

3. While no minimum depth of water in which naval vessels may be anchored can arbitrarily be assumed as providing safety from torpedo plane attack, it may be assumed that depth of water will be one of the factors considered by any attacking force, and an attack launched in relatively deep water (10 fathoms or more) is much more likely.

4. As a matter of information the torpedoes launched by the British at Taranto were, in general, in thirteen to fifteen fathoms of water, although several torpedoes may have been launched in eleven or twelve fathoms.

R. E. JOHNSON.

Copy to: CincPac  
CinCant  
CinCaf  
U. S. Naval Net Depot, Tahara  
U. S. Naval Net Depot, Newport  
Comdt. NavSta, Guamianamo  
Comdt. NavSta, Samoa  
BrOrd  
Op-12

ARI/ND14/(16)

Serial 080W

Secret

From: Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet.

To: Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District.

Subject: Hocking Pearl Harbor Channel.

Reference: (a) Com-14 Conf. Ltr. C-ARI/IL/ND11(6500) of August 10, 1941.

1. In view of anti-submarine defenses approved for and now in process of installation at Honolulu and Pearl Harbor, the Commander-in-Chief does not desire to reopen the question of anti-submarine nets theretofore.

2. With reference to laying defensive mine fields off these harbors, it is believed there is insufficient prospect of commensurate return for the restricted maneuverability and risks involved to our own ships.

3. The Commander-in-Chief has noted with approval the action initiated toward obtaining suitable radar for protection of channel entrance. He would like to see this matter vigorously prosecuted. Please keep him informed as to progress.

4. WPL-46 assigns salvage in these waters as a task for the forces afloat, assisted by such facilities as the shore establishment may be able to provide. Organization and assembly of equipment is now in progress under Commander Base Force. It is requested that the results of the study and inventory referred to in paragraph (3) of reference (a) be made available to Commander Base Force and that, if and when necessity arises, appropriate local facilities and technical facilities be furnished him.

H. B. KRAMER.

#### HEWITT INQUIRY EXHIBIT No. 64

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT

Washington, Feb. 7, 1941.

Subject: Air Defense of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

To: The Secretary of the Navy.

1. In replying to your letter of January 24, regarding the possibility of surprise attacks upon the Fleet or the Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, I wish to express complete concurrence as to the importance of this matter and the urgency of our making every possible preparation to meet such a hostile effort. The Hawaiian Department is the best equipped of all our overseas departments, and continues to hold a high priority for the completion of its projected defenses because of the importance of giving full protection to the Fleet.

2. The Hawaiian Project provides for one hundred and forty-eight pursuit planes. There are now in Hawaii thirty-six pursuit planes; nineteen of these are P-36's and seventeen are of somewhat less efficiency. I am arranging to have thirty-one P-36 pursuit planes assembled at San Diego for shipment to Hawaii within the next ten days, as agreed to with the Navy Department. This will bring

the Army pursuit group in Hawaii up to fifty of the P-36 type and seventeen of a somewhat less efficient type. In addition, fifty of the new P-40-B pursuit planes, with their guns, leakproof tanks and modern armor will be assembled at San Diego about March 15 for shipment by carrier to Hawaii.

3. There are at present in the Hawaiian Islands eighty-two 3-inch AA guns, twenty 37-mm AA guns (en route), and one hundred and nine caliber .50 AA machine guns. The total project calls for ninety-eight 3-inch AA guns, one hundred and twenty 37-mm AA guns, and three hundred and eight caliber .50 AA machine guns.

4. With reference to the Aircraft Warning Service, the equipment therefor has been ordered and will be delivered in Hawaii in June. All arrangements for installation will have been made by the time the equipment is delivered. Inquiry develops the information that delivery of the necessary equipment cannot be made at an earlier date.

5. The Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, is being directed to give immediate consideration to the question of the employment of balloon barrages and the use of smoke in protecting the Fleet and base facilities. Barrage balloons are not available at the present time for installation and cannot be made available prior to the summer of 1941. At present there are three on hand and eighty-four being manufactured—forty for delivery by June 30, 1941, and the remainder by September. The Budget now has under consideration funds for two thousand nine hundred and fifty balloons. The value of smoke for screening vital areas on Oahu is a controversial subject. Qualified opinion is that atmospheric and geographic conditions in Oahu render the employment of smoke impracticable for large scale screening operations. However, the Commanding General will look into this matter again.

6. With reference to your other proposals for joint defense, I am forwarding a copy of your letter and this reply to the Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, and am directing him to cooperate with the local naval authorities in making those measures effective.

[S] HENRY L. STIMSON,  
*Secretary of War.*

MEMORANDUM ENDORSEMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 13, 1941.

Op-30B3-AJ  
(SC)A7-2(2)/FFI  
D-27446  
Secret

From: Director, Naval Districts Division

To: Director, War Plans Division

Subject: Air Defense of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (SecWar ltr. of Feb. 7, 1941, to SecNav.)

1. Returned. It is recommended that a copy of the subject letter be sent to the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet and the Commandant of the 14th Naval District.

[S] Alex Sharp  
ALEX SHARP

(Pencil Notation: Done 015712 of 11 Feb. M.)

NAVY INQUIRY EXHIBIT No. 65

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
AND PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

MEMORANDUM OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

This is to certify that the attached documents consisting of the following:  
Copy of Claridge Secret ltr. dated 7 August 1941, Serial 010W, Subject: Organization of ORANGE Fleet and ORANGE Activities in the Mandated Islands, and copy of Enclosure (A) thereto,  
are true and correct photographic copies of the documents in the official files of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Area.

R. E. KEESON  
R. E. KEESON

*In direction of the Commander in Chief,  
U. S. Pacific Fleet, and Pacific Ocean Area.*