

Cincpac File No.
SECRET

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

Dec.9 Dec.10
G.C.T. L.C.T.

2106 0736 CINCPAC TO NAVATT MELBOURNE: Your 080655 Opanv directs "Continue to use Torres Strait as at present."

2036 0706 CTF12 TO CINCPAC: The following additional information from LEXINGTON quote location course and speed of carrier reported in Cincpac secret serial almost identical with PORTLAND position at time given. LEXINGTON combat patrol approached for attack identified and followed short distance one patrol plane altitude 10,000 on starboard quarter of PORTLAND at time given. Also circumstances indicate this contact is a phoney. Destroyer with PORTLAND had paint washed off and red lead showing on bow unquote. At time of bombing, PORTLAND and PORTER were about 15 miles astern of formation recovering plane.

1922 0552 NAVATT SINGAPORE TO OPNAV: Reinforcements coming here. Cruiser Java and three squads Dutch bombers today. EXETER and our desdiv 57 tomorrow. ACHILLES from Suva due seventeenth. REVENGE nearing Colombo. Dockyard here untouched and very minor damage in city. Eastern fleet movements sent directly to Admiral Hart by British HQ here and I won't duplicate. Same applies reports our army observer VYR here which read for military and air situation.

2018 0648 OPNAV TO CINCPAC: My 090139 places Commander Hawaiian Naval Coastal frontier fully under your command for all purposes. Your 090253 War and Navy Departments are bending every effort to reinforce the Pacific Fleet and the Army Hawaiian Dept. with ships, airplanes, troops, and anti-aircraft weapons. You will be promptly informed as to plans. In view of raid on West Coast it is necessary also to provide additional forces for that region, Alaska, and the Canal Zone. For this same reason your covering operations assume especial importance and it will be necessary to provide adequate escorts for convoys between Hawaii and West Coast. When carriers are used for transporting planes to Oahu their own complement may reinforce Army air defenses Oahu but should be well dispersed among different fields and effectively camouflaged. Because of the great success of the Japanese raid on the 7th it is expected to be promptly followed up by additional attacks in order to render Hawaii untenable as Naval and air base in which eventuality it is believed Japanese have suitable forces for initial occupation of islands other than Oahu including Midway, Maui, and Hawaii. Under present circumstances it seems questionable that Midway can be retained, but it is hoped that Johnston, Palmyra, and Samoa may be. In expectation of further air raids, and inadequacy of defenses of Oahu, the Chief of Naval Operations considers it essential that wounded vessels able to proceed under own power should be sent to West Coast as soon as possible with due regard to safety from current raiding forces and very great importance of effective counter attacks on these raiders by you. Until defenses are increased, it is doubtful if Pearl should

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be used as a base for any except patrol craft, naval aircraft and submarines, or for short periods when it is reasonably certain Japanese attacks will not be made. Consider it especially important that submarines and tenders not suffer losses. Suggest wide dispersal through the various lochs, and prompt and effective camouflage measures.

2057 0727 NAS MIDWAY TO COM14: Radar reports three, possibly four, air targets circling about, distance four to seven miles. Unable to sight targets. Advise if own forces increased.

2120 0750 CINCLANT TO COMBATDIV 3: Your 091445 each ship retain bombardment but complete service allowances upon arrival Norfolk area. No 14" at Hingham.

1014 0044 NAVANT MELBOURNE TO RDO WAILUPE RDO CAVITE: REC'D FM COM14: Interrogatory Opnav 081640 conflicting with instructions received by ACNB to hold U.S. ships sailing for Pacific Coast ports. Ref: Not on file.

2102 0732 DIRNAVINT WELLINGTON N.Z.: Signals received at 1645 GMT 9th Tarawa Gilbert Islands being attacked. Will report later if landing has taken place.

2045 0715 COM13 TO CINCPAC OPNAV SARATOGA COM11 COM12 COMALSEC NAS DUTCH HARBOR COM15: Fair to good direction finder FIW enemy transmission Lat. 55-03 North, Long 170-45 West, at 1700 GCT:

2215 0845 HELENA TO CINCPAC: Picked up Japanese stations working each other 6700 Kcs. Signal strength five.

2243 0913 COMBASEFOR TO ALL SHIPS PRESENT: Report number of portable submersible electric pumps available.

2301 0931 COM12 TO SARATOGA: Army planes operating in coastal waters with orders to attack all SS and carriers within 500 miles.

2303 0933 FROM WRIGHT TO CINCPAC; CINCPAC TO COM14, PASSED ON TO COM14 FOR ACTION: COMTASK Group 9.6 090015 Ninety-three civilian passengers from Wake and Midway ready for disembarkation. Request information method and procedure desired to accomplish this as expeditiously as possible. Ref: Request Pilot Tugs berth Agriculture Customs. No disease. Have two officers and nine enlisted, and 93 civilian passengers.

2151 0821 ST LOUIS TO CTF 1: AT present ECM not operating satisfactorily with 4 or 5 push bar lever combinations. Unable to decode entirely your 090909. Will advise when operating normally again.

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2335 1005 CINCPAC TO CTF 8, CTF 12: Information. Results of morning air search negative. No sight contacts with enemy forces except submarines since Sunday morning. Destroy enemy forces within striking distances of Pearl. CTF 8 direct TF 1 to return to Pearl passing through point 130° 8 miles from Diamond Head and report the exact time of arrival during daylight Pearl channel entrance 4 hours prior to arrival. Taskfor 8 operate in general area 100 to 300 miles northeastward of Oahu. Taskfor 12 proceed toward Pearl at about 15 knots report 2330 GCT position and fuel status. All task forces keep Cincpac sufficiently informed of positions to avoid being bombed by friendly planes.

2336 1006 CINCPAC TO CTF 12: Following is Comtaskfor 9 afternoon search plan for shore based air. 6 VP sector 210 to 270, distance 200 miles take off 1300, 8 Army A-20 sector 330 to 030, distance 150 take off 1330.

2346 1016 COM 12 to S-18, S-23: Keep off coast 500 miles as Army planes have orders to attack carriers and submarines in coastal waters.

2356 1026 CTF 9 TO CTF 12: 6 Patrol planes sector 270 to 210 distance 200 commencing Pearl 1300.

December 10
0017 1047 NAS MIDWAY TO COM 14: Request immediate advice disposition of all registered publications. With cable company to use plan to destroy all codes except CSP 1159, 1160, 845 and other publications. Reserve publications have already been destroyed. Advise heading procedure to use with cables.

----- ----- FORT SHAFTER FROM COMMERCIAL PACIFIC CABLE: Following summary of log messages between Wake Island and Northern Area Australia. Times Greenwich mean time. 0120 8th Dec. Wake Is. being bombed 20 bombers many casualties. Help needed. Continuous SOS to 0155. 0321 heavy jamming signals. 1000 Wake Is. reported that Midway is shelled. 1207 to 1406 Wake calling Midway Is. continuous with no contact. 1406 to 1418 signals jammed. 1729 From Wake Is. only 4 planes left, many casualties. 0117 9th December, Wake Is. just bombed by 20 bombers heavy, planes departed headed west northwest. Please relay damage report garbled word Merdesmith.

1837 0507 COMAIRSCOFOR TO OPNAV, BUAER: On basis possible reallocation of some of the 1st PBY 5A airplanes to replace losses in Hawaii am holding 1st airplane San Diego until advised. Can expedite delivery by omitting sperry installation in event of reallocation.

0105 1135 RDO WAILUPE TO NAS PEARL: FCC reports plane down sent SOS signal signed 970 bearing from Punch Bowl 195 degrees.