

Highlights of Talk with Safford
7 Sept 44

He was last one called before Naval Inquiry Com. J. Adm told him SIS + OP-06 both all in the clear. Com threw out all his testimony re what Kramer told him (hearsay) + in view of fact that Kramer can be called they are going to do so.

Safford showed me usages he sent out with reluctant approval of Adm. Noyes, Ingersoll, Stark, ordering destruction crypto-material in Pac. Safford's usage of Dec. 4 (or 5, right after "Winds" usage) started: "In view of imminence of war..." ~~Noyes~~ bawled him out, tore dispatch in half + wasn't going to send anything. S explained about amt of current + reserve material on Wake + danger of capture, seriousness of results. Then Noyes redrafted usage + made it much more innocuous, with start "In view of international situation you may authorize destruction of most of the crypto material..."

Adm Bloch, then Cndt 14th W. District, originally widely mentioned in P. H. stories of early 1942, later dropped out of picture, now back in picture.

S thinks there will be e.m. of following: Stark, Ingersoll, Wilkinson, Noyes, Turner. Thinks Kimmel + Bloch will be vindicated on basis that N. Dept failed keep them informed. Kimmel + Bloch appeared to be very happy at time S testified + believe they will get complete vindic. Stark only rep by two counsel - not present himself.

Adm Hart, then Cmc Asiatic now chief counsel for Kimmel. S got Wilkinson to send usage to CincPac saying I destroyed Purple but S doubts whether Kimmel ~~was~~ actually saw it as was sent deferred + quite innoc.

After Navy Dept sent War Warning message to CincPac etc ~~letter~~ part of November, Stark wrote personal letter own hand to Kimmel + told him take message with reserve. He didn't think situation warranted appearance etc. Letter was introduced in evidence by Kimmel

Re MacArthur - caught just as badly. All fighter planes lined up on field + destroyed in 1st attack at dawn. Then Japs got bombers - who had just returned from rescue + were lined up being refueled while pilots having meal.

After Hon attack W.D. sent ^{via Navy radio (prob in navy eyes)} message to MacA telling him Hon attacked, fleet badly damaged, a/c damage not exactly known. Info to be reported only to his highest + unind command!!

on Sunday a.m. 7 Dec etc Navy Dept Conf 930
When Stark finished reading Part 14 of #902 he exclaimed "Why this means war!" Kramer: "Admiral these have indicated war for last 3 months." Stark reaches for pencil + paper: "I must get word to Kimmel." Then "Has Marshall seen this yet?" Kramer "It is no doubt on his desk right now." Stark drops pencil + reaches for phone. Kramer left just then + doesn't know what happened thereafter.