



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

U.S. Coast Guard Historic Documents

HONOLULU DISTRICT	NAVY DEPARTMENT UNITED STATES COAST GUARD HONOLULU, HAWAII
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12 December 1941

From: Senior Coast Guard Officer, 14th Naval District.
To: Commandant, 14th Naval District.

Subject: Air Raid Attack by Japanese; report on.

Reference: (a) 14th Nav. Dist. District Memorandum 10 Dec. 1941

Inclosure: [sic] (A) Abstract of Cruise, Commanding Officer TIGER.
(B) Copy of report, Keeper, Barbers Point Light Station.

1. In compliance with reference (a), Inclosures [sic] (A) and (B) are forwarded herewith for the information of the Commandant, 14th Naval District.

G. B. GELLY
Chief of Staff.

[DECLASSIFIED]

COAST GUARD CUTTER
TIGER

NAVY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

Honolulu, T.H.
13 December, 1941

From: Commanding Officer, TIGER
To: Senior Coast Guard Officer, Fourteenth Naval District
Subject: Abstract of Cruise. 7 December, 1941, Supplement to,

1. Paragraph 2 of this report was erroneously omitted from subject matter.
2. It was observed from this vessel that between 0800 and 0805 enemy planes flying low and going from eastward to westward inshore close and parallel to the beach were seen dropping objects that did not explode between Keahi Point and Kualakai, Oahu at what appeared to be at approximately 300 yards [sic] intervals. This action appeared to be deliberate and in the opinion of this officer was for some future action, such as mines or similiar [sic] destructive force.

W.J. Mazzoni

601 First Indorsement
[sic] Honolulu, T.H.
HONOLULU DISTRICT OFFICE
December 1941

13

From: Senior Coast Guard Officer, Fourteenth Naval District.
To: Commandant, Fourteenth Naval District

1. Forwarded for information.

G. B. GELLY,
Chief of Staff.

601 - Confidential

Navy

TIGER
T.H.,

Honolulu,



U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

Preserving Our History For Future Generations

10 December,

1941

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant.

Via: Senior Coast Guard Officer, Fourteenth Naval District.

Subject: Cruise Report 3 to 10 December 1941.

Reference: (a) Confidential Employment Schedule December, 1941.
(b) Senior Coast Guard Officer, Fourteenth Naval District Dispatch 011935.
(c) Senior Coast Guard Officer, Fourteenth Naval District Dispatch 012025.
(d) Senior Coast Guard Officer, Fourteenth Naval District Dispatch 022100.
(e) U.S.S. WARD message of submarine attack.

1. In compliance with reference (a) as amended by reference (b), (c) and (d) TIGER departed Honolulu, T.H., and 1130 - 3 December, 1941 on patrol duty assigned, taking station off westerly shore of Oahu and keeping sampans under surveillance [sic]. On 6 December, 1941 boarded all sampans within area of Kaema Point and Barbers Point for register forms 2686.

2. At 0500 7 December, 1941 underway for cruise of south shore of Oahu on various courses and half speed. At 0645 while off Barbers Point picked up reference (e) and commenced Q.C. soundings. At 0715 Barbers Point Lighted bouy abeam to port, .5 mile C/C to 80 degrees psc., picked up underwater object with Q.C. and maneuvered about in order to better ascertain position, stopped both engines to reduce interference but Q.C. sounds faded out. Resumed course and speed, when attacked by enemy aerial and surface fire, crew ordered to general quarters, anti-aircraft batteries manned but did not return fire by reason of being out of range, approximately 16 near hits fired on this vessel by enemy. Proceeding in line of fire for Alert and Q.C. station off entrance to Honolulu Harbour [sic], arriving there at 0920 - 7 December, 1941. Maintaining that Alert and Q.C. station until 0800 - December 10, 1941.

3. At 0800 - 10 December, 1941 and in compliance with reference (d) returned to Pier 4, Honolulu, T.H. at 0830. Hours underway 165; miles cruised 595.

W. J. Mazzoni

"_C_O_P_Y"

Navy Department
United States Coast Guard



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Preserving Our History For Future Generations

Coast Guard Cutter
T. H.

Honolulu,

TIGER
December 1941

11

From: Commanding Officer, TIGER
To: Commander Gelly, Chief of Staff, Honolulu District

Subject: Abstract of Cruise, 7 December 1941.

1. Sunday, 7 December 1941 at 0600 the TIGER was cruising southeastward along western shore of Oahu, steering various courses at half speed proceeding on regular patrol. At 0645 intercepted Destroyer WARD's dispatch concerning the destruction of an unknown submarine in the sea defensive area. The TIGER commenced Q.C. sounding recordings. At 0715 Barbers Point Lighted Buoy was passed to port, distance .5 mile, at which time course was changed to 80 degrees psc. At 0720 picked up underwater object, stopped both engines to reduce local interference with Q.C. soundings, but sounds soon faded out, course resumed, speed increased to 575 rpm. Only vessels observed were a friendly destroyer off Diamond Head area, one naval auxiliary ship with a barge and tug laying to off Pearl Harbor entrance. At 0745 was fired upon by what appeared to be shells from an offshore vessel beyond the horizon. About the same time bombs were dropped within an area of 100 yards about the TIGER from planes flying at a high altitude and several of the planes approached from the direction of Pearl Harbor, crew at General Quarters manning anti-aircraft batteries but fire was not returned by reason of being outranged. Planes that were flying low were identified as Japanese with the red ball insignia. Machine gun bursts were heard from planes but did not affect the TIGER. These planes were heading towards the southwest from Pearl Harbor entrance. At 0800 Pearl Harbor entrance buoy bearing 35 degrees true distance 4.5 miles a destroyer stood out and altered course parallel with south shore of Oahu firing a heavy anti-aircraft barrage at enemy planes. At 0820 passed large oil slick close to port bearing 180 degrees true distance 4 miles from entrance buoy Pearl Harbor. TIGER at this time was proceeding for designated war time station off entrance to Honolulu Harbor to maintain continuous Q.C. and Alert watch, arriving there at 0920. There appeared to be spasmodic air attacks upon the city of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor as viewed from this station maintained. During this attack the TIGER suffered no hits or casualties but approximately 16 shells and bombs dropped within 100 yards distance about the ship.

(sgd) W. J. Mazzoni

Barbers Point Light Station
10 December 1941



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The action as seen from Barbers Point.

At 8:00 a.m. many planes were seen overhead, both Japanese and ours. Dog fighting continued for twenty minutes, bullets hitting the ground in bursts. Then all planes headed south, our planes chasing them. Seemed to have come from the windward side, and left the Island on Barbers Point side.

Two parachutists were dropped close to the station; they were confused in the kiwi trees and prowled around the station all Sunday night, the Fort Kam. 55th C.A. boys firing at them with rifles and machine guns. One was wounded, and was later found on the beach, buried by his mate. His feet were sticking out of the sand. The other was later shot by an officer.

Monday night was bad; the boys were nervous and had to go with them to the top of the tower two times. First they thought a green light was on top of the tower. It proved to be the reflection of the moon on the glass. The next time they thought parachutists were on top of the tower. It proved to be nothing. They escorted me to the house and warned me not to go outside as they would shoot at anything.

When we got the word that the two Japs were located, we felt easy, and Tuesday night was the first night anybody slept.

Respectfully,

/s/ John M. Sweeney, Keeper
Barbers Point Light Station.

(P.S.) Tuesday morning received orders from the Army to leave station open twenty four hours a day for the full use of the Army, as machine gun emplacements are installed inside the reservation.

