

Op-23D4

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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14 December 1945

MEMORANDUM For Vice Admiral Wilkinson, via J.A.G.

Subject: Japanese Espionage, Information on in 14ND
Prior to 7 December 1941.

1. The information contained herewith is submitted
in accordance with the verbal request to Captain Keisker.

2. There is attached a list and a brief summary
of the documents submitted to or originated by the District
Intelligence Officer, Fourteenth Naval District prior to 7
December 1941 which contained information relative to the
espionage activities on behalf of the Japanese and the type
of intelligence which the Japanese were seeking prior to the
outbreak of hostilities.

Thos. B. Ingles

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Source and Dissemination

FBI rpt. Honolulu, dated 9 Oct. 1940, subject "Rev. Unji HIRAYAMA." Disseminated to DIO-11ND, G-2, Honolulu and FBI Headquarters.

CNO(DNI) to Comdts. all ND's, Comdt. Wash. Navy Yard, subject "Japanese Intelligence, Propaganda and Enlightenment Organizations in the U.S." Letter dated 25 Sept. 1940.

CNO(DNI) to Comdts. all ND's and Comdt. Navy Yard, Wash., D.C., subject "Japanese Espionage, Intelligence, Propaganda and Enlightenment Organizations in the U.S." Letter dated 9 Oct. 1940

CNO(DNI) ltr. to all ND's (Less 16), dated 25 Nov. 1940, Serial 0310116, subject "Japanese Intelligence Organization for the U. S."

CNI blue card dated 12 Feb. 1941 to ND's 1-15 inclusive and FBI, subject "Espionage (Japanese Intelligence Network in U.S.)"

Content

As of 9 Oct. 1940, DIO-11ND was advised by FBI report that Rev. Unji HIRAYAMA had been requested by a member of the Japanese Consulate to keep the Consulate informed as to movements of U.S. fleet in the vicinity of Maui, T.H.

Enclosed schematic diagram of Japanese intelligence organization in U. S. and Hawaii, and requested recommendations by the DIO's for correction and improvement of the diagram.

States Japanese Consulate, Japanese associations, Government agencies, business firms and banks have been directed to redouble their security measures against activities of U. S. intelligence agents.

This letter, dated 25 November 1940, enclosed schematic diagram of Japanese Intelligence Organization, showing organization in Hawaii as well as the continental U. S., and expressed the desire that detailed schematic diagram be prepared for each Naval District.

This information, disseminated by CNI on 12 February 1941, sets forth details of the Japanese espionage system in the U. S., and their plans for expansion and strengthening of the system and coordination with other Axis intelligence organizations in the U. S. States that the overall objective of Japanese investigations is the determination of the total strength of the U.S.

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Source and dissemination

DIO-11ND rpt., subject "Japanese Naval Intelligence Instructions" dated 25 Feb. 1941. Disseminated to ONI, CinCUS, 3,12,13,14 and 15ND's, G-2 and FBI.

Conf. Study entitled "Totalitarian Doctrine, Organization, Propaganda Distribution and Intelligence Operations - Japanism," prepared by ONI in May 1941. Disseminated to all ND's, FBI, MID.

ONI card to all ND's, MID and FBI dated 19 May 1941, subject "Espionage - Japanese Intelligence Network in the U. S."

FBI rpt., Honolulu dated 29 May 1941, subject "Mr. & Mrs. Friedell." Disseminated to ONI-Honolulu; G-2 Honolulu; Bureau.

Content

This report, dated 25 Feb. 1941, contains translation of documents taken from Lt. Comdr. OMAE, IJN, a Japanese espionage agent, which set forth instructions for the gathering of information on all navies, and especially the U.S. and British Navies.

The Study, prepared in ONI in May 1941, states: "Japan is vigorously utilizing every available agency for the procurement of military, naval and commercial information, with special emphasis on the West Coast, the Panama Canal and Hawaiian Areas." (p.4). "Japanese authorities in Honolulu, San Francisco, Seattle, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Panama and Havana, during the past year have made accurate intelligence reports to Japan on movements, alterations and repairs of U.S. men-of-war." (p.13). Mentions activities of Japanese language schools and teachers in Hawaii, the number of Japanese consular agents in Hawaii, fishing and pleasure boats operating in Hawaiian waters, etc.

Information concerning the "Japanese Intelligence Network in the U. S.", including mention of Japanese interest in naval establishments, airplanes and shipments of war material. Disseminated from ONI on 19 May 1941.

DIO-11ND knew on or about 29 May 1941 that a Mr. & Mrs. Friedell (Mr. & Mrs. Otto Kuehn) had allegedly transmitted information to the Japanese Navy through the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu, and that the Japanese Navy was interested in receiving this information.

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Source and Dissemination

DIO-12ND rpt. dated 17 July 1941, subject Lt. Comdr. Sadatomo OKADA, IJN, with copy to DIO-14ND.

DIO-11ND investigation rpt. dated 8 Oct. 1941, subject "TACHIBANA, Itaru, with aliases, et al.", disseminated to ONI, 12, 13 and 14ND's, FBI, G-2

DIO-14ND secret rpt. dated 20 April 1943, subject "An Analysis of the Jap Espionage Problem in the Hawaiian Islands."

FBI-Honolulu rpt. dated 26 Dec. 1941, subject "Japanese Activities, Honolulu, T.H." Disseminated to FBI Hdqtrs-5; Honolulu-4.

Content

DIO-12ND report of 17 July 1941 advised that OKADA's baggage prior to his embarkation for Japan had been found to contain various silhouettes, drawings, nomenclature and other information pertaining to U.S. men-of-war, as well as newspaper and periodical clippings on the rearmament program of the U.S. together with other data indicating Subject's interest in the status of the U.S. Navy in particular and in intelligence matters in general.

DIO-11ND report of 8 Oct. 1941 indicates that Lt. Comdr. TACHIBANA, known Japanese espionage agent, was primarily interested in ship movements, alterations and repairs to naval vessels and the plants engaged in repair and reconversion work, sailing dates, etc. Analysis of information obtained by TACHIBANA shows that 70% of it was secured from press clippings but 30% was obtained through spy work.

Seven Japanese seen photographing from various points on shore of Kaneohe Bay, looking towards the NAS, on 4 Nov. 1941. This was a "tail" job, according to the personal recollection of an ONI officer then on duty with DIO-14ND.

On 3 Dec. 1941, DIO-14ND learned that the Japanese Consul General, Honolulu, was burning papers in the Consulate Building. FBI verified this information and advised the DIO that it had definitely been ascertained that papers were being burned.