

## **A Deceitful Book: Robert B. Stinnett's book "Day of Deceit"**

By Rear Admiral Richard E. Young, USN (Ret)

In 1999, Robert B. Stinnett, since 1986 a retired long-time employee of the Oakland Tribune, and an enlisted Navy photographer in World War II, authored his book, *Day of Deceit, the Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbor*, based upon years of his own extensive personal research. In it, Stinnett alleges over and over again that "FDR knew"<sup>1</sup> about the impending attack on Pearl Harbor, and hid that fact from the public. Not only that, but Roosevelt had deliberately provoked Japan into making the attack.<sup>2</sup>

Attempting to personally blame Roosevelt for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor is not new. Others have made similar assertions over the years.<sup>3</sup> But Stinnett takes his personal attack on FDR to an unprecedented level. Stinnett claims that through his personally reviewing hundreds of thousands of documents, many obtained through use of the Freedom of Information Act, he found indisputable proof that Roosevelt actually knew of, and deliberately provoked, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. There is no equivocation in Stinnett's claims.

A number of early reviewers of Stinnett's book, perhaps impressed by the almost grotesque number of footnotes totaling 595 in number (some quite lengthy, many not on point, often repetitive), verbosely stretched over 65 pages, and accepting them carte blanche as valid, praised the book. But it is obvious none of those reviewers did more than take a cursory look at Stinnett's research and blithely assumed Stinnett's research had to be accurate, thus providing the foundation for his conclusions.

Long overdue is a close examination of Stinnett's research and voluminous documentation he himself asserts prove his allegations. When one does, it becomes painfully obvious that the extensive research Stinnett did ends up proving just the opposite of what Stinnett was striving so desperately to prove: Roosevelt did not know of the impending attack on Pearl Harbor; he did

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<sup>1</sup> Robert B Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, The Free Press, 2000, page 5.

<sup>2</sup> Id. page xiii.

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, John Toland, *Infamy*, Doubleday & Company, New York 1982; James Rusbridger and Eric Nave, *Betrayal at Pearl Harbor*, Touchstone, 1991; Rear Admiral R. A. Theobald, USN (Ret), *The Final Secret of Pearl Harbor*, Devin-Adair, 1977.

not deliberately provoke it. And Stinnett himself has proven this beyond a shadow of a doubt through his own painstaking research.

Look carefully at the evidence Stinnett asserts prove his conclusions.

Stinnett's book rests on four major allegations. First, that Navy Lieutenant Commander McCollum drafted a memorandum dated October 7, 1940 for his boss, Navy Captain Walter Anderson, entitled "*Estimate of the Situation in the Pacific and Recommendations for Action by the United States.*"<sup>4</sup> In it McCollum set forth eight steps which could be interpreted as provocative to Japan. Stinnett asserts that the President read or knew of this memorandum, and immediately adopted and carried out those eight steps "*...to provoke Japan through a series of actions into an overt act: the Pearl Harbor attack.*"<sup>5</sup>

Stinnett's own research proves the opposite. There were no forwarding endorsements on McCollum's October 7, 1940 memorandum. Stinnett, after years of meticulous searching and reviewing some 200,000 documents and interviews, found no endorsements, rather only a single response back to McCollum, that from a Captain Dudley Knox, commenting on its contents. Even though Stinnett admits that "*no specific record has been found by the author indicating whether he (Captain Anderson, the addressee) or Roosevelt actually ever saw it,*"<sup>6</sup> Stinnett goes on to claim that "*a series of secret presidential routing logs plus collateral intelligence information in Navy files offer conclusive evidence that they (Roosevelt and Captain Anderson) did see it.*"<sup>7</sup>

However, if one tries to find the "*secret presidential routing logs*" cited by Stinnett in his lengthy footnote 8 on pages 311 and 312, no secret presidential routing logs are even mentioned, let alone cited. When asked about this, Stinnett replied that the logs he had referenced in footnote 8 (apparently by mistake) "*are fully described*" in footnote 37 on page 314.<sup>8</sup> But this footnote

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<sup>4</sup> The only place this memorandum could be found by Stinnett was in McCollum's classified personal file Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, Footnote 1, Chapter 2, page 311. The memorandum addressed only to Captain Anderson, then the Director of Naval Intelligence, and not endorsed by anyone, is set forth in Stinnett's Book as Appendix A, pages 261-267, including a one page comment directed back to Lieutenant Commander McCollum by Captain Knox.

<sup>5</sup> Id. page xiii.

