Operational History of
The Seventh Air Force
6 Nov 43 - 31 July 44
ARMY AIR FORCES, HISTORICAL STUDIES: No. 30

OPERATIONAL HISTORY

of the

SEVENTH AIR FORCE

5 November 1943

to

31 July 1944

A.A.F. HISTORICAL OFFICE
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES

SECURITY INFORMATION

This page Declassified IAW EO12958
ARMY AIR FORCES HISTORICAL STUDIES: NO. 56

OPERATIONAL HISTORY
OF THE
SEVENTH AIR FORCE

6 November 1943 to 31 July 1944

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AAF Historical Office
Headquarters, Army Air Forces
December 1945

SECURITY INFORMATION
FOREWORD

This study, which was completed in February 1945 by the Historical Division, Directorate of Intelligence, Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, has been reproduced, by the Historical Office, Headquarters Army Air Forces, without modifications other than stylistic changes necessary to bring it into conformity with practices adopted in AAF Historical Studies. Certain exhibits originally appended have been omitted in this version but have been listed in the Bibliography and may be consulted in the AAF Historical Office files.

The study has been read and approved by Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., Commanding General, Seventh Air Force.

The operations covered are those of the Seventh Air Force from the beginning of the campaign in the Gilberts in November 1943 to the establishment of Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas on 1 August 1944. Prior to November 1943 the Seventh Air Force had been largely a holding force for the defense of the Hawaiian Islands. In that month, however, it assumed the offensive and during the period in question furnished an important number of the land-based aircraft utilized in the westward sweep of our land, sea, and air forces from the Gilberts to the Marianas.

Like other AAF Historical Studies which have been produced, this is to be considered as a first narrative and is subject to revision as additional information becomes available. This particular narrative is based exclusively on materials available in files of the Seventh Air Force.
Operational History of the Seventh Air Force

6 November 1943 to 31 July 1944
CONTENTS

I  THE GILBERTS .................................. 1
II  THE MARSHALLS ............................... 13
III  THE MARIANAS ............................... 33
   CONCLUSION ................................. 65
   FOOTNOTES TO NARRATIVE ............... 68
   CHRONOLOGY: OPERATIONS OF SEVENTH AIR FORCE 87
   GLOSSARY ................................. 238
   BIBLIOGRAPHY ............................... 240
   INDEX ................................ 245
ILLUSTRATIONS

Place Names: Central Pacific Operations .......... Frontispiece

Following

Funafuti Island, April 1943 ................. 2
Nanumea Island, Ellice Group, 27 October 1943 .... 3
Makin Island, 20 April 1944 ................. 13
Kwajalein Island, March 1944 ............... 36
Kwajalein Island, 22 March 1944 .......... 27
Eniwetok Island, April 1944 ............... 41
Chapter I

THE GILBERTS

In November 1943, United States forces assumed the offensive in the Central Pacific. Prior to this time, they had of necessity limited their activity to defensive operations, broken by an occasional foray into enemy territory.¹ During this period, however, there had also been a marshaling of strength in preparation for the sustained offensive that was to come.

The first objective in this offensive was the seizure and occupation of the Japanese-held islands of Tarawa, Makin, and Aparamama in the Gilberts, some 2,000 miles south and west of Cahu. For this operation, known by the code name GALWANTC, a formidable array of sea, land, and air power was assembled under the command of Vice Adm. R. A. Spruance, Commander of the Central Pacific Force (COMCENPAC), United States Pacific Fleet.² All shore-based aircraft committed to the operation were placed under the command of Rear Adm. J. H. Hoover (Task Force 57). The Seventh Air Force was to provide Admiral Hoover with both heavy-bombardment and fighter aircraft. The heavy bombers were to be organized as a striking group (Task Group 57.2) under the command of Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force; the fighters were to be a part of the Ellice Defense and Utility Group (Task Group 57.4), under the command of Brig. Gen. L. G. Merritt, USMC.³
The primary mission of the Seventh Air Force during GALVANIC was to attack enemy air bases at Tarawa, Makin, Mille, Maloelap, Jaluit, and Nauru in order to deny their use by enemy aircraft. In addition, the Seventh Air Force was to assist in the defense of friendly bases, perform search and photographic reconnaissance missions in the Gilbert-Marshall area and approaches thereto, and provide air transport between bases. These operations were assigned to the VII Bomber Command, VII Fighter Command, and the 19th Troop Carrier Squadron. The VII Air Force Service Command was to provide necessary service and administrative facilities at the bases in the Phoenix and Ellice islands.

These bases were located at Canton, Funafuti, Nukufetau, Nanomea, and Baker, of which only the first two had been developed prior to the GALVANIC operation. Canton, largest and most northerly of the Phoenix group, had held an air base since before the war, and had long been an important stop-over on the air route from Hawaii "down under". It had also served as a staging base for the earlier Seventh Air Force operations against the Gilberts. On its narrow strip of land—100 to 500 yards wide—was an airfield consisting of two runways, 9,400 and 7,200 feet long. These guano and compacted coral-rolled strips were able to provide accommodation for all types of aircraft at all times.

Funafuti, like Canton, had served both as a stop-over on flights to the Southwest Pacific and as a staging base for operations against the Gilberts. It, however, provided but one crushed-coral runway, 6,660 feet long and 300 feet wide, cut out of the thick coconut growth that covered the island.

On the other three islands there was nothing, and before they
could be utilized to mount a land-based air attack, it was necessary for Seventh Air Force aviation engineers to move in and how air strips out of the dense covering of coconut palms. At Nukufetau and Nanomea 6,000-foot bomber strips were constructed, as were fighter strips, 2,850 feet long at Nukufetau and 3,000 feet long at Nanomea. Both were of compacted coral. 7

At Baker Island one runway was constructed, 5,500 x 150 feet, and covered with Harston mat. 8

Just as bases had to be constructed before the air attack on the Gilberts could be launched, it was necessary also for the Seventh Air Force to obtain from outside sources part of the aircraft with which to do the job. In preparation for GALWING, the Seventh's meager bombardment strength—consisting only of the four squadrons of the veteran 11th Bomb Group (H)—was augmented in October 1943 by the arrival of one heavy bombardment group (the 30th) and one medium bombardment group (the 41st). 9

By early November the forward bases were prepared sufficiently to admit of use, albeit under primitive and trying conditions, and the tactical organizations were assembled on Oahu in readiness for movement into the Ellice and Phoenix islands. On 6 November, Advanced Headquarters (ADVON) of the Seventh Air Force was established at Funafuti. 10 General Hale had the following staff officers with him at ADVON: Col. Lawrence J. Carr, Chief of Staff; Col. Russell L. Waldron, A-2; Lt. Col. Ladon G. Bakridge, A-3; and Col. R. J. Erickson, Adjutant General. 11 In addition to ADVON Seventh Air Force, the VII Air Force Service Command, under Brig. Gen. H. J. Reed, and the VII Bomber Command,
under Brig. Gen. Truman H. Landon, established their forward echelons at Funafuti. The aircraft tender Curtiss, Rear Adm. Hoover's headquarters, was anchored in Funafuti harbor. Direct communications were maintained between the Curtiss and AIRON by telephone, teletype, and FM radio. The units of the Seventh Air Force were disposed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters 11th Bomb Group</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12d Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>431st Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nukufetau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nukufetau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters 30th Bomb Group</td>
<td>Nanomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nanomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38th Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Nanomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>392d Bomb Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46th Fighter Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45th Fighter Squadron</td>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st ASSRON</td>
<td>Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d ASSRON</td>
<td>Funafuti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detachment 3d ASSRON</td>
<td>Nanomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detachment 3d ASSRON</td>
<td>Nukufetau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detachment 17th Air Base Squadron</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>422d Subdepot</td>
<td>Canton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Seventh Air Force, then, had moved its advanced headquarters 2,244 nautical miles south and west of Cahu. Its units were scattered over five islands, occupying an area stretching approximately 450 miles from Funafuti on the south to Baker on the north, and approximately 740 miles from Canton on the east to Nanomea on the west.

The targets in the Gilberts and Marshalls, to be struck from these bases in the Ellice and Phoenix islands, ranged in distance from the 700 nautical miles separating Funafuti and Tarawa to the 1,418 nautical miles between Canton and Kwajalein.

The most important of these targets was Tarawa, in the Gilberts, a triangular-shaped atoll composed of a series of islands on a reef about
22 miles long, and enclosing a lagoon about 17 miles long by nine wide at the south end, and less than a mile at the north. The largest island of the group, Eititu (Betio), at the southwest corner, is a narrow strip of land approximately two and one-fourth miles long east-west, and less than a half mile wide. It is entirely flat, with an altitude of no more than 10 feet, and originally was covered with trees, shrubs, pandanus, and coconut palms. The Japanese had first landed on the atoll on 10 December 1941, but actual occupation had been delayed until 3 September 1942 when Tarawa was placed under the administration of the Marshall Islands group. The Japanese had developed their main air base in the Gilberts at Tarawa. This base, consisting of two hard-rolled coral runways, could serve defensively as a reconnaissance base to screen larger enemy concentrations in the Marshall Islands, or offensively as an advance base for operations against United Nations positions in the South Pacific.\(^\text{13}\) Tarawa had been heavily hit by a combined Army-Navy raid in September 1943,\(^\text{14}\) but naval air reconnaissance showed that the enemy had rebuilt the island to its original strength, plus additional defenses.\(^\text{15}\)

The islands which were to be occupied during GALVANIC, in addition to Tarawa, were Apanama and Makin. No serious resistance was expected at Apanama.\(^\text{16}\) At Makin, however, there was evidence that since the Marine raid of 16-18 August 1942, when the small enemy garrison had been virtually annihilated, the Japanese had prepared defensive installations and were conducting patrol operations from the seaplane base located there.\(^\text{17}\)

From the point of view of our attacking force, however, probably
the most important enemy bases in the Gilberts and the Marshalls were
not those which were to be occupied, but those which supported air-
fields from which the enemy might conduct attacks against the landing
forces. These, briefly, were as follows:

Jaluit—This atoll, the best known of the Marshall
group, was the site of a large seaplane base, the center
for Japanese air and surface patrols in the southwestern
Marshalls, the submarine base for the area, and an im-
portant supply base.18

Kille—An important air base, consisting of two run-
ways, dispersal areas, hangars, barracks, and a strong
antiaircraft and ground defensive system, Kille formed
the southern anchor of the Eastern Marshalls Defense Zone.
Its air strength could be rapidly reinforced from nearby
fields, four of which were within a radius of 300 miles.19

Maloelap—This atoll, formed by more than 60 low
islands along a reef about 32 miles long, with a maximum
width of about 13 miles, was the site of a particularly
well-developed air base, located on Tarok, and equipped
to handle all types of Japanese land-based aircraft.
Centrally located on the rim of the Marshall Island out-
posts, it was believed to be the most important base in
the entire area, next to Roi Island, Kwajalein.20

Nauru—This island, although isolated geographically,
is strategically linked with the Gilberts. From its newly-
constructed airfield, the Japs were able to patrol complete-
ly the area between the Gilbert and the Solomon islands.
Searches from Nauru greatly strengthened the Japanese mandated
islands against the possibility of surprise attacks from the
south. In addition to its air installations, Nauru possessed
the largest phosphate refineries in the Pacific.21

In addition to the targets mentioned above, there was Kwajalein
atoll, the most important Japanese military and naval base in the
Marshall Islands. There was a major air base on Roi Island, and one
under construction on Kwajalein Island. A well-equipped seaplane base
was located on Ebeye Island. There were large concentrations of military
stores of all categories on Kwajalein, Nauru, and Biak islands.22 Al-
though Kwajalein did not become a primary target,
campaign, the possibility of reinforcement of Japanese positions in the lower Marshalls and the Gilberts from there was considered in the planning for GALVANIC.23

At this writing, there is not available an estimate of the air strength to be expected in defense of the above-mentioned targets. There is available, however, an estimate of the enemy air order of battle dated 18 November 1943, five days after operations had begun. It follows:24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>VF</th>
<th>VB</th>
<th>VB(M)</th>
<th>VP</th>
<th>VSQ</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarawa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makin</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaluit</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notje</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maloelap</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwajalein</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eniwetok</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Seventh Air Force's original plan for carrying out its assigned mission of denying the enemy the use of his airfields called for the following strikes by the aircraft of the VII Bomber Command:25

D-5 day - Jaluit and Mille
D-4 day - Kwajalein and Maloelap
D-3 day - Notje and Maloelap
D-2 day - Kwajalein and Notje
D-1 day - Makin and Tarawa

The VII Bomber Command also was to operate dive bombers in defense of Canton, conduct search missions from Canton from D-5 to D-2, inclusive, and perform such additional search, photographic, and strike missions as were directed. The attacks on Makin and Tarawa were to help prepare the way for assault troops. Maximum damage was to be inflicted on defense
installations, and minimum damage on those installations whose destruction was not required for the capture of the bases. Enemy shipping of all types was to be a priority target on all missions. 26

Although the general instructions remained constant, the actual order of attack was changed twice during the course of the pre-invasion campaign. The first of these changes stepped up the initial operation from D-5 to D-7 and provided the following schedule: 27

- D-7 day - Tarawa
- D-6 day - Tarawa and Mille
- D-5 day - Tarawa and Mille
- D-4 day - Jaluit and Kwajalein
- D-3 day - Tarawa and Mille or Maloelap
  (Kwajalein if not attacked on D-4)
- D-2 day - None
- D-1 day - Tarawa and Makin

The second change, occurring the day after operations had started, provided the following schedule for the remaining six days: 28

- D-6 day - Mille and Tarawa
- D-5 day - Jaluit and Mille
- D-4 day - Kwajalein and Maloelap
- D-3 day - Jaluit and Maloelap
- D-2 day - Notje
- D-1 day - Tarawa and Makin

The air attack began on 13 November 1943 (D-7) when 18 B-24's of the 11th Bomb Group took off from Punaufuti to attack Tarawa. They dropped 126 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters, and 55 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 and 15,000 feet respectively. Returning to Punaufuti, the crews observed fires burning for 60 miles at 15,000 feet. One airplane did not return, cause unknown. 29

During the entire week the Liberators carried out their assigned mission. The only deviations occurred on 17 November (D-3) when Tarawa and Mille were bombed instead of Jaluit, 30 and on 18 November when bad weather conditions forced the bombers headed for Mille to head for Makin.
The conditions under which the heavy bombers operated were far from satisfactory. Facilities at the hastily constructed forward bases for both the servicing and maintenance of the airplanes and the comfort of the combat crews were primitive and often inadequate. Enemy aircraft contributed to the difficulties of both air and ground crews by raiding Nanomea on the night of 11 November, and Funafuti on 13 November and 17 November.

The remoteness of enemy targets from the widely dispersed operating bases required flights over some of the greatest distances attempted in the war. The distance flown from home bases to objectives, and return, varied from 926 nautical miles to 2,408 nautical miles. All flights traversed great water distances with no intermediate landmarks. Both the objectives and the home bases consisted of small land masses, the reaching of which required the most accurate navigation. Two operational problems that gave considerable trouble were weather and communications. Weather reports were unsatisfactory in that they were generally too brief and below standard accuracy. The VII Bomber Command felt that the cause for both unsatisfactory conditions was the lack of wide and efficient dissemination of weather information and the fact that Navy forecasts, which predominated, were too brief. Communications at Funafuti appeared to be generally unsatisfactory—the tower used unpublished transmission frequencies, and the erratic and unstable operation of the range and homing stations made them unreliable as aids to navigation.

Tactically, the Liberators met opposition every time they went out.
There was antiaircraft, varying in intensity and accuracy, over every target; and over Kwajalein, Jaluit, and Maloelap intercepting fighters were up to meet the bombers. 37

When the Marines stormed ashore at Tarawa on 20 November, the Seventh Air Force heavy bombers had completed 13 strike missions for a total of 141 sorties. They had dropped 375 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 455 x 100-lb. GP bombs, and 5,634 x 20-lb. fragmentation bombs, in addition to firing 12,736 rounds of .50-cal., and 200 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. They had destroyed five enemy aircraft, probably destroyed five others, and damaged two. Two B-24's had been lost in combat, two had been lost operationally, two had been destroyed on the ground, and one had been lost at sea, cause unknown. Personnel losses included six dead, 19 wounded, and 11 missing. 38

An indication of the relative effort exerted against the various targets are the following figures on short tons of bombs dropped during the month of November: 39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Tons of Bombs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gilberts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarawa</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makin</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mille</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaluit</td>
<td>61.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maloelap</td>
<td>39.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enemy Shipping</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>299.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any attempt to assess the effectiveness of the work of the Seventh Air Force in this operation, as in its other operations, is complicated.
by the fact that the aerial strength of the Navy also was operating against the same targets. Then, too, an exact determination of the effect of any aerial bombardment is open to serious question. A frequently used means of determining results has been the number of bombs placed on the target, or the percentage of bombs dropped that hit the target. On this basis, it was estimated that the B-24's were 73 per cent effective.\(^4\) It has been pointed out, however, that such a standard of performance may be misleading because it actually gives no indication of the extent to which effective installations have been destroyed.\(^5\) Prior to H-hour and D-day, Tarawa had been subjected to a terrific naval and aerial bombardment, yet the Japs were able to resist fanatically in their coconut-log dugouts for 72 bitter, bloody hours.

In connection with the task of denying the enemy the use of his airfields, the Army Air Forces Evaluation Board in the Pacific Ocean Areas, headed by Brig. Gen. Martin F. Scanlon, USA, has pointed out that neutralization could not possibly be maintained with the small force of B-24's which, because of the long distances from the most advanced staging bases to the targets, were the only airplanes available which were effective in this job.\(^6\) It was further pointed out that it was such a matter of hours to repair runways as the Japs used, to rebuild their light frame buildings, and to fly replacement aircraft down through the chain of mandated islands. For this reason, attacks would have had to have been made almost daily to maintain complete neutralization. Under the conditions of distance and force available this was impossible.\(^7\)

In summarizing the effect of air attacks prior to the invasion of
the Gilberts, the Evaluation Board concluded:

Up to the time when assault and occupation of the islands began, complete neutralization of the air facilities of these islands had not been accomplished. Certain Jap-held runways had been kept serviceable, stores of all sorts remained intact, and airplanes were still present. The actual guarantee of protection against enemy air interference was brought about by carrier-borne fighters and bombers of the Naval task force accompanying the expedition. Airplanes of this type that participated in the operation may have numbered as many as four hundred dive and torpedo bombers and five hundred fighters. In view of the prior hindrance to the Jap air effort by the meager but persistent work of the B-24's, this pre-invasion force was quite sufficient to eliminate all hostile air activity in the Gilberts and prevent any reinforcement through the Marshalls. This done, the carrier groups proceeded to render such close support to the assault troops as was requested.
Chapter II
THE MARSHALLS

So far as air operations were concerned, the campaigns in the Gilberts and the Marshalls were continuous. On 21 November 1943 (O plus 1), B-24's of the 38th Bomb Squadron escorted Navy PB4Y photo planes over Nauru, while Liberators of the 431st and 424th Bomb Squadrons conducted daylight raids on the same target.¹ During the remainder of November and most of December, Seventh Air Force Liberators continued to pound Nauru, Hille, Jaluit, and Maloelap from their bases at Canton and in the Ellices, staging through Baker and Nanumea. Beginning 16 December, a new target—Wotje—came under the sights of the B-24's.² Wotje, base of a strongly-fortified and well-defended airfield and extensive seaplane servicing facilities,³ was another of the Japanese strong points that was to be reduced to ineffectiveness by air attack.

Meanwhile, Seabees and Seventh Air Force aviation engineers were laboring long and hard to prepare the newly-won positions in the Gilberts for use. Air strips were cut out of the coconut groves at Apanama and Makin; and amidst the rubble at Tarawa, the existing airfield was lengthened and improved, and another was constructed. So rapidly did they accomplish their tasks that within a month after the bases had been captured, tactical units had begun to use them against the Japanese.
October, were brought to Tarawa and Apanama. The 46th Fighter Squadron, whose P-39's had been kept at Canton for defensive purposes during the Gilberts campaign, was reinforced with new airplanes from Oahu and moved to Makin during the period 14-27 December. Another P-39 organization, the 72d Fighter Squadron, was brought to Makin from Oahu, the pilots and airplanes arriving aboard a carrier on 14 December, and the ground echelon on 18 December 1943. The P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron, which had been at Baker during the conquest of the Gilberts, were moved to Nanomea on 28 November and in January divided into a rear echelon stationed at Apanama and a forward echelon at Makin. Finally, the 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, equipped with A-24's, was assembled on Makin from Oahu and Canton on 22 December 1943.

B-24's first used bases in the Gilberts on 23 December, when Liberators of the 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa to escort Navy photo planes over Kwajalein. Tarawa was used as a staging base until early in January, when Headquarters 11th Bomb Group, and the 26th, 98th, and 431st Bomb Squadrons were located there. The 42d Bomb Squadron was sent from Funafuti to Oahu, where it was to augment the 819th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group, as the heavy bombardment force available for the defense of the Hawaiian Islands. Also in early January, Headquarters 30th Bomb Group was moved from Nanomea to Apanama, the ground echelon arriving on 4 January and the air echelon on 5 January; and the 392d Bomb Squadron was moved from Canton to Apanama, with the ground echelon arriving on 10 January and the air echelon on 19 January. The 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons remained at Nanomea.

To complete the move, a visit to the Gilbert Islands,
ADVON, together with the forward echelons of the VII Bomber Command and the VII Air Service Command, was moved from Pumafuti to Tarawa during the last week of December 1943 and the first week of January 1944. 15

The establishment of its headquarters and tactical units in the Gilbert Islands placed the Seventh Air Force in a position where it could most advantageously carry out its part in the conquest of key Japanese positions in the Marshall Islands. The first phase of this operation, known under the code name FLINTLOCK, was the seizure and occupation of Kwajalein and Majuro atolls; the second phase, known as CATCHPOLE, was the conquest and occupation of Eniwetok, westernmost island of the Marshalls. Originally, these were planned as two separate operations, but because of the comparative ease with which Kwajalein and Majuro were secured, it was decided to alter existing plans and proceed with the CATCHPOLE operation immediately upon the completion of FLINTLOCK. 16 For this reason, and because the operations of the Seventh Air Force were continuous, the two operations will be discussed together.

In these operations, Seventh Air Force units continued to operate as they had in the conquest of the Gilberts, as part of Task Force 57 under Rear Adm. Hoover, which in turn was part of a mammoth sea, land, and air force under the direction of COMSEAPAC, Admiral Spruance. 17 General Halle was designated Strike Commander (Task Group 57.2), and was to have all Army aircraft under his command, in addition to VMF 532, a Navy night fighter squadron. This was a change from GALVANTIC, in that in the earlier operation Army fighters had been used only for defensive purposes, all night. Under Marine command. 18
In general, the mission of the Seventh Air Force in the conquest of the Marshalls remained the same as it had been in the Gilberts operation, i.e., search and reconnaissance, and the performance of striking force missions to deny the enemy the use of his bases and to destroy his shipping. Specifically, the mission in FLINTLOCK was outlined as follows: 19

1. Deny the enemy the use of his air bases at Wille and Jaluit before D minus 2 day, and maintain the neutralization of those bases thereafter;

2. Destroy enemy aircraft and air facilities at Roi, NKR, and Taroa islands, and at Kwajalein Island if the field there was operational until and including D minus 3 day;

3. Furnish air support at Kwajalein Island on D-day as requested by Commander Joint Expeditionary Force;

4. On D minus 2 day and thereafter, assist other forces engaged in denying NKR and Taroa to the enemy as air bases;

5. Deny the use of Kusaie and Nauru to the enemy as air bases for aircraft which could substantially interfere with FLINTLOCK operations;

6. Defend our bases in the Ellice and Gilbert Islands;

7. Attack enemy ships and shipping.

During the CATCHPOLE phase of the operation the Seventh Air Force was to continue its neutralization of the Marshalls, and, in addition, to maintain the neutralization of enemy air facilities at Ponape and Wake in coordination with strikes from Midway, as directed by Commander in-Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet (CINC PAC). 20 Actually, all attacks on Wake during this period were by naval aircraft based at Midway. 21

A primary difference between the operations in the Gilberts and the Marshalls was the increased air strength which could be brought to bear in the latter as the result of the establishment of bases in the...
Gilberts, and the augmentation of Seventh Air Force units in the forward area. The B-24's no longer had to assume responsibility for all of the targets. Those at closer range could be turned over in part to the B-25's, the A-24's, and the fighters. Moreover, as B-24 missions were reduced somewhat in length, the Liberators could carry full bomb loads, and operate more frequently, with less fatigue for their crews.²²

During the campaign in the Gilberts, B-24's had been operated against Tarawa, Mille, Jaluit, Maloelap, Nauru, and Kwajalein. In every instance, with the exception of Tarawa which became a friendly base, and Nauru against which only 13 B-24 sorties were flown after November, they flew more sorties over these targets in December than they had in November, in addition to initiating the heavy bombing of Wotje.²³ The total number of sorties flown increased from 237 in November to 365 in December, and the average length of bombing sorties increased from 12.0 to 13.7 hours.²⁴ Mille was the target most frequently hit by the Liberators during the month, with Maloelap a close second.²⁵ During January, the total number of B-24 sorties flown decreased to 268, and the average length of each sortie decreased to 9.6 hours.²⁶ Kwajalein, which was being softened up for invasion, became the target most hit. Wotje again had the second greatest amount of B-24 effort expended against it. Maloelap, the third heaviest hit target during the month, saw more B-24's over it during January than it had in November, but less than in December. Mille and Jaluit were still hit occasionally by the heavies, but usually as alternate or last resort targets.²⁷

B-24's were used for nightly harassment of Kwajalein, Wotje, and
Valoelap during the period from D minus 3 to D-day on Kwajalein. In performing this mission they were over their targets from dusk to dawn in small elements, dropping 500-lb. delayed-fuse GP bombs. On 1 February 1944 (D-day on Kwajalein Island), they performed a unique mission for heavy bombers in this theater when they furnished ground support for the assault troops of the 7th Army Division. Assigned to the mission were 6 B-24's of the 392d Bomb Squadron, which dropped 2,000- and 1,000-lb. GP bombs from altitudes of 4,000 to 4,600 feet, and in addition strafed with .50-cal. machine guns. As they left the target, the northwest part of the island appeared to be on fire. None of the B-24's was damaged.29

During February the B-24's flew 330 sorties, an increase of 62 over the previous month, and the average length of these sorties increased from 9.6 to 10.7 hours.20 The primary reason for the increase in average length of the bombing sorties was the inclusion of Ponape, for the first time among the targets hit by Seventh Air Force Liberators, in the performance of part of the Seventh's mission in the CATCHFOLE phase of the conquest of the Marshalls.

Ponape, in the eastern Carolines, was approximately 1,085 statute miles from the Seventh's primary forward base at Tarawa, and missions against it during this period averaged around 2,200 miles of non-stop over-water flying.31 The island is the largest in the mandated group. It had one medium-sized airfield, a second airfield under construction, and a well-established seaplane base. Its anchorage was suitable for six medium-sized and a number of small naval vessels, but not for a fleet base. It was moderately developed commercially.32 Ponape was
first hit on 14 February, and during the month 121 B-24's were over the island.

Another target hit for the first time in February, and also in connection with the Seventh's mission in CATCHPOLE, was Kusaie, struck initially on 17-18 February. Kusaie, the easternmost island of the Carolines, is about 300 miles west of Ponape. Lele Harbor provided limited anchorage for medium-sized vessels and limited seaplane facilities. Military activity there was of a minor nature, however, and while a few missions were scheduled against it, it usually served as an alternate target for missions against Ponape.

The Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force called the reduction of Ponape and Kusaie in support of landing operations at Eniwetok, "the most interesting phase, and certainly the most important," of the CATCHPOLE operation. In four raids against Ponape, during which approximately 140 tons of GP and incendiary bombs were dropped, the town was practically destroyed, and the seaplane-base pounded into unserviceability. The waterfront area on Kusaie, the principal target there, was also practically demolished by four raids. The airfield never became operational and was of little concern.

In addition to bombing these two new targets, the B-24's continued during February to strike Majuro, Wotje, Mille, and Jaluit in about the same force as they had in January. Kwajalein, of course, was not bombed again after the ground support mission of 1 February.

B-25's of the 41st Bomb Group (H) went into action for the first time in the Central Pacific on 23 December 1943 when nine of them from the 320th Bomb Squadron took off from Tarawa for an attack on Mille.
The only other target attacked by medium aircraft during December was Jaluit, over which nine sorties were flown. During January and February, primary targets for the medium bombers were Maloelap and Nukulea. Jaluit also continued to be hit, and in January six sorties were flown against Nauru. The total number of sorties flown by the B-25's increased from 18 in December to 21 in January, and dropped back to 17 in February. The average length of their bombing sorties was 4.2 hours in December, and 6.9 hours in January and February.

Carrying a 75-mm. cannon in their nose, in addition to a complement of .50-cal. machine guns, the B-25's specialized during the Marshalls campaign in low-level bombing, cannonnading, and strafing attacks against both shipping and shore installations. Illustrative of the extremely low levels at which these attacks were launched was the mission of 14 January, which has become legendary in the annals of the Seventh Air Force. Three B-25's were dispatched from Hallinix Field, Tarawa, to attack a destroyer and other shipping seen in Wotje lagoon by crews of an earlier strike. One B-25 received major damage when it clipped the mast of a ship, embedding fragments in the engine nacelle and battering the engine, wing, bomb bay, and fuselage. The pilot managed to get the battered plane to Makin, and upon its arrival there a Japanese flag was found intact within the engine nacelle.

The low-level attacks gave the B-25's certain tactical advantages over aircraft using medium and high-level techniques: avoidance of radar detection, added precision in bombing, and ability to strafe their targets effectively with .50-cal. machine guns and 75-mm. cannon.

Yet they proved costly. The 41st Bomb Group lost a total of 17 B-25's.
between 28 December 1943 and 12 February 1944, and in addition suffered damage on 114 sorties. These figures include two B-25's shot down and five damaged when a flight returning from Wotje on 29 January was attacked by F6F's of the United States Navy. When, beginning 19 February, the B-25's switched to medium-altitude attacks, the number of aircraft destroyed and damaged was greatly reduced.

A-24's of the 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron started hitting Jap installations on Mille and Jaluit from Makin on 18 December 1943. The Dauntless dive bombers, usually armed with two 500-lb. GP bombs, flew 367 sorties against those two targets between 18 December and the invasion of Kwajalein. During the entire period of their operations in the Central Pacific (18 December 1943 to 10 March 1944), they flew 375 sorties over Mille and 150 over Jaluit, dropping 241 short tons of bombs over the former target, and 70.4 short tons over the latter. They expended a total of 61,630 rounds of .30-cal. and 29,810 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and on various occasions dropped propaganda leaflets upon the beleaguered Jap garrisons. Except for 41 unescorted sorties over Mille, the A-24's were accompanied on all missions by P-39's of the 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron, or F6F's of the United States Navy. Occasionally Navy SBD's, the equivalent of an Army A-24, flew with them.

The P-39's, in addition to furnishing escort for the A-24's, undertook a variety of striking and patrol missions. They made regular fighter sweeps over Mille, 220 miles from their base at Makin, and on 6 February, 12 P-39's made a successful fighter sweep over Jaluit, a distance of approximately 303 statute miles from Makin. During the landings on
Kwajalein, the Airacobras carried out continuous armed patrols over Mille to deny the enemy the use of its airfield. In flights of four, they stayed over the atoll from dawn to dusk from 29 January 1944 to 1 February 1944. In this they were assisted by P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron. They also provided escort for crash boats and Navy F6F's in rescue operations, and on 1 January 1944, 16 P-39's of the 72d Fighter Squadron attacked and destroyed two small inter-island vessels off Mille. On 10 and 11 January, one P-39 on two different missions over Mille dropped two 500-lb. bombs. This was believed to be the first time that a P-39 had been utilized to carry such a bomb load, in addition to a 540-lb. belly tank, over 200 miles of water. In addition to their striking missions, the P-39's flew 32 interception sorties over Makin and surrounding area. The P-39's total activity during the period of their operations from Makin (18 December 1943 to 12 February 1944) consisted of 635 sorties, plus 114 abortives, and expenditure of 46,712 rounds of .30-cal. and 1,771 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition.

The 45th Fighter Squadron conducted its first mission from Makin 16 January 1944 when eight P-40's took part in a raid on Mille with A-24's and P-39's. The Warhawks each carried two 500-lb. bombs, all of which hit the target. On the way out they were escorted by P-39's. After they had dropped their bombs they furnished part of the escort for the A-24's. During their operations in the Central Pacific, the P-40's, like the P-39's, were utilized on a variety of missions: escort, bombing, strafing, attacks on shipping, and combat patrol. In the performance of this last, they, with the P-39's, were over Mille during
the entire days of 30 and 31 January 1944 to deny the enemy the use of
its airfield during the invasion of Kwajalein. The 45th Fighter
Squadron made several innovations in the use of its planes—the only
type aircraft in use at the outbreak of the war and still flying in
Seventh Air Force combat missions. On 26 January, 12 P-40’s flew a
distance of 800 miles, several miles beyond their normal range, to
intercept a group of Zeke’s attacking a force of B-25’s. An attempt
was made to increase the bomb load when on 5 February, 14 P-40’s each
carried two 1,000-lb. bombs over Jaluit. This was the heaviest bomb
load ever carried in the theater by the P-40’s, which in addition
were equipped with 75-gallon belly tanks to get them over the 600-mile
round trip. The same load was tried again on 7 February by 16 air-
planes. Thus, it was learned that fighters could carry a heavier
bomb load than could dive bombers, but it was also observed that their
bombing was not as accurate. Pilots reported that the heavy 2,000-
Ib. loads adversely affected flying characteristics of the P-40 in
high-speed dives. Still another innovation was attempted on 22 Feb-
uary, when a P-40 on a mission over Rike launched a rocket, although
with unobserved results.

During the period from 16 January to 11 March 1944, the Warhawks
flew a total of 501 sorties, plus an additional 30 abortives. They
dropped a total of 163,9 short tons of bombs on Rike and Jaluit, and
expanded 158,525 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition.

As the tempo of attacks increased, so did enemy resistance, both
on the ground and in the air. Antiaircraft fire increased in volume
and in accuracy over what it had been in the Gilberts campaign. Jap
fighters was gradually appearing in larger numbers. During December 1943, interception occurred at Kwajalein, Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje. At Kwajalein, there was interception only once in three missions, when on 21 December eight Zekes and one Tony intercepted eight B-24's. One Zake was damaged, and none of the B-24's was hit. At Wotje, also, fighters came up only once: on 26 December when five or six Zekes intercepted a formation of 16 B-24's. In the fight that ensued, the enemy shot down two B-24's and damaged another, while losing only one Zake with two others damaged.

Over Mille and Maloelap, the interception was much greater. B-24's encountered fighters in four missions out of seven over Mille. They ranged in number from 10 to 15 near the beginning of the month, to one on the 19th. They were identified as Zekes, Hamp's, Tony's, and Oscars, and on 8 December were observed to employ aerial bombs. The Liberators destroyed five Zekes and one Tony, and the fighters were able to destroy one B-24 and damage 17. A-24's and P-39's also encountered from four to seven Zekes over Mille on three occasions. They destroyed three Zekes, probably destroyed another, and damaged one. None of the fighters or dive bombers was destroyed or damaged by enemy interceptors. After 23 December 1943 there was no further interception over Mille Atoll.

The greatest concentration of enemy fighters was at Maloelap, and during every mission over this target from 16 November 1943 to 2 January 1944, interception was encountered. These missions all were conducted by B-24's. The number of fighters up to meet them grew from 12 to 15 to a high of 35 to 40, identified mostly as Zekes, although some Hamp's and Oscars were reported. The Liberators managed to shoot down 54 of
the intercepting fighters, probably shoot down 61, and damage 55, although in doing it 11 of the heavy bombers were lost, and 60 were damaged. These losses occurred on daytime raids, and because of them, early in January the B-24's were switched to the less effective, but also less hazardous, night attacks.

Maloaep was the only target over which interception continued into January 1944. The B-24's, operating at night, encountered no further interception. The B-25's, however, flying low-level, daylight attacks, continued to meet stiff interception over the target, with as many as 50 fighters being reported up to meet them. They met interception on every mission until 29 January. During the month, seven B-25's were shot down, and 48 were damaged. The low-flying Mitchells, however, were able to shoot down 24, probably shoot down 17, and damage 39, in addition to destroying a number of aircraft on the ground. The back of Jap fighter activity at Maloaep appears to have been broken on 26 January. On that date, nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, being pursued by 13 to 28 aggressive, experienced fighters, were met at a pre-arranged rendezvous over air by 12 P-40's of the 45th Fighter Squadron. This surprise attack accounted for at least 11 enemy fighters destroyed and two probably destroyed. No Seventh Air Force planes were lost, although eight B-25's were damaged, one of them seriously. On 28 January, a formation of seven B-25's was intercepted by five fighters. This was the last time that Japanese fighters were encountered over Maloaep, or any of the Marshall Islands.

With the air over the Marshalls completely controlled by U. S. forces, the enemy was limited, after January, to the use of antiaircraft
for the defense of his battered strongholds. During the early part of February, it was noted that the volume of antiaircraft in the central and eastern Marshalls, which hitherto had been described as generally intense, if inaccurate, became meager but much more accurate. It was first believed that this was due to a shortage of ammunition. Later in the month, however, when the fire again became intense at times, it was concluded that the enemy had been hoarding his ammunition against possible landing operations against him. There was a considerable increase in accuracy. This was attributed to two factors: 1) the fact that the enemy was getting more and more practical experience; and 2) his new antiaircraft techniques. He had learned that a screen of antiaircraft is not only wasteful, but that it rarely ever results in the destruction of aircraft; hence he was holding his fire until the planes came in for their bomb run...and then instead of throwing up a curtain of fire, concentrating all of his guns on one airplane at a time. Evidence that this was effective was the loss of three medium bombers, four dive bombers, and two fighters to antiaircraft.

In addition to ground and air opposition at the targets, the Japs attempted to oppose our operations by attacks on our bases. During December and January Tarawa was raided 14 times, Makin 14 times, and Apanama twice. The fewest number of enemy aircraft participating in these raids was one; and the greatest, 15. The average number was between five and six. The enemy did considerable damage on these raids, but on the whole did not interfere appreciably with our operations. On 15 of the raids no damage was reported, but on others some hits were scored. Eight persons were killed, and 64 injured, including two.
natives who received slight injuries. Ten airplanes were damaged and at least two were destroyed. Other damage included one truck destroyed, a Seabee machine shop destroyed, and gasoline dumps fired twice. 88

The most serious damage resulted from the only time the enemy attempted to bomb our bases during February. On the 12th of the month, some 12 to 14 enemy planes made a night attack on our newly-acquired base at Roi Island, Kwajalein atoll. The attack was made from 20,000 feet, and most of the bombs fell in the lagoon, except for one hit in a bomb storage area containing 83 x 1,000-lb. bombs. The resulting explosion caused widespread damage, with 20 to 25 men reported killed, 130 wounded, 80 per cent of the supplies on the beachhead destroyed, and 20 per cent of the construction equipment damaged. Two LST's in the lagoon were struck and burned out. 89

Enemy opposition over the targets and raids upon their operating bases were probably the most important factors affecting Seventh Air Force operations during the period, but there were others, such as distance, flight conditions, and conditions at the bases from which operations were conducted.

The forward displacement of the bulk of the squadrons improved operating conditions to the extent that shorter flights to many of the targets permitted the carrying of full bomb loads. In actual practice, however, each type of plane often was pushed to the extent of its range, and sometimes beyond, in the effort to find targets for land-based aircraft in a theater composed almost entirely of water. Navigation, as always in the Pacific Ocean Areas, was of the utmost importance, even for the fighter pilots with distance. By comparison with
bombers but hardly short for fighter planes. As one Squadron S-2 put it: "It is important that the pilots be on the ball on navigation. 214 miles over water with a single prop out in front is a long way and no sensible place to get lost ...." 90

Weather, which had given considerable trouble during the GALVANIC operation, 91 did not appear to be giving so much trouble during the campaign in the Marshalls. To be sure, there was always a weak to moderate front with two-tenths to ten-tenths coverage in the central and eastern Marshalls, but it caused little or no interference with operations since at least one of the principal targets was usually clear or partially clear. 92 The weather en route to Ponape and Kusaie was generally more difficult to forecast, and did cause some trouble. Flights got split and part of the planes bombed alternate targets on numerous occasions, and in some instances missions were cancelled because of adverse weather conditions. Ponape and Kusaie always had cloud cover during the day, and this condition made observation and photo reconnaissance difficult. However, there were no operational losses attributed to the weather during the period. 93

Conditions under which the men of the Seventh Air Force lived and worked at their bases in the Gilberts were, as they had been in the Ellice Islands, primitive. There were flies and mosquitoes, the seemingly everlasting "C" rations, and, for the ground crews, especially, the monotony of life that is contained within a tiny coral atoll. In addition, there were problems that had not been encountered in the Ellices. The fierce fighting and heavy bombardment—particularly at Tarawa—had left in their wake a mass of stripped and uprooted coconut
palms, block-houses smashed and burned, and filled with the heaped-up bodies of the decaying, stinking dead. Moreover, for days after the atoll had been declared secure, and even after Seventh Air Force planes were operating from its airfields, these dugouts, in addition to their unbearable stench, could often produce a number of fierce, fighting defenders who would charge or shoot anyone venturing near enough. In what was to be the pattern for mopping-up operations throughout the Pacific, these pockets of fanatical, last-ditch defenders had to be reduced one by one by dynamite, bull-dozers, and flame throwers. 94

Yet, with the spirit displayed by the American soldier wherever he is stationed, the men of the Seventh Air Force adjusted themselves to conditions as they found them. The Historical Officer of VII Bomber Command wrote: 95

But even on coral atolls life can become more or less routine with the passing of time, and obstacles which seemed virtually insufferable at first are either eliminated or soon become every-day matters accepted as a part of daily life. As the islands were cleaned up, recreational activities became available; volleyball courts were improvised, baseball tournaments were organized, and, most important of all, mail from home began to come in regularly.

And, as the S-2 of a Fighter Squadron put it: 96

The pilots are extremely eager and fight to be on the alert flights. Living conditions are primitive, chow is B, C and K ration, the flies are bad in the daytime, the mosquitoes bad at night. There is a certain amount of dysentery but everyone's morale is high.

As has been indicated above, any attempt to evaluate the operations of the Seventh Air Force is subject to numerous difficulties. 97 No effort will be made here to pass judgment. The most that is intended is a presentation of various judgments expressed.
As a means of indicating the relative effort exerted against the various targets, the following is a statement on the bomb tonnage dropped during the months from December 1943 through February 1944:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>Dec 43</th>
<th>Jan 44</th>
<th>Feb 44</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marshall</td>
<td>126.1</td>
<td>192.3</td>
<td>233.2</td>
<td>551.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maloap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hille</td>
<td>203.6</td>
<td>180.0</td>
<td>154.7</td>
<td>538.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetje</td>
<td>151.5</td>
<td>214.6</td>
<td>261.3</td>
<td>627.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaluit</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>131.9</td>
<td>150.0</td>
<td>374.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KwaJalaiin</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>200.2</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>315.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majuro</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anu</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongelap</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arno</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likiep</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>172.3</td>
<td>172.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kusare</td>
<td>-59.3</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maura</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>18.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>597.6</td>
<td>962.2</td>
<td>1,048.8</td>
<td>2,708.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 9th Statistical Control Unit, Oversea, Special, prepared a tabulation of performance of B-24's and B-25's on the basis of the percentage of sorties successfully destroying their targets. The average percentage during the period from December 1943 to February 1944 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Operation</th>
<th>B-24</th>
<th>B-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target Destroyed</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Partially Destroyed</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Probably Destroyed</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuccessful</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following quotations from photographic intelligence reports give an estimate of damage done to various targets on the basis of photo reconnaissance:

Maloap—The success of the aerial bombardments directed against MALOAP in past months is attested by the fact that
the remaining targets, although very worthwhile, are few and scattered and thus probably more vulnerable to dive-bombing than other types of attack.100

Hille—Since the end of November when the fleet and air attacks on MILK started which leveled almost all of the major buildings including most of the aircraft servicing facilities, the garrison has made little attempt at the patently futile job of reconstructing damaged and destroyed facilities. Instead, except for the erection of huts, all either revetted or well below ground surface, all effort has been concentrated on strengthening ground defenses, the defenders obviously feeling their island marked for invasion.101

Jaluit—With the exception of the northern barracks group which was wiped out by Army Liberator strikes early in December, the seaplane base at EMID offers more or less the same target.102 Little additional damage has been caused by subsequent strikes.

Total—Almost continuous bombing and ship bombardment have been directed against the installations which remained on WOTJE ISLAND following the carrier strikes of early February. As a result, all are now damaged, in many cases severely, but none are conclusively knocked-out nor has the enemy ceased repairing the runways, the short (NE-SW) runway is serviceable.103

Regarding the many night harassing strikes made against enemy bases, particularly prior to the invasion of Kwajalein, the A-3 of the Seventh Air Force felt that it was extremely questionable whether the results from such missions were commensurate with the effort involved:

"Use of aircraft and crews in this manner results either in a fewer number of each available for other missions where the intent is to strike in force, or the number of missions must necessarily be reduced. To carry out strike missions at reduced strength over enemy antiaircraft defenses places the attackers at a definite disadvantage."104

The Army Air Forces Evaluation Board reported that it was the consensus of observers that continued harassing bombing is effective in wearing down defending troops, causing them to lose sleep and hence making them less alert.105 Moreover, the effect of the widespread strikes was to confuse the enemy in the interval of the next
amphibious operation and divide his attention. 106

In connection with the aerial bombardment that augmented a tremendous
naval assault prior to the invasion of Kwajalein, it was found that while
the bombardments had destroyed or damaged every above-ground fortifica-
tion, many machine-gun positions remained untouched, and Japs continued
to occupy well-camouflaged foxholes. 107

General Hale summarized the results of Seventh Air Force operations
during the FLINTLOCK phase of the Marshalls operations as follows: 108

The cumulative effect of bomb tonnage dropped, plus the
nightly harassment during the final days undoubtedly resulted in
causing the enemy in the MARSHALLS material damage, aprehension,
fatigue, and the impairment of the will to resist. An incon-
testable fact is that our naval forces participating in the
assault and occupation of KWAJALEIN and MAJURO were not attacked
by one single hostile aircraft.

It must be presumed that the operations of the Seventh Air
Force constituted a major factor in attaining the surprise that
resulted, and the lack of air-resistance that was encountered,
by the invasion forces enroute to their objectives.

The results of Seventh Air Force activity in the C.TOPSOL phase
of the operation were described by Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr.,
as follows:109

Photographs and observations of participating crews during
this period show that the cumulative damage inflicted on the enemy
and his bases was enormous. Practically all buildings and
installations above ground on Eili, Wotje, Jaluit, and Maloelap
were destroyed or seriously damaged. Huge craters show where
ammunition dumps were destroyed by direct hits. The demoralizing
effect on the enemy must have been very great due to his inability
to effectively deal with our attacks. The effectiveness of our
operations is also attested to by the fact that there was not one
enemy plane sighted in the Marshalls during this period.

The best example of the effectiveness of heavy bombardment
was the almost complete destruction of the town of Ponape in five
raids without loss to ourselves. Thus, in a period of ten days
a good sized town and one of the Japs most important bases and
supply centers in the Carolines was virtually wiped out. This
was actually the first time that Seventh Air Force bombers engaged
in strategic bombing, and the results obtained point the way to
even greater destruction of the enemy as more important and more
densely populated areas come within our range.
Chapter III
THE MARIANAS

The months of March and April 1944 were a period of transition in the operations of the Seventh Air Force. On the one hand, its units were moving to new bases made possible by the successful outcome of joint operations in the Marshalls and from those bases initiating the bombardment of targets still farther west in preparation for further amphibious assault. On the other hand, they were continuing, and in some instances increasing, their activity over their established targets in the Marshall Islands. This latter phase of operations will be touched upon before discussing the former.

As has been indicated, by the middle of March the fighter and dive-bomber squadrons had terminated their activity in the Central Pacific and were returned to Oahu. The 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron was redesignated the 531st Fighter Squadron, and with the 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons was combined into the 21st Fighter Group (TE). This unit was then re-equipped with new P-38 aircraft and was to operate in the Hawaiian Islands. It was first assigned to the VII Fighter Command, and then to the 7th Fighter Wing, newly activated for the defense of the Hawaiian area and under the operational control of the Central Pacific Base Command.

With fighters and dive-bombers removed from the scene of combat operations, there was a tremendous increase in the activity of the
41st Group's medium bombers. The total number of bombing sorties flown by B-25's jumped from 175 in February to 604 in March. This was increased in April to a high of 875. At the same time, the average length of bombing sorties decreased from 6.9 hours in February to 4.7 hours in March, and to 3.2 hours in April.

This would indicate not only that certain targets were being hit more often than they had been before, but also that those targets most frequently hit were located at relatively close range to the bombers' operating bases. This was the case, with Jaluit and Maloelap being the targets most frequently hit. During March more sorties were flown over these two targets than over all the others bombed by the B-25's, and during April this increased to over twice as many sorties as were flown over all other targets by B-25's.

The pattern in which most of these sorties were flown was established on 23-24 March ("2" time) when 11 B-25's from Tarawa bombed Maloelap from medium altitude, landed at the Navy's newly-developed base at Majuro for refueling and rearming, and on the return to Tarawa bombed Jaluit. These shuttle missions from Tarawa and Makin over Jaluit and Maloelap, with Maloelap occasionally being hit as an alternate target, became an almost daily occurrence, and soon were referred to by the crews who made them as "the milk runs." Interceptors had long since ceased to appear over even Maloelap, so the only opposition was that offered by antiaircraft. No B-25's were shot down over either target during the two months, although Japanese gunners damaged 16 over Maloelap and four over Jaluit. Continued bombing had destroyed most of the large targets at both places. Even
on Taroe, where the Japs had for a long time expended considerable effort to keep one runway operational, it was noticed by the middle of March that both runways were unserviceable and that repairs were falling behind the pace of bombings. The only target area still extensive enough to invite area bombing was Jabor Town on Jaluit Island. For the remainder, pin-point bombing was required. Various gun positions were the favorite targets. They were not a simple target from a distance of 8,000 to 11,000 feet, but good results were obtained. The same situation as to target areas existed on Nolje and Mille, the other Marshall Islands attacked by the medium bombers. Such installations as did exist were widely scattered, but since they supported the enemy's continued existence, they were considered valuable targets. Indicative of the quality of the antiaircraft fire met over the two targets is the fact that in over 200 sorties not a single B-25 was damaged. Although beginning in March, the heavy bombers were used primarily against targets in the Carolines, they also struck their old targets in the Marshalls occasionally. During the two months, March and April, 15 B-24 sorties were flown against Mille, 28 against Maloelap, 41 against Jaluit, and 62 against Nolje. Five sorties were also flown against Nauru. The kind of resistance the Liberators were meeting in this area is illustrated by the fact that none was lost and only three were damaged during the period. Two of the three were damaged over Nauru, and one over Nolje. In preparation for the B-24 strikes further along the road to the Japanese homeland, the heavy bombardment units of the Seventh Air

SECURITY INFORMATION
Force were redeployed, during March and April, from their bases in the Gilberts to those recently acquired in the Marshalls. The mediums remained in the Marshalls, although during April the squadrons of the 41st Bomb Group were moved to Makin from Tarawa and Apanama. The base from which heavy operations were to be conducted was Kwajalein. Eniwetok, approximately 370 nautical miles to the northwest, was being developed into a naval facility, and would provide an excellent base for staging long-distance raids.

