

1 Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart

2 movement intercepts or send him copies thereof?

3 Admiral Wilkinson: Whether we informed him of the fact
4 that these detailed inquiries as to the locations in Pearl
5 Harbor had come in in addition to the regular -- I mean aside
6 from the regular espionage that was going on, is that your
7 question?

8 Mr. Gearhart: I want the question answered.

9 Admiral Wilkinson: He knew there was a regular espionage.

10 Mr. Gearhart: Now, as you have testified that the ship
11 movement intercepts took on greater importance in your mind in
12 the light of the leaf line message I have read you, did you
13 at that time give some consideration to the proposition that
14 you should send Admiral Kimmel the substance of the ship move-
15 ment intercepts, or copies thereof?

16 Admiral Wilkinson: May I ask you, sir, if you meant
17 should I tell him that in addition to the regular espionage
18 with which he and we were familiar, that there were special
19 messages inquiring as to special information desired from
20 the spies?

21 Mr. Gearhart: That is right.

22 Admiral Wilkinson: No, sir, I did not.

23 Mr. Gearhart: In other words, did you give any consider-
24 ation to the question as to whether or not you should give to
25 Admiral Kimmel the information that you had?

1 Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart

2 Admiral Wilkinson: No, sir, I did not.

3 Mr. Gearhart: All right. Then when you encountered
4 this intercept, directing your attention to page 165 of
5 exhibit No. 1 in this proceeding, from Tokyo to Washington,
6 November 22, 1941: (Reading)

7 "To both you Ambassadors.

8 "It is awfully hard for us to consider changing the
9 date we set in my #736. You should know this, however, I
10 know you are working hard. Stick to our fixed policy and
11 do your very best. Spare no efforts and try to bring
12 about the solution we desire. There are reasons beyond
13 your ability to guess why we wanted to settle Japanese-
14 American relations by the 25th, but if within the next
15 three or four days you can finish your conversations with
16 the Americans; if the signing can be completed by the
17 29th, (let me write it out for you--twenty ninth); if the
18 pertinent notes can be exchanged; if we can get an under-
19 standing with Great Britain and the Netherlands; and in
20 short if everything can be finished, we have decided to
21 wait until that date. This time we mean it, that the
22 deadline absolutely cannot be changed. After that things
23 are automatically going to happen. Please take this into
24 your careful consideration and work harder than you ever
25 have before. This, for the present, is for the informa-
tion of you two Ambassadors alone."

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Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart

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2 Now when you read this intercepted message that the
3 Japanese had fixed a positively unalterable deadline of
4 November 29 at which things are automatically going to happen,
5 after you read that did it not occur to you, Admiral Wilkinson,
6 that you should give to Admiral Kimmel the information that
7 you had?

8 Admiral Wilkinson: No, sir. If that was information of
9 the character that would influence the operations of the
10 Fleet, whether to move in or out of port, I am not sure that
11 it was within the responsibility or the authority of my office
12 to send that. If, however, it was within that authority and
13 responsibility, I did not consider sending it to him.

14 Mr. Gearhart: You were charged with evaluating all in-
15 formation that came to you, domestic and foreign. You were
16 charged with the responsibility of disseminating that informa-
17 tion. You had the information. Did you go and talk to
18 Admiral Stark about it, or to any other higher officer than
19 yourself?

20 Admiral Wilkinson: I was charged with evaluating the
21 information, but I had been ordered not to develop the enemy
22 intentions. I was charged with the dissemination of this
23 information "as desirable". I had been restricted as to
24 the dissemination of information of this character. I should
25 perhaps have talked to Admiral Stark, or to Admiral Turner,

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart

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2 about it. I did not. The information, however, was available
3 to all hands, including myself.

4 Mr. Gearhart: So much for that. Now I want to ask you
5 some more questions about a few intercepts which were not
6 translated until after the 7th.

7 I notice, by making a rough count of Exhibit No. 1 and
8 Exhibit No. 2, that on December 6, 36 or 37 Japanese intercepts
9 were decoded. Without counting them carefully, I notice in
10 these two exhibits that very, very few were decoded on the
11 5th and very few on the preceding day.

12 How do you account for the fact that on the 6th day of
13 December our decoders were decoding like lightning and on
14 previous days they decoded very, very few in comparison?

