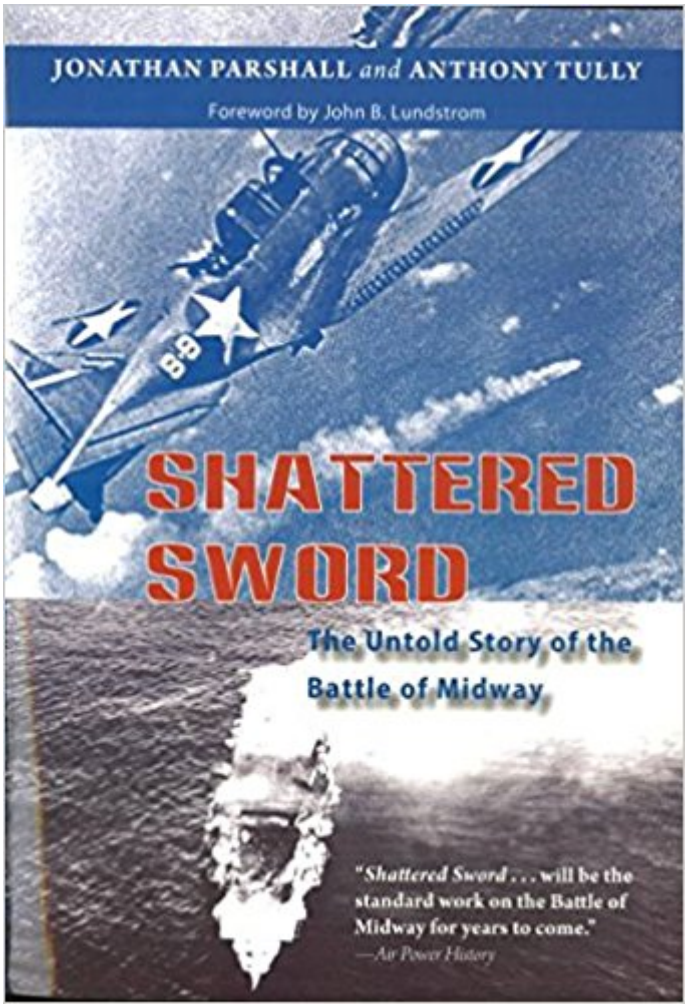
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Shattered Sword: The Untold Story Of The Battle Of Midway



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Synopsis

Many consider the Battle of Midway to have turned the tide of the Pacific War. It is without question one of the most famous battles in history. Now, for the first time since Gordon W. PrangeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s bestselling Miracle at Midway, Jonathan Parshall and Anthony Tully offer a new interpretation of this great naval engagement. Unlike previous accounts, Shattered Sword makes extensive use of Japanese primary sources. It also corrects the many errors of Mitsuo FuchidaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Midway: The Battle That Doomed Japan, an uncritical reliance upon which has tainted every previous Western account. It thus forces a major, potentially controversial reevaluation of the great battle. Parshall and TullyÃ Â examine the battle in detail and effortlessly place it within the context of the Imperial NavyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s doctrine and technology. With a foreword by leading World War II naval historian John Lundstrom, Shattered SwordÃ Â is an indispensable part of any military buffÃ¢â ¬â„¢s library.Shattered SwordÃ Â is the winner of the 2005 John Lyman Book Award for the "Best Book in U.S. Naval History" and was cited by Proceedings as one of its "Notable Naval Books" for 2005.

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“To really know about the Battle of Midway, you must read this book.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •John B. Lundstrom, author of The First Team: Pacific Naval Air Combat from Pearl Harbor to Midway (John B. Lundstrom)Ã¢â ¬Å“Jon Parshall and Anthony Tully explain, in an entirely new light and from a fresh perspective, how the Japanese navy fought the Battle of Midway. Extensively researched, soundly reasoned, and engagingly and colorfully written, Shattered Sword is the most

original piece of scholarship on this decisive event since John B. LundstromÃ¢â ¬â„¢s groundbreaking The First Team.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Robert J. Cressman, editor and principal author of A Glorious Page in Our History: The Battle of Midway (Robert J. Cressman)Ã¢â ¬Å“At last, the Japanese side of the Battle of Midway has been limned in English with accuracy, lucidity, authority, and objectivity. The authorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ specialized knowledge of the tactics and technologies of Japanese naval air power, their careful reading of surviving Japanese air unit records, and their appreciation of the larger meaning of the battle combine to give us a combat narrative and analysis that superbly balance expert detail and grand historical import. I suspect it of being a classic.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Mark R. Peattie, author of Kaigun: Strategy, Tactics, and Technology in the Imperial Japanese Navy, 1887-1941 and Sunburst: The Rise of Japanese Naval Air Power, 1909-1941 (Mark R. Peattie)Ã¢â ¬Å“A lot has been written about Midway since 1945. Yet everyone who thinks that they know the last word about this momentous event must examine Jonathan Parshall and Anthony TullyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book on the subject. Shattered Sword, packed with new information, will certainly become the definitive volume on the most important naval battle of World War II.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Eric Bergerud, professor of military and American history at Lincoln University and author of Touched with Fire: The Land War in the South Pacific (Eric Bergerud)Ã¢â ¬Å“This incredibly detailed book provides a whole new approach to the study and interpretation of the battle."Ã¢â ¬â •Ships and Shipping (Ships and Shipping 2007-11-12)Ã¢â ¬Å“Shattered Sword [is] a necessary read for anyone interested in the Pacific War.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •NYMAS Review (NYMAS Review 2008-11-06)