The 30th Bomb Group was the first to move. An advance party arrived at Kwajalein from Apanama on 7 March 1944. Part of the air echelon arrived on 18 March, and by 26 March, Group headquarters and all three of its squadrons in the forward area were at their new base. While the ground echelons had been making the move to Kwajalein by water, the air echelons had been stationed at Makin.

The 11th Bomb Group moved from Tarawa to Kwajalein during the last days of March and the first part of April. During the movement the air echelon of the 26th Bomb Squadron was temporarily based at Eniwetok, and that of the 98th Bomb Squadron at Makin. Seventh Air Force, having fulfilled the purpose for which it was formed, was not moved from Tarawa to Kwajalein, but was disbanded on 26 March 1944, and its functions were turned over to Headquarters VII Bomber Command, with General Landon, Commanding General of the VII Bomber Command, being named Deputy Commander of the Seventh Air Force in the forward area. Also, the 9th Troop Carrier Squadron, which had arrived from the states in February, was moved to Apanama and placed under the operational control of Central Pacific Combat Air Transport Service (CENCATS).
Conditions at Kwajalein, which had undergone such a terrific pre-invasion bombardment, caused considerable dismay to the men who were going to have to live and work there. As one unit historical officer put it:

Kwajalein at that time was a good representation of all the city dumps in the U.S.A. plus the permeating odor of dead Japs still unburied. The bomber strip had just been completed, having had priority, but the rest of the Island was a most disheartening mess of broken trees, and blockhouses, the whole surface of the island being plowed up by shell fire and bombs; thick black dust pervaded every nook and cranny.

Yet the heavy bombers were operated in spite of the mess, the primitive living conditions, the dust, the mosquitoes, the heat, and the C rations. Soon Kwajalein was transformed into an orderly if not an attractive base, and even before the units of the Seventh Air Force had moved there, or the base had been completed, Seventh Air Force Liberators had begun to use the airstrip to stage raids against Wake and Truk, targets hitherto out of reach.

Wake Island had been bombed earlier in the war by Seventh Air Force Liberators from Cahu, staging through Midway. Although it was a somewhat secondary target during the period now under consideration, it was a relatively important threat to operations in the Central Pacific. It was strongly garrisoned and very heavily fortified. It was within flying range of Marcus, and hence the Japanese Empire, and could thus be reinforced by flying in aircraft from the homeland. Further, it could be relatively easily supplied by submarine or surface ship since the United States did not have suitable bases from which to patrol the ocean to the north.

Wake was first hit from the Marshalls on 11 March 1944, when 22 B-24's of the 30th Bomb Group staged through Kwajalein in a daylight attack.
attack. This was also the first time Kwajalein had been used by a striking force of land-based bombers. Altogether, 48 sorties were flown against Wake during March, and 75 during April.

The great bastion of Truk, in contrast to Wake, was to become the Seventh Air Force's most important target during the period covered by this study. Occupying a central position in the Carolines and situated midway between Saipan and Rabaul, Truk was the keystone of the enemy's outer defense perimeter, and the primary base for all South Central Pacific operations. From this anchorage and supply point were launched the attacks which took the Gilberts, Solomons, New Ireland, and New Britain. Truk was the key supply base for the eastern Carolines and a relay point for fighter planes en route to South and Central Pacific enemy bases. The anchorage facilities could accommodate the entire Japanese fleet if necessary, and its airfields could launch a formidable number of planes against an attacker. The atoll consists of a group of about 84 coral and basaltic islands. The larger islands are included by a barrier reef, roughly circular in shape and about 30 miles in diameter. The principal Seventh Air Force targets within the lagoon were the four islands of Dublon, Eten, Moen, and Param.

Dublon, located in the eastern section of the lagoon, was the center of all activity, containing the enemy's headquarters for the central and eastern Carolines, his main storage and repair facilities, a seaplane base, a submarine base, the main barracks area, and two radio stations. Dublon Town was the scene of greatest activity on the island, although along the entire south shore there were concentrations of docks, warehouses, tank farms, and buildings.
Eten, strategically situated opposite Dublon Town, had the largest
and best developed airfield in the atoll. Moen, the northernmost of
the larger islands, contained two airstrips and a seaplane base. Paracel,
centrally located in the lagoon, supported a single airstrip.

The atoll was particularly well-defended. The airfields could
send unfleltter planes...There were hundreds of antiaircraft and
Terrific explosions, illuminating the clouds over Truk, were visible for 30 miles on the return. One to three enemy aircraft were airborne over the target, and antiaircraft fire was moderate to intense, causing minor damage to two B-24's. At the completion of the mission, the Liberators had flown from 3,218 to 3,700 statute miles.37

During the month of March, 70 B-24 sorties were flown over Truk, and during April this was increased to 250 sorties.38 All of the missions against Truk during these two months were flown at night. Night fighters were in evidence almost every time the Liberators were over the target. Not only were fighters employed, but twin-engine bombers (Betlys) were reported by the returning crews.39 The interceptors made many attempts at air-to-air bombing with phosphorous bombs, evidently hoping that the evasive action necessary to avoid the bombs would break up the formation and allow the interceptors to concentrate on any crippled aircraft that could not maintain the speed of the rest of the formation.40 The night fighters' activity was coordinated with searchlights. A B-24 would be held in a cone of light for about 30 seconds; then the lights would switch off. This procedure aided the fighters in locating their potential victim and allowed them to attack without being illuminated themselves.41

Oftentimes, too, the night fighters did not seem anxious to press the attack,42 and on the whole it was felt that they were not particularly effective.43

Probably more effective was antiaircraft, guided by searchlights. The intensity of fire varied with almost every mission. Generally speaking, however, it was at least moderate; and often it was accurate.44
Five B-24's were lost and 10 were damaged over Truk during March and April, probably from antiaircraft and operational causes.45

During April, when the rate of attack was stepped up to an average of one mission every other night, and when at the same time the units were in process of moving from the Gilberts to Kwajalein,46 the Liberators were operated under extreme difficulties. The six squadrons divided the work as follows: two squadrons of the 11th Group would strike, then one squadron from the 11th Group and one from the 30th would hit, and the third strike would be conducted by two squadrons of the 30th Group.47 Since the field at Eniwetok, from which they started staging on 30 March 1944,48 could accommodate only two squadrons of B-24's at a time, it was necessary to shift the squadrons back and forth so that no one squadron would have two strikes in succession. During part of this time, too, the combat crews were deprived of ground echelon service.49

While the bombardment of Truk was being initiated by the B-24's, an earlier target in the Carolines, Ponape,50 continued to be hit by Liberators and also came within the range of B-25's by virtue of its relatively short distance from Eniwetok. During March, 95 B-24 sorties and 64 B-25 sorties were flown against Ponape, and during April there were a total of 27 B-24's and 190 B-25's over the target.51 Although a few B-24 missions were launched directly against Ponape, most of the strikes by the Liberators occurred when it was an alternate target on raids against Truk. Interception was encountered as late as 25-26 March when 15 Zekes and Tony's met a squadron of B-25's. Four Zekes were destroyed in the air, and two were probably destroyed. One B-25 was damaged.52 During the two months, six B-24's were damaged over
Ponape (all in March), and 23 B-25's were damaged and one was lost.\(^{53}\)

Ponape Town had, of course, been virtually destroyed by the incendiary attacks of February.\(^{54}\) Photographs taken the first part of May show that the runways and service areas of the airfield, one and one-half miles southwest of Ponape Town, were pock-marked with bomb craters; and the hangars, 22 warehouses, and seven barracks were destroyed. At the Langar Island seaplane base, the ramp was cratered, the hangar was destroyed, 50 buildings were destroyed, and 25 were damaged.\(^{55}\)

Also in April, two missions were flown over the distant Marianas. On 18 April five B-24's made the more than 2,900-mile round-trip flight from Kwajalein to Saipan as escort for five Navy PB4Y photo planes. They dropped 100-lb. bombs on Saipan and were intercepted by 16 to 20 Zekes, Hamps, and Tonys, of which one was shot down and one was probably shot down. One B-24 crashed in the water as the result of damage, but the crew was rescued by a destroyer.\(^{56}\) Again on 25 April seven B-24's escorted seven Navy PB4Y photo planes over Guam. They encountered no antiaircraft or interception. On the return trip, all airplanes stopped over at Los Negros in the Admiralties and from there bombed Ponape.\(^{57}\)

By 1 May 1944, the units of the Seventh Air Force were well established at the bases from which they were to conduct their part of the next Pacific joint operation—known under the code name ORAGHER—which was the seizure and occupation of the southern Marianas, a little over 1,200 miles west of Eniwetok, and 1,500 miles south of Tokyo.

The general plan of ORAGHER was for the commander in chief to

SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL
Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CINPOA), Admiral C. W. Nimitz, provided for the occupation of the southern Marianas in order to: a) establish bases for operations against Japanese sea communications and for long-range air attacks against Japan; b) secure control of sea communications through the Central Pacific; and c) initiate the isolation and neutralization of the central Carolines.58

The task organization under which these objectives were to be accomplished consisted of: a) Central Pacific Task Forces (known as the Fifth Fleet), under Admiral Spruance; b) the Third Fleet under Admiral Halsey; and c) Task Force 17, consisting of submarines, under Vice Admiral Lockwood.59 Admiral Spruance's Central Pacific Task Forces were charged with the capture, occupation, and defense of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam, the development of bases on those islands, and the acquisition of control of the remaining Marianas. The Third Fleet was to support these operations by aircraft reconnaissance and attacks on enemy bases, and Task Force 17 was to do likewise by the destruction of enemy shipping and the maintenance of observation and life-guard services off Truk, Woleai, and Palau.60

The Fifth Fleet was a continuance and enlargement of the vast land, sea, and air command (COMCENPAC) with which Admiral Spruance had conducted operations in the Gilberts and Marshalls. Admiral Hoover continued to command Task Force 57 as a part of Admiral Spruance's command. Instead of "Defense Forces and Land Based Air," the command was known as "Forward Area, Central Pacific."61 The Seventh Air Force was operated as a part of Task Force 57 under a new command known as Commander Shore-Based Aircraft, Forward Area (COMAIRFWD),
activated on 1 May 1944, and designated as Task Force 59.\textsuperscript{62} General Hale, who on 15 April 1944 had been succeeded by General Douglass, as Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force,\textsuperscript{63} was selected as commander of this task force and his headquarters was established at Kwajalein.\textsuperscript{64} This command, as its name implies, consisted of all shore-based aircraft (Army, Navy, and Marine) in the forward area. The Task Organization was as follows:\textsuperscript{65}

a) 59.1 Air Defense Command, Marianas, under Colonel McKittrick, USMC.


c) 59.3 Search, Reconnaissance and Photographic Command, under Captain Taff, USN.

d) 59.4 Dive Bomber and Fighter Command, under Brig. Gen. Cushman, USMC.

e) 59.5 Transport Air Group, under Lt. Colonel McQuade, USMC.

All Seventh Air Force units in the forward area were assigned to these various task groups. The 318th Fighter Group, consisting of the 19th, 72d, and 333d Fighter Squadrons, was assigned to 59.1 as was the detachment of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron used in the operation.\textsuperscript{66} Task Group 59.2 was composed entirely of the 11th, 30th, and 41st Bomb Groups. The 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron was assigned to 59.3. The 86th Combat Mapping Squadron had also been scheduled for assignment to 59.3 in the Marianas, but while its ground echelon was moved to Saipan, its air echelon was never moved forward because of insufficient space for operations. It did operate from Kwajalein for a time, however.\textsuperscript{67} The 9th Troop Carrier Squadron was assigned to and operated under the control of CTG 59.5.\textsuperscript{68}
Since the heavy bombardment organization of Task Force 59 was composed entirely of units of the VII Bomber Command, the striking mission of the Task Force became that of the VII Bomber Command. That mission was to strike enemy forces and bases in accordance with the following instructions:

1. Enemy Shipping and Submarines. Enemy shipping within range of shore based aircraft in the Central Pacific has been, and will remain, the primary target. Enemy surface vessels and submarines will be vigorously attacked at every opportunity.

2. Enemy held bases within the MARSHALL ISLANDS. Every effort will be made to prevent the supply or evacuation of these bases. Surface patrols will be maintained in the vicinity of these bases as practicable by units of Task Force 57. ComTaskForce 59 will furnish air patrols to coordinate with the surface vessels as required. Ground installations, stores, antiaircraft, coastal defense batteries, radio and radar installations must be reduced by persistent attacks by aircraft. These bases must be allowed no serviceable surface-craft of any description in order to prevent the dispersal of their material or concentration of forces against attack.

3. NAURU, KUSAKE, and OCEAN are largely inactive, and not considered as profitable targets unless reconnaissance shows increased activity. They must be kept under periodic observation.

4. Enemy held bases in the Eastern CAROLINES are to be attacked constantly. The priority of immediately available targets, in order of their importance as a potential threat to our forces, is TRUK, PONAPE, WAKE, and others. Particular emphasis may be required on specially designated targets from time to time in order to prevent their use by the enemy against our fleet units at sea.

It was felt that the Marianas, which were the primary objective of the FORAGER operation, were too distant from the available bases to make practical sustained bombardment by shore-based aircraft. It was intended, however, to continue to coordinate occasional strikes by long-range bombers with reconnaissance missions.

The mission of the 318th Fighter Group, as a part of Task Group 59.1, was to provide air defense for the southern Marianas after the
assault phase of FORAGER. As will be seen, this was later supplemented to include preparation for and close support of the Tinian occupation, marking the first time that Seventh Air Force fighters had been used in such a capacity.

As had been the case since November 1943, the actual operations of the Seventh Air Force were continuous, and were not broken up into specific actions. These operations during the period May through July 1944 will be discussed in the following order: first, those of the units based in the Marshalls and Gilberts, and second, those of units which came to be based during the period in the Marianas.

B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups continued to strike Truk as their primary target, as they had in March and April. There was a considerable decrease in activity over the atoll during May, in comparison with what it had been in April, the total number of missions dropping from 15 to seven, and the sorties from 248 to 101. During June, however, these figures were increased to 18 missions and 221 sorties, and during July to 22 missions and 339 sorties.

Until the middle of June, all missions over Truk were flown at night. The general plan was for the aircraft participating to take off from Eniwetok, the staging base, at five-minute intervals and proceed individually to the Initial Point (the point at which an airplane turns into the target). For a great majority of the night mission this point was near the Northeast Pass of Truk Atoll. The average bombing altitude was 10,000 feet. The planes were alone over the target so far as their occupants knew, and the psychological effect of the experience was described by the crews of one squadron.
as "the same fear that a 10-year old boy has while running alone through a big cemetery at night." 74

Conditions over the target remained largely the same as they had been earlier. Antiaircraft fire, coordinated to varying degrees with searchlights, continued to vary in intensity and accuracy with almost every mission. Frequently, from one to six unidentified enemy aircraft were encountered over the atoll, but on six of the night missions conducted during May and the first two weeks of June no interceptors were observed. 75 There was some indication, too, that beginning with the last week in May both searchlights and antiaircraft were decreasing in effectiveness. The crews felt that the constant bombardment which they had administered was beginning to have some effect. 76 Further, the bombers began to employ a device to confuse and "jam" the radar equipment by which the defenses were presumably directed. Approximately 24 bundles of radar "window" were carried in each plane and were dropped on the approach as well as over the target. 77 The crews appeared to feel that the practice was effective. One squadron reported that the dropping of window, coupled with evasive action to and from the target, made possible successful evasion of searchlights, and crew members reported lights aimlessly stabbing the sky in the vicinity of the slowly dropping window. 78 Another squadron reported that on the last day of May it used window for the first time and believed it to be satisfactory because several searchlights were encountered, but were erratic and easy to elude. 79 Another evidence of their effectiveness is the fact that, when the 30th Bomb Group exhausted its supply of radar windows during the month of June 1944, their lack was seriously felt. 80
During June one of the 30th Group's airplanes was equipped with an intercept receiver and pulse analyzer for determining frequency and other characteristics of enemy radar. It was the conviction of the Group Operations Officer that installation of radar jammers, to be used in conjunction with this receiver, would be an invaluable aid in deceiving the enemy on approach to the target. At that time, however, none was available.

On 13 June 1944, Seventh Air Force Liberators flew their first daylight mission over Truk. The raid was conducted by three squadrons of the 11th Bomb Group, flying in group formation. Twenty-six B-24's, carrying 100-lb. GP bombs, took off from Eniwetok for the attack, but only 19 got over the target. They were accompanied by three Navy photo planes. Antiaircraft fire was moderate to intense, and varied from inaccurate to accurate. In addition, the Liberators encountered about 15 enemy fighters, mostly Zekees, which were already at high altitude when the target was reached. They probably had been sent up on warning from Hall Island. This was the first time the Seventh's B-24's had encountered daylight interception since early in January. The interception consisted of coordinated shooting and aerial bomb attacks. The bombs were dropped from 12 or one o'clock high, and the majority of the shooting passes were from 12, one, two, or three o'clock. Although the pilots seemed well trained, hardly any of the attacks were aggressively pressed. One Zeke was destroyed, two Zekees and one Hamp were probably destroyed, and two Zekees and two Tojos were damaged. None of the B-24's was lost, and only one was damaged.

The returning crews felt that the coordinated aerial bomb and shooting tactic was designed to break up their formation, or else to
cause a single aircraft to straggle so that the fighters could concentrate on it. Inasmuch as the best defense against enemy fighters appeared to be a tight formation, one squadron stated that the planes should hold their formation even if it necessitated slowing down. It was felt, too, that if this first mission was any indication, the fighter strength at Truk was less than it had been presumed to be.

With the exception of a mission flown the night of the 14th, all of the remaining missions against Truk during June were daylight attacks. The change-over from the night missions had been necessitated by the operation within bomber range of Truk of the task force which invaded Saipan on 15 June.

The daylight missions over Truk were received with varying reactions by the men who flew them. Some felt that the physical discomfort of flying at 18,000 to 22,000 feet, the restrictions imposed by the use of oxygen equipment, and the necessity for more evasive action reduced the bombing accuracy. It was also pointed out that pattern bombing over a small target was possibly not as effective as bombing by individual airplanes, but inasmuch as there was no fighter escort the bombers went over the target information because of its defensive value. Others, especially the gunners, welcomed the daylight raids, because they could "see what they were doing." Also, photographs were taken on the day mission, hence results could be more accurately determined.

During the first half of July the procedure for bombing Truk was changed from all daylight missions to alternate day and night strikes. One squadron would make a night-bombing and harassing mission on the
night preceding a daylight-bombing mission by the other two squadrons of the group. During the last half of the month they again switched to daylight missions, flying only two night strikes during the last two weeks. Also, there was one major change in combat tactics during the month. Instead of the usual practice of sending two squadrons to the target in formation and having them separate just prior to the bomb run, three squadrons were used for better protection against aggressive interception.

The Liberators continued to meet interception over Truk. Fighters were up to meet them on almost every daylight mission during June and July, although the number of interceptors fluctuated considerably, varying from 4 to 5 to 16 to 19. Their tactics remained about the same as they were on the first daylight mission, 13 June. and the B-24's continued to rely upon the fire power of a close formation as their primary defense against fighter attacks. In the daylight raids of June and July, the Liberators shot down 22 fighters, probably shot down 4, and damaged 25. Two Liberators were destroyed because of enemy action and 48 were damaged.

It is evident that the Japanese reinforced their meager fighter strength at Truk from time to time. Twice during the period this seems quite apparent: just after the daylight raids began and again in the middle of July. On the two raids following the first one (19 and 20 June) there was no interception. On the next day (21 June), however, six fighters were up to meet one formation of B-24's and nine to meet another. Again, during the second week in July the interception encountered on daylight raids gradually dwindled, until on
10 July the B-24's were unopposed by fighters. On 13 July, however, a formation was met by 12 to 15 Zekes, two Tojos, and two Hamps just prior to crossing the reef. The enemy pilots were aggressive and determined and in a 30-minute battle made about 50 passes, dropping from 32 to 37 phosphorous bombs. The Liberators got much the best of it, however, suffering only minor damage to three airplanes, while they destroyed five Zekes, probably destroyed another, and damaged four.

Truk was the primary target for the Seventh's Liberators during the months May through July, and for all practical purposes May was the last month in which there was much diversion of the strength of the B-24's. During that month as many sorties were flown against Ponape (101) as against Truk. Over Wotje, Jaluit, and Wake there were 76, 54, and 62 sorties flown respectively. Also, on four occasions B-24's escorted Navy PBYX photo planes over the Marianas, as they had done twice before in April. Two of these missions were over Guam, and one each over Saipan and Rota. Enemy fighters intercepted in strength on both missions over Guam and on the one over Saipan. One B-24 was destroyed over Saipan, and three were damaged over Guam. The Japanese lost four Zekes and one Oscar, with one Zeko probably destroyed, and six Zekes, two Oscars, and one Hamp damaged. No B-24's were damaged over any of the other targets attacked.

Most of the B-24 sorties over Wotje and Jaluit represented their participation with B-25's and naval aircraft in large-scale attacks on those targets. The attack against Jaluit occurred on 14-15 May, when 53 B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups and 43 B-25's of the Als Bomb Group dropped a total of 258 tons of GP bombs on the atoll.
The B-25's also strafed with 46,730 rounds of .50-cal. and 217 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. In addition, the beleaguered garrison was attacked by 26 F6F's, 95 P4U's, and 60 SBD's of the Navy. A week later, on 21 May, three bombardment groups of the Seventh Air Force in the forward area hit Wotje in a similar attack, dropping approximately 177 tons of bombs.

Likewise, approximately one-fourth of the B-24 sorties against Ponape for the month were accounted for by a joint Liberator-Mitchell attack. On 27-28 May, 21 B-24's and 52 B-25's dropped a total of 98.5 tons of bombs on that target. Most of the remaining B-24 sorties against Ponape during May were made when it was used as an alternate target for bombers unable to reach Truk. On 5 May, however, 39 B-24's attacked the island, dropping 9.75 tons.

After 1 June, the B-24's struck virtually no targets except Truk. There was one photo mission over Guam, 34 sorties were flown over Ponape as an alternate target on Truk missions, and 18 practice sorties were sent over Wotje.

During all this time, the heavy bombers had been operating under a strenuous schedule, and there is some evidence that their performance was not considered altogether satisfactory. During June the percentage of planes taking off and returning abortive rose from 6.2 to 9.1 per cent. At the same time, the percentage of unsuccessful sorties rose from 3 to 13 per cent. Moreover, the ratio of crews to planes ready for combat fell below one. On 27 June, General Hale, Commander of Task Force 59, wired the Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force that the performance of the heavy bombers was unsatisfactory and was getting worse. He complained of poor bombing accuracy and an
excessive number of abortive missions and declared that he must have more crews and might need a change of command. In response to this, 12 new crews were sent out immediately, and General Douglas offered his A-2, Colonel Waldron, to the VII Bomber Command. On 7 July, Colonel Waldron succeeded Col. William J. Holzapfel as Commanding Officer of the 11th Bomb Group.

There was not much change during July. The percentage of abortives dropped .1 per cent., and that of unsuccessful sorties rose 2 per cent. It was felt, however, that the condition was improving. The crews were getting more experience in handling the airplanes, thus minimizing malfunctions caused by the high power settings.

Also, bombing with AFCE (automatic flight control equipment) had been instituted. It was believed that the low percentage of hits in the target area had been because the pilots unconsciously deviated from the bomb run under aggressive attack from enemy fighters. By eliminating the human error it was believed that somewhat better results would be obtained, although by the end of the month conclusive evidence was not available.

While the B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups were bombing Truk, Ponape, and Wake, during May 1944, the medium bombers of the 41st Bomb Group continued their attacks on the by-passed Marshalls and on Ponape. Wetje, however, replaced Maloelap as one of the two targets hit in the regular Makin-Majuro shuttle runs. Jaluit continued to be the other target. The B-25's also hit these targets in the large-scale attacks conducted in conjunction with B-24 strikes. Ponape, which also was hit by a combined Liberator-
Mitchell attack, was the third of the 41st Group's primary targets during May. Mille and Maloelap also were struck occasionally, and Nauru, which had not been bombed by B-25's since six sorties were flown there in January, again came under the sights of the Mitchells in attacks presaging a period of concentration on that target. 127.

Only over Nauru and Ponape was any considerable opposition met during the month. One B-25 was lost over Ponape, and three were damaged. 128 Over Nauru, which furnished some of the most effective antiaircraft fire in the entire Pacific Ocean Areas, 11 B-25's were damaged in 45 sorties. 129 Altogether, seven B-25's were damaged over the Marshalls in May, and none were lost. 130

Despite the relatively slight opposition over all targets except two, the percentage of bombs on specific targets fell considerably below the usual high level, and unsuccessful sorties increased from 2.5 per cent in April to 12 per cent in May. 131 One squadron felt that this was due, in part at least, to the number of very small target assigned—two revetted gun positions for all flights on some occasions—and also to the fact that heavier bombs, of which fewer could be dropped, had to be carried because small bombs were no longer available. 132

Except for 17 sorties flown against Jaluit in July, the only targets attacked by the B-25's operating from Mokin after May were Ponape and Nauru, the latter being the target against which the greater effort was exerted. Despite damage which resulted from naval air and surface bombardment early in December 1943, and subsequent attacks by land-based aircraft, the targets on Nauru in mid-June were about the
same as they had been in the beginning. Although there had been no new construction since December 1943 on an unfinished runway, both of the completed runways appeared operational. Likewise, Mauuru remained one of the hottest spots in the Pacific, although there was a steady decrease in the ratio of hits by antiaircraft to the number of sorties flown. During June, 14 B-25's were damaged and three were lost out of approximately 123 sorties, and during July only eight B-25's were damaged in approximately 129 sorties. Six airplanes were damaged in approximately 189 sorties over Ponape during June and July.

At approximately 1000 hours on 22 June 1944—only seven days after the first wave of Marines had assaulted the beaches—P-47's of the 19th Fighter Squadron, having been catapulted from carriers, landed at Aslito Field on Saipan. Although the airstrip was hardly secured, within four hours after arrival eight planes took off on their first ground support mission. Upon leaving the carriers, each plane had been loaded with 400 rounds of ammunition for the two inboard guns and 265 rounds in each of the remaining guns. It was expected that the only servicing required would be refueling. The first mission, however, called for rockets. Within the four hours that elapsed between the initial landing and the take-off on that first mission, rocket launchers had been installed in the eight planes and the projectiles had been loaded. All this had been done within the sound and sight of ground fighting.

This was the first time fighter planes of the Seventh Air Force had been used in close support of ground troops. During the remainder...
of June and July, and later, the fighter squadrons operating from Aslito (renamed Isely) Field maintained the strenuous schedule established during those first hectic hours.

Within two days the 19th Fighter Squadron was reinforced by the P-47's of the 73d Fighter Squadron and a detachment of seven P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron. With the arrival of the P-47's of the 33rd Fighter Squadron on 18 July, fighter strength on Saipan mounted to well over 100 aircraft.

The primary mission of the 318th Fighter Group, as has been indicated, was the defense of the island of Saipan. This responsibility was carried out from 0515 to 1900 (local time) by P-47's on combat air patrol, with the squadron on patrol maintaining a minimum of eight planes in flight and 12 standing by on alert. At night the P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron took over the patrol.

In addition to combat air patrol, the fighters were dispatched on special bombing and strafing missions. These attacks were flown primarily against airfields, gun positions, and communications installations on Tinian. From the beginning of operations, on-station strikes also were flown against these targets. Such missions were coordinated with schedules of naval gun fire, attacks by carrier-based planes, and fire from Army and Marine artillery. Until Tinian was made secure on 31 July, these targets were hit daily during both the morning and afternoon.

Finally, bombing and strafing attacks were launched periodically on runways, installations, and antiaircraft positions at Rota and Pagan Islands.

The P-47's were versatile. They could strafe with .50-cal. machine
guns, double as bombers, and launch 4.5-inch rockets. Late in the
month they began carrying a new type of weapon, the "fire bomb."
Recently developed at Eglin Field, Florida, and brought directly to
Saipan, fire bombs as used by the 318th Fighter Group consisted of
wing tanks and belly tanks, filled at first with a mixture of diesel
oil and gasoline and later with a napalm and gasoline mixture. The
entire apparatus for mixing and loading the bomb's ingredients had to
be constructed from materials at hand. The technique for dropping
them was to dive from about 2,000 feet to 50 feet and skip bomb.

With few exceptions, especially after the Ordnance Department modified
the detonator assembly by removing the detonator and putting a filler
of black powder in the grenade, there was no duds and the bomb
burst resulted in a huge sheet of flame covering a sizable area, sear-
ing anything within that area. While it was considered that much
work had yet to be done on them, it was reported that the fire bombs
proved very effective in the Tinian campaign and cleared areas
approximately 75 feet in width by 200 feet in length.

Of the other methods of attack, rockets were found to be effective,
although trouble was experienced because rockets fired inconsistently,
as a result of faulty electrical installations. The squadrons re-
quested that more information on rocket installations be made available
to them. Because of the difficulties experienced with the rockets,
there was a great deal more dive bombing than rocket firing. In many
instances, the target was often little more than a pinpoint—a revetted
gun position, or guns in caves in the sides of cliffs. In such cases,
hits were difficult to secure. The squadrons reported high bombing
efficiency, however, when the objective was the destruction of buildings

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or the neutralization of airfields. 154

Strafing appears to have been the most accurate means of attack. 155
Because of the terrain, it was frequently impossible to see through
the heavy foliage and many pilots actually never saw a single Japanese
soldier from the air, though there was reason to believe that large
numbers of them must have perished because of fighter activity. 156
On other strikes, because of the Japanese tendency to dig in by day
and operate only by night, most of the damage inflicted was upon
material rather than personnel. 157

Most missions were directed by a controller, and targets were not
assigned until just prior to the attack. Targets were located by the
grid coordinate system, and whereas this enabled the pilots to locate
the target generally, it was felt that lack of preliminary briefing
was a definite hindrance, both in lack of detailed information on the
target and lack of opportunity to plan the method of attack. 158 Also,
it was believed that grid coordinate locations of targets should be
checked against photos before the pilots used the maps. 159 There was
also a feeling on the part of the pilots that there was no particular
reason why they should have been kept in the air, orbiting the target
for long periods before attacking. 160 A method of fighter direction
which did appeal to the pilots was one used during the Tinian campaign
in which Ground Control would turn the missions over to a controller
(“Torchy”) flying a TB3. This pilot, after bringing the P-47’s in
close behind him, would drip a wing or even fire a short burst or a
rocket at the target as he described it by radio. 161 The AAFPCA
Evaluation Board reported that this system was considered to be very
effective. 162

SECURITY INFORMATION
Opposition encountered by the P-47's on all of their missions was relatively slight. There was no interception on any of the bombing-strafing missions, or on any fighter sweep. Anti-aircraft was encountered, in varying intensity and accuracy, but generally it was ineffective. Over Tinian, the fire varied from none to meager-to-intense machine-gun and light anti-aircraft fire. By 22 July, however, it had virtually disappeared. Likewise, over Saipan the fighters seldom encountered fire. Over Rota, they occasionally met intense machine-gun and some light anti-aircraft fire, although in general there was none. The heaviest and most intense anti-aircraft was encountered over Pagan.

On an average, over all targets, the P-47's encountered anti-aircraft fire on 52 per cent of their sorties. During the period from 22 June through 31 July 1944, one P-47 was destroyed by anti-aircraft, and nine were destroyed by accidents, including accidents after damage from enemy action.

Ten were damaged by anti-aircraft, and six were damaged in accidents during the period. In addition, Japanese snipers, filtering through the lines at Isely Field on the third night after occupancy destroyed one P-47 on the ground and reportedly damaged two others.

Operation of the Thunderjets naturally presented many problems. As has been indicated, there was some dissatisfaction on the part of the pilots with the system by which they were assigned targets. There was also some dissatisfaction in the 318th Group with the way in which they received their orders. The procurement of ammunition from the beaches and the loading of planes on schedule was a chronic
One of the major problems confronting the 19th Fighter Squadron during the first few days of operations was attributed by the squadron to the zeal and eagerness of the pilots. The squadron history reports that desire to make every strafing pass count resulted in "an unexpected number of burned-out gun barrels." However, as soon as the situation was apparent, more caution was used and this condition was reduced to a minimum.\footnote{172}

Further, conditions at Isely Field were cramped and limiting. One squadron historical report describes it:\footnote{173}

...the short and extremely rough runway, and the cramped space allotted which not only ruled out proper dispersal for security purposes but also required parking planes too close for ordinary line efficiency. Air traffic became terrific; take-off was frequently delayed and landing was a matter of simply waiting for a lull. It seemed that practically every type of Army and Navy plane—fighter, bomber, transport and reconnaissance—was utilizing the facilities of the field.

The close proximity to the battle line of the area in which the planes were serviced and the crews were housed and fed further added to the burden. The destruction of one P-47 by snipers has been mentioned. Air Force technicians had not only to service and maintain their planes under primitive conditions but also to double as foot-soldiers to defend themselves against Japanese snipers.\footnote{174} Despite all this, however, the fighter planes on Saipan were maintained up to 91 per cent of the total aircraft in commission.\footnote{175}

In summary of the activity of the 318th Fighter Group during the period, the following is quoted from the history of the VII Fighter
The 318th Fighter Group, the units attached to it, and the Signal AW companies, found themselves in an almost unique situation in the FORTUNER operation, an opportunity for the closest kind of association and cooperation between fighter planes and ground troops. Isely Field was at one time part of the front lines; throughout the Tinian and Saipan campaigns, Fighter Command planes frequently took off and hit enemy positions within sight of the field, sometimes within earshot; planes aloft on patrol were often diverted to aid troops only a short distance from their patrol course. The commendations earned by the Command units in the campaign are a clear indication of how vital a factor close coordination between ground and air was in the conquest of the islands...

The seven P-61's operating from Saipan flew 105 sorties during the period from 24 June to 31 July 1944. During 25 of these, radar contact was made with a total of approximately 30 bogies. In six sorties aerial interception occurred. The Black Widows destroyed three enemy aircraft, probably destroyed one, and damaged one. No combat losses were sustained during the period, although two P-61's were lost in June because of a landing accident, and two more were lost in July due to a field crack-up.177

In addition to the P-47's of the 318th Fighter Group and the P-61's of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron, one flight of P-5's of the 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron was operating from Saipan, beginning 11 July 1944. These P-38's, converted for use as photo-reconnaissance planes, flew 36 sorties over the Marianas from 11 to 31 July, in addition to only one abortive.178 Of the 36 sorties, all but four were successful or partially successful. Photo runs were made from altitudes as low as 40 feet to as high as 14,750 feet.179 There were no losses.180

Near the end of July, the 48th Bomb Squadron, having moved from
Makin, began operating its B-25's from Saipan. The primary operations of this squadron during the brief period it was at Saipan were against Guam during August and will be discussed in a later study. During the last five days of July, however, 69 B-25 sorties were flown against Tinian. Part of them were low-level bombing and strafing missions in deep support of ground troops, and part were observation flights in which Marine officers were carried as observers. The purpose of the observation missions was the selection of targets for tactical-support bombing and naval and land-based gun-fire and to observe the results thereof. These flights were made at fairly low levels, employing from one to three airplanes per mission, and the crews occasionally cannonaded and strafed enemy targets of opportunity. Because of their high speed and the lack of clarity from their throat microphones, the B-25's were not completely satisfactory for observation. After six missions over Tinian, their use for this purpose was discontinued, and thereafter on B-25 missions the observer flew in a Navy TBF. In summing up the operations of the Seventh Air Force during the Marianas campaign—that is to say, the period from March through July 1944—the following figures taken from reports prepared by the 9th Statistical Control Unit, Oversea, Special, are given to show the effort expended against the various targets, by month, during the period.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>March</th>
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In general, the effectiveness of this tonnage has been indicated in the discussions of operations. As has been mentioned, there was some reduction in bombing efficiency during the course of the period. In addition, both the effectiveness and the desirability of the bombing of the by-passed Marshalls has been questioned. It has also been pointed out that the effectiveness of the targets in the Carolines bombed by the Seventh Air Force was rapidly waning from outside: causes during the period.

Whatever the reason, however, the fact remains that, as the Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force has stated, the Marshalls,
Wake, Nauru, and the eastern Carolines were completely subdued and kept that way during the entire operation. With the exception of once at Fonape, not an enemy airplane was encountered in those areas during the entire operation. Shipping was non-existent, and any supplies received by the beleaguered Japanese who were garrisoning the islands came by submarine.

Truk, while continuing to offer resistance in the form of both interception and antiaircraft, was badly battered and wholly incapable of use as a threat to our bases or an impediment to our movements in the FORAGER campaign.
Although the Seventh Air Force took part in three major campaigns during the nine months covered by this study, its operations throughout the entire period were continuous. Even during the rapid change of bases necessitated by the sweep of American sea, land, and air power across the Pacific, the tempo of the attack was maintained. The air echelons would be stationed temporarily on one island or another, while the ground echelons made the move by water. At some point in their shrinking network of Pacific bases the Japanese were kept continuously under bombardment by land-based aircraft.

The force available for this bombardment was small—two heavy bomb groups and one medium group, augmented for a while by three squadrons of fighters and one of dive bombers and later by three squadrons of P-47's and a detachment of night fighters—but small as it was, it was sufficient for the job at hand. Operation of land-based aircraft in the Pacific has always been complicated by the dual difficulty of finding suitable land areas on which to base and suitable targets within range of those bases. In an effort to broaden the scope of their activity as much as possible, all types of aircraft were pushed to the limit of their range. To increase this range further, bombers based on one tiny atoll would be staged through another. This made necessary the longest over-water combat flights in the history of the
war—flights in which the vastness of the Pacific Ocean at times
equaled the Japanese—ind deadliness.

Total bomb tonnage dropped by all types of aircraft on all targets
during the nine months amounted to 10,024.1 short tons, divided as
follows: 1

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<td>275.6</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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During the nine months, too, the forward units of the Seventh Air
Force had moved steadily away from the Mariana Islands, the Hawaiian
Islands, and closer to the Japanese homeland. In November 1943 they had been stationed in the Ellice Islands, some 2,200 miles from Caha and 3,500 miles from Tokyo. By 31 July 1944, the day before the Seventh Air Force became a part of Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, certain units already had been moved to the Marianas and plans were under way for bringing in others. With the arrival of ground and air echelons of the VII Bomber Command in Saipan early in August, forward units of the Seventh Air Force had moved more than 37,000 miles from the Hawaiian Islands and were now based less than 1,300 miles from Tokyo.²
1. For an account of the operations of the Seventh Air Force in this early period, see AAF Historical Studies: No. 41, Operational History of the Seventh Air Force, 2 December 1941 to 6 November 1942.

2. For an outline of the task organization, which is beyond the scope of this study, see CONCEPAC-Operation Plan Gen 1-43, 25 Oct. 43.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

5. 7AF, "The Power of Heavies in the "Galvanic" Operation, D-7 to D Day."


8. 7AF PID, Photographic Intelligence Report 57, 20 Sep. 43.


10. Ltr., CG 7AF to CG VII AFSC, 21 Oct. 43, in AG 7AF 372.3, Zone of Advance.


12. Ibid.


15. 7AF PID, PI Report 61, 30 Oct. 45.

18. JICFOA Bul. 56-43, Jaluit, 10 Dec. 43.
19. JICFOA Bul. 50-43, Mille, 16 Dec. 43.
20. JICFOA Bul. 52-43, Makcual, 25 Nov. 43.
21. JICFOA Air Target Bul. 30, Mauuru, 15 Feb. 43.
22. JICFOA Bul. 53-43, Kwajalein, 1 Dec. 43.
23. 7AF FO 2, 2 Nov. 43.
25. 7AF FO 2, 2 Nov. 43.
26. Ibid.
27. Adven 7AF FO 4a, 13 Nov. 43.
28. Ibid.; Change 1, 14 Nov. 43.
29. Adven 7AF Consolidated Mission Report 1, 14 Nov. 43.
30. Adven 7AF Mission Reports 8 and 10, 20 Nov. 43.
32. Operations of 7AF, as cited in n. 16.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
35. Teletype from CG VII BC to CG 7AF, 14 Jan. 44, in Adven 7AF, Misc. Mag.
36. Ibid.
37. Adven 7AF Mission Reports.
41. AARFOA Evaluation Board Report 1, p. 55.
42. Ibid., pp. 21-22.
43. Ibid., p. 55.
44. Ibid., p. 23.
Chapter II

1. Advon 7AF Mission Reports 14, 24 Nov. 43; 14A, 22 Nov. 43; and 14B, 23 Nov. 43.


4. Dates of arrival were as follows: Hq. 41st Bomb GP., at Tarawa, 17 Dec. 43; 47th Bomb Sq., Apamama, 25 Dec. 43; 48th Bomb Sq., Apamama, 22 Dec. 43 (except that the air echelon was at Baker until 14 Jan. 44); 396th Bomb Sq., Tarawa, 24 Dec. 43; and 600th Bomb Sq., Tarawa, 24-25 Dec. 43. Information from unit histories.

5. The ground echelon arrived at Makin on 17 Dec. 43; the new airplanes, with pilots, arrived 14 Dec. 43, and the air echelon moved from Canton to Makin, 27 Dec. 43. History of 48th Fighter Sq.

6. History of 72d Fighter Sq.

7. The rear echelon arrived at Apamama on 4 Jan. 44, and the forward echelon at Makin, 14 Jan. 44. History of 48th Fighter Sq.

8. History of 531st Fighter Sq.


10. Dates of arrival were as follows: Hq. 11th Bomb GP., 20 Jan. 44; 26th Bomb Sq., 23-24 Jan. 44; 38th Bomb Sq., 20-25 Jan. 44; 431st Bomb Sq., 15-20 Jan. 44. Information from unit histories.

11. History of 422d Bomb Sq.

12. History of 30th Bomb GP.

13. History of 392d Bomb Sq.


17. For the task organizations see COMOPACOp Operation Plans Cen 1-44, 6 Jan. 44, and Cen 5-44, 3 Feb. 44.
19. CONCEPTAC Operation Plan Gen 1-44, 6 Jan. 44.
20. Ibid., Gen 4-44, 9 Feb. 44.
23. Advon 7AF and F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
25. Advon 7AF and F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
26. 9th SGU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 9.
27. Advon 7AF and F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
28. Ibid.
30. 9th SGU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 9.
31. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
32. JICPOA Bul. 27-44, Ponsape, 1 Apr. 44.
33. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
34. Ibid., 122, 19 Feb. 44; and 123, 20 Feb. 44.
35. JICPOA Bul. 50-43, Kusaie, 30 Dec. 43.
36. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
37. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to CTF 57, 4 May 44.
38. Ibid.
40. Ibid., 44, 1 Jan. 44.
41. Ibid., 46, 1 Jan. 44.
42. F/2 VII BC Mission Reports.
43. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc."
p. 19.
45. Ibid.
46. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc."
p. 17.
47. F/2 VII BC Mission Reports.
48. Ibid., 90, 3 Feb. 44.
49. F/2 VII BC Mission Reports.
51. Ibid., 1-19.
52. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc."
p. 28.
53. Ibid.
54. Ibid., p. 27.
56. Ibid., 29-31 Jan. 44.
58. Ibid.
59. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc."
p. 30.
60. Ibid., pp. 36, 38.
62. Ibid., 29–31 Jan. 44.

63. See p. 25.


66. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to GTF 57, 4 May 44.


68. Ibid., 20–29 Feb. 44.

69. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," pp. 43–44.

70. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, CG 7AF to GTF 57, 15 Feb. 44.


72. Ibid., 43, 29 Dec. 43.

73. Ibid., 24–E, 13 Dec. 43.

74. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

75. F/E VII BC and VII FC Mission Reports.

76. Ibid.

77. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

78. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale, to GTF 57, 15 Feb. 44.

79. F/E VII BC Mission Reports. There is some confusion as to the exact number of enemy planes destroyed and damaged by the B-25's because of the possibilities of duplication existing in the reports on the mission over Maloelap of 26 Jan. 44 on which both BC and FC reports were submitted. These figures give the B-25's credit for nine destroyed, five probably destroyed, and three damaged. For details see "26 Jan. 44, Maloelap," in Chronology.

80. See p. 23.

81. See n. 79 above.

82. F/E VII BC Mission Report 76, 29 Jan. 44.
83. Ibid., 85, 31 Jan. 44.
84. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to OTF 57, 4 May 44.
85. Ibid.
86. Ibid.
89. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr., to OTF 57, 4 May 44.
91. See p. 9.
92. Ltr., Brig. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to OTF 57, 4 May 44.
93. Ibid.
95. Ibid., p. 41.
96. Ltr., Col. Sylvan Berliner, Eq. VII FC to Group and Squadron S-2's, subject: Letters from Intelligence Officers, Task Group 57.2.2, 11 Jan. 44, in Doc. 6, History of VII Fighter Command, Sep. 44.
97. See p. 11.
98. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 1.
100. COMAIRCENPAC FI Report 95, 6 Mar. 44.
101. Ibid., 65, 16 Feb. 44.
102. Ibid., 64, 16 Feb. 44.
103. Ibid., 77, 26 Feb. 44.
104. Seventh Air Force Participation in Flintlock-Catchpole Operation, 7 December 1943-2 March 1944, submitted by the CG 7AF (as the Air Officer, USAFCPA) to CG, USAFCPA.

105. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, p. 29.


107. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, p. 29.


Chapter III

1. See Chap. II.
2. GO 56, HCPA, 27 Feb. 44.
3. GO 113, HCPA, 21 Apr. 44.
4. GO 47, 7AF, 24 Apr. 44.
5. GO 50, 7AF, 3 July 44.
7. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 19.
11. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
12. Ibid., 184, 1 Apr. 44.
13. History of 820th Bomb Sq., Apr. 44.
15. COMAIRGEMPAC PI Report 113, 21 Mar. 44.
16. Ibid., 150, 25 Mar. 44.
17. History of 820th Bomb Sq., Apr. 44.
18. COMAIRGEMPAC PI Reports 107, 10 Mar. 44; and 118, 15 Mar. 44.
20. Ibid.

22. History of 30th Bomb Op., to 31 Mar. 44.

23. Dates of arrival at Kwajalein were as follows: Eq. 30th Bomb Op., ground echelon, 12 Mar. 44; air echelon, 26 Mar. 44; 27th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 12 Mar. 44; air echelon, 26 Mar. 44; 38th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 13 Mar. 44; air echelon, 23 Mar. 44; 392d Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 17 Mar. 44; air echelon, 26 Mar. 44. Information from unit histories.

24. Dates of arrival at Kwajalein were as follows: Eq. 11th Bomb Op., 5 Apr. 44; 26th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 14 Apr. 44; air echelon, 17 Apr. 44; 38th Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 2 Apr. 44; air echelon, 23 Mar. 44; 431st Bomb Sq., ground echelon, 31 Mar. 44; air echelon, 2 Apr. 44. Information from unit histories.

25. History of 26th Bomb Sq.


28. Ibid.

29. History of 392d Bomb Sq.

30. This means out of reach of the bases from which the Seventh Air Force was then operating. Wake could have been hit, of course, by land-based aircraft staging from Midway.

31. See Operational History of the Seventh Air Force, 7 December 1941 to 5 November 1942.


34. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.


36. Ibid.

38. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.


40. Ibid.

41. Ibid., p. 49.

42. Ibid., p. 52.


45. Ltr., Maj. Gen. Robert W. Douglass, Jr. to CG AAFPOA, 1 Oct. 44. See also F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

46. See pp. 26–37.

47. History of 11th Bomb Cq., Apr. 44.


49. History of 11th Bomb Cq., Apr. 44.

50. See p. 18.

51. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

52. Ibid., 189, 11 Apr. 44.

53. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.

54. See p. 19.


57. Ibid., R-231, 3 May 44; and R-252, 3 May 44.

58. CINCPAC-CINCPAC Special Order 9975, Operations Plan 3-44, 23 Apr. 44.
59. Irid.
60. Irid.

61. TF 50, Central Pacific Task Forces and Commander Fifth Fleet, Operation Plan ComFIFTHFleet Gen 10-44, 12 May 44.


63. GO 40 and 41, 7AF, 15 Apr. 44.


65. TF 50, Operation Plan ComFIFTHFleet Gen 10-44, 12 May 44.

66. The movement of these units to the forward area is discussed later. See pp. 55-58.


68. TF 50, Operation Plan ComFIFTHFleet Gen 10-44, 12 May 44.


70. ONGPOA ONGPOA Serial 00031, Forager Joint Staff Study, 20 Mar. 44.


72. Information from P/E VII BC Mission Reports.

73. History of 27th Bomb Sq., June 44.

74. Irid.

75. P/E VII BC Mission Reports.


77. History of 30th Bomb Cpt., June 44.


80. History of 30th Bomb Cpt.
81. Ibid.
82. History of 11th Bomb Gp.
84. Ltr., Asst. S-2 26th Bomb Sq. to CO 11th Bomb Gp., 15 June 44.
85. See pp. 24-25.
86. VII BC Combat Narrative Report 12, 23 June 44.
88. VII BC Combat Narrative Report 12, 23 June 44.
89. Ltr., Asst. S-2 26th Bomb Sq. to CO 11th Bomb Gp., 15 June 44.
90. Ibid.
93. History of 27th Bomb Sq.
95. History of 27th Bomb Sq.
96. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
98. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
100. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
101. Ibid., H-270, 23 June 44; and H-271, 23 June 44.
102. Ibid., H-272, 23 June 44; and H-275, 25 June 44.
103. Ibid., H-292, 16 July 44.
104. Ibid., H-294, 16 July 44.
105. See p. 42.
106. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
107. Ibid.
108. Ibid., K-250, 19 May 44; and N-243, 19 May 44.
109. VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 May 44.
110. F/E VII BC Mission Reports K-254, 30 May 44; and K-250, 30 May 44.
111. Ibid., K-253, 2 June 44; and K-258, 5 June 44.
112. Ibid., K-256, 11 May 44.
113. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
114. 9th SQU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 11.
115. Ibid., p. 12.
116. Ibid., p. 8.
117. CM-IN-2704232Z, CTF 59 to 0G 7AF, 27 June 44, in AG 7AF 373.2, Operations & Reports (Bombing).
118. CM-OUT-2722332Z, 0G 7AF to CTF 59, 27 June 44, Ibid.
119. 90 2, Eq. 11th Bomb Gp.
120. 9th SQU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 11.
121. Ibid., p. 13.
123. Ibid.
124. See pp. 33-35.
125. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
126. See p. 62.
127. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.
128. Ibid.
129. Ibid.
130. Ibid.
131. 9th SCU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 27.
132. History of 396th Bomb Sq., May 44.
133. Eq., Combat Vl Report 13, 17 June 44.
134. R/E VII BC Mission Reports.
135. Ibid.
136. History of VII Fighter Command, Aug. 44. For an account of this see USS Manila Bay (CVE-61) Serial 095 to Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet, 4 July 44, and USS Natoma Bay (CVE-62) Serial 211 to Commander Carrier Transport Sq. Pacific Fleet, 8 July 44. History of VII Fighter Command, Nov. 44.
140. History of VII Fighter Command, Aug. 44.
141. See p. 45.
142. History of 318th Fighter Gp., July 44.
143. Ibid.
144. Ibid.
145. Ibid.
146. Ltr., CO 318th Fighter Gp., AFC 244 to CG VII FC, APO 958, 1 Aug. 44, Doc. 13, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41-July 44.
148. History of 73d Fighter Sq.
150. History of 73d Fighter Sq.
152. 9th SCU, Report on Extracts from AAF Forms 14, 19th Fighter Sq., 21 June 44 to 30 June 44.
153. History of 73d Fighter Sq.
154. Ibid.
155. Ibid.
156. Ibid.
157. Ibid.
158. Ibid.
159. Eq. VII FG, "Conclusions Based on Mission Reports from 318th Fighter Op.," by Col. Sylvan Berliner, 4-3 VII FG, 15 Aug. 44, Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, July 44. The matter of pictures, incidentally, appeared to be a sore spot. One Squadron complained: "It was common knowledge that photographic coverage was at all times available to any naval command which desired it, but for the most part the Army Fighter Squadrons lacked even an ordinary aerial view (or map) of most of the enemy airfields. There was a slight improvement in this situation after the F-5s were operating, and the big moment came (well along in the campaign) when a mosaic of Tirian was made available." History of 73d Fighter Sq. July 44.
160. Eq. VII FG, "Conclusions Based on Mission Reports from 318th Fighter Op."
161. History of 73d Fighter Sq., July 44.
164. Ibid.


