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# The Earhart Mystery

By Fred Goerner

**G**O AHEAD with the book, Fred, it should bring them the justice they deserve."

The advice came from Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. He was referring to Amelia Earhart and Frederick Noonan and my six-year investigation into their mysterious disappearance during a flight across the Pacific Ocean in 1937.

The search had included four expeditions to the Mariana and Marshall Islands, the questioning of hundreds of witnesses and unfriendly confrontations with several high-ranking members of the

continued. "But you will gain respect for your research. It's obvious no one wants to accept responsibility for what was done."

### High Displeasure

It appears the Admiral will be proven correct. When "The Search For Amelia Earhart" is published by Doubleday on September 2, I will probably achieve a high rank on the displeasure charts of the CIA, State Department, Commerce Department, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

Japan will evidence her unhappiness, too. She will not

made available for their flight. There may also be several coughing fits when questions are posed regarding classified files, especially one labeled "Amelia Earhart, Location of Grave Of."

The U.S. State Department will also have difficulty explaining why it has maintained a classified file on the matter for more than 29 years while denying to the public the existence of such a file.

### Mysterious Miller

The U.S. Department of Commerce won't like explaining the activities of a man named William Miller, who was responsible in 1937 for "Aeronautical Survey of the South Pacific Ocean." Miller spent much time with Amelia Earhart and also served Naval Intelligence.

The Central Intelligence Agency will try to avoid comments regarding its activities on Saipan Island from 1952 to '62 and how one of this Nation's best kept post-World War II intelligence secrets blended with the Earhart investigation.

Is the pen mightier than Government's desire to cloak embarrassments of the past?

It is my contention, supported by those who have assisted in "The Search for Amelia Earhart," that Earhart and Noonan were the first casualties of World War II. Their story pales fiction.

The most important fact I learned during six years of research is that American newsmen are still free to pursue answers to questions which involve major departments of Government and even the presidency. As long as that remains true, our basic freedoms are relatively secure.

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*Fred Goerner of KCBS Radio, San Francisco, is the author of "The Search for Amelia Earhart," billed as "one of the most complete investigations in the history of modern journalism: the quest for a final answer to the mystery of the disappearance of Amelia Earhart." Doubleday & Co. will publish the book next Friday. This work by the former college professor who seven years ago became a newscaster, is the result of a six-year investigation into the disappearance of the famous flyer—and just may become one of the most controversial books of the season.*

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U.S. military and Government in Washington, D.C.

The search had also brought me the friendship of the legendary Admiral. It was late 1965 and we had been waiting for months for answers to pertinent questions regarding disposition of certain classified material in Washington. The conclusion long ago had been reached that Earhart and Noonan were keys to an incredible series of events which involved both the United States and Japan and the tense years preceding the 1941 Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor.

"It's possible you won't be too popular in some quarters in Washington," Nimitz con-

savor being forced to admit the illegal use of the mandated islands of the Pacific prior to World War II, a violation of international law.

The U.S. Marine Corps will be embarrassed as it tries to explain what happened to the human remains recovered from an unmarked grave on Saipan Island in July, 1944, or what happened to the personal effects of Earhart and Noonan recovered by Marines the same year.

The U.S. Navy may attempt to maintain silence when asked why \$4 million were spent on an apparently bogus search for Earhart and Noonan in 1937 and why highly secret equipment was