



Deceit

By Lawrence McNabb

at Pearl Harbor

Peace was shattered one Sunday morning nearly sixty years ago, for far more than just one beautiful, tranquil harbor island in the Pacific, it was shattered for an entire nation. The apparent sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, by the Japanese Imperial Navy, on December 7, 1941, was to be a world changing event. It is represented in most American History books as a complete and total surprise, not just to the nation, but to the president and his administration as well. This paper will conclude that this was not the case! This catastrophic event did however draw the United States of America into one of its greatest conflicts, WWII.

Every month, Pearl Harbor survivors gather to honor and remember their fallen comrades. The searing horror and human carnage of that hour remains vivid in their memories to this very day. Unable to forget the loss of so many brave fighting men; unwilling to accept the unlikeliness that an event of this magnitude could have been kept a total secret; they, like myself, continue to search for the truth of what really happened in the days and months leading up to the Pearl Harbor attack.

This small treatise is a compilation of as many sources and facts as one sailor could find. It is dedicated to their memory, but even more, to their great sacrifice. Thousands of military and civilian personnel were killed or wounded that day. We must now pause and consider how this great tragedy may have been avoided. More importantly we must ask, based upon facts, whether our leaders in Washington, both political and military, were completely honest about how it all happened.

The final question, will be whether our forces could have or should have been given warning on that fateful day. The evidence I believe, is an unequivocalYES! These brave men and women were not given a proper chance to prepare and defend themselves. Initial casualties numbered 2,388, later numbers grew to 2,403 killed and 1,272 wounded!

Sadly, many more would die later due to serious burns and wounds suffered during the attack! If there were only one or even two documents or only scattered testimony suggesting President Roosevelt had prior personal knowledge of Japanese plans to attack Pearl Harbor, perhaps it would be plausible to hold him blameless in this greatest of American Military tragedies. However, this is just not the case. There is a myriad of documents, references and testimonies indicating that he and several other high officials' had extensive prior knowledge of the impending attack. For this reason, many careful historians continue to speak and write about the day of "Infamy" and betrayal of our brave fighting men at Pearl Harbor. Sadly, as the many pieces of information are examined, it becomes evident that our forces were offered like sacrificial lambs on the altar of his firm belief in the necessity of American involvement in World War II! American involvement may have been inevitable, but the question remains, was it necessary to deny the officers and men at Pearl the vast amount of vital information we had been gathering from a variety of intelligence sources for over six months prior to the attack. Had this been done, our forces could have made immediate preparations to defend themselves. Despite their great lack of patrol aircraft, everything available would have been put in the air.

Many students of this event surmise that Roosevelt probably felt he could not risk a successful American defense of Pearl or a Japanese change of plans. He needed an event to justify an America entrance into the war. The proposed Japanese attack, of which he was aware should negotiations fail, was perfect. It easily changed the mood of the American public overnight. The information we discuss in this paper will indicate that our president, following his meetings with Churchill, was committed to finding a way to enter the war. Let us look at some of this information. Captain Edward Beach USN, Retired, an outstanding naval officer, stated in his book, *Scapegoats*, "We have an obligation to address the question of truth and justice and our country must not conclude to perpetuate a lie!" He



Lawrence McNabb
USS Pennsylvania
Pearl Harbor Survivor



Lawrence McNabb, USS Pennsylvania, 1941

also stated, "It's clear today, that among those with responsibility for the Japanese attack, first must be President Roosevelt himself! "

Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald, USN, Retired, spent years researching this subject as well. In his book, *The Final Secret Of Pearl Harbor*, he gives ample proof that the President worked hard to entice the Japanese into an overt act. Several enticements failed, but Pearl Harbor did not. Admiral Theobald gives many evidences for the fact that Roosevelt knew when and where the attack was coming, and did nothing to prevent it. He even ordered the denial of vital information to our commanders in Hawaii, all the while maintaining his own "plausible deniability!"!

Among Theobald's strong array of facts are the following:

- 1) The Japanese Code was broken in early 1941
- 2) At least six "Magic Machines "were fully operational for the last half of 1941
- 3) One was sent to the British Isles
- 4) Two were retained by the Communications Intelligence Unit in the Department of the Navy
- 5) Two were given to the Signal Intelligence Service in the War Department
- 6) In April, the last machine was shipped to the 16th Naval District in the Philippines along with additional personnel for the decrypting unit. This unit was established in the caves of Corregidor Island.