166. Ibid., p. 42.

167. Ibid., p. 41.

168. Ibid., pp. 39, 42.

169. See p. 58.

170. For a discussion of this, see "Miscellaneous Notes - Operations," Doc. 3, History of VII Fighter Command, Sep. 44.


172. History of 19th Fighter Sq., June 44.

173. History of 73d Fighter Sq., July 44.

174. Ibid., June 44.

175. History of VII Fighter Command, Aug. 44.

176. Ibid.

177. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," pp. 48-49.

178. Ibid., p. 52.

179. Ibid.

180. Ibid., p. 53.

181. F/E VII BC Mission Reports.


183. In addition to the tonnage listed, 144 fire bombs were dropped over Tinian in July; Ujelang in the Carolines was an unauthorized target. 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Gilberts, etc.," p. 1; 9th SOU, "Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshalls, etc.," p. 1.
184. See pp. 52-53.
185. AAFPOA Evaluation Board Report 1, pp. 35-36.
186. Ibid.
188. Ibid.
189. F/M VII BC Mission Reports.

CONCLUSION


CHRONOLOGY

OPERATIONS OF SEVENTH AIR FORCE

6 November 1943 to 31 July 1944

NOVEMBER

6 Nov. 43 Advanced Headquarters (ADVON) of the Seventh Air Force established at Funafuti. (Ltr., CG 7AF to CG VII AFSC, 21 Oct. 43, AG 7AF 3723 Zone of Advance.)

9 Nov. 43 Ground echelon of the 11th Bomb Group arrived at Funafuti. (History of 11th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44.)

10 Nov. 43 Ground echelon of 27th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group, arrived at Nanomea. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of 392d Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group, arrived at Canton. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

11 Nov. 43 Ground echelons of 20th Bomb Squadron and 98th Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Group, arrived at Nukualofa. (History of 20th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 98th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Group, arrived at Funafuti. (History of 431st Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

12 Nov. 43 Following units arrived at Funafuti: air echelon of Headquarters 11th Bomb Group; ground and air echelons of 42d Bomb Squadron, 11th Bomb Group; and air echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron (History of 11th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 42d Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 431st Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Following units arrived at Nanomea: air echelon of 30th Bomb Group; part of air echelon of 27th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group; and air echelon of 38th Bomb Squadron, 30th Bomb Group. (History of 30th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 27th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 38th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

* The dates on which the missions of all bombardment squadrons occurred are based on Greenwich Civil Time, and those on which fighter missions occurred are based on local time at the base from which the squadron was operating.
12 Nov. 45
(Contd)

Following units arrived at Canton: air echelon of 392d Bomb Squadron and air echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron. The latter used Canton only temporarily, then moved to Nukufetau. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 26th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of 98th Bomb Squadron arrived at Nukufetau. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

13 Nov. 43

TARAWA - Nine B-24's of 45th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 451st Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Tarawa. One airplane of 451st Bomb Squadron did not take off because of oil leak and one was abortive because of engine trouble. The remainder dropped 126 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters from 8,500 feet. The airplanes of the 42d Bomb Squadron dropped 65 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,000 feet. 11 of which fell in the water and the rest probably on land. One large fire was visible for 60 miles at 15,000 feet. AA intense but inaccurate, and caused no damage. One airplane disappeared on way back to Funafuti and was not heard from again. (Advn 7AF Consolidated Mission Report 1, 14 Nov. 45.)

14 Nov. 43

TARAWA - Eleven B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Betio Island. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Nine dropped 133 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters from 16,500 to 17,600 feet. 70 per cent on runways and taxi strips. Heavy AA accurate as to altitude, but trailing, and caused no damage. No interception. (Advn 7AF Consolidated Mission Report 2, 16 Nov. 45.)

MILLE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 58th Bomb Squadron assigned a mission against Millie. The airplanes of the 58th returned to base on orders without reaching target. Those of 27th dropped 90 x 100-lb. demolition bombs from 9,600 to 10,500 feet, 80 per cent in target area. Light and heavy AA moderate. Intense, accurate as to height, but trailing, and did no damage. No interception. (Advn 7AF Mission Report 3, 14 Nov. 45.)

15 Nov. 45

MILLE-MAKIN - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron assigned daylight mission against Millie. Three were abortive because of frontal conditions. Five dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Millie from 4,500 to 8,600 feet, with several hits observed on or near runways. Intense AA damaged two B-24's. Three airplanes dropped 18 x 600-lb. GP bombs on Makin. AA light and inaccurate. (Advn 7AF Mission Report 5, 13 Nov. 45.)

16 Nov. 43  
Right of 451st dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs on target from 5,500 to 8,000 feet. The other two, unable to make bomb run because of the weather, dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on southern tip of Jaluit Atoll. Airplanes of 42d dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 15,000 feet in vicinity of shipping in lagoon. AA inaccurate, and caused no damage. (Advan 7AF Consolidated Mission Report, 16 Nov. 43.)

16 Nov. 43  
WAKEALEIN - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Eo Island. One reached the target and dropped 15 fragmentation clusters from 11,000 feet, with results unobserved. One airplane, turned back by weather, dropped 15 fragmentation clusters on Little Makin from 9,500 feet, results unobserved. One dropped 15 fragmentation clusters on Tarawa from 9,000 feet. Five dropped 45 x 100-lb. demolition bombs and 50 fragmentation clusters on Jaluit from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, destroying one warehouse. They were intercepted by two F4Fs, one of which was damaged. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. (Advan 7AF Mission Report 6, 16 Nov. 43.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-24's of 58th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Eo Island, Wakealein. They did not reach target because of weather and dropped 12 x 500-lb. demolition bombs and 45 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters on Tarawa from 10,000 to 11,600 feet, 75 per cent in target. Interception by two float planes. One B-24 had engine shot out. (Ibid.)

MALCEALAP - Nine B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron at Makufetau staged through Namu to perform daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Taroa Island. Three were abortive. The remaining six first mistook Aur for Taroa, but realized their mistake and went on to Taroa where because of cloud coverage no bomb run was made. Interception by 12 to 18 Zekes, of which two were shot down, two probably shot down and one was damaged. The B-24's expended 4,230 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. None of the B-24's was damaged. (Advan 7AF Mission Report 7, 18 Nov. 43.)

17 Nov. 43  
TARAWA - Three B-24's of 451st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Betio dropped 40 x 100-lb. demolition bombs on runway and barracks from 2,500 feet, in addition to strafing during bomb run. AA meager but accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. (Advan 7 AF Mission Report 10, 20 Nov. 43.)

MILLE - Six B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and six of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Mille from Funafuti. Three airplanes were abortive because
17 Nov. 43

(Mcontd)

of engine trouble. Nine dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 65 x 100-lb. demolition bombs, with hits on runway and airfield installations. AA moderate and fairly accurate, causing minor damage to four B-24's. (Advcn 7AF Mission Report 8, 20 Nov. 43.)

MALOGASAP - Nine B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged thru Baker in daylight bombing and photo mission against Taroe. One was abortive because of gasoline leak. Eight dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 50 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. All of the GPs and 90 per cent of the frags hit the target. Interception by 15 to 18 Zekes. Medium and heavy AA, accurate as to altitude but trailing. One badly damaged B-24 crash-landed at Baker, hitting a parked P-40 and completely destroying both. Two other B-24's were damaged. (Advcn 7AF Supplement to Mission Report 9, 22 Nov. 45.)

Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron arrived at Nanomea, bringing air echelon to full strength. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

18 Nov. 43

HILILE-TARAWA - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 38th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Notje from Nanomea. Weather conditions prevented reaching primary target. Nineteen B-24's dropped 40 x 500-lb. and 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 756 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters on Hille, 90 per cent on island. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to "several" airplanes. Two B-24's dropped 500- and 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 12,000 feet, with bombs hitting Betio. Betio appeared badly bomb-scarred and no activity was apparent. (Advcn 7AF Mission Report 11, 20 Nov. 43.)

19 Nov. 43

TARAWA - Ten B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron, nine of 431st Bomb Squadron, and one each from Headquarters 11th Bomb Group and Headquarters VII Bomber Command, in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission over Tarawa. One B-24 abortive because of gasoline leak. Remaining airplanes dropped 60 x 20-lb. fragmentation clusters, 80 per cent in target; 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent in target; and 160 x 100-lb. GP's, 60 per cent in target. Bombing altitudes were from 1,500 to 11,000 feet. Intense and accurate medium and light AA damaged four B-24's, and caused such extensive damage to a fifth as to cause it to crash-land at Nanomea. (Advcn 7AF Mission Report 12, 22 Nov. 43.)

M AKIN - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and three of 38th Bomb Squadron, in daylight mission over Makin from Nanomea, dropped 81 x 500-lb. demolition bombs and 45 x 125-lb. fragmentation clusters from 10,000 to 10,400 feet, with
19 Nov. 43

(Contd)

MA'URU - Four B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron, with two Navy P38V photo planes, in daylight mission over Ma'uru from Nanenoa. Dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet, getting hits on boat basin and runway. AA light and inaccurate, causing no damage. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 13, 21 Nov. 43.)

MA'URU - Six B-24's of 451st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Ma'uru from Funafuti. Two abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Four dropped 80 x 100-lb GP bombs from 9,600 to 11,000 feet, 55 per cent hitting runways and installations. Medium and heavy AA inaccurate, causing no damage. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 14A, 24 Nov. 43.)

MA'URU - Seven B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Ma'uru from Funafuti dropped 45 x 500-lb GP bombs from 9,600 to 15,000 feet, of which 54 hit fuel storage and revetment areas. Medium and heavy, accurate AA damaged three airplanes. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 14B, 23 Nov. 43.)

25 Nov. 43

JALUIT - Eight B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Jaluit from Majuro. Two abortive due to mechanical malfunctions. Six dropped 42 x 500-lb GP bombs from 11,000 feet, with only six bombs hitting target. Meager, inaccurate AA caused minor damage to two B-24's. Three Zekes were seen airborne over target, but there was no interception. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 15, 26 Nov. 43.)

24 Nov. 43

MILLE - Eleven B-24's of 35th Bomb Squadron, with four B-24's from 392d Bomb Squadron attached, staged through Baker to drop 60 x 100-lb. and 42 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 11,000 to 12,000 feet. Twenty-two of the 500's and nine of the 100's were seen to hit the target. Interception by 8 to 12 Zekes, Haaps, and Tonym, the pilots of which seemed inexperienced and unaggressive. Two Zekes were shot down and two were probably shot down. AA was meager. One B-24 was damaged by fighter fire. (Advon 7AF Mission Report 16, 24 Nov. 43.)

Ground echelon of 30th Bomb Group and 38th Bomb Squadron arrived at Nanenoa. An advance party from the 30th Bomb Group had arrived 1 Nov. 43. (History of 30th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 38th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)
26 Nov. 43  MALCOLM - Ten B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 12 of 36th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Taroa from Nanomea. Two were abortive, one of which never returned. Twenty dropped 20 x 500-lb. and 225 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,500 feet, 80 per cent in hangar area and runways adjacent thereto. AA moderate, inaccurate, and trailing. Two Zekes intercepted the 27th, which was the first squadron over the target. One Zeko was probably destroyed. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 17, 26 Nov. 43.)

27 Nov. 43  MILLER - Nine B-24's of 99th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mille from Nukufetau. One abortive due to mechanical malfunctions. Eight dropped 196 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,500 to 12,500 feet, with 186 hitting the island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One Zeko made one pass at a B-24 but did no damage. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 18, 28 Nov. 43.)

28 Nov. 43  MAURU - Eight B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and three of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Nauru from Nanomea dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 240 x 100-lb. GP bombs. Damage was undetermined because of clouds. AA meager but accurate, causing minor damage to three B-24's. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 19, 29 Nov. 45.)

The 45th Fighter Squadron arrived at Nanomea, having departed Baker on 26 Nov. 1943. (History of 45th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

30 Nov. 43  MALCOLM - Ten B-24's of 36th Bomb Squadron and eight of 27th Bomb Squadron, accompanied by two Navy PB4Y photo planes, assigned to daylight mission over Malcolm from Nanomea. None of the airplanes reached the target because of weather conditions. Two B-24's dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on small cargo vessel near Taroa, getting near misses. (Adven 7AF Mission Report 20, 2 Dec. 43.)

MALCOLM - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker in strike against Malcolm. They dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 12,000 feet, of which 64 hit target area in Taroa. Interception by 35 to 50 Zekes, of which 11 were shot down, nine probably shot down, and four damaged in running attack lasting 35 minutes. AA accurate at to height, bursting in front of formation. They also encountered what were thought to be serial bombs. Three crew members received minor wounds, but none of the B-24's was damaged. (Adven 7AF Supplement to Mission Report 20, 5 Dec. 43.)
1 Dec 43

MILLE - Seven B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron in daylight strike against Mille from Funafuti. Three were abortive. Four on individual runs dropped 24 x 500-lb GP bombs from 9,000 to 9,500 feet. Cloud coverage prevented observation of damage. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One B-24 did not return after leaving target. (Advoc 7AF Mission Report 21, 2 Dec. 43.)

4 Dec 43

MILLE - Fifty-eight B-24's of VII Bomber Command assigned daylight mission against Mille. Twenty-four aircraft of the 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons took off from Henderson, but failed to reach target because of front encountered enroute. Remaining 34, consisting of 12 of the 28th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 431st, 8 of the 98th and 4 of the 392d, dropped 480 x 100-lb and 108 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 14,000 feet, 90 per cent in target. AA meager to moderate, and inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to five B-24's. Distance flown: 1,800 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 25, 7 Dec. 45.)

MAURU - Eight B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron accompanied by one Navy PB4Y photo plane, in daylight mission against Mauru from Funafuti, dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 15,000 feet, with all bombs hitting on or near assigned targets. One large fire was visible for 60 to 75 miles at 10,000 feet. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. AA caused minor damage to one B-24. (Advoc 7AF Mission Report 25, 5 Dec. 45.)

7 Dec 45

Maloelap - Eight B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in dawn mission over Tarac from Huluieta. Two failed to reach the target. Six dropped 58 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 14,000 feet, with 14 hitting island. AA moderate and inaccurate, interception by 9 to 10 Zeke's which made 25 to 30 passes. One Zeke was shot down, two were probably shot down, and one was possibly damaged in a 24-minute fight. Two B-24's were damaged. One of the B-24's, failing to reach the target, dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 8,300 feet, 100 per cent on the island. AA intense and accurate as to altitude, but trailing. The 28th Bomb Squadron was scheduled to participate in this strike, but did not take off from Baker because of weather conditions there. (Advoc VII BC Mission Report 24A, 8 Dec. 45.)

8 Dec 45

Mille - Eleven B-24's of 28th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker for a daylight strike at Maloelap. Because of the weather and approaching darkness, it was decided to strike the alternate target, Mille, where 318 x 100-lb. GP bombs were dropped from 7,000 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on the island. AA intense and accurate, and showed an increase.
8 Dec. 45
(Contd)
in amount and efficiency since previous mission. Inter-
ception by 10 to 12 Zeke's, Hamp's, and Oscars, which were
airborne when formation arrived at target, and which made
aggressive passes before, during, and after bomb runs.
Aerial bombs were dropped. Four B-24's were damaged. The
bombers expended 12,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. No
fighters were destroyed. Distance flown: 2,794 miles.

JALUIT - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eleven of
35th Bomb Squadron in mission against Emidj from Nanomea.
One airplane could not get bomb-bay doors open over Emidj,
therefore dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Pinglap. Twenty-
one B-24's dropped 80 x 500-lb. and 530 x 100-lb. GP bombs on
Emidj, 85 per cent in target areas. A large fire was started
in hangar area. AA meager to moderate, and accurate as to
height, but trailing. None of the B-24's was damaged.
(P/E VII BC Mission Report 25, 9 Dec. 45.)

9 Dec. 45
MILLS - Ten B-24's of 42d Bomb Squadron and nine of 431st
Bomb Squadron in mission against Mills from Funafuti dropped
60 x 500-lb. and 255 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to
10,200 feet, 85 per cent in or near target areas. AA moderate
and inaccurate. Six Zeke's intercepted first planes over
target, and by time last planes were over, the number had
increased to 15. Aerial bombs were dropped. Five Zeke's were
destroyed. Six B-24's received minor damage. (P/E VII BC
Mission Report 26, 11 Dec. 45.)

12 Dec. 45
JALUIT - Thirty-nine B-24's of 27th, 38th, 42d, and 98th Bomb
Squadrons in daylight strike at Jaluit from Funafuti,
Nukufetau, and Nanomea. Fourteen did not reach the target
because of weather or mechanical difficulties. Twenty-
five dropped 420 x 100-lb., 61 x 500-lb., and 4 x 1,000-lb.
GP bombs from 500 to 15,000 feet. Results were undetermined,
although most of the bombs probably fell on Emidj where fires
were started and several gun positions were silenced by low-
level attacks and strafing. AA moderate and fairly accurate,
damaging two B-24's. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 29,
14 Dec. 45.)

15 Dec. 45
NOKJE - Eleven B-24's of 382d Bomb Squadron assigned daylight
attack on Taroe from Canton. One was abortive because of
excessive gas consumption. Ten attacked the alternate target
of Nokje, dropping 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to
10,000 feet, 95 per cent in target. AA meager and inaccurate.
One B-24 was damaged by AA or by a bomb which exploded several
hundred feet below the airplane after release. (P/E VII BC
Mission Report 30, 17 Dec. 45.)

14 Dec. 45
MALOELAP - Eleven B-24's of the 431st Bomb Squadron, and
seven of the 42d Bomb Squadron with three of the 98th
attached, staged through Nanomea for daylight strike against
14 Dec. 43

Taraa. Two failed to take off from the staging base, and two were abortive. Sixteen dropped 355 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 5,000 to 14,000 feet, 90 per cent on island, starting numerous fires. One airplane salvaged its load of 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs in water. AA meager to moderate, and inaccurate. Interception by 15 fighters, mostly Zeke's, of which two were destroyed, four were probably destroyed, and seven were damaged. Two B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 28th, 2,585 statute miles; 42d and 451st, 2,705 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 32, 17 Dec. 43.)

Pilots and airplanes (F-59's) of 72d Fighter Squadron arrived at Makin aboard an aircraft carrier. (History of 72d Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

15 Dec. 43

NOTJE - Eleven B-24's of 28th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker on mission against Notje. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,000 to 16,000 feet, with 50 per cent hitting within 1,000 feet of aiming point. AA moderate and inaccurate. One B-24 was slightly damaged. Distance flown: 3,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 31, 17 Dec. 43.)

MALCOLAP - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 58th Bomb Squadron in strike at Taraa from Hamshe. One airplane was abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. One jettisoned bombs after being hit at start of bomb run, and another jettisoned bomb in order to be able to protect it. Total bomb load of all 22 planes was: 420 x 100-lb. and 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs. Three actually dropped over island were 80 per cent on target. Bombing runs were made from 3,600 to 8,600 feet. Interception by 15 to 50 Zeke's and Hampas, with fight beginning as far as 10 miles from target. Enemy dropped 40 to 50 aerial bombs. Two enemy planes were destroyed, two probably destroyed, and seven damaged. Seven B-24's were damaged, and one was destroyed. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 35, 17 Dec. 45.)

17 Dec. 43

MILLES - Eleven B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron, and 10 of 98th Bomb Squadron with one of 42d attached, assigned raid on Malolap. Airplanes of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons took off in unfavorable weather. As the weather continued unfavorable, the 431st Bomb Squadron did not take off and the 98th was recalled. One airplane did not hear recall and went to alternate target, Milles, to drop 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs on runway from 20,000 feet. No AA. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 35, 21 Dec. 43.)
17 Dec. 43

The 41st Bomb Group (M) arrived at Tarawa from Oahu. (History of 41st Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

Following arrived at Makin; ground echelon of 46th Fighter Squadron and 16 new A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron. These airplanes were sent from Oahu. The air echelon of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron had arrived at Makin from Canton by 22 Dec. 43. (History of 46th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44; History of 531st Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

18 Dec. 43

Mille - Fifteen B-24's took off from Hancome to attack Maloelap in attempt to complete mission of the previous day. One was abortive because of supercharger trouble. Remaining 14 found Maloelap closed in and went to Mille to drop 286 x 100-lb., and 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 1,600 to 12,000 feet. None of the 500-lb. bombs hit the target, but all except 15 of the 100-lb. bombs hit. AA intense and accurate. Interception by 6 to 8 Zekeas, Hamps, and Tonya, which dropped aerial bombs. One Tony destroyed. Seven B-24's were damaged, 11 crew members wounded, and one killed. One of the damaged B-24's crashed on landing. (P/2 VII FC Mission Report 36, 21 Dec. 43.)

Mille - Thirteen A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in mission against buried-stores area at Mille. One abortive because of engine trouble. Twelve dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs, hitting runway, oil and ammunition storage areas. The A-24's were escorted by nine P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and seven of 46th Fighter Squadron. Three of the 72d abortive because of engine trouble. Remaining six maintained close cover for the A-24's, expending 4,000 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition strafing runways from 1,000 feet, and damaging 2 to 3 Zekeas on the ground. Airplanes of the 46th Fighter Squadron strafed gun positions and runways with 122 rounds of .50-caliber ammunition. One P-39 was lost operationally. Distance flown: 485 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-1, 18 Dec. 45; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

Mille - Eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mille expended 2,051 rounds of .50-caliber and 46 rounds of .37-mm. ammunition. Two P-39's were abortive because of engine trouble. Six Zekeas were destroyed and three Zekeas and one medium bomber were damaged on the ground. Meager and inaccurate AN caused minor damage to two P-39's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Report, 18-31 Dec. 45.)
18 Dec. 45
(Centd)

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron went up to intercept enemy bombers over Makin but made no contact with enemy. (Ibid.)

Ground echelon of 72d Fighter Squadron arrived at Makin from Oahu. (History of 72d Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

19 Dec. 45

MILL - Fourteen P-39’s of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mill Island expended 3,528 rounds of .50-cal. and 92 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, destroying three Zeke’s and one bomber on the ground, and probably igniting an oil dump. One P-39 shot down by fairly intense AA, and two P-39’s were damaged. Another P-39 crashed on return to Makin. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

MILL-MALACOLAP - The 27th, 35th, and 26th Bomb Squadrons assigned daylight attack on Malacolap. Nineteen B-24’s, consisting of 10 of 27th and nine of 35th, encountered tropical front enroute to target, and bombed Mills with 637 x 100-1lb. GP bombs from 3,500 to 8,500 feet, 80 per cent on the island. AA meager and inaccurate. One Zeke intercepted after planes left the target, dropping two phosphorous bombs which caused minor damage to one B-24. Eleven B-24’s of 26th Bomb Squadron reached Malacolap. One did not drop bombs because of rack malfunctions. Ten dropped 50 x 500-1lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with 29 hits observed. AA accurate and intense. Interception by 25 to 30 Zeke’s, Kamikazes, and Oscars, which made approximately 50 shots: Passes and dropped aerial bombs in a fight lasting 40 minutes. Seven Zeke’s were probably destroyed and five were damaged. Ten B-24’s were damaged. Distance flown: 3,027 statute miles. (7/3 VII BC Mission Report 55, 22 Dec. 45.)

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39’s of 72d Fighter Squadron went up to intercept enemy bombers over Makin, expended 346 rounds of .50-cal. and 11 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, with no results. Enemy planes jettisoned bombs in ocean. Searchlights persisted in picking up P-39’s. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

20 Dec. 45

MALACOLAP - Eleven B-24’s of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker for daylight strike against Taron. One B-24 crashed at Baker and another could not take off because bomb-bay doors would not close. One was abortive by engine trouble. Eight dropped 48 x 500-1lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA intense and accurate, damaging all of the B-24’s and shooting down two. Interception at end of bomb run by
20 to 25 Zekes, with some possible Tony's and Hamps, of which three were destroyed, four probably destroyed, and nine damaged. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 37, 22 Dec. 43.)

MALOLOAP - Eight B-24's of 42nd Bomb Squadron, with one from 431st Bomb Squadron attached, took off from Manus for daylight strike on Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 47 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 12,600 feet, 70 per cent on island. AA intense and accurate. Interception by approximately 30 Zekes at end of bomb run. Fighters were airborne and waiting for formation to get through AA fire. Enemy pilots were the most aggressive the crews had encountered. Seven Zekes were destroyed, and four were probably destroyed. One B-24 was down in water because of flak damage, and another made a crash-landing at Tarawa for the same reason. Five other B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Supplement to Mission Report 37, 24 Dec. 43.)

MILLE - Twelve P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Millie, primarily to observe shipping. No shipping sighted. (VIII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 19-21 Dec. 43.)

ENEMY ACTION - Three P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron went up to intercept enemy bombers over Makin, patrolled over island at 29,000 feet, but made no contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

21 Dec. 43

KWAJALEIN - Four B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and four of 58th Bomb Squadron escorted four Navy FB41 photo planes over KwaJalein from Manus. One hundred twenty 100-lb GP bombs were dropped as follows: 45 on Roi, 15 on Enneking, 15 on KwaJalein Island, 15 on shipping, 15 in water, and 15 jettisoned. Interception by eight Zekes and one probable Tony. One Zeko was damaged. AA meager and caused no damage. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC, Mission Report 38, 27 Dec. 43.)

JALUIT - Twelve A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron accompanied by 6 SHFs and 16 P-61's, attacked shipping and installations at Eidi Island. Three A-24's dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping, leaving one 7,000-ton cargo vessel sinking. Nine A-24's dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on hangar line, damaging both hangars and seaplane base, and starting fire near center of island. AA intense but inaccurate from Eidi. AW from ships and island intense and accurate. One A-24 was shot down. Distance flown: 590 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 551-2, 21 Dec. 43.)
21 Dec. 45

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron one of which was abortive, in reconnaissance over Mille for shipping. None was observed. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

MILLE - Sixteen P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron strafed fuel dumps, shipping and AA positions at Mille with 5,276 rounds of .50-cal. and 232 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. Four to 6 Zeke's observed airborne. Two dropped phosphorous bombs, but did no damage. (Ibid.)

22 Dec. 45

MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in daylight dive-bombing attack on large cargo vessel in Mille lagoon from Makin. They dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 1,000 to 1,500 feet, 100 per cent on target or within 150 feet of it. Last two planes reported that smoke obscured the ship. One A-24 jettisoned bombs because of release failure. AA fire to moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two A-24's. The dive bombers were escorted by 16 P-39's and 16 F8F's. One Zeke was shot down by the F8F's, one was probably shot down, and one was damaged. The P-39's were not intercepted. On pull-out, all A-24's strafed gun positions and barracks with .50-cal. and .50-cal. ammunition. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 551-3, 24 Dec. 45.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed shipping in the lagoon. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)

Ground echelon of 46th Bomb Squadron arrived at Amapama, having departed Oahu 2 Dec. 1943. (History of 46th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

25 Dec. 45

MILLE - Ten A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron escorted by 20 P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in daylight dive-bombing attack on shipping at Mille. Four A-24's dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on cargo vessel in lagoon, with hits and near misses. Six dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shore installations at Mille, with probable hits on AA positions. The airplanes dived from 10,000 feet, and pulled out at 1,000 feet. AA moderate but trailing. Twelve of the P-39's provided high cover and eight provided low cover for the formation. Interception by 6 to 7 Zeke's, of which two were destroyed and one was damaged. The A-24's expended 900 rounds of .50-cal. and 2,000 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. The P-39's expended 1,756 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 81 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 551-4, 24 Dec. 45; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 45.)
23 Dec. 43

MILEE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Milee after A-24 attack observed no AA, no aircraft, and no shipping. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

KWAJALEIN - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa from Manus for strikes on Kwajalein. They dropped 187 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 14,600 feet on shipping in harbor and on shore installations on Kwajalein Island. One medium cargo vessel was observed sinking, and a direct hit was scored on large fuel dump from which smoke was visible for 35 miles at 12,000 feet. AA meager to moderate, and accurate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to two B-24's. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 40, 24 Dec. 43.)

WOTJE-MALOELAP - Nine B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Canton staged through Baker for daylight strike against Wotje. Although the atoll was closed in, five airplanes dropped 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 14,000 to 16,000 feet, 80 per cent in or near the target. AA moderate and fairly accurate. The first and second flights then flew to Maloelap and the remaining four airplanes dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 14,000 to 15,000 feet, 100 per cent on the target. AA intense and accurate. The second flight became separated from the first and was intercepted by about 25 to 30 Zekes, Oscars, and Tony's. In a battle lasting approximately 35 minutes, the fighters dropped 12 to 15 aerial bombs. One Tony and three Zekes were destroyed, four Zekes were probably destroyed, and seven were damaged. Three B-24's were damaged, one crew member was killed, and five were injured. Distance flown: 3,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 59, 27 Dec. 43.)

The 47th Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, arrived at Apamama, having departed Oahu 3 Dec. 1943. (History of 47th Bomb Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

25-24 Dec. 43

Enemy Action - Eighteen P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons airborne over Makin for 10-hour period to intercept enemy bombers. They expended 566 rounds of .50-cal. and 13 rounds of 37-mm ammunition, shooting down two Vals. One P-39 was lost operationally. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

24 Dec. 43

WOTJE - Ten B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 451st Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa for a daylight strike against Wotje. Two were abortive. Eighteen dropped 216 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 12,000 to 15,000 feet, with 164 hitting the island. Four fires were observed. AA meager and inaccurate.
26 Dec. 43

causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles.

(P/E VII-BC Mission Report 41, 27 Dec. 43.)

Ground echelons of the 396th Bomb Squadron and the 820th Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group, arrived at Tarawa, having departed Oahu 16 Dec. 1943. (History of 396th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 820th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

26 Dec. 43

MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 651st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 16 P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, conducted mission against Mille. One A-24 was abortive because of malfunction of bomb release. Ten dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 25 of which hit runway, ammunition storage area, and an AA position. Aircraft and trailing. AA intense. Two A-24's received minor damage. Six P-39's were abortive. The remainder expended 582 rounds of .50-cal. and 35 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. None of the P-39's was damaged. (P/E VII-BC Mission Report 551-5, 1 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

ENEMY ACTION - Twenty-four P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, up to intercept 12 Zekes flying over Makin, expended 118 rounds of .50-cal. and 10 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. One P-39 was damaged. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Air echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, having departed Oahu on 25 Dec. 1943. (History of 820th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

26 Dec. 43

WOTJE-MILLE - Eighteen B-24's of 30th Bomb Group staged through Tarawa for raid on Wotje. One abortive because of losing formation. Sixteen reached primary target and dropped 141 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje, 24 on first island north of Wotje, and 24 on small vessels in lagoon. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille, results unobserved. AA at Wotje moderate and accurate. Interception at Wotje by 8 to 6 Zekes, of which one was destroyed and two were damaged. Two B-24's were shot down by Zekes and one was badly damaged. Distance flown: 2,422 statute miles. (P/E VII-BC Mission Report 42, 29 Dec. 43.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron made reconnaissance of Mille from 15,000 to 24,000 feet. No shipping, aircraft, or AA observed. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)
26 Dec. 43 (Contd.)

**MILLE** - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing and reconnaissance mission over Mille expended 651 rounds of .50-cal. and 25 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, with results unobserved. Meager AA caused no damage. (Ibid.)

The 42d Bomb Squadron departed Fumufuti for return to Oahu. (History of 42d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

27 Dec. 43

**MILLE** - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed no aircraft or activity. Runways appeared to be in good condition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron up over Makin to intercept enemy bombers. They got only fleeting glimpses of the enemy. (Ibid.)

Air echelon of 46th Fighter Squadron moved from Canton to Makin. (History of 46th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

28 Dec. 43

**MILLE** - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa rendezvous with 12 P-39's of 73d Fighter Squadron at Makin for attack on Mille. The B-25's dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 33 parachute fragmentation clusters, in addition to firing 178 x 75-mm. shells, 60 per cent of which hit target area. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. Two B-25's were damaged. The P-39's flew at 500 feet in close formation, because of poor visibility. They expended an unreported amount of ammunition in strafing, silencing one gun position. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 44, 1 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

**MILLE** - Twenty-five A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 24 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, conducted mission against Mille. Seven A-24's were abortive because of a front encountered 100 miles from base. Eighteen dropped 32 x 500-lb. and 22 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 5,000 to 3,000 feet, with hits on or near gun emplacements and on runways. Weather conditions obscured results of most bombs. AA meager to moderate and trailing. Three A-24's received minor damage. Four P-39's returned with the abortive A-24's. The remainder expended 1,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 531-6, 6 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

**MALOELAP** - Ten B-24's of 28th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 431st Bomb Squadron, and nine of 38th Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Maloelap. Seventeen were abortive because of weather...
28 Dec. 43

Continued

 conditions. Five dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on barracks,
 oil storage, and shop areas at Tarawa, 100 per cent in target.
 Five dropped 60 x 500-lb. GPs on Darrat Island, Majuro, 42
 in target area. Two dropped 24 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille.
 Intense, inaccurate AA at Mille. Interception by 35 to 40
 Zekes over Maloelap, and by four Zeke and two Toms at
 Majuro. Seven enemy fighters were destroyed, eight probably
 destroyed, and six damaged. One B-24 was destroyed, and one
 missing. One B-24 received major damage and eight minor
 damage. Distance flown: 5,020 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
 Mission Report 45, 3 Jan. 44.)

MALOELAP—Eight B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through
 Eaker for attack on Tarawa. Two were abortive. Three dropped
 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs in target area, and seven jettisoned
 18 x 500-lb. GPs. Interception by 10 to 12 Zeke's, of which
 one was destroyed, and three were probably destroyed. AA
 moderate and accurate. Four B-24's were damaged. Distance
 44.)

29 Dec. 43

MILLE—Eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, in two flights
 of four each, flew reconnaissance missions over Mille,
 observing no activity at either time. (VII FG Provisional
 Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

30 Dec. 43

KWAJALEIN—Eighteen B-24's of 30th Bomb Group staged through
 Tarawa for attack on Kwajalein. One was abortive because of
 instrument failure in frontal weather. Two dropped 24 x
 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping at Kwajalein, getting near-
 misses. Four dropped 48 x 500-lb. GPs on Ebeve Island,
 60 per cent in target area. Eleven dropped 132 x 500-lb.
 GPs on Bugej, which was mistaken for Ebeve, 50 per cent in
 target. AA from shore moderate and inaccurate, from naval
 vessels intense and accurate. One B-24 received minor damage.
 Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
 Report 45, 6 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT—Nine B-25's of 830th Bomb Squadron in daylight,
 low-level mission against Jaluit from Tarawa. Escort of
 eight P-38's lost contact enroute. The B-25's dropped 18 x
 500-lb. GP bombs and 15 x 100-lb. parachute fragmentation
 clusters, in addition to firing 91 x 75-mm. shells. AA
 scattered and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance
 flown: 800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 46,
 1 Jan. 44.)

MILLE—Twenty-five A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron,
 escorted by 24 P-39's of 72d and 46th Fighter Squadrons,
 conducted daylight dive-bombing attack against Mille from
 Makin. The A-24's dropped 55 x 500-lb. GPs and 22 x 100-lb.
30 Dec. 43  GP bombs from 1,500 to 2,000 feet, with 66 hits in target areas. AA after dives intense, but trailing. One A-24 got 20-mm. hole in right wing tip. The P-39's expended 1,021 rounds of .50 cal. and 63 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, and encountered no AA. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 631-7, 14 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)

31 Dec. 43  MILLE - Four P-39's assigned to reconnaissance over Mille returned abortive twice, once because of transmitter trouble, and once because of the weather. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 18-31 Dec. 43.)
1 Jan. 44

MILLE - Four P-39's of 76th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance mission over Mille expended no ammunition. Observed two small boats in lagoon. Meager AA accurate as to altitudes, but trailing. (VII FE Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Sixteen P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing mission over Mille expended 3,830 rounds of .50-cal. and 159 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition. One small boat was severely damaged, and one was left in sinking condition. Meager AA caused no damage. (Ibid.)

2 Jan. 44

MaCEIAP - Nine B-24's of the 431st Bomb Squadron and seven of the 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa in daylight attack on shipping at Wotje. Two B-24's were abortive. The remainder did not sight shipping, but instead of attacking Wotje, the secondary target, they attacked Tarao, dropping 124 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 16,700 to 17,500 feet. Reason for attacking Tarao unknown, because flight leader was lost. AA intense and accurate. The 431st Squadron was intercepted by 40 fighters, mostly Zeke's, with some Hamps and Tony's. The 98th was intercepted by 20 to 30 Zeke's, plus a few Tony's. In a running fight lasting approximately 50 minutes, 14 fighters were destroyed, 11 were probably destroyed, and 8 were damaged. Two B-24's crashed near the target, and one crash-landed at Arno Atoll. Four B-24's sustained major damage, and six, minor damage. Distance flown: 1,330 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Consolidated Mission Report 47, 7 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight, low-level mission against Jaluit from Tarawa. Heavy showers prevented all planes from getting over the target. Eight fired about 110 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition and five dropped 19 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet, with hits on Eneybor, Emidj, and Jabor. AA and AA meager, inaccurate and trailing. However, one B-25 was destroyed over target when its right wing fell off and it exploded, probably as the result of AA fire, and two other airplanes received minor damage from AA. Distance flown: 800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 48-A, 4 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in strafing mission over Mille expended 670 rounds of .50-cal. and 43 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, getting further hits on boats hit by previous strikes. No AA. (VII FE Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four F-39's of 66th Fighter Squadron assigned reconnaissance mission over Mille were abortive because of the weather. (Ibid.)
3 Jan. 44  MILLE - Twenty-four A-24's of 631st Fighter Bomber Squadron, escorted by 24 F-59's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadron, in daylight dive-bombing mission over Mille from Makin dropped 18 x 100-lb., 46 x 500-lb., and 9 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 85 per cent in target area, with direct hits on heavy AA positions and on radio position. The push-over was from 6,000 to 9,000 feet, with pull-out at 2,000 feet. Two of the F-59's were abortive. Remainder expended 1,730 rounds of .50-cal. and 102 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, damaging one twin-engine and two single-engine planes on the ground. Black smoke noted in oil storage areas. AA and AN meager to moderate, and trailing. One F-59 lost its tail in dive and crashed. One A-24 sustained minor damage. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 531-8, 21 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four F-59's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille, expended no ammunition. Observed one twin-engine plane on the ground. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

ENEMY ACTION - Ten F-59's of 46th Fighter Squadron up at various times during day to intercept enemy planes over Makin, but at no time did they make contact. (Ibid.)

4 Jan. 44  JALUIT - Eighteen B-26's of the 27th and 35th Bomb Squadrons staged through Truk to drop 283 x 6 x 20-lb., fragmentation clusters and 100 x 3 x 4-lb. incendiary clusters on Eilidj from 9,300 to 11,000 feet, 70 per cent in target areas. AA meager to moderate and generally inaccurate. No interception. Distance flown: 1,840 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 49, 10 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and four of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille at two different times were unable to observe the target because of cloud coverage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

The ground echelon of the 50th Bomb Group arrived at Apanama, having departed Nemaus, 2 January 1944. Rear echelon of 45th Fighter Group arrived at Apanama. (History of the 50th Bomb Group to 31 Mar. 44; History of 45th Fighter Squadron to 31 Mar. 44.)

5 Jan. 44  MALCEPAL - Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin for attack on shipping at Malcepal. Shipping not sighted because of the weather. All planes returned to base with bombs. Distance flown: 1,300 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 51, 7 Jan. 44.)
5 Jan. 44
Air echelon of 30th Bomb Group departed Nanoua and arrived at Amapas on this date on 6 January 1944. (History of 30th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

6 Jan. 44
MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. No shipping noted. Two clearings observed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

7 Jan. 44
MALOELAP-WOTE - Fourteen B-24's of 26th and 98th Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in night mission against Maloelap. Six dropped 233 x 100-lb. GP bombs and two photo flash bombs on Taroa from 4,200 to 10,300 feet, 100 per cent on island, starting numerous fires and explosions. Eight dropped 307 x 100-lb. GP bombs and three photo flash bombs on Wotje from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 94 per cent on island. AA over Taroa meager and inaccurate. No AA over Wotje. Distance flown: 2,813 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 50, 11 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Twenty-two A-20's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 11 Marine F6F's, in daylight mission from Maloelap dropped 35 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidji, diving from 9,000 to 9,500 feet and pulling out from 900 to 3,000 feet. Ninety per cent of the bombs hit target areas, with direct hits on administrative building, oil storage areas, and AA positions. AA intense and accurate as to height. One A-20 was slightly damaged. The escorting F6F's strafed the hangar area. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-9, 7 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 724 Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. Dense rain clouds obscured target and made observation impossible. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

8 Jan. 44
WOTJE - Eighteen B-24's of the 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in mission against Wotje. Three were abortive. The remainder dropped 500-lb. GP bombs as follows: 12 on shipping in Wotje harbor, 48 on northwest end of Wotje Island, 12 on Acre Island, 24 on Taroa (Maloelap), 48 on Emidji (Jaluit), 12 on shipping in Likiep lagoon, and 12 on southernmost island of Eriku Atoll. AA from Wotje and Emidji very inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,240 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 52, 13 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping at Jaluit from Tarawa. One was abortive. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on two 100-foot vessels in lagoon from 300 to 500 feet, getting two near-misses. In addition they fired 15 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition at shore gun emplacements. AA and AW intense and accurate, causing minor damage to both planes. Distance flown: 650 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Unnumbered B-25 Mission, 10 Jan. 44.)
8 Jan. 44
(McDa
MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille observed three to seven aircraft, but believed them to be dummy. No AA. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

ENEMY ACTION - Two P-39's of 48th Fighter Squadron up to intercept two flights of enemy bombers over Makin, but made no contact. (Ibid.)

10 Jan. 44
MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron expended 60 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and dropped 2 x 500-lb. bombs in dive-bombing attack on Mille, getting hits on fuel storage area. This was the first time a P-39 was used to carry 2 x 500-lb. bombs and a 540-lb. belly tank to a target over 200 miles of water. One P-39 was lost operationally, although the pilot bailed out. P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons flew 28 sorties in connection with the rescue of the pilot. (Ibid.)

The ground echelon of the 392d Bomb Squadron arrived at Apmama, having departed Canton on 5 January 1944. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

10-11
Jan. 44
MALOELAP-MILLE - Sixteen B-24's of the 26th and 451st Bomb Squadrons staged through Tarawa in night strike on Tarawa. They dropped 608 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 per cent on the island, starting several fires which were visible for 45 miles at 9,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 2,521 statute miles. Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Baker, also in night strike on Tarawa. Fliers were abortive. The remainder, because of cloud coverage, struck Mille instead of Tarawa, dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP's from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, with results unobserved. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 2,560 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 54, 17 Jan. 44.)

11 Jan. 44
MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping at Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet, and fired 151 rounds of .75-mm. ammunition, plus .50-cal. machine guns. Hits were scored on one 5,000-ton cargo vessel which broke in two, on a destroyer which stopped firing, a 200-ton sailboat which sank, a 300-foot cargo carrier, and a 100-foot vessel. Other bombs fell on Tjian, Gijibal, Allot, and Tar, causing fires. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by eight Zekas, one possible Tony, three of which were damaged. Two B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 55, 13 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in dive-bombing, strafing, and reconnaissance mission over Mille dropped 2 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 445 rounds of .50-cal. and 18 rounds of .30-cal.
of 37-mm ammunition, with hits on runways. Meager AA caused no damage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

12 Jan. 44

MILLS - Twenty-one A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 24 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, in attack on Mills from Makin. They dropped 28,800 lbs. of GP bombs on North Tip, with pull-out from 10,000 to 2,800 feet. Eighty per cent of the bombs hit target area. One fire was visible for 10 miles. Four of the P-39's were abortive. Remainder expended 140 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate to intense and accurate as to height, but trailing. One A-24 was slightly damaged. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 55-10, 14 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

13 Jan. 44

NUTJE - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping from Tarawa dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs and fired 63 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. Thirteen bombs fell on shipping with results largely undetermined. Remainder fell on Nutje airstrip. AA intense and accurate, causing damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 66, 15 Jan. 44.)

MILLS - Twenty-one A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 18 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, in mission against Mills from Makin. They dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 36 x 500-lb., and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent on target area. Fires begun at 10,000 feet, pull-outs at 1,500 to 2,000 feet. Two fires in doka area gave off smoke visible for 10 miles. The P-39's expended 100 rounds of .50-cal. and three rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. One A-24 was slightly damaged. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 55-11, 16 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

14 Jan. 44

NWAJALEIN - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and three of 36th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa in night strike on Nwaiai. They dropped 40 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Numur and 20 on Roi; 140 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Numur, 20 on Roi, and 20 on Enubiar. Bomb runs were made from 400 to 12,000 feet. Large fires and explosions were observed on Roi.
16 Jan, 44

and Nauru. AA meager and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 2,418 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 55, 18 Jan, 44.)

WOTJE - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against shipping at Wotje dropped 7 x 500-lb. GP bombs on three cargo vessels in lagoon and 5 x 500-lb. GPS on Wotje airfield from 60 feet. One cargo vessel was probably sunk, and another was hit. Runways hit with bombs and 19 rounds of 57-mm. and 5,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AW intense and accurate, damaging two B-25's. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 56-A, 16 Jan, 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Millie and on search for a missing PBY. No sign of PBY or survivors. No shipping observed. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan. 44.)

Air echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron moved from Bakers to Apanama, and forward echelon of 48th Fighter Squadron arrived at Makan from Nafken. (History of 45th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar., 44; History of 45th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar., 44.)

15 Jan, 44

MALAELEP - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on shipping at Malaelep dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping, with one 100-foot cargo vessel being hit amidships and exploding, and one barge damaged. In addition, they dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shore installations, with bombs hitting runways and medium bombers parked at north end of the field. Bombing altitude was 50 feet. Approximately 50 enemy aircraft were airborne by time formation left the target. Betty's dropped phosphorous bombs. Two Betty's were destroyed on the ground, and three Zekes were damaged in the air. One B-25 crashed in water shortly after leaving the target, with enemy fighters strafing it as it hit the water. Six other B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 57, 17 Jan, 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Millie. Moderate AA accurate as to altitude, but trailing, and caused no damage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-16 Jan, 44.)

Ground echelon of 451st Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, having departed Funafuti on 16 January 1944; and air echelon of 396th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa having departed Oahu on 13 January 1944. (History of 451st Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar., 44; History of 396th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar., 44.)
16 Jan. 44

MILLE - Twenty-five A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mille from Makin dropped 11 x 1,000-lb., 42 x 500-1b., and 22 x 100-lb. GP bombs. Push-over at 10,000 feet; pull-out at 2,000 to 2,500 feet. All but nine bombs hit target area. This was first mission for P-40's. They were escorted by P-39's on way to target and furnished part of escort for A-24's on way back. They dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs, 100 per cent in target area. P-39's expended 62 rounds of 37-mm. and 3,320 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing. AA moderate to intense, accurate as to height but trailing. Three A-24's received minor damage. Two P-39's of 72d Squadron crashed in sea on return trip. One pilot was lost, and one was rescued by crash boat. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 551-12, 17 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

ENERGY ACTION - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron up on intrusion mission to intercept enemy planes on way to home base, intercepted 12 Bettys over Mille. Expended 50 rounds of 37-mm. and 875 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Two Bettys destroyed. No damage to P-39's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

ENERGY ACTION - Three P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, one of which was abortive, up to intercept 12 or more unidentified enemy bombers over Makin. They expended 475 rounds of .50-cal. and 15 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, shooting down one B-25. Five additional P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron up to intercept unidentified enemy aircraft over Makin made no contact. (Ibid.)

17 Jan. 44

MILLE - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in attack on Mille from Aomona dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 49 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 40 to 200 feet, 80 per cent in the target, starting large fires, destroying two planes on the ground, and probably destroying another. They also fired 64 rounds of 76-mm. and 6,975 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AN and SA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 978 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 58, 21 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance and dive-bombing mission over Mille dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 1,270 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)
18 Jan. 44

MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight, low-level attack on Milne from Apanama dropped 14 x 100-lb. and 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet, 100 per cent in target area, starting large fires and destroying one Zeke on the ground. They also fired 96 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AW and SA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to 11 B-25's. Distance flown: 863 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 59; 20 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Twenty-five A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 48th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Jaluit from Makin. The A-24's dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. and 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit Island, with all-but nine hitting target areas. Direct hits were scored on oil storage tanks. Push-over from 10,000 feet, and pull-outs from 2,500 to 1,000 feet. The P-40's dive-bombed installations with 16 x 500-lb. bombs and strafed radio station with 2,690 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA and AW intense and accurate. Two A-24's were shot down immediately after pull-outs. Distance flown: 594 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-13, 21 Jan. 44; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

19 Jan. 44

JALUIT - Eight P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron covered PBY in rescue of A-24 crew off Jaluit (see above). Crew rescued. No contact with enemy. Two P-39's were abortive. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Report, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Seventeen B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron, in attack on shipping from Tarawa, sighted no shipping so dropped 96 x 100-lb. and 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Milne from 50 to 75 feet, destroying a small building and oil dump, and starting fires in building area. One Tony and one Zeke probably destroyed on ground, and two Zeke's probably damaged on ground. AA moderate to intense, and accurate. Two B-25's were shot down, one B-25 made a belly landing at Makin with left engine shot out, and nine B-25's sustained minor damage. The crew of one of the shot-down B-25's, except the navigator, was rescued by Dumbo. Distance flown: 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 80, 21 Jan. 44.)

