

Preface

In January 1944, on the advice of my trusted long-time friend, Captain Robert A. Lavender, U.S. Navy, I succeeded in obtaining the services of Mr. Charles B. Rugg of the Boston law firm of Ropes, Gray, Best, Coolidge and Rugg.

It was largely through Mr. Rugg's efforts that the Congress in June 1944 demanded, by a joint resolution, that the Executive Department conduct an investigation of the Pearl Harbor attack. At the Naval Court of Inquiry held pursuant to this resolution, Mr. Rugg succeeded in placing on record the suppressed translations of the Japanese intercepts and other vital information which until that time had been buried in the secret files.

Mr. Rugg had much to do with congressional action which resulted in the joint congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor attack. His assistance to the Republican members of the joint committee served to place in the record much pertinent and valuable evidence. I shall regret always that the committee rules prevented Mr. Rugg from examining witnesses. I am confident that a much clearer picture would have resulted had he been permitted to do so.

The American people may be thankful for men like Charles B. Rugg who fight for truth and justice and have the ability to win their fights.

Throughout all this campaign Mr. Edward B. Hanify of the same firm was Mr. Rugg's indispensable assistant.

As one of my counsel, Admiral Harry E. Yarnell attended all the secret sessions of the Naval Court of Inquiry and most of the sessions of the joint congressional investigation. Admiral Yarnell's naval service included a detail as commandant of the naval station at Pearl Harbor and also a detail as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet. His intimate knowledge of the conditions and problems which confronted me, and his wide knowledge of naval and governmental affairs coupled with his sound judgment, made his advice invaluable. With the detailed knowledge of the Pearl Harbor attack acquired at these investigations, Admiral Yarnell has expressed his opinion forcibly and fearlessly on many public occasions. His continued encouragement and support have inspired me to write the account which I am now presenting to the public.

As an associate counsel Captain Lavender gave his assistance which was soundly based on an extensive knowledge of civil, naval and military law and a detailed knowledge of the naval communication system.

Mr. John J. Phelan was another able assistant to Mr. Rugg.

During the past year Vice Admiral John F. Shafroth by his encouragement and by his comment on the manuscript has assisted greatly.

I am also indebted to Dr. Charles Callan Tansill and Captain Miles Du Val for their constructive comments, which helped me materially.

Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey has never wavered in his conviction that I was left "holding the bag" for something I did not know and could not control. His outspoken loyalty on all occasions, both public and private, sustained me through the difficult years immediately following the Pearl Harbor disaster.

When Captain Laurance Frye Safford, V.S. Navy, disclosed to me the data which had been buried in the secret files or destroyed, he put in jeopardy his whole naval career. This step took courage, honesty, and a high standard of duty. Before the disclosures to me I had known Captain Safford only casually. He had my respect for his attainments in his chosen field, cryptanalysis, in which he was tops.

Husband E. Kimmel

Groton, Connecticut
October, 1954