

# Jap Denies Planes Over California

**TOKYO (AP)** — The battle of Los Angeles was a myth; the Japanese did not send planes over that city the night of January 24-25, 1942, a Japanese navy spokesman told the Associated Press Thursday.

The question was put because the fourth air force at San Francisco on October 28 said that planes, possibly Japanese, were overhead that night. Lt. Gen. John L. Dewitt, former commander of the western defense command at San Francisco, was quoted "it is my belief

that those planes were launched from submarines somewhere close to shore under our detectors."

Captain Omae of the Japanese navy said, however, that a plane was launched from a submarine and sent over the southern Oregon coast on February 9, 1942, "to attack military installations, but the lone pilot was unable to discover any. Another purpose was to keep Americans worried over coastal attacks and force them to keep many planes at home. This would cut down the air strength America could send overseas."

Omae said the reason the Oregon coast was selected was not indicated in navy files.

The submarine which shelled Fort Stevens, Oregon, near the mouth of the Columbia river approached its objective by remaining submerged during the day and surfacing late at night. Omae said the submarine commander had a full set of plans of Fort Stevens and his objective was to destroy the military installations.

The submarine which shelled the Goleta oil field near Santa Barbara, Calif., early in 1942 also sought military installations and to

knock down American forces in the United States. That attack also was made so the Japanese people could be told that one of their submarines easily reached the United States coast.

"When the submarine comman-

der failed to find military installations he shelled oil property, Omae said.

Asked whether the Japanese had any plans to land troops on Hawaii or the United States, Omae flatly said "No."