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# Hawaii official's memoirs say he was warned of Pearl Harbor 3500 dead

Associated Press

HONOLEULU — In memoirs recorded before his death, former Hawaii Gov. John A. Burns said that he was warned of the Japanese strike at Pearl Harbor a week before the Dec. 7, 1941 attack.

The memoirs are contained in 11 just-released tapes Burns made as part of a University of Hawaii oral history project. He discussed Pearl Harbor in January 1975, three months before his death.

Burns said that Robert L. Shivers, who was in charge of the FBI's Honolulu bureau, called him into his office in early December of 1941. At the time, Burns was a 32-year-old Honolulu police captain in charge of an intelligence unit.

Burns described the meeting: 'Close the doors,' he (Shivers) said. 'I'm not telling my men this but I'm telling you. We're going to be attacked before the week is out.'

"And the guy had tears in his

eyes," said Burns.

Under Shivers' instructions Burns gathered his four men, and without giving a reason he told them to ask about 15 acquaintances per day if they had heard of any unusual upcoming events. His men found no signs of nervousness in the community, until the night of Dec. 6.

"We did get some monkeyshine telephone call from the FBI monitoring the Japanese consulate," Burns said in the tapes. "The FBI took it up with the military folks but..."

Burns also said he was puzzled about a change in Pearl Harbor's status from attack alert to sabotage alert.

On Dec. 6, the ex-governor said, boats and planes were moved into position in preparation for a sabotage attack. But Hawaii intelligence reports had indicated no danger from internal sabotage, Burns recalled.

"The sabotage alert puts everything in the middle... here we had

every damn plane in the middle of the field; all the ships in the middle of Pearl Harbor," he said.

Burns said he did not ask Shivers, who died in 1950, about the source of the attack warning. But Burns speculated that the source was FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, either informed by British intelligence or by his own sources in Washington who had broken the Japanese code.

Burns said he was "reasonably positive" that Shivers delivered the attack warning to Hawaii military commanders Lt. Gen. Walter Short and Adm. Husband Kimmel. Short and Kimmel were heavily criticized for the poor preparations for the attack and were relieved of their commands.

Burns also wondered why he was never called before the Roberts Commission, a federal inquiry convened 11 days after the attack. Shivers was called before the commission, but Burns said the FBI agent did not tell the board of his advance knowledge.

NOTES: For the next two months American and Allied troops in Europe will be pretending that the Soviet Union has invaded Western Europe as NATO begins its fall maneuvers under the code name "Autumn Forge." ... Cuba's state newspaper says that Adm. Hyman Rickover's recent report that the USS Maine was not blown up by Spaniards is an admission that it was blown up by the United States in "a monstrous self-provocation." ... Catalan nationalists called for a mass rally Saturday in Barcelona to demand autonomy for their northeastern region of Spain.

← 250 dead

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The blow up of "Maine" by Spanish atomic submarine in Febr. 1898 started the Spanish Amer. war-Victory. The closing Tonkin Bay provocation ended with defeat in S.E. Asia