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Diary covers

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WAR DIARY

of

Commander Patrol Wing EIGHT

Commanded by Captain J. D. PRICE, U.S. Navy

From: December 7, 1941

To: February 28, 1942

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COMMANDER PATROL WING 8 WAR DIARY

Dec. 7 Commander Patrol Wing 8, Commander J. D. Price US Navy, and staff temporarily based ashore with Fleet Air Detachment at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

Patrol Wing 8 is in the Atlantic Fleet's Task Force 8, designation is task group 8.3, type commander is Commander Patrol Wings Atlantic Fleet. Patrol Wing 8 consists ^{of} Patrol Squadrons 81, 82, 83 and 84. Patrol Squadron 81 is temporarily based ashore with the Fleet Air Detachment at the Naval Air Station, Key West, Florida, has 10 PBV-5 planes. Patrol Squadron 82 has 18 PBO planes and is temporarily based ashore with the Fleet Air Detachment at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia. Patrol Squadrons 83 and 84 have no planes and are temporarily based ashore with the Fleet Air Detachment at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

Dec. 14 The Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet ordered Commander Patrol Wing 8 to duty with the Pacific Fleet. Administration remains in the Atlantic Fleet. Patrol Squadrons 51, 71 and 72 assigned, by the Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet, to the present Commander Patrol Wing 8.

Dec. 15 Patrol Squadrons 84, 91, and 92 assigned to Commander Patrol Wing 8. Patrol Squadrons 81, 82 and 83 detached from Patrol Wing 8 and assigned to Commander Patrol Wing 5. Commander Patrol Wing 8 departed Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia for Naval Air Station, San Diego, California.

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- Dec. 16 Commander Patrol Wing 8 reported to Commander Aircraft Scouting Force at the Naval Air Station, San Diego, California for duty with the Pacific Fleet.
- Dec. 17 Commander Patrol Wing 8 arrived at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California and is temporarily based ashore with the Fleet Air Detachment at that station.
- Dec. 19 Non-flying personnel Commander Patrol Wing 8's Staff departed Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia by special train for the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California.
- Dec. 20 Patrol Squadron 51 departed from the Naval Air Station Alameda, California for Pearl Harbor.
- Dec. 21 Planes of Patrol Squadron 51 arrived at Pearl Harbor, and reported to Compatwing 2 for duty.
- Dec. 22 Seven (7) planes Patrol Squadron 72 departed NAS, Alameda, California for Kaneohe Bay, T. H.
- Dec. 23 Seven planes of Patrol Squadron 72 arrived at Kaneohe Bay. Three PBY-5A's for patrol squadron 91 arrived at Alameda from San Diego.
- Non-flying personnel of Commander Patrol Wing 8's staff arrived at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California.
- Dec. 24 Compatrons 71, 72, 91, and 92 were temporarily based ashore with the Fleet Air Detachment at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California. Compatron 84 temporarily based ashore with the FAD at NAS, San Diego, Cal. Advanced detachment of Patrol Squadron 72 temporarily ^{based} ashore at Kaneohe Bay. Compatron 51 at Pearl Harbor.

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- Dec. 25 Eight (8) planes of Patrol Squadron 71 and 3 planes of Patrol Squadron 72 departed Alameda for Pearl Harbor.
- Dec 26 Eight (8) planes of Patrol Squadron 71 arrived safely. One (1) plane of Patrol Squadron 72 arrived safely and 2 were forced down at sea approximately 240 miles bearing 155 from Barber's Point. 1 of these planes sank and the other was saved. Non-flying personnel Commander Patrol Wing 8's staff departed from the Naval Air Station, Alameda, Cal. and embarked in the USS Henderson and the USAT Etolin at San Francisco.
- 1942
Jan. 3 Commander Patrol Wing 8, Captain J.D. Price, assigned additional duty as commander aviation units of Northern California Sector Coastal Force. However these duties were not assumed until January 23, 1942.
- Jan. 4 Patrol Squadrons 71 and 72 assigned to Commander Patrol Wing One for duty. Patrol Squadron 51 assigned to Commander Patrol Wing Two for duty.
- Jan. 8 USAT Etolin arrived at Honolulu.
- Jan. 10 USS Henderson arrived Pearl Harbor.
- Jan. 13 Non-flying personnel Commander Patrol Wing 8's staff departed Pearl Harbor in the USS Henderson.
- Jan. 16 3 PBY-5A's for Patrol Squadron 92 ferried from San Diego to Alameda.
- Jan. 17 3 PBY-5As ferried from San Diego to Alameda, for Patrol Squadron 92.
- Jan. 18 3 PBY-5As ferried for Patrol Squadron from San Diego to Alameda.

