THE STIRRINGS OF WAR

By 1940, diplomatic relationships between the United States and Japan had badly deteriorated. After the Japanese invaded the South East Asian colony of French Indochina in 1941, the United States placed an embargo against Japan and stopped all trade and petroleum exports. In response to the embargo, Japan formulated a bold plan to seize the oil-rich East Indies and dubbed the move “Southern Operation.” Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto decided that an aerial attack on Pearl Harbor would protect the flank of the Southern Operation and sway the balance of power in the Pacific. By November, the attack was ordered and Japan’s First Air Fleet left the Kurile Islands for Pearl Harbor.

AN EARLY WARNING

On December 7, 1941, Hawai‘i received two warnings of an impending Japanese attack. A Japanese midget sub was spotted and sunk just off Ford Island at 6:30 a.m. Shortly afterwards at 7:02 a.m., the radar station at Kahuku, O‘ahu picked up a large formation on their screens. The operators notified the Watch Officer at Fort Shafter. However, because a contingent of B-17s was scheduled to arrive from California, the Officer ignored the warning.

The first attack came at 7:48 a.m. Groups from the Japanese First Air Fleet, led by Lt. Commander Mitsuo Fuchida began bombing, completing their run at Pearl Harbor. Once success was assured, Fuchida’s signalman radioed the aircraft carrier Akagi with “Tora, Tora, Tora” - the code word for a complete surprise attack. Lt. Commander Shigekazu Shimazaki heard Fuchida’s signal and at 9:00 a.m. led the second wave of 170 planes in the final bombing raid. Two hours later, the attack was over. Three hundred and sixty Japanese torpedo planes, dive bombers, and high-level fighters had bombed and strafed: Ford Island, Hickam, Wheeler, Bellows Field, Kaneohe Naval Air Station and the Ewa Marine Corps Air Station. By the time it was over, the U.S. had lost 3 ships, 165 planes and 2,400 lives. The Japanese lost 29 planes, 6 submarines and had 185 casualties.

During the raid, residents in Honolulu, familiar with frequent military exercises, might have thought this was just another practice. But Webley Edwards, then station manager at KGMB radio, issued the now famous warning over Hawai‘i’s airwaves: “. . . this is not a maneuver, this is the real McCoy.” By that

This is a selected bibliography of material relating to the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The titles are available at the Hawai‘i State Library 478 South King Street Honolulu, Hawai‘i.

Call numbers beginning with RH are in the Hawai‘i & Pacific reference shelves, ask staff to assist in retrieving an item.
Call numbers beginning with H are in the circulating, open shelves, of the H&P section.
Call numbers beginning with HB are biographies and are shelved by biographical subject.

A note on the usage of the ‘okina (glottal stop): The ‘okina is not used consistently in publications, and therefore the titles listed reflect the actual spellings used in the book titles. This is why “Hawai‘i” is sometimes written “Hawaii.”
CORE MATERIALS

H 940.54 Lo
Details the events of December 7, 1941 in a straightforward manner. Interviews were conducted with nearly 600 Americans and Japanese who were involved in the attack.

940.54266 Ne Language, Literature & History section
Backed by a research team’s five years of work, as well as Nelson’s thorough re-examination of the original evidence assembled by federal investigators, this page-turner maps the road leading to war and provides a thrilling blow-by-blow account of the attack with stunning detail.

H 940.54 P
Shows diplomats’ attempts to stave off war. Also gives excerpts from the official American Hearings on Pearl Harbor, the minutes of Churchill’s War Cabinet, and the minutes of Tokyo’s Liaisons Conference.

H 940.54 S
Local author Slackman considers both Japanese and American points of view on December 7, 1941. Includes anecdotes from interviews and oral history programs, and an excellent chronology of events from 1853 to 1944.

INTELLIGENCE ASPECTS

H 940.54 L
Written by a top-ranking navy officer, Admiral Layton details the background of the secret radio intelligence war against Japan while revealing those who knew about Japan’s intention to attack, how they acquired their knowledge, and how they misused it.
INVESTIGATIONS

RH 940.54 I
Index to the eight official investigations into the attack on the Pacific Fleet. The hearings took place between December 1941 and June 1946.

H 940.54 C
In 1944, lawyer Henry Clausen was given extraordinary authority to investigate the attack on Pearl Harbor. He dismisses the conspiracy theories that Washington had withheld vital information that prevented Army & Naval forces in Hawai‘i from being alert against a surprise attack.

H 940.54266 Bo
In 1995, the Department of Defense ordered its own investigation into the debate over the blame placed on Rear Adm. Kimmel and Maj. Gen. Short for their actions on Dec. 7, 1941. The result was the Dorn Report. In an effort to make it available to the public, Borch and Martinez have edited, annotated and published this report for scholars and others to study.