Inexplicably, no allocation of a "Magic Machine" was

made for the decrypting unit in Hawaii, an act so obviously deliberate as to have no possibility of being an oversight. It is known, he says in his book, that fourteen copies of all intercepted "Japanese Purple Code" transmissions were made daily and delivered by military courier to Roosevelt, Knox, Stark, Noyes, Turner, Wilkinson, and McCollum of the Navy Department and to Hull, Stimson, Marshall, Gerow, Miles, and Bratton in the War Department. The Joint Congressional Committee, convened November 15, 1945, created for the purpose of investigating the attack on Pearl Harbor, were not allowed to see any of this highly incriminating evidence, under the claim of threat to the national security. Thus, another government investigation turned into a government coverup. Later testimony tells of entire secret archives having been destroyed on the orders of General Marshall. There can be no doubt that the Democratic Majority members of the Congress were keenly aware of the potentially adverse effects upon their party's tenure in office should any malfeasance be found in the actions of the president. There were many other interesting irregularities in those congressional hearings. One example is the refusal to take necessary action to introduce Secretary Stimson's diary covering December 4, 5 and 6 of 1941. Its contents were known through hearsay but they refused to subpoena those records. By September 3, 1939, the British Government was at total war with Germany, and by 1941 the war had turned for the worse. Six countries had fallen to Hitler's Nazism and Britain feared an invasion. The war was costing, \$500,000,000 per day. Roosevelt had been told by Churchill at their Atlantic meeting, that they could not hold out much longer. Returning from the Atlantic conference, Roosevelt froze all Japanese assets and financial credits by an Executive Order. This caused even greater strain on the already tenuous relations with Japan. Japan had previously been receiving 80% of her fuel from the USA. With this act, Japan's civilian and military economy were put in the position of having no fuel at all within just a few months, and then her emergency supplies would be exhausted. Roosevelt was completely aware of the ramifications of this embargo of November 1941.

As of October 1941, it was becoming doubtful that the peace could be kept, but the avenue of negotiations was kept open as Secretary Hull and Ambassador Nomura Kurusu were still exploring all possibilities. Dr. E. Stanley Jones, a widely known missionary of long experience in the Orient, served as an official mediator between Japan and Washington. One of Dr. Jones' own solutions was to give Japan some unexploited area where it could move its growing population and acquire oil (over-population and a need for oil). Japan had earlier encouraged immigration to Manchuria and by the early 1930's 90,000 Japanese had settled

there, so his suggestion was to let Japan have New Guinea. New Guinea was owned at the time by the British and the Dutch, but they had made no real attempt to develop the area. He proposed that the United States pay \$100,000,000 to compensate for it, but the leaders in Washington at that time never considered it. They seemed to have no interest in a suggestion that just may have helped prevent a war. On September 11, 1941, Roosevelt made public an order that American Naval Vessels and Planes would fire on ships which entered waters vital to American interests. Back in September 28, 1940 Germany, Italy, and Japan had signed the Tripartite Treaty agreement by which the three nations agreed to make common cause against any nation, not then a participant in the European war or the Sino-Japanese conflict, which attacked one of their signatories. During September, October and November of 1941 the USS Grear was torpedoed, the USS Salinas torpedoed, the USS Fear was torpedoed and the USS Destroyer Reuben James torpedoed and sunk with a crew of 159 of which 115 were killed. The question arises, why didn't Roosevelt declare war then, knowing that war on one would mean war on all. This would have spared us the great loss and disaster at Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt's strategy accomplished it's purpose as quoted in the book "OMNIBUS" volume #5, Page 119, and we continued to hold a weak Pacific Fleet in Hawaii as an invitation to a surprise attack.

Another apparent attempt by the Roosevelt administration occurred in Washington in November of 1941. Admiral Hart, Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic Fleet, received a dispatch directing him to send out three picket ships to the Indochina Coast, each having one naval officer with a small crew and one mounted machine gun. They were to patrol areas known to be transit locations of the Japanese Navy. The conclusion drawn by Admiral Hart and others was that if the small boats were fired upon or sunk by the Japanese Navy, it would be reasonable for the USA to

declare war, but, unfortunately, the attack at Pearl Harbor occurred before these orders could be expedited. There have been eight congressional "Pearl Harbor Attack" investigations and for some inexplicable reason, the actions of the president and his administration are never called into question, and always vital information deemed inadmissible. Roosevelt sent many messages via Naval Communications channels. The record of these dispatches is designated in the Navy Department as the White House File, and has been classified as an ultra-secret subject. This file has never been submitted to any congressional investigation. One cannot avoid the strong suspicion that little of the Pearl Harbor secret would remain, should the contents of this "White House File" ever become public knowledge. In Admiral Husband E. Kimmel's book, Admiral Husband Kimmel's Story, published in 1955, he tells of an interesting historical note to all of this. On April 5, 1945, the Democratic-controlled Senate passed a bill, introduced by Senator E. Thomas of Utah, with the purpose of preventing the disclosure of any intelligence information on Pearl Harbor except by permission of the President. This in effect, would have closed the door forever on much vital corroborating evidence. Interestingly enough, Admiral Kimmel himself had not known of this bill until he read of it in a newspaper. He immediately went to work making it known to the public, the press and to various congressmen, so when it did come up before the House of Representatives, It fail to pass.

Deceit At Pearl Harbor will continue in the next issue of Veterans Magazine.

