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(note)

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20 December 1941

MEMORANDUM TO Colonel Raley:

Reference the attacks by the Japanese at Bellows Field the morning of 7 December, there was an attack by a single Japanese fighter at approximately 0830. He came in directly from the sea and fired his machine guns in the tent area wounding one enlisted man of the Medical Corps slightly. He apparently used up all his ammunition on this one burst<sup>?</sup> because the attack was not repeated.

*Bellows*

At 0900 9 fighters in formation came in from the North. They were in 3-plane V's. They made one diving attack in the 9-plane formation by 3's, then peeled off and attacked in various directions in loose 3-plane formations. The attacks were apparently coordinated and well-planned. The action lasted about 15 minutes. During the latter part of the action there was one plane circling about 1,500 feet above the others and either directing the action or out of ammunition and waiting. These planes were also fighters, Model 1941, and faintly resembled P-36's. Each plane had an auxiliary tank slung under the fuselage. They were equipped with at least one 20 mm. gun per plane and several 7.7 mm. machine guns. Some of the links that were found indicated that they had been made by an American firm. The 7.7 ammunition was German made.

*(Probably not 1941; possibly 1940) JWR*

Our casualties - one pilot was shot down, just before he reached his airplane. That was Lt. Christiansen. One plane was shot at as it taxied down the runway. However, he apparently was not hit and

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turned around and took off. Just as he left the ground he was attacked from the rear by two Japanese and was shot down, crashed and burned about 200 yards to the left of the end of the runway. That was Lt. Whiteman. Lt. Bishop also took off and attained an altitude of about 800 feet. He was attacked by two Japanese immediately after his take-off and his plane was badly shot up. He was forced to land in the water off Lanikai and swam ashore. He had one graze on his arm. Otherwise no wounds but the landing in the water wrenched his back. He was hospitalized for four days and returned to duty. One O-49 was machine gunned and rendered unserviceable. It is doubtful if it can be repaired. One gas truck, Type F-2, 2,000-gallon capacity, was set afire and destroyed.

*Bellows*

Between the first and second attacks a B-17 from the Mainland landed at Bellows Field and rolled off the inshore end of the runway down into the ditch. They repeatedly machine gunned the B-17 and caused numerous holes. Three members of the B-17 crew were wounded but they were wounded before they landed at Bellows Field. The B-17 had apparently been over Hickam Field and had been shot by our own anti-aircraft and the wounds of the crew members were caused by them. There was no one in the B-17 at Bellows Field when the Japanese attacked it. During the second attack two enlisted men were wounded by machine gun fire. The wounds are not fatal but serious.

Tactics of the Japanese seem to be as follows:

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They came in from the North in 3 3-ship V's and launched an attack by 3-ship waves in the same direction. Then according to



Attacks on Bellows Field, cont'd;

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an apparently pre-arranged plan the 3-ship V's loosened their formation slightly but retained their identity as V's and attacked from different directions. I am unable to determine which man fell out and circled up above. After about 15 minutes they withdrew to the North. Our ground defense fired at them with Springfield rifles and Browning automatic rifles but inflicted no damage. A machine gun from the 298th Infantry claims to have shot down one Japanese. He is supposed to have crashed in the sea off the beach. One plane leaving was seen to be streaming gas from the belly tank. No wreckage of any Japanese plane has been located.

Bellows

At daylight Monday morning, 8 December, the beach patrol picked up a Jap who had swum ashore. He had come from a small two-man submarine which was grounded on the reef. He was questioned, said nothing and was taken in to the Department. Later that day the submarine was bombed by the Navy. The bombing resulted in the submarine's being dislodged from the reef and it slowly floated ashore. It has been salvaged by the Navy. It had two 18" torpedoes aboard and one 300 pound bomb. The second man drowned and was picked up in the surf on Thursday morning, 11 December. It was estimated that he had been in the water about four days. He was sent in to Ft. Armstrong. As nearly as we can estimate the submarine grounded on the reef some time after midnight and before 0200 Monday, 8 December.

Between the time of the first and second attacks the planes at Bellows Field had been placed in dispersed positions. Due to limi-

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Attacks on Bellows Field, cont'd:

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ted space the dispersal was not perfect but was as good as could be expected under the conditions.

The 44th Squadron was stationed at Bellows Field at the time for gunnery practice. It has since returned to Wheeler Field.

CLYDE K. RICH,  
Lt. Col., A.C.

Bellows

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