RECOLLECTIONS AND ACCOUNTS

H 940.54 CI
Author’s recollections of December 7, 1941. Always patriotic, with language that reflects his times, this book is a good example of the mindset of the general public during WWII. Marketed as the “first, full eyewitness account of December 7th.”

H 940.5426 Po
The compiled letters of Anne Powlinson, who witnessed the attack from her hilltop home in Lanikai. Her letters provide insight into the worries experienced by civilians, and their resolve through the days that followed.

H 940.54 R
Forty oral histories of December 7 and its immediate aftermath. The narrative covers each phase of the air raid, with each witness telling in their own words what they saw, what they did and how they felt.

H B Nicholson
Includes many personal photographs and anecdotes. Author documents moving to and living at Pearl Harbor before the attack through the end of the war. Geared towards younger readers.

H B Pickett
A short memoir of a nurse from St. Louis who worked at Queen’s Hospital from 1941-1945. Detailed account of the day of the attack, as well as civilian life during the war years, with photos.

940.5373 Ri Language, Literature, & History section
Recollections of 160 Americans, including military, civilians, adults and children who describe their varied experiences of and reactions to the “day of infamy.”

H 940.54 R
Fifty Hawaii civilians tell of their experiences during the attack. Includes personal photographs, as well as historical pictures from the Hawai‘i War Repository at the University of Hawaii.
JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE

RH 940.54266 Ab

RH B Yamamoto

940.54495 Fuchida Fu
Language, Literature, & History section

ART AND PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTIONS

H 940.54 F

H 940.54 G

H 940.54 K

H 940.54266 Se
The book provides a sweeping view of the region’s past, from geologic origins to fishpond days, through the tense moments before and after the attack, and the years of reflection and repair following.

H 940.54 S

FICTION

H Bl
Blaine, Rick. Black Ocean. Kailua: Pacific Monograph, 2004. In this alternate history, Hawai‘i is under Japanese rule because of a marriage years earlier between Princess Ka‘iulani and Japan’s crown prince. Peopled by a mix of real and fictional characters, this thriller turns the events of 1941 inside out.

H Da

H Gi

H S

H Tu

H Ze

MISCELLANEOUS

H B Short
Anderson, Charles Robert. Day of Lightning, Years of Scorn: Walter C. Short and the Attack on Pearl Harbor. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Examines the career of Short, remembered as the U.S. Army general who parked his airplanes wingtip-to-wingtip, making them easy targets for the Japanese on December 7. Describes his conduct in the face of blistering, often unfair, criticism in the years after the Japanese attack.

H 940.54 A
H 940.54 B

H 940.54266 Cr

H 940.54266 Fr

HAWAIʻI: FROM PEARL HARBOR THROUGH THE WAR YEARS

H 940.53 Al

H 940.53 B
Bailey, Beth L. and David Farber. *The First Strange Place: Race and Sex in World War II Hawaii.* Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1994. Drawing on documents, diaries, memoirs, and interviews, the authors show how the influx of soldiers, sailors and marines arriving in wartime Hawaiʻi met a highly mobile and volatile society of mixed racial and cultural influences.

H 940.53 B

H 940.53 B
Brown, Desoto. *Hawaii Goes to War: Life in Hawaii from Pearl Harbor to Peace.* Honolulu: Editions Limited, 1989. Describes civilian life in Hawaiʻi during World War II. Excellent historical photographs and interesting text gives the reader an idea of what it was like in Hawaiʻi during the turbulent war years.

H 940.53 Ha

H 940.5426 Jo
Jones, Wilbur D and Carroll Robbins Jones. *Hawaii Goes to War: The Aftermath of Pearl Harbor.* Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Books, 2001. The authors weave together history with the photos of Patricia O’Meara Robbins, a professional photographer who documented everyday life on Oahu as its residents recovered from the shock of the attack.

Ogata, Yoshiharu. **In Love and War: The World War II Courtship Letter of a Nisei Couple.** Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. Letters between an Oahu man and Hilo woman begin in July 1941 and end in June 1943. Their correspondence gives a glimpse of life under martial law and addresses patriotism from a part of the population considered potential saboteurs and spies.

Scheiber, Harry N. **Bayonets in Paradise: Martial Law In Hawai‘i During World War II.** Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2016. Recounts the extraordinary story of how the army imposed rigid and absolute control on the total population of Hawai‘i during World War II, pervading all aspects of life.


Website from the National Park Service, which oversees the USS Arizona Memorial. Contains information on visiting the memorial. From the site: “The monument preserves and interprets the stories of the Pacific War, from the internment of Japanese Americans to the battles in the Aleutians.”