

Film Title and Release Date: *1942 Midway--Four Minutes
Change Everything* (2014)

Length of Film in Minutes: 31 minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer's Name and Grade: Benjamin W., 9th Grade

Date Reviewed: October 12, 2020

This film talks about the Battle of Midway and the events leading up to it. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in hopes of destroying the U.S. Pacific fleet. Their goal was successful except for the fact that the 3 U.S. aircraft carriers were not in harbor. For the next 6 months, with the Americans crippled, the Japanese ran wild in the Pacific and captured many territories. However, the Japanese realized that the U.S. carriers must be eliminated in order for them to rule over the entire Pacific. According, Yamamoto, the same person who planned the Pearl Harbor attack, came up with a plan to lure the U.S. carriers out harbor so the superior Japanese fleet could sink them. The plan was for 4 large carriers commanded by Admiral Nagumo to bomb and capture Midway island. The Japanese assumed that once Midway was attacked, the U.S. would send their carriers, only two in strength, to defend Midway. What the Japanese didn't know was that the U.S. managed to get 3 carriers ready for the attack and that they managed to decipher the Japanese naval code and was waiting for the Japanese to attack. Japan started the attack by bombing Midway as planned but pilots reported another run was needed to fully disable the island. Planes that were originally equipped with torpedoes to attack U.S. ships were reequipped with bombs. Then a scout spotted the American fleet and the planes were equipped again with torpedoes. What came out of it was a delayed plane launch and explosives lying around everywhere on Japanese carriers. At that time, squadrons of American planes arrived and began dive bombing the Japanese carriers. In just a couple of minutes, the entire course of the war in the Pacific was changed.

This information is presented through a man lecturing about the battle. It was successful in teaching me but it was kind of boring. The film was pro U.S. because the man discussed all of Japan's mistakes but not much of the U.S.'s mistakes.

Now, I will answer some questions about the film:

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)? - I found this film through title search by looking up Midway.

Did the presentation of information keep you interested? - The presentation of information didn't really keep me interested. There were no videos and the man was just talking the entire time. I already learned about this in history class so maybe that made it more boring for me.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right? - I think the pace of this film was just right. The man kept the lecture going so it wasn't too slow but also didn't rush it.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for? - I think this film is appropriate for kids in grades 7-12. The information wasn't too hard to understand and everything was appropriate.

I would rate this film *3 stars*. The information was good but it wasn't presented in the best way possible. The man should have also talked about what the U.S. did wrong to give a better picture of the battle. If you want more information on the people and a more action-packed film, I would recommend the film *Midway*. It's just not on Kanopy and may cost money.