15 Admiral Wilkinson: I do not account for it, sir. That
16 was being done by the War Department Signal Intelligence
17 Service and by the Navy Communications Service. It is possi-
18 ble that the completion of the transcripts were in part done
19 on the 5th and finished on the 6th. It is possible that the
20 key to the code was obtained on the 5th and applied on the
21 6th, but I haven't any information as to why.

22 Mr. Gearhart: Do you not consider it regrettable that
23 a message containing this phrase remained undecoded until
24 the 8th of December, a message which was received on December
25 6, 1941, from Honolulu to Tokyo, "I imagine that in all

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart

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2 probability there is considerable opportunity left to take
3 advantage for a surprise attack against these places", re-
4 ferring to Pearl Harbor? That appears on page 27 of Exhibit
5 No. 2.

6
7 Admiral Wilkinson: You ask me if it was not unfortunate
8 that it was not decoded before?

9 Mr. Gearhart: Yes.

10 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

11 Mr. Gearhart: It was tragic that that was not decoded
12 before?

13 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

14 Mr. Gearhart: How do you account for the fact that
15 that was not decoded, when the decoders were decoding very
16 rapidly and decoding messages in great number on that day,
17 the 6th?

18 Admiral Wilkinson: I do not account for it, sir.

19 Mr. Gearhart: How do you account for them picking out
20 the 13-part message to decode on the 6th and ignore this
21 surprise attack message that arrived on the same day?

22 Admiral Wilkinson: I do not account for it. It is
23 possible it came in another code which they could not so
24 readily translate; it is possible that they were primed to
25 get that 14-part message because the pilot message had come
before it and they were on the lookout for it and wanted to

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Mr. Gearhart
Senator Ferguson

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2 tackle it first.

3 Mr. Gearhart: Was there any special organization of
4 decoders on the 6th day of December, 1941?

5 Admiral Wilkinson: I do not know, sir. It was not under
6 my knowledge of cognizance. That was in the Communications
7 Office.

8 Mr. Gearhart: Have you heard anyone account for the
9 tremendous output of decoding that occurred on that day?

10 Admiral Wilkinson: No, sir.

11 Mr. Gearhart: Has it been subject to conversational
12 discussion?

13 Admiral Wilkinson: No, sir. I think I heard Captain
14 Kramer remark that there was a heavy demand for translators
15 that day, but that was, of course, after the decoding work
16 had been done.

17 Mr. Gearhart: That is all.

18 The Vice Chairman: Senator Ferguson from Michigan will
19 inquire.

20 Senator Ferguson: Did you, Admiral, have any conversation
21 with Admiral Kirk about why he had been replaced in a few
22 months?

23 Admiral Wilkinson: I feel quite sure I did, sir. I know
24 he was not replaced. He went to sea at his own request, in
25 order to take advantage of an opportunity for command.

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: senator Ferguson

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2 Senator Ferguson: Whom would he have to make a request to?

3 Admiral Wilkinson: The Chief of Naval Operations, I presume,
4 would release him, and the Bureau of Personnel would give
5 him the orders as to his duty.

6 Senator Ferguson: Had you requested the assignment in
7 there?

8 Admiral Wilkinson: No, sir. It was a surprise to me.
9 I was in command of a battleship at the time.

10 Senator Ferguson: You were called from the Fleet then?

11 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

12 Senator Ferguson: To come into Intelligence?

13 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

14 Senator Ferguson: Were you briefed on any subject when
15 you came in?

16 Admiral Wilkinson: I spent some little time going through
17 the Office of Naval Intelligence, spending a few hours in
18 each section and division in order to see what subject they
19 handled and how they handled them. I had intermittent con-
20 versations with Admiral Kirk and finally a fairly complete
21 turnover personally from him orally. I was not briefed by
22 any officer outside of Admiral Kirk and his subordinate
23 divisions.

24 Senator Ferguson: Were you briefed by Admiral Kirk?

25 Admiral Wilkinson: In the sense of the usual turnover,

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 yes, sir.

3 Senator Ferguson: Were you briefed on the diplomatic
4 messages up to that day?

5 Admiral Wilkinson: Not specifically. I was in the
6 Far Eastern Division and discussed the general tenor of them,
7 yes, sir.

8 Senator Ferguson: Now who in the Far Eastern Division
9 did you discuss the general tenor with?

10 Admiral Wilkinson: Captain McCullom.

11 Senator Ferguson: Captain McCullom?

12 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, the head of the division. He
13 was a continuing source of knowledge in there, had been in
14 there some little time, and would subsequently find me there
15 as well, and he told me the status up to the moment.

