

WASHINGTON HERALD - July 18, 1937 United Press from USS Lexington.

Forty two planes from this floating airport patrolled the waters fringing the sixteen isles of the Gilbert Archipelago today for trace of Amelia Earhart and Capt. Fred Noonan, 'round-the-world fliers lost July 2. If the air's first lady and her navigator are not found today or tomorrow, in the final stage of the spectacular aerial search, they will be given up as dead by the Navy, it was indicated by the Lexington's commander. The Coast Guard Cutter Itasca operating under naval orders was ordered out of the search today.

The Coast Guard Cutter Itasca was dispatched from Honolulu to stand by at Howland Island for Miss Earhart. Arrangements had been made with the Navy for mechanics to accompany the Itasca also for a vessel to be stationed midway between Howland and Honolulu, (USS Colorado) and the cruise of another vessel stationed at Pago Pago (USS Swan) was arranged so that it was approximately midway between Howland Island and Lea, New Guinea.

If you desire more information regarding the operations of the USCG Itasca, I would suggest that you communicate with the Coast Guard, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) RUTH HAMPTON

Ruth Hampton,
Acting Director.