1316 CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

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EXHIBIT No. 54

Op-30Cl-AJ (SC) N20-12 Serial 010230

> NAVY DEPARTMENT, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, February 17, 1941.

Confidential

From: The Chief of Naval Operations.

To:

The Commandant, First Naval District.
The Commandant, Third Naval District.
The Commandant, Fourth Naval District.
The Commandant, Fifth Naval District.

The Commandant, Fifth Naval District.
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The Commandant, Fifteenth Naval District.
The Commandant, Sixteenth Naval District.
The Commandant, Naval Station, Guantanamo.
t: Anti-torpedo baffles for protection against the commandant of Subject: Anti-torpedo baffles for protection against torpedo plane attacks. 1. In previous correspondence the Commandants and local Joint Planning Committees have been requested, where considered necessary, to submit recommendations concerning the employment of nets and booms in their defenses. In nearly all cases the recommendations received were limited to harbor entrances. One of the reasons for this was that the Department, after previously making studies of many harbors, submitted certain proposals for consideration by the Districts, but did not specifically propose any protection against torpedo plane attacks.

2. The Commandants and Local Joint Planning Committees are requested, if they have not already done so, to consider the employment of and to make recommendations concerning anti-torpedo baffles especially for the protection of large and valuable units of the fleet in their respective harbors, and especially

at the major fleet bases.

3. In considering the use of A/T baffles, the following limitations, among

others, may be borne in mind:

(a) A minimum depth of water of seventy-five feet may be assumed necessary to successfully drop torpedoes from planes. About two hundred yards of torpedo run is necessary before the exploding device is armed, but this may be altered.

(b) There should be ample maneuvering room available for vessels approach-

ing and leaving berths.

(c) Ships should be able to get away on short notice.

(d) Room must be available inside the baffles for tugs fuel oil barges and harbor craft to maneuver alongside individual ships.

(e) Baffles should be clear of cable areas, ferry routes, and channels used

by shipping

(f) Baffles should be sufficient distance from anchored vessels to insure the vessels safety in case a torpedo explodes on striking a baffle.

g) High land in the vicinity of an anchorage makes a successful airplane

attack from the land side most difficult.

(h) Vulnerable areas in the baffles should be so placed as to compel attacking planes to come within effective range of anti-aircraft batteries before they can range their torpedoes.

(1) Availability of shore and ship anti-aircraft protection balloon barrages,

and aircraft protection.

(j) Availability of naturally well protected anchorages within a harbor from torpedo plane attack for a number of large ships. Where a large force such as a fleet is based, the installation of satisfactory baffles will be difficult because of congestion.

R. E. INGERSOLL,

Acting.

Copy to:

Cinc, Pacific Cinc, Atlantic Cinc, Asiatic C. ONav. N

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Op-12

Certified to be a true copy of file copy in CincPac.

Ensign H. E. RORMAN, U. S. N. Secret Mail Officer.