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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Naval Operating Base,
Norfolk, Virginia

31 March 1941.



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From: Commandant Fifth Naval District.
To: The Chief of Naval Operations.
SUBJECT: Power lines and water mains to Navy Yard and
Naval Operating Base - possibility of sabotage
of.
Reference: (a) Telephone conversation between Rear
Admiral R. E. Ingersoll, USN. and Captain
A. S. Farquhar, USN. of 27 March 1941.

1. The local civil authorities are unable to afford adequate protection for power lines to the Navy Yard against Sabotage. They can protect the main power plant in Norfolk and the Sub Station in Portsmouth in an emergency, but can only offer such protection for a short period due to shortage of personnel. Protection would not be offered until an emergency was indicated. They cannot protect water supply and mains.

2. The Commanding General of the 3rd Artillery Defense Area has available a force of two Battalions (687 troops) for the protection of the Norfolk area against internal disorder. This force would have to be ordered out normally by the War Department through official channels. The Commanding General assured the Commandant of his cooperation should an emergency arise. He did not request that the Navy take over this duty.

3. In the Fifth Naval District, there are 350 Marines at the Marine Barracks, Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Virginia, and 200 Marines at the Marine Barracks, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, available for protection of power lines and water mains to the Navy Yard and the Naval Operating Base in an emergency. This number fluctuates from day to day and a somewhat smaller force would have to be counted on. These Marines could only be used temporarily as the majority of them are assigned to the Sea School at the Navy Yard and a large number are usually awaiting transfer at the Naval Operating Base.

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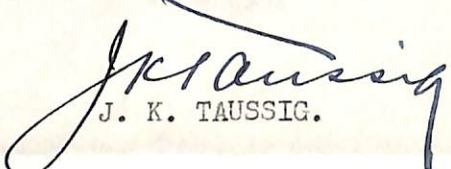
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4. The Navy Yard has its own power plant within the limits of the Yard and only draws on the local power company to meet peak loads. Sabotage to local power lines would not result in a shut down at the Navy Yard.

5. The water supply to the Navy Yard is drawn from Suffolk, Virginia and is brought by mains 22 miles to Portsmouth. If interrupted, it would cut off that city entirely from its water supply and would cause the Navy Yard power plant to shut down completely. A reservoir is now under construction which, when completed, would enable the yard to continue operation for one day under normal conditions.

6. The Naval Operating Base derives all its water, light and power from the Norfolk water and power plants and any Sabotage to the electric lines would cut off all light and power. There is a reservoir at the Base which contains a supply sufficient to last that station normally for one day.


J. K. TAUSSIG.

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