The air echelon of the 392d Bomb Squadron moved from Canton to Apanama. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

20 Jan. 44

WOTJE - Eight B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Tarawa in night mission against Wotje. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and one because of illness of pilot. Fourteen dropped 497 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotje Island and 10 x 100-lb. GP's on island south of Wotje. Approximately 64 per cent of the bombs dropped hit target areas. One fire at Wotje was visible for 15 miles at 7,500 feet. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-24 failed to return from the mission, cause unknown.
20 Jan. 44 Distance flown: 1,155 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 61, 24 Jan. 44.)

ARNO - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Aranui and six of 380th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa assigned mission against Makinap. Primary target not attacked because of weather and navigational difficulties. Ten B-25's were abortive because of weather and inability to get over last-resort target in formation. Eight dropped 96 parafrag clusters on Arno from 50 to 75 feet, and fired 55 rounds of 75-mm., plus an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Results of attack largely unobscured. AW meager and inaccurate. Three B-25's received minor damage, although two of them probably were damaged by the parafrag. Distance flown: 840 to 1,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 62, 24 Jan. 44.)

AILINGILAPALAP - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in mission against shipping at Ailinglapalap from Tarawa, encountered bad weather and returned abortive. Distance flown: 384 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Report, 23 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron, in reconnaissance over Jaluit, strafed corvette and schooner with 6,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The corvette was gutted and left burning, and the schooner was considered destroyed. (VII FCG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLS - Nine P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron in mission over Mills were abortive because the target was closed in by weather. They jettisoned their bombs and returned to base. Later in the day four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs on Mills, 100 per cent on target. One P-40 crashed in ocean on return to base. Six P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron covered PBY in rescue of pilot. (Ibid.)

The ground echelons of Headquarters 11th Bomb Group and 38th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, the former having departed Funafuti and the latter Bukufusu on 14 January 1944. The air echelon of the 431st Bomb Squadron moved from Funafuti to Tarawa. (History of 11th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 38th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 431st Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

21 Jan. 44 KEWAJALEIN - Eighteen B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons in night strike at Kewajalein from Tarawa. Two crashed on takeoff. Sixteen dropped 360 x 100-lb. frag clusters and 280 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 500 to 11,700 feet, 99 per cent on the target. One flight affected FL-1 at 10,000 feet.
21 Jan. 44  

... drew intense but inaccurate AW and AA. No other AA fire received. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,247 statute miles. (FH VII BC Mission Report 63, 26 Jan. 44.)

AUR - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron and one of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group, in daylight attack on Malolap, bombed AUR by mistake, and dropped 14 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 75 to 100 feet, in addition to strafing with .50-cal. and 75-mm ammunition. Results of the attack unobserved. AA heavier and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 931 statute miles. (FH VII BC Mission Report 64, 27 Jan. 44.)

ARNO - Six B-25's of 382nd Bomb Squadron in mission from Tarawa. Three were abortive because of navigational error. Three dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Arno and fired eight rounds of 75-mm. plus an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. No AA. Distance flown: 720 to 820 statute miles. (FH VII BC Special Mission Report, 21 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Twenty-three A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 11 F-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, dropped 37 x 500-lb. and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on oil storage at Tinist, and guns ammunition storage, and barracks at Emidji. Push-overs 11,000 to 12,000 feet, and pull-outs at 2,000 feet. All of the bombs fell in the target areas. One large fire on Tinist was visible for 20 miles. The P-40B dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 8,285 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. A corvette was left in flames and a schooner was riddled. AA moderate to intense, causing minor damage to three A-24's. Distance flown: 594 statute miles. (FH VII BC Mission Report 551/4, 22 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in attack on Mille from Aperama dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 75 feet, 87 per cent on or near target areas. They also fired 52 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA, AW, and SA intense and accurate. One B-25 had hydraulic system shot out and had to make belly landing at base. Two other B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 760 statute miles. (FH VII BC Mission Report 63, 24 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 48th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille saw gas truck in front of bunker, thus indicating operational aircraft. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)
21 Jan. 44
(Contd)

ENEMY ACTION - Four P-39's of 49th Fighter Squadron on interception and intruder mission against undetermined number of enemy aircraft between Makin and Milne. No contact. Entire flight was made on instruments. (Ibid.)

22 Jan. 44

NAWAJALEIN - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, eighty of 431st Bomb Squadron, and one of 28th Bomb Squadron in daylight strike on NawaJalein from Tarsma. One was abortive because of mechanical trouble. Ten dropped 400 x 100-lb. GP bombs on RoI from 16,760 to 18,000 feet, 90 per cent on the target, starting large fires. Seven, because of delay in takeoff, dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP's on Emidj (Jaluit) from 7,600 to 12,000 feet, 95 per cent on island. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP's on Milne from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. No AA at Milne; meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate AA at Emidj, and intense and inaccurate AA at RoI. Interception at NawaJalein by 12 to 15 Zekes and Hamps, airborne when bomb run began. They dropped 5 to 10 aerial bombs. One Zeko was destroyed; and seven were probably destroyed. Five B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 1,110 to 3,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 66, 28 Jan. 44.)

MALOEJAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Apurema in daylight attack on MaloJap dropped 35 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 60 to 100 feet, 97 per cent hitting target area on Tjim. Also strafed with 82 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-calm ammunition. AN and SA meager and inaccurate. Interception by about 30 Zekes and Hamps, 10 Tony's, two Haten's, and two possible Fred's. Many shooting passes were made, and aerial bombs were dropped. Also tried to confuse B-25 pilots with radio by asking pilot with engine shot out if he knew how to feather his prop, and by telling formation to slow down, etc. Seven Zekes, one Zeko, and one possible Fred definitely destroyed; three Zekes, one Zeko and one possible Fred probably destroyed, and 12 Zekes damaged. Three B-25's were shot down, and four B-25's were damaged. The crew of one of the destroyed B-25's was rescued. Distance flown: 1,350 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 67, 28 Jan. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in attack on Wotje from Tarsma dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on shipping, and 32 x 500-lb. GP's on island, in addition to expending 86 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. A direct hit was scored on cargo vessel, and on runways, seaplane hangar and airfield buildings. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to three B-25's. Distance flown: 1,252 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 68, 26 Jan. 44.)
22 Jan. 44  ARNO-MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance for shipping at Arno and Mille. No shipping observed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

23 Jan. 44  NOTJE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, eight of 38th Bomb Squadron, and eight of 392d Bomb Squadron in dusk strike against Wotje. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Twenty-four dropped 920 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,200 to 10,000 feet, with 899 hitting installations. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille, 16 on runway and 24 in the water. AA at Wotje moderate to intense, but inaccurate. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 846 to 1,620 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 69, 28 Jan. 44.)

MALCELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa and nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Apanama in daylight strike on Malcelap dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on aircraft and air installations at Taroa from 25 to 100 feet, and expended 65 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. Seven bombs were dropped on shipping, one on the first un-named island north of Taroa, and two on Reuters. Of those dropped on Taroa, 96 per cent hit on or near target. Two hangars were blown up. AA meager to moderate and accurate. The 396th Squadron was intercepted over the target by 23 to 25 Zekes and Hamp's, which made approximately 140 passes in a 35-minute attack. The 48th Squadron was intercepted after leaving the target by 25 Zekes and Hamp's, and were engaged for approximately 25 minutes. Pilots seemed experienced, but not aggressive. Three Zekes were destroyed, two Hamp's were probably destroyed, and nine Zekes and Hamp's were damaged. In addition, three Zekes were destroyed, and two Zekes and two Betty's were damaged on the ground. One B-25 was forced to make a belly-lading at Makin because of damage, and 11 other B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,075 to 1,150 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 70, 28 Jan. 44.)

SHIPPING - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in mission against medium cargo vessel returned abortive after failing to sight target. Distance flown: 1,388 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Special Report, 24 Jan. 44.)

Air echelons of 26th Bomb Squadron and 98th Bomb Squadron moved from Nukufetau to Tarawa. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 98th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

24 Jan. 44  MALCELAP - Eight B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and six of 98th Bomb Squadron in night strike on Taroa from Tarawa. Twelve dropped 480 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 3,000
24 Jan. 44 (Contd.)

...to 11,000 feet, 95 per cent on land, starting large fires. One, unable to locate primary target, dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 6,000 feet; and another due to a navigational error dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 10,000 feet. AA over Taroa intense and inaccurate. AA over Wotje meager and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. None of the B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 1,265 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 71, 27 Jan. 44.)

Mille - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa in night strike on Taroa. Seven dropped 17 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa, five on Reuters, and three on slope in lagoon from 50 to 100 feet. They fired 57 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition at Taroa, 27 rounds at Reuters, and three at the slope. Details of attack by other two airplanes (destroyed) not reported. Three bombs bracketed slope. One Betty was destroyed at Taroa and another damaged. A fire was started on Reuters, and hits were scored on dispersal and revetment area at Taroa. AA and SA moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by 30 Zekes and Hamp's, with up to 60 passes reported. Four aerial bombs were dropped. One Zeko or Hamp was destroyed, and one Zeko damaged. One B-25 was forced down in water near target, crew rescued by Dumbo, and another B-25 crashed in lagoon at Tarawa as result of damage. Six additional B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 72, 27 Jan. 44.)

Wotje - Eight B-25's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Mokin to drop 23 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 25 to 200 feet, 19 of which hit target. One hangar was destroyed, and hits were observed on runways and barracks. The bombers also expended 45 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Intense and accurate AA caused minor damage to five B-25's. Distance flown: 1,062 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 72, Separate Section, 27 Jan. 44.)

Mille - Twenty-four A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by seven F-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron and 12 P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons, in attack on Mille from Mokin dropped 51 x 500-lb. and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on storage area, barracks, and gun positions, diving from 10,000 to 12,000 feet. Ninety-five per cent of the bombs hit the targets. One Zeko was probably destroyed on the ground. AA meager and inaccurate. AA moderate and trailing. Three A-24's sustained slight damage. The escorting fighters expended 23 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-15, 27 Jan. 44.)
26 Jan. 44
VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.

(Contd)

Ground echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron arrived at Tarawa, having departed Enewetan on 20 January 1944. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

25 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 392d Bomb Squadron in Cuck attack on Kwajalein dropped 720 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,900 to 10,400 feet, 96 per cent on target area on Kwajalein Island, with hits on AA positions and runways. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 1,061-1,405 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 73, 29 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-four A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and four of 46th Fighter Squadron, in attack on gun positions on Mille from Heken. One A-24 was abortive because of engine trouble. Twenty-three dropped 50 x 500-lb. and 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,500 to 10,000 feet, 95 per cent in targets. The P-39's expended 21 rounds of 37-mm. and 500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Smoke from fires was visible for 25 miles at 500 feet. AA reported as moderate and inaccurate, but four A-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 450 statute miles. (P/S VII BC Mission Report 531-16, 27 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

AILINGILAPALAP - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in mission against shipping reported in lagoon at Ailinglapalap were abortive because of frontal activity. Distance flown: 1,015 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 74, 27 Jan. 44.)

MALOOLAP - Nine B-25's of 398th Bomb Squadron in mission against Tarawa from Tarawa dropped 22 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet on Tarawa, and two on medium transport tied up at pier. Large fires were started on airfield. AA intense but inaccurate. Interception by 50 to 58 Zekes and Hampes who made approximately 187 passes during 55 minutes of combat. Eight to ten aerial bombs were dropped. One Zeko was destroyed, three were probably destroyed, and four were damaged. One B-25 received major damage and five received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,017 statute miles. (P/S VII BC Mission Report 74, 29 Jan. 44.)

RESUCE - Sixteen P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron in search for crew of B-25 forced down near Arno on 24 January. Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron covered-rescue of crew by FBX. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)
26 Jan. 44
MALAGAIP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Malagaip from Makin dropped 2 x 100-lb. and 2 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 200 feet from Taroe, first small island north of Taroe, and on Reuters, in addition to firing 58 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. One large building, the control tower, and at least two small buildings were destroyed. Large fires were visible in the dispersal areas. AA and SA moderate and accurate. Interception by 18 to 28 Zekes and possible Freds. Aerial bombs dropped. Pilots experienced apparently more aggressive than those formerly encountered. Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron met the formation over Aur, 30 miles south of Malagaip, and drove off the enemy fighters. The P-40's expended 7,065 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The Bomber Command reported enemy aircraft losses as follows: five Bettys destroyed on ground; four Zekes destroyed in the air and five destroyed while taking off; five Zekes probably destroyed and three probably damaged in the air. The Fighter Command reported the following enemy losses: nine Zekes, one Tony, and one Kate destroyed; and one Zeko and one Kate probably destroyed. Seven B-25's sustained minor to moderate damage, and one received major damage. The B-25's and P-40's were met at Nilo by eight P-39's of 79th Fighter Squadron who escorted them home. Distance flown: 7,150 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 76, 29 Jan. 44; VII PC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 25 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 75 feet on Ainsman Island and one on a 2,000-foot cargo vessel near Ainsman. In addition, they fired 119 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Results were unobserved except for heavy smoke seen rising from Ainsman. AA and AN intense and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 970 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 77, 29 Jan. 44.)

SEARCH - Four B-25's of 398th Bomb Squadron, searching out of Tarawa, sighted part of an airplane wing. (P/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 28 Jan. 44.)

27 Jan. 44
MALAGAIP - Eight B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron in dusk attack on Taroe from Makin. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Seven dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 18,000 to 18,500 feet, 85 per cent on the island. Two large fires were visible for 60 miles at 12,000 feet. No AA or interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 874 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 78, 28 Jan. 44.)
27 Jan. 44

WEJE - Nine B-26's of 45th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin to drop 51 x 100-lb and 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Motje from 15 to 200 feet, in addition to firing 100 rounds of 75-mm., and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Hits were scored on buildings, AA positions, and runway, with large fires resulting. AA, AN, and SA intense and accurate. One B-25 was shot down, and three B-25's sustained minor damage. Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron were sent out to escort the formation back to base, but they did not make contact because the bombers failed to carry out the time schedule. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 79, 31 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

NAURU - Six B-25's of 395th Bomb Squadron in attack on Nauru from Tarawa dropped 12 x 100-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 150 feet on buildings and runway areas, 100 per cent on target. Smoke from fire visible for 15 miles at 100 feet. AA and SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 735 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 80, 28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-three A-24's of 551st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and two of 46th Fighter Squadron in attack on Mille from Makin. They dropped 53 x 500-lb. and 16 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 feet, 80 per cent on target areas. The fighters expended 80 rounds of 37-mm. and 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager. One A-24 crashed in the lagoon, and six A-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 488 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 551-17, 29 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

ESCORT - Four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron met FB4Y's returning from photo mission over Motje at Majuro. No contact with the enemy. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

Eight crews and airplanes of the 320th Bomb Squadron sent to Makin to stand alert. Returned to Tarawa on 1 February 1944. (History of 320th Bomb Squadron, 59, 31 Mar. 44.)

28 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Eight B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in night attack on Kwajalein from Tarawa. One was abortive because it could not locate the target, and one airplane failed to return. It is not known whether this airplane was over the target. Six dropped 52 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 10,800 feet on Mot and Nauru, and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Alinea Island (Jaluit) from 7,000 feet. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 81, 31 Jan. 44.)
26 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Five B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in night
strike on Kwajalein from Tarawa. Four dropped 48 x 500-lb.
GP bombs on Kwajalein Island from 9,000 to 9,250 feet.
One airplane, because of illness of pilot and bombardier,
dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Jaluit. No AA at either place.
Distance flown: 1,950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
Report 82, 31 Jan. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in attack on
Wotje from Makin. One was abortive. Seven dropped 84 x
500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 16,000 feet, 85 per cent on
target, starting two large fires. One dropped 12 x 500-lb.
GPs on Tarom from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target.
AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate. No AA at Tarom. None
of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 976 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 85, 1 Feb. 44.)

MALDAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron staged through
Makini in daylight attack on Tarom. Two were abortive
because of mechanical malfunctions. Six dropped 48 parafrag
clusters, 12 x 100-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 65 to
100 feet, 50 per cent on target. In addition, they fired
47 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50 cal.
ammunition. One Zoko and one Betty were destroyed on the
ground. An AA position was destroyed and fires were started
on airfield. AA moderate and inaccurate. Intercepted by
four Zokos or Hampas and one possible Fred about two miles
from target. They stayed with the formation about five
minutes, did not appear experienced or capable and were not
aggressive. One Zoko was probably destroyed, and one was
damaged. One B-25 was shot down over the target, and two
sustained minor damage. Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter
Squadron, after orbiting for 25 minutes, met formation in
vicinity of Aur and escorted it back to Makin. Distance
flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/S VII BC Mission Report 86,
31 Jan. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission
Reports, 16-28 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaiss-
cance over Mille observed two small boats along pier.
(VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports,
16-28 Jan. 44.)

29 Jan. 44

KWAJALEIN - Five B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and two of
27th Bomb Squadron in dusk-to-dawn bombing of Kwajalein
from Makin. They dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Bob
Island, the primary target, 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Hoi or
Namur, and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Kwajalein Island. One plane
dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille because of adverse
weather conditions. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged.
29 Jan. 44  Distance flown: 1,149 statute miles.  (F/E VII BC Mission Report 67, 5 Feb. 44.)

KWAJALEIN - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in night bombing attacks on Kwajalein from Apmemaa. One was abortive because of failure to find the target. Seven, over the target individually, dropped 94 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kwajalein Island from 2,000 to 11,000 feet, 60 per cent in target. One hit alternate target, Mille, with 12 x 500-lb. GP's from 7,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. One airplane received spasmotic and inaccurate AA fire at Kwajalein, the others received none. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 800-1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 88, 2 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Eight B-24's (squadron not reported) probably 485-spt, in mission against Wotje from Tarawa. One found Wotje and Maloelap completely overcast and jettisoned its bombs. Three dropped 3 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 4,000 to 11,000 feet, 2 of which fell on airfield, causing fires. Two dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP's on Mille Island from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. One dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP's on undiscovered island, Mille Atoll, and one dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP's on Jaluit Island, results unobserved. The alternate targets were attacked because of bad weather at Wotje. Meager and inaccurate AA at Wotje, none from other places. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,288 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 86, 2 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in mission against Wotje from Tarawa dropped 43 x 100-lb. and 6 x 500-lb. GP's on Wotje from 100 feet, and 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on cargo vessel in lagoon. Area strafed with .50-cal. ammunition. A direct hit was scored on cargo vessel and fires were started in barracks area and airfield installations. AA intense but inaccurate. Formation attacked by FGF's of United States Navy Task Force. One B-25 was shot down, another crashed in lagoon as result of attack, and five received minor damage. The crew of the B-25 shot down was rescued by a destroyer. Distance flown: 1,118 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 90, 4 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron staged through Makin for mission against Maloelap. Two were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. Primary and secondary targets at Taroe not visible because of weather, so seven B-25's dropped 30 x 100-lb. frags and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tjian from 20 to 100 feet. All strafed with .50-cal. ammunition and fired 81 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. Unidentified buildings were observed to blow up. AA meager and inaccurate, but two B-25's received minor damage.
29 Jan. 44  Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles.  (P/E VII BC Mission Report 89, 2 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Eighteen A-24's of 651st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 46th Fighter Squadron, in attack on Jaluit from Makin dropped 28 x 500-lb. and 16 x 100-lb. GP bombs on all storage areas on Jaluit; 100 per cent in target area. They also dropped 500 Japanese language propaganda leaflets. The P-40's dropped 15 x 100-lb. bombs and expended 2,005 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. AA meager, and inaccurate except for one burst which caused minor damage to one A-24. Distance flown: 590 statute miles.  (P/E VII BC Mission Report 531-18, 31 Jan. 44; VII PC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)

30 Jan. 44  KWAJAILEH - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and four of 98th Bomb Squadron in night strikes on Kwaialai from Tarawa. The airplanes were over the target individually all night long. They dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kwaialai Island from 2,600 to 8,000 feet, 46 of which fell on the island; 72 x 500-lb. GP's on Roi Island from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on the target; and 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Namur from 7,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. There were only three bursts of AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,450 statute miles.  (P/E VII BC Mission Reports 91 and 92, 2 Feb. 44.)

31 Jan. 44  KWAJAILEH - United States Army troops invaded Kwaialai Atoll.
WOJJE - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in night strikes at Wotje from Makin. The airplanes were over the target individually at one-hour intervals, dropping 103 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 12,000 feet, 98 per cent on the island. Large fires were started. Only two airplanes received AA and that was meager and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 960 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 93, 3 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Nine P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron assigned to strafe reported float planes at Jaluit. Two were abortive. The remainder observed no aircraft, and strafed sunken ship with unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)

MILLE - Nineteen A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in attack on Mille airfield from Makin dropped 7 x 1,000-lb., 33 x 500-lb., and 14 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 95 per cent hitting runways. AA meager to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two A-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 460 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-19, 2 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, eight P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron, and eight of 72d Fighter Squadron maintained cover over Mille all day to deny enemy use of airfield. They dropped 10 x 100-lb. bombs and expended 62 rounds of 37-mm, and 1,840 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 29-31 Jan. 44.)
1 Feb 44

KWAJALEIN - Six B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on enemy beach defenses at Kwajalein Island dropped 15x 2,000-lb, and 6x 1,000-lb GP bombs from 4,000 to 4,600 feet, in addition to strafing with machine guns. Seventy-eight per cent of bombs hit the target area. The southwest area of the beach appeared to be on fire. No AA. None of the B-24's engaged. Distance flown: 1,445 statute miles. (VII FC Provisional Group Mission Report 96, 3 Feb 44.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Millie strafed beached schooner with 2,075 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. No shipping observed. Intense medium AA caused no damage to P-40's. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb 44.)

2 Feb 44

RONDELAP-MILLE - Four B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron dropped 160x 100-lb, GP bombs on Rondelap from 8,700 to 10,000 feet, and strafed with 2,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Ninety-eight per cent of the bombs hit target area. After bombing Rondelap, the B-24's photographed Millie. Meager and inaccurate AA from both places caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,625 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 97, 4 Feb 44.)

MILLE - Twenty A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-39's of 46th and 72d Fighter Squadrons and eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in attack on Millie from Makin dropped 9x 1,000-lb, 33x 500-lb, and 18x 100-lb GP bombs, 100 per cent in target area. P-40's dropped 16x 500-lb, bombs, 100 per cent on target, and all fighters expended 2,200 rounds of .50-cal. and 15 rounds of 37-mm ammunition in strafing. Mission of making runways non-operational was accomplished. AA moderate and accurate as to height, but trailing. AW moderate. One A-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-20, 4 Feb 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb 44.)

3 Feb 44

MILLE - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission over Millie dropped 16x 500-lb, bombs and strafed with 3,675 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, destroying one Zeke on the ground. Meager, accurate AA caused minor damage to one P-40. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and seven of 26th Bomb Squadron with three of 98th Bomb Squadron attached, assigned mission against Wotje. Eighteen took off from Tarawa. Two were abortive because of gasoline leaks. Sixteen dropped 192x 500-lb, GP bombs on Wotje Island; on fourth island north of Wotje from 5,500 to 11,000 feet. Medium-sized fires reported. One crew reported two inaccurate bursts of AA, and...
others reported none. None of the B-24's was damaged. 
Distance flown: 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 98, 6 Feb. 44.)

MALOA - Fifteen B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons in attacks on Taroa and Mille from Makin. Twelve bombers, over Taroa individually, dropped 14 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 12,500 feet, 90 per cent on island. Three airplanes were over Mille. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 1,500 feet and strafed area, with results unobserved. The activity of the other two airplanes was unreported. Only two flashes of AA at Taroa. AW at Mille intense but inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 99, 8 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Tarawa dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 100 feet on Wotje, and expended 111 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing the area. All bombs hit island, with direct hits on fuel dumps and gun emplacements. AW and SA meager to intense, and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,080 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 100, 7 Feb. 44.)

MALOA - Nine B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron in mission from Apanama dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 25 to 100 feet on Taroa, island northwest of Taroa, and Reuters, in addition to expending 98 rounds of 75-mm. and 11,016 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Fire was started, and MG and AA positions were silenced. AA meager and inaccurate. MG and AW from Taroa intense and inaccurate. Two B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 101, 7 Feb. 44.)

Mille - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance mission over Mille dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 1,855 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Results were unobserved because of cloud coverage. (VII BC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

Jaluit - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance, dive-bombing and strafing mission against Jaluit. Two were abortive. Fourteen dropped 28 x 1,000-lb. bombs and fired 6,945 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Oil stores area was heavily hit. Moderate to intense and accurate AA slightly damaged two P-40's. This was the heaviest bomb load carried by P-40's in any operation. (Ibid.)

Mille - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron on reconnaissance over Mille strafed runways with 43 rounds of 37-mm. and 150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with unsatisfactory results. (Ibid.)
6 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarawa, dropped 108 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 12,500 feet, 81 per cent on the island. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,170 statute miles. (F/3 VII BG Mission Report 102, 9 Feb. 44)

MALOELAP - Four B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Tarawa, dropped 48 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 7,800 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on island. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (Ibid)

MILLE - Twenty-two A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in daylight dive-bombing attack from Makin dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 39 x 500-lb., and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille, with dive began at 9,500 to 10,000 feet. All of the bombs hit on or near runways. One of the P-40's was abortive. Eleven dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 6,210 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with direct hits on underground hangar. AA, AW, and SA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (F/2 VII BG Mission Report 531-21, 8 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. Runways appeared to be in poor condition. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44)

JALUIT - Eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron and four of 46th Fighter Squadron in strafing mission against Jaluit expended 1,238 rounds of .50-cal. and 67 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, causing damage to radio station. AA intense but inaccurate. None of the P-39's was damaged. (Ibid)

7 Feb. 44

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Apanama in mission against Maloelap. Landed at Makin to close formation. One failed to take off from Makin because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 50 to 300 feet, 80 per cent in target area. Expended 37 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. SA inaccurate. Two B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,300 statute miles. (F/3 VII BG Mission Report 103, 10 Feb. 44)

WOTJE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in strike at Wotje from Tarawa dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 75 feet, 100 per cent on target, with all parts of island being hit. AW and SA meager to moderate and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,191 statute miles. (Ibid)
JALUIT - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in dive-bombing and strafing mission against Jaluit dropped 32 x 1,000-lb. bombs and fired 8,628 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Got one direct hit on stores area, and hits on RDF station at Enubor. Intense MG caused no damage. Pilots reported that heavy loads of 2,000 pounds adversely affect flying characteristics of P-40 in high-speed dives. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's of 46th Fighter Squadron in reconnaissance over Mille. This was the last mission from Makin by 46th Fighter Squadron. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

8 Feb. 44

MALOLEAP - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and three of 36th Bomb Squadron in attack on Maloleap from Makin dropped 132 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 10,000 to 13,000 feet, with 75 per cent on target, although darkness and cloud cover prevented accurate observation. One crew reported seeing approximately seven bursts of AA; the others none. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,173 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 104, 12 Feb. 44.)

MALOLEAP-MILLE - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Wotje from Apanama. They did not attack primary target because of the weather. One B-24 was abortive for the same reason. Three dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 11,000 feet, and five dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP's on Mille from 10,000 feet. All bombs hit the target at both places. No AA. Distance flown: 1,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 104, 11 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-39's—two from the 72d Fighter Squadron with two from the 46th Fighter Squadron attached—in reconnaissance mission over Mille. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

9 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twenty-three A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 16 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Jaluit. One A-24 was abortive due to engine trouble. Twenty-two dropped 22 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, diving from 10,000 feet and pulling out at 1,500 to 3,500 feet. First two flights caused explosions and fires in oil storage. Last two flights attacked buildings, destroying two and damaging others. The P-40's dropped 32 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 4,395 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. They got direct hit on a five-inch gun. MGA meager to moderate and accurate. One A-24 was shot down, and one was damaged. The crew of the destroyed plane was rescued by Dumbo. Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-22, 9 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)
MALOELAP - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in dusk-to-dawn mission against Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 57 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 7,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on the island, causing two very large explosions and numerous smaller ones, followed by large fires. Meager and inaccurate AA encountered by two airplanes. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,034 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 105, 12 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Fourteen B-24's of 98th and 26th Bomb Squadrons in dusk-to-dawn mission against Wotje from Tarawa dropped 56 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, with 56 falling on runways and 8 more on island. Two fires were visible for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,165 statute miles. (Ibid.)

JALUIT - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned mission against Rongelap attacked Emdid when No. 3 gas tank of lead plane developed leak. They dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 16,000 feet, all of which went in lagoon. AA moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,450 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 110, 12 Feb. 44.)

11 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in strike on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 200 feet, 90 per cent on the target, and fired 104 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AW and AA meager but fairly accurate, causing moderate damage to four B-25's. Distance flown: 1,030 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 106, 12 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in strike on Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 50 to 75 feet, 100 per cent on target, and strafed with .50-cal. ammunition. Large fires were started. AA moderate to intense and accurate. Two B-25's were shot down. Distance flown: 1,205 statute miles. (Ibid.)

MILLE - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. bombs, 90 per cent on hangars and airfield installations, and expended 11,775 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. This was both a dive-bombing and skip-bombing mission. The dive-bombing and strafing flights preceded the skip bombers. The dive-bomb runs were made through the clouds and the pilots revved up their engines for noise effect. Intense AW and moderate AA caused no damage. (VII BC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron strafed installations on Mille with 137 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition, hitting AA positions. AA and AW positions ceased firing as soon as the fighters opened up. (Ibid.)
11 Feb. 44

The 46th Fighter Squadron departed Makin for Oahu. (History of 46th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

12 Feb. 44

WONIE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomber Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 50 to 100 feet, and fired 44 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. All of the bombs hit the target. AW and SA meager and inaccurate. One B-25 crashed in the ocean about 200 yards from the target and exploded upon hitting the water. None of the other B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 108, 13 Feb. 44.)

MALOELAP - Six B-25's of 40th Bomb Squadron in strike on Maloelap from Apanama dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 50 to 100 feet, 100 per cent on target, in addition to expending 42 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,185 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and inaccurate, AW meager and inaccurate, and MG moderate and accurate. Two B-25's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 107, 16 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twenty-two A-24's of 53rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by four P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mille from Makin dropped 9 x 1,000-lb., 39 x 500-lb., and 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 90 per cent falling on or near runways. The P-39's expended 785 rounds of .50-cal. and 28 rounds of 37-mm. ammunition strafing AA positions. The A-24's also dropped 300 Japanese language propaganda leaflets. AW and SA moderate to intense, and inaccurate to accurate. One A-24 crashed about 20 miles from Mille, and two additional A-24's sustained minor damage. Later in day, eight P-39's of 72d Fighter Squadron covered two FBY's in search for gunner who had bailed out of A-24. Failed to locate gunner. Distance flown: 580 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 521-23, 14 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

14 Feb. 44

PONAPE - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, 9 of 38th Bomb Squadron, and 9 of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Makin and Tarawa—the first Seventh Air Force Mission against this target. Twenty-seven dropped 22 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape Island and 174 x 100-lb. GP's on Langar Island from 10,500 to 12,500 feet, with 85 per cent to 100 per cent falling in target areas. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Emidj (Jaluit) from 10,500 to 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. Only one B-24 reported AA at Ponape, and that was inaccurate. AA at Emidj moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,996 to 2,005 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 119, 28 Feb. 44.)
WOTJE-MALCOELAP - Eight B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in night missions from Tarawa. Three dropped 18 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 7,000 to 10,400 feet, 83 per cent in target. Four dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP's on Taroa from 6,900 to 10,500 feet, 79 per cent in target area. One dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,700 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate, and at Taroa moderate and inaccurate. There was no AA at Mille. One B-24 sustained minor damage from AA, and one from test-firing its own guns. Distance flown: 674 to 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 120, 15 Feb. 44.)

15 Feb. 44
PONAPE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and six of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of illness of pilot. Fourteen dropped 360 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,500 feet. The percentage of hits was not estimated because of cloud cover, although 175 were observed to fall on land. AA meager throughout, inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 2,240 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 118, 17 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron dropped 3 x 1,000-lb. and 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille, 100 per cent falling on or near runways. Upon leaving target, one airplane fired 200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at stern of sunken ship, starting a small fire. AA and AW meager and inaccurate. One A-24 received minor damage. Distance flown: 480 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-24, 15 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille. Two were abortive. Ten dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 1,575 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. (VII BC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - One A-26 of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron sent out to search for A-24 believed missing. Plane not missing, and returned to base. However, airplane sent out on search failed to return. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Search Mission Report 531-1, 15 Feb. 44.)

The 72d Fighter Squadron departed Makin for Oahu. (History of 72d Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

16 Feb. 44
WOTJE-MALCOELAP - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and one of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight strikes from Tarawa. Four dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,000 to 8,800 feet, 100 per cent on target. Four dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP's on Taroa from 10,500 to 14,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA at Wotje. - Intense and accurate AA at Taroa. Two B-24's were damaged slightly. Distance flown: 1,100 to 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 122, 17 Feb. 44.)
JALUIT - Fifteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Jaluit dropped 30 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 14,235 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Tremendous fire started by strafing run on reported gas storage structures. Intense AA and AW caused two hits in one P-40. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in another mission against Jaluit. Two were abortive. Ten dropped 6 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 6,845 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, damaging a 150-foot cargo vessel. Two P-40's were shot down by intense AA and AW. Both pilots bailed out. (Ibid.)

MILLE - Eleven A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron in mission against runways and AW positions on Millie. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 30 x 500-lb. and 1 x 1,000-lb. bombs, all on or near target areas. AW intense and accurate. One A-24 was shot down over the target, and one developed engine trouble on return to base and crashed in water. Two sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-25, 16 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron covered PBY in attempted rescue of man from downed A-24 near Millie. Man in raft located, but PBY unable to land because of gunfire. Raft drifted in toward island. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron strafed float planes off Emidj with 3,590 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Planes also made search for pilots down at sea, but could not locate them. (Ibid.)

SEARCH - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in search for A-24's crew near Miller, but located nothing. Later in day eight P-40's in same search located crew members, who were picked up by Dumbo. (Ibid.)

17-18 Feb. 44

PONAPE-KUSATE - Fourteen B-24's of 99th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in mission against Ponape from Tarawa. Three were abortive. Eight dropped 206 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, 80 per cent on target, starting large fires visible for 50 miles at 11,500 feet. One flight of three B-24's became lost and because of uncertainty of enemy resistance at Ponape, flight leader decided to strike Kusate, which they did with 60 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,500 to 11,500 feet, 67 per cent in target. AA at Ponape moderate to intense, and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-24's. No AA at Kusate. Distance flown: 1,932 to 2,166 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 123, 20 Feb. 44.)
17-18
Feb. 44
(contd)

KUSAIE-JALUIT - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight attacks from Apamama. Six dropped 180 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Port Lottin and Lele Harbor at Kusaie from 7,000 to 10,500 feet, 31 per cent in target areas, sinking one 200-foot cargo ship and one lighter. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 11,500 feet, 85 per cent on target, with damage unobserved. AA and AW meager and inaccurate at Kusaie, and AA moderate and inaccurate at Jaluit. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,224 to 1,668 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 122, 19 Feb. 44.)

18 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Jaluit. Four were abortive. Eight dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 3,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Radio station on Edin believe destroyed. Intense AA caused no damage. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-19 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Millie dropped 24 x 20-lb. frags and fired 890 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition with undetermined results. There was little AA. (Tbid.)

19 Feb. 44

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 24 x 20-lb. frags on Millie and fired 2,135 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition with undetermined results. (Tbid.)

19-20
Feb. 44

PONAPE-KUSAIE - Nine B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa. Six B-24's, in individual passes, one from 50 feet and five from 4,000 to 10,000 feet, dropped 840 x 6-lb. incendiaries and 120 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape. One airplane, in addition, strafed Param with .50-cal. ammunition. Three dropped 120 x 6-lb. incendiaries and 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 9,000 to 10,000 feet. It was estimated that 100 per cent of bombs fell on target areas at both places. No AA. Distance flown: 2,752 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 124, 21 Feb. 44.)

PONAPE-KUSAIE - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Makin. Fourteen dropped 420 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,500 to 13,000 feet. One dropped 30 x 100-lb. GPs on small island west of Ponape. Four dropped 120 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 9,000 to 10,000 feet. Percentage of hits at Ponape not estimated because of cloud cover. At Kusaie there all of the bombs hit the target. No AA at either place. Distance flown: 3,264 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 126, 24 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 33 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 feet. 100 per cent hitting island on or near target area.

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19-20 Feb. 44
Large explosion observed west of service apron. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 125, 21 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Fourteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 28 x 500-lb. bombs, 100 per cent on target, and fired 8,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Four small boats were believed destroyed. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 7,500 to 8,000 feet, with hits on runway intersections and blockhouse. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 131, 22 Feb. 44.)

21 Feb. 44
PONAPE-JALUIT - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in mission from Apanama. Nine dropped 5 x 500-lb. GP bombs on 11,500 feet on Langar Island (Ponape), 10 per cent in target area, and one dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP's on Kusaile from 9,000 feet, results unobserved. Four B-24's reared at Roi Island (Kwajalein) and dropped 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj (Jaluit) from 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA and AW meager and inaccurate at Ponape, intense and accurate at Emidj. No AA at Kusaile. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,656 to 2,546 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 129, 1 Mar. 44.)

MALCELAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in mission from Apanama. Three were abortive because of losing formation in overcast. Six dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,200 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on target area. AA and AW meager and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 132, 25 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs, 100 per cent on runway intersection, and fired 1,105 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One boat was destroyed by strafing. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

21-22 Feb. 44
PONAPE-KUSAILE - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and seven of 93th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Thirteen dropped 376 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, 100 per cent hits, setting large areas in Ponape Town on fire. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Kusaile from 9,000 feet, 60 per cent hits. One large fire was started. Two airplanes reported meager and inaccurate AA from Ponape, and from Kusaile there was none. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,621 to 2,240 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 127, 25 Feb. 44.)
22 Feb. 44
KUSAIE - One B-24 of 431st Bomb Squadron in strike against shipping reported in Kusaie harbor. It found no shipping, so dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie from 6,000 feet, with results unobserved because of approaching darkness and cloud cover. AA and AW intense and accurate, but caused no damage. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 25 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Eight A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 14 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mille from Makin. All of the A-24's and five of the P-40's were turned back abortive by the weather. Nine P-40's dropped 20 x 500-lb. bombs, and expended 3,415 rounds of .50-cal ammunition. In addition, one rocket was fired. This was the first time rockets had been launched from airplanes in this area. Hits were scored on runway, and three small boats were destroyed. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 531-26, 24 Feb. 44; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

23 Feb. 44
MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs on Mille and fired 795 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Bombs were dropped from high-level runs at 8,000 feet, and no hits were scored. Two small boats were destroyed by strafing. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

23-24 Feb. 44
KUSAIE - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in attack on Kusaie from Tarawa. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 290 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 90 per cent on barracks and storage area. One warehouse was seen to explode on waterfront, and fires were observed. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,350 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 129, 25 Feb. 44.)

KUSAIE-JALUIT - Twenty B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission from Makin. Three dropped 90 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie from 10,000 feet, results unobserved due to cloud cover. Seventeen dropped 685 x 100-lb. GP's on Emdaj from 8,500 to 11,000 feet. One airplane jettisoned due to prop malfunction, returned to Makin, re-loaded and dropped 15 x 100-lb. GP's on Emdaj. It was estimated that 95 per cent of all bombs dropped on Emdaj hit target areas. No AA at Kusaie. Moderate AA and AW at Emdaj. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,381 to 2,729 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 130, 26 Feb. 44.)

MALAKAL - Twelve B-25's of 43th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Aparama dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP's on Tarawa from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 133, 24 Feb. 44.)
24 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twelve A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 14 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, dropped 7 x 1,000-lb. and 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on RDF station at Ebyor and radio station at Ainenan. All bombs hit target areas. The P-40’s dropped 25 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 7,505 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with hits on targets as above, and in addition sank six small boats. AV meager and inaccurate and caused no damage. Crews of A-24’s reported: “Emi’ Island now looks as bad as Mille.” Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-27, 24 Feb. 44; VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports 20-29 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-40’s of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 24 x 20-lb. frags on Mille and fired 1,935 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with hits on barracks and machine-gun positions. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

24-25 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25’s of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 26 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 feet, 65 per cent in target area. No AA. None of the B-25’s was damaged. Distance flown: 1,051 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 134, 20 Mar. 44.)

25 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twelve P-40’s of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Jaluit. One was abortive. Eleven dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 6,320 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Twenty of the bombs hit Thnist. One 35-foot boat was sunk. No AA. One P-40 crashed, possibly hit by ricocheting bullets. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - Four P-40’s of 45th Fighter Squadron strafed Jaluit with 1,990 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and searched for downed pilot, but saw no sign of him. (Ibid.)

MILLE - One B-25 of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group and one of 45th Bomb Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille runway and barracks area from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. They also strafed with .50-cal. machine guns. AA moderate and accurate as to altitude, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 497 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Mille, 25 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - Eight A-24’s of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron assigned to search for B-25 down near Makin. They did not find B-25. Remarks on mission report to the effect that A-24 is not well adapted for search, and with the navigation equipment it has, search missions are positively dangerous. Distance flown: 350 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Search Mission Report 531-2, 25 Feb. 44.)
PONAPE - Seventeen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarema dropped 39 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 86 clusters of 14 x 6-lb. incendiaries, 87 clusters of 34 x 4-lb. incendiaries, and 57 clusters of 4 x 4-lb. incendiaries from 7,000 to 10,000 feet. Fires were started in airfield installations and Ponape Town. AA varied from meager and inaccurate to intense and accurate. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 2,277 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 135, 28 Feb. 44.)

PONAPE - Eight B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Apanama in daylight attack on Ponape. Seven dropped 210 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,600 to 11,000 feet, 77 per cent in town and dock area. Several airplanes strafed Ponape Town during bomb runs. One B-24, because of illness of pilot, dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on alternate target, Kusaie, from 10,200 feet, with results unobserved. AA at Ponape intense and fairly accurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 1,656 to 2,615 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 136, 27 Feb. 44.)

WONJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarema dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wonje from 7,760 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in or near target area. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 137, 23 Feb. 44.)

JALUIT - One B-25 of 48th Bomb Squadron and one of Headquarters 48th Bomb Group in daylight mission from Majuro dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 100 per cent on target, and fired 6 rounds of 77-mm. ammunition. AA intense, and accurate as to altitude, but trailing. Neither of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 615 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Emidj Island, Jaluit, 23 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 3,345 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. They got seven hits on runway. Installations at Burrah Island were destroyed. (V/II FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

SEARCH - Eight A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron and two SBD's were assigned search for B-25 down near Makin. No success. All planes returned safely. Distance flown: 575 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Search Mission Report 531-3, 26 Feb. 44.)

Air echelons of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons moved from Nenomea to Makin. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44; History of 38th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)
26-27 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apamama dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 per cent on target. No AA or interception. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,380 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 138, 29 Feb. 44.)

27 Feb. 44

JALUIT - Twelve A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, assigned mission against radio station three miles below Jaber Town, Jaluit. Four of the A-24's were abortive. Eight dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs, all of which fell in target area, starting fires. The P-40's dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 7,975 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Ten of the bombs hit radio station area and four in stores area. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Two of the abortives were damaged by belly-landings. Distance flown: 595 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Reports 531-38, 27 Feb. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29, Feb. 44.)

MILLE - Three P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission over Mille dropped 18 x 20-lb. frags and fired 1,075 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. All of the bombs hit the target. A large fuel fire was started. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

27-28 Feb. 44

PONAPE-JALUIT - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron, eight of 26th Bomb Squadron, and eight of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Makin and Tarawa. One was abortive because of gasoline overflow in bomb bay. Twenty dropped 117 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 9,500 to 12,000 feet, 55-94 per cent hits. Fires and violent explosions were observed. Four dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP's on Eilmi from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 66-100 per cent hits. AA at Ponape moderate to intense, and accurate as to altitude, but trailing; at Eilmi, moderate to intense. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 601 to 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 139, n.d.)

WOTJE-MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in a daylight shuttle attack from Apamama. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eleven dropped 42 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 61 per cent in target area, and fired one 75-mm. shell and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Explosions gave off heavy gray smoke which was visible for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. No AA. The B-25's rearmed at Majuro, and on return to Apamama dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 8,500 to 11,000 feet, 73 per cent on target. Explosions observed which gave off heavy black smoke visible for 40 miles. Moderate and inaccurate AA caused minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: first strike, 850 statute miles; second strike, 1,490 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 140, 1 Mar. 44.)
28 Feb. 44

MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 3,220 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Eight of the bombs hit runway, and two in area of radio installation. Runways inoperational. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

28-29 Feb. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,300 to 8,600 feet, 92 per cent in target area. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 144, 1 Mar. 44.)

29 Feb. 44

MILLE - Nine B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in day and night mission over Mille from Makin and Aparuma. Five in daylight attack dropped 15 x 2,000-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 14,000 feet, and four in night mission dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,100 to 12,500 feet. Eighty per cent of all bombs dropped hit runways. AA on both missions meager, although that during day was fairly accurate. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 84.5 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 144, 7 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs on Mille and fired 385 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Six bomb hits in stores area started fires. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 20-29 Feb. 44.)

29 Feb. - 1 Mar. 44

WOTJE - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight strike at Wotje from Tarawa dropped 60 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,500 feet, 100 per cent on runways and airstrips area. Smoke from explosions visible 15 miles at 9,000 feet. No AA. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 144, 4 Mar. 44.)

MALOEAP - Seven B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 18 x 2,000-lb., and 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 90 per cent in or near target. One small fire was observed. No AA. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 143, 3 Mar. 44.)

JALUTT - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Enidj from 8,000 to 9,750 feet, with only eight per cent known to hit target area. Overcast prevented accurate observation of results. AA meager to moderate, and accurate as to altitude but trailing. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 810 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 145, 3 Mar. 44.)
29 Feb. -
1 Mar. 44
(contd)

JALUIT-MIKLE - Two B-25's of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Eneybor and Kabbenbock Islands, Jaluit, from 8,000 feet, with four hits observed on Kabbenbock. No AA. Rearmed and re-fueled at Kwajalein and dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille from 7,700 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Meager AA accurate as to altitude but to right of formation. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 616 statute miles; second strike, 658 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special B-25 Mission Against Jaluit and Mille, 3 Mar. 44.)
JALUIT - Nine A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by 12 P-40's of 43rd Fighter Squadron, dropped 9 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on ammunition storage at Emdj, eight of which fell in target area. One of the P-40's was abortive. Eleven dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 4,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. RDF station on Einytor totally destroyed, and radio station on Emdj damaged. AA meager and inaccurate. AV intense and accurate after dive. One A-24 had left wing-tip torn off by AV fire. Distance flown: 525 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-29, 1 Mar. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

Mille - Eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb. bombs and 22 x 20-lb. frags on Mille, 100 per cent on target, and fired 1,265 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Pilots reported that two runways were being abandoned, but one was being repaired. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Apanama dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 96 per cent on runways and adjoining areas. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 146, 3 Mar. 44.)

RECONNAISSANCE - One B-24 of 8th VII Bomber Command photographed Mille, Taroa, and Wotje, and on return to base at Tarawa photographed Mille for second time. Meager and accurate AA from Mille and Taroa, and none from Wotje. The B-24 was not damaged. Distance flown: 1,198 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Photo Mission to Mille, Maloelap, and Wotje, 4 Mar. 44.)

PONAPE-KUSAIE - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in dawn mission from Tarawa. Five dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 2,100 to 12,000 feet, 70 per cent on target. One of these strafed Ponape Town and installations on airfield with 2,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 1,000 to 2,000 feet. Two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Kusaie from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, 70 per cent on target. AA at Ponape moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Kusaie. Distance flown: 2,266 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 147, 3 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Apanama. One abortive because of weather. Eleven dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,500 to 9,200 feet, 91 per cent hitting runways and airfield installations. AA intense and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 148, 3 Mar. 44.)
3 Mar. 44  PONAPE - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and nine of
38th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape from Makin.
Two were abortive because of mechanical trouble. Twelve
dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,500 feet,
100 per cent in target area. Large fires in warehouse area
and in Ponape Town visible for 40 miles. Three dropped 21
x 500-lb. GPs on alternate target, Kusaie, from 9,500 to
10,700 feet, 66 per cent on piers and adjacent buildings.
Two dropped 1 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj, the last resort
target, from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on land.
One dropped 7 x 500-lb. GPs on Mille from 10,000 feet, res-
ults unobserved. AA at Ponape moderate to intense, and
generally inaccurate. AA at Emidj meager and inaccurate.
No AA at Kusaie or Mille. Three B-24's sustained minor
damage. Five airplanes were unable to bomb primary target
because bomb bay door of lead plane blew off in descent.
Distance flown: 439 to 2,085 statute miles. (F/E VII 36
Mission Report 117-A, 7 Mar. 44.)

Mille - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron assigned
dive-bombing and strafing mission against Mille. All were
abortive because of solid front encountered enroute.
Jettisoned 24 x 500-lb. bombs. (VII FG Provisional Group
Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

3-4 Mar. 44  MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight
attack on Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs
on Tarae from 8,200 to 8,700 feet, 92 per cent hitting run-
ways and adjacent areas. Fire was visible for 50 miles.
Bomb hits apparently silenced gun positions southwest of
barracks area. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate, causing
no damage. Distance flown: 1,097 statute miles. (F/E VII
BC Mission Report 149, 7 Mar. 44.)

4 Mar. 44  Mille - Four P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron dropped 8 x 500-lb.
bombs on runways at Mille and fired 655 rounds of .50-cal.
ammunition. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission
Reports; 1-11 Mar. 44.)

4-5 Mar. 44  WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack
on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000
to 9,000 feet, 81 per cent on or near runways and installations
on airfield. One B-25 fired two rounds of 75-mm. ammunition.
Large explosions and a fire visible for 10 miles at 8,000 feet
were observed. No AA. Distance flown: 1,120 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report 150, 6 Mar. 44.)