<sup>6</sup> Id. page 9.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Robert B. Stinnett's letter to Rear Admiral Richard E. Young dated September 3, 2001.

deals with radio intercepts, not McCollum's memorandum. In response to further inquiries, Stinnett refused to answer.<sup>9</sup>

But look further how Stinnett deliberately misleads the reader. Though Stinnett openly admits he has no evidence showing Roosevelt or anyone else, except a Captain Knox, ever saw McCollum's memo, Stinnett continues to allege throughout his writings that not only did Roosevelt see McCollum's memo, but paints a picture of McCollum being a personal advisor to and seeing and briefing Roosevelt often.<sup>10</sup>

While it is not surprising that Stinnett offers absolutely no evidence to substantiate these claims, what Stinnett purposely hides from the reader are the words of retired Rear Admiral Arthur McCollum himself, who between December 8, 1970 and March 1971 was interviewed by John T. Mason, Jr. as part of an ongoing program of the Oral History in the United States Naval Institute, some 846 pages of McCollum's own words about his Naval career.

Not once in his own thousands of words does McCollum mention his October 7, 1940 memorandum (though he does describe other memoranda he prepared). Not once does he mention advising, briefing, or even talking with President Roosevelt (except on page 708 where his only remembrance of even seeing the President was "*Of course, once in a great while or two I had seen the President when I was carrying a piece of paper.*")<sup>11</sup> He does go into great lengths explaining what a thrill it was for him as a junior officer to finally meet Admiral Nimitz, a meeting that obviously stuck in his mind as a highlight of his years in the Navy. Certainly, a young Lieutenant Commander would be even more impressed meeting the President of the United States, of briefing him, of seeing him often, of personally advising his Commander in Chief. But not once in those 846 pages, except the above brief sentence, does McCollum mention even seeing the President. Furthermore, under oath testifying before the Joint Committee of Congress in its investigation of Pearl Harbor, McCollum, answering a question about whether he delivered messages to the President, stated "*I did not make deliveries (to the White House). The*

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<sup>9</sup> Stinnett refused to accept any further communications from Rear Admiral Young.

<sup>10</sup> Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, page 15 "Sometimes when he had a hot item McCollum personally delivered the report to FDR;" page 24: "(McCollum's) memorandum of October 7, 1940, circulated among Navy and White House officials....;" page 30: "McCollum's action recommendations were sent to the White House." page 52: "...Resident Roosevelt's routing officer Arthur McCollum..."

<sup>11</sup> *The Reminiscences of Rear Admiral Arthur McCollum, USN, Ret* (U.S. Naval Institute), 1973, page 708.

*deliveries were done by Captain Kramer.*"<sup>12</sup> And McCollum certainly did not say, suggest, or imply anywhere that any of Stinnett's assertions about a closeness to the President were even remotely true.

But wait. There is even more that Stinnett hides from the reader about Robert McCollum, the key figure Stinnett uses at great length in his first chapters and to whom Stinnett claims provided the key information which set the stage for Roosevelt to deliberately provoke Japan to attack Pearl Harbor.

That, of course, is the basic thesis of one of the early books arguing that Roosevelt deliberately goaded Japan into attacking Pearl Harbor. The book, *The Final Secret of Pearl Harbor*, was written by Rear Admiral R. A. Theobald and published in 1977.<sup>13</sup>

Theobald, the author, "*with considerable candor*"<sup>14</sup> (as one reviewer, mentioned below, put it) gave due notice to the readers of his book that he was out to prove a case, and in consequence would present only those facts and the author's deductions therefrom that would support Theobald's position.<sup>15</sup> What Stinnett hides from the reader is the fact that it was Rear Admiral McCollum himself who was that reviewer. His review was printed in the Saturday Review of Literature of May 29, 1954. In his review, McCollum debunks Theobald's thesis (the same thesis that Stinnett claims McCollum himself was directly responsible for), pointing out quite succinctly that the moves made by the United States in 1940 and 1941 "*were but a logical extension of American foreign policy at least as old as John Hay and his Open Door Policy, especially as far as Japan was concerned by President Theodore Roosevelt's dispatch of the American fleet to the Pacific and thence around the world in 1907.*"<sup>16</sup>

So not only do we have McCollum in his own words denying just about every thing that Stinnett attempts to say about him, but now there is even more compelling evidence of McCollum disagreeing totally with the notion that Roosevelt attempted in any way to goad Japan into attacking Pearl Harbor, the very claim that Stinnett attributes to McCollum. McCollum's sworn

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<sup>12</sup> Part 4, page 3425, Pearl Harbor Investigations, 39 volume transcript, U.S. Printing Office.

<sup>13</sup> Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald, USN (Ret), *The Final Secret of Pearl Harbor*. It should be noted that Admiral Theobald served on Kimmel's staff and was asked by Admiral Kimmel to help him during the first investigation of why the Japanese attack was so successful.

