

MAR 28 1942

MEMORANDUM

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., the natives of the outlying Island of Niihau, Territory of Hawaii, observed two airplanes flying low over the island. One flew on west past the island and was not seen again. The other, apparently out of gasoline, crashed near the home of Howard Kaleohano, a native Hawaiian on the outskirts of Nonopapa Village. Kaleohano rushed to the plane, which to his surprise he noted was not American, and, observing the Japanese pilot therein, pistol in hand, trying to disengage himself from his safety belt, wrenched the pistol from him and pulled the pilot out of the plane. Kaleohano also searched the pilot and his plane, securing all papers, which included a map of Oahu, the main Hawaiian Island on which the city of Honolulu, the Pearl Harbor Naval Base, and other important military installations are located.

By that time the native Hawaiian population from Nonopapa Village arrived on the scene and the pilot surrendered. The pilot, whose name was never ascertained, appeared friendly and peaceful and therefore at first was not held in custody, but was allowed to roam free, being fed and sheltered in the home of one of the natives. At first, when spoken to, he would reply in English writing, but later he spoke fluent English to the native populace. Possibly he was educated on the American Mainland.

It should be noted that the residents of the Island of Niihau, at that time, did not know of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Japan, nor of the Japanese raids on the Pearl Harbor Naval Base. The Island of Niihau has no communication with the other islands of the Hawaiian group, except by boat, and no boat stopped at that island from the outbreak of hostilities until Sunday morning, December 14, 1941. During the intervening period, however, on Monday and Tuesday, December 8 and 9, 1941, the natives took the aviator to Keeki, where a sampan from the Island of Kauai was expected to call, in order to send him back to the proper authorities. The sampan didn't show up, and they could not launch a whaleboat stationed there because the sea was too rough. Also, on the night of Friday, December 12, 1941, the natives attempted, from the top of Paniau, the highest mountain on Niihau, to signal the Island of Kauai, by means of kerosene lamps and reflectors, but it does not appear that these messages got through to Kauai.

On Wednesday, December 10, 1941, the pilot was placed under loose guard at the home of Yoshio Harada, a Japanese of American citizenship. On Thursday, Harada sent a message to Ishimatsu Shintani, a Japanese alien resident on Niihau, to come to see him. These were the only two Japanese on the island. On Friday morning, December 12, 1941, Shintani went to Harada's house and there conferred with the Japanese pilot and Harada. The Hawaiians on guard at the Harada house do not know what they talked about, as they conversed in the Japanese language.

On Friday, December 12, 1941, Shintani went to the house of Kaleohano and attempted to obtain from him the papers Kaleohano had taken from the pilot and out of his plane. Shintani stated it was a "life and death matter", and indicated he desired to destroy the papers by burning. Kaleohano showed the papers to Shintani, but refused to give them to him, even though Shintani offered a money bribe of about \$200.00.

Sometime during Friday afternoon, the Japanese pilot, under guard at Harada's house, by Harada and a Hawaiian native, cooperated with Harada to overpower the Hawaiian guard and secure Harada's shotgun. The aviator and Harada locked the guard in one of Harada's warehouses. They then stopped a native Hawaiian woman on the nearby road, ordered her and her children, at the point of the shotgun, to dismount from her horse-drawn wagon, commandeered it, and drove off in the direction of the plane crash.

At the scene of the plane crash, they found a sixteen year old boy guarding the plane. Kaleohano observed the aviator, Harada, and the boy approaching his house at about 5:30 p.m., Harada prodding the boy in the back with his shotgun. Kaleohano hid from them in his outhouse. They entered Kaleohano's home, searched it, and apparently recovered the Japanese pilot's pistol which Kaleohano had taken from him at the time of the crash. When they left and went back to the plane, Kaleohano came out of hiding and changed the papers to another hiding place away from his house. Kaleohano then gave the alarm to Nonopapa Village that the men were on the rampage and most of the native populace fled to the mountains or the forest.

About dusk Friday, the aviator and Harada captured two native Hawaiians and forced them to help dismount the two machine guns from the plane, loading them and a large pile of cartridges onto the wagon which they had commandeered. The captives heard and observed the Japanese pilot get into the plane, turn on the radio, put on the earphones, and make calls, talking in Japanese. However, they did not hear him receive any reply.

One of these Hawaiians escaped from the aviator and Harada, and went to the beach where he enlisted the aid of Benny Nokaka Kanahale in attempting to secure the cartridges which had been removed from the plane, inasmuch as Harada had told him that there were enough cartridges there to kill every man, woman, and child on the island. He and Kanahale went to the wagon and found it deserted and unguarded. Harada and the aviator had gone off seeking to find more natives, and apparently took the machine guns with them, as they were not on the wagon. Kanahale and the other Hawaiian took the cartridges and hid them on the beach.

During Friday night and early Saturday morning, the aviator and Harada burned the plane and Kaleohano's house, evidently hoping to destroy the aviator's papers in the conflagration. They also went through Nonopapa Village shooting off their guns and otherwise terrorizing the natives, most of whom had fled into the forest and to the mountains. No natives were

killed, but they captured several, including Benny Kanahale and his wife.

On Saturday, December 13, 1941, at about 10:00 a.m., Kanahale attempted to snatch the pistol from his captor, the pilot, but failed. Kanahale's wife, who was next to him, then grabbed for the pistol and Harada snatched her away. The pilot, who still retained his pistol, shot Kanahale three times, inflicting flesh wounds in the right and left thighs and on his upper right side. Kanahale then picked up the pilot bodily and dashed his head against a stone wall killing him. Harada thereupon turned his gun on himself, shot himself twice in the abdomen, and died soon afterward.

Early Saturday morning, December 13, 1941, at 12:30 a.m., six strong Hawaiians, including Kalechano, launched the whaleboat at Keei and after a trip of about 15 hours, rowed to the Island of Kauai, Territory of Hawaii, where they reported to Elmer Robinson, an American resident, who reported to the American Naval authorities, the facts as to the presence of the Japanese pilot on the Island of Niihau, and how, with the aid of the two Japanese on the island, they had terrorized and intimidated the native populace. A squad of twelve soldiers left Kauai late Saturday afternoon, aboard a lighthouse tender, arriving at the Island of Niihau on Sunday morning, December 14, 1941, where they found that the pilot and Harada had already been disposed of. Shintani, the alien Japanese who had tried to bribe Kalechano, and Mrs. Ymeno Harada, the wife of the Japanese citizen, were arrested and are now incarcerated at Wailua Jail, on the Island of Kauai, in the custody of the military authorities. Benny Kanahale and his wife were also brought back to Kauai and given medical treatment.