5 Mar. 44  Mille - Sixteen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission
against Mille. One was abortive. Fifteen dropped 21 x 500-lb.
bombs and 24 x 20-lb. frags, 100 per cent on runways and air-
field installations, and fired 3,060 rounds of .50-cal. ammuni-
tion. (VII FG Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports,
1-11 Mar. 44.)
5-6 Mar. 44

PONAPE - Sixteen B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Ponape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine failure. Thirteen dropped 13 x 1,000-lb. and 42 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 7,500 to 10,200 feet, in individual runs. All of the 1,000-lb. bombs fell on target, but results of 500-pounders were unobserved. Explosions and fires were observed in bauxite plant, harbor, and town area. One B-24 dropped 3 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie from 10,000 feet, two of which hit land. One dropped 6 x 500-lb. GPs on Hillo from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and ammunition storage. AA at Ponape intense, but accurate as to altitude. No AA at Kusaie and Hillo. Two B-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 1,120 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 152, 9 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Tarawa. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,500 feet, results unobserved because of 100 per cent cloud cover. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GPs on Hillo, last-resort target, from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and airfield installations. No AA. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 151, 8 Mar. 44.)

6 Mar. 44

MILLE - Nine A-24's of 53rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against runways at Millo. One A-24 was abortive because of fire in electrical system. Total bomb load of A-24's was 5 x 1,000-lb., 8 x 500-lb., and 8 x 120-lb. GP bombs. Of those dropped 85 per cent hit runway area. The P-40's dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 2,710 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, getting hits on communications installations and stores area. AA and AW meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (53rd Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 53-30, 6 Mar. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

6-7 Mar. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 6 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 9,800 feet, 81 per cent on or near targets, which were runways and airfield installations. No AA. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 153, 8 Mar. 44.)

7 Mar. 44

KUSAIE-APAMAE - Eleven B-24's of 394th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Apamame. Because of weather conditions over Ponape, alternate and last-resort targets were attacked. One dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie, the alternate target, from 9,000 feet, 90 per cent on dock installations at Lele Harbor. Ten dropped 267 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emiij, last-resort target, from 10,500 to 12,000 feet, 89 per cent on Island. No AA at Kusaie. AA at Emiij moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown:
7 Mar. 44

1,444 to 1,592 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 154, 8 Mar. 44)

MILES - Seventeen P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron in mission against Mille. One was abortive. Sixteen dropped 26 x 500-lb. bombs and 24 x 20-lb. frags, with hits on runways and in barracks area. They also fired 4,160 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Intense AA damaged wing of one P-40. (VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44)

7-8 Mar. 44

MALOCLAP - Sixteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloelap from Apm awa dropped 64 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarac from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, 63 of which hit targets—runways, AA positions, stores and barracks—and all hit land. They fired 28 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 50 to 3,000 feet; with results unobserved. AA moderate to intense, and inaccurate to accurate. Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 155, 9 Mar. 44)

8 Mar. 44

FCHAPER - Eleven B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron in mission over Ponape from Maki. Seven dropped 210 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 12,000 to 12,300 feet, 85 per cent on dock area and airfield. Four dropped 120 x 100-lb. GP's on Kusaie from 2,000 to 10,000 feet, 70 per cent in target area. AA at Ponape moderate and accurate. AA at Kusaie intense and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 155-A, 11 Mar. 44)

8-9 Mar. 44

MILES - Nine A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, dropped 5 x 1,000-lb., 12 x 500-lb., and 8 x 100-lb. GP bombs on runways at Mille, 100 per cent on target. The P-40's dropped 15 x 500-lb. bombs, getting five hits on AA positions. They also fired 2,395 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA and AW meager, and inaccurate to accurate. One A-24 received minor damage. Distance flown: 530 statute miles. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-31, 8 Mar. 44; VII FC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44)

8-9 Mar. 44

WOTJE - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wotje from Tarama dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 7,700 to 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and airfield installations. One flight of three B-25's landed at Kwaialien and from there made second attack, dropping 6 x 500-lb. GP's from 7,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways. No AA. Distance flown: 1,090 to 1,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 156, 11 Mar. 44)

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION
MALOELAP - Fourteen B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Maloelap from Apanama. Five were abortive because of weather conditions. Nine dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,200 to 10,000 feet, 83 per cent on runways and airfield installations. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Distance flown: 1,280 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 157, 11 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Twelve P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron assigned mission against Mille were all abortive because of solid overcast and rain. They jettisoned 24 x 500-lb. bombs. (VII BC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

POHAPE - Nineteen B-24's of 26th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Pohnape from Tarawa. One was abortive because of illness of engineer, and one because of mechanical trouble. Fourteen dropped 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Lungar Island from 10,500 to 15,000 feet, 75 per cent on target. Eleven fires were visible for 30 miles at 11,000 feet. Three dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP's on Kusaie from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on or near targets at Lolo Harbor. AA at Pohnape moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Kusaie. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,500 to 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 158, 11 Mar. 44.)

KUSAIE - Three B-25's of 596th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Kusaie from Enogobi dropped 1 x 500-lb. GP bomb from 100 feet, destroying one three-story building on Kusaie Island, and fired five rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager to moderate, and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 854 statute miles. (41st Bomb Group Mission Report, 12 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Nine A-24's of 531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, escorted by eight P-40's of 45th Fighter Squadron, in mission against Mille. Two x-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. Seven dropped 5 x 1,000-lb., 5 x 500-lb., and 8 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on runways, 100 per cent on target. The P-40's dropped 16 x 500-lb. bombs and fired 2,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Bomb hits were observed on radio installations and AA positions. AA moderate and accurate. AW meager to moderate. None of the aircraft was damaged, but two crew members received minor injuries. (531st Fighter-Bomber Squadron Mission Report 531-32, 10 Mar. 44; VII BC Provisional Group Consolidated Mission Reports, 1-11 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - One B-25 of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,700 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. Distance flown: 810 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 13 Mar. 44.)
MILILAP - Six B-24's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from \(1,500\) to \(2,500\) feet. The bombs struck the target area, and caused minor damage. (7/9 VII BG Special Mission Report, 169, 14 Mar. 44.)

MAULAP - Three B-25's of 480th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 18 x 1000-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from \(1,500\) to \(2,500\) feet. The bombs struck the target area, and caused minor damage. (7/9 VII BG Special Mission Report, 169, 14 Mar. 44.)

11-12

MUZAP - Eight B-25's of 480th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 18 x 1000-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from \(1,500\) to \(2,500\) feet. The bombs struck the target area, and caused minor damage. (7/9 VII BG Special Mission Report, 169, 14 Mar. 44.)

MUZAP - Twelve B-29's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Naha dropped 48 x 2000-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from \(1,500\) to \(2,500\) feet. The bombs struck the target area, and caused minor damage. (7/9 VII BG Special Mission Report, 169, 14 Mar. 44.)

11-12

MUZAP - Twelve B-29's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Naha dropped 48 x 2000-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from \(1,500\) to \(2,500\) feet. The bombs struck the target area, and caused minor damage. (7/9 VII BG Special Mission Report, 169, 14 Mar. 44.)

MILKAP - Seven of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Naha dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from \(1,000\) to \(1,500\) feet. The bombs struck the target area, and caused minor damage. (7/9 VII BG Special Mission Report, 169, 14 Mar. 44.)
12-13 Mar. 44

MILLE-WOTJE-MALCEP - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission from Tarawa. Two were abortive because of heavy cloud cover over Mille. One dropped 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 6,000 to 11,000 feet, with four hitting near radio station and five among small revetted buildings. Three dropped 27 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroa from 10,000 feet, in individual runs, with 18 hitting AA positions and runways. Three dropped 27 x 500-lb. GPs on Wotje from 10,000 feet, in individual runs, getting 100 per cent hits in barracks, radio station, and magazine areas. AA at Mille moderate and accurate as to altitude, but trailing. AA at Taroa moderate and accurate as to range and altitude, but trailing. AA at Wotje meager and inaccurate. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Obtained 100 per cent photo coverage of all targets. Distances flown: 674-1, 029-1, 173 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 168, 17 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Jaluit from Apanama dropped 45 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidji from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 75 per cent on gun emplacements. AA intense, moderate, and inaccurate to accurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 980 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 162, 16 Mar. 44.)

13 Mar. 44

KUSAIE - Three B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Engebi dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Kusaie from 25 to 200 feet, and fired 39 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of .50-cal. ammunition. Hits were scored on buildings and installations. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,425 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Kusaie Island, 26 Mar. 44.)

Ground echelon of the 38th Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Nanomea on 29 February 1944. (History of 38th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

13-14 Mar. 44

PONAPE - Eight B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron in mission against Ponape from Tarawa. Six dropped 172 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape Island from 9,400 to 10,000 feet, 60 per cent on barracks and runways. Nine dropped 27 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Ponape Island from 6,800 to 9,000 feet, with 11 hitting one processing plant and 12 near runways. Two dropped 60 x 100-lb. GPs on Kusaie from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with 50 per cent hitting targets on Molannil Island and Lale Harbor. One B-24 returned at Kwajalein, and on return to Tarawa dropped 9 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidji from 11,000 feet, seven of which hit barracks and storage areas. AA at both Ponape and Kusaie meager and inaccurate. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 164, 17 Mar. 44.)
MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 438th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Mille from Aomapana dropped 106 x 100-lb. and 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 70 per cent on radio station, coast defense, and storage areas. No AA. Distance flown: 825 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 163, 15 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - Three B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight shuttle mission over Mille from Tarawa. One was abortive because it was unable to open bomb bay doors over target. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 7,750 feet, 100 per cent in area of radio installations. AA meager and inaccurate. All three airplanes landed at Kwajalein, and on return to Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Mille from 7,700 feet, with only one hitting land. No AA. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 684 statute miles; second strike, 683; statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 163-8, 14 Mar. 44.)

KUSAIE - Three B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Enogai dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Malaein Island from 150 to 200 feet, and fired 23 rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of 50-cal. ammunition. Results were unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 990 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Kusaie Island, 24 Mar. 44.)

TOTJE - Twelve B-25's of 820thh Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Totje from Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 108 x 100-lb. GP bombs over 3 1/2 hour period from 7,600 to 8,700 feet, 90 per cent on runway intersections, barracks, and airfield installations. AA intense to moderate, and accurate as to altitude, but trailing, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 165, 17 Mar. 44.)

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 392d Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk from Kwajalein—the Seventh Air Force's first mission against this target. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and three because of loss of formation in bad weather. Thirteen dropped 77 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 10,000 to 13,000 feet. The 38th Squadron got 94 per cent hits on aircraft installations on Eten and on seaplane base area on Dabon, starting fires at both places. The 392d got 100 per cent hits in tank farm area on Dabon. Terrific explosions, illuminating clouds over Truk, were visible 30 miles away on return. Two B-24's dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Oroluk Atoll from 1,500 to 13,500 feet, results unobserved; and two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Ponape Town from 8,000 to 12,000 feet, results unobserved. 'Only' 21 airplanes were accounted for in mission report. AA and AW moderate to intense and inaccurate. Three
searchlights were observed, but they were not coordinated with AA. One or two enemy aircraft made two passes at the 38th Squadron and one made one pass at the 392d. Two B-24's sustained minor damage from AA fire. Distances flown: 3,218 to 3,700 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 167, 29 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tareo from 8,500 to 9,500 feet, 88 per cent on runways and buildings at airfield. Smoke was visible for 40 miles at 8,000 feet. One flight made individual minimum-altitude strafing and cannonading attacks, expending 12 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, getting numerous hits on radio station and starting fires on Engebben Island. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Distance flown: 1,110 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 166, 17 Mar. 44.)

Rear echelon of 45th Fighter Squadron departed Apamama for Oahu. (History of 45th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

WOTJE - Eleven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in mission against Wotje from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje Island from 8,000 feet, with two hitting seaplane base and six in water. Nine dropped 108 x 100-lb. GP's on Ormed Island from 7,800 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on installations on south shore. Smoke visible for 30 miles at 1,500 feet. No AA. Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 171, 18 Mar. 44.)

MILE - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Mile from Apamama dropped 72 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with results not completely estimated because of cloud cover, although hits were observed on runways. No AA. One flight of three B-25's rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 36 x 100-lb. GP's on north parking strip from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 490 to 800 statute miles; second strike, 490 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 170, 18 Mar. 44.)

MILE - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mile from Tarawa dropped 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 90 per cent on island. No AA. All rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 36 x 100-lb. GP's on Mile from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on installations and gun position. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 453 statute miles; second strike, 405 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 170-A, 19 Mar. 44.)
17 Mar. 44

Ground echelon of 392d Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Amaama on 11 March 1944. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

17-18 Mar. 44

PNANAE - Nineteen B-24's of 26th and 98th Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission against Ponape. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eleven dropped 150 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 36 x 500-lb. incendiaries from 2,000 to 7,000 feet, with hits on waterfront, town, residential section, barges, runways, and ore processing plant. Six dropped 90 x 100-lb. GP's and 18 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Kusale from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, with hits on warehouses and waterfront area at Lelu Harbor. One, because of illness of bombardier, dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. AA at Ponape moderate and accurate as to altitude but trailing. AA at Kusale meager and inaccurate. No AA at Kusale. One B-24 sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 2,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 173, 20 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Jaluit from Tarawa. One was abortive because of hydraulic leak. Ten dropped 8 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 6 x 1,000-lb. incendiaries on Emidj from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, with 17 per cent, 81 per cent, and 100 per cent hitting target respectively. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 785 to 1,040 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 172, 19 Mar. 44.)

18 Mar. 44

PNANAE - Two B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Engebi dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 50 feet, and fired nine rounds of 75-mm. and an unreported amount of 50-cal. ammunition, with hits on installations at Langar Island. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Ponape Island, 24 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of 30th Bomb Group moved from Amaama to Kwajalein on this date and on 20 March 1944. (History of 30th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

18-19 Mar. 44

JALUIT - Thirteen B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Amaama dropped 72 x 100-lb., 16 x 500-lb.; and 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,000 feet. The 100- and 500-pounders landed on Tinlet and Emidj, but the 1,000-pounders went in the water. AA moderate to meager, and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 939 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 175, 20 Mar. 44.)
JALUIT - Five B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and experimental cannonading mission against Joluit from Tarawa dropped 58 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 7,800 to 8,000 feet, with 21 hitting land and 37 falling in the water. Four B-25's, after dropping their bombs, proceeded on past target and dropped a slick about five miles off shore to aid in range estimation in an experimental cannonading attack. They then returned, commencing their attack about five miles from the target at an altitude of 500 feet, and breaking away approximately three miles from the target. They fired 75 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition, with 25 hitting in general target area and 48 falling short. Crews reported that range estimation was very difficult, and that the slicks could not be seen during runs. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 175-A, 21 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - One B-24 of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 10,000 feet, then photographed Majuro. AA at Mille meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,158 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Photographic Mission, 21 Mar. 44.)

WAKE - Twenty-one B-24's of 37th and 392d Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission against Wake from Kwajalein. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Nineteen dropped 55 x 1,000-lb. and 72 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wake Island from 12,000 to 17,000 feet. Of the 1,000-pounders, 30 per cent hit boat basin and tank farm, and 20 per cent of the 500-pounders hit the same target. Cloud coverage interfered with bombing. Fire in tank farm visible for 30 to 35 miles at 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. One B-24 dropped 5 x 1,000-lb. GP's on Wotje from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Crews reported that at least 50 per cent of the 1,000-lb. bombs appeared to be duds. Investigation on return to base revealed that all fuzes had been pulled and the arming wires were still in the airplanes. Distance flown: 2,400 to 2,896 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 174, 22 Mar. 44.)

MALOCLAP - Nine B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloalap from Apanama dropped 66 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,600 to 9,300 feet; all bombs except 12 hitting on or near runways and gun positions, and those 12 fell on inland. Smoke was visible for 40 miles at 2,000 feet. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage. Distance flown: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 178, 20 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT-MILLE - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack from Tarawa dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent in storage and barrack...
area. White and gray smoke was visible for 10 miles at 8,500 feet. AA meager and inaccurate. AA meager and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. One B-25 reared at Kauai and one at Majuro, and on return they dropped 4 x 500-lb. and 4 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille, 50 per cent on land. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 415 to 630 statute miles; second strike, 420 to 675 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 181, 22 Mar. 44.)

MILLE - One B-24 of 431st Bomb Squadron dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 9,500 feet, destroying three AA positions. No AA. Distance flown: 1,158 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Photographic Mission Report, 21 Mar. 44.)

20-21 Mar. 44

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. and 103 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 7,200 to 8,700 feet, with hits on radio station and pier west of radio station. Black smoke visible for 20 miles. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 177, 17 Feb. 44.)

MILLE - One B-25 of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 9,900 feet, with results unobserved. All AA. It reared at Majuro and on return trip dropped 12 x 100-lb. GP's from 10,200 feet on Mille, 100 per cent on runway. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 460 statute miles; second strike, 260 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 22 Mar. 44.)

21 Mar. 44

MILLE-VALCOLAP - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apanama dropped 145 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 12,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Smoke visible for 15 miles at 10,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. They landed at Apanama, and nine went out again. Five dropped 75 x 100-lb. GP's on Taroa from 12,000 feet, 40 per cent on target; and four dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Wayje from 12,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA at Taroa meager and inaccurate. No AA at Wayje. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 540 statute miles; second strike, 1,800 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Unnumbered Mission, 29 Mar. 44.)

21-22 Mar. 44

POANA - Eleven B-24's of 98th Bomb Squadron and eleven of 431st Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Tarawa. Two were abortive because of engine and mechanical trouble. Fifteen dropped 60 x 500-lb. Incendiaries and 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 7,500 to 12,000 feet, with hits observed in wooded area, barracks area, and hangar area. Smoke visible for 35 miles at 10,000 feet. Two dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP's and 6 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Kusaie from
21-22
Mar. 44
(contd)
7,500 to 10,000 feet, starting fire on pier at Lele Harbor. Two dropped 12 x 500-lb. GFs on Mokil Island from 7,500 to 9,000 feet, with slight hitting building area and four in water. One dropped 6 x 500-lb. GFs on Pingelap Island from 10,100 feet, with results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate at Pnompa. No AA at Kusaie, Mokil, or Pingelap. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,200 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 179, 22 Mar. 44.)

MALOELAP — Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Maloelap from Tarawa dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,500 to 10,500 feet. Hits were scored on northern part of island and in south barracks area, although 38 x 100-pounders went in the water. Smoke was visible for 15 miles at 10,000 feet. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 955 to 1,088 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 178, 24 Mar. 44.)

22 Mar. 44
MILLE — Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Mille from Apanama. One was abortive because of failure of bomb release. Mils dropped 108 x 100-lb. GF bombs from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 82 per cent on target. Black smoke was visible for 20 miles at 8,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Six airplanes landed at Enogobi, and four at Kwajalein. Distance flown: 646 to 1,005 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 182, 5 Apr. 44.)

MILLE — Two B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa dropped 15 x 100-lb. GF bombs on Mille from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. They landed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 8 x 500-lb. GFs on Mille from 10,000 feet. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 360 statute miles; second strike, 440 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, Mille Island, 24 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of the 38th Bomb Squadron moved from Makin to Kwajalein. (History of 38th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

22-23
Mar. 44
JALUIT — Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Apanama. One was abortive due to bomb-release failure over target. Eleven dropped 130 x 100-lb. GF bombs on Emidj from 8,500 to 9,100 feet, 84 per cent on target. Explosions and fires were observed. Black smoke visible for 30 miles at 8,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 966 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 180, 23 Mar. 44.)

23 Mar. 44
WAKE — Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Wake from Kwajalein. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eighteen dropped
23 Mar. 44
(contd)
81 x 500-lb. and 54 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Wake Island from
13,000 to 16,300 feet, with 60 per cent of former and 50 per
cent of latter hitting boat basin and tank farm areas. One
B-24, dropped 9 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Rongelap at 8,500 feet,
100 per cent on target. One dropped 6 x 1,000-lb., 2 x
500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent hits. AA at Wake intense
and accurate. No AA at Rongelap or Wotje. Two B-24's received
minor damage and one officer was killed. Distance flown:
44.)

PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 45th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission
from Eniwetok. Four dropped 12 x 500-lb. and 12 x 100-lb. GP
bombs on new airfield at Ponape from 8,500 feet, and five
dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on old airfield from 9,000 to 11,000
feet. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance
flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report,
Ponape Island, 6 Apr. 44.)

23-24
Mar. 44
PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 45th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission
against Ponape from Eniwetok. One abortive because of mal-
function of bomb release. Six dropped 34 x 500-lb. GP bombs
on Ponape Island from 10,000 feet, with results unobserved.
One made second attack from 50 to 100 feet, firing 27 rounds
of .50-cal. and 2,500 rounds of 7.5-mm. Ammunition at buildings
and personnel on airstrip. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP
bombs from 9,000 feet on Mikalap Atoll, Ant Island, 100 per cent
on buildings. AA at Ponape moderate and inaccurate, causing
no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report 185, 6 Apr. 44.)

MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in
daylight mission from Tarawa. One abortive because bomb re-
lease was not in proper slot. Eleven dropped 8 x 500-lb. and
10 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 7,700 to 11,000 feet,
with results largely obscured by cloud coverage. Meager and
inaccurate AA caused minor damage to one B-25. All airplanes
roamed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 4 x 1,000-lb.,
4 x 500-lb., and 10 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Eniwetok from 7,800 to
9,000 feet, with hits near radio station and seaplane hanger.
Red flames and black smoke visible for 20 miles at 8,000 feet.
AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown:
first strike, 700 statute miles; second strike, 530 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report 184, 1 Apr. 44.)

24 Mar. 44
SHIPPING - Three B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in mission from
Engebi against reported enemy shipping. Shipping not sighted.
Distance flown: 1,150 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special
Mission Report, 21 Apr. 44.)

Forward echelon of the 45th Fighter Squadron departed Makin
for Oahu. (History of 45th Fighter Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)
24 Mar. 44 Ground echelon of the 98th Bomb Squadron departed Tarawa, and air echelon moved from Tarawa to Makin. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

24-25 Mar. 44

JALUIT - Thirteen B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Jaluit from Tarawa. Six dropped 70 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emiij, 100 per cent on gun positions and storage area. Two dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Alinaman, all in water. Four dropped 48 x 100-lb. GPS on Tinnet, 12 on land and 36 in water. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Three airplanes returned at Majuro and on return trip dropped 36 x 100-lb. GPS on Tinnet from 9,500 feet, 50 per cent on small fuel dump and 50 per cent in water. AA meager and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distances flown: first strike, 525 to 825 statute miles; second strike, 615 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 186, 1 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE-ANT - Thirteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Ponape and Ant Atoll from Eniwetok. Bombed as follows from 50 to 11,000 feet: 36 x 120-lb. frags on Langar Island, 48 x 120-lb. frags and 3 x 500-lb. GPS on Ant Atoll, 2 x 500-lb. GPS on Nanue Island, 7 x 500-lb. GPS on Ponape Island, and 12 x 500-lb. GPS on Nokori. In addition they fired 65 rounds of 75-mm. and 9,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 187, 6 Apr. 44.)

25 Mar. 44

Ground echelon of the 30th Bomb Group arrived at Kwajalein. (History of 30th Bomb Group, to 31 Mar. 44.)

25-26 Mar. 44

PONAPE - Thirteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron, escorted by 14 F4U's, in daylight mission over Ponape from Eniwetok. Threw dropped 36 x 120-lb. frag clusters on new airfield from 800 feet, 100 per cent on runways, and fired 37 rounds of 75-mm. and 10,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Ten dropped 48 x 100-lb. GPS, 36 x 120-lb. frags and 36 x 100-lb. incendiaries on old airfield from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways and installations. AW and AA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by 15 Zeke's and Bobs who were airborne when formation arrived over Ant Atoll. A running fighter lasted about 45 minutes. Fighters seemed aggressive, although inexperienced and of poor ability. Our evasive tactics consisted of speed, turns, and a low-level tight formation. Four Zeke's were destroyed in the air and two were probably destroyed. One B-25 received minor damage. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 189, 11 Apr. 44.)

MALCEAP - Fifteen B-25's of 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons in daylight attack on Maloelap from Apsama. One was abortive because of losing formation in front. Ten dropped 40 x 500-lb.
GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,500 feet, 50 per cent on island.
Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Ollof from 10,000 feet,
50 per cent on island, and fired five rounds of 75-mm.
ammunitions. One B-25 with engine trouble dropped 4 x 500-
lb. GP's on Mille from 8,000 feet, results unobserved. AA
at Tarawa and Ollof meager to moderate and inaccurate, and
at Mille meager and accurate. One B-25 received minor
damage. Distance flown: 900 to 1,110 statute miles. (F/E
VII BC Mission Report 188, 1 Apr. 44.)

26 Mar. 44

PCNAPE - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron, escorted by
12 F4U's, in daylight attack on Ponape from Eniwetok. Be-
cause of rain squalls and cloud cover over new airfield,
which was primary target, secondary and last resort targets
were attacked. Four dropped 25 x 120-lb. frag clusters on
Ponape Town from 800 feet, 100 per cent on target area, and
fired 26 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,700 rounds of .50-cal.
ammunitions, with undetermined results. Four dropped 48 x
120-lb. frags on industrial plant from 11,000 feet, 100 per
cent on target. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on
Langar Island from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA
intense and accurate from Ponap Island, intense and in-
accurate from Langar Island. While leaving Ponape Town,
the first flight was attacked by one Zekke which shot down
one B-25. Two additional B-25's sustained minor damage.
Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Re-
port 191, 13 Apr. 44.)

Air echelon of the 292d Bomb Squadron moved from Apanama
to Kwajalain. (History of 392d Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

Air echelon of the 27th Bomb Squadron moved from Makin to
Kwajalain. (History of 27th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

26-27

Mar. 44

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in mission
against Jaluit from Tarawa dropped 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs
on Eulij from 8,100 to 8,900 feet. Bombs were dropped on
lead airplanes and all fell short of target, although only
36 went in the water. Hits were scored on AA position near
radio station. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage.
Airplanes returned to Majuro and on return dropped 132 x
100-lb. GP bombs on Eulij from 9,000 to 9,500 feet. Results
were largely undetermined, although hits were observed in
vicinity of seaplane hangars. One airplane failed to drop
bombs when over target because bomb switches were not turned
on. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances
flown: first strike, 535 statute miles; second strike, 535
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 190, 13 Apr. 44.)

MALCOLM-MILLE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight
attack from Tarawa dropped 72 x 100-lb, and 12 x 500-lb. GP
bombs on Tarawa from 9,000 to 10,800 feet, with hits on runways
and service apron. AA meager to moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two airplanes. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 105 x 100-lb, GP on Mille from 9,500 to 12,000 feet, with all bombs hitting island. Gray and black smoke visible 10 miles away at 4,000 feet. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 650 statute miles; second strike, 425 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 192, 1 Apr. 44.)

MILLE-WALEWALE-WONDE - Three B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron in daylight armed reconnaissance from Tarawa. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Mille from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. One dropped 12 x 500-lb, GP bombs on Taroe from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. One dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. SAPs on Wotje from 10,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA at Wotje or Mille. Meager and inaccurate AA at Taroe. None of the B-24's damaged. Distances flown: 652-1, 000-1, 162 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 194, 29 Mar. 44.)

PONAPE - Three B-25's of 49th Bomb Squadron in strafing and search mission over Ponape from Eniwetok. Because of weather over Ponape, they fired nine rounds of 75-mm., and 1,650 rounds of .50-cal, ammunition at Failin from 200 feet, then strafed Ujelang with five rounds of 75-mm. and 300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Meager AA from Ujelang caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,250 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 193, 30 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT - Eight B-25's of 49th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Engebi dropped 96 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Enidj from 9,500 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on or near target. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. The airplanes landed at Apamama. Distance flown: 1,040 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 1 Apr. 44.)


ROMELAP - One B-24 of Headquarters VII Bomber Command, enroute from Kwajalein to Eniwetok, dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Raggelap from 8,200 feet. No AA. Distance flown: 486 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 28 Mar. 44.)

TRUK - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and 11 of 38th Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk from Kwajalein. Three were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions and one because of illness of crew member. The remaining three were
follows: 162 x 100-lb. GP's and five flares on Moen from 10,500 feet; 30 x 100-lb. GP's on Udot from 12,000 feet; 110 x 100-lb. GP's and five flares on Etten from 9,500 to 11,000 feet; 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Dablon from 9,400 to 10,000 feet; 60 x 100-lb. GP's on Uman from 11,500 to 12,000 feet; and 50 x 100-lb. GP's and five flares on Massen from 10,400 to 10,500 feet. Estimated that 85 per cent of total bomb load of 590 x 100-lb. GP's and 20 Mk-6 flares fell on targets. One large fire visible on Moen from 70 miles at 9,500 feet. AA and AW intense and inaccurate. Four to six searchlights were observed. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,130 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 195, 29 Mar. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOELAP - Three B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apgama dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP's on Emidj, with 10 hitting lagoon and one falling on the beach. No AA. All rearmed at Majuro, and on return trip dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Taroe from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on runways, and fired five rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 609 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 202, 1 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight strike from Apgama. Eight dropped 7 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs and 16 x 500-lb. GP's/mids on Emidj from 9,400 to 9,500 feet. The target was overhit because of delayed action of lead plane, but hangar was destroyed and storage area was hit. Four dropped 8 x 1,000-lb. SAP's on Ainnam from 8,200 feet, 100 per cent in radio station area. AA meager and inaccurate. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return, eight dropped 39 x 500-lb. GP's on Taroe from 3,500 to 8,700 feet, with hits on airfield, and four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP's on Mille from 9,900 feet, 100 per cent on runways. AA at Taroe moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 609 statute miles; second strike, 489 to 717 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 202-4, 10 Apr. 44.)

MILLE-MALOELAP - Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission dropped 2 x 100-lb. GP bomb on Mille from 10,000 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. They rearmed at Majuro, and on return dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP's on Taroe from 9,950 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 415 statute miles; second strike, 330 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 6 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT - Three B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron and three of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit from Kwajalein dropped 36 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GP bomb on Emidj from 8,300 to 8,500 feet, with all bombs except one of the 100-pounders...
hitting target area. No AA. Airplanes landed at Apanama and Tarawa. Distance flown: 645 to 730 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special Mission, Emidj Island, 6 Apr. 44.)

Air echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron moved from Tarawa to En'iwetok. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

29-30 Mar. 44

PONAPE - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Engebi dropped 35 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 50 feet, and fired 28 rounds of 75-mm. and 5,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. The B-25's were preceded over the target by two flights of P40's. Large fires were started in warehouse area. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25 and wounding one officer and one enlisted man. Distance flown: 805 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special Mission, Ponape Island, 8 Apr. 44.)

RONGELAP - Two B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Rongelap from Kwajalein dropped 21 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,970 feet, 100 per cent on radio station area, starting large fires visible for 35 miles at 9,500 feet. No AA. Airplanes landed at Engebi, rearmed, and returned for another attack, but attack was not made because of activity on Rongelap. It was decided not to attack to avoid any possible interference with landing troops. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 495 statute miles; second strike, 495 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special Mission, Rongelap Atoll, 6 Apr. 44.)

MALOELAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Tarawa. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 4 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Tarac from 8,200 to 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Wotje from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. AA meager and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Eleven airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return trip dropped 44 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, with hits on AA positions and radio station area. Results were largely undetermined. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 635 to 770 statute miles; second strike, 550 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 203, 10 Apr. 44.)

30 Mar. 44

TRUK - Twenty-one B-24's of 27th and 33rd Bomb Squadrons in night mission against Truk from Kwajalein and Eniwetok. One was abortive because of mechanical malfunctioning. All airplanes carried 100-lb. GP bombs. The 27th Squadron, bombing from 9,000 to 13,000 feet, dropped 202 on Param, 90 per cent on target; 52 on Dublon, 100 per cent on target; 30 on Fefan, 100 per cent on target; and 30 on Ponape, 90 per cent on target.
30 Mar. 44 (contd)
The 98th Squadron, bombing from 10,000 feet, dropped 260 on
Dublon seaplane base, 100 per cent on target; 40 on Uman,
results unobserved; and 40 on Moen, results unobserved.
A2 meager to intense, but inaccurate. Twenty searchlights were
observed. None of the B-24s was damaged. Distance flown:
1,543 to 2,366 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
196, 2 Apr. 44.)

30-31
Mar. 44
WULUP-MILLE - Two B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron in daylight
mission from Kwaialein dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on
Ormed Island from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in barracks area,
with smoke from fires observed for 30 miles at 8,000 feet.
No AA. Rearmed at Majuro and on return dropped 8 x 500-lb.
GP's on Mille from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on AA positions
on north tip of island. No AA. Distances flown: first
strike, 375 statute miles; second strike, 415 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 6 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALULAP - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in
daylight strike from Tarawa dropped 72 x 100-lb. and 24 x
500-lb. incendiaries on Tinist from 8,500 to 10,500 feet.
Only a few hits were scored, although these started fires.
All airplanes re-armed at Majuro and on return trip dropped
47 x 500-lb. GP's on Tarawa from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, and
11 x 500-lb. GP's on Tinist from 10,000 feet. Hits were
observed on Tarawa turning circle. AA meager and inaccurate,
causign no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 525 to
750 statute miles; second strike, 525 to 635 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report 204, 6 Apr. 44.)

31 Mar. 44
TRUK - Thirteen B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and nine of
26th Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk from
Bakerstok. One was abortive because of mechanical malfunctions.
Seventeen dropped 660 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Moen from 8,000
to 13,000 feet, with 478 hitting airfield, and 144 hitting
seaplane base, starting two large fires and 20 to 30 small
ones visible for 60 miles at 11,000 feet. Three dropped
120 x 100-lb. GP's on Dublon from 8,500 to 10,500 feet, 68
on seaplane base and 28 on town. One dropped 40 x 100-lb.
GP's on unidentified island, results undetermined. AA and AW
meager to intense, and inaccurate. Approximately 22 search-
lights were observed. Both squadrons were intercepted by
one airplanes each, causing minor damage to two B-24's.
Distance flown: 1,530 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
197, 12 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwaialein,
having departed Tarawa on 27 March 1944. (History of 431st
Bomb Squadron, to 31 Mar. 44.)

1 Apr. 44
PONAPE - Eleven B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by
16 Marine F4U's, in daylight mission against Ponape from
Engob. dropped 24 x 500-lb. and 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs from
31 Mar. - 9,000 to 9,700 feet, 100 per cent on Ponape Town and old
1 Apr. 44 airfield. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage.
(contd) Distance flown: 940 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special
Mission Report 47-44, 11 Apr. 44.)

MALCELIAP-JALUIT - Thirteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron
thirty of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission from Apanama.
One was abortive because of fuel leak. Fifteen dropped 48 x
500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, 50 per
cent on target area. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no
damage. Rearmed at Majuro and on return dropped 54 x 500-lb.
GP's on Einitj from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent on or
near targets. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage.
Distance flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second
strike, 570 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 205,
7 Apr. 44.)
APRIL

1 Apr. 44

POLAFB - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight low-level bombing and strafing mission over Pomape. They dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 26 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters from 500 feet and fired 21 x 75-mm. shells and 2,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at enemy aircraft and barracks areas. At least two barracks were demolished and large fires were started. AA meager and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 940 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report 47-3, 11 Apr. 44.)

TRUEK - Lieutenant B-24's of 38th and 392d Bomb Squadrons assigned mission against Truk. Four were abortive because of navigational error. Fourteen dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 60 x 500-lb. incendiaries from 10,000 to 14,000 feet, starting fires at Dablon and in tank farm area. Three fighters, including one twin-engine airplane, intercepted. Airplanes also opposed by meager and inaccurate AA and searchlights. None of the B-24's was damaged. One B-24 hit Pomape with 8 x 500-lb. bombs. Maximum distance flown: 2,830 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 163, 3 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein. (History of 431st Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

1-2

MALCULAP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron assigned to shuttle mission over Malalap and Jaluit. One airplane was abortive because of engine trouble. Eleven dropped 108 x 100-lb. GP and 4 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Taror from 8,000 to 8,500 feet. The airplanes returned at Kikinon and on return to Taror dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Enidj from 8,000 to 9,500 feet. AA from both places meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 855 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 203, 7 Apr. 44.)

2 Apr. 44

TRUEK - Twenty-two B-24's of the 27th and 431st Bomb Squadrons in night missions against Truk. Eniwetok dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 60 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters from 10,000 to 12,000 feet on Dablon radio station and industrial area. An additional B-24 dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Pomape from 5,500 feet. AA meager to intense, but inaccurate, Searchlights erratic. Interception by two to three night fighters. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distances flown: Eniwetok to Truk, 1,850 statute miles; Kwajalein to Truk, 2,230 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 198, 12 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 98th Bomb Squadron and air echelon of 431st Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein. (History of 98th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44; History of 431st Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)
2-3
Apr. 44

JALUIT-MALOklAP - Twelve B-25's of 393rd Bomb Squadron took off from Tarawa for daylight strike at Jaluit. Five airplanes were abortive because of the weather, and one jettisoned bombs after leaving target. Six dropped 72 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Fadij from 9,500 to 9,700 feet, with 53 hitting land, destroying a bridge and probably destroying a large building and gun position. Seven B-25's returned at Majuro, and on return trip dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,500 to 10,500 feet, with hits on gun position and runway. AA at Jaluit meager and inaccurate, and at Malo laundry meager and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Distances flown: first strike, 550 statute miles; second strike, 235 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 207, 11 Apr. 44.)

3 Apr. 44

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Twenty B-24's dropped 238 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 14,000 feet, falling as follows: 65 on Eton Island airfield, 120 on Dablon Island, and the remainder in the water or unobserved. AA and AN meager and inaccurate. Three B-24's reported interception by one enemy airplane each. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,400 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA and no interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 200, 13 Apr. 44)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron (old and new runways at Ponape, dropping 55 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters, 55 x 100-lb. GP bombs, in addition to firing 53 rounds of 75-mm. and 8,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and accurate, causing slight damage to four airplanes. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report No. 47-6, 12 Apr. 44.)

MALOklAP - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Malo laundry dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, with all but two hitting target area. Smoke from fires visible for 10 miles at 12,000 feet. No AA. (P/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 9 Apr. 44.)

3-4
Apr. 44

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in low-level bombing and strafing mission over Ponape. Old and new runways were hit from 500 to 600 feet with a total of 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs, and 36 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters. In addition 50 x 75-mm. cannon shells were fired and 5,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition were expended strafing. Large fires were started. AA from gun meager and inaccurate, but from AN moderate and accurate causing minor damage to three airplanes. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special Mission Report 47-7, 12 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALOklAP - Twelve B-25's of 46th Bomb Squadron and three of 47th Bomb Squadron in daylight shuttle mission. On the first strike three airplanes dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs.
on Aircan Island from 10,000 feet, with hits around radio
tower; and eight dropped 66 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from
9,500 to 11,000 feet, with 88 hitting island, results undeter-
mined. All airplanes rescued at Majuro, and on return to
Aginan dropped CO x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarce from 9,500
to 12,000 feet, in addition to strafing with 350 rounds of
.50-cal. ammunition. Fifty-five of the bombs landed on
island, with results undetermined. AA and EN at Jaluit mea-
ger and inaccurate. AA at Malekula meager to moderate and accurate,
causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: first
strike, 600 statute miles; second strike, 700 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report 208, 9 Apr. 44.)

4 Apr. 44
TRUE = Twelve B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and eight of 26th
Bomb Squadron in night mission against Truk. One abortive
due to mechanical malfunction. Sixteen dropped 220 x 100-lb.
incendiary clusters and 66 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Dubon and
Moon from 9,000 to 12,500 feet, 88 per cent on targets. One
B-24 dropped 66 x 600-lb. GP bombs on Porko from 11,200 feet,
100 per cent on target. AA and EN at Truk varied from mea-
ger to intense, but were inaccurate. There were 7 to 15 inaccurate
searchlights at Truk, and interception by 2 to 4 night fighters
of which two were destroyed. Two B-24’s last seen over target,
did not return. No AA or interception at Porko. Distance
flown: 2,378 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 201,
10 Apr. 44.)

PCIAPE = Six B-25’s of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight
Marine FF's, in second attack on Porko, dropping 24 x 500-lb.
GP bombs from 500 to 600 feet. In addition, they expended
68 rounds of .75-cal. cannon and 9,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammo-
nition. Fire was started. Moderate and accurate AA caused
minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 560 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-133, 16 Apr. 44.)

4-5
JALUIT-MALEKULA = Twelve B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron dropped
68 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 26 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters on
Dubon Island (Jaluit) from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, setting large
explosion and several fires. Meager and inaccurate AA caused
no damage. All airplanes rescued at Majuro. On the return
trip, 11 of them dropped 66 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarce
(Malekula) from 6,000 to 7,000 feet, and one dropped four 500-lb.
GP's on Hillo from 8,000 feet. Meager and inaccurate AA caused
no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 534 statute miles; se-
cond strike, 654 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
K-131, M-132, 16 Apr. 44.)

5 Apr. 44
Ground echelon of 11th Bomb Group arrived at Ennajalin, having
departed Tarce on 23 March 1944. (History of 11th Bomb Group,
Apr. 44.)
MALOELEAP—JALUIT—Eleven B-25's of 399th Bomb Squadron dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs and 103 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 9,500 to 10,500 feet; causing large fires. Messenger and inaccurate AA caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro. On the return trip, 11 B-25's dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emuji from 8,000 to 10,500 feet. Messenger and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 645 statute miles; second strike, 635 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-154, K-155, 15 Apr. 44.)

WAKE—Eleven B-24's of the 27th Bomb Squadron and 12 of the 392nd attacked Wake from Kwajalein. Three airplanes were abortive. The remainder dropped 162 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wake Island and 18 x 500-lb. GP on Peleliu Island from 10,500 to 14,500 feet. Hits were scored on runways and dispersal areas on Wake and in seaplane base on Peleliu. No AA and no interception. Distances flown: 1,500 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-209, 10 Apr. 44.)

POHARE—Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Pampa from 500 feet, and in addition fired 76 rounds of 7.5-mm. cannon and 10,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Smoke from fires was visible for 15 miles at 200 feet. Messenger and accurate AA caused minor damage to one airplane. Distances flown: 750 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-158, 16 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT—MALOELEAP—Twelve B-25's of the 48th Bomb Squadron and three of the 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 10,000 feet and 12 x 500-lb. GP on Taroa from 2,000 to 11,000 feet. Two rounds of 75-mm. shells were fired at Jaluit, and three at Taroa. Of the bombs dropped at Jaluit, 85 per cent hit the target area; and all but one of the bombs dropped over Taroa hit the target. Messenger and inaccurate AA caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro and on the return to Agon ship dropped 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa, 100 per cent hits. Messenger and accurate AA caused minor damage to one B-25. Distances flown: first strike, 811 statute miles; second strike, 720 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-159, 12 Apr. 44.)

POHARE—Eight B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Pampa from 500 to 10,600 feet. Forty-three rounds of 75-mm. cannon and 6,100 rounds of .50-cal. machine gun ammunition were expended. Damage was undetermined. Messenger and inaccurate AA and AA caused minor damage to one airplane. Distances flown: 750 to 800 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report K-159, 18 Apr. 44.)

MALOELEAP—JALUIT—Eleven B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 150 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 6,000 to 9,000 feet, with all but 12 hitting on or near target. Messenger and accurate AA caused minor damage to one airplane and moderate damage to two...
7-8 Apr. 44 (contd)

airplanes. All B-25's landed at Majuro. On the return trip, eight B-25's dropped 2x 500-lb, GP bombs and 3x 100-lb, incendiary clusters on Eaidj and Jabor from 7,500 to 8,500 feet. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 625 statute miles; second strike, 540 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-140, M-141, 15 Apr. 44.)

8 Apr. 44

TRUK - Twelve of the 20 B-24's from 26th and 431st Bomb Squadrons scheduled to hit Truk dropped 14 x 500-lb, GP bombs from 6,500 to 16,000 feet. Hits were observed on Dublon Town, dock and fuel storage areas. Other hits unobserved because of the weather. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb, GP's on Orolik from 5,000 feet; one dropped 12 x 500-lb, GP's on old airfield at Ponape from 10,000 feet; one dropped three 500-lb, GP's on radio station at Ujelang and returned nine to base; one, because of delayed take-off, bombèd Moen airstrip two hours after the main attack with 12 x 500-lb, GP's from 8,000 feet; and four airplanes jettisoned 48 x 500-lb, GP's. There was no interception and AA caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,550 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-210, 17 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Four B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine P4U's, dropped 16 x 500-lb, GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 feet, with results unobserved because of cloud cover. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 750 to 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-142, 15 Apr. 44.)

9-9 Apr. 44

MALCULAF-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb, GP bombs from 9,500 feet on Taroa in four flights, 83 per cent in target. Runways were observed to be inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. All aircraft reached at Majuro. Of these, six dropped 22 x 500-lb, GP's on Eaidj from 9,500 feet in two flights and five dropped 20 x 500-lb, GP's on Jabor from 9,400 feet in two flights. One remained at Majuro because of engine trouble. Meager AA caused no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 640 statute miles; second strike, 535 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-143, M-144, 16 Apr. 44.)

9 Apr. 44

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by 8 Marine P4U's, in low-level bombing and strafing mission dropped 60 x 100-lb, GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb, incendiary clusters on Labor's Camp on Jakaj Peninsula from 500 feet, starting many fires. They expended 60 rounds of 75-mm., and 5,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 810 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-145, 15 Apr. 44.)

9 Apr. 44

Air echelon of 98th Bomb Squadron joined ground echelon at Kwajalein. (History of 98th Bomb-Squadron, Apr. 44.)
MALOELAP — NOTJE — 9-10 Apr. 44

9-10 Apr. 44

MALOEAP — NOTJE — Three B-24's of 47th Bomb Squadron
made photo recon. over Guadal, Notje, Taraa, and Mille.
Eighteen 500-lb. GPs were dropped on Taraa from 11,000 to
12,000 feet, destroying several buildings. No AA. Distance
flow: 862 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report N-212,
13 Apr. 44.)

9-10

MALOEAP — Eleven B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron and
three of 47th Bomb Squadron in shuttle mission from Apanama.
On first strike, four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tinast
from 11,000 feet, and strafed with 1,130 rounds of .50-cal.
ammunition; nine dropped 30 x 500-lb. GPs on Emond from 9,000
to 10,500 feet; and one dropped 4 x 500-lb. GPs on Jaluit
Island from 8,000 feet. Results were largely unobserved. AA
meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. All airplanes
returned to Majuro, and on return trip dropped 56 x 500-lb. GP
bombs on Taraa from 9,000 to 11,500 feet, with hits on hangars
and in barracks area. Barracks strafed with 1,400 rounds of
.50-cal. ammunition. AA meager, and accurate to inaccurate,
causing minor damage to one B-25. Distances flown: first
strike, 550 statute miles; second strike, 720 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report N-146, N-147, 16 Apr. 44.)

MALOEAP — One B-25 of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped four 500-lb.
GP bombs on Taraa from 10,300 feet, getting direct hit on
hangar. AA from guns meager but accurate, and caused minor
damage. Runways observed to be inoperational. (VII BC Daily
Operational Intelligence Summary, 10 Apr. 44.)

10 Apr. 44

TRUK — Twenty-three B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons
staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk from 9,500 to 14,000 feet
with 230 x 500-lb. GP bombs — 100 fell on Duklon, 50 on Koen
airstrip, 20 on Farem, 10 on Otta, 20 on islands near Otta, and
balance were unobserved. AA meager but accurate. Interception
by six night fighters. Two B-24's were lost when leaving
target area. One B-24 because of engine trouble hit Ponape
with 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs. Distance flown: 2,350 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report N-211, 16 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE — Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb.
GP bombs on Ponape from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, hitting runways
on old airstrip, with results unobserved. AA moderate and
accurate but caused no damage. Distance flown: 900 statute
miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report N-148, 15 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE — Six additional B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron bombed
Ponape with 24 x 500-lb. GPs from 500 to 9,500 feet, 65 per-
cent in target areas on old airfield and fired 5,000 rounds of
.50-cal. and 16 rounds of 75-mm ammunition. AA moderate and
accurate causing minor damage to one airplane. Distance flown:
44.)

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION
10-11
MALCELAP—JALUIT
Apr. 44
Taraa with 14 x 500-lb. GP bombs in four flights from 7,500 to 11,000 feet, 60 per cent in target area, results undetermined. Runways appeared to be inoperational. AA meager and accurate, slightly damaging two airplanes. All aircraft landed at Majuro and rearmed. On return flight three airplanes hit Jabor with 12 x 500-lb. GPs from 7,200 feet, 75 per cent in target area, causing two explosions; and nine bombs, 500-lb., in two flights with 36 x 500-lb. GPs from 9,500 to 11,000 feet, 88 per cent in target area. One large explosion was observed. AA meager but accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane, and minor injury to a bombardier. Distances flown: first strike, 628 statute miles; second strike, 537 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-149, M-150, 17 Apr. 44.)

11 Apr. 44
PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine F4U's bombed Ponape with 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 12 x 100-lb. incendiaries from 9,500 feet, 75 per cent in target area. They fired 3,550 rounds of .50-cal. and 6 rounds of 75-mm ammunition. F4U's strafed small boats and airstrip. AA, AA, and 50 intense and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-154, 21 Apr. 44.)

11-13
JALUIT—MALCELAP - Twelve B-25's of 596th Bomb Squadron in shuttle mission. Nine hit Emidj with 12 x 500-lb. and 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target, damaging radio station. Three hit Jabor with six 1,000-lb. GPs from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. No AA. All aircraft landed at Majuro and rearmed. On return flight they hit Taraa with 14 x 500-lb. GPs from 9,700 feet, 96 per cent in target, damaging installations and gun positions. Runways reported inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distances flown: first flight, 536 to 768 statute miles; second flight, 625 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-152, M-153, 17 Apr. 44.)

12 Apr. 44
SHIPPING - One B-24 of 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on beached ship at Hinte Reef from 4,000 feet, with all bombs hitting between ship and reef. Ship appeared to be deserted. No AA. Distance flown: 660 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 15 Apr. 44.)

12-13
MALCELAP—JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron, over Taraa in four waves, dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Runways reported inoperational. AA meager and inaccurate. All aircraft re-armed at Majuro and on return flight dropped 14 x 500-lb. GPs on Emidj and dock and warehouse area on Jabor, 100 per cent in target. AA meager to moderate and inaccurate. Distances flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 430 to 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report, 17 Apr. 44.)
15 Apr. 44

TRUK - Twenty-three B-24's of 431st and 98th Bomb Squadrons in night attack on Truk from Eniwetok. One abortive because of engine trouble, and dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ujelang from 8,000 feet, results unobserved. Twenty-one dropped 250 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 2 M-26 photo-flash bombs on Mokun, Udok, Pofol, Dublon, Eton, Param, Uman, and undetermined islands from 6,000 to 16,000 feet. Explosions and fires observed on Mokun and Param. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Ponape from 8,000 feet, results unobserved. AA at Truk mag and inaccurate, and 10 to 12 searchlights generally ineffective. No AA at Ponape or Ujelang. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,420 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-213, 16 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Ten B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, escorted by eight Marine P-38's, in daylight mission against Ponape. One abortive because of engine trouble. Nine dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,600 to 9,600 feet. Hits were observed on runways and service apron at old airfield on Ponape Island, and in Laborer's Camp on Jolai Peninsula. AA intense and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 800 to 1,300 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-160, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron bombed Ponape with 24 x 500-lb. GPs from 200 to 9,200 feet, hitting installations and runways at old airfield. Fired 35 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA moderate and accurate, causing major damage to one airplane. Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-157, 21 Apr. 44.)

