

EXHIBITS OF NAVY COURT OF INQUIRY

VOLUME I

No. 1 to 29 (both inclusive)

NOTE.—Exhibits No. 11 and 29 contain privileged matter, which though not "Top-Secret", do contain matter which is against the public interest to release for any purpose whatsoever. This privileged matter has been plainly marked by underlining in "red", together with an appropriate note calling special attention to its classification.

/s/ H. BIESEMEIER,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Judge Advocate.

EXHIBIT No. 1

GENERAL ORDER
No. 142

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., Jan. 10, 1941.

STATUS OF COMMANDANTS FIFTH, TENTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH AND
FIFTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICTS

1. General Orders Nos. 109, 119, and 128 are hereby cancelled, and this order substituted therefor effective February 1, 1941.

2. The Commandants of the Tenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Naval Districts, the Commandant of the Fifth Naval District in so far as pertains to the United States naval reservations and naval activities in the Islands of Bermuda, and the Commandant of the Thirteenth Naval District in so far as pertains to Alaska and the Aleutian Islands are hereby assigned a dual status as follows:

(a) As Commandants of their respective Naval Districts, operating under the orders of the Navy Department.

(b) As officers of one of the Fleets, operating under the orders of the Commander-in-Chief thereof, (1) with duties corresponding to those of a Senior Officer Present Afloat, when their relative rank makes them such, and (2) in command of task groups of the Fleet in question when and as directed by its Commander-in-Chief.

3. As commandants of their respective districts, they will be governed by all existing instructions relating to the duties of commandants of naval districts. The units under their command will be those prescribed in existing regulations and instructions, and will include the Local Naval Defense Forces as well as the usual shore activities.

4. Their exercise of duties as officers of a Fleet will be guided by such instructions as the Commander-in-Chief of that Fleet may consider desirable.

5. Upon assuming command of their respective districts, commandants will further report to the officers indicated below in order that they may carry out their Fleet duties as indicated above:

(a) The Commandants of the Fifth, Tenth, and Fifteenth Naval Districts will report to the Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Fleet.

(b) The commandants of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Naval Districts will report to the Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet.

FRANK KNOX.

A true copy. Attest:

H. Biese-meier,

H. BIESEMEIER,

Captain, U. S. Navy,

Judge Advocate.

EXHIBIT No. 2

GENERAL ORDER
No. 143

NAVY DEPARTMENT.
Washington, D. C., February 3, 1941.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NAVAL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

1. General Orders Nos. 65 and 102 are hereby conveyed.

2. Effective February 1, 1941, the Naval Forces of the United States are by this order organized into:

The United States Fleet, comprising:

(a) The United States Atlantic Fleet,

(b) The United States Pacific Fleet,

(c) The United States Asiatic Fleet;

The Naval Coastal Frontier Forces,

Special Task Forces,

Special Duty Ships,

The Naval Transportation Service,

Naval District Craft,

The assignment and administrative organization of units pertaining to the foregoing will be as prescribed by the Chief of Naval Operations either in special orders or in the "Assignment of Units in the Organization of the Seagoing Forces of the U. S. Navy," and the "Assignment of Units to Naval Districts and Naval Stations."

3. The United States Atlantic Fleet, the United States Pacific Fleet, and the United States Asiatic Fleet are administrative and task organizations, and normally operate under the instructions or orders of the Navy Department. Each is under the command of a flag officer having the title "Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic (or Pacific, or Asiatic) Fleet." The geographical limits of command of the Commander-in-Chief, United States Asiatic Fleet, shall include the Western Pacific and the Indian Oceans and tributary waters. The eastern limit shall be the 180th meridian south of latitude 50° north and the 180th meridian east of Greenwich, north of latitude 50° north. The western limit shall be Asia, Africa, and, south of Africa, the 20th meridian east of Greenwich.

4. The United States Atlantic Fleet, the United States Pacific Fleet, and the United States Asiatic Fleet together comprise the United States Fleet, whose commander-in-chief is appointed from among the commanders-in-chief of the component fleets. The United States Fleet is an administrative organization for training purposes only, and is a task organization only when two or more fleets are concentrated, or are operating in conjunction with each other.

5. Under the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, will, through Type Commanders, prescribe standards and methods of training for all of the seagoing forces and aircraft of the Navy. Type Commanders will be designated in the "Assignment of Units in the Organization of the Seagoing Forces of the U. S. Navy", and customarily, so far as possible, the type commander will be in the same fleet as the Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

6. The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet, is senior to the other Commanders-in-Chief. When two or more fleets are concentrated, or are operating in conjunction with each other, the senior Commander-in-Chief is responsible to the Chief of Naval Operations for joint operations.

7. The Naval Coastal Frontier Forces, when formed, are administrative and task organizations, and operate under the Naval Coastal Frontier Commanders. Where Naval Coastal Frontiers have more than one Naval District in them, Naval Coastal Frontier Forces are subdivided into "Naval Coastal Forces" and "Naval Local Defense Forces", operating under the Naval Coastal Frontier Commanders and the Naval District Commandants, respectively. Where Naval