walk into my crushed kitchen. I hear my dad yelling at me to move, but I didn't understand him. After I finally realize, we run to the military base and get in positions. After that day, I never went back to my real life.

Today, on September 15, 1945, I turn 24 years old and can finally go back to a kind of normal life. Both my dad and mom died during World War 2, but I survived by myself. I moved to Dallas, Texas and now "work" at the US Navy Base. I always get flashbacks, but I have learned that some things cannot be changed. That is just the way life works.