

Perspectives in Military History Roundtable

The Origins of the Grand Alliance

Pre-World War II Anglo-American Military Collaboration

Dr. William T. Johnsen

Henry L. Stimson Chair of Military Studies, U.S. Army War College

Long before Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt brought British-American cooperation into the spotlight on the eve of World War II, staff officers and diplomats worked hard to lay the foundations for an alliance to stand strong against the growing power of the Axis states. The story of this collaboration begins in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on the USS *Panay* in China – within days, U.S. Navy personnel sat in London to work out an answer to Japanese aggression. On Saturday, June 16, 2018, at 2:00 PM, Dr. William T. Johnsen of the U.S. Army War College will be joined by scholars to lead a roundtable lecture at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He will discuss the evolution of the Anglo-American military relationship and cooperation, beginning with the Panay incident and continuing through the outbreak of war with Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan. The lecture and discussion will be based on Dr. Johnsen's latest book, *The Origins of the Grand Alliance: Anglo American Military Collaboration from the Panay Incident to Pearl Harbor*, and will delve into the details of the nuts and bolts of coalition warfare and casts new light on the "special relationship" between the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom.

In his book, Dr. Johnsen explores the developing military relationship between the U.S. and the U.K. from the late 1930's to Pearl Harbor through the eyes and actions of the numerous staff officers and diplomats, exploring the deep roots of the coalition that would win World War II. As the first comprehensive analysis of the relationship, he discusses the evolving grand strategy, policy agreements, operational planning, and the creation of communication channels and chains of command to carry the alliance through the war.

Dr. William T. Johnsen is a Professor of Military History and Strategy in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College (USAWC), where he holds the Henry L. Stimson Chair of Military Studies. Prior to that post, he served as Dean of the USAWC from 2003-2012, and has instructed there since 1991, following 20 years as an Infantry officer. Dr. Johnsen holds a B.S. from USMA, and an M.A. (History) and a Ph.D. (History) from Duke University.

DATE: Saturday, June 16, 2018

TIME: The USAHEC opens to the public at 10:00 AM, and the roundtable discussion is from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multipurpose Room

For more information and any last-minute changes in meeting times/places, please check the USAHEC website: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: (717) 245-3972.