<sup>14</sup> Rear Admiral Arthur McCollum, "The Calamitous 7th" The Saturday Review of Literature, May 29, 1954.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

testimony before the Joint Committee of Congress makes it crystal clear that he categorically denied that Roosevelt in any way attempted to goad Japan into attacking.<sup>17</sup>

Now Stinnett knew of McCollum's testimony when he wrote his book. He even quoted from the transcript of McCollum's testimony.<sup>18</sup> But as typical throughout the book, anything that disproves McCollum's own allegations is deliberately hidden from the reader by Stinnett.

It is clear after carefully studying in depth Stinnett's text and footnotes that there is no "conclusive evidence," in fact no evidence whatsoever, that Roosevelt saw or even knew of McCollum's memorandum. Stinnett has proved just the opposite of his own oft repeated allegation that Roosevelt adopted McCollum's eight point program. Through Stinnett's own exhaustive research, we now know that there is not one scintilla of documentary evidence that President Roosevelt saw, knew of, or adopted McCollum's proposals.

But because of Stinnett's claim, we now have writers such as Eugene Jarecki, in his recent book entitled *The American Way of War*,<sup>19</sup> citing extensively from Stinnett's book and blindly accepting as "fact" these false allegations of Stinnett.<sup>20</sup> Jarecki does however point out that there is much controversy over Stinnett's claims, but then pretty much attempts to steer clear of himself investigating the facts further by saying that much of what David Kahn's scathing and very accurate review of Stinnett's book in the New York Review of Books<sup>21</sup> was "between two obviously well qualified scholars..."<sup>22</sup> thus backing out of seriously looking into the claims of Stinnett. When and how Robert Stinnett became an acknowledged "well qualified scholar" leaves one shaking his head when more is revealed about Stinnett's research.

Stinnett's second major allegation is that Roosevelt prevented Admiral Kimmel from conducting a training exercise that would have uncovered the oncoming Japanese Fleet. Stinnett provides no relevant documents to support his allegation. Stinnett does quote Admiral Richmond Turner (at the time of Pearl Harbor, Director of Navy Plans in Washington, D.C.), testifying before

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Part 8, pages 2447-3443, Pearl Harbor Investigations.

<sup>18</sup> Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, footnote 2, Chapter 2, page 311.

<sup>19</sup> Eugene Jarecki, *The American Way of War*, New York, Free Press, 2008.

<sup>20</sup> Id. pages 44-51.

<sup>21</sup> David Kahn, "Did Roosevelt Know?" The New York Review of Books, November 2, 2000, Volume 47, Number 17.

<sup>22</sup> Jarecke, *The American Way of War*, page 50.

Congress after the war, as proof that the Navy had been ordered out of the area where Nagumo's task force was headed:

“We were prepared to divert traffic when we believed that war was imminent. We sent the traffic down via Torres Strait, so that the track of the Japanese task force would be clear of any traffic.”<sup>23</sup>

What is extremely bothersome to this writer (and to any historian as well as the publisher) is that Turner never made this statement. What Stinnett deliberately did was to cobble together phrases of Admiral Turner's testimony from different sentences to arrive at the above quoted statement. The reading of Turner's actual testimony leaves an entirely different meaning.<sup>24</sup>

Imagine what would happen to a high school history student trying to pull such a trick on his teacher by making up a quote? A college professor would be laughed off campus. It makes plagiarism seem mild in comparison. And none of the reviewers of Stinnett's book, including the publishers, even bothered doing any due diligence on Stinnett's writings.

But the most serious flaw facing Stinnett with his second allegation is that Admiral Kimmel himself, for years fighting to restore his dignity and reversing the belief of many that he was negligent in permitting his Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor to be so surprised, never once stated, suggested or hinted in the hundreds of pages of his testimony before various investigative bodies, in his own book, or in any of his speeches, that he was, in any way, by anyone, prevented from finding the Japanese task force. In fact, he did not believe that the Japanese were about to attack Pearl.

Kimmel's own testimony (which Stinnett completely ignores) totally disproves Stinnett's second allegation. Here are examples of what Kimmel repeatedly said:

*“In short, all indications of the movements of Japanese military and naval forces which came to my attention confirmed the information in the dispatch of 27 November – that the Japanese were on the move against Thailand or the Kra Peninsula in southeast Asia.”*

*“In brief, in the week immediately prior to Pearl Harbor, I had no evidence that the*

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<sup>23</sup> Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, page 144.

<sup>24</sup> Part 4, page 1942, [Pearl Harbor Investigations](#).

