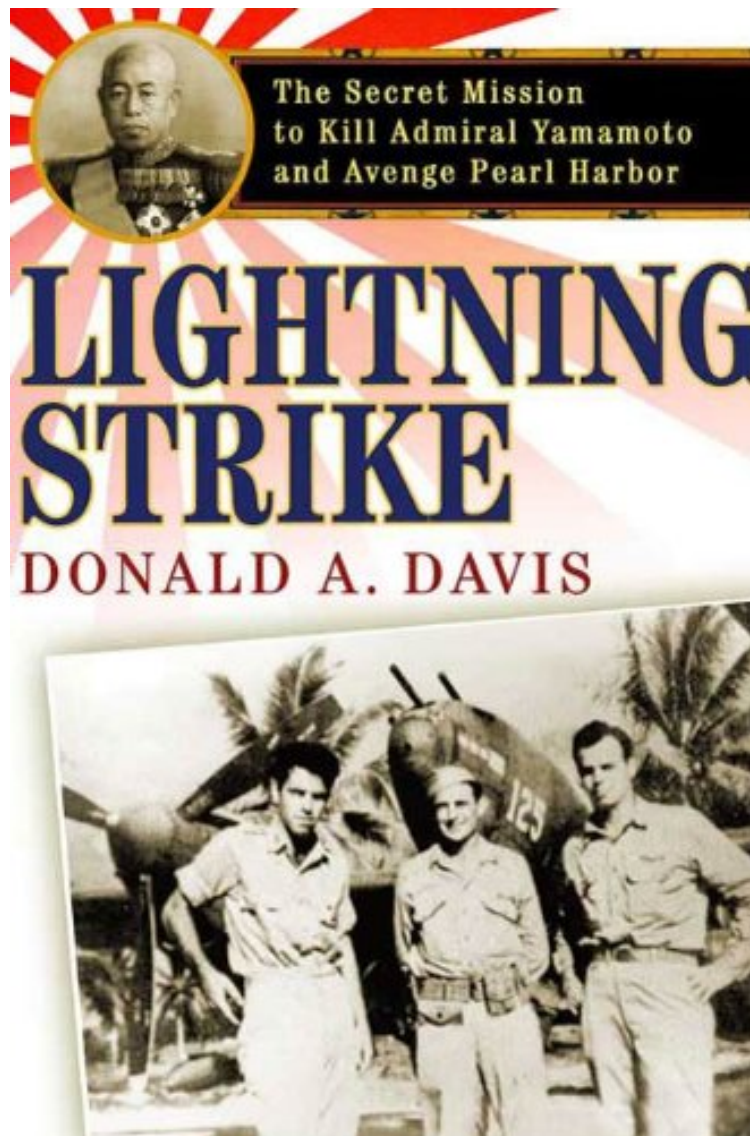


(Download ebook) Lightning Strike: The Secret Mission to Kill Admiral Yamamoto and Avenge Pearl Harbor

## Lightning Strike: The Secret Mission to Kill Admiral Yamamoto and Avenge Pearl Harbor

Von Donald A. Davis

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Von Donald A. Davis : **Lightning Strike: The Secret Mission to Kill Admiral Yamamoto and Avenge Pearl Harbor** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lightning Strike: The Secret Mission to Kill Admiral Yamamoto and Avenge Pearl Harbor:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. From

Tora Tora Tora to a Jungle Crash . . . and Credits Are Due Von Donald Mitchell This book will be most appealing to those who know relatively little about the war in the Pacific during World War II. While the title suggests a book focused on the secret raid aimed at taking Admiral Yamamoto's life, in reality this is a story of aviation in the Pacific theater . . . spiced up with a little code breaking. The raid itself is covered in so few pages in the book that you could almost expect to learn more from reading a magazine article. From there, the book goes slowly down hill in a much too long examination of the claims for the "kill" in the official records of the event. Yamamoto is portrayed here more like the man was . . . rather than as the hated enemy who planned and launched the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor that became the day that has lived in infamy since then. Unlike many other Japanese leaders, Yamamoto knew the United States, spoke good English (when he wanted to), and feared conflict with the future super power. Knowing that Japan could not win a long war, he hoped to use surprise to gain peace with the United States by striking a blow against its air and sea power that could not be overcome. Had the Pacific fleet's carriers not been out to sea on December 7, 1941, he might have succeeded. The center point of the story is built around the horrible battles over the strategically significant speck of land in the Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, where an air base would bring the equivalent of a permanent aircraft carrier advantage to one side or the other. Many would suffer and die for that speck. Where I enjoyed the book the most was in its fascinating descriptions of the details of how the Army air corps got its start in the painful early days across the Pacific theater. If you had a relative in the air corps (my Dad served in England with them), you will find yourself riveted by these seldom-told tales. I was disappointed in the description of the raid itself. Rarely would such a difficult and long-shot raid succeed. Mr. Davis gives you the bare bones of the story . . . rather than painting a delicious picture of a rare event in human history. The story itself and its aftermath in controversy cry out for illustrations, counterpoints in the failures of other such efforts and lessons for all time. Mr. Davis describes this high drama with as much flair as most people use for describing a walk across a park. While it's certainly accurate, more color would have made the book come to life. As it is, the book comes across as history . . . rather than living heroism.

