

Wilfred Jay Holmes

Wilfred Jay "Jasper" Holmes was born April 9, 1900 in Stockport, NY to John Eric and Ester F (Moett) Holmes. He grew up in Stottville where he attended grades school. Upon graduating at Hudson High School, he attended the United States Naval Academy, where he graduated in 1922 with a degree in Engineering.

Over the next decades "Jasper" Holmes was a line officer in the Navy serving aboard the Battleship "Nevada". He attained the rank of Lieutenant, commanding the submarine S- 30 stationed in the Pacific in the Hawaiian Islands. It was at this time that as a skilled writer, he began writing and publishing essays and short stories under the pen name Alec Hudson; some of which was published by the Saturday Evening Post. Several of these articles were about the theoretical way of a foreign power to attack the United States through Pearl Harbor. Holmes literally charted the war that was to come six years later. An arthritic back would prevent him from sea duty and in 1936 he retired.

With a degree in engineering, Jasper Holmes secured a position as an instructor at the University of Hawaii. He was called back into active service in mid-1941 and although lacking cryptographic experience, he was assigned to Ultra intelligence. Rated above top secret, he helped compile intelligence which determined the strength, composition and movements of various Japanese units which led to breaking the JN-25 naval and diplomatic codes. This resulted in major victories in the Pacific like the Battle of Midway, the shoot-down of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto and the destruction of the Kido Butai or Japanese flotilla that participated in attack on Pearl Harbor. To each submarine skipper who sunk a ship of the Kido Butai, Captain Jasper Holmes awarded a bottle of Scotch.

After the war Captain Jasper Holmes returned to the University of Hawaii, where he taught physics, electrical and civil engineering and math. He became the Dean of Engineering and later published a memoir of his wartime experiences in a book "Double Edged Secrets: World War II". He retired in 1965 and Holmes Hall, an engineering building on campus, was named in his honor.

At 86 Captain Wilfred "Jasper" Holmes died on January 10, 1986 at Honolulu, Hawaii and was buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. He left behind a wife Isabell (West) and a son, John Eric.