*Japanese carriers were enroute to Oahu.”*<sup>25</sup>

Conducting and then concluding a standard annual war game north of Hawaii by some ships of the Pacific Fleet some two weeks before December 7<sup>th</sup>, is hardly even a scintilla of evidence, as Stinnett claims, of Kimmel being prevented from discovering the Japanese attack force.

The third major allegation, that the Japanese task force actually sent radio messages while on the way to Pearl Harbor, doesn't even pass the smell test. First, consider the logic. The entire Japanese plan was based upon it being a complete surprise. That is why they took such extraordinary steps to insure complete secrecy throughout the planning, training and operational steps. So now, why would the Japanese deliberately and knowingly abandon the very bedrock of their planned attack and proceed, as Stinnett claims, to insure we Americans would be forewarned of the December 7 attack on Pearl Harbor. That makes absolutely no sense to any rational human being.

And all evidence later obtained from the Japanese who took part in the attack, clearly show that the Japanese, completely understanding the need for absolute secrecy, undertook every conceivable method to insure there was not even the possibility of an inadvertent radio signal from their task force once it sailed for Pearl Harbor. These efforts, including many described in captured Japanese documents, are spelled out in various books and reports on the attack.<sup>26</sup> Stinnett in his writing does not mention, what many people would conclude is, overwhelming evidence of absolute radio silence by the Japanese Task Force.

What Stinnett does rely on are several sea stories, told and reported many years prior to Stinnett even starting his research, that were subsequently and thoroughly debunked. One, of course, is with the mysterious Seaman Z, reported by John Toland in his 1984 book “*Infamy*,” which, except for the last chapter, is a fairly accurate story about Pearl Harbor.<sup>27</sup> In the last chapter Toland suddenly finds a conspiracy apparently carried out by Roosevelt in conjunction with thousands of other co-conspirators with every single questionable fact, such as General Marshall

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<sup>25</sup> Part 6, pages 2521-2523, *Pearl Harbor Investigations*. .

<sup>26</sup> See Gordon W. Prange, *At Dawn We Slept*. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1981, pages 166-167, 227, 441, 548, 573; Michael Gannon, *Pearl Harbor Betrayed*. Henry Holt and Company, LLC, New York, 2001, pages 182-183, 185, 204, 208; Donald M. Goldstein and Katherine V. Dillon, *The Pearl Harbor Papers*, Prange Enterprises, Inc. 1993; David Kahn, *The Codebreakers*, Macmillan (1967).

<sup>27</sup> Toland, *Infamy*.

not remembering where he was on the evening of December 6, 1941,<sup>28</sup> or Admiral Stark's remembrance of FDR's phone call to him that same night.<sup>29</sup>

Unsure why Toland hid the identity of his source, it turns out that "Seaman Z" was Robert Ogg, not a crew member on the *USS Lurline*, which left Honolulu on December 3, 1941, and arrived in San Francisco on December 10, 1941, but rather a Navy sailor attached to the Twelfth Naval District headquarters located in San Francisco. Toland, in his book, claims that Robert Ogg was told that the *Lurline* during its return to San Francisco heard radio signals from the direction of the Japanese attack force, and therefore, thought that Pearl Harbor was about to be attacked.<sup>30</sup>

Oh, by the way, later when Robert Ogg is identified, and then interviewed, he disclaims the words that were reported as him saying.<sup>31</sup> The same with these other stale and long ago stories subsequently disproved.<sup>32</sup> And what source does Stinnett offer to prove these claims? Why, John Toland's book, of course.<sup>33</sup>

But as anyone who knows any thing about radio direction finding, and as Stinnett surely knows himself, when a ship such as the *Lurline* hears a radio signal, all it learns is the direction, not the distance or location. And unless the person listening to the Morse code signal being sent can identify the sender, either through the message being sent, or sometimes through the identifying ways of the sender (called the "handle") there is no way the listener can tell who is sending the radio signal or its location. Only when two or more direction finders give bearings to the same signal can the location of the entity emitting the signal be "fixed." But Stinnett specifically alleges on page 52 that "*each flattop (of the Japanese Task Force) was plotted moving north by northeast by radio operators at CAST on Corregidor.*" He goes on: "*These plots were forwarded to Rochefort at Pearl Harbor's station HYPO and then to President Roosevelt's*

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<sup>28</sup> Id. page 319.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Id. page 317.

<sup>31</sup> Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, page 194: "Ogg admitted that he had no tangible proof of his assertions." Page 194: Stinnett quotes Ogg: "After fifty years, I did not recall the Navy intercepts." See also John Prados, *Combined Fleet Decoded: the Complete history of American Intelligence and the Japanese Navy in World War II*, Naval Institute Press, Annapolis ,(1995), pages 109, 247.