16 Senator Ferguson: You think you came there the 15th
17 of October?

18 Admiral Wilkinson: I took over the duties on the 15th
19 of October. This period of briefing I spoke of, I had gone
20 through the various offices, that took perhaps two weeks.

21 Senator Ferguson: Before that time?

22 Admiral Wilkinson: Before the 15th of October.

23 Senator Ferguson: So you really came into the Department
24 about the 1st of October?

25 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir. I spent a time in the

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 individual offices seeing what they did. I had a fairly
3 complete and informative turnover.

4 Senator Ferguson: You mean when you say that the
5 mechanical end of the office you were looking over for two
6 weeks?

7 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes. Not the mechanical, I mean
8 each one of the sections, I mean the domestic branch, the
9 foreign branch, or the geographic section, or the methods of
10 counter-espionage, suspicion, and so on, in each one of the
11 several offices, of which there were perhaps 20, I spent a
12 few hours.

13 Senator Ferguson: That would be the administrative end
14 then, that part of it?

15 Admiral Wilkinson: The operating end entirely. Not
16 purely administrative, the operating end of the office, yes,
17 sir.

18 Senator Ferguson: At that time you knew, on the 16th,
19 that there was a change of Cabinet in Japan?

20 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

21 Senator Ferguson: Do you recall that?

22 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

23 Senator Ferguson: Did the Intelligence Branch figure
24 in any way that that was a changing point in our negotiations?

25 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, and I think we so reported it

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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 2 in our fortnightly situation, or fortnightly summaries, as
 3 our general understanding of the picture. The Far Eastern
 4 section had considerable information on the make-up of the
 5 new Cabinet, that is on the military and naval members of it.
 6 We were all cognizant of the fact that this made a more
 7 military tenor in the Japanese Government than had existed
 8 before.

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Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Senator Ferguson: From a diplomatic viewpoint, when you went in, effective on the 15th of October, where did we stand in relation to the negotiations with Japan, as far as you are concerned; what was the diplomatic situation as of that time?

Admiral Wilkinson: My recollection is that the negotiations, which had been begun the preceding spring, interrupted in the summer, had been resumed, were now being carried on with Admiral Nomura, the Japanese Ambassador, as the senior Japanese representative, Mr. Kurusu had yet to arrive.

Senator Ferguson: At that time, were you familiar with what had taken place about the 17th of August, 1941, in relation to our diplomatic situation?

Admiral Wilkinson: With relation to the Argentinia Conference, you mean, sir?

Senator Ferguson: Yes.

Admiral Wilkinson: No, only by newspaper accounts.

Senator Ferguson: Now, will you tell me what the newspaper accounts were at that time, on that question? Tell me what you got from the newspapers.

Admiral Wilkinson: I do not think I got very much more than the Four Freedoms, and I think there was a communique there, I forget it now.

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 Senator Ferguson: Pardon me?

3 Admiral Wilkinson: I think there was a communique
4 issued, but I forget it now, sir.

5 Senator Ferguson: You say you learned about the
6 Four Freedoms from the newspapers?

7 Admiral Wilkinson: To my recollection, yes, sir.

8 Senator Ferguson: Is that all you knew about that
9 conference?

10 Admiral Wilkinson: I knew our naval and military
11 staffs had attended, and I knew, in all probability, they
12 had discussed measures of supply of England. The lease-lend,
13 I am not sure whether it was in effect at that moment, but
14 it soon was, and I knew they had probably discussed that
15 and discussed the safety of the Atlantic lanes. I knew
16 nothing of any discussions whatsoever regarding the Far
17 East.

18 Senator Ferguson: When did you first learn about
19 the discussions that had taken place there with relation
20 to the Far East?

21 Admiral Wilkinson: I do not know that I ever learned,
22 sir.

23 Senator Ferguson: Now, you were going to make a summary
24 or appraisal of the intelligence that was coming through,
25 isn't that correct?

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

Senator Ferguson: Have you ever learned about the parallel action of the two countries?

Admiral Wilkinson: Only recently.

Senator Ferguson: Just recently?

Admiral Wilkinson: As I think I have explained, Senator, our interest, responsibilities, and authority were confined to the action of foreign countries, and particularly prospective enemies. Matters on arrangement within our own country and diplomatic military and naval plans or arrangements or understandings for cooperation were not given to us.

