

Admiral Claude C. Bloch



Admiral Claude C. Bloch was born in Woodbury, Ky, in 1878. He attended the Naval Academy graduating 14th in the class of 1899. He served in the Spanish- American War. He was the Commander of the 14th Naval District, which included the Honolulu navy yard and Pearl Harbor, at the start of World War II.

According to *At Dawn We Slept*, on December 30, 1940, Bloch submitted a memorandum to the CNO on the vital subject: "Situation concerning the security of the fleet and present ability of the local defense forces to meet surprise attacks." The point of this report was to inform his superiors that they were not capable of protecting Pearl Harbor.

Bloch later rejected proposals to install anti-torpedo nets in Pearl Harbor on the grounds that they would greatly delay a sortie of the fleet, but otherwise he was a preparedness advocate.

Bloch retired one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, but continued to serve on the Navy Board.



Bloch with President Roosevelt under the guns of the U.S.S. Houston. Courtesy of the Library of Congress