13-14 Apr. 44

JALUIT-MALCOLAP - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with 100 per cent of the former and 50 per cent of the latter on targets. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro and on return to Tarawa 11 dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 7,000 to 10,000 feet, 70 per cent in target areas. One B-25, delayed at Majuro with engine trouble, dropped 12 x 100-lb. GPs on Hillo from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent on airfield. The aircraft expended 300 rounds of .30-cal. and four rounds of 75-mm. ammunition. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 534 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-158, H-159, 17 Apr. 44.)

14 Apr. 44

JALUIT - One B-24 of Hq. VII Bomber Command, enroute from Kwajalein to Tarawa, hit Jaluit with 12 x 500-lb. incendiaries from 7,000 feet, 75 per cent in target, starting small fires on south part of Jabor. AA meager and inaccurate and airplane landed at Nullinok undamaged. Distance flown: 628 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 17 Apr. 44.)
EMERGENCY ACTION - An estimated force of 12 enemy bombers attacked Eniwetok from 9,000 to 23,000 feet. No bombs hit the island, and no damage or casualties resulted. Night fighters shot down two enemy bombers and damaged another. Two night fighters were lost. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 Apr. 44.)

Ground echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron arrived at Kwajalein, having departed Tarawa, 6 Apr. 44. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-HALOGLAP - Fourteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in shuttle mission. First strike: three airplanes dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jabor Town from 9,500 feet; seven airplanes dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. and 16 x 500-lb. GPs on Enidj from 8,000 to 10,500 feet; and four airplanes because of cloud coverage over Enidj dropped 2 x 1,000-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. GPs on Taroe. AA at Enidj meager and inaccurate, at Taroe, moderate and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage and one crash-landed at Majuro due to operational difficulties. All airplanes rearmed at Majuro. Second strike: nine airplanes dropped 52 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Taroe from 8,000 to 10,500 feet; and four dropped 24 x 100-lb. GPs on Mille from 10,500 feet. Results were unobserved. AA at Taroe meager and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. Distance flown: first strike, 950 statute miles; second strike, 600 to 720 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-161, M-162, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron in medium and low altitude bombing and search mission from Eniwetok. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on old airfield from 9,300 feet, starting fires. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GPs on new airfield from 9,700 feet. Two dropped 8 x 500-lb. GPs on small oiler and two armed escort boats from 300 to 400 feet, and expended 11 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing them, damage undetermined. Three dropped 11 x 500-lb. GPs from 200 to 400 feet on another oiler and armed escort vessel, and fired 39 rounds of .50-cal. and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Both vessels were not afire. One airplane remained at a point 25 miles southeast of Eniwetok to direct rescue of downed fighter pilot. AA at Ponape meager and inaccurate. AA and SA from ships intense and accurate, causing major damage to one B-25 and minor damage to three. Distance flown: 800 to 1,000 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report '63, 23 Apr. 44.)

MAJOR CLAP JALUIT — Thirteen B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron bombed Tarawa from 7,500 to 9,100 feet with 40 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 100 per cent in target area, starting a large fire. AA was major and inaccurate and caused no damage. All aircraft returned at Majuro. On the return flight, three B-25's hit Enewetak with 11 x 500-lb. GPs from 8,700 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Because of the weather over Jaluit, the other nine aircrafts hit Millie with 36 x 500-lb. GPs from 8,700 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA was major and inaccurate at both places, causing no damage. Distances flown: first strike, 647 statute miles; second strike, 616 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 14-165, 5-165, 21 Apr. 44.)

16 Apr. 44

TRUK — Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night strike against Truk. Fifteen aircrafts dropped 136 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 20 x 500-lb incendiary clusters on Mokor, Fefan, and Dabilidade from 13,000 to 20,000 feet. Because of bomb release difficulty and bad weather two B-24's dropped 18 x 500-lb. GPs on Minto Reef from 6,000 to 9,000 feet, and two dropped 12 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters and 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 12,000 feet. Darkness and cloud coverage made observation difficult, but it was estimated that 67 per cent of bombs dropped on Truk hit islands in the atoll. Many fires were observed, and some were also observed on Ponape. AA was major and inaccurate. One B-24 made water landing on return flight. Four crew members were rescued. Two aircrafts were damaged in landing at Eniwetok. Distance flown: 2,396 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report 9-214, 27 Apr. 44.)

16-17

MAJOR CLAP JALUIT — Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Aparnok hit Tarawa with 12 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 90 per cent in target area. AA was major and caused no damage. All aircraft returned at Majuro and hit Jaluit with 48 x 500-lb. GPs from 8,000 to 11,000 feet, 45 per cent in the target. There was no AA. Distances flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 8-167, 9-165, 22 Apr. 44.)

17 Apr. 44

Air echelon of 26th Bomb Squadron which had been temporarily based at Eniwetok arrived at Kwajalein. The ground echelon had arrived from Tarawa on 14 April. (History of 26th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

17-18

MAJOR CLAP MILLIE — Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 8,100 to 10,000 feet. All of the bombs landed in ocean offshore. AA was major and inaccurate and caused no damage. All aircraft returned at Majuro and on return flight hit Millie with 24 x 1,000-lb. GPs from 8,300 feet, 75 per cent in target area. One large fire was started 1,000 feet north of northern service apron. Black smoke could be seen for 25 miles at...
9,000 feet. AA fire was moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Hill was hit as last resort target because of overcast at Jaluit. Distances flown: first strike, 637 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-273, K-174, 23 Apr. 44.)

SAIPAN - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron assigned to escort five VD9 FM/J photo planes in reconnaissance mission over Saipan, Tinian, and Aguiran from Eniwetok. Five B-24's were abortive. Five dropped 18 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Saipan, from 18,000 to 20,000 feet, with results unobserved. The airplanes were intercepted by 16 to 20 Zekas, Hamps, and Tons, one of which was shot down and one probably shot down. AA from guns moderate and inaccurate. One B-24 was damaged to such an extent that it crash-landed in water. The crew was picked up by a destroyer 22 April. Distance flown: 2,930 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-217, 24 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Two were abortive because of mechanical difficulties. Nine dropped 339 x 100-lb. demolition bombs and 4 x MK-6 flares on Truk, 10,000 to 13,500 feet, 179 on Koaraon, 140 on Moen, 80 on Dabilon, and 60 on an undetermined island. Specific results undetermined because of darkness. One dropped 10 x 100-lb. demolition bombs on Fuyu (Hall Islands) from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. No AA. Only one searchlight seen, and it was unable to pierce clouds. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-216, 21 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron bombed Ponape from 11,000 feet with 12 x 1,000-lb. bombs, 100 per cent on old airfield, setting large fires. No AA. Distance flown: 905 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-172, 20 Apr. 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight, medium and low altitude mission. Four dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on old airfield at Ponape from 9,700 to 10,000 feet. Two, bombing from 100 to 400 feet, dropped 500-lb. GP's as follows: one on old airfield, one on old airfield, six on shipping, and one on dock at Fakini Atoll. In addition, 34 rounds of 75-mm and 900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition were fired at shipping and shore installations. AA moderate and inaccurate. AW and SA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 920 to 1,075 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-175, 23 Apr. 44.)

18-19 Apr. 44

WAKE - Three B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron based at Kwajalein searched the Wake area for reported shipping. Two returned abortive. The other failed to find shipping but dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on runway from 10,000 feet and took photos.
18-19 Apr. 44

AA from guns intense and accurate. Later in the day, one B-24 of 98th Bomb Squadron on a special shipping search mission dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,000 feet, 80 per cent in target. AA meager and caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro, 11 rearmed and bombed Taroa with 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 9,500 feet, 60 per cent in target. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Runways appeared inoperative. Distance flown: first strike, 500 statute miles; second strike, 690 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-170, M-171, 20 Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-MALGELAP - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,000 feet, 80 per cent in target. AA meager and caused no damage. All airplanes landed at Majuro, 11 rearmed and bombed Taroa with 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 9,500 feet, 60 per cent in target. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Runways appeared inoperative. Distance flown: first strike, 500 statute miles; second strike, 690 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-170, M-171, 20 Apr. 44.)

19 Apr. 44

TRUK - Twenty-two B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk. Two abortive because of engine trouble. Sixteen dropped a total of 84 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 103 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Buckon and Koon from 8,500 to 16,000 feet, setting large fires and explosions. One airplane dropped 20 photo flash bombs and took 16 night photos. AA was from meager to moderate, but inaccurate, and caused no damage. Three aircraft, because of engine trouble, dropped 36 x 500-lb. incendiaries on Ponape from 8,500 to 8,000 feet, causing fires and explosions. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 2,348 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-215, 25 Apr. 44.)

POHANG - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against new airfield at Ponape. One abortive because of engine trouble. Five dropped 10 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on new airfield from 10,000 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 995 to 1,038 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-178, 22 Apr. 44.)

19-20 Apr. 44

JALUIT-MALGELAP - Fourteen B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron bombd Emidj from 10,000 feet with 56 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 82 per cent on target. Major AA caused minor damage to one airplane. All aircraft warned at Majuro and on return flight dropped 56 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, and strafed with 1,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. AA meager to moderate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 600 statute miles; second strike, 700 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-176, H-177, 29 Apr. 44.)

20 Apr. 44

WAKE - Twelve B-24's of 27th and 38th Bomb Squadrons searched Wake area for possible shipping. No shipping sighted. The bombers dropped 78 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emidj, Wake Island, 78 per
cont in target area, and 36 of same type on Wake Island, 90
per cent in target area. Bombing altitude from 10,000 to
14,000 feet. No interception. AA moderate and inaccurate
and caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,525 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-223, 22 Apr. 44.)

396th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Tarawa
on 19 April. (History of 396th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

20-21 April 44
MALCOLP-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 220th Bomb Squadron at
Tarawa dropped 2x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on AA battery on Taros
from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent in target area. AA meager and
inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes returned at
Majuro and on return flight dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GPs on AA
battery on Emelj, 75 per cent in target area. Four 75-mm.
HE shells fired at radio station north of Jabor, with results
undetermined. Meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage.
Distances flown: first strike, 650 statute miles; second
strike, 538 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-179,
M-180, 29 Apr. 44.)

21 April 44
NOTIE - Eleven B-24's of 38th and 27th Bomb Squadrons at
Kwajalein bombet Votje with 66 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 15,500
to 18,000 feet. Bombs hit barracks and magazine areas. No
AA. Distance flown: 432 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission
Report H-224, 24 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - Six B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein staged
thru Eil Rok to bomb Truk from 10,000 to 12,000 feet with
2x 1,000-lb. demolition bombs; 116 on runway and dispersal
area on Moon, 40 in seaplane hanger area on Dunlop, 40 on
Tol, 14 in harbor, and 40 jettisoned because of rack failure.
Flares were started on Moon and Dunlop. Three night fighters
intercepted. AA from guns and AW moderate to intense and
accurate, but none of the aircraft were damaged. Eight to
10 searchlights were encountered. One additional B-24 abortive
because of engine trouble. Distance flown: 2,398 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report H-218, 27 Apr. 44.)

PONAP - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Enogobi hit
Ponap with 2x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,500 feet, scoring
hits on installations at both airfields. A little later four
B-25's of same squadron bombed runways on both airfields at
Ponap with 8 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent
in target area. AA on both strikes ranged from moderate to
intense, but was inaccurate and caused no damage. -Distances
flown: first strike, 966 statute miles; second strike, 868
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports 181, 23 Apr. 44;
182, 26 Apr. 44.)

The 47th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed
Aperama on 20 April. (History of 47th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)
JALUIT-MALCAIAP - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Aparuma bombed Emdij and Taroa enroute to Majuro. Eight hit Emdij from 8,000 feet with 16 x 1,000-lb. bombs, and the other three hit Taroa with 6 x 1,000-lb. bombs. Meager AA at both places caused no damage. All airplanes returned at Majuro with 99% bomb load. On return trip, eight hit Taroa with 16 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, and the other three bombed Emdij with 6 x 1,000-lb. GP's, all of which landed in water. Moderate and accurate AA at Taroa, slightly damaged one airplane. Distances flown: first strike, 720 statute miles; second strike, 610 to 720 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Reports H-182, H-183, 13 May 44.)

22 Apr. 44

WONJE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron in daylight mission dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 12,000 feet, with 12 hitting target and six in the water. No AA. Airplanes returned to Kwajalein, rearmed, and again dropped 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 11,000 feet. Six of these hit runway intersection, and 9 went in the water. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 390 statute miles; second strike, 390 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Reports H-225, H-226, 25 Apr. 44.)

WONJE - Nine B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and three of 27th Bomb Squadron in night mission against Wotje. Ten dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP's on Wotje from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, 80 per cent on target. One each dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP's on Kwajalein and on Kwajalein, with results unobserved. No AA. Distances flown: 1,496 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report H-227, 25 Apr. 44.)

22-23 Apr. 44

JALUIT-MALCAIAP-MILLE - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Jaluit, Malcaiap, and Mille. Six dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Emdij from 8,000 feet, 33 per cent in the target. Three each dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Taroa and Mille from 7,500 and 8,700 feet, 100 per cent in target. AA at Mille and Emdij meager and inaccurate, and at Taroa moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. All airplanes returned at Majuro. On return, six dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Taroa from 8,700 to 9,000 feet, 50 per cent in target; and three each dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP's on Emdij and Mille from 7,500 and 8,000 feet, 67 and 100 per cent in target, respectively. AA at Emdij and Taroa meager and inaccurate. No AA at Mille. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown: first strike, 560 to 731 statute miles; second strike, 430 to 555 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Reports H-186, H-188, 13 May 44.)

23 Apr. 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 98th and 431st Bomb Squadrons at Kwajalein staged thru Eniwetok to bomb Truk with 760 Mk I fragmentation cluster bombs from 10,000 to 15,000 feet: 240 on
23 Apr. 44
(contd)

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Baren airfield, 85 per cent in target; 280 on Baren airfield, 90 per cent in target; 40 on southeast part of Baren, 100 per cent hits; 160 on Farsa airfield, 65 per cent hits; and 40 on unidentified island, 100 per cent hits. AA meager and inaccurate. Two single-engine enemy fighters observed airborne over target. None of the B-24's was damaged. Two B-24's because of mechanical trouble dropped 80 clusters on Panapa from 6,000 to 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA or interception. One B-24, unable to locate target dropped 40 clusters on Pulmat from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. Distance flown: 2,396 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-219, 28 Apr. 44.)

WOTJE - Two B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 80 x 100-lb. demolition bombs on Wotje from 14,500 to 15,000 feet, results unobserved. A third B-24 brought bomb load back to Kwajalein because of navigational trouble. Distance flown: 830 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-228, 27 Apr. 44.)

PEMAZ - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron bombed Panapa with 48 x 100-lb. and 4 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in target on Langar Island, the barracks at the old airfield, and the dock area. AA meager and inaccurate AA caused no damage. Runway on both airfields reported operational. Distance flown: 890 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-187, 25 Apr. 44.)

Air echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron moved from Aperama to Makin, and air echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron moved from Tarawa to Makin. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44; History of 820th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

23-24 Apr. 44

JALUIT-KALCZAP - Eight B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin hit Emidj in two flights with 32 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, 38 per cent on target. AA from guns meager and accurate, but caused no damage. All aircraft re-armed at Majuro, but one did not take off because of mechanical difficulty. On return flight, seven B-25's hit Tarawa with 16 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs in two flights from 9,300 to 10,000 feet, six of which hit target. AA meager and inaccurate. Distances flown: first strike, 434 statute miles; second strike, 521 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-188, M-189, 30 Apr. 44.)

24 Apr. 44

PEMAZ - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi bombed Langar Island and new airstrip at Panapa from 10,000 feet with six 1,000-lb. bombs, results unobserved. AA moderate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 890 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-190, 26 Apr. 44.)
The 41st Bomb Group arrived at Makin, having departed Tarawa on 23 April 1944. Ground echelon of 48th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Apenama on 22 April 1944. (History of 41st Bomb Group, Apr. 44; History of 48th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

JALUIT-WOTJE - Trvlvo B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin bombed Eaulji; in three flights with 46 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 11,000 feet, 57 per cent in building area on south half of Island. AA from guns meager and inaccurate. All aircraft returned at Majuro, but one did not take off because of mechanical trouble. On return trip, 11 B-25's dropped 22 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on Wotje from 8,500 to 11,000 feet. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 350 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII B Mission Report H-191, H-192, 4 May 44.)

WOTJE - Trvlvo B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein bombed Wotje with 96 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 feet, 90 per cent on island. Wotje was also hit by 11 B-24's of 48th Bomb Squadron which dropped 74 x 1,000-lb. GP's from 8,500 to 10,000 feet. Neither squadron encountered AA. Distance flown: 361 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-229, 25 Apr. 44.)

GUAM - Tcn B-24's of 394th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok to escort seven VB-3 FB41's on photo reconnaissance mission over Guam. Three were abortive because of engine trouble. Seven B-24's dropped 43 x 100-lb. bombs from 20,000 feet. No AA or interception, although many airplanes were observed on two airfields. All airplanes landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,700 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-231, 3 May 44.)

MALCE LAP - Elovon B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 132 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Tarawa from 9,000 to 12,000 feet, with an estimated 63 per cent in target area. Wotje was the primary target for this mission but it was completely closed in. One B-24 jettisoned 12 bombs because of engine trouble. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-240, 29 Apr. 44.)

TRUK - Elovon B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and six of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. Sixteen dropped a total of 300 x 100-lb. and 71 x 500-lb. fragmentation clusters, and 10 flares from 10,000 to 18,000 feet, with 98 falling on Moen, 84 on Parem, 25 on Tol, 24 on Dulio, 84 on an unidentified island, and the remainder unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate, and searchlights inaccurate. Two or three night fighters were observed, but no passes were made at the formation. Three B-24's dropped 45 x 100-lb. and 12 x 500-lb. fragmentation clusters and five...
25 Apr. 44 (cont'd)

PONAPE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi hit old and new airfields at Ponape with 32 x 500-lb. bombs from 10,000 feet, 100 per cent in targets. AA meager and inaccurate. Lt. Col. John W. W. 44.

25-26 Apr. 44

JALUIT-GOWIE - Twelve B-25's of 390th Bomb Squadron at Makin were scheduled to bomb Emidij, but because of the complete overcast, only three dropped their bombs (6 x 1,000-lb. SAPs) on that objective. Three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SP bombs on Wetjo from 9,000 feet, 50 per cent in the target; three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SPs on Tareea; and three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SPs on first island north of Tareea. No AA at Wetjo, and only meager and inaccurate fire at Tareea. All aircraft returned at 5:00 PM, but due to the situation, only nine of them dropped 103 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidij from 8,750 feet, 75 per cent hitting enemy AA positions; and three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. SPs on Wetjo from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in magazine and other earth covered structures in central section of island. Harbor AA from Emidij and none from Wetjo. Distance from: first strike, 550 statute miles; second strike, 650 to 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-194, K-195, L-196.)

PONAPE - Eight B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission over Ponape dropped 38 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,900 to 10,000 feet on Langar Island, and one bomb each on Teletik, Marlap, and Lapl Islands. Largo explosions observed on Langar Island. Undetermined number of rounds of 50-cal. ammunition used on strafing buildings on Anit and Pakin Islands. AA intense and accurate, but caused no damage. Distance flown: 865 to 890 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-196, 30 Apr. 44.)

26 Apr. 44

PONAPE - Six B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron, having landed at Los Negros after mission over Guam on 25 April 1944, dropped 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 feet, enroute to Kuojaloca. Of those, 75 per cent hit Langar Island. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-24, delayed at Los Negros, returned to Kuojaloca on 29 April 1944, and dropped 2 x 500-lb. GP's on Ponape from 9,000 feet enroute. No AA. Distance flown: 1,175 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-233, 3 May 1944.)

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26 Apr. 44 (contd)

SHIPPING - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight bombing and search mission from Engabi, sighted no shipping and returned home to base. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 2 May 44.)

26-27 Apr. 44

JALUIT - NUKI - Two B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin over Jaluit in three flights, dropping 14 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Enybor Inlet from 8,200 to 10,000 feet, 33 per cent in target area. AA heavy and inaccurate and caused no damage. All airplanes returned at Enybor and on return trip 11 of them bombed Nukie in three flights from 9,000 to 10,000 feet with 4 x 500-lb. GP's, 67 per cent in target. No AA. Distances flown: first strike, 400 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-197, M-198, 1 May 44.)

27 Apr. 44

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 10 of 98th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. Fourteen dropped 71 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 72 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters on Dublon from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, with 51 of the former and 62 of the latter falling on Dublon Town. Two dropped 22 x 500-lb. GP's on box from 11,500 to 14,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Two dropped 12 x 500-lb. incendiaries and 12 x 500-lb. GP's on Etten from 13,000 feet, 75 per cent in hangar and shop area. One dropped 11 x 500-lb. GP's on Pangan from 11,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. Two dropped 24 x 500-lb. incendiary on Pangan from 8,000 to 9,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. One airplane dropped 10 x 500-lb. bombs in lagoon because of bomb-release malfunction. AA Moderate and inaccurate. Two B-24's received minor damage when bombs were released. Distance flown: 2,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report 221, 1 May 44.)

PONAPE - Three B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in search for shipping sighted no shipping, but dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Pangan from 10,500 feet, with 88 hitting target area. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 2 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engabi dropped 72 x 100-lb. bombs from 10,000 feet over old and new airfields at Pangan, with hits on runways and barracks. No AA. Distance flown: 935 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-199, 2 May 44.)

Ground echelon of 820th Bomb Squadron arrived at Makin, having departed Tarawa on 26 April 44. (History of 820th Bomb Squadron, Apr. 44.)

27-28 Apr. 44

JALUIT - NUKI - Twelve B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron dropped 136 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,000 to 9,800 feet. Of these, 60 hit AA positions, 20 damaged naiven and 8 hit barracks area on
27-28 Apr. 44 (contd)

Emidj, and 66 went in the water. AA was good and inaccurate. All aircraft returned to Majuro and on return trip dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Fiteo from 8,500 to 10,500 feet, with 32 hitting in target area. No AA. Distances flown:
first strike, 425 statute miles; second strike, 650 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Reports M-200, M-201, 5 May 44.)

PONAPE - Five B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 10,000 to 12,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate. None of the B-25's were damaged. Distances flown: 800 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report 202, 30 Apr. 44.)

28-29 Apr. 44

JALUIT-HILLS - Twelve B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 144 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Meybo Islet from 8,000 to 8,700 feet, 17 per cent in target area. AA was good and inaccurate. Five airplanes landed at Majuro, and seven returned to Makin. On return trip, five dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Hills from 8,000 feet, 40 per cent on target. AA was good and inaccurate. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distances flown:
first strike, 425 to 590 statute miles; second strike, 300 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Reports H-203, H-204, 5 May 44.)

JALUIT - One B-24, of Headquarters VII Bomber Command dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bomb on Emidj from 9,500 feet, 83 per cent in target area. AA was good and inaccurate. Airplane returned to Majuro and on return to Kwajalein dropped 12 x 500-lb. GF's on Jabor and Enyo, 100 per cent on targets. No AA. Distances flown: 527 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 1 May 44.)

29 Apr. 44

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 36th, staged thru Enubatk to bomb Truk. Ten of these from 431st Squadron dropped 400 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters—160 on Eton, 30 on Pass, 60 on Mocn, 60 on Tel, and remainder unobserved. Aircraft of 36th Squadron dropped 275 x 120-lb. fragmentation clusters—150 on Eton, 110 on Mocn, 50 on Duhon, and five unobserved. Twelve searchlights were in action. AA was good and inaccurate. Three unidentified aircraft airborne over target. None of the airplanes was damaged. One B-24 of 431st was abortive because of engines failure and one bombed Ponape with 40 x 120-fragmentation clusters. Distances flown: 2,442 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-222, 9 May 44.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron bombed Emidj with 77 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 14,000 to 15,000 feet, 39 hitting across the center of the island and 38 falling in the lagoon. AA was good and inaccurate. Distances flown: 575 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-233, 12 May 44.)
29 Apr. 44

PONAPE - Five B-25's of 334th Bomb Squadron hit Ponape with 18 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,800 feet, 100 per cent on runways and service apron at old airfield. AA was marginal and inaccurate. Distance flown: 850 to 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-205, 1 May 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 354th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 10,300 to 11,000 feet, damaging runways and service apron at old airfield and runways and revetments on new airfield. AA ranged from marginal and inaccurate to intense and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-206, 2 Mar. 44.)

30 Apr. 44

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin were over Jaluit in three flights, dropping 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Eneybor from 7,800 to 8,700 feet, 50 per cent in buildings reported to house power plant for RDF station. No AA. Distance flown: 600 to 725 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-207, 5 May 44.)

WAKE - Forty-two B-24's of 11th and 28th Bomb Groups, all based at Kojakoin and all carrying 500-lb. GP bombs, in mission against Wake. Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron dropped 108 bombs from 10,500 to 11,800 feet, 95 per cent hitting installations; 10 of 392d Bomb Squadron dropped 90 bombs from 12,000 to 13,500 feet, 60 per cent in target area on Fasneck Point; 10 of 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 90 bombs on barracks area on north end of Wake Island from 15,000 to 16,000 feet, 95 per cent in target; nine of the 96th dropped 79 bombs on Fasneck Point and Wake Island from 12,400 to 15,500 feet, 80 per cent in target area; and one airplane of Headquarters VII Bomber Command dropped nine 500-lb. bombs on Fasneck Point from 15,000 feet. Moderate to intense AA was for the most part accurate, causing damage to one B-24 of the 27th and one of the 392d. The aircraft of the 26th Bomb Squadron encountered three single-engine fighters, which followed the formation for 20 minutes but made no passes. One B-24 of 26th abortive. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-233, 7 May 44.)

JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin, over Eneybor in four flights, dropped 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 50 per cent in buildings thought to contain power plant for new RDF station. One other B-25 abortive because of mechanical failure. AA was marginal and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-230, 8 May 44.)
30 Apr. 44

FCXAFE - Eighth Air Force 16 B-24s from B-24s from Engobi bombed old and new airfields at Pompeo with 32 x 500-lb GP bombs from 11,000 feet. 75 per cent in target area. AA moderate but inaccurate. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report M-211, 3 May 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION
1 May 44

JALUIT – Nine B-25’s of 320th Bomb Squadron attacked Jaluit in three flights. Two airplanes dropped 8 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Emdj from 8,000 feet, 100 per cent in target area. Three dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP on Emdj from 7,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP on Emdj and Kabunbock from 7,500 feet, 83 per cent on target. AA from Emdj heavy and accurate, but ceased no damage. Distance flown: 578 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-212, 8 May 44)

2 May 44

TRUK – Eleven B-24’s of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th Bomb Squadron, staged through Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Ten B-24’s of 431st Bomb Squadron dropped 61 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet; 31 on Moen airfield with 85 per cent hits; 20 on Eten airfield with 90 per cent hits, and six on Eten or Dabilon with 50 per cent hits. Eight aircraft of the 38th dropped 40 x 1,000-lb. GP’s from 10,000 to 12,500 feet; 20 on Moen with 75 per cent hits; 10 on Eten with 75 per cent hits; five on Dabilon; and five on an island thought to be Fofon. AA from Eten to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Eight to 10 searchlights in action. Two night-fighters were airborne. One B-24 received minor damage. One B-24 of the 431st Squadron, because of the illness of the co-pilot, bombed Penapa from 10,000 feet with 6 x 1,000-lb. GP’s, causing a large fire in the town area. No AA or searchlights. Distance flown: 1,500 to 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report E-235, 6 May 44)

2-3 May 44

JALUIT–HOKJE – Twelve B-25’s of 477th Bomb Squadron at Makin bombed Jaluit in three flights from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, dropping 24 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs on radio station at Ainsman Inland, 70 per cent in target area. No AA. All airplanes returned at Majuro and on return trip dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 8,000 to 9,200 feet, 65 per cent hitting in heavy AA battery on south tip of island. Runways appeared to be inoperational. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 420 statute miles; second strike, 690 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-213, M-216, 8 May 44)

PONAPE – Six B-25’s of 396th Bomb Squadron at Engebi bombed Ponape from 10,000 feet, dropping 23 x 500-lb. GP bombs on installations at old and new airfields. Both airfields reported inoperational. AA heavy and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-214, 5 May 44)

3 May 44

HOKJE – Nine B-24’s of 27th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Wotje from Kaujololine. One abortive because of oil leak. Seven dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Wotje from 9,000 to 11,500 feet, 62 on island and 22 in water. Building at
3 May 44 (contd)

JALUIT-NORIE: Twelve B-25's of 58th Bomb Squadron at Nukin dropped 24 x 1,000-lb GP bombs on Eeidj from 8,000 feet, with 33 per cent in target area (AA positions) and 33 per cent in concrete magazine just east of target. AA meager and inaccurate to accurate, causing slight damage to one B-25. All aircraft returned to Majuro, and on return to Nukin dropped 24 x 500-lb GP bombs on Nukin from 8,000 to 8,300 feet, 66 per cent in target area. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 450 statute miles; second strike, 620 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-213, H-215, H-218, 8 May 44.)

4-5 May 44

JALUIT-NORIE: Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 1,000-lb GP bombs on Eeidj from 8,000 to 8,300 feet, with 33 per cent in target area (AA positions) and 33 per cent in concrete magazine just east of target. AA meager and inaccurate to accurate, causing slight damage to one B-25. All aircraft returned to Majuro, and on return to Nukin dropped 24 x 500-lb GP bombs on Nukin from 8,000 to 8,300 feet, 66 per cent in target area. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 425 statute miles; second strike, 770 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports H-220, H-221, 11 May 44.)

5 May 44

PONAPE: Forty B-26's of Headquarters VII Bomber Command, and 11th and 30th Bomb Groups took off from Kwajalein and Eniwetok in daylight mission against Ponape. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Thirty-nine dropped a total of 335 x 500-lb GP bombs on Ponape from 11,000 to 16,500 feet. Of the 170 bombs dropped by the 431st and 98th Bomb Squadrons, 112 hit Ponape Town, 24 hit Hot Point, and 34 went in the water. Of 171 dropped by 38th and 392d Bomb Squadrons, 156 hit warehouse, dock, and military headquarters area, and 15 were unobserved. Of the 12 bombs dropped by the airplane from Headquarters VII Bomber Command, mix fell in an undestroyed area along the water front and six went in the water. Large fires were reported. AA meager to moderate, inaccurate to accurate. AA meager and inaccurate. One B-24 received minor damage, and one B-26 of the 98th was not heard from again after taking off late from Eniwetok. Distance flown: 1,100 to 1,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-236, 11 May 44.)

TKIN: Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok in night mission against Truk. Ten dropped 60 x 1,000-lb GP bombs from 10,000 to 13,500 feet, with bombs falling on Etan, Poron, Duklen, Heka, and Taf. Nineteen searchlights ineffective. AA meager, AW moderate. No reported damage. One airplane jettisoned bombs and returned abortive. One other airplane unreported and considered missing. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-237, 10 May 44.)

SECURITY INFORMATION
5 May 44

PGMPE - Eight B-29s dropped 32 x 500-pound CBs on old and new airfields at Rennova from 10,000 to 10,500 feet, 40 per cent in target area. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 846 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report K-219, 8 May 44.)

5-6 May 44

JALUIT-JOWE - Ten B-25's of 49th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 40 x 500-pound CBs from 10,000 feet on magazines and other covered structures in central portion of Makin, 65 per cent in target. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. All aircraft returned at Makin on return trip bombed Otjo with 20 x 1,000-pound CBs, 50 per cent on coastal defense guns on northeast shore. No AA. Distance flown: first strike, 459 statute miles; second strike, 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report K-222, 15-23, 11 May 44.)

6 May 44

WONJE - Thirteen B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kurealein dropped 100 x 500-pound CBs on Wotjo from 8,000 feet, 95 per cent on island. AA and AN meager and inaccurate. One other airplane jettisoned bombs because of mechanical trouble and returned abortive. Distance flown: 561 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-211, 10 May 44.)

6-7 May 44

GUAM - Ten B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron and two of 442d Bomb Squadron staged through Enikotok to escort six Navy PB4Y photo planes over Guam. Two B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 27 x 100-pound CBs on Guam from 20,000 feet, with hits observed on Guan and Agana airfields and Sunay Tan. AA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by 12 to 30 Zekos and Oscars just after completion of photo-bomb run, with approximately 50 passes being made in 40-minute running fight, and approximately eight aerial bombs were dropped. Three Zekos and one Oscar were destroyed, one Zeko was probably destroyed, and four Zekos and two Oscars were damaged. Two B-24's received minor damage. All B-24's landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,725 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-240, 16 May 44.)

WONJE-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 1,000-pound SAPs on magazines area at Wotjo from 9,000 feet, 60 per cent in target. No AA. All airplanes returned at Makin on return trip of this dropped 12 x 500-pound CBs and 16 x 1,000-pound SAPs on RDF station at Enikotok, 30 per cent in target, getting three direct hits on southernmost installations. One B-25 abortive because of malfunctions of landing gear. (F/E VII BG Mission Reports K-224, H-225, 13 May 44.)

7 May 44

TRUK - Ten B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and nine of 35th Bomb Squadron staged through Enikotok in night mission against Truk.
7 May 44

Fourteen dropped 4,500-lb. fragmentation clusters on Truk from 10,000 to 15,000 feet, hitting as follows: 129 on Hoen, 80 on Etca, 80 on Poron, 42 on an unidentified island, and remainder uncorroded. Five B-24’s dropped 94 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on Mako from 11,000 to 14,500 feet, with results uncorroded. AA from Truk major and inaccurate. No AA from Mako. Searchlights well coordinated. None of the B-24’s was damaged. Distance from: 2,600 statute miles.

(F/E VII BC Mission Report M-238, 14 May 44.)

POMAE - Six B-25’s of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,900 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA. Distance from: 826 to 1,080 statute miles.

(F/E VII BC Mission Report M-226, 10 May 44.)

JALUIT-SOPJE - Six B-25’s of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on buildings north of RDF station area on Enjib, from 8,900 to 9,600 feet. Six other B-25’s of 48th Squadron bombed Wotjia with 12 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 9,000 feet, all hitting vicinity of heavy AA battery on northeast shore. No AA from either place. All 12 airplanes roared at Majuro. On return trip six B-25’s hit Wotjia with 12 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 75 per cent in heavy AA battery on northeast shore; and six dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on remaining buildings north of RDF station on Enjib, from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 63 per cent hits. No AA from either place. Distance from: first strike, 430 to 660 statute miles; second strike, 430 to 660 statute miles.

(F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-227, M-228, 13 May 44.)

POMAE - Six B-25’s of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,700 to 10,500 feet, with hits in building area on Loggar Island, and on runways of old and new airfields on Ponape Island. AA major to moderate and inaccurate. None of the B-25’s was damaged. Distance from: 860 statute miles.

(F/E VII BC Mission Report M-229, 11 May 44.)

8 May 44

POMAE - Six B-25’s of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 9,000 to 9,800 feet, with hits near runway intersection of old airfield and on runways of new airfield. AA moderate, inaccurate to accurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance from: 963 statute miles.

(F/E VII BC Mission Report M-232, 12 May 44.)

8-9 May 44

JALUIT-SOPJE - Ten B-25’s of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 19 x 1,000-lb. bombs in heavy AA battery area on northeast section of Radja from 10,000 feet, 21 per cent in target area. AA major and caused no damage. All airplanes roared at Majuro, and on return trip nine dropped 98 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Wotjia from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on island. Distances from: first strike, 411 to 661 statute miles; second strike, 665 statute miles.

(F/E VII BC Mission Reports M-230, M-231, 13 May 44.)
9 May 44

TRUK - Sixteen B-24's of 96th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged through Rabaul for a night mission against Truk. Fourteen dropped a total of 24 x 2,000-lb. and 36 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Truk group, with 37.4 per cent hitting assigned targets—airfields on Mokan, Eton, and Param. Other hits were scored on Dublon, Udot, Usla, and a destroyer anchored near Mokan. One B-24 dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP on Panapo from 10,000 feet, with hits in waterfront area; and one dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. GP on Oroku Island from 10,000 feet. AA at Truk meager and inaccurate. No AA at Panapo or Oroku. Three enemy aircraft observed over Truk, but there was no interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,696 to 2,952 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-264, 15 May 44.)

FONAPE - Ten B-24's of 28th and 431st Bomb Squadrons returning from Los Negros hit Panapo from 10,500 to 15,500 feet with 220 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 198 bombs hitting in target area. AA moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Two B-24's were slightly damaged. Distance flown: 1,925 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-244, 13 May 44.)

9-10

WOGUE-JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. bombs on Koljo from 8,000 feet, 75 per cent on or near target, No AA. All airplanes returned to Majuro and on return trip dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. SAPS in heavy AA battery area on north coast of Eaidj from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 34 per cent in target area. A raft 60 feet square was strafed with .50-cal. and 75-mm. cannon. AA heavy and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: first strike, 625 statute miles; second strike, 125 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-238, 12 May 44.)

10 May 44

WAKE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 120 x 100-lb. bombs on Wake from 11,500 feet, results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,550 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-247, 12 May 44.)

FONAPE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Engebi dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Longar Island from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, 22 in target. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 1,000 to 1,151 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-235, 12 May 44.)

SHIPPING - Three B-25's based at Engebi searched for shipping reported at Panapo with negative results. No bombs were dropped at Panapo because of adverse weather conditions. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 10 May 44.)

10-11

JALUIT-WOGUE - Seven B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 84 x 100-lb. bombs on Eaidj from 9,500 feet, 40 per cent
10-11 May 44

Buildings on small island at north end of runway and pier. AA machine, causing no damage. Seven other 8th Bomb Squadrons B-25's hit Uttojo with 28 x 500-lb. GP's from 9,000 feet: 35 per cent among buildings in north central section. No AA. All airplanes returned to Majuro. On return trip seven B-25's dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP's on buildings on south half of Emeidj from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, with 73 per cent hits; and seven dropped 78 x 100-lb. GP's on Jetoj from 8,000 to 9,000 feet, 100 per cent in buildings in North Central section. No AA at Jetoj and only meager and inaccurate AA at Emeidj. Distance flown: first strike, 425 to 650 statute miles; second strike, 425 to 650 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Reports N-236, N-237, 15 May 44.)

11 May 44

TRUK - Twelve B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and 11 of 392d Bomb Squadron staging through Emiratok in night mission against Truk. Eight dropped 23 x 1,000-lb. and 11 x 2,000-lb. GP bombs on Jetoj from 10,500 to 12,000 feet, and four dropped 18 x 2,000-lb. and 3 x 2,000-lb. bombs on Etton from 11,000 to 12,500 feet. Six dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. and 12 x 2,000-lb. GP's on Faram from 10,000 to 13,000 feet. One dropped 3 x 2,000-lb. GP's on Uman from 11,000 feet. Three dropped 6 x 1,000-lb. GP's each on Dublai, Udot, and Ponomo. All but six of the bombs fell on or near their target areas. AA at Truk meager to moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by three twin-engine and six single-engine enemy aircraft. One unidentified enemy fighter was destroyed. Two B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,397 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-243, 16 May 44.)

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 92 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Emidj from 9,000 to 10,000 feet, approximately 33 per cent in target area. AA meager and accurate to inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 615 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report M-239, 16 May 44.)

POIKAFE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Enoghi dropped 10 x 1,000-lb. and 4 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island from 10,500 feet, with results unobserved. AA meager and inaccurate. Distance flown: 1,000 to 1,325 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-238, 13 May 44.)

11-12 May 44

POIKAFE - Six B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 26 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponomo from 9,000 feet, and fired 30 rounds of 75-mm. cannon from 7,000 to 9,000 feet. Eight bombs fell on Ponomo, and 12 fell in plantation building area in Kekaj district. Four were unobserved. Results of shells fired undetermined. AA moderate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 852 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-240, 15 May 44.)
Wake - Nine B-24s of 36th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein in mission against Wake unable to locate target because of adverse weather conditions and returned to base abortive. Distance flown: 1,820 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-245, 16 May 44.)

12-13 May 44

Mauritius - Twelve B-25's of 47th and 11 of 43d Bomb Squadrons at Nafukon dropped 250 x 100-1 lb. and 12 x 1,000-1 lb. GP bombs on Mauri from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. Targets were AA positions, power plant, and phosphate plant. Hits were scored on all, with undetermined results. AA moderate to intense and accurate, causing minor damage to three airplanes. One airman of each squadron was abortive. Distance flown: 965 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-221, 16 May 44.)

13 May 44

Truk - Ten B-24's of 313d Bomb Squadron and eight of the 38th Bomb Squadron staged thru Entwistle to bomb Truk with 18 x 2,000-1 lb., 8 x 1,000-1 lb. GP bombs, and 20 x 42-lb. photo bombs from 7,500 to 15,000 feet. Of the 1,000 pounders, 18 fell on Eon, six on Eon, six on Makagen, six on an unidentified island, and six on island amid field near Northeast Pass. Nine of the 2,000-lb. bombs fell on Eon airstrip, six on Parm airstrip, two on Eon, and one on Dubble. Night photos were taken of Tal and Udo. Searchlights ineffective, AA meager and inaccurate. Three fighter and observed airborne. None of the B-24's was damaged. Three B-24's dropped six 1,000-1 lb. and six 2,000-1 lb. GP bombs on Eon, 1,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. No AA or searchlights. Distance flown: 1,652 to 2,104 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-246, 18 May 44.)

Malekula - Six B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 72 x 500-1 lb. demolition bombs on Taroa from 10,000 feet, 82 per cent in target. No AA. No activity was observed. Distance flown: 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-255, 19 May 44.)

Jaluit - One B-24 of 392d Bomb Squadron at Kwajalein dropped 12 x 500-1 lb. GP bombs on Jabor from 10,000 feet, with no hits observed. AA meager and inaccurate. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 13 May 44.)

13-14 May 44

Ponape - Eight B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron dropped 32 x 500-1 lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,500 to 10,000 feet. Twenty-five hit in plantation area, and on runways of old and new airfields. Seven went into the water. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-242, 16 May 44.)

14-15 May 44

Jaluit - Fifty-four B-24's, including 12 of 27th Bomb Squadron, 12 of 38th, 12 of 392d, 10 of 98th, nine of 431st and one of
 Headquarters 11th Army, in daylight mission against Jaluit from Kwajalein. Fifty-three dropped 28 x 2,000-lb., 500 x 500-lb., and 40 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 1,500 to 10,000 feet, with 69 per cent hitting assigned targets, and 30 additional 500-lb. bombs hitting areas outside of targets on Jaluit Island. One B-24, dropped 12 x 500 lb. GPs on alternate target of Mille from 9,500 feet. AA and AN were major and inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-24. Distance flown: 464 to 634 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-250, 19 May 44.)

JALUIT - Forty-three B-25's of 41st Bomb Group, including 14 from the 47th Bomb Squadron, 13 from the 48th, 12 from the 396th, and one from the 320th, dropped a total of 172 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,000 to 10,000 feet as follows: 20 on Aneenson, 20 on Jabor, 16 on South Point area, 46 on Enibau and Agidyan, 52 on Eagit, and 16 in the water. Installations were strafed with 46,720 rounds of .50-cal. and 217 rounds of 75-mm. ammunition from 25 to 500 feet. AA was major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 675 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-243, 19 May 44.)

JALUIT - In addition to the B-24's and B-25's mentioned above, the following Navy aircraft were over Jaluit: 24 F6F's, 95 F4U's, and 60 SB2C's. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary, 15 May 44.)

WOLVE-MALCOLAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Etajoe and Malcolap from 10,000 feet. AA at Malcolap major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-1, 21 May 44.)

MILLE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed Millo from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance to target and back to Kwajalein: 1,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-2, 23 May 44.)

15 May 44
JALUIT - Two F-7's of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Jaluit from 5,000 to 10,000 feet. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 600 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-3, 24 May 44.)

16 May 44
WAKE - Twelve B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron and 11 of 27th Bomb Squadron based on Kwajalein in mission against Wake. Airplanes of 392d dropped 480 x 100-lb. GP bombs in vicinity of Peacock Point from 10,000 to 14,000 feet, 75 per cent in target area. The 27th Bomb Squadron dropped 120 x 500-lb. GPs on Wilkes Island from 10,500 to 12,500 feet, 90 per cent in target area. AA moderate and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-24's. Distance flown: 1,445 to 1,471 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-251, 21 May 44.)
NAUKU - Ten B-25's of 456th Bomb Squadron and two of 820th
at Nukus dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Nauku from 8,400-
to 11,500 feet. 69 per cent hitting on power plant, AA posi-
tions, dispersed areas, and runways. AA moderate to intense
and accurate, damaging four B-25's slightly. No additional
B-24's were abortive. Distance flown: 950 statute miles.
(F/E VII BC Mission Report K-244, 22 May 44.)

TUNE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
at 10,000 to 10,000 feet. One inaccurate burst of AA caused
no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report P-4, 23 May 44.)

MILLO - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Millo from 10,000 to 10,000 feet. No AA or interception.
Distance flown: 658 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report P-9, 23 May 44.)

16-17
May 44

JALUIT - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron made five
photo runs over Jaluit from 5,000 feet. No AA or intercep-
tion. Distance flown: 756 statute miles. (F/E VII BC
Mission Report K-5, 23 May 44.)

17 May 44

PCIAFZ - Nine B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Enigboli dropped
24 x 500-lb. and 36 x 100-lb. GP bombs on both airfields and
dock areas of Ponape from 9,500 feet, 100 per cent in airfield
target areas, with dock area hits unobserved. New airfields
appeared operational. AA moderate and inaccurate. Distance
flown: 925 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report K-245,
21 May 44.)

18 May 44

WAKE - Eighteen Kwaialain-based B-24's, including one from
Headquarters 11th Bomb Group, eight from 86th Bomb Squadron,
and nine from 431st, bombed Wake from 12,000 to 14,000 feet,
dropping 106 x 500-lb. and 240 x 100-lb. GP bombs, with 66 per
cent of the 500-lb. hitting Kwajalein Island and 80 per cent of the
100-lb. on Wake Island. AA intense and accurate, destroying one
B-24, and damaging two others. Four B-24's jettisoned 120 x
100-lb. GP bombs because they were forced off the bomb run.
Two 500-pounders were jettisoned accuracy. Distance flown:
1,665 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-252,
21 May 44.)

PCIAFZ - Five B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Enigboli bombed
Kwajalein Island and one airfield on Ponape with 20 x 500-lb. GP
bombs from 9,100 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent hits. No AA.
Distance flown: 912 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Re-
port K-246, 22 May 44.)

18-19
May 44

MALOEAP - Eleven B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Nukus
bombed Taroa from 1,000 feet with 50 x 500-lb. GP bombs,
18-19 May 44 (contd)

66 per cent hit, plowery, accuracy on Northeast tip. AA
mager, but accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Air-
planes returned to Naha and with a 12th added, returned to
Taira in four flights to drop 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,200 to
9,700 feet on heavy AA battery on southeast shore, with 60 per
cent hits. One flight reported AA from guns mager and ac-
curate, but other flights reported no AA. None of the airplanes
was damaged. Distance flown: first strike, 520 statute miles;
second strike, 520 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
B-247, 23 May 44.)

19 May 44

POMAF - Mme B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Engebi over
Penang in three flights to drop 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs from
8,000 to 10,000 feet on new airstrip, with an estimated 100
per cent hits. AA mager and accurate. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report B-249, 22 May 44.)

MALAOAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Malaoap from 9,500 to 13,600 feet. AA mager and inaccurate,
causing no damage. Distance flown: 455 statute miles. (F/E
VII BC Mission Report P-7, 23 May 44.)

MILLE - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Mille from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance
flown: 546 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-8,
23 May 44.)

20 May 44

NAUJ - Twelve B-25's of 39th Bomb Squadron at Makiin over
Nauru in four flights dropped 144 x 100-lb. GP bombs from
9,300 to 10,500 feet, with 92 per cent hitting power plant
and phosphate plant. AA mager to intense and accurate,
causing minor damage to four B-25's. Distance flown: 1,000
statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report B-248, 23 May 44.)

MALAOAP - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Malaoap from Kwajalein from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception.
Distance flown: 750 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report
P-9, 23 May 44.)

JALUIT - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein
photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. AA mager and inaccurate,
causing no damage. Distance flown: 460 statute miles. (F/E
VII BC Mission Report P-10, 23 May 44.)

JALUIT - Another F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photo-
graphed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. AA mager and inaccurate,
causing no damage. Distance flown: 460 statute miles. (F/E
VII BC Mission Report P-11, 23 May 44.)

21 May 44

TONE - Fifty-five B-24's, including 12 of 27th Bomb Squadron,
11 of 392d, 10 of 38th, 11 of 431st, plus of 46th, and two of
21 May 44
Headquarters 11th Bom Group in daylight attack against Wotje from Kajailin. They dropped 1,294 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 4 x 2,000-lb. GP's, and 167 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs from 4,000 to 10,000 feet. An estimated 59 per cent of all bombs dropped hit assigned target areas. Approximately 67 1/2 per cent of the SAP's hit in target area on the southern part of Wotje Island. Fifty per cent of the 2,000-lb. GP's hit Yoton Island, and 55 per cent of the 100-lb. GP's hit on small islands of Wotje Atoll. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 205 to 402 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-25a 30 May 44)

WOTJA - Forty-one B-25's of 41st Bom Group, including 14 of 47th Bom Squadron, 12 of 396th Bom Squadron, and 15 of 320th Bom Squadron, in daylight attack on Wotje from Makin. They dropped a total of 492 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 1,000 to 4,500 feet on Orasad and small inlets of Wotje Atoll, getting hits on all islands attacked although the damage resulting from bombing was undetermined. In addition they conducted a low-level strafing and bombing attack expending 196 rounds of 75-mm. and 45,727 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. It was estimated that 71.5 per cent of the 75-mm. shells hit islands. AA meager and inaccurate to accurate. Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-250, 30 May 44)

21-22 May 44
ROTA - Nine B-24's of 26th Bom Squadron staged through Eniwetok to escort four Navy P4Y photo planes in daylight bombing and reconnaissance mission against Rota. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Eight dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Rota from 20,000 feet. Percentage of hits could not be estimated due to heavy cloud coverage. No AA or interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. All landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,730 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-248, 31 May 44)

22-23 May 44
PONAPE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bom Squadron in daylight mission against Ponape from Eniwetok. One abortive because of engine trouble. Three were preparing to make bomb run when a message was received ordering them to bomb with caution as a flight of B-24's from the Admiralties was scheduled to attack. While the B-25's were circling, the target became completely closed in. One B-25 dropped 12 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters on Ponape and strafed with 21 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 50 to 75 feet. Four dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jelena Island from 8,000 feet. AA meager and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown: 965 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-251, 26 May 44)

SECURITY INFORMATION
23-24 May 44

JALUIT - Twelve B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Makin, over Jaluit in four flights, dropped 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 7,000 to 8,000 ft. 85 per cent hitting AA positions on north tip of Edaj and 50 per cent hitting Tinlot. AA accurate, inaccurate. Three airplanes returned to Makin and nine landed at Majuro, refueled and returned to Jaluit to drop 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 7,200 to 8,000 feet on heavy AA battery northeast of building area on Tinlot, 40 per cent in target area. No AA. Distance flown: 425 statute miles. (F/3 VII BC Mission Report H-252, 23 May 44.)