Senator Ferguson: Then the question, as I understand it, as far as intelligence was concerned, of what our diplomatic negotiations were, did not concern you; you did not use that in any way to evaluate what the enemy might be going to do?

Admiral Wilkinson: As I could learn and find out matters of that degree, yes, of course, they would be reflected in our interest. There was no machinery set up that I was definitely informed of. I learned a good deal through the translation of these intercepts as to what proposals our State Department had made to Japan which otherwise I would not have known through the machinery

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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existing.

Senator Ferguson: Do you recall getting the Winant message in relation to the movement of ships on the 6th of December, 1941?

Admiral Wilkinson: I do not recall it specifically, sir, but if I did see it, and I presume I did because it came through the information channels, it was confirmatory of the evidences that we had already had of this advance through the south China Sea.

Senator Ferguson: Had you received Admiralty messages on the same point?

Admiral Wilkinson: I had been informed of them, yes, sir, and I think I had seen them.

Senator Ferguson: What did those two messages mean to you?

Admiral Wilkinson: They meant an attack was coming in the south China Sea area.

Senator Ferguson: It meant an attack was coming on the south? I did not get that?

Admiral Wilkinson: The south China Sea area, if we are speaking of the same message. You are speaking of the Winant message regarding the movement of ships?

Senator Ferguson: Yes.

Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir. That is the attack which

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 we had foreseen.

3 Senator Ferguson: What did that mean to the United
4 States?

5 Admiral Wilkinson: I have my doubts, sir. It might
6 mean we would come into the war in support of Siam, if that
7 country were attack, or Singapore, if that were attacked;
8 it might mean we would not come into the war.

9 Senator Ferguson: Why would we possibly come in if
10 Singapore was attacked, in your opinion, as of that time?

11 Admiral Wilkinson: Only because of two things: First
12 because of our possible relations with England, as had
13 been evidenced by the arrangements for the transfer of food
14 and ammunition to England, the lend-lease, ocean convoys;
15 the second thing, because that was because that was an
16 encroachment, a further advance of Japan, and the policy
17 of our country apparently was directed toward preventing
18 the aggressive moves of Japan extending beyond certain
19 limits.

20 Senator Ferguson: All right.

21 Now, I want to get what information you had in relation
22 to the United States policy as far as Japan was concerned
23 if they moved beyond certain limits, as you now say in
24 your last answer.

25 Admiral Wilkinson: Yes, sir.

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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Senator Ferguson: What was your information along that line?

Admiral Wilkinson: I had the information -- I cannot say whether I saw the document, or was told about it -- that an advance of the Japanese forces to the westward of the 100th meridian or the southward of the 10th parallel of latitude would be a matter of grave concern to both England and America.

Whether that policy, as so indicated, of our State Department would be translated by the Congress and people into not only grave concern, but a resistance by war, I did not know.

Senator Ferguson: Now, you say someone showed it to you, or someone told you about it. Is that true?

Admiral Wilkinson: I am not sure which, sir, whether I had heard of it, or I had seen some message to that effect.

Senator Ferguson: Can you recall what kind of message you may have seen along that same line?

Admiral Wilkinson: No, sir. I think I have seen some exhibit to that effect now. It may be that that I have seen.

If the counsel will show me, I can perhaps speak of it.

Senator Ferguson: I want to try and take you back

Witness Wilkinson

Questions by: Senator Ferguson

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2 as of the date, rather than what you saw here or heard
3 at the hearing.

4 Admiral Wilkinson: What I am speaking of now, is
5 what I have seen which embodied those same parallels, those
6 same geographical limits.

7 As to the time I knew of the geographical limits, I
8 cannot remember whether I knew of them by someone telling
9 me, or whether I knew of them by seeing a paper. You
10 ask me what paper I saw. I saw if I saw a paper it was
11 probably this paper I speak of now. I think more probably
12 I was told that by Captain Schuirmann, who was the Director
13 of the Central Division, and Liaison Officer with the
14 State Department.

15 The Vice Chairman: It is now four o'clock. You will
16 require some further time, Senator?

17 Senator Ferguson: Yes.

18 The Vice Chairman: The committee will stand adjourned
19 until ten o'clock tomorrow morning. You will return then
20 please, Admiral.

21 (Whereupon, at 4:00 o'clock p. m., the committee
22 recessed until 10:00 a. m., the following day,
23 Wednesday, December 19, 1945.)
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25