


SRH- 291

U. S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION

GUAM

STATION B

CERTIFIED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
by Director, NSA/Chief, CSS

 Date: 3 July 1984

REVIEWER'S NOTE:

This document was prepared as UNCLASSIFIED by Naval personnel who had access to classified records. The first review to verify the fact that the report does not contain sensitive information was conducted by personnel of the Naval Security Group. The original of this document was retained by them and has been placed in the NSG Repository, Crane, Indiana. A final review to insure releasability was conducted by NSA.

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NOTE: The attached document was prepared by Naval personnel with access to various historical records with the objective of bringing diverse records into a usable narrative history of a Naval activity. The document does not constitute an official Navy history and no claims are made regarding its completeness and accuracy.

The COMINT history of Guam dates from March 1929 with the establishment of a one-man intercept position. The initial intercept operator was sent to Guam from Shanghai, when that station was disestablished. Prior to that date NSG had intended to establish an intercept station in Guam as early as 23 June 1926; however, the plans were not carried out, and a later 1928 outline of a proposed war-time COMINT organization published by the Director of Naval Communications made no mention of Guam. The original intercept facility was established in building #62 in the palace grounds on the U. S. Naval Station, Guam in the city of Agana, but was moved to building #84 sometime between 20 December 1932 and 5 January 1933. The station's intercept complement was increased by seven graduates of the first radio intelligence class in Washington, D.C. in 1929. Notable successes were achieved by Guam during the Japanese fleet maneuvers of 1929 and 1930 and the station was commended by CNO on 5 March 1932 for its diligence and initiative.

Despite the commendation, budget limitations forced CNO to consider reducing Guam to a minimum in 1932, with most of its coverage being reassigned to Hawaii. Whether this actually took place is not known, but is considered doubtful in view of CNO's commendation and later activity of the station.

The intercept site was moved from the Naval Station to an abandoned Tuberculosis hospital on a hill outside of Agana sometime in 1933 or 1934 and was located there until relocation to Libugon.

On 11 October 1934 the Commander-in-Chief Asiatic Fleet inspected Guam and recommended that the Commandant, U. S. Naval Station, Guam move the intercept facility to an abandoned radio station at Libugon. The station at Libugon located 4 miles from Agana had been established in 1917 as a transmitter site, with its remote control and receiving station at Agana, as a link in the Navy's Trans Pacific High Power (Arc) circuit. A low power high frequency transmitter

had been installed in 1927, and was operated until the station was decommissioned and abandoned in March 1932 as an economy measure. The intercept facility was transferred from Agana to Libugon in 11 October 1934 where it remained until 1941 at which time it was overrun by the Japanese in the initial phase of World War II. The Bureau of Engineering attempted to move the intercept facility back to Agana as an economy measure in 1935; however, CNO intervened and settled the issue by indicating that Guam was by this time a vital part of the Navy's COMINT effort.

Intercept equipment at Guam was generally obsolete and excess from other stations such as Cavite. On 15 October 1934 the USS Goldstar was directed to transfer an RF receiver to Guam. Three Kana typewriters (RIP-5) were sent to Guam in December 1936 and recording equipment in March 1938.

Personnel strength had been increased to 10 by 1940, and an additional increase to 14 was requested in January 1940. The allowance increase was not approved, and Station B approached World War II with an on board complement of eight men, including the radioman-in-charge, CRM D. W. Barnum. On 21 September 1941 Chief Barnum had relieved CRM J. W. Pearson who was ordered to the 14th Naval District for duty. In addition to Barnum, RM2 D. L. McCune reported for duty sometime in October 1941.

Orders were issued by OPNAV to destroy all classified publications except for those essential for operations on 4 December 1941. According to a OP20GX wartime diary entry, contact with Guam was lost on 8 December 1941, and all eight intercept men were taken prisoner by the Japanese. A post-war memorandum prepared by OP20-G-3 indicates that an excellent job of destruction was performed by Guam. That same memorandum also reflects that eight men were captured at Guam. Taken from the last available documents at Crane (September 1941), the following men were at Guam on the day the island was captured, and is believed to be accurate, since no future losses or gains were reported other than Pearson and

McCune:

RIC - CRM D. W. BARNUM

RM1 M. T. SMITH (Advancement papers had been mailed, advancing him to CRM; however, they were not received prior to his capture).

RM1 R. R. ELLIS

RM2 S. T. FAULKNER

RM2 E. J. DULLARD

RM2 R. G. PARR

RM2 H. E. JOSLIN

RM2 D. L. McCUNE

DIRECTION FINDING

Installation of DF equipment was initially requested for Guam by OP20GX on 22 June 1935. Inspections were made in early July 1935 to find land suitable for the proposed construction; however, little else was done until 1937. In March 1937 an XAB-RAB-2 rotating Adcock-type DF was shipped to Guam. The XAB-RAB was an HFDF developed in 1930 at the Navy Research Laboratory, installed initially at Mare Island in 1934, and was considered to be the first successful HFDF, despite its poor performance. The HFDF intercept site at Guam was commissioned in July 1937, and became the Navy's second "intelligence" DF station, the first being Cavite, P. I.. A newer model DF, the Gordon Adcock rotating antenna (DT) was shipped to Guam via USS Chaumont arriving 18 October 1938. The XAB-RAB-2 was then surveyed and shipped to Cavite aboard USS Canopus.

On 3 November 1940 a typhoon hit Guam and destroyed the entire DT system with the exception of the receiver unit. Fortunately, a newer Gordon direction finder model DY, an improved model of the SAB/HRO, had been ordered in July of that year. However the DY had not arrived until after the typhoon hit. In the interim, a model DT was ordered from station "AFIRM" (Shanghai), via USS Goldstar, and Guam was back in DF operation shortly thereafter.

On 29 November 1940 DT and DR models were received from Shanghai, and the model DY-1 was received on 27 December 1940. Construction on the DY-1 site was begun immediately; however, in July 1941 the equipment was being used only on a limited basis.

STATION B - RADIOMEN-IN-CHARGE

CRM J. GOLDSTEIN	(OCT ?) 1929 - ?
CRM M. W. HYON	JUN 32 -
CRM Antone NOVACK	JAN 38 - JUL 39
CRM J. W. PEARSON	JUL '39 - 21 SEP 41
CRM D. W. BARNUM	21 SEP 41 - DEC 41