"To really know about the Battle of Midway, you must read this book.""A lot has been written about Midway since 1945. Yet everyone who thinks that they know the last word about this momentous event must examine Jonathan Parshall and Anthony Tully’s book on the subject. Shattered Sword, packed with new information, will certainly become the definitive volume on the most important naval battle of World War II.""This meticulously researched and thoroughly documented study is an essential corrective. It is essential reading for anyone interested in carrier aviation, past, present, or future. Although imposing in scale, Shattered Sword is a bargain, and a highly engaging read. Every page seems to throw up a new perspective - from the pathetically low Japanese aircraft production figures, to the political infighting both within the Naval High Command and between the services. The best naval history book of 2005." --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A very comprehensive and thoroughgoing account of the famous battle. It turns out that Fuchida

misstated several key facts. He had said we caught their air park on deck, rearming, when in fact, we caught it below decks, rearming; a far more serious situation. The authors go deeply into the construction of the Japanese ships that may have doomed them to death by fire, and to the typically Byzantine plans that led to Japan's debacle.

Phenomenal Book. You know how the story ends but written to keep you turning the pages. Amazed at how authors have dug through decades old documents and anecdotes to write a narrative that has you visualize the plight of individuals sailors and pilots. Also, super contradictory to the conventional wisdom conclusion in last chapter, Reckoning.A great military history and a great spin on how to create hazard by slow learning.Steve SpearAuthor, The High Velocity EdgeMIT, Senior LecturerThe High-Velocity Edge: How Market Leaders Leverage Operational Excellence to Beat the Competition (Business Books)

This is an extraordinary book, that overturned almost all of my previous perceptions of this now critical battle by using more accurate Japanese sources than the flawed ones of the immediate post war era that are still cited by what can now only be called ignorant or so-called historians.It explains in considerable detail what the Japanese got right in their doctrine and tactics, before the USN, the errors of leaders like Yamamoto etc, and what vulnerabilities that they were blind to or missed which came due at Midway, and the American plans that were more an option than a required battle, as the Japanese thought or the early historians would have us believe.It explains in detail with photographs how the traditional accounts of the "5 minutes that changed the course of the war" are flawed, and provides a very detailed timeline of what did happen, including Yorktown's torpedo bombers attacking during the dive bombers', not before, and why the various previous American air attacks upset the IJN's doctrinal operations schedule.It includes a fascinating appendix [#7] on the marine defenses and why the authors think the marines would have more held their own against the SNLF and IJA attackers if the USN had been driven off, outnumbering them to start with while being far better armed, versus the SNLF and IJA, who had little more than light mortars and machine guns against many 3", 5", and 7" guns and even tanks, along with plenty of heavy machine guns and even 20mm cannon; while they had no radios to provide naval gunfire support after the initial bombardment and a reef like Tarawa's that would have kept all landing craft 200-400 yards from shore, so they would have had to wade through chest high water and carry their rifles over their heads to the heavily mined beaches which would have enabled the marines to slaughter the assault waves rather easily.For any expert on the Pacific war, this is a must read, must have book.Read

and enjoy tremendously!

This volume contains great detail; it also provides a deeper analysis of the Japanese side in the battle than one normally sees. Indeed, the appendices focus almost totally on the Japanese order of battle, the configuration of Japanese aircraft carriers, the different flights of its pilots, and so on. In the process, the reader gets a sense of the background of the Japanese strategy in this battle and what factors played into an enormous defeat.In short, three American aircraft carriers faced off against four mainline Japanese carriers. By the end of the battle, one American carrier was destroyed (after miraculous refitting from a pounding that the Lexington took during the Battle of Coral Sea) and all four main Japanese carriers were sunk. A shattering defeat. While many point out that the Americans succeeded against long odds, this book notes that--because carriers were now dominant--the battle was actually more even than many have considered. Add to that the land-based aircraft on Midway, and the odds are evened out to a large extent.In the background, according to the authors, was a developing sense of strategy b y the Japanese that made it take chances. And, associated with this, was near contempt for the Americans, whom they had surprised at Pearl Harbor, defeated in Luzon, and so on. The authors argue that lessons should have been learned in the Coral Sea, when the American carriers stood up in pretty even terms with the Japanese fleet. In addition, Japanese leaders tended to develop overly complex and rigid plans. If events did not work out as planned, difficulties could emerge. And that they did with a vengeance at Midway. As a result the battle plan developed by the Japanese for Midway had some serious flaws. For instance, when war games suggested something like what actually happened (American carriers ambushing the Japanese fleet), results were not taken seriously.The book also depicts the heroism of sailors and pilots on both sides. The decision-making of leaders, such as Admiral Nagumo for the Japanese, or Admirals Spruance and Fletcher on the American side, help to provide a sense of command and control, during the battle. The discussion of the top commanders of each fleet--Yamamoto and Nimitz--too, is well done. And there is even considerable discussion of the pilots and sailors who fought so hard on each side. In a sense, we get a human side to this battle.All in all, a very fine work on the Battle of Midway. Highly recommended.

Incredibly well-researched and extremely well-written. This book clears away much of the fog of the Battle of MIdway. The IJN carrier ship logs were lost in the battle, and reconstructed ship logs were burned by the IJN by the end of the war. However, the airplane/aviators' logs from the battle were not destroyed. These logs were used by the authors to determine when specific Japanese airplanes

were fueled and armed and spotted and launched and recovered. With this information, plus a few photos of the flight decks of the Japanese carriers during the battle, the authors were able to reconstruct what was happening with kido butai at the critical stages of the air fight. Throw away Mitsuo Fuchida's account of what happened. History doesn't get any better than this.

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