<sup>32</sup> Joseph E. Persico, "*Roosevelt's Secret War: FDR and World War II Espionage*, Random House, New York. 2001; Prange, *At Dawn We Slept*; Gannon, *Pearl Harbor Betrayed*; Prados, *Combined Fleet Decoded*.

<sup>33</sup> Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, pages 189, 190, 194, 197.



*routing officer Arthur McCollum in Washington by a special secure Navy radio code circuit called TESTM.*"<sup>34</sup>

But then comes Stinnett's slight of hand in explaining that the "TESTM" circuit actually reports the track of the Japanese Task force. Look carefully at the TESTM report reproduced in the book's Appendix D, page 305. Surely, this had to be Stinnett's best example of all the "TESTM" reports he inspected. As the reader can see from Stinnett's showcase TESTM Report, it shows only bearings from Cavite, the radio listening site located on Corregidor. It shows no plot. There are no fixes. It gives no location of the Task Force, of its movements, or of any of the flattops - only the direction of a radio signal.. And this is the "*plot*" that Stinnett expects the reader to swallow, hook, line, and sinker?

Stinnett goes into great detail starting on page 43 about how Lieutenant Commander Arthur McCollum and his boss, Captain Theodore Wilkinson, almost gleefully showed a Dutch Naval officer on a map they openly displayed on a wall in the headquarters of Naval Intelligence in Washington the movement of the Japanese attack force as it neared Pearl Harbor. Of course, McCollum under oath testified he was totally unaware of the Japanese task force.<sup>35</sup> All of the other witnesses who were in the Office of Naval Intelligence likewise so testified they knew nothing about the Japanese task force. And Stinnett's source for his allegations? Again, mainly John Toland.<sup>36</sup> Apparently some documents had not been declassified at the time Stinnett was doing his research.<sup>37</sup> Stinnett admits in several places that this means some of his contentions are speculative and simply his opinion.<sup>38</sup>

Admittedly, reading through and attempting to follow all the machinations of Stinnett with his sometimes misleading, misquoting, verbose, often contradictory, many misaligned, frequently off point, taken out of context, and hard-to-follow footnotes, leaves any serious reader with eyes glazed over. But the facts are clear. Stinnett has no evidence that the United States, the President, his advisors, or the Navy's Intelligence arm knew of or tracked the Japanese task force on its way to make the aerial attack on Pearl Harbor.

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<sup>34</sup> Id. page 52.

<sup>35</sup> Part 8, pages 3381-3448. Pearl Harbor Investigations.

<sup>36</sup> Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, footnotes 8, 12, page 322.

<sup>37</sup> Id. footnote 7, page 322.

<sup>38</sup> See, for example, Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, footnote 56, pages 320, 321.

But that doesn't stop or even slow down Stinnett in his quest to blame Roosevelt. Bound and determined to prove that the Japanese task force was "*blasting away on the frequencies,*"<sup>39</sup> on its merry way to Pearl Harbor, Stinnett starts throwing out numbers of how many messages the Japanese task force sent that were received by us and which permitted us to follow the track of the Japanese task force.

Stinnett now seems to adopt the tactics of the late Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin, who claimed one day that the State Department had so many Communists employed; the next day he would give a significantly different number, the third day an entirely different number. So what if Stinnett on page 45 claims there were the two messages sent by Admiral Yamamoto who "broke radio silence" (Stinnett trying to get the reader to think Yamamoto sailed with the Task Force, rather than remaining on his own flagship in Tokyo Bay),<sup>40</sup> or the seven messages he claims on page 203, or the 129 messages he mentions on page 209, or the two messages Stinnett prints on pages 50 and 51 (hoping no reader would notice the notation on both messages that they were not translated until April 24, 1946), or the 844 secret radio messages Stinnett claims on page 76 that Admiral Nagumo had originated as of December 6, 1941, in the 5-Num code (but Stinnett's own supporting footnote 37 on page 332 talks of only sixteen Station intercepts dated between December 9 and 29, 1941). Confusing? You bet.

But nowhere – nowhere – does Stinnett expressly list those messages sent by the Japanese task force from the time it sailed for Pearl Harbor so that a researcher, or for that matter a reader, could actually see or know where to go to find those messages and the documentation that proves they emanated from the Japanese task force after it left from the Kuriles Islands on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

So what are we left with? On the one hand we have page after page of Stinnett arguing the Japanese task force was "*blasting away on the frequencies,*" but a careful reading of his hopelessly disorganized and meandering explanations of radio frequencies and great circle routes and a myriad of logs and his personal interviews with various people always ends up exactly opposite of what Stinnett is claiming. Stinnett did not and could not identify one single transmission emanating from the Japanese task force on its way to Pearl Harbor. Radio signals from Japanese land bases, radio signals from Admiral Yamamoto from his flagship anchored in

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<sup>39</sup> Id. pages 189-202.

