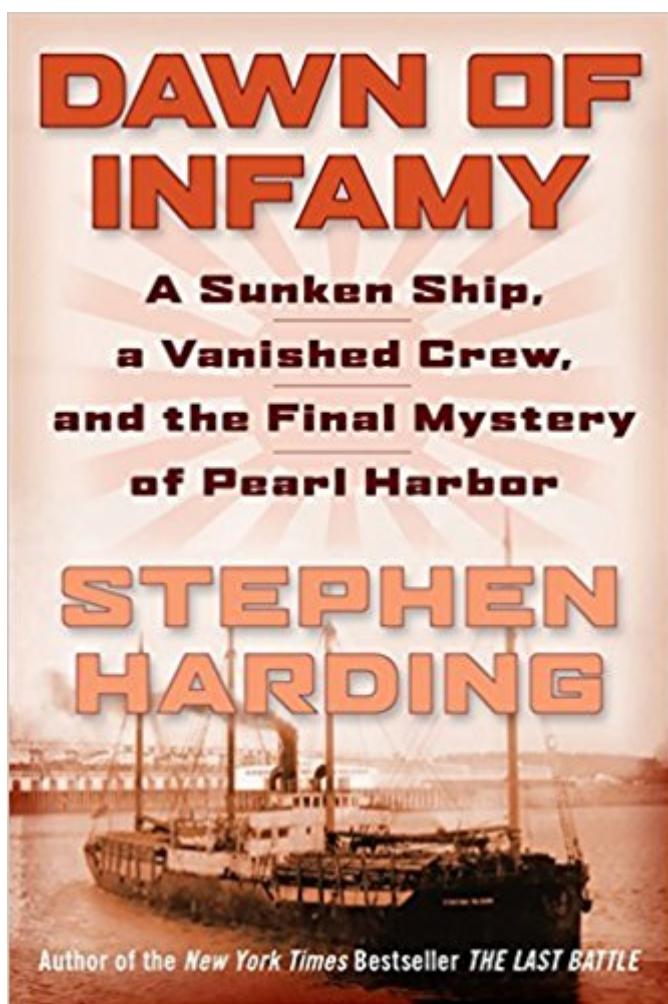


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# Dawn Of Infamy: A Sunken Ship, A Vanished Crew, And The Final Mystery Of Pearl Harbor



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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&#133;Will appeal to nautical and military historians alike.Ã¢â€”Kirkus Reviews, 10/15/16&#147;A detailed, well-researched book presented in a logical fashion&#151;will appeal most to Pearl Harbor scholars and those interested in submarine warfare.Ã¢â€”An account of a little known incident that might have seen the opening shots of the Japanese war against the United States...Their story needed to be told."?New York Journal of Books"Harding takes a minor incident that could be reduced to a single sentence and, despite the lack of hard information about many aspects of the event, turns it into a fast-paced piece of historical detective work with very human dimensions and consequences...An engaging and satisfying book."?Stone & Stone

Stephen Harding is the author of eight previous books, including the New York Times bestseller *The Last Battle* and the acclaimed *The Castaway's War*, both of which are in development as major motion pictures. A longtime journalist specializing in military affairs, Harding is currently editor-in-chief of *Military History* magazine. His contributions on defense topics and aviation, military, and maritime history have appeared on the *Daily Beast* and in *Time*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Air & Space Smithsonian*, *World War II*, *Jane's Defense Weekly*, and *Air Enthusiast*. For more information, please visit [StephenHardingBooks.com](http://StephenHardingBooks.com) and [facebook.com/LastBattleInEurope](http://facebook.com/LastBattleInEurope).

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

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.

Dull, dull, dull. Every conceivable detail of everything the author ever learned included, apparently to fill pages of a non-story.

A fairly in-depth look at one of the first incidents in the hours leading up to the Pearl Harbor attack. Well researched and generally holds your interest. Especially informative about the fate of sailor's families when listed as 'missing'. A good addition to anyone's history library or W.W.II buff's bookshelf.

This book must have required an awful lot of research. It provides an insight into the start of WW II (in the Pacific) as well as to the fate of this one ship. For me, it could have been pruned down about 5% in length, but it was well written and paced otherwise.

Good book about a little known part of WWII

Very interesting read on a little known part of WWII.

Very good and well written book. Stephen Harding did a great job on this book. I recommend this book to all

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