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P.H.
Material

Mr. William F. Friedman.

National Security Agency.

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D.C.

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GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS,

PL 86-36/50 USC
EO 3.3(h) (2)

Tel.: CHELTENHAM 55321

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CHELTENHAM, GLOS.



Dear Billy.

Thank you for your letter of congratulations on my award, which I much appreciate.

As regards the other matter, I have listed the people who were in Singapore or Hong Kong and could throw light on when the message was made. It would be possible to trace these and possibly other individuals, but I have only contacted those marked *, and [redacted] is rather hazy about times, and has promised to ring me back when his memory is clearer. [redacted] story is fairly clear.

After the attack on Singapore (about 2 a.m.) he got up, dressed, and went to the office, where he contacted the duty officer [redacted] and asked whether the message had been received. The reply was yes, but not till after the attack. It looks therefore as if the

Japs made an effort to synchronise the attacks on Pearl and Singapore with the sending of the message, which was heard in Singapore within an hour or two of the attack.

My own memory is that [] definitely told me of the message having been made, but I would not like to be definite as to when. My impression that it was before the attack may be faulty. I did not go to the office till the following morning.

If [] remembers differently to [] I shall write further. Differences in Zone Time between Singapore, Hong Kong, Honolulu and Washington ^{and London} are such that I am not certain how well synchronised the attacks ~~are~~ were on Singapore and Pearl, but I am fairly certain that there was no more than a couple of hours between the Singapore attack and the hearing of the message, which, incidentally, broke into a perfectly legitimate news broadcast with the "I have an important announcement to make" after which

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news will be resumed" comment which should have made it obvious that it was no ordinary weather report.

[Redacted] In this connection, if the news had contained any reference to Pearl and Singapore attacks, the weather message would have been superfluous, and as the early morning ~~was~~ Asahi News Broadcast did give news of the attack, the special message must surely have been before that.

I hope this is of some help, and if you want statements from any of the people on the list not already contacted, to confirm the times if possible, it might be possible for me to go and see them.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

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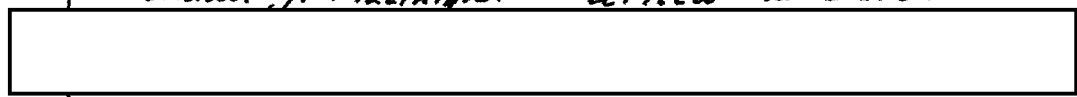


People who might throw light on the time the message was made.

Singapore. Capt. Harry Shaw. retired and farming in Ireland.



Comdr. J. MacIntyre. retired in Devon.



Captain K. L. Harkness. Chief Air Defence Warden London Area.
(Chief of Intelligence Staff)

Hong Kong. { Major C.R. Boxer. London University.
Group Captain Bennett. retired. (unknown).

England.

* Contacted.

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