

Cincpac File No.

SECRET

G.C.T. L.C.T.

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
U. S. S. PENNSYLVANIA, Flagship

rising sun on bow. Pilot states reported position at 0300 GCT accurate within two miles. This position eighty miles 074 degrees from Johnston. One fighter followed VP down wind for 110 miles. Appears very accurate report.

1215 2245 COMINSHOREPAT AT PEARL TO DESRON 6 TANEY CG: Sortie destroyers cruisers carrier beginning 0030 course point XRAY to eastward.

1057 2127 CTF1 to TFL: Will rendezvous with Taskfor 8 Lat. 22-30, Long 157 at 7 hours local civil time 9th. Enemy contact also possible. Be at general quarters by 0500.

1319 2349 COM 11 TO NAS SAN DIEGO COMAIRSCOFOR SOPA TO ASP FLEAIRDET SANDIEGO: From harbor entrance control post San Pedro action NOB San Pedro information Comeleven three unidentified planes about eight miles southwest Pt. Fermin headed San Diego, one about fifty miles due south headed south eight unidentified bombers seventy miles east of south headed San Diego.

Dec.9 Dec.10  
1430 0100 OPNAV TO CINCPAC, COMPAC SOUTHERN NAV COASTAL FRONTIER, COM SE PAC FOR, COM PANAMA NAV COASTAL FRONT: Estimated positions British ships at 1800 GCT 8 Dec. PRINCE ROBERT 34 North 140 West 042. 15 DIOMEDE 02 North 87 West 055. 14. ACHILLES 20 south 170 East 186. 15.

1409 0039 NAV OBS WELLINGTON TO CINCPAC, COM 14: Despatch from British sources says that all American trans-Pacific sailings cancelled. Is MARIPOSA to be held here? Info required connection movements of escorts.

1407 0037 AUST. CNB, MELBOURNE TO CINC, CHINA(BR), CINC EAST INDIES(BR) N.Z. NB, WELLINGTON, USNAVSTA GTMO, CINCPAC: Disposition of units Naval Station, local reporting officer station 9th Dec. Cruisers HMS CANBERRA, HMS PERTH, LE TRIOPHANT (FREE FRENCH) at Sydney. HMS ADELAIDE due Darwin bound December from Port Moresby. HMS ACHILLES (N.Z.) due at Port Moresby 11th Dec. from Suva, Fiji. Armed merchant ship HMAS WESTRALIA at Darwin. Destroyer HMAS VOYAGER (Refitting) at Sydney. HMAS STUART (Refitting) at Haslar. Minelayer BUNGAREE due Brisbane 10 Dec. from Barrier Reef.

1521 0151 OPNAV TO SARATOGA, COM 13, 11, & CINCPAC: Com 12 reports 2 formations enemy planes made reconnaissance flight from seaward over central and northern California coast last night from 1719 to about 2100. Unconfirmed info formations now returning for daylight attack.

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1540 0210 COM 11 TO BAGADUCE, KENNISON, CROSBY, KILTY, CRANE, HUMPHREYS, LAWRENCE-FLETRABASE, SAN CLEMENTE, SOPA, SANDIEGO: Report absence of contacts or contacts either air or surface with identification if possible.

1551 0221 CINCPAC TO CO WAKE: No own surface ships near Wake at present. Any seen are enemy.

1558 0228 RDO WAILUPE TO COM14, CINCPAC: Police Radio Maui reported planes flying high from toward Lanai to Kanikokai Molokai. Police Molokai reported planes turned over Molokai and headed for Honolulu. This was reported to Naval Air Kaneohe by Honolulu Police and Kaneohe receipted for same.

1626 0256 CANBERRA TO RDO MONO, RDO CAVITE: Interrogatory OpNav 081640 conflicting with instructions received by ACNB to hold U.S. ships sailing for Pacific coast ports.

1704 0334 OPNAV TO CINCPAC: Keep West Coast Naval authorities informed as to movements near coast of SARATOGA and other Fleet Units. Naval authorities promptly inform Army Air Forces to prevent mistake in identity.

