

Copy of Original: (Military Archives Division)
 Gen. George C. MARSHALL, Chief of Staff brief Memorandum
 on February 26, to President Franklin D. ROOSEVELT about
 the "mysterious" Los Angeles air alarm.

OCS 21347-86

February 26, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The following is the information we have from GHQ
 at this moment regarding the air alarm over Los Angeles of
 yesterday morning:

"From details available at this hour:

"1. Unidentified airplanes, other than American
 Army or Navy planes, were probably over Los Angeles, and
 were fired on by elements of the 37th CA Brigade (AA)
 between 3:12 and 4:15 AM. These units expended 1430
 rounds of ammunition.

"2. As many as fifteen airplanes may have
 been involved, flying at various speeds from what is
 officially reported as being 'very slow' to as much
 as 200 MPH and at elevations from 9000 to 18000 feet.

"3. No bombs were dropped.

"4. No casualties among our troops.

"5. No planes were shot down.

"6. No American Army or Navy planes were in
 action.

"Investigation continuing. It seems reasonable to con-
 clude that if unidentified airplanes were involved they may
 have been from commercial sources, operated by enemy agents
 for purposes of spreading alarm, disclosing location of
 antiaircraft positions, and slowing production through
 blackout. Such conclusion is supported by varying speed
 of operation and the fact that no bombs were dropped."

DECLASSIFIED
 E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(c) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD Letter, May 3, 1972

Ex-111, NARS Date: 4-9-74

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(Sgd) G. C. MARSHALL
 Chief of Staff.

Original dispatched to Pres.
 2/26/42

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