<sup>40</sup> Id. Page 45.

Tokyo Bay, radio signals emanating before November 26<sup>th</sup>, radio signals from other Japanese Naval units, diversionary and deliberately deceptive radio signals sent by the Japanese to fool America – yes; but not a one, not a single one, from Admiral Nagumo’s task force once it left port.

And on the other hand, completely ignored by Stinnett, is the overwhelming force of logic, as well as the reports and studies done mainly by the Japanese key task force leaders stating unequivocally there were no radio transmissions from the Japanese task force. Stinnett spent 17 years of his life looking for evidence to support his theory; he personally examined over 200,000 documents; he interviewed and talked with numerous people. Yet, even though he comes up with absolutely nothing in the way of creditable evidence, he still uses as one of his major allegations that the Japanese task force “*was blasting away on the frequencies.*” Hogwash.

Stinnett’s fourth and last major allegation is that many Japanese secret messages about the planned attack on Pearl Harbor were not only intercepted by us, but were deciphered and translated before the attack. This claim has already been discredited by experts in cryptology and radio communications,<sup>41</sup> as well as by noted historians of Pearl Harbor, such as Gordon W. Prange and John Prados.<sup>42</sup> But again, we need to look closely at Stinnett’s “proof.” And when we do, Stinnett again has fallen flat on his face.

Whether deliberate or not, Stinnett interweaves and intermixes basically four different types of Japanese communication systems. The first and the most difficult one to decrypt and translate was the 5-Num Japanese code, oftentimes called the JN-25 Code. Based on the below documentation, it is quite clear we were not successful in decrypting and translating this code until sometime after Pearl Harbor, even though Stinnett implies, even alleges, that it was being deciphered and translated before Pearl Harbor.<sup>43</sup>

Hidden among Stinnett’s many chapters are his admissions that deciphering these 5-Num messages had not been done by the time Pearl Harbor was attacked. On page 317 in footnote 62

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<sup>41</sup> See for example, Stephen Budianski, *Battle of Wits – The Complete Story of Codebreaking in World War II*, The Free Press, New York, 2000; John Prados, *Combined Fleet Decoded, The Complete History of American Intelligence and the Japanese Navy in World War I*, Michael Smith, *The Emperor’s Code, The Breaking of Japan’s Secret Ciphers*, Arcade Publishing, New York, 2000.

<sup>42</sup> Prange, *At Dawn We Slept*; Prados, *Combined Fleet Decoded: Michael Gannon, Pearl Harbor Betrayed*, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2001.

<sup>43</sup> Stinnett, *Day of Deceit*, Chapter 5, footnote 37, page 332; footnote 48, page 333.

of Chapter 2, Stinnett states “*Decoding and translation of the Japanese Navy’s 5-Num dispatches remain controversial as this book goes to press.*” In that same footnote Stinnett goes on to quote Duane Whitlock, traffic analyst at Station CAST in 1941 as saying “*It was absolutely impossible for anyone in the United States to decode any of the JN-25 messages Station H intercepted in November 1941.*” In footnote 56 of Chapter 3 on page 320, Stinnett points out that “*Station H on Oahu continued to intercept the Japanese navy’s 5-Num dispatches up to the attack, but apparently did not have the means to decrypt the message text during the period of July 15 to December 7, 1941.*” Stinnett goes on to admit that “*in 1999, the argument cannot be settled on whether American cryptographers could intercept, decode, and translate the 5-Num code in a timely manner in 1941.*” And in Stinnett’s footnote 56 on page 321, he admits that “*There is no way to prove or disprove the argument for the original coded intercepts obtained by Station H, and the decoding procedures necessary to unmask the Japanese text have not been publicly released.*”

Don’t Stinnett’s own admissions, though hidden in his footnotes, destroy completely his argument that we had deciphered the 5-Num system and knew exactly that Japan was going to attack Pearl Harbor?

If his own footnote admissions don’t completely destroy his allegation concerning the 5-Num system, Stephen Budiansky’s research does, as set forth in his book, *Battle of Wits; The Complete Story of Codebreaking in World War II*, and even more specifically in his article in the Naval Institute Proceedings of December 1999.<sup>44</sup> It is without question that we had not deciphered any of the 5-Num Japanese messages until after Pearl Harbor.

