D. D. 1500-W-1 Letter from Admiral C. C. Bloch via Admiral Richardson to Admiral Stark - 30 December 1940. C-A16-1/A7-2/MD14 (629)OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT FOU COMENTH NAVAL DISTRICT AMD Navy Yard, Fearl Harbor, Hawaii, U.S.A. 30 Dec. 1940 CONFIDENTIAL Comrandant. Fourteenth Naval District. From: The Chief of Mayel Operations. To .: Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet. Via: Subject: Situation Concerning the Security of the Fleet and the Present Ability of the Local Defense Forces to Meet Surprise Attacks. (a) Opnav dispatch 092135 of October 1940. References: (p) Opnav Clspetch 183138 of October 1940. Chief of Navel Operations' personal Letter addressed to GINCUS dated 22 November 1940 (copy sent to Com 14). (d) Com 14 dispatch 150055 of October 1940. (e) Com 14 dispatch 220230 of October 1940. In view of the inquiries contained in references (a), (b) and (c), I consider it desirable to write this letter to set forth the present ability of the Fourteenth Naval District to meet surprise hestile attacks of an enemy with the equipment and forces at hand. AIRCRAFT RAIDS. 2. Aircraft attacking the base at Pearl Harbor will undoubtedly be brought by carriers. Therefore, there are two ways of repelling attack. Farst, by locating and destroying the carrier prior to launching planes. Second, by driving off attacking tombers with anti-aircraft guns and fighters. The Navy component of the local defense forces has no planes for distant reconnaissance with which to locate enemy carriers and the only planes belonging to the local defense forces to attack carriers when located would be the Army bombers. The Army has in the Hawaiian area flfiy-nine B-18 bombers. All of these are classified as being obsolete. The model is six years old and the planes themsolves are fire wears old. Therefore, it is my opinion that neither numbers nor types are satisfactory for the purpose invended. Now bombing planes are expected sometime in the future. However, not before July 1941. For distant reconnulssance, requisition would have to be made on the forces afloat for such as could be spared by the Fleet. To drive off bombing planes after they have been launched will require both fighting planes and antiaircraft guns. The Army has in the Hawaiian area thirtysix pursuit planes, all of which are classified as obsolete. Some of them are six years old and some of them are four years old. In numbers and models, there is a serious deficiency existing. New fighters are expected when the P-40

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> OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT FOURTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT AND

Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, U.S.A.

CONFIDENTIAL

30 Dec. 1940

Subject:

Situation Concerning the Security of the Fleet and the Fresent Ability of the Local Delense Forces to Meet Surprise Attacks.

is in production to the extent that the 185 projected for Hawaii can be delivered. This does not appear to be probable before the end of 1941; this number does not appear adequate.

The Army is charged with the protection of the Pearl Harbor base by anti-circraft guns. There are in Hawaii twenty-six fixed 3-inch gues and forty-four mobile 3-inch guns. There are projected twenty-four more, to be delivered in 1941. There are no 1/ millimeter and only 109 .50 caliber out of the projected 120 37-1 "Limeter and 306 .50 callber machine guns. The Army plant to place the greater part of the 3-inch guns around Pearl Harbor and only a few near other military objectives. In my opinion, it will be necessary to increase the numbers of gums around Pear! Herbor greatly to have any semblance of anth-alreraft defense. Furthermore, I express my noubt as to the efficiency of a 3 inch gum with a 21-second fuse for driving off high altitude bembers. Army has made no plans for the anti-aircraft defense of Luniuslei or Kanesho: furthermore, it will be necessary to have a considerable echeentration of anti-aircraft guns to defend the shipping terminals and harbor of Honolulu in order that lines of communication may be kapt open. With a limited knowledge of the density of anti-aircraft barrages abroad, I am of the opinion that at least 500 guns of adequate size and range will be required for the efficient darense of the Hawaidan area. This number is in addition to 37-millimeter and ,50 caliber machine guns.

an aircraft warning service which will consist of eight Radar stations. Three of these stations are fixed and five are mobile. When completed at an indefinite time in the future, this warning net should be adequate.

## 3: DEFENSE AGAINST SUBWARINES.

The ideal defense against submarines would be conducted by patrol vessels and aircraft working in conjunction. The district has to aircraft for this purpose. Recently, there have arrived here three vessels of Destroyer Division ETGMTY which is assigned to the local defense forces. These vessels have listening gear and, when repaired and ready for service, will be a valuable contribution for anti-submarine and escort work. A large number of patrol vessels will be required for anti-submarine work in the vicinity of Oahu and the other islands. At present, the district has none and request would have to be made on the Fleet for such vessels and planes as could be spared for this most important work. No anti-submarine nets are planned, nor are any considered desirable. Anti-torpedo nets are projected for the

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stations have been erected, each equipped with searchlights. This enables sentries to keep a continuous lookout over the entire fence line day and night; the upper farm is considered fairly secure.

## WATER AND FLECTRICITY SUPPLY.

Recently, a guard house has been erected and an arrangement has been made, the Marines alternating with the Army, for constant guard on the water supply.

A constant guard is kept on the electric supply lines through which outside power is received.

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