

Office of Chief Of Naval Operations, File of Memoranda and Reports Relating to the Battle of Midway, 1946 (excerpt)

National Museum of the Pacific War

May 19, 1942

Midway Atoll Radio Communication (Not Coded) to U.S. Navy Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

"...at present time we have only enough water for two weeks. Please supply us immediately."

May 21, 1942

Japanese Radio Communication (Coded) from Tokyo, Japan.

"Tokyo Naval Intelligence sent the following message which they had previously intercepted from us: "The AF Air Unit sent following radio message to Commandant 14th Naval District: '...with reference to this Units [sic] report dated 19th at the present time we have only enough water for two weeks. Please supply us immediately.'"

May 22, 1942

U.S. Navy Report on Japanese Naval Activity

"The identity of the Area Designator 'AF' was confirmed as Midway."

This report shows some of the information that U.S. Navy cryptologists and signals intelligence personnel used to determine the location where the Japanese would strike.

What Was Ensign Hopper Doing?

While the plans for the Battle of Midway were being made, Ensign Hopper was busy searching for the Japanese fleet in the South Pacific and flying combat missions against their ships and bases. Unfortunately, at the Battle of the Coral Sea, Ensign Hopper's ship was sunk by Japanese forces, and he and surviving fellow pilots were reassigned to other units.