1659 0329 CINCPAC TO COMTASKUNIT 7.2.4: Wake's present status unknown here. Desire any information you have or can obtain without undue risk.

1630 0300 COM 12 TO NAV OBS WELLINGTON: Affirmative UrDis 090445 pending further instructions. Ref: British sources say all American Trans Pacific sailing cancelled. Is MARIPOSA to be held here. Information required in connection with movements of escorts.

1748 0418 COM 11 TO KILTY, HUMPHREYS, LAWRENCE, INFO KENNISON: Proceed Iceland thirty six develop possible submarine contacts made by KENNISON.

1730 0400 PORTLAND TO CINCPAC: At exactly 0300 GCT a plane subsequently identified as a Patrol Plane at an estimated altitude of 12000 feet, dropped 1 salvo of 2 bombs in Wake, this vessel 200 yards astern. Our position at this time within 3 miles reported position of attack. Zigzagging on course 068 at 22 knots. PORTER screening 1000 yards ahead. Our decks newly painted war colors giving mottled appearance. Paint partly washed off bows PORTER showing large areas red lead. At 0301 fired 3 salvos. Plane threatened attack several times and at 0320, 8 rounds were fired. Identity plane suspected but not positively known until radio report intercepted on Task Force Commanders frequency. From foregoing positive that reported enemy were in fact PORTLAND and PORTER.

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| 1842 | 0512 | S-18 TO COMPACNOR NAV COASTAL FRONT: Originator and S-23 report for duty Comtaskfor 7 090930. Fully ready at San Diego.   |
| 1910 | 0540 | CINCPAC TO CTU 7.2.4: Cancel 091755. We do not know present status of Wake. Information you have or can obtain without undue risk desired.  |
| 1906 | 0536 | OPNAV TO ALL NAV DIST COMDTS: In cooperation with Fleet units arrange as practicable on Army request to assign Naval Officers to temporary duty as observers with Army air units operating offshore in order to avoid possibility of mistakes in identifying naval forces.  |
| 1913 | 0543 | COM HONO DIST TO COML4: CG400 has been directed to proceed around island to westward to bring in sampans.   |
| 1937 | 0607 | CPW2 to VJ-1 PLANES 14, 18, 19: Search for submarines near Kaenea Point.  |
| 1926 | 0556 | MIDWAY (AERO) TO NPM: For security of this base and to enhance speed, it suggested that the cable company be used for despatches in order to stop homing on transmission.   |
| 1905 | 0535 | OPNAV TO CINCPAC COMAIRBATFOR CINCLANT COMGEN 2ND MARDIV COMAIRAIR- WING 1 COM 11 COMPAC SOUTHERN NAV COAST FRONTIER: On arrival San Diego, units of first marine air wing are available to Cincpac as carrier replacements. While at San Deigo, they will be made available to Army to assist in local defense of San Diego area.              |
| 1948 | 0618 | CTF 12 to CINCPAC: At 0700 commence circular search with carrier planes to a distance of two hundred forty miles relative from position Lat. 18-23, Long 165-00. My course 070, speed 15.   |
| 2030 | 0700 | WRIGHT TO CINCPAC SIGNAL TOWER: CTG9.6 090015 93 civilian passengers from Wake and Midway ready for disembarkation. Request information of method and procedure desired to accomplish this as expeditiously as possible. Ref: Request pilot tugs berth agriculture customs. No disease. Have 2 officers and 9 enlisted, 93 civilian passengers. |
| 1955 | 0625 | COML4 (GARBLED) TO REGULUS: Abandon tow. Proceed best speed.  |
| 2035 | 0705 | CTF 8 LANT TO CTG 8.2.1 LANT: Proceed to San Diego at earliest practicable time by squadron or division via sothwest United States. Report to Cincpac for duty upon arrival. NOTE: This dispatch received as originated by CTG 8.2.1 to other addressees for action -- obviously correct version address appears below.                         |