Kurzbeschreibung This is the story of the fighter mission that changed World War II. It is the true story of the man behind Pearl Harbor---Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto---and the courageous young American fliers who flew the million-to-one suicide mission that shot him down. Yamamoto was a cigar-smoking, poker-playing, English-speaking, Harvard-educated expert on America, and that intimate knowledge served him well as architect of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. For the next sixteen months, this military genius, beloved by the Japanese people, lived up to his prediction that he would run wild in the Pacific Ocean. He was unable, however, to deal the fatal blow needed to knock America out of the war, and the shaken United States began its march to victory on the bloody island of Guadalcanal. Donald A. Davis meticulously tracks Yamamoto's eventual rendezvous with death. After American code-breakers learned that the admiral would be vulnerable for a few hours, a desperate attempt was launched to bring him down. What was essentially a suicide mission fell to a handful of colorful and expendable U.S. Army pilots from Guadalcanal's battered "Cactus Air Force": - Mississippian John Mitchell, after flunking the West Point entrance exam, entered the army as a buck private. Though not a "natural" as an aviator, he eventually became the highest-scoring army ace on Guadalcanal and the leader of the Yamamoto attack. - Rex Barber grew up in the Oregon countryside and was the oldest surviving son in a tightly knit churchgoing family. A few weeks shy of his college graduation in 1940, the quiet Barber enlisted in the U.S. Army. - "I'm going to be President of the United States," Tom Lanphier once told a friend. Lanphier was the son of a legendary fighter squadron commander and a dazzling storyteller. He viewed his chance at hero status as the start of a promising political career. - December 7, 1941, found Besby Holmes on a Pearl Harbor airstrip, firing his .45 handgun at Japanese fighters. He couldn't get airborne in time to make a serious difference, but his chance would come. - Tall and darkly handsome, Ray Hine used the call sign "Heathcliffe" because he resembled the brooding hero of Wuthering Heights. He was transferred to Guadalcanal just in time to participate in the Yamamoto mission---a mission from which he would never return. Davis paints unforgettable personal portraits of men in combat and unravels a military mystery that has been covered up at the highest levels of government since the end of the war. From Publishers Weekly World War II enthusiasts probably already know about the controversies surrounding the American mission to kill Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the man who orchestrated the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. What the uninitiated will find interesting is Davis's account of the lives of the soldiers who participated in the attack. Through a series of vignettes, the reader sees both American and Japanese perspectives. Good and bad guys can be found on either side, and Davis appears to be a fair judge of character as he considers different perspectives of these historic events. Davis also does an excellent job supplementing a bird's eye view of the war with minute detail, i.e. "honor ribbons blossomed on the chest of the green uniform, and the right hand rested upon a long sword." Davis portrays Yamamoto not as a villain, but as a man who "captured the imagination of his crew and pilots" and was an inspiration to his people. (The real villain appears in the form of a glory-seeking American who uses his connections to rewrite history.) Yet, in this account, individuals are minor players compared to the war itself, which takes us from Japan and

Pearl Harbor to the Philippines, Australia and Guadalcanal, where the bulk of the action takes place. Increasingly, readers are shown the more subtle but no less vicious war regarding the truth of what happened during the Yamamoto mission, and herein lies the thrust of Davis's book: to shatter the air of conspiracy that surrounds the mysterious mission and reveal the truth. Despite a thrown-together feel in the first 70 or so pages, Davis both informs and entertains, and shows the ease with which history may be rewritten. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Pressestimmen "Lightning Strike is the finest history of World War II in the Pacific, and especially the Yamamoto mission, that I have ever read." ---William H. Allen, president of the American Fighter Aces Association "This is a rich slice of Pacific War history . . . Davis's account is replete with heroes, villains, and idiots. He asks all the right questions and comes up with most of the answers." ---Joseph L. Galloway, Senior Military Correspondent, Knight Ridder Newspapers, and coauthor of *We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young* "Fascinating history that reads like a detective novel. I'm green with envy." ---William Stevenson, author of *A Man Called Intrepid* "I have long been fascinated by Yamamoto---his brilliant career as a strategist and as a warrior and his Wagnerian end as those American pilots hunted him to the death. . . . Davis fleshes out the dramatic story in splendid fashion." ---James Brady, Parade Magazine columnist and author of *The Coldest War* and *The Marine* "Lightning Strike is a wonderful contribution to World War II history and a remarkable story, remarkably told, gripping and page-turning from start to finish. Davis has both a great sense of drama and a great lust for the truth." ---Craig Nelson, author of *The First Heroes: The Extraordinary Story of the Doolittle Raid* "An enthralling book that yields new and surprising insights." ---Monika Jenson, former 60 Minutes producer and author of *Spite House: The Last Secret of the Vietnam War* "Exquisitely researched and vividly narrated. Lightning Strike puts the reader in the cockpit. . . . Years of confusion shrouding the mission are finally swept away, deftly and conclusively." ---David A. Witts, author of *Forgotten War, Forgiven Guilt: The 13th Air Force* "Lightning Strike is a crisp salute to some of the bravest pilots ever to fly in defense of the United States. Compelling and deeply human, by turns triumphant and profoundly sad, Don Davis's book sheds valuable new light on one of World War II's most pivotal fighter missions." ---James D. Hornfischer, author of *The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors* "A terrific flying story and a great history, Lightning Strike strips away the legends and the lies to reveal who really shot down Admiral Yamamoto." ---Stephen Coonts "Lightning Strike is an exciting, well-documented, and masterfully written story. Mr. Davis weaves together the various complex personalities and contradictory facts. . . . It was a delightful read for me, a guy who thought he knew all about the [Yamamoto] mission." ---Bob Manhan, executive director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Lightning Strike is a truly wonderful history of the early days of World War II and the desperate fighting on Guadalcanal. The analysis of the air warfare and the great detail about the men who fought in the air in the Solomon Islands is brilliantly done." ---George Chandler, World War II Ace, Pacific Theater, and co-founder of the Second Yamamoto Mission Association