

004224 SEP 24 91

Bradenton, Fl. 34209
Sept. 17, 1991

cc: [REDACTED] ✓

Dear Mr. Lamb,

I thoroughly enjoy your Booknotes Program and look forward to it each week.

With the upcoming 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor I thought that the book reviewed in the enclosed clipping from the Air Force Association magazine would be a good candidate for one of your future programs.

Yours truly,
[REDACTED]

ees

By [REDACTED]

ing hours in jets and propeller-driven planes. He currently flies a twin-engine Aerostar and a Curtiss P-40 Warhawk as a colonel in the Confederate Air Force.

Mr. Crawford joined AFA in 1946 and served on the Finance Committee, as Texas State President, as a member of the Texas executive committee and the Austin chapter executive committee, and as National Vice President (Southwest Region), Austin chapter president, and Aerospace Education Foundation (AEF) Trustee. Currently, he serves as National President, Chairman of AFA's Executive Committee and a member of AFA's Resolutions Committee, Chairman of the National Vice Presidents, and an AEF Trustee. He has received AFA's Presidential Citation, Exceptional Service, Special Citation, and Medal of Merit awards. He was AFA's

Visions of Infamy: The Untold Story of How Journalist Hector C. Bywater Devised the Plans that Led to Pearl Harbor, by William H. Honan. Well, where *did* Japan get the idea that it could launch a surprise attack on the US, a far larger and stronger power, and succeed? Did it come from the warlords? From Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, the Japanese fleet commander? Or might it have come from a brilliant, colorful, pub-crawling—and now virtually forgotten—British spy-cum-journalist named Hector C. Bywater? Surprisingly, the answer may be the latter. Mr. Honan, a New York Times correspondent, has spent some twenty years gathering evidence to support the claim, and he has come up with some remarkable stuff.

Readers may recall that Hector Bywater, a prominent naval writer of the 1920s, was the subject of C. V. Glines's December 1990 *AIR FORCE* Magazine article, based partly on Honan's research. In *Visions of Infamy*, Honan documents Bywater's considerable influence on the thinking of Japan's strategists. With his articles and books—notably *The Great Pacific War* in 1925—he provoked debates with the likes of former Assistant Secretary of the Navy (eventually, President) Franklin Roosevelt and Admiral Yamamoto himself. Bywater laid out—in detail—how Japan could conduct the assault on US bases in the Philippines, how it might set up a naval perimeter, which weapons it would use, how the US would fight back in a bloody “island-hopping” campaign, and who the eventual victor would be.

Honan's key claim is that Bywater did not so much see the future as shape it by providing Japanese naval strategists with practical war plans that made initial victory seem not only possible but inevitable. (Bywater, however, always argued that Japan would go down to defeat in any prolonged war with the US.) Professional and amateur historians will argue for years about the meaning of the new information that Honan adduces. Is it convincing? For now, and until someone counters Honan's facts, the answer is yes. St. Martin's Press, New York, N. Y., 1991. 329 pages with photos, maps, and index. \$22.95.