24 May 44

FONAE - Three B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, returning to Eniwetok from Los Negros, dropped 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Langar Island with 29 hits observed, and 20 x 100-lb. GP on industrial plant at Natalkain, with no hits observed. AA accurate and caused no damage. Five other B-24's flew direct to Eniwetok without dropping any bombs. Distance flown: 1,006 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report H-249, 2 June 44.)

24-25 May 44

WONNE-JALUIT - Eleven B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Makin dropped 44 x 500-lb. bombs on Noto from 9,000 feet. Eleven hits were observed in the heavy AA battery area on the northeast tip of Noto, with 12 others observed in the heavy AA battery on ocean shore southeast of southern service area. No AA. All airplanes returned to Makin, 10 refueled and on return trip dropped 40 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 8,600 to 9,700 feet, with 65 per cent hitting targets. AA accurate and inaccurate. Distance flown: 345 to 525 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report H-254, 24 May 44.)

FONAE - Eight B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Fonomo. One dropped 12 x 100-lb. incendiary clusters and strafed with 25 rounds of 75-mm and 4,400 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition from 75 feet. Seven dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet. Flies were started in plantation and town areas. AA accurate and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 565 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report H-253, 26 May 44.)

25-26 May 44

FONAE - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Fonomo. Seven dropped 28 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 9,100 feet, 17 of which fell on building area. GP on plantation area, and on buildings at Ronditi Harbor. AA accurate and inaccurate. AA accurate and inaccurate. One B-25, hit in engine, made crash landing in ocean. Four crew members were rescued and two were killed. Distance flown: 850 to 1,100 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report H-255, 1 June 44.)
25 May 44

WAKIJ - One P-77 of 69th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kusaibin photographed target from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance from: 390 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report E-22, 31 May 44.)

PAKILI - Nine B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron assigned to search and attack mission. Seven dropped 4 rounds of 75-mm. and another, 950 rounds of 20-cal. ammunition in strafing Wakaib from 150 to 200 feet. Two strafed southern perimeter of Fukaib from 1,000 rounds of 20-cal. ammunition. Fuel run with four moors of crew of last B-25 was located and rescue effected by destroyers. AA from Fukaib engaged and inaccurate. Distance flown: 1,000 to 1,150 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-256, 30 May 44.)

JALUIT - Forty-two B-25's of 41st Bomb Group in daylight attack on Jaluit from Nola. Thirteen of 620th Bomb Squadron dropped 26 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Jalit from 7,600 to 9,000 feet, 58 per cent in target area. Two of the 68th dropped 4 x 1,000-lb. GPs on NA target on NE tip of Jalit from 9,000 feet, 100 per cent on target. Fifteen of the 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 30 x 1,000-lb. GPs from 7,000 to 8,500 feet, 27 per cent on target. Six of 396th dropped 12 x 1,000-lb. GPs on Jalit from 9,000 to 9,600 feet, 30 per cent on target. AA engaged and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 920 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-257, 4 June 44.)

26-27 May 44

FOKARE - Twenty-five B-24's of the 11th and 30th Bomb Groups in daylight attack on Fokare from Kusaibin. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Five of 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 200 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Lungar Island from 15,200 to 16,000 feet, 98 per cent on target. One of 26th squadron, which developed engine trouble just before reaching target, dropped 40 x 100-lb. GPs on an unidentified part of Fokare Island. Five B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron dropped 30 x 500-lb. GPs and 20 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters. On Fokare Town from 10,000 to 12,200 feet, and one dropped 20 x 100-lb. GPs on Lungar Island. All hit on target. Six of 396th dropped 72 x 500-lb. GPs on Fokare Town from 12,000 feet, 100 per cent hits; and five dropped 60 x 500-lb. GPs on old airstrip from 11,200 to 12,500 feet, 100 per cent hits. AA moderately intense, but inaccurate. News of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,325 to 1,440 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report H-253, 2 June 44.)

FOKARE - Fifty-four B-25's of 41st Bomb Group in daylight mission against Fokare from Eniwetok. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Twelve of 620th Bomb Squadron dropped 140 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Lungar Island and 4 x 100-lb. GPs on Aro Point, Fokare Island, from 7,500 to 10,000 feet, 67 per cent hits. Fourteen of 47th Squadron dropped 56 x 500-lb. GPs on Fokare Town from 5,000 to 8,600 feet, 100 per...
27-28 May 44

CRAT HIT - Ten of 48th Squadron dropped 120 x 100-lb. GP's on Fort Point from 8,000 to 10,000 feet, and three dropped 26 x 100-lb. GP's on Lunga Island from 8,500 feet. 86 per cent hit. Thirteen of 396th Squadron dropped 52 x 500-lb. GP's from 9,500 to 10,000 feet on Peaapu Town, 77 per cent hit. AA mayor to moderate and inaccurate. AA major to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Distance flown: 911 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-258, 5 June 44.)

POCHAP - After the above two attacks had taken place, three P-7's of 88th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kajalein assigned to photograph Peaapu. Because of cloud coverage, only one made photo run. These were made from 10,000 feet. AA moderate and accurate; AA intense and accurate. None of the P-7's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,325 to 1,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-13, 2 June 44.)

28-29 May 44

JALUIT - Twenty-nine B-25's of 47th and 396th Bomb Squadrons dropped 68 x 1,000-lb. and 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Eilidj and Enybor from 7,700 to 10,000 feet. Twenty of the 1,000-lb. and all of the 500-lb. bombs hit Eilidj, six hit Enybor, and remainder fell in Logear. AA and AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,020 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-259, 5 June 44.)

MALCOAP - One P-7 of 88th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kajalein photographed Malaloy from 10,000 feet. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 510 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report P-14, 31 May 44.)

29 May 44

SAIPAN - Fourteen B-24's of 35th and 431st Bomb Squadrons staged through Eniwetok to escort eight Navy photo planes over Saipan. Four were abortive because of engine trouble. Seven dropped 21 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 18,500 to 20,000 feet, 15 on island. Two jettisoned bombs after leaving target. AA major and inaccurate. Intercepted by 10 to 12 Zekes, Heimas, Tojoe, and Oscar, of which two Zekes and one Heim were damaged. One B-24 was shot down. Remainder returned to Eniwetok. Distance flown: 3,100 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-258, 3 June 44.)

GUAM - Five B-24's of 35th Bomb Squadron and nine of 27th staged thru Eniwetok to escort Navy PBY photo planes over Guam, dropping 31 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 18,000 feet. Thirteen of the B-24's reported interception by two to 10 Zekes and Heimas which dropped phosphorous bombs; the other B-24, reported interception by 15 to 20 enemy fighters and running battle lasting 25 minutes, with one Zeko destroyed. AA major to intense and accurate to inaccurate. Tail of one B-24 hit by fragment of
29 May 44
(continued)
damage. On completion of mission, B-24's landed at Los Negros.
Distance flown: 2,700 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report R-299, 6 June 44.)

WILLS - Thirteenth B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron dropped 52 x
500-lb. GP bombs on Wills from 7,500 to 8,500 feet with all.
but two hitting gun positions and radar station area. Distance
flown: 260 statute miles. All major and inaccurate. (F/B VII
BC Mission Report H-260, 5 June 44.)

29-30
May 44
WONK-WILLS - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron made
10 photo runs over Wills from 10,000 feet and 11 over Wills
from 10,000 feet. All from both planes major and inaccurate,
causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,075 statute miles.
(F/B VII BC Mission Report P-15, 2 June 44.)

30-31
May 44
JALUIT - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron photographed
Jaluit from 10,000 feet. All major and inaccurate, causing no
damage. Distance flown: 470 statute miles. (F/B VII BC
Mission Report P-16, 1 June 44.)

PCIAVE - Ten B-25's of 45th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-lb.
and 60 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Pecosco, hitting new airstrip,
Langar Island, Hot Point, and guns on Jetaia, from 8,000 to
10,000 feet. All major and inaccurate. No damage. Distance
flown: 500 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report M-261,
6 June 44.)

PCIAVE - Fourteenth B-24's of 77th and 38th Bomb Squadrons, re-
turning from Los Negros to Okinawa dropped 120 x 100-lb.
GP bombs on plantation area at Pecosco from 9,000 to 11,000
feet. One of the airplanes had engine trouble and dropped no
bombs, and another airplane, escorting it, dropped 10 x 100-lb.
GP's on an unidentified area at Pecosco. Of all the bombs
dropped, 62 per cent hit in assigned target area. All major
and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,650
statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report H-260, 6 June 44.)

WAKE - Two P-7's of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Okinawa
photographed Wake from 20,000 feet. All major and inaccurate,
causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,400 statute miles.
(F/B VII BC Mission Report P-17, P-17A, 2 June 44.)

31 May 44
TRUK - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron, dropped 24 x 100-lb.
fragmentation clusters from 12,000 to 16,000 feet on Truk-
10% on old and new airstrips on Truk, 16 on Pena, 16 on Pia In-
land, and remainder unobserved. Fire visible for 150 miles
at 10,000 feet. All from gun major and inaccurate. Two to
11 searchlights accurate to inaccurate. One enemy aircrew
aborted. One B-24 abortive. Distance flown: 2,445 statute
miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report P-277, 6 June 44.)
31 May 44 (contd) NAINI: Eighteen B-24's of the 30th Bomb Group, including 11 of the 393rd Bomb Squadron, six of the 39th, and one of the 27th, in daylight missions against Naini from Kajaloid. Those of the 38th dropped 12 x 2,000-lb. GP bombs on Kajaloid from 12,500 to 13,500 feet, 62 per cent on the target. Those of the 393rd Squadron dropped 6 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Naini from 14,500 to 15,000 feet, 82 per cent on the target. The B-24 of the 27th Squadron dropped 4 x 2,000-lb. GP's on Naini Island, 75 per cent on target. Air moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. One B-24 received minor damage.

Distance flown: 1,689 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report B-256, 5 June 44.)
1 June 44

JALUIT - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Jaluit photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. No AA or interception. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report F-18, 8 June 44.)

1-2 June 44

PONAE - B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Pamporo Island. Four dropped 8 x 500-lb. and 2 x 100-lb. GP bombs on old airfield from 9,500 to 10,000 feet, 100 per cent on or near runways. One airplane dropped 6 x 100-lb. GP's and 6 x 100-lb. incendiaries from 75 feet on Pomon District. 100 per cent hits, and strafed entire southern perimeter of Pamporo Island with 30 rounds of 75-mm. and 4,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Two dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP's on Lungar Island from 9,000 feet, 83 per cent on target. Two dropped 2 x 100-lb. GP's on Naval Headquarters area at Pamporo Town from 9,800 feet, 100 per cent on target. SA major and accurate. One B-25 received minor damage from 20-mm. fire and debris from explosion. Distance flown: 240 miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-262, 8 June 44.)

2 June 44

NAURU - Eleven B-24's of 328th Bomb Squadron over Nauru from 8,500 to 10,000 feet, dropping 44 x 500-lb. GP bombs, all on AA positions north and south of Fuba. Runways reported operational. All hit and range from inaccurate to accurate. 100 fire major and accurate. Three additional B-24's were abortive. Distance flown: 1,500 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-263, 12 June 44.)

3 June 44

TBUK - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and nine of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night mission against Truk. One was abortive because of engine trouble. Seventeen dropped 46 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 31 x 500-lb. fragmentation clusters, and 2 x 50-lb. photo flash bombs. Approximately 85 per cent of all bombs dropped hit assigned targets on Moon, Etten, Dablon, Parem, and Exogram. AA major and inaccurate. Four of the B-24's were attacked by one single-engine enemy fighter each. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,500 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-261, 11 June 44.)

3 June 44

NAURU - Fifteen B-25's of 366th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Nauru from Makin. Two were abortive. Thirteen dropped 116 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 11,600 feet. Eight airplanes got 100 per cent hits, three got 57 per cent hits, and two got no hits. Targets were AA positions and barracks area. AA moderate, inaccurate, accurate to accurate. Three B-25's received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report N-264, 10 June 44.)

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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2 June 44

TAIN - Hiko E-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and seven of 26th Bomb Squadron strafed through Birmotch for night mission against Truk. One was abortive because of fire in tail turret. Fourteen dropped 75 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 10,500 to 16,000 feet, with 77 per cent hitting in target area on Ponape, Hesao, Hesacao, and Hoon. Two dropped 11 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 11,000 to 13,500 feet, with 100 per cent hits on Langar Island and old airfield. AA at Truk tended to moderate, inaccurate to accurate. No AA at Penaos. One B-24 received slight damage. Distance flown: 1,740 to 2,400 statute miles. (P-2 VII BC Mission Report K-262, 12 June 44.)

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron at Engobi dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 10,000 feet, with bombs falling on old airfield, Tama residence, and plantation area. No AA. Distance flown: 860 statute miles. (P-2 VII BC Mission Report K-265, 7 June 44.)

5 June 44

MAURU - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron hit Mauro with 120 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. AA from guns moderate and accurate, but trailing, causing no damage. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (P-2 VII BC Mission Report K-269, 9 June 44.)

KUVA - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Nutso from 6,500 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-19, 5 June 44.)

JALUIT - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron at Kwajalein photographed Jaluit from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-20, 5 June 44.)

5-6 June 44

GUAM - Eight B-24's of 93rd and 431st Bomb Squadrons escorted one photo plane from the 86th Combat Mapping Squadron and four Navy photo planes over Guam. Three B-24's were abortive. Five dropped 15 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 15,500 to 20,000 feet, with hits on Orote airfield. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Five B-24's landed at Los Negros. Distance flown: 2,725 statute miles. (P-2 VII BC Mission Report K-263, 12 June 44.)

6 June 44

PONAPE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Ponape from 8,500 to 9,000 feet, 50 per cent on AA positions on Jino Island. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (P-2 VII BC Mission Report K-267, 9 June 44.)

PONAPE - Five B-24's returning from Los Negros dropped 2 1/2 tons of bombs on Ponape, hitting both airfields, Ponape Town, and area north of Makalmin Harbor. AA moderate and inaccurate. (VII BC Daily Operational Intelligence Summary)
7 June 44
PAKIN - One P-7 of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron, returning
to Truk, was forced down. Wreckage from 20,000
feet. (36th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-23,
7 June 44.)

8 June 44
NAHU - Twelve B-25's from 380th Bomb Squadron hit Nauro
from 8,500 feet with 136 x 100-lb. GP bombs, 20 per cent
hitting Sengar Tora and 60 per cent hitting coastal defense
guns and AA positions. AA intense and accurate, causing
minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 950 statute miles.
(F/E VII EC Mission Report H-269, 12 June 44.)

PONAPE - Five B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 16 x
500-lb., and 6 x 100-lb. GP bombs on seaplane base at Langar
Island and Nambalin Harbor (Penaga) from 8,000 feet, with
75 per cent hits. AA major and inaccurate, causing no
damage. An additional B-25 was abortive because of gas leak.
Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Re-
port H-268, 11 June 44.)

TAUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, eight of 431st
Bomb Squadron and one of 431st Bomb Squadron staged through
Emirik in night mission against Truk. Two were abortive
because of weather conditions. Eleven dropped 210 x 100-lb.
GP bombs and 120 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on Truk
from 11,500 to 12,500 feet, with hits as follows: 160 GP
on airfield; 160 on seaplane base at Emao; 30 GP on Fola; and
30 fragmentation on Fola and on unidentified island. Four seapla-
nes dropped 20 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 90 x 120-lb. fragmen-
tation clusters on Penaga from 8,500 to 12,000 feet. Sixty
of the formations hit Penaga Tora, and 30 fell on Langar Island.
Thirty GP hit seaplane area southwest of old airfield.
AA at both Truk and Penaga major and inaccurate. One B-24
was attacked by one twin-engine fighter which made one pass.
None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute
miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report H-261, 14 June 44.)

9 June 44
TAUK - Seven B-24's of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through
Emirik in night mission against Truk. Six dropped 260 x
100-lb., GP bombs on Truk from 10,000 to 15,000 feet, with
120 hitting Emao and 120 falling on an unidentified island.
One B-24 dropped 10 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Penaga from 13,500
feet, 38 of which hit Langar Island. There was no AA at
either place, and none of the B-24's was damaged. Distance
flown: 2,443 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report H-265,
13 June 44.)

10 June 44
TAUK - Ten B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron staged through
Emirik in night strike against Truk. One was abortive be-
cause of weather conditions. Seven dropped a total of 278 x
100-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 11,600 to 14,500 feet, with
[Security Information Redacted]
10 June 44
99 per cent hitting airfield targets on Iwo, Enon, and Funa. In addition to bombs, 2,100 Sondos No. 4 Propaganda Leaflets and seven cartons of radar confusors were dropped. Two B-24's dropped 50 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Funa from 10,000 to 10,500 feet, 100 per cent on Jisaj Island gun positions and Funa Town. AA at Truk proved to moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Funa. One of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,956 statute miles. (P/3 VII BC Mission Report H-265, 16 June 44.)

HADIN - Sixteen B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight mission against Nauru from Maidin. Thirteen dropped 156 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 11,600 feet, in four flights. Two flights got 100 per cent hits in gun batteries, and other two flights got 100 per cent hits on island. One B-25, damaged by AA at start of bomb run, was unable to release its bombs. Two others salvaged their bombs in order to escort the damaged aircraft. The damaged airplane was forced down in water about 40 miles from Nauru. All of the crew were rescued by D dashboard AA, varying from meager to intense and inaccurate to accurate, caused moderate damage to four additional B-25's. Distance flown: 1,024 statute miles. (P/3 VII BC Mission Report H-270, 18 June 44.)

11 June 44
TRUK - Nine B-24's of 36th Bomb Squadron, scheduled to attack on 10 June, but postponed because of the weather, staged through Emirakel for night mission against Truk. They dropped a total of 250 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 11,000 to 16,300 feet, with hits as follows: 120 on Truk airfield, 26 on Enon, and 20 on Doolen. The remainder were unobserved or went into the water. AA meager to intense, accurate to inaccurate. Fifteen searchlights were observed, but they were uncoordinated. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (P/3 VII BC Mission Report H-266, 16 June 44.)

FCHAFE - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 21 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jisaj Island from 8,000 to 8,500 feet, 100 per cent hits. They also dropped 2,000 propaganda leaflets, Serial No. 1. AA meager and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (P/3 VII BC Mission Report H-271, 14 June 44.)

12 June 44
TRUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d
Bomb Squadron staged through Emirakel in night mission against Truk. They dropped 67 x 1,000-lb. and 310 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 9,500 to 13,600 feet. Out of the 1,000-lb. bombs, 80 hit Enon airfield, six hit Funa airfield, six hit Tais Island, and five on Funa. Of the 100-pounds, 270 hit South Airfield, Enon, and remainder fell into water. They also dropped 2,700 Serial No. 5 leaflets. AA meager to intense, accurate to inaccurate. Seventeen to 19 searchlights.
12 June 44

Two B-24's each were intercepted by one unidentified fighter. One B-24 received major damage, one crew member was killed, and three were wounded. Distance flown: 1,950 to 2,445 statute miles.

(U/S VII BC Mission Report H-267, 17 June 44.)


13 June 44

TRUK - Twenty-six B-24's of 11th Bomb Group staged thru Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Truk. Six of the 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 2,000 x 100-lb. GP bombs on North Moon airfield, 80 per cent hits; seven of the 431st dropped 2,000 x 100-lb. GP on South Moon airfield, 90 per cent hits; six of the 26th dropped 200 x 100-pounders on North Moon airfield and 40 x 100-lb. on Rin Island. Five B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. AA moderate to intense, inaccurate to accurate. Interception by 7 to 12 Zekos, one Kemp, one Tejo, and one Tony, all unagressive. One Zeko was destroyed, two Zekos and one Kemp were probably destroyed, and two Zekos and two Tejos were damaged. One B-24 was damaged. Three Navy photo planes accompanied the mission. Two B-24's, failing to reach Truk because of oxygen trouble, dropped 80 x 100-lb. GP bombs on jetai Island (Ponape) from 10,000 to 15,000 feet. AA moderate and inaccurate. Distance flown: 2,470 statute miles.

(U/S VII BC Mission Report H-268, 16 June 44.)

24 June 44

TRUK - Eight B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for a night attack on Truk. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Thirteen dropped 520 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 9,000 to 18,200 feet, with 93 per cent of bombs dropping hitting airfields on Ponape and Enin. In addition, 6,000 Series No. 7 Propaganda Leaflets were dropped. One B-24 dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP on Ponape from 8,500 feet, 100 per cent on jetai Island. AA at Truk moderate and inaccurate. No AA at Ponape. One single-engined fighter intercepted over Truk. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,944 to 2,400 statute miles. (U/S VII BC Mission Report H-269, 18 June 44.)

NAURU - Fourteen P-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Nauro from Kalid dropped 152 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 9,000 feet, with all but 12 hitting AA positions or runways. No AA. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (U/S VII BC Mission Report H-272, 17 June 44.)
14 June 44
(continued)

POIMA - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 23 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions at Kakoj, 100 per cent hits. AA heavy and inaccurate, caused no damage. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report B-273, 16 June 44.)

15 June 44

American forces landed on Salamaua. (7 AF Intelligence Summary July 44, 15 July 44.)

16 June 44

POIMA - Six B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on gun positions at Kakoj from 8,500 to 9,000 feet and four 500-lb. GP on Industrial area in vicinity of Salamaua Harbor, with results unobserved. Dropped 2,000 Series No. 3 Propaganda leaflets. AA heavy and inaccurate, caused no damage. Both airfields appeared operational. Distance flown: 850 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report B-274, 20 June 44.)

17 June 44


FENGELAP - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Fengepap. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-26ABCE, 17 June 44.)

18 June 44

POIMA - Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and two of 36th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Panape from Kwajalein dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,000 to 10,500 feet, with hits on Panape Town, Kakoj Island, Not Point, Langar Island and Parna Island. AA heavy and inaccurate, caused no damage. Distance flown: 1,405 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report B-273, 20 June 44.)

NAURU - Blown B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron struck Nauru with 6 x 500-lb. bombs from 8,000 to 9,000 feet with bombs hitting AA positions near phosphate plant and a building at beach. One B-24, at 1,000 feet strafed area south of phosphate plant with 20 rounds of 75-mm. and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Large fires were visible for 20 miles at 2,000 feet. AA moderate to intense, but inaccurate. One B-25 was abortive. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report B-276, 22 June 44.)

NAURU - Ton B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron attacked Nauru with 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,000 to 9,500 feet, with all bombs scoring hits in target areas. AA intense, inaccurate to accurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 971 statute miles. (P/E VII BC Mission Report B-275, 21 June 44.)
19 June 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d Bomb Squadron with one from 383d Bomb Squadron attacked Truk through Eniwetok for a daylight mission against Truk. One was abortive because of mechanical failure. Fourteen dropped 163 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 8,200 S.R.S. No. 8 Propaganda leaflets on Ebon Island from 10,000 to 11,500 feet. Eighty-two bombs fell on Ebon airfield, setting large fires, and the remainder were unobserved. One B-24 dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Eniwetok airfield, 100 per cent on AA positions on Jokaj Island. One B-24 dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Hall Islands; two on land and four in the water. AA at Truk major and inaccurate. No AA at Eniwetok. Distance flown: 2,340 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 270, 23 June 44.)

20 June 44

TRUK - Eighteen B-24's of the 11th Bomb Group staged thru Eniwetok for a daylight attack on TRUK. Nine of 295th Bomb Squadron dropped 356 x 100-lb. Frag-laden clusters from 20,000 feet—128 on Ebon airfield, 20 on southeast Ebon, and 210 in the water. Eight of the 95th Bomb Squadron dropped 320 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet—220 hitting Ebon airfield and 100 falling in the water. An additional B-24 was abortive, jettisoning its bombs 15 minutes before the target. Several small fires were started in revetment area at Ebon, and a large fire on Ebon airfield was visible for 10 miles at 15,000 feet. There were no interceptors. AA intense and accurate, causing minor damage to two airplanes. AA barrage appeared to be in use. Distance flown: 2,417 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Reports 271, 23 June 44.)

FSIZE - Three B-24's of 392d Bomb Squadron dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Eniwetok from 11,000 feet, with 100 per cent hits on Jokaj Island. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 1,311 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 274, 22 June 44.)

FSIZE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 1,950 S.R.S. No. 4 Propaganda leaflets from 10,000 to 10,700 feet on Jokaj, 85 per cent of the bombs hitting near gun positions. Fires were visible for 15 miles at 9,000 feet. AA major and inaccurate, causing no damage. No airfield appeared to be operational. Distance flown: 885 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 277, 22 June 44.)

FSIZE - Nine B-25's of 395th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Eniwetok dropped 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 1,600 S.R.S. No. 5 Propaganda leaflets from 10,600 to 11,000 feet. All of the bombs hit on and near AA positions on Jokaj Island. AA and AI major and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report 278, 23 June 44.)
Advance portion of Headquarters 318th Fighter Group and 19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons arrived at Saipan.

(History of 318th Fighter Group, 19th Fighter Squadron, and 73d Fighter Squadron, June 44.)

21 June 44

TRUE - Hiko B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and seven of the 38th dropped 160 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Truk from 17,000 to 20,000 feet, with 127 falling on Kwon airfields. Aircraft of the 27th experienced moderate to intense and accurate AA and interception by five aggressive enemy fighters which dropped 11 phosphorous bombs and made 10 passes. Those of the 38th experienced only moderate and inaccurate AA and interception by one fighter which dropped seven phosphorous bombs. Two fighters were damaged, and three B-24's were damaged. One crewman was injured. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-272, 23 June 44.)

TRUE - Talofo B-24's of 392d and 431st Bomb Squadrons in daylight mission over Truk dropped 114 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 3,000 5000-lb. 11 Propaganda leaflets from 16,400 to 17,500 feet on Panom airstrip and dispersal areas, with all but two hitting on or near target. AA proved moderate and inaccurate to accurate, slightly damaging one airplane. Nine aggressive fighters, including six Zekos, two Tojos, and one He-111, intercepted, dropping phosphorous bombs, which caused minor damage to one airplane. The B-24's because of engine trouble dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Panom from 17,000 feet, all hitting in vicinity of AA positions on Jekoj. No AA or interception. An additional B-24, jettisoned its bombs 150 miles from Truk because of engine failure. Distance flown: 2,440 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-275, 25 June 44.)

22 June 44

TRUE - Nineteen B-24's of the 11th Bomb Group staged thru Eniwetok for a raid on Truk. Six of the 98th Bomb Squadron dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet on Kwon, 37 of which hit airfield. An additional B-24, unable to reach the target, dropped its bombs electrically over Kwon, calcium black 10 x 500-lb. GP's over Panom while leaving target area. Two 98th Squadron B-24's were abortive because of engine trouble. Eight of the 26th Bomb Squadron dropped 60 x 500-lb. GP bombs on North Kwon from 23,000 feet, 24 on target. Two B-24's of the 26th were abortive because of mechanical trouble. AA proved moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Four or five aggressive Zekos and Heinkels intercepted, dropping seven phosphorous bombs. One Zeko was destroyed and one was damaged. One B-24, retained moderate damage. One B-24 of the 98th Bomb Squadron, unable to reach Truk because of charge, dropped nine 500-lb. bombs on Panom from 13,000 feet, with all bombs hitting target area on Jekoj Island. AA proved moderate and inaccurate. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-276, 25 June 44.)
22 June 44

THILAN - Eight P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron strafed and rocketed enemy ground forces on Tinian, expending 14,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 14 rockets. Damaged at least three enemy positions. (Document 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 43 - July 44)

Twenty-two pilots of 19th Fighter Squadron landed at Saipan from an aircraft carrier. (History of 19th Fighter Squadron, June 44)

23 June 44

THILAN - Nine B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and eight of 38th Bomb Squadron staged thru Enogai in daylight mission against Truk. Nine of the 27th dropped 90 x 500-lb. GP bombs on north airstrip at Nemo from 19,000 to 21,000 feet, only eight on the target and the remainder in the water.

Six of the 38th Squadron dropped 60 x 500-lb. bombs on South Nemo airstrip from 20,000 to 21,000 feet, 39 on target. All moderate to intense, but inaccurate. Aircraft of 27th intercepted by one aggressive Japanese fighter, and those of 38th encountered four Zekes and one Tojo which dropped three phosphorous bombs. Three interceptors were damaged and two B-24's were slightly damaged. Two B-24's, because of mechanical difficulty, dropped 16 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj Island. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F2F VII BG Mission Report R-277, 26 June 44)

PHARE - Nine B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron in daylight attack on Penapo from Enogai dropped 106 x 100-lb. GP bombs and 1,923 50-lb. 6 Propaganda leaflets from 9,500 to 10,700 feet, with 104 falling on or near target area on Jokaj Island and two hitting Penapo Town. All accurate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 875 statute miles. (F2F VII BG Mission Report R-280, 26 June 44)

INSECTICIDE - Four P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron catapulted from carrier to intercept four Bals. Made no contact. Landed at Saipan. (Document 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 43 - July 44)

Eleven pilots of 19th Fighter Squadron and four of 73d Fighter Squadron landed at Saipan from aircraft carrier. (History of 19th and 73d Fighter Squadrons, June 44)

24 June 44

PHARE - Three B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron and one of 36th in attack on Penapo. Two reached the target and dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jokaj from 9,800 to 10,000 feet, all hitting inland. All accurate and inaccurate, causing no damage. One B-24 failed to find target and returned to Kwajalein with bombs. Distance flown: 1,032 statute miles. (F2F VII BG Mission Report R-231, 26 June 44)
24 June 44 (contd)

CARRIBEAN — One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in
mission from Eniwetok, photographed Orolux and Hino in the
Caroline from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron
Mission Report P-2765, 24 June 44)

SAIPAN-TIHAN — P-47’s of 73d Fighter Squadron in six sorties
over Saipan, expending 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition,
and in four sorties over Tinian, expending 3,200 rounds of
.50-cal. ammunition strafing. Four Japanese bombers were
left burning at Tinian. (Ibid.)

RESCUE — Seven P-47’s of 72d Fighter Squadron in two escort
missions for Bums on rescue service eight miles north of
Bora. Bums also covered by seven P-47’s of 19th Fighter
Squadron. (Pro. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41
— July 44.)

INTERCEPTION — Two P-61’s of 6th Night Fighter Squadron up
to intercept night raiders north of Saipan, but made no
contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

Thirty-three pilots of the 72d Fighter Squadron landed at
Saipan from aircraft carrier. (History of 73d Fighter
Squadron, June 44.)

25 June 44

SAIPAN-TIHAN — P-47’s of 19th Fighter Squadron in four
sorties over Saipan, expending 4,200 rounds of .50-cal.
ammunition strafing trucks and buildings; and in 23 sorties
over Tinian, expending 31,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition
strafing aircraft. One P-47 was slight damaged. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN — Two P-61’s of 6th Night Fighter Squadron on night
patrol over Saipan expended 1,400 rounds of 20-mm. ammuni-
tion. The airplanes were destroyed in a collision after
landing. All personnel were lost. (Ibid.)

TIHAN — Eight P-47’s of 73d Fighter Squadron on observation
mission over Tinian expended 100 rounds of .50-cal. ammuni-
tion. (Ibid.)

25-26

June 44

WOWE — Four B-24’s of 27th Bomb Squadron from Roi-Jaluit
dropped 16 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on 95-Jo from 18,000 to 19,000
feet and 26 x 100-lb. GPs from 6,000 to 8,000 feet, with 33
hits being observed in northwest corner of island. All
moderate and inaccurate. Caused no damage. Photos were
taken. Distance from: 375 statute miles. (P/F VII BC
Mission Report K-282, 26 June 44.)

26 June 44

TIHAN — Nine B-24’s of 93d Bomb Squadron and seven of the
4,31st staged from Eniwetok in daylight attack on Truk. Five
airplanes of the 93d Squadron were abortive—three because
of malfunctions, one because of loss of gas tank cap, and
one because of inability to catch the
26th Squadron was abortive because of engine trouble. Ten dropped 69 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs and 3,000 SBDs No. 14 Propaganda Leaflets from 15,300 feet. Only three bombs were observed to hit land. AA was moderate to intense and inaccurate. Four to five aggressive Zekes intercepted, dropping phosphorous bombs. One Zeko was destroyed. None of the B-25's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-278, 29 June 44.)

HAINA - Sixteen B-25's of 38th Bomb Squadron dropped 192 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on Hainan from 7,100 to 10,000 feet, with 95 percent hitting in vicinity of AA positions. AA moderate to intense and accurate. One B-25 was shot down in water (crew rescued) and four received minor damage. Runways appeared operational. Distance flown: 1,000 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-279, 1 July 44.)

POWAFE - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron were over Penang in three flights, dropping 72 x 1,000-lb. demolition bombs from 9,500 to 10,900 feet, with 66 percent falling on Jelal Island and 34 percent on new airfield at Pulau. They also dropped 1,960 SBDs No. 7 Propaganda Leaflets. AA was moderate and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report H-281, 29 June 44.)


HOKAI-EAST EKYU - One F-7 of 56th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Hahai from 20,000 feet. Another F-7 photographed Hahai and East Ekyu from 10,000 feet. (56th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-29A and P-238B, 26 June 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 25 sorties over Tinian, expending 17,285 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 25 rockets. One P-47 was damaged by a ricocheting .50-cal. bullet, another by AA, and a third by an exploding gun position. (Tec. Lt., History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - Two P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron in routine night patrols over Tinian. No contact with the enemy. (Ibid.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 14 sorties over Tinian, expending 9,540 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 43 rockets; and four sorties over Saipan, expending 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 17 rockets. (Ibid.)
26 June 44
Ground echelon of 318th Fighter Group arrived at Saipan. (History of 318th Fighter Group, June 44.)

27 June 44

POCARI - Six B-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron assigned a daylight mission against Panao, but all returned abortive because of a solid front 90 miles north of Panao. (F/E VII Mission Report M-282, 1 July 44.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian expended 6,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 36 rockets; in eight sorties over Saipan expended 5,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 42 rockets; and in 16 sorties over Rota expended 11,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 11 - July 44.)

ROTA - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 22 sorties over Rota expended 9,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 37 rockets. (Ibid.)

ROTA - One P-47 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron in routine combat air patrol over Rota expended 90 rounds of 20-mm ammunition, hitting one kite. (Ibid.)

TUK - 16 B-24's of 28th Bomb Squadron and eight of 392d staged thru Eniwetok for daylight mission against Truk. One airplane of the 392d was abortive and returned bombs to staging base. The remaining 16 dropped 96 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 18,300 to 21,600 feet on South Iwo airfield, dropping undetected. Twelve bombs fell into the water. All were moderate to inaccurate, accurate to inaccurate. After bombs away, 10 to 11 phosphorous bombs were dropped by enemy fighters, then the bombers were attacked by two Zeros, a Hornet, and a Tony. The Tony was destroyed. Two B-24's received minor damage. (F/E VII BC Mission Report R-279, 30 June 44.)

Ground echelons of 19th and 73rd Fighter Squadrons arrived at Saipan. (Histories of 19th and 73rd Fighter Squadrons, June 44.)

23 June 44

POCARI - One B-24 of 27th Bomb Squadron in night radar bombing mission over Panao dropped 6 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions at Jokaj Island and 9 x 100-lb. bombs on Nash Island from 1,500 to 5,000 feet. No AA. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Report, 30 June 44.)

HANUNUTO - One F-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Hanunuto in the Carolines from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-30.)

[Handwritten note: CONFIDENTIAL, SECURITY INFORMATION]
23 June 44 (contd)

TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in three sorties over Tinian, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs, expending 6,700 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 63 rockets; and in 10 sorties over Rota, dropping 20 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 2,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Deck 18, History of VII Fighter Command, deck A1 - July 44.)

TINIAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, expending 3,665 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 29 rockets; four sorties over Saipan, expending 6,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and 24 sorties over Rota, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 13,460 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 31 rockets. (Ibid.)

PATROL - Two P-61's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron in night patrol failed to make contact with enemy. (Ibid.)

29 June 44

NAKAI - Ten B-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Naha dropped 117 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on enemy targets at Howe from 10,000 to 10,500 feet, cutting fences and expeditions. An additional B-25 was abortive, and one was shot down while on bomb run by flak from inland AA. Another B-25 received minor damage. Photos were taken. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (P-12 VII B) Mission Report 15-269, 3 July 44.)

MARTHILLS - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Makin to Truk, photographed Makin, Hilo, Wake, and Truk from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report 9-21-10, 29 June 44.)

SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Saipan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. GPs, bombs and expending 10,170 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in support of ground troops; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. GPs, bombs, and expending 7,550 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 15 sorties over Rota, dropping 30 x 500-lb. GPs, and expending 8,660 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. An additional sortie over Rota was ineffective when one P-47 was lost on take-off. (Deck 18, History of VII Fighter Command, deck A1 - July 44.)

ROTA-SAIPAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Rota, dropping 48 x 500-lb. GPs, bombs, and expending 9,860 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 patrol sorties over Saipan in which no ammunition was expended. (Ibid.)

29-30 June 44

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 95th Bomb Squadron, nine of the 26th, and one from Headquarters 11th Bomb Group staged thru Eniwetok in high-altitude daylight bombing mission over Truk. One airplane damaged lost wing tip in taxiing and did not reach target. (Ibid.)
29-30 June 44 (cont'd)
take off from Eniwetok, and four more abortive. The re- 
mainder 1b dropped 68 x 1,000-lb. bombs from 19,500 to 
21,000 feet on North Hen airfield, AA batteries, and dis- 
persed area. Four explosions were noted, and two columns 
of black smoke were visible for 10 miles at 19,000 feet. 
Flak AA was inaccurate to accurate. Formations were 
attacked by 6 to 5 single-engine fighters (Tojos, Oscares, 
Zisons, and Hansa). Four phosphorescent bombs were dropped. 
Three E-24's sustained minor damage. Distance flown: 
2,411 statute miles. (P/2 VII BC Mission Report H-220, 
3 July 44.)

30 June 44

FOMAI - Six E-25's of 396th Bomb Squadron at Eniwetok 
conducted to daylight bombing mission over Peleliu returned 
abortive because of unfavorable weather conditions. Dis- 
tance flown 335 statute miles. (P/2 VII BC Mission Report 
H-224, 3 July 44.)

FOMAI - One P-77 of 85th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission 
from Eniwetok, photographed Peleliu from 16,666 feet. (85th 
Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-5311BC, 30 June 44.)

HASSELS - One P-77 of 85th Combat Mapping Squadron, in 
mission from Eniwetok, photographed Jaluit, Ilima, Falealup, 
and Wataja from 11,000 feet. (85th Combat Mapping Squadron 
Mission Report P-5311BC, 30 June 44.)

THINAN-SAIPAH-ETA - P-47's of 39th Fighter Squadron in 16 
cortines over Tinian, dropping 26 x 500-lb. GP bombs and 
expanding 19,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in four 
cortines over Saipan, expanding 6,200 rounds of .50-cal. 
ammunitions in 12 cortines over Rota, dropping 26 x 
500-lb. GP bombs and expanding 10,000 rounds of .50-cal. 
ammunitions. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, 
Dec. 41 - July 44.)

THINAN-SAIPAH-ETA - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 16 
cortines over Rota, dropping 26 x 500-lb. GP bombs and expanding 
12,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in eight 
cortines over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 
3,780 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in four 
cortines over Saipan, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 
1,950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 
was damaged over Rota. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron, in night 
intercept 20 miles east of Saipan, destroyed one Japanese 
Bomber. Two P-61's en route on night patrol were no 
contact with any enemy. (Ibid.)

All airplanes (E-24) of the 494th Bomb Group (H) had 
arrived at Kauai from the Mainland. Two ground echelons 
had arrived on 15 June 44. (History of 494th Bomb Group, 
June 44.)

(Continued)
On June 66, 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron arrived at [redacted] from Okinawa. (History of 28th Photo Recon Squadron, June 66.)
1 July 44

TRUK - B-24s of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in night bombing mission against Truk. Ten aircraft, over two target individually from 9,000 to 13,500 feet, dropped 118 x 500-lb. GP bombs on AA positions on Island, 50 per cent on target. One dropped 12 x 500-lb. GP bombs on airstrip at Kerezan, 60 per cent on target. AA moderate and inaccurate. All inaccurate and inaccurate. An unidentified number of fighters dropped three phosphorous bombs and fixed targets at formation. One B-24 was damaged operationally, but none was damaged as a result of enemy action. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII B3 Mission Report E-283, 1 July 44)

TRUK - Nineteen B-24s of 392d Bomb Squadron and nine of 35th Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for daylight strike against Truk. Three were abortive because of mechanical trouble. Fifteen dropped 600 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 18,000 to 20,000 feet. Of these, 320 hit in area of AA positions on Kerezan, and 315 fell in vicinity of Island radio station. AA moderate and inaccurate. Interception by three Zeke, one Hase, and one Tejo. Seven passes were made, and eight phosphorous bombs were dropped. One B-24 sustained minor damage from enemy action, and one was damaged by its own weapon system. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/E VII B3 Mission Report E-284, 1 July 44)

SAIPAN - Two 75th B-24s of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Saipan, dropping 10 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 9,829 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in 11 sorties over Rota, expending 21,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sorties over Tinian, dropping four 500-lb. bombs and expending 7,146 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Sec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 44 - July 44)

TIENAN-KOTA - Four 75th B-24s of 73d Fighter Squadron in 19 sorties over Tinian, dropping 12 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 16,785 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 14 sorties over Rota, dropping 26 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 10,925 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron which went up to intercept bogey over Saipan overpass bogey. (Ibid.)

2 July 44

POLYNE - Six B-25s of 396th Bomb Squadron over Jalaj Isand (Pamogo) in three flights, dropping 72 x 100-lb. demolition bombs from 10,000 to 11,600 feet, 33 per cent hitting in heavy AA battery area. They also dropped 1,920 Sordex No. 3 Propaganda Leaflets. AA moderate and inaccurate, causing no damage. Both airfields on Pamogo appeared operational. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/E VII B3 Mission Report H-283, 5 July 44)
2 July 44

SAIPAN-TINIAN-ROTA - P-47s of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Saipan, dropping four 500-lb. bombs and expanding 11,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expanding 11,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Rota, dropping 21 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 18,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was lost on mission over Rota. (Dec. 18, History of VIII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

3 July 44

TEHU - Eleven B-24s of 98th Bomb Squadron, including one, because of engine trouble, were unable to return. One dropped 49 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs over Saipan, 11,000 to 16,000 feet. Of these, 13 hit naval base at Saipan, starting a large fire visible for 60 miles at 14,000 feet, and 15 fell on other parts of Saipan Island, starting a fire in monk area. One B-24, did not return from mission, crew unknown. AA and AP gunners to southeast and southwest. No enemy fighter observed aloft. Two of the returning B-24s were damaged. Distance flown: 2,600 statute miles. (5/9 VII BC Mission Report B-235, 6 July 44.)

AGUINAN-TINIAN-PAGAN-ROTA - P-47s of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Aguina, searching for pilot down at sea; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs; in four sorties over Pagan, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs; and in four sorties over Rota, dropping 4,700 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was damaged over Rota. (Dec. 18, History of VIII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

4 July 44

TINIAN - P-47s of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs. (Ibid.)

5 July 44

ROTA-TINIAN-SAIPAN - P-47s of 19th Fighter Squadron in 10 sorties over Rota, dropping 20 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 5,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping 4 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 5,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sorties over Saipan, dropping 4 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 2,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in support of ground troops. (Ibid.)

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Security Information
SAIPAN-TRUHAN-HAGUAN-BOTA - P-57's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sections over Saipan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 7,489 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sections over Truk, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 4,675 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; in eight sections over Bota, dropping 8 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,010 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four reconnaissance sections over Haguan. (Ibid.)

5-7 July 64

JALAN - Cas P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Jalalain made one photo run over Batac from 50 feet, getting oblique. (B Flt., 28th Photo Rec Sqdn Mission Report 1, 5 July 64.)

3-5 July 64

TRAJ - Eleven B-24's of 28th Bomb Sqdn, 10 of 91st Bomb Squandron, and one of Headquarters 11th Bomb Group staged through Jalalain for a daylight attack on Truk. They had remained at Eniwan's 24 hours because of weather conditions. Three were destroyed because of engine trouble. Nine B-24's dropped 100 x 100-lb. and 76 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 feet. Of the 100-pound bombs, 202 hit in vicinity of AA batteries, 40 on barracks and 40 in sector of Truk Island, and remainder went in water. Trukto 500-lb. bombs hit Truket naval area, Doolut, 23 small on Foan, and 43 were into the water. All wound and incurred. Intercation by four Zeroes and one HAP. Eleven planes were found and five phosphone bombs were dropped. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,417 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report B-286, 6 July 64.)

5-7 July 64

TRAJ - Cas P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Jalalain made one photo run at 50 feet over Batac, getting oblique. (B Flt., 28th Photo Rec Sqdn Mission Report 3, 5 July 64.)

BOTA-SAIPAN - P-57's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sections over Bota, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs; and in four sections over Saipan, dropping 2 x 120-lb. General bombs and 3 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 2,203 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Des. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 1 - July 64.)

BOTA-SAIPAN - P-57's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 sections over Bota, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs; in 11 sections over Tinian, dropping 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 8,420 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in four sections over Saipan, expending 2,135 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)
5 July 44
(Scont)

SAIPAN - One P-61 of 69th Night Fighter Squadron went up to intercept bogey over Saipan made no contact. (Ibid.)

6 July 44

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bombardment Squadron staged through Eniwetok for night strike against Truk. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and one because of navigational error. Nine dropped 108 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 9,100 to 17,000 feet. Eight fell on Morotai, and 96 on Iwo Jima, with results unknown. All missed and inaccurate. Six searchlights inaccurate and poorly coordinated. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (P/Y VII BG Mission Report R-287, 9 July 44.)

TRUK - Ten B-24's of 27th Bombardment Squadron and 10 of 392d Bombardment Squadron staged through Eniwetok in a daylight attack on Truk. One did not take off from Eniwetok because of engine trouble, and three were abortive because of mechanical trouble. Fifteen dropped 162 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 16,500 to 19,100 feet, 50 per cent on or near Dallam Naval Base and 50 per cent in the water. Two airplanes dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Uman from 17,500 feet, 50 per cent on land. AA moored to intense, and accurate to inaccurate. Elapsed time of 9 single-engine fighters shortly before start of bomb run. They made 19 passes and dropped 16 phosphorus bombs. Four Zeke and one 2-10 were destroyed. One B-24, with gasoline leakages caused by吃什么, made water landing one mile from Eniwetok. Crew rescued. Three additional B-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,310 statute miles. (P/Y VII BG Mission Report R-289, 10 July 44.)

NAURU - Fifty-two B-25's of 41st Bomb Group in daylight mission against Tevima from Nukun. Three of 47th Bomb Squadron and one of 43rd Bomb Squadron were abortive because of mechanical trouble. Forty-two dropped 163 x 100-lb., and 36 x 500-lb. GP bombs, and 96 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters from 4,100 to 9,000 feet. Only one of the 500-lb. GP's fell on the target, 152 of the 100-pounders fell on land, and all but three of the 500-lb. incendiaries fell on or near the target. All moored to intense, accurate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to one B-25. Ten B-25's were damaged by CPA bombs. Aircraft taking part in mission: 12 B-25's of 47th Bomb Squadron, 15 of 48th, 12 of 396th, and 10 of 320th. Distance flown: 928 statute miles. One B-25 of Headquarters 41st Bomb Group acted as observer, remaining over target for 30 minutes after attacks. (P/Y VII BG Mission Report R-286, 10 July 44.)

FOWRO - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Pea-ao from 16,666 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report R-21, 6 July 44.)

MARRIALS - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Saari, Maha, Molelo, and Wetje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-55, 6 July 44.)

MARRIALS - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Saari, Maha, Molelo, and Wetje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-55, 6 July 44.)

MARRIALS - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eniwetok, photographed Saari, Maha, Molelo, and Wetje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-55, 6 July 44.)
6 July 44

NITCHAP - Obo P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kunakata made one photo run over Tora from 50 feet, getting
oblique. (B 113, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 6,
6 July 44.)

KOTA - Obo P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kunakata made one photo run over Kota from 40 feet, getting
oblique. (B 113, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 6,
6 July 44.)

TINIAN - NOTA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties
over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expanding 17,400
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and 12 sorties over Rota,
dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter
Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 20 sorties over
Tinian, dropping 48 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 13,040 rounds
of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

SAIPAN - Obo P-5l of 6th Night Fighter Squadron, up to intercept
bomber over Saipan, expended 60 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition
and 1 round of 20-mm, destroying one Japanese Betty. The
other P-5l's up on interceptions lost their contacts. (Ibid.)

Ground echelon of 33rd Fighter Squadron arrived at Saipan from
Cata. (History of 33rd Fighter Squadron, July 44.)

7 July 44

CHUAN-SAIPAN-ROTA - P-51's of 6th Night Fighter Squadron on six
interception sorties over the Marianas (Chuun, Saipan, and Rota),
expended 190 rounds of .50-cal. and 130 rounds of 20-mm
ammunition, destroying one Japanese Betty and damaging another.
(Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44.)

NAHUN - Obo P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission
from Naie, photographed Luih from 20,000 feet. (86th
Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-36, 7 July 44.)

NITCHAP - Obo P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kunakata made one photo run over Tora from 50 feet, getting
oblique. (B 113, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 6,
7 July 44.)

LIULL - Obo P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at
Kunakata made one photo run over Kille from an altitude of
46 feet. (B 113, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 7,
7 July 44.)

Ground echelon of the 86th Combat Mapping Squadron arrived at
Saipan. (History of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, Sep. 44.)