The second system is what everyone, including Stinnett, calls the Purple Code. This was the top secret diplomatic code that we did break and were decrypting and translating almost as fast as the Japanese. But these Purple messages carried no information about the attack on Pearl Harbor. And it was only in the last part of the 14 part message sent to Japanese ambassadors Nomura and Kuru in Washington, D.C. during the evening of December 6<sup>th</sup> and the early morning hours of December 7<sup>th</sup>, that we first learned of the fact that the time of 1:00 p.m. on December 7<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C was a critical time (when the Japanese Ambassadors were to deliver the 14 part

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<sup>44</sup> Stephen Budiansky, *Battle of Wits: The Complete Story of Codebreaking in World War II*, The Free Press, New York, 2000. See also Stephen Budiansky’s article, “Late for Pearl Harbor,” Proceedings, U.S. Naval Institute, December 1999, page 48.

message to Secretary Hull). Again, there was no mention in any of these Purple messages of any hint of a Japanese attack, let alone one on Hawaii.

The third Japanese communication system (consisting of numerous individual secret systems) was less difficult to decode, and we were practically and routinely decoding most of these on a delayed basis.<sup>45</sup> All of the secret communications from the Honolulu Japanese Embassy containing the many messages of Ensign Yoshikawa, inserted into Oahu in the summer of 1941 to provide detailed information about the ships in Pearl Harbor, were routinely decrypted and translated, but no Army or Navy Intelligence person ever connected the dots, and so these messages, many quite revealing, were treated as routine, and explained as simply information Japan was gathering on several other overseas bases of the United States.<sup>46</sup> Many of them were not decoded until after December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The fourth system, and really a different one from the above three, was intelligence information gleaned from radio direction finding signals. This is discussed above, and only if a reader buys totally into the belief that Lieutenant Commander McCollum and all the other officers there at the offices of Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C., were actually showing off their constantly moving public plot of the Japanese task force closing on Hawaii to foreign naval officers, do all of Stinnett's lengthy footnotes and page length narratives on this system make any sense.

Stinnett's "belief" about this which he sets forth in his footnote 56 on page 321 is that:

***“the argument is moot for the answers to the argument are entirely clear.  
Officials in Washington did not want the Hawaiian commanders, Admiral Kimmel  
and General Short, to independently learn of Japan's plan to attack Hawaii  
and derail a clear-cut overt act of war by the Japanese.”***

This spells out the fundamental and fatal flaw with Stinnett's approach. He starts with his thesis, set forth above, and then twists and turns, ignores and overstates, imagines and stretches every scrap of paper, every word, to buttress his thesis. If he must ignore the obvious, if he must misstate, if he has to make up quotes, if he must misread and gloss over facts, if he must proceed arguing that large numbers of people must have been actively involved in the world's most complex conspiracy and that every single one of the conspirators maintained their complete silence throughout their lives, so be it. So write a book with all these flaws, misstatements and

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<sup>45</sup> David D. Lowman, *Magic: The Untold Story of U.S. Intelligence and the Evacuation of Japanese Residents from the West Coast during World War II*, Athena Press, Inc. 2000.

<sup>46</sup> *Id.* Pages 191-206.

made-up quotes. Put in long and complicated footnotes, so numerous that most people will simply ignore and accept, talk a publishing company into publishing the book. And then sit back and collect the royalties, meanwhile hiding many of the documents that you claim prove your thesis.

An analysis of the research done by Stinnett and his quotes not only raise serious insurmountable questions about the accuracy and relevance of his claims, but more importantly prove that Roosevelt did not goad Japan into attacking us, and Roosevelt did not know of the impending attack on Pearl Harbor.

But nowhere discussed by Stinnett is the huge behemoth of the insurmountable wall that one must confront and get through, if one is to accept Stinnett's claim that Roosevelt not only knew beforehand of the planned Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor but kept it a total secret from the world. To believe this claim would mean FDR carried out the largest known world wide conspiracy that had to involve the active participation of a whole host of co-conspirators, including many of our senior military leaders, numerous secondary military personnel such as Lieutenant Commander Arthur McCollum, Captain Walter Anderson, Captain Theodore Wilkinson, Captain Jules James, Captain Alan Kirk, Captain Daniel Callaghan, Captain Leigh Noyes, Captain Laurance Safford, and literally hundreds and hundreds of then active duty soldiers and sailors who manned the listening posts trying to decipher the Japanese signals. They then would have had to hide such information from others, not only in 1940 and 1941, but in the many years and decades they each lived after December 7, 1941. All of them, every single one of them, had to be knowingly complicit in perpetuating and then sustaining the most horrible traitorous and devastating conspiracy in the history of the world that Stinnett baldly puts forth.