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- Jan. 21 USS Henderson arrived San Francisco, Non-flying personnel Commander Patrol Wing 8's staff disembarked and proceeded to the Naval Air Station, Alameda, California.
- Jan. 22 3 PBY-5As for Patrol Squadron 92 ferried from San Diego to Alameda.
- Jan. 23 Commander Patrol Wing 8 assumed duties as Commander aviation units of Northern California sector coastal force. This duty places scouting squadron 1 D 12 and Patrol Squadron 44, temporarily based ashore with the Fleet Air Detachment at the Naval Air Station, Alameda, under Commander Patrol Wing 8.
- Jan. 26 USS Teal assigned to Commander Patrol Wing 8 for duty.
- Jan. 28 2 planes of Patrol Squadron 72 and 4 planes of Patrol Squadron 71 proceeded from Alameda to San Diego.
- Jan. 31 2 planes of Patrol Squadron 72 and 4 planes of Patrol Squadron 71 left San Diego for Pearl Harbor. Zpron 32 commissioned at Moffet Field.
- Feb. 1 2 planes of Patrol Squadron 72 and 4 planes of Patrol Squadron 71 arrived at Pearl Harbor.
TC14 of Zpron 32 had its first test hop.
- Feb. 2 TC14 had its first operational hop under Commander Patrol Wing 8.
- Feb. 4 Commander Patrol Squadron 84 and planes left San Diego for Alameda. Because of inclement weather, 2 planes landed at Moffett Field, 1 at the Oakland airport, and 1 at Long Beach.
- Feb. 6 Commander Patrol Squadron 84 arrived at Alameda.
- Feb. 8 TC13, Zpron 32, made a test flight.
- Feb. 9 TC13 made its first operational flight.

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Feb. 11 Compatron 91 conducted an endurance test with a PBX-5A to fuel exhaustion. The plane left Alameda, proceeded to Seattle, turned around and headed back for Alameda without landing, because of lack of fuel, it was finally forced down off Point Reyes. With a weight of 36200 pounds the plane remained in the air 22 hours and 27 minutes and flew 2,450 nautical miles.

Feb. 16 3 planes, Patrol Squadron 91 departed Alameda for San Diego.

Feb. 17 3 planes, Patrol Squadron 91 departed Alameda for San Diego.

Feb. 19 6 planes, Patrol Squadron 91 departed Alameda for San Diego.

Patrol Squadron 91 ordered to Pearl Harbor and assigned to duty with Commander Patrol Wing 2.

Since arriving at Naval Air Station, Alameda, Commander Patrol Wing EIGHT has assumed duties as Senior Naval Aviator Fleet Air Detachment at Naval Air Station, Alameda. In this capacity Commander Patrol Wing EIGHT has controlled all training, operational and ferry flights of Fleet Air Units based here. Commander Patrol Wing EIGHT has maintained operational flights necessary for inshore patrols, offshore patrols, and coverage for convoys and fleet units while operating within a reasonable daily flying distance from Naval Air Station, Alameda. Commander Patrol Wing EIGHT has controlled the flights of ZP Squadron 32 based at Moffett Field.

At Naval Air Station, Alameda, Commander Patrol Wing EIGHT's primary duty has been the commissioning and training of new squadrons. To fulfill this aim, it has maintained for training purposes a radio school, ship and aircraft identification school, and assisted in a link trainer school.