Colonel Russell L. Waldron assumed command of the 11th Bomb
Group, replacing Colonel William J. Holnapfel. (CO 2, 11th
Bomb Group)
8 July 44

TRUK - A few B-24's of the 26th Esk Squadron staged thru Emirak in night strafing against Truk, dropping 6 x 1,000 lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 25,000 feet, as follows: 25 on Diblon, five on Etan, four on Haman, and 10 on Tat, with 70 per cent hitting land. All moderate but inaccurate. Two searchlights picked up aircraft very quickly. No interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,637 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-230, 11 July 44.)

MILIL - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Makalain made one photo run over Millo at 50 feet, getting oblique. (B F-5, 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron Mission Report 8, 8 July 44.)

PAGAN-SAIPEI - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Pagan, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and in three sorties over Saipan, expending 720 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and nine rockets. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 43 - July 44.)

PAGAN-TUINAN - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties over Tinian, dropping 32 x 500-lb. bombs; and in 12 over Pagan, expending 2,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition providing high cover for the dive bomber attack of the 19th Fighter Squadron. (Ibid.)

9 July 44

(All organized Japanese resistance en Saipen ceased. (7 AF Intelligence Summary No. 41, 15 July 44.)

TRUK - A few B-24's of 431st Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged thru Emirak in daylight attack on Truk. Four very effective because of mechanical difficulties. Fifteen dropped 600 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 20,000 to 20,500 feet, 65 per cent falling on central and eastern part of Pagan, and 37 per cent in the north. All moderate, inaccurate to accurate. Interception of four Zeros, one Tony, and one Tojo. Two B-24's received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,792 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-290, 12 July 44.)

TUINAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, expending 4,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 11 rockets. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 43 - July 44.)

SAIPAN - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Saipan, expending 7,795 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 23 rockets. Four of the airplanes arrested in the United States Flag-ship up on Harpi Field. (Ibid.)
JALUIT - Four B-25's of the 320th Bomber Squadron at Makin dropped 24 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Jaluit from 75 to 100 feet, and strafed the island with 4,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and four 75-mm. HE shells, with results unobserved. All airplanes returned at Makin and hit Jaluit again with 24 x 100-lb. GP's from 75 feet and strafed the island with 5,800 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and six 75-mm. HE shells. There was no AA on the first strike, and only meager and inaccurate fire on the second, causing no damage. Distance flown: 450 statute miles on each strike. (F/B VII BC Mission Report H-287, 13 July 44.)

TRUK - Nine B-24's of 392nd Bomb Squadron staged thru Eilivaitok in night strike against Truk, dropping 360 x 100-lb. GP bombs on East side of Hoon from 10,500 to 14,000 feet, with 70 per cent hitting target area, causing an explosion and starting three fires. AA meager and inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,340 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report H-291, 13 July 44.)

TRUK - Eleven B-24's of 38th Bomb Squadron and nine of 27th Bomb Squadron staged through Eilivaitok in daylight attack on Truk. One was abortive because of engine trouble, and one did not take off from Eilivaitok because of damage to left wing tip by water truck. Eighteen, over the target from 12,000 to 20,000 feet, dropped 144 x 500-lb. and 24 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs. Sixty-one of the 500-lb. bombs fell on Dublon Naval Base, 30 on Dublon Torpedo, and 22 on hospital area. Nineteen of the 1,000-pounders hit the Dublon Naval Base. AA meager and inaccurate. No interception. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report H-292, 16 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 12,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, destroying a gun position. (Doc. 12, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc. 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 10 sorties over Tinian, expending 5,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 20 rockets. (Ibid.)

MARSHALLS - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Eilivaitok, photographed Jaluit, Mille, Maleolap, and Wetje from 10,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-7A/814, 10 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in seven sorties over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs, and expending 2,750 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 16 rockets. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties against Pagan, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 7,695 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; one over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs. One P-47 was hit by AA over Tinian, and one over Pagan were fired on by heavies and shot down. (Ibid.)
11 July 14

Fighter planes had up to this time encountered in the
Hindustan. (236)

13 July 14

THUM - Ninth B-24's of 96th Bomb Squadron staged thru Eniwetok
for night attack on Truk. One airplane failed to reach the
target because of a gasoline leak. The remaining eight air-
planes flew individually to Truk and dropped 78 x 500-lb.
GP bombs from 12,000 to 17,500 feet, as follows: 30 on Dulilton,
28 on Isanen, 10 on Hamachiri, and 10 on Yonaguni. AA and AI mixer
and inaccurate. Screen to 14 searchlights, with heaviest
concentration from Duliton. Local planes attacked by two single-
engined fighters. None of the B-24's was damaged. Distance
from 3,217 statute miles. (P/7 VII BC Mission Report B-293,
16 July 14.)

THUM - P-47's of 10th Fighter Squadron in eight sections
over Tokyo, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 3,880
rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 16, History of VII
Fighter OD'd, Pt. 41 - July 14.)

THUM - P-47's of 72nd Fighter Squadron in eight sections
over Tokyo, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs. (Ibid.)

EN Hiện 13 July 14 - One P-38 of 6th Night Fighter Squadron, up to
Intelligence report over Saipan, was notified that it was heavy
for after firing 730 rounds of .50-cal. and 235 rounds of
20-mm ammunition. (Ibid.)

13 July 14

THUM - Ten B-29's of 421st Bomb Squadron and nine of 26th
Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok in daylight attack on
Truk. Two dropped 30 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Duliton from
27,000 feet, 28 per cent on target. Seven dropped 250 x 100-lb.
GP bombs on Dunten, 75 per cent in vicinity of AA installations and
four on Isanen. One dropped 40 x 100-lb. GP on Duliton cove
from 27,000 feet, 75 per cent on target. AA cove, and inaccurate
to inaccurate to inaccurate. Interception by 12 0 15 Zeros,
two Zekes and two Rufe's. About 50 planes were made, and 32 to
37 neutral bullets were dropped. Five Zeros were destroyed, one
probably destroyed, and four were damaged. Three B-29's
continued since damage. Distance flown 2,510 statute miles.
(P/7 VII BC Mission Report B-293, 16 July 14.)

THUM - Nine B-24's of the 27th Bomb Squadron were also over
Truk in a daylight attack. Bombing from 14,000 to 19,000
feet they dropped 251 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Isanen and Hamachiri,
with results largely unscooped because of cloud cover. AA
mixer and inaccurate. Nine unidentified single-engine fighters
intercepted aggressively, of which one was damaged. None of
the B-24's was damaged. On the return
13 July 44

of one plane was lost over Kazo without his parachute at 13,000 feet while trying to jettison hang-up bombs. Distance flown 2,500 statute miles. (F/A VII BC Mission Report 1-295, 16 July 44)

FCMBF - One P-7 of 35th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from B-17's, photographed Kazo from 16,665 feet. (85th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-28, 13 July 44)

CHIHA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, expending 3,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 36 rockets. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44)

CHIHA - P-47's of 73rd Fighter Squadron in six sorties over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,440 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (This)

14 July 44

HAHU - Forty-one B-25's from the 31st Bomb Group (including four from the 47th Bomb Squadron, 12 from the 48th, 10 from the 39th, and 11 from the 88th) raided Raroa with 76 x 500-lb. incendiary clusters and 25 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 6,500 to 7,000 feet, with an estimated 50 per cent hitting Close Form. Air raid on town, inaccurate to accurate. All fire moderate and inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. An additional B-25 was abortive because of engine trouble. Distance flown: 1,035 statute miles. (F/A VII BC Mission Report 2-293, 17 July 44)

HAHU - One P-7 of 35th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Tinian, photographed Raroa from 20,000 feet. (85th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-41, 14 July 44)


COMBAT-NUMBER - One P-7 of 35th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Tinian, photographed Kabo and Kubag from 10,000 feet. (85th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-41A, 14 July 44)

SAIPAN-CHIHA - One P-5 of 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron of 8th Air Force based at Saipan made two runs on Tinian Harbor, Saipan, and one run over Tinian Airport, all from 10,000 feet. (C Flt, 26th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 2, 14 July 44)

CHIHA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and firing 9,990 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 23 rockets. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44)
14 July 44

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian, expending 4,770 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 22 rockets. (Ibid.)

15 July 44

TINIAN - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salipan took low altitude oblique of beach areas on Tinian from 500 feet. Missions unsuccessful because of camera failure. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 1, 14 July 44.)

TINIAN - Nine B-24's of 393d Bomb Squadron and nine of 392d Bomb Squadron staged through Eniwetok for a daylight attack on Tinian. Two were abortive because of engine trouble. Sixth dropped 160 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 17,500 to 20,000 feet, none of which hit the AA installations on Panam which were the assigned targets. Twenty fell on northeast shore of Panam and the remainder fell into the water or were unobserved. AA reduced to intense, accurate to inaccurate. Interception by 10 to 12 Zekos, Harps, Grecos, Tojos, and one probable Tony. Two Zekos were damaged. All B-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,400 statute miles. (F/B VII BC Mission Report B-236, 19 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 15th Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian, dropping 50 x 500-lb. and two 1,000-pound bombs, and expending 13,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in an attempt to locate housing areas. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian, dropping 47 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 9,550 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in an attempt to locate housing areas. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - Two P-38's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salipan took low obliques of beach areas on Tinian from 500 and 5,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 3 and 4, 15 July 44.)

16 July 44

TINIAN - P-47's of 15th Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian, dropping 30 x 500-lb. bombs and two 1,000-lb. bombs, expending 12,650 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in 16 sorties over Panam, dropping 12 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 8,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian, dropping 16 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 5,288 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-51's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salipan in four sorties over Tinian, getting the following type photographs: obliques and low verticals of the beach areas from 2,000 feet, and a vertical scale of landmark from 10,000 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 6, 7, 8, and 9, 16 July 44.)
17 July 44

FOAF - TBF-1's of 5th Bomb Group, each 12 each from the 48th, 30th, and 320th Bomb Squadrons assigned to daylight mission against Foggia from Enfidav and Elmaleh. One did not take off and one was abortive, both due to engine troubles. Forty-seven dropped 550 x 100-lb. paratroop clutters and strafed with 123 rounds of 75-mm. and 67,850 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition from 50 to 1,500 feet. In addition, Section No. 9 Propaganda Lantlarks were dropped. Bombs hit as follows: 270 on Lecce Island, 32 on or near airfield on Foggia Island, 15 on Rancio, 36 on Taranto District, and 48 between Polignano and Lecce. All were major and accurate, causing minor damage to two B-25's. Both airfields appeared inoperational. Distance flown: 973 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report B-289, 23 July 44.)

THIRI - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tullin dropped 22 x 500-lb. and 2 x 1,000-lb. bombs and expended 9,900 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

THIRI - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 11 sorties against Tullin dropped 21 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 12,420 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THIRI - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salerno made vertical runs on Tullin from 10,000 feet. (C Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 10, 17 July 44.)

18 July 44

VORU - Four B-24's of 33rd Bomb Squadron and one of 27th Bomb Squadron in high-altitude daylight bombing mission of Bari from Enfidav. They dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 17,000 feet, with 70 per cent hitting in target area. All were major and accurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 361 statute miles. (F/2 VII BC Mission Report B-300, 20 July 44.)

VORU - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Brindisi took low oblique on target from 50 feet. (C Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 9, 18 July 44.)

VORU - One P-7 of 86th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Enfidav, photographed Foggia from 16,000 feet. (86th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Report P-42, 18 July 44.)

THIRI-PACI - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Foggia, expending 1,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Tullin, dropping 22 x 500-lb. and two 100-lb. bombs and expending 17,350 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was damaged by AA fire over Foggia. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)
18 July 44 (contd)

PAGAN - THALAM - F-5's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Pagan, dropping eight 500-lb. bombs and expending 5,830 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in 12 sorties over Tinian, expending 8,530 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 25 rockets.

Ibid.

PAGAN - Two F-5's of 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Salipan in missions over Pagan made strip roads of island from 12,000 feet, and took high altitude photographs of airfield and heavy AA emplacements from 5,000 feet. (6 Flt, 26th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 12 and 13, 18 July 44)

Salipan, General, Tinian. (History of 332d Fighter Squadron, July 44)

19 July 44

THALAM - Ton F-24's of 435th Bomb Squadron, nine of 96th Bomb Squadron, and nine of 26th Bomb Squadron staged through Salipan for daylight strikes against trucks. Three were abortive because of engine trouble. Fourteen dropped 140 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 17,000 to 19,500 feet on Dulmen Naval Base, 25 per cent on target, 7 per cent near target, 40 per cent in water, and 28 per cent unaccounted for. Thirteen dropped 30 x 500-lb. GP's on floating drydock in Dulmen area from 18,000 to 28,000 feet, 7 per cent scored near mission, and 93 per cent went in water. Seven dropped 70 x 500-lb. GP's on defense units and barracks on northeast tip of Dulmen from 18,000 feet, 26 per cent on target, and 64 per cent in water. One dropped 10 x 500-lb. GP's on air positions on east part of Dulmen from 17,000 feet, 100 per cent near center of target island. AA moderate, and inaccurate to accurate. Intercept by six Zeros, 1 to 2 Kioms, and one Tojo. Approximate 25 pieces were seen, and 12 to 14 cordial bombs were dropped. Two Zeros and one Tojo were damaged. Seven F-24's were damaged. Distance flown: 2,427 statute miles. (F/3 VII BC Mission Report 0-397, 22 July 44)


THALAM - F-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian, dropping 60 x 500-lb. bombs and expending 27,750 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (See, 18, History of VII Fighter Corps, 1 July 44 - July 44)

THALAM - F-47's of 751 Fighter Squadron in 24 sorties over Tinian, dropping 23 x 500-lb. bombs, and expending 5,020 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 49 rockets. (Ibid)

MALUSAP - Czo F-5 of 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Rongelap made one run over Tinian from 50 feet, getting oblique. (6 Flt, 26th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 10, 19 July 44)
19 July 44

HILL — On 2-J of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kaujalacca took low oblique of Hillo from 100 feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 11, 19 July 44.)

TAMIL — Two F-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Scapego photographed batch at Tainia and made high oblique of north coast of island from 1,500 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Reports 14 and 15, 19 July 44.)

20 July 44

GUAM — Third Marine Division, 77th Infantry Division, and 1st Provisional Marine Brigade land on Guam. (7 AP Intelligence Summary No. 45, 12 August 44.)

AFIFAE — Twelve P-35's of 320th Bomb Squadron at English dropped 12 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on Jitia Island from 3,500 to 1,200 feet, with all bombs straddling gun positions. Struck with 3,760 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and dropped six 500-lb. bombs. AA and AT morass and inaccurate, causing no damage. Distance flown: 900 statute miles. (F/B VII FG Mission Report K-290, 23 July 44.)

UKWUIWALAP — One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kaujalacca photographed Ulok and Walap from 30 feet, getting obliques. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 13, 20 July 44.)

JULIAT — One P-5 of 28th Photo Recon Squadron at Kaujalacca made low oblique of Juliak from 50 feet. (B Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 12, 20 July 44.)

TAINIA — P-57's of 334th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tainia, dropping 32 x 500-lb. bombs and firing 5,970 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ess, 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Doc 14 — July 44.)

SAILAI — P-57's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tainia dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 13,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TAINIA — P-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in four sorties over Tainia from Scapego, photographing from 1,500 to 2,500 feet. No AI. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Reports 17, 18, 19, and 20, 20 July 44.)

SAILAI — One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in vertical mapping mission over Guam Harbor and reef. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Report 16, 20 July 44.)

21 July 44

TANL — Thirty P-24's, including nine of 27th Bomb Squadron, 10 of 38th Bomb Squadron, and 11 of 39th Bomb Squadron, escorted through Eniwetok for daylight strike against Iwo.
21 July 44

As cited

CONTINENTAL

287

eleven because of mechanical difficulties. Twenty-eight dropped 103 x 500-lb. GP bombs, 18 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, and 38 x 1,000-lb. SAP bombs, from 7,500 to 21,000 feet, and expended 180 rounds of .50-cal. and 2,790 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. All of the 500-lb. bombs, 1/4 completed in Korea, Unomag, and Pusan, and the remainder that in the water or were unseared. All but six of the 1,000-lb. GP fell on land on Ulsan, Tol, and Dansan. All but two of the 1,000-lb. SAPs fell in land on Mokpo, Dansan, Unomag, and Pusan, with hits unseared. All major to moderate, accurate to inaccurate. No interception. None of the P-47's was damaged. Distance flown: 1,400 statute miles. (YF VII F3 Mission Report H-238, 26 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 12 cortical over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 10,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 734 Fighter Squadron in 25 cortical over Tinian dropped 70 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 23,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 24 cortical over Tinian dropped 67 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 8,635 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 23 cortical over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 10,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

22 July 44

POCAG - Tinian B-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron dropped 14 x 100-lb. fragmentation clusters on heavy AA batteries on Okin Island from 1,100 feet, with 63 per cent destroying targets. After the bombs fell they scattered with 29 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, securing attacks on port Harbor and District, John, Fumura Town, Parua, and Yagi. Dropped Section 11 Propaganda Leaflets. AA major and inaccurate. All moderate and accurate, causing moderate damage to one B-25. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (YF VII F3 Mission Report H-291, 26 July 44.)

TRU - Two P-7's of 36th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Tainan, photographed Trus from 20,000 feet. (36th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-444. and P-445, 22 July 44.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 6 cortical over Tinian dropped four 165-gal. wing tanks and six 75-gal. belly tanks filled with gasoline mixture; and in 11 cortical
22 July 44 (contd) over Pagaon dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs. (Dec. 18, History of VIII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44)

THAILAND - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 17 sorties over Tinian dropped 26 x 500-lb. bombs, four 165-gal. wing tanks, and three 100-gal. belly tanks, and expended 1,760 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THAILAND - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 27 sorties over Tinian dropped 58 x 500-lb. bombs and four 165-gal. wing tanks, and expended 19,125 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition; and in eight sorties over Pagan expanded 5,250 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THAILAND - P-51's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in four sorties over Tinian, making vertical recon of island at 10,000 feet, and photographing damage done by P-47 fire bombs at 50 feet and 14,500 feet. No AA. (2 Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Report 23, 24, 25, and 26, 22 July 44)

23 July 44 NAUKI - Tinian P-25's of 67th Bomb Squadron and 12 of 398th Bomb Squadron assigned to daylight bombing strike against Naha airfield. Four airplanes were abortive because of mechanical difficulties. Two remaining 20 dropped 79 x 500-lb. G.P. bombs from 4,500 to 7,000 feet, with majority falling in Gino Tom area. A minor to moderate, accurate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to two airplanes and major damage to one. Distance flown: 975 statute miles. (7/3 VII BC Mission Report 12-22, 22 July 44)


THAILAND - Fourth Marine Division, and one battalion, 2d Marine Division land on Tinian. (7 AF Intelligence Summary No. 44, 5 Aug 44)

THAILAND - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 58 sorties over Tinian dropped 26 x 500-lb. bombs, and 42 fire bombs, and expended 36,850 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Dec. 18, History of VIII Fighter Command, Dec 41 - July 44)

THAILAND - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 30 sorties over Tinian dropped 26 x 500-lb. bombs and 12 fire bombs, and expended 15,115 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THAILAND - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 38 sorties over Tinian dropped 31 x 500-lb. bombs and 20 fire bombs and expended 24,375 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 17 rockets. (Ibid.)

This Page Declassified IAW EO12958
23 July 44
(contd)

TIHAI - P-47's of 33rd Fighter Squadron in three
formations over Tinian, dropping 2,400-lb. bombs on
targets of interior. No A.A. (C.Flt, 33rd
Fighter Bn Squadron Mission Report 26, 27, 28, 22,
23 July 44.)

Ground echelon of 46th Bomb Squadron and 12 crews and
airplanes arrived at Saipan from Midway. Six crews and airplanes
arrived on 27 July. (History of 46th Bomb Squadron, July 44.)

24 July 44

TIHAI - Twenty-five B-24's, including two of 25th
Bomb Squadron, nine of 98th Bomb Squadron, and 10 of 431st Bomb
Squadron, staged through Eniwetok for daylight strikes against
Truk. They dropped 48 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs, 50 x 1,000-lb.
SAP bombs, and 60 x 500-lb. GP's from 19,500 to 20,300 feet.
Of the 1,000-lb. GP's, 39 fell in Dulago Tank area and five
went in the water. Of the 1,000-lb. SAP's, 22 hit from Inland
and 26 went in the water. Of the 500-pounders, 60 hit north
airfield on Horn, and 10 went in the water or were unobserved.
All crews, accurate to inaccurate. Interception by 6 to 6
Zeroes, one 210bomber, and one 200bomber. They made 17 to 20 passes
and dropped 12 to 15 1,000 lb. bombs. B-24's expended 21,300 rounds
of .50-cal. and 1,215 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition, damaging
two Zeroes and one 210bomber. Three B-24's sustained minor
damage. Distance flown: 2,432 statute miles. (F/B VII 25
Mission Report B-399, 20 July 44.)

TINIAN - Time B-24's of 25th Bomb Squadron assigned to
daylight, medium altitude rocket bombing mission over Eniwetok. One B-24 of
308th Bomb Group accommpanied the mission for observation purposes only. One airplane was observed. Eight
dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 11,500 to 11,700 feet
in three bomb runs during each of which each airplane dropped
the bombs. All airplanes dropped bombs on land airplanes which
were radar controlled. Ninety per cent of the bombs hit the
target. No A.A. or interception. Distance flown: 1,400 statute
miles. (F/B VII 25 Mission Report B-380, 24 July 44.)

TIHAI - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in four
formations over Tinian, dropping 12 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 17,000 rounds of
.30-cal. ammunition. Two of the formations were for the purpose
of beach marking for reciprocal troops. (C.Flt, 19th Fighter Bn, Mission
21 - July 44.)

TIHAI-ROTA - P-47's of 33d Fighter Squadron in four
formations over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 12,270
rounds of .30-cal. ammunition; and in eight formations over Rota,
expanding 5,285 rounds of .30-cal. ammunition. One P-47 was
hit by A.A. over Tinian, and four assigned to mission over Rota
were abortive. (Ibid.)

TIHAI-ROTA - P-47's of 334th Fighter Squadron in four
formations over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 18,960
rounds of .30-cal. ammunition; and in 12 formations over Rota,
The 318th Fighter Group moved from Kusai Field to East Field on Saipan. (History of 318th Fighter Group, July 44.)

AGULIAN - One F-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadrons in mission over Agulian from Saipan, making vertical recon, from 8,000 feet. No flak. (C Flt, 23th Photo Rec. Squadron, Interrogation Report 30, 24 July 44.)

FUGAPE - Eleven B-25s of 82nd Bomb Squadron & England dropped 46 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Jukai from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, with 65 per cent in target area. Also strafed with eight rounds of 75-mm and 12,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and dropped Series No. 12 Fragganda Leaflets. AA tracer and inaccurate. AA tracer, accurate to inaccurate. One B-25 received minor damage. Old airfield appeared operational; new airfield, operational. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (2/F VII BG Mission Report K-292, 22 July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47s of 19th Fighter Squadron in 31 sortie over Tinian, dropped 26 x 500-lb. bombs and eight 500-lb. bombs, dropping 12,600 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Dec. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 44 - July 44.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47s of 73d Fighter Squadron in 31 sortie over Tinian, dropping 24 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 12,565 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in eight sortie over Pagan, dropping 26 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 4,950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN-PAGAN - P-47s of 332d Fighter Squadron in 40 sortie over Tinian, dropping 36 x 500-lb. bombs and expanding 65,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, and in 12 sortie over Pagan, dropping 26 x 500-lb. bombs, and expanding 4,950 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

PAGAN - P-51s of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadrons in two sorties over Pagan from Saipan, making vertical coverage of airfields from 9,500 to 14,000 feet. One sortie, two inaccurate bursts of AA were observed. (C Flt, 23rd Photo Rec. Squadron Interrogation Report 31, 25 July 44.)


The 30th Bomb Group (H) arrived at Saipan from Cohn. (Unit History, 30th Bomb Group, 25 July 44.)
25-26 July 44

TENI - CO 2-B-24's of the 38th Bomb Group, including 8 of the 39th Bomb Squadron, nine of the 38th Bomb Squadron, and 11 of the 392d Bomb Squadron, assigned to a daylight, high altitude bombing strike against Truk. They staged thru Emotoki to drop a total of 272 x 500-lb. bombs from 18,500 to 20,150 feet, with bombs falling on Dublon Naval Base and buildings in north-west Tulagi. One airplane did not take off from Emotoki, and three were abortive because of mechanical malfunctions. A few stragglers to inches AA, accurate to inaccurate, caused minor damage to two airplanes. Interception by six to eight aggressive Zekos, Kamikaze, and Tofa caused minor damage to another airplane and wounded the nose gunner. Eight to 12 aerial bombs were dropped. Distance flown: 2,140 statute miles. (Ibid.)

26 July 44

Truk: B-25's of 38th Bomb Squadron at Enoghi dropped 144 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs on A/J positions on Langger Island from 9,000 feet, with 75 per cent hitting target area. One building was destroyed. They also dropped 400s No. 13 Propaganda Leaflets. AA and AAProject and inaccurate and caused no damage. Distance flown: 950 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report 13-293, 29 July 44.)

TENI - Three B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Iwo Jima, Saipan, briefed in air by Air Support Director at Wake Point for drop support of ground troops on Tinian. Four of them dropped eight 1,000-lb. bombs from 500 to 600 feet on gun positions 1,000 yards south of new airfield and expanded 4,515 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 12 x 75-mm shells in strafing buildings and radio station. One B-25 encountered moderate and inaccurate small arms fire which did no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air, 200 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report Tinian No. 1, 7 Aug 44.)

TENI - Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Iwo Jima, Saipan, briefed in air by Air Support Director for drop support of ground troops on Tinian. They dropped six 1,000-lb., eight 500-lb., and 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 50 to 1,000 feet on gun positions west of nor'east Point, with all bombs hitting target area. They expended 9,100 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 45 x 75-mm shells in strafing. The airplanes encountered moderate and inaccurate AA and 20-mm fire from Tinian Town, which did no damage, and the other airplanes encountered no AA. Distance flown, based on time in air, 350 statute miles. (F/E VII EC Mission Report Tinian No. 2, 7 Aug 44.)
26 July 44

TINIAN - The B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron from Iwo Jima Field, Saipan, with Marine officers as observers, were airborne for approximately two hours each over Tinian at average altitudes of 600 to 1,000 feet. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-1, 8 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 40 sorties over Tinian dropped 35 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 24,610 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Fos. 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 43 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 43 sorties over Tinian dropped 22 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 39,160 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 39 sorties over Tinian dropped 44 x 500-lb. bombs and four 500-lb. bombs and expended 33,550 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TINIAN - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Tinian from Saipan, making low oblique of suspected gun position from 50 to 1,000 feet. No AA. (2 Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Interrogation Report 35, 26 July 44.)

AGUJIAN - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Agujuan from Saipan, making recce of island from 8,000 feet. No AA. (2 Flt., 28th Photo Recon Squadron Interrogation Report 33, 26 July 44.)

27 July 44

HOME - One B-24 of 27th Bomb Squadron at Krajalin in practice radar bombing strikes against Wotje dropped 12 x 100-lb. GP bombs from 10,000 to 15,000 feet in six bomb runs. Six fell on Wotje and six fell near a bombard ship. No AA or interception. (F/E VII BC Special Radar Mission, 27 July 44.)

TINIAN - The B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan in four-hour observation mission over Tinian, with Marine officers as observers, at an average altitude of 500 feet. One airplane in addition strafed gun positions on cliffs west of Harpa Point, expending 11 x 75-mm. shells and 500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition, with undetermined results. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-2, 8 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan, briefed in air by Air Support Director, dropped 20 x 500-lb. GP bombs on north sector of Tinian Torn and four 500-lb. GPs on machine gun positions in west sector of Tinian Torn. They expended 2,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 60 x 75-mm. shells in strafing. Intense and accurate AA fire caused three small direct hits in fuselage of one airplane. One B-25 extensively damaged when it slid off runway after landing. Distance flown, based on time in air, 300 miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian, No. 3, 9 Aug. 44.)
TIKLA - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 47 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. bombs, six 500-lb. bombs, expanded 52,300 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Dec 18, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec 4 - July 44.)

TIKLA - P-47's of 73d Fighter Squadron in 58 sorties over Tinian dropped 46 x 500-lb. bombs and two 500-lb. bombs and expanded 99,350 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Tbid.)

TIKLA - P-47's of 333d Fighter Squadron in 21 sorties over Tinian dropped 26 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 11,560 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Tbid.)

TIKLA - P-51's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in two sorties over Tinian from Saipan, making oblique and vertical photo of area in front of Allied front lines from 50 to 1,000 feet. No AA. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Interrogation Report 36, 27 July 44.)

PAGAR - Capt P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Pagar from Saipan, photographing airfield and surroundings from 8,000 to 8,500 feet. No AA observed. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Interrogation Report 36, 27 July 44.)

FOHAME - Two P-5's of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Kusafuka staged through Kusafuka in mission against Pampu, getting oblique at 50 and 900 feet. (C Flt, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Mission Reports 36 and 37, 27 July 44.)

HURUMANS - Capt P-7 of 85th Combat Mapping Squadron, in mission from Saipan, photographed Joluito, Milla, Malolap, and M'intja from 10,000 feet. (85th Combat Mapping Squadron Mission Reports P-47A-50, 27 July 44.)

Six B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron arrived at Saipan from P-Tol. (History of 48th Bomb Squadron, July 44.)

27-28 July 44

JALOWN - Three B-29's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Saipan dropped 26 x 100-lb. CP bombs on Jaluit Island from 50 to 200 feet, and expended eight 75-mm. shells and 4,560 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition in strafing and bombing. Flak and inaccurate 57-mm. minor damage to one airplane. All airplanes landed at Majuro, and two returned to Jaluit, dropping 17 x 100-lb. CP bombs on Aguni Island from 50 feet and expended 2,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and four 75-mm. shells in strafing. All flak and inaccurate. Missed two ships, each striking 149, twenty miles. (P/E VII BO Mission Report N-236, 31 July 44.)
27-28 July 44
(Tacra)

TINIAN - Two B-25’s of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan assigned observation mission over Tinian, with Marine officers as observers. One returned abortive, and the other ran in the air over Tinian for approximately three hours and 15 minutes at an average altitude of 100 feet. (F/E VII BC, Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-9, 8 Aug. 44.)

23 July 44

TINIAN - Ten B-24’s of 26th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 36th Bomb Squadron, and nine of the 431st Bomb Squadron assigned to dawn daylight high altitude bombing strike against Truk from Eniwetok. One airplane did not take off and three more abortive. The remaining 25 B-24’s dropped 246 x 500-lb. GP on Pagan Island with 477 hitting target area. All minor and accurate to inaccurate. Intercepted by eight Zekos, one Tojo, and one possible Hap. Approximately 26 to 28 planes were destroyed. Mover to 13 phosphorous bombs were dropped, many being dropped within 150 to 200 feet of our airplanes, showing increasing accuracy. Enemy pilots organized and aggressive. Our airplanes expended 29,255 rounds of .50-cal. and 1,220 rounds of .75-cal. ammunition. Five Zekos were destroyed; one Zeko and one Tojo were damaged. One B-24 was shot down by enemy fighter and three received minor damage. Distance flown: 2,435 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report H-302, 2 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Two B-25’s of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan assigned observation mission over Tinian with Marine officers as observers. One airplane ran over island approximately four hours and 15 minutes and the other approximately two hours. (F/E VII BC, Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-5, 8 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Two additional B-25’s of 48th Bomb Squadron on observation mission over Tinian, with Marine officers aboard, plus 109 for each ground crew of enemy territory on island, and in addition one airplane covered Aguijan. One airplane fired 21 x 75-mm. shells and 1,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition at enemy installations. (F/E VII BC Special Mission Tinian Observation 0-5, 9 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - Two additional B-25’s of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan briefed in air by Air Support Director dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs on north section of Tinian Town from 300 to 1,000 feet, 100 yd. west in target, and expended 10,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and 63 x 75-mm. shells in strafing the area. SA minor and inaccurate, and caused no damage. Distance flown, based on time in air: 220 statute miles. (F/E VII BC Mission Report Tinian No. 4, 10 Aug. 44.)

TINIAN - P-47’s of 19th Fighter Squadron in 6 sorties over Tinian dropped 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs and four 500-lb. GP bombs and expended 25,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. One P-47 crashed in low altitude attack. (Disc. 18, History of VII Command, Dec 44 - July 44.)
28 July 44

TIHAI - P-47's of 33d Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian dropped 28 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 25,105 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TIHAI - P-47's of 33d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian dropped 28 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 28,815 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

The 333d Fighter Squadron moved from Iwoy Field to East Field on Saipan. (History of 333d Fighter Squadron, July 44.)

29 July 44

FEAF - Twelve P-25's of 320th Bomb Squadron dropped 48 x 500-lb. GP bombs on Owa Island and 1,200 to 2,700 feet, 15 per cent in target area. Strafed with 20 rounds of 75-mm. and 6,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition and dropped Series No. 64 Propaganda Leaflets. AA was not effective. AA was moderate to inaccurate, causing minor damage to one airplane. Runway appeared operational. Distance flown: 910 statute miles. (P/2 VII BG Mission Report No. 296, 3 Aug. 44.)

TIHAI - P-47's of 18th Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian dropped 10 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 15,050 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Bom. M, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44.)

TIHAI - P-47's of 33d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties over Tinian dropped 28 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 23,050 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TIHAI - P-47's of 33d Fighter Squadron in 28 sorties over Tinian dropped 28 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 3,320 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

TIHAI - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron in mission over Tinian from Saipan, getting vertical coverage from 10,000 feet, and making oblique runs from 10,000 feet. No AA. (C 212, 28th Photo Recon Squadron Interrogation Report 38, 29 July 44.)

28-30 July 44

TIHAI - Ten B-24's of 27th Bomb Squadron, 10 of the 392d Bomb Squadron, and nine of the 35th Bomb Squadron assigned to a daylight high-altitude mission against targets from Eniwetok. Twenty-two of the B-24's, 10 at Tinian during daylight from 18,500 to 20,700 feet, dropped 293 x 500-lb. GP bombs. The four remaining airplanes, failing to take off on the day mission, went over Tinian at night, with the exception of one aborting, dropping 24 x 500-lb. GP bombs from 8,500 to 17,000 feet. Of the bombs dropped, 14 hit the primary targets, 22 near the targets, 42 were dropped on east, and 10 on west, all the remaining unobserved or falling in the water. AA was not effective. Moderate, accurate to inaccurate. Ten dropped on the night.
30 July 44

THIHI - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan briefed in air by Air Support Director for drop support of ground troops on Tinian dropped 19 x 1,000-lb. bombs on cave-filled cliffs in south-east part of Tinian from 6,000 to 4,000 feet, 100 per cent in targets. They made a second run using 16 x 75-mm. shells and 3,500 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Larger and inaccurate 50-cal. fire caused no damage. Distance flown: 200 statute miles. (F/E VII BG Mission Report No. 39, 3 Aug. 44)

THIHI - Ten B-25's of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan assigned target areas on Tinian containing enemy troop concentrations and artillery positions dropped 22 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 4,000 feet, 100 per cent in target areas. Larger and inaccurate 50-cal. fire did no damage. Distance flown: 200 statute miles. (Ibid., No. 6, 10 Aug. 44)

THIHI - Two B-25 of 48th Bomb Squadron at Saipan over Tinian on hour and 15 minutes in observation mission dropped leaflets and expended 3,750 rounds of 75-mm. shells and 4,000 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition with unreported results. (F/E VII BG Special Mission Tinian Observation Group, 9 Aug. 44)

THIHI - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in eight sorties over Tinian expended 12,400 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Doc. 16, History of VII Fighter Command, Dec. 41 - July 44)

THIHI - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 35 sorties over Tinian expended 45,770 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (Ibid.)

THIHI - P-47's of 332d Fighter Squadron in 12 sorties over Tinian expended 17,860 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. Airplanes on 12 other sorties could not attack because of naval artillery fire. (Ibid.)

THIHI - One P-5 of 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron at Eniwetok made three photo runs over Iwo Jima at 50 feet, getting oblique. (Bkt. 28th Photo Rec Reconnaissance Mission Report 16, 20 July 44)

30-31 July 44

JALUIT - Two P-25's of 820th Bomb Squadron at Ulithi dropped 22 x 1,000-lb. bombs on Jaluit from 50 feet, and expended 88 x 75-mm. shells and 4,200 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (CONFIDENTIAL)
with results unobserved. Aircraft returned to Manus and en
return trip hit Aguyu Island, Jaluit, with 12 x 105-mm shells
from 7000 feet and expended 13 x 75-mm shells and 4,000 rounds
of .50-cal. ammunition, results unobserved. Distance flown,
L-297, 7 Aug, 44.)

31 July 44
TINIAN - Twelve B-25's of the 305th Bomb Squadron and nine of
the 478th CS Line dropped 252 x 100-lb. GP bombs on Hoaia from
6,000 to 10,000 feet, with all but 38 falling on target area,
with damage unobserved. Moderate AA, accurate to inaccurate,
served minor damage to three airplanes. Distance flown: 975

TINIAN - Sixteen B-25's of 478th Bomb Squadron at Saipan
assigned gun positions and troop concentrations along cliffs
on northern tip Tinian Island and between ridge and Terpo
Point, Tinian, dropped 32 x 1,000-lb. GP bombs from 3,500
to 4,000 feet, with 31 hitting target areas. No AA or inter-
ception, and no damage. Distance flown, based on time in
air: 150 miles; based on distance to target: 10 miles. (P/B
VII B2 Mission Tinian No. 7, 10 Aug, 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 19th Fighter Squadron in 16 sorties against
Tinian dropped 32 x 500-lb. bombs. (Dec, 18, History of VII
Fighter Command, Dec 1 - July 44.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 72d Fighter Squadron in 23 sorties against
Tinian dropped 45 x 500-lb. bombs and expended 2,033 rounds
of .50-cal. ammunition. (This.)

TINIAN - P-47's of 332d Fighter Squadron in 33 sorties against
Tinian dropped 56 x 500-lb. bombs and six fire bombs, and
expended 7,150 rounds of .50-cal. ammunition. (This.)
### Glossary

**Connotations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PACAF</td>
<td>Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SASS</td>
<td>Air Service Support Squadron</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPS</td>
<td>Central Pacific Combat Air Transport Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIC</td>
<td>Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet</td>
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<td>CINCPOA</td>
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<td>Tactical Air Command</td>
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<td>Rear Area, Central Pacific Area</td>
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### Operation Code Areas

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<tr>
<td>AMAN</td>
<td>Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAM</td>
<td>Southwest Asia, Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OKINAWA</td>
<td>Okinawa, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNLF</td>
<td>Southern Nauruan (Fiji, Papua, Clinton, Guam)</td>
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### Designation of Japanese Aircraft

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betty</td>
<td>Twin-engine medium bomber</td>
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<tr>
<td>F-K</td>
<td>Ho-109, then used by Japanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ko September</td>
<td>Single-engine fighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ha-Go</td>
<td>Single-engine fighter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ha-Kai</td>
<td>Single-engine fighter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hei</td>
<td>Single-engine medium bomber</td>
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Miscellaneous:
AA  Antiaircraft fire
A/TO  Advanced Headquarters
CA  Adjacent Control's Files, Seventh Air Force
CL  Anti-aircraft weapons fire
Elo  Excessive. Carrousel indicating presence of aircraft; or unidentified aircraft or indicated
E1  Enclosed message
G/S  Chief of Staff
Eireo  An aircraft equipped for emergency non rescue
FR  Former Eireo
FQ  Field Order
GS  General-purpose bomb
HR  Half-range fire
IT  Photographic intelligence or interpretation
ITD  Photographic interpretation detachment
KDC  Radio direction finder
L  Low-range fire
MFG  Bomb
MFG bomb  Semi-armor piercing bomb
OCT  Officer control unit
BIBLIOGRAPHY

This list of sources indicates those documents which have been designated by AAFPA as most useful in the preparation of the study and includes (1) exhibit originally attached to the study, (2) general materials previously submitted by AAFPA which have relevance to the present discussion, and (3) histories of tactical units assigned to the Seventh Air Force.

Exhibit on file in AAF Historical Office

The following exhibits originally attached to this study, as submitted by the Historical Division, Directorate of Intelligence, AAFPA, may be consulted in archives of the Sources and Editorial Division, AAF Historical Office:

CALVARYC Operation Plans (Exhibit I)


FLINTLOCK Operation Plans (Exhibit II)


CATCHFISH Operation Plans (Exhibit III)


Field Orders in Gilberts and Marshalls Campaign (Exhibit V)

Field Order No. Headquarters Seventh Air Force, from F0 1, 1 Nov. 1943 to F0 321, 16 March 1944.

Field Order of Headquarters VII Beach Command, from 23 Dec. 1943 to 22 March 1944, plus F0's 7 and 30 Nov. 1943.

Operation of the Seventh Air Force, 3 March 1944 to 15 Aug. 1944 (Exhibit V)


Studies and Operations Plans (Exhibit VI)

Information Relating to the Seventh Air Force, 1 Nov. 1943 to 1 Nov. 1944 (Item A).

Extract from CINCPAC-CINCPOA FORAGER Joint Staff Study, 20 March 1944 (Item B).


OP-3137 Operation Plan No. 2-44, 25 May 1944 (Item D).

Distribution of Land Based Aviation Units in GALVANIC (Item E).

Air Exaction in FLINTLOCK (Item F).


Search Plan, Nov. 1943-Feb. 1944 (Item H).


Correspondence on F-49 and F-40 Modifications (Item K).

Risk Information (Exhibit VII)

AD# 0, Seventh Air Force, Office of AD of S, A-2, APO 276, Risk Analysis No. 1, Preliminary Analysis of the Heavy AA Gun Defence of Peleliu, 12 March 1944.

Kq. VII Fighter Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, AFO (2/31), Field Analysis No. 3, Heavy AA Gun Defense of Trumo, 26 May 1944, with inclosure (Item C).

Kq. VII Fighter Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, AFO (2/31), Field Analysis No. 4, Preliminary Analysis of the Heavy AA Gun Defense of Ulithi, 30 May 1944, with inclosure (Item D).

Kq. VII Fighter Command, Office of the Intelligence Officer, AFO (2/31), Field Analysis No. 5, Heavy AA Gun Defense of Truk, 9 June 1944, with inclosure (Item H).


Operations Statistics (Exhibit VIII)

9th Statistical Control Unit Reports


Survey of Rate of Attrition of Aircraft and Combat Group of Seventh Air Force during Combat Operations, Nov. 1943-May 1944 (Item C).

Total Battle and Ammunition Consumption of Tactical Units, Seventh Air Force, Nov. 1943-June 1944 (Item D).

GEOGRAPHIC

Enemy Aircraft Destroyed and Enemy Shipping Attacked, Jan. 1944 (Item E).

Enemy Aircraft Destroyed and Enemy Shipping Attacked, Feb. 1944 (Item F).

Air Strike Data, 1 Jan. to 1 Feb. 1944 (Item G).

Air Strike Data, 1 Feb. to 1 March 1944 (Item H).

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THIS PAGE Declassified IAW EO12958
VII Fighter Command Mission Reports, 23 Dec. 1943-8 Mar. 1944 (VIII I)
PI Reports - Malalaya (Exhibit IX)
PI Reports - Millia (Exhibit X)
PI Reports - Joluit (Exhibit XI)
PI Reports - Ubejo (Exhibit XII)
PI Reports - Ocean and Hermes (Exhibit XIII)
PI Reports - DinhThai and Trangtain (Exhibit XIV)
PI Reports - Apoyo, Felix, Tarant (Exhibit XV)
PI Reports - Lector Gilbert (Exhibit XVI)
PI Reports - Lector Marshall (Exhibit XVII)

Reports Relating to GALVANIC (Exhibit XVIII)

9th SGJ Report - Seventh Air Force Operations in the Marshall, Caroline, and Wake AREA, April 1944-July 1944 (Exhibit XIX)

Other Materials

The following items forwarded by AAFPOA also have relevance to the present study and may be consulted in the files of the AAF Historical Office:

Marshall Reports, ADVCS, 1A Nov.-5 Dec. 1943.
Operations of the Seventh Air Force, 1 Feb.-2 March 1944.
Party Evac on Millia and Gilbert Islands, 11 Nov. 1943-16 Jan. 1944
Operation Plan 1-43.
VII Fighter Command Mission Reports, 6 Dec. 1943-19 March 1944.
The Force of the Heavy in the GALVANIC Operation.
Seventh Air Force Participation in the CALVADOS Operations.

Seventh Air Force Participation in the FLINTLOCK-CATCHFORK Operations.

A-3 7AF War Diary, 1 Nov. 1943-22 March 1944.

Excerpts Data on CALVADOS and FLINTLOCK Operations.

History of Tactical Units

The following units assigned to the Seventh Air Force have prepared histories which may be consulted in the 7AF Historical Office files:

Headquarters, VII Bomber Command
- 11th Bomb Group (H)
- 26th Bomb Squadron (H)
- 423rd Bomb Squadron (H)
- 28th Bomb Squadron (H)
- 1431st Bomb Squadron (H)
- 308th Bomb Group (H)
- 279th Bomb Squadron (H)
- 282nd Bomb Squadron (H)
- 392d Bomb Squadron (H)
- 315th Bomb Squadron (H)

413th Bomb Group (H)
- 471st Bomb Squadron (H)
- 472nd Bomb Squadron (H)
- 396th Bomb Squadron (H)
- 270th Bomb Squadron (H)

Headquarters, VIII Fighter Command
- 493rd Fighter Squadron
- 494th Fighter Squadron
- 722d Fighter Squadron
- 480th Fighter Squadron
- 80th Night Fighter Squadron

315th Fighter Group
- 199th Fighter Squadron
- 732d Fighter Squadron
- 333rd Fighter Squadron
- 86th Observer-Reporting Squadron

28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron
INDEX

(This index does not include references to materials in Chronology.)

A

A-35, 7th AF, 3
A-35, 7th AF, 3, 31
A-35, 14, 17, 21-22, 26
Adjutant General, 7th AF, 3
Aerial, 39, 42
Advancement, 7th AF, 3-6
15, 36
A-35, 1, 3, 13-14, 26, 31, 71 (n. 6, 7)
Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean
Aeros, 67
Aero, 67, 68
Albion Field, 55-56
Aur, 35, 36, 65

E

E-26, 6, 10-11, 13-14, 24-25, 30, 35, 37, 39-42, 43, 18, 50-55
E-26, 13, 17, 19-21, 23, 25, 33, 35, 40, 53, 55, 62, 70, (n. 77)
E-26, 1, 2-4, 13-14, 71 (n. 6)
Elabor (8/15), 60
E-26, 1, 2
Elabor (11/20) I., 5

C

Cactus I., 2, 4, 6, 7, 12-14, 71 (n. 5)
Caroline I., 19, 29, 30, 32, 36, 36, 41-42, 45, 53-55, 62, 64
35 (n. 103)
Cauc, CDS L., 3
Cauc, CDS L., 15-16, 12-19, 23
Central Pacific Far East Command, 33
Central Pacific Far East Command, 33
Central Pacific Combat Air Transport Service, 36

Central Pacific Forces, U.S. Forces, 1
Commander, 1, 43
Central Pacific Forces, 1
Chief of Staff, 7th AF, 3
Commanding General, 7th AF, 19,
40, 63
Curtiss, 6
Curtiss, Brig. Gen., 64

D

Defence Forces and Land Based
Air, 43
Deputy Commandant, 7th AF, 36
Defence, Brig. Gen. R., W., Jr.,
32, 63, 65
Dobson Town, 33

E

E-26, 6, 8, 10-11, 13-14, 24-25, 30, 35, 37, 39-42, 43, 18, 50-55
E-26, 13, 17, 19-21, 23, 25, 33, 35, 40, 53, 55, 62, 70, (n. 77)
E-26, 1, 2-4, 13-14, 71 (n. 6)
Elabor (8/15), 60
E-26, 1, 2
Elabor (11/20) I., 5

Cactus I., 2, 4, 6, 7, 12-14, 71 (n. 5)
Caroline I., 19, 29, 30, 32, 36, 36, 41-42, 45, 53-55, 62, 64
35 (n. 103)
Cauc, CDS L., 3
Cauc, CDS L., 15-16, 12-19, 23
Central Pacific Far East Command, 33
Central Pacific Combat Air Transport Service, 36
F

1st Air Service Support Sq., 4
45th Emb. Sq., 4, 13-14
55th Fighter Sq., 4, 14, 21-23, 25, 71 (n 7)
65th Fighter Sq., 4, 14, 21
33, 71 (n 5)
47th Emb. Sq., 25, 71 (n 6)
76 (n 21)
65th Emb. Sq., 61, 71 (n 4)
76 (n 21)
22nd Sub depot, 4
43rd Emb. Sq., 4, 13-14, 71 (n 10), 78 (n 26)
551st Fighter-Emb. Sq. (or
Fighter Sq.), 4, 14, 21, 33
PAC, 53
1-5, 61, 62 (n 159)
Feb., 21, 52
Fifth Fleet, 43
ELEVENTH, 15-16, 32
FORTRAN, 42, 45-56, 61, 66
Forward Areas, Central Pacific,
63
Furnissel, 2-4, 8-9, 11-15

G

GILMONT, 1-3, 5, 7, 15, 28
Gilbert Is., 1-2, 6-7, 10, 12-17, 23, 28, 53, 61,
63, 65, 66
Golden I., 39
Ground Central, 53
Guam, 42-43, 53-54, 62-63, 66

H

Hilo, 43, 45, 46, 52, 70, 74
Hilo (n 4), 24, 62, 69, 51
Humbird Is., 2, 14, 33, 66, 67

I, J

ICelersol, 6, 13, 15, 53
Isom, Rear Adm. H., 1, 4
15, 43

K

Kure, 16, 19, 28, 30, 45,
63, 66
Kure, Okinawa, 6, 8, 10,
17-19, 21-26, 28,
30-32, 36-39, 41-42, 66,
66, 76 (n 23), 24
Kure, Okinawa, 6, 16, 18

L

Lion, 36, 66
Longer L., 62
Los Angeles, 19
Makap, 20, 66
Los Angeles, Vice Admiral, 63
Los Angeles, 42

M

Minura, L., 6, 64
Mojave Is., 15, 30, 32, 54,
53, 65
Mojave, 15, 2-5, 7-9, 10-12, 14,
20-22, 26, 35, 38, 52-54, 62,
65, 71 (n 5, 7), 73 (n 21)
Malakal, 2, 6-3, 10, 13, 17-20,
21-25, 30, 32, 36-35, 52-54,
63, 66, 76 (n 79)
Mowd., L., 2, 3, 5, 65

SECURITY INFORMATION

THIS PAGE Declassified IAW EO12958
9th Statistical Control Unit, Overseas (Sp), 20, 62
9th Service Command Sq., 26, 6, 64
12th Fighter Sq., 1, 55, 60
18th Service Command Sq., 2
23rd Funk Sq., 5, 6, 10, 21, 5, 18, 30, 66
35th (a/b), 29, 60, 65, 66

North Ireland, 23
R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

R.

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R.

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Third Fleet, 43

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