If there was this vast and humongous conspiracy being led by President Roosevelt as Stinnett alleges, there are a number of other players then that had to carry out active roles in making sure this conspiracy ended up as Stinnett alleges. On the island of Oahu that December 7<sup>th</sup> morning Army Air Corp Lieutenant Kermit Tyler, watch officer for the Army radar net being established to provide early warning of an air attack, must have known of the Japanese attack coming, for when Army Privates Lockhard and Elliott phoned in at 0702 hours their picking up at their mobile radar station at Opana on the northern coast of Oahu a large incoming blip some 132 miles north of them, but closing, he told them to forget it. If he had sounded the alarm, Pearl Harbor and all the ships there would have had almost an hour's warning to man their guns, get

their ships buttoned up, and to prepare for the attack. By inference then, is Stinnett claiming that Tyler deliberately not sound the alarm and intentionally allowed some 2300 of his fellow servicemen to die?

And certainly the Navy's watch officers on duty that morning at the Navy's CINCPACFLT and Navy District FOURTEEN headquarters had to be active conspirators as well, for when the Commanding Officer of the USS WARD, Lieutenant Outerbridge, reported to them by radio at 0653 hours that his ship had sighted and sunk an unknown submarine just outside the entrance to Pearl Harbor, they took no action, even though Admiral Kimmel had earlier warned his fleet that the first indication of hostile action might be from an unidentified submarine. By inference then, is Stinnett claiming that these watch officers deliberately did not sound the alarm and intentionally allowed some 2300 of their fellow servicemen to die?

And certainly those Army officers on General Short's staff who directed all Army Air Corps aircraft be lined up wingtip to wingtip on the tarmacs to lessen the chances of sabotage must have been in on the conspiracy, as this way the Japanese fighters sweeping in from the north could easily strafe and destroy or damage just about all our aircraft on the ground. We know how much damage even a few of our planes, if they could have been launched, might have done to the 168 plane first wave, as Army pilots Taylor and Welch proved by driving to the little known Halaiwa Field, and in their two P-40's causing some havoc to the Japanese attack force. By inference then, is Stinnett claiming that these Army officers deliberately arranged their planes and intentionally allowed some 2300 of their fellow servicemen to die?

And we cannot forget the Army officers of the Army's 64<sup>th</sup> and 251<sup>st</sup> Anti aircraft groups for arranging for the ammunition for their many guns being kept safe and locked up far distant from the guns, thus insuring none of their guns would be firing at the Japanese aircraft. Certainly they had to be part of this active conspiracy.<sup>47</sup> By inference then, is Stinnett claiming that these Army officers deliberately arranged for their guns not to have ammunition and intentionally allowed some 2300 of their fellow servicemen to die?

Robert B. Stinnett, hopefully unintentionally and probably without thought, has by his unproven and in many instances disproven allegations, slandered and made the most serious false accusations against hundreds and hundreds of very loyal Americans. When some say that by

telling a secret to one other person, it is no longer a secret, a rule used often and very effectively among district attorneys, prosecutors, and investigators, can anyone seriously accept Stinnett's thesis that Roosevelt could have known of, and hid, but only with the active help and assistance of hundreds OF OTHERS, the impending attack on Pearl Harbor? And all those hundreds, to a person, never divulged that most dark and horrible secret, either before the attack or at any time after the attack, including up to now. This means Stinnett must believe they all, to a person, carried this horrible earth shattering secret to their grave with nary a word. Impossible.

It is absolutely mind boggling to realize how many readers simply accepted without question Stinnett's page after page of explanations, minutia, and footnotes as being accurate,<sup>48</sup> when in fact that same detailed research, I am sure much to the embarrassment to Stinnett (except for the money he has made off his deceitful book), clearly proves just the opposite of Stinnett's long time personal vendetta against President Roosevelt of somehow trying to prove FDR was directly responsible for the Japanese attack. And for almost nine years, Stinnett got away with it. Finally, the house of cards Stinnett spent seventeen years creating and then spreading as gospel through his deceitful book has come crumbling down around him. And it's about time.

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<sup>47</sup> See generally Prange, *At Dawn We Slept*.

<sup>48</sup> Among Stinnett's 595 footnotes, Stinnett lists 239 where the document Stinnett refers to is located "in author's file" and while Stinnett on page 310 states that his entire research files, including "all cited documents, recorded audio and video tapes, photographs and graphics, including negatives," will be deposited with Stanford University with the Hoover Institution Archives, as of June 27, 2009, some nine years after Stinnett made this pledge, no such documents have been offered to Stanford University.

A list of Hoover Institution's collections are available at <http://oac.cdlib.org/cgi-bin/oac/hoover>. Stinnett has filed only one folder containing "memoranda and photographs depicting the aircraft Carrier *San Jacinto*, naval personnel, prisoner of war camps, life at sea, scenes of battle, naval artillery, Tokyo, and the Pacific Islands during World War II." He filed this long prior to 1999.