

Hello, my name is Kathleen O'Connor, and I am the Archivist at the San Francisco Branch of the National Archives, located in San Bruno across the bay. I am here to tell you that I have not solved the Earhart mystery, at least not yet. My job is to preserve, protect, and to make available to researchers information that may help in their investigations. Most of you know about the numerous documents regarding Earhart's flight in 1937 from materials found primarily in the National Archives in Washington DC and other archives in that area. What many of you may not know is that the National Archives have several regional branches containing materials of regional interest. The San Francisco Branch is responsible for archiving documents from the west coast region, including Hawaii and Alaska. Since the search for Earhart was tasked by the Chief of Naval Operations to be conducted by the Commandant of the 14th Naval District in Hawaii, Adm. Orrin Murfin, there is a substantial number of unique documents located in the San Bruno facility. In addition, records from the 12th Naval District, based in San Francisco (which covers Oakland, where Earhart started both of her round the world flights), and records from the Naval Station in American Samoa are also stored here.

The kinds of documents belong to three general classes: radio messages and related correspondence, maps, and reports. I should also state that all records dealing with Amelia Earhart have all been declassified long ago, even those records remotely connected with her flights and disappearance. In the brief time I have, let me just touch on some aspects of the uniqueness of these records.

Radio Messages: According to Dr. Randy Jacobson of the Office of Naval Research, who has catalogued all available radio messages relating to Earhart's flights, there are 512 radio messages in the COM14 section, 223 in the COM12 section, and 103 in the Tutuilla, American Samoa collection out of a total of 3239 radio messages. Once the duplicates are counted, there are 1687 records, and 966 that are unique, or single-copy radio messages. COM14 has 97 (10.04%), COM12 has 16 (1.66%), and Tutuilla 38 (3.93%) unique radio messages. These 151 messages cannot be found anywhere else. Well, what do they say? I'm sorry to say that you will have to come to San Bruno and read them yourselves, or ask Dr. Jacobson for that information, as it is not the job of the

archivist to do this kind of research. Dr. Jacobson has graciously provided information as to decoding the cryptic headers of Naval and Coast Guard radio messages, and those guides are also available at San Bruno.

Reports: The reports on Earhart's disappearance are those that you have seen elsewhere in various archives, except that we have the original Colorado report to Adm. Murfin, as well as Capt. Friedell's original report on the Lexington search. We also have the original full-scale maps of the Lexington and other ships' search, with the unique addition of the working copy of the Lexington search map. On this map are lines drawn in ink that were obvious mistakes, but were copied onto the final version, altering the actual areas that the Lexington purported to search.

Maps: The real jewel in our collection is the 14th Naval District working map of the Earhart disappearance covering the period from July 2 through July 5, when numerous radio messages were thought to have come from Earhart. On this map are annotations of events that are not found anywhere else. Let me briefly state what these annotations are:

Additional Dope on Radio Bearings

Mokapu

3 July first bearing 213 (+-10)

4 July 2nd bearing 200

also 105° and 180° thrown out as doubtful

Wake 115°

5 July 144°

2200 night 2nd Itasca heard weak signals

night 3rd Itasca heard weak signals?

Night of 3rd-

KGMB request to broadcast-

0630GCT 4th (8PM local Honolulu to 215) Amateur in Maui

CG

Wailupe

Army [unreadable]

PAA

asked for 8 dashes if on water---got 8 in response

asked for 4 dashes if North of Howland and 6 is [sic] South

[unreadable] received [unreadable] 105

0120 to 0150 morning of 5 July 3 operators at Wailupe

[unreadable] transmission transmission [sic]

“281 North of Howland beyond north” etc. Coast Guard
[unreadable] could not copy

From what I know, no other document mentions a 200, 105, and 180 degree bearing from Makapuu, Oahu. Furthermore, there is no other documents (except perhaps the local Hawaiian newspapers) of what KGMB broadcast to Earhart and what specifically was heard in response. There are other very interesting markings on this map, and I invite anyone interested to spend some time in San Bruno examining it.

Well, I hope I have piqued your interest in the amount of information still to be examined by Earhart researchers that is available for examination. Perhaps some of this information may provide the definitive clue as to what happened to Earhart and why. I invite anyone interested to come to our facility, and I will help you in any way I can. Good luck to all of you, and thank you for inviting me to speak at this marvelous symposium.