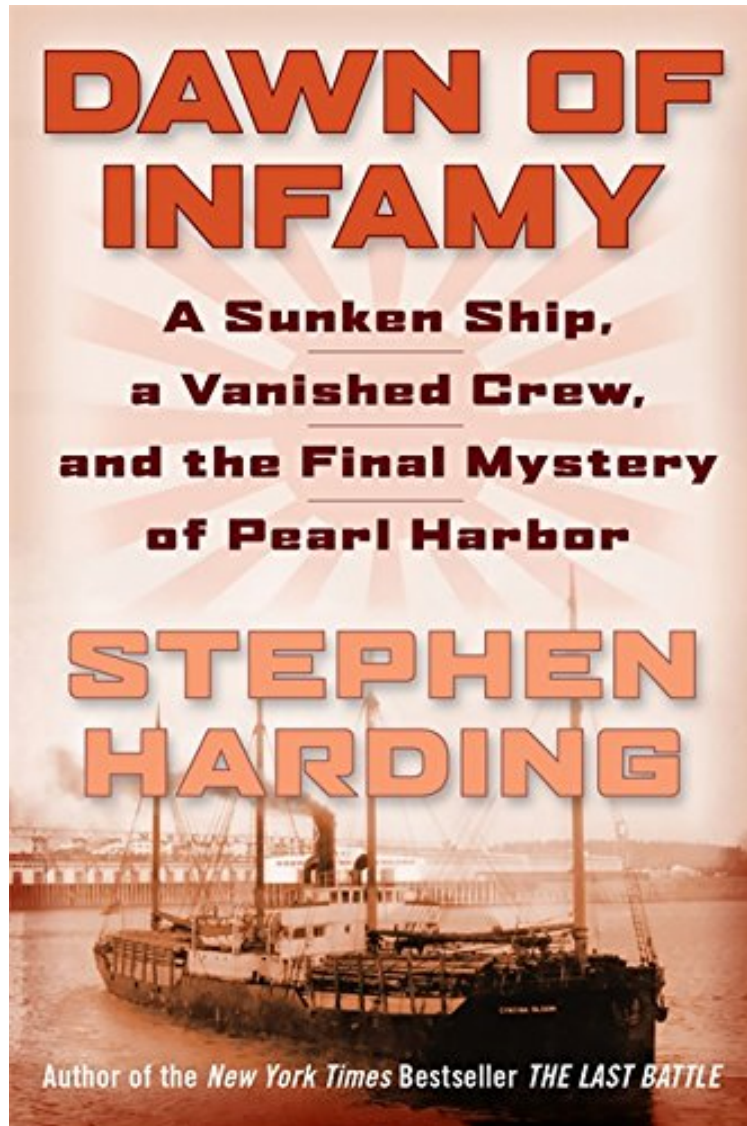


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Dawn of Infamy: A Sunken Ship, a Vanished Crew, and the Final Mystery of Pearl Harbor

Stephen Harding

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Stephen Harding : Dawn of Infamy: A Sunken Ship, a Vanished Crew, and the Final Mystery of Pearl Harbor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dawn of Infamy: A Sunken Ship, a Vanished Crew, and the Final Mystery of Pearl Harbor:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Did The Attack On Pearl Harbor Really Start The Pacific War?By

Jeffrey T. Munson On December 7th, 1941, the Japanese launched a surprise attack against the American naval base at Pearl Harbor. Over one thousand miles to the east, another attack was taking place as the Japanese submarine I-26 fired upon and sunk the American lumber carrier Cynthia Olson. In "Dawn Of Infamy", author Stephen Harding looks at one of the lesser-known events of the war and how close this attack came to actually being the opening salvo of the Pacific war. Minoru Yokata, Captain of the I-26, was under strict orders not to engage any American ships until after the attack on Pearl Harbor had commenced. He sighted the Cynthia Olson on December 6th and shadowed her until the following day. At approximately 3:30 a.m. (7:55 Hawaiian time), Yokata began his attack. However, the Olson did not die easily. She managed to send off an s.o.s. message before she went down. As for her crew, the Japanese allowed them to lower life boats and get inside before the ship was fired upon. Some thirty-one civilian seamen and two army servicemen were cast into the Pacific Ocean. During the course of the book, Harding centers his discussion around three main ideas: Did Yokata attack the Cynthia Olson before the attack on Pearl Harbor began? Would advance notice of Yokata's attack by the American forces at Pearl Harbor alerted the Americans and made the attack less successful? Finally, what ever happened to the ship's crew? Through much analysis and inquiries conducted by many people throughout the war and afterward, conclusions were able to be drawn about each instance. Harding discusses each of these questions in depth. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. I've read numerous books about the attack on Pearl Harbor and I'm sure I must have come across this story somewhere along the line, but I was glad to be able to read an entire book on this subject. Harding does a good job of providing the reader with background information on the Cynthia Olson as well as her owners and previous work history. I especially liked learning about the sinking and the actions of the Japanese submarine and the mysterious loss of the crew. This book is a fine companion to the numerous books written about the Pearl Harbor attack. Highly recommended! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. LET THE READERS DECIDE By Customer I just finished reading Stephen Harding's DAWN OF INFAMY. The book was a 'mixed bag'. There were places where I could not wait to get to the next section and there were places I could have skipped several pages without missing anything. The author accepts and contradicts the same 'evidence' throughout the book, accompanying that with excessive background material that was often immaterial to the story. I could not figure out whether that was to keep readers involved or expand his contents from a good short story to an average full length book. As to whether he solved the "Final Mystery of Pearl Harbor", I leave that up to each individual reader to decide on their own. It is interesting to note, however, that several of his other books deal with 'firsts' and 'lasts': the 'first American vessel to be sunk by the Japanese in WWII' in DAWN OF INFAMY along with THE LAST BATTLE, and THE LAST TO DIE. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Dull! By Customer Dull, dull, dull. Every conceivable detail of everything the author ever learned included, apparently to fill pages of a non-story.

As the Pearl Harbor attack began, a U.S. cargo ship a thousand miles away in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean mysteriously vanished along with her crew. What happened, and why? On December 7, 1941, even as Japanese carrier-launched aircraft flew toward Pearl Harbor, a small American cargo ship chartered by the Army reported that it was under attack by a submarine halfway between Seattle and Honolulu. After that one cryptic message, the humble lumber carrier Cynthia Olson and her crew vanished without a trace, their disappearance all but forgotten as the mighty warships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet burned. The story of the Cynthia Olson's mid-ocean encounter with the Japanese submarine I-26 is both a classic high-seas drama and one of the most enduring mysteries of World War II. Did I-26's commander, Minoru Yokota, sink the freighter before the attack on Pearl Harbor began? Did the cargo ship's 35-man crew survive in lifeboats that drifted away into the vast Pacific, or were they machine-gunned to death? Was the Cynthia Olson the first American casualty of the Pacific War, and could her SOS have changed the course of history? Based on years of research, Dawn of Infamy explores both the military and human aspects of the Cynthia Olson story, bringing to life a complex tale of courage, tenacity, hubris, and arrogance in the opening hours of America's war in the Pacific.

Library Journal, 9/15/16 "Harding's thorough research reconstructs the Cynthia Olson's last days... While the story of the Cynthia Olson often appears as a side note in other histories about Pearl Harbor, this harrowing account brings it to the fore, telling how a Japanese submarine was able to sail close to the U.S. mainland and sink an unarmed ship in the hours before America entered World War II... Will appeal to nautical and military historians alike." Kirkus, 10/15/16 "A detailed, well-researched book presented in a logical fashion—will appeal most to Pearl Harbor